

The Myocarditis Foundation **- Help Us End Suffering and Sudden Death From Myocarditis**

Myocarditis is a medical condition that many people have never heard of, until it strikes them or someone they know - then it can be devastating!

The Myocarditis Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was formed in 2005 in response to the dire need for more information about myocarditis, an inflammatory response that attacks the heart muscle leading to, heart failure and death. The Foundation:

- Founded and led by volunteers, patients, and world-renowned physicians
- Develops and maintains an array of awareness and educational programs for physicians, researchers, patients, and the public
- Provides the ONLY fellowship-mentor research training program for innovative basic, clinical, and translational myocarditis research studies
- Strives to spark the interests of medical professionals and the public in hopes of advancing the development of accurate, rapid diagnostic methods and safe, effective therapies that minimize or eliminate the burden of myocarditis: heart dysfunction, failure, and sudden death.

The Myocarditis Foundation is the only nonprofit organization devoting ALL of its resources to saving the lives of those who will be touched by myocarditis. We rely on community support, corporate sponsorships, foundation grants, individual gifts, and countless volunteer hours.

YOUR tax-deductible contribution keeps our *HEARTBEATS* strong PLEASE support our work and join us in ending the death and suffering caused by myocarditis!

What Physicians Know Today (excerpts from published references)

- Myocarditis is an underdiagnosed cause of acute heart failure, sudden death, and chronic dilated cardiomyopathy. In 2015 the prevalence of myocarditis requiring hospitalization was 22 per 100,000 people. Approximately 343,000 people died of myocarditis and it's major complication cardiomyopathy in 2015.
- Acute myocarditis is a rare but potentially devastating condition that is most commonly caused by viruses.
- Myocarditis is present in 10–50% of heart biopsy samples taken from patients with acute dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), which is an important cause of heart failure and heart transplantation, with a prevalence of 36.5 per 100 000 in the USA.
- The extreme diversity of clinical manifestations has made the true incidence of myocarditis difficult to determine. Recent prospective postmortem data have implicated myocarditis in sudden cardiac death of young adults at rates of 4% to 14%.
- Myocarditis has been linked to sudden infant death syndrome, because inflammatory infiltrates have been found on autopsies of some victims.
- In one study myocarditis was present in 15 of the 90 (17%) of sudden, unexpected deaths of children, suggesting that the prevalence of "silent" myocarditis may be higher in the pediatric population than is generally suspected and may contribute to a significant number of sudden and unexpected deaths in children.
- Myocarditis is the reason for sudden cardiac death in 5-14% of athletes < 35 years of age. For prevention of myocarditis and sudden cardiac death it is recommended to stop elite sport for 12 weeks after suspected myocarditis.

Select References:

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What Still Needs To Be Understood

- Why do some people contract myocarditis when exposed to viruses and other stimuli, and others do not?
- How can myocarditis be detected before developing life-threatening symptoms such as heart failure and dilated cardiomyopathy?
- Why does myocarditis exhibit dramatically different symptoms in different patients?
- How can primary-care and emergency physicians distinguish myocarditis from other more benign conditions that exhibit the same symptoms?
- What is the link between myocarditis and exercise that makes it a contributing factor in sudden death?