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Understanding Infections Affecting the Cardiovascular System

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ABSTRACT

The study includes infections affecting the heart, specifically focusing on infective endocarditis and its complications. Importance of this topic can be explained by its mortality, which is 30%, without any improvement despite medical and surgical advances. Various factors associated with healthcare expansion can be attributed as predisposing factors like indwelling cardiac devices, prosthetic valves, invasive procedures and many more. Moreover, changes in epidemiology of pathogen, especially increased incidence due to one of the important culprit *Staphylococcus*, have adversely affected outcomes. Lack of awareness is usually found in many patients as well as to certain extent among primary care physicians, mainly in developing countries; which unfortunately ends up complicating the disease with abscess, heart block and hence, increased mortality. The discussion will cover prevention, clinical features, diagnostic workups like cultures and echocardiograms, management with multi-disciplinary team approach. Study also includes approach for blood-culture negative endocarditis, which accounts for up to 35% of all cases of infective endocarditis and also is a serious life-threatening condition with considerable morbidity and mortality. Towards end, ephemeral discussion covers other cardiac diseases with infectious etiology like pericarditis, cardiomyopathy (Chagas Disease) and common infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS, along with its cardiac manifestations.

Keywords: Infection, Cardiovascular disease, Infective endocarditis

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