



MYOCARDITIS

Myocardites aiguës

71^{ème} Journée Française de Médecine

Jean-Noël Trochu
Institut du Thorax
CHU de Nantes



Plain definition:

“inflammation of the myocardium”

But numerous classification schemes:

Chronology

- Boikan WJ. Virchow Arch 1931;282:46
- Burch GE. Bull Tulane Medical Faculty 1948;8:1
- Dec GW. N Engl J Med 1985;312:885
- Fenoglio JJ. N Engl J Med 1983;308:12
- Lustock MJ. Dis Chest 1955;28:243
- Lieberman EB. J Am Coll Cardiol 1991;18:1617

Etiology

- Saphir O. Arch Pathol 1941;32:1000
- Gore I. Am Heart J 1947;34:827

Morphology

- Baandrup U.Br Heart J 1981;45:475
- Edwards WD. Mayo Clin Proc 1982;57:419
- Hammond EH. Circulation 1983;68:3A
- Maisch B. Am J Cardiol 1983;52:1072
- Unverferth DV. Circulation 1983;68:1194
- Mills AS. Circulation 1984;70(suppl II):401
- Cassling RD. Am Heart J 1985;110:713
- Linder J. Arch Pathol 1985;109:917
- Oliveira JSM. Am Heart J 1985;110:1092
- Sanderson JE. Am J Cardiol 1985;55:755
- Waller BF. J Am Coll Cardiol 1986;7:120
- Aretz HT. Am J Cardiovasc Pathol 1987;1:3
- Kurnick JT. Eur Heart J 1987;(suppl E):14
- Southern JF. Eur Heart J 1987;7(suppl E):23
- Lieberman EB. J Am Coll Cardiol 1991;18:1617



HISTOPATHOLOGY: DALLAS CLASSIFICATION

inflammation of the myocardium with or without associated myocyte necrosis

	Active	Borderline	Persistent	Healing	Healed
Inflammatory infiltrate	++	+ scattered	unchanged	decrease	resolved
Myocyte damage	++ necrosis, vacuolization irregularities disruption	absent	unchanged	decrease	resolved
Interstitial fibrosis	±		±	±	±
Remarks	endocardial and subendocardial layers	second EMB or re-examination	refers to previous EMB	refers to previous EMB	refers to previous EMB



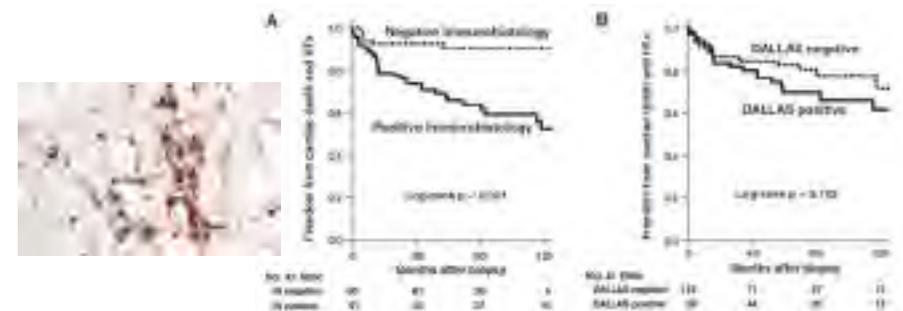
variability of the interpretation, lack of prognostic value, low sensitivity, no impact on the treatment



Predictors of Outcome in Patients With Suspected Myocarditis

Ingrid Kindermann, MD; Michael Kindermann, MD; Renard Kandolf, MD; Kant Klingel, MD; Burkhart Döllmann, MD; Tobias Müller; Angelika Lindig, MD; Michael Böhm, MD

- 181 pts, 42±15 years with clinically suspected viral myocarditis, 59 ± 42 months FU.
- primary end point was time to cardiac death or heart transplantation



Clinical scenarios

Clinical Scenario	Duration of illness	Pathological Correlates	Prognosis	Treatment
New-onset heart failure with normal-sized or dilated left ventricle and hemodynamic compromise	Several hours to days	Acute myocardial infarction, acute myocarditis, acute coronary thrombosis, acute aortic dissection	Good if appropriate medical therapy is provided	Supportive
Heart failure with normal-sized or dilated left ventricle and hemodynamic compromise	Less than 2 wk	Acute myocardial infarction, acute myocarditis, acute coronary thrombosis, acute aortic dissection	Good if full medical therapy is provided rapidly	Supportive, possible "unconventional" medical care
Heart failure with dilated left ventricle and new ventricular arrhythmias or high-degree heart block, or failure to respond to usual care within 1 to 2 wks	4 to 6 weeks to months	Chronic myocardial infarction, acute myocarditis	Poor; high risk of death or need for cardiac transplantation if globally myocardial infarction is found on biopsy	Variable therapy depending on myocardial infarction
Heart failure with dilated left ventricle without new ventricular arrhythmias or high-degree heart block	4 to 6 weeks to months	Myocardial infarction, acute myocarditis, or other causes of dilated cardiomyopathy	Good if the clinical course is not rapidly progressive with medical treatment and surgery	Supportive, referral of patients for consideration of transplantation

Role of endomyocardial biopsy ?

Copper LT. NEJM 2009;360:1526-38.

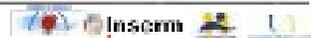


The role of EMB in 14 clinical scenarios

Scenario Number	Clinical Scenario	Class of Recommendation (I, II, III, IV)	Level of Evidence (A, B, C)
1	New-onset heart failure of <2 weeks' duration associated with a normal-sized or dilated left ventricle and hemodynamic compromise	I	B
2	New-onset heart failure of 2 weeks' to 3 months' duration associated with a dilated left ventricle and new ventricular arrhythmias, second- or third-degree heart block, or failure to respond to usual care within 1 to 2 weeks	I	B
3	Heart failure of >3 months' duration associated with a dilated left ventricle and new ventricular arrhythmias, second- or third-degree heart block, or failure to respond to usual care within 1 to 2 weeks	IIa	C
4	Heart failure associated with a COM of any duration associated with suspected allergic reaction and eosinophilia	IIa	B
5	Heart failure associated with suspected antitrypsin deficiency	IIa	C
6	Heart failure associated with unexplained restrictive cardiomyopathy	IIa	C
7	Suspected cardiac tumors	IIa	C
8	Unexplained cardiomyopathy in children	IIa	C
9	New-onset heart failure of 2 weeks' to 3 months' duration associated with a dilated left ventricle, without new ventricular arrhythmias or second- or third-degree heart block, that responds to usual care within 1 to 2 weeks	IIb	B
10	Heart failure of >3 months' duration associated with a dilated left ventricle, without new ventricular arrhythmias or second- or third-degree heart block, that responds to usual care within 1 to 2 weeks	IIb	C
11	Heart failure associated with unexplained HCM	IIb	C
12	Suspected AFM/C	IIb	C
13	Unexplained ventricular arrhythmias	IIb	C
14	Unexplained aortic dilatation	IIb	C

Recommendation I level of evidence B

- 1 New-onset heart failure of <2 weeks' duration associated with a normal-sized or dilated left ventricle and hemodynamic compromise
- 2 New-onset heart failure of 2 weeks' to 3 months' duration associated with a dilated left ventricle and new ventricular arrhythmias, second- or third-degree heart block, or failure to respond to usual care within 1 to 2 weeks



Clinical scenarios

Clinical Scenario	Duration of illness	Pathological Correlates	Prognosis	Treatment
Heart failure with LV dysfunction	Any duration	Low proportion of hypercontractility associated with diastolic dysfunction and LV dysfunction	Poor	Supportive, including consideration of treatment strategies such as possible treatment of pericarditis or for hypercontractility if applicable
Heart failure with dilated LV ventricle and new wall motion abnormalities, high degree heart block, or lack of response to usual care in 1 to 2 wk	More than several months	Cardiac sarcoidosis (diagnosis confirmed on repeat biopsy or specific criteria) or specific infection (e.g., Trypanosoma cruzi) and others to be excluded; morphologic changes may vary	Increased risk of need for pacemaker or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator if conduction system disease is confirmed on biopsy	Supportive care, unless able to biopsy-proven cardiac sarcoidosis
Heart failure with dilated LV ventricle without new wall motion abnormalities or high degree heart block	More than several months	Non-specific changes, including increased number of inflammatory cells between biopsy examinations (up to 90% of patients) and the presence of viral genomes in 25 to 35%	Depends on functional class, systolic function, and the presence or absence of inflammation and viral genomes on biopsy	Supportive or other treatment and immunosuppression, unless indicated

Copper LT. NEJM 2009;360:1526-38.



Realization of EMB

- Strict conditions of realization to avoid complications
- Learning curve

Risks associated with EMB in 546 procedures

Overall 33 complications (6%)

Sheath insertion 15 (2.7%)

- 12 (2.0%) arterial puncture during local anesthesia
- 2 (0.4%) vasovagal reaction
- 1 (0.2%) prolonged venous oozing after sheath removal

Biopsy procedure 18 (3.3%)

- 6 (1.1%) arrhythmia
- 5 (1.0%) conduction abnormalities
- 4 (0.7%) possible perforation (pain)
- 3 (0.5%) definite perforation (pericardial fluid)
- 2 of 3 patients with definite perforation died

Deckers JACC 1992 19 43



Complication Rate of Right Ventricular Endomyocardial Biopsy via the Femoral Approach A Retrospective and Prospective Study Analyzing 3048 Diagnostic Procedures Over an 11-Year Period

Table 2. Major Complications of 2505 Retrospective and 543 Prospective EMB Procedures

Major Complications of EMB Procedures	Retrospective, Absolute/No.	Prospective, Absolute/No.
Pericardial tamponade with pericardiocentesis	2/103	0/0
Pericardial complete R-V leak with permanent pacemaker implantation	1/504	0/0
Major arterial surgery	0/0	0/0
Arterial pseudoaneurysm	0/0	0/0
Arteriovenous aneurysm	0/0	0/0
Death	0/0	0/0

Table 3. Minor Complications of 2505 Retrospective and 543 Prospective EMB Procedures

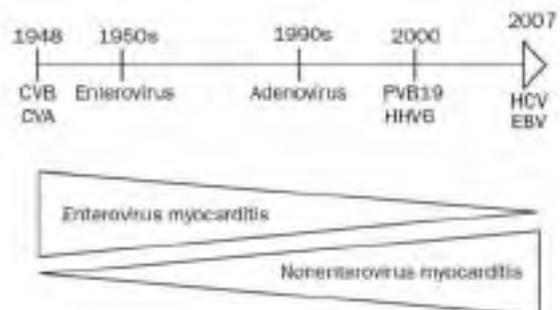
Minor Complications of EMB Procedures	Retrospective, Absolute/No.	Prospective, Absolute/No.
Small pericardial effusion	—/—	45/74
None	—/—	95/55
Arterial	—/—	10/18
Conduction abnormalities	20/34	24/7
EMB withdrawn (<24 h)	—/—	25/37
EMB biopsy (<24 h)	—/—	81/18
AV block I (MIIC, 2:1 preprocedural (>10 ppm) requiring 0.5 to 1 mg atropine)	—/—	20/37
AV block II preprocedural (>10 ppm) requiring 0.5 to 1 mg atropine	—/—	20/37
AV block III temporary (<24 h) requiring atropine + temporary pacemaker	60/20	87/47
Arrhythmias	—/—	61/18
Spontaneous ventricular tachycardia (>10 ventricular complexes)	—/—	0/0
Episodes (>100 bpm) of atrial fibrillation	—/—	50/52
Persistent atrial fibrillation with cardioversion	—/—	10/18

right femoral vein approach under biplane fluoroscopic control

Holzmann Circulation. 2008;118:

Etiologies

- Viral and post viral myocarditis: major cause of acute and chronic DCM
- Seroepidemiologic and molecular studies:
 - linked coxsackievirus B from 1950s to 1990s
 - With EMB shifted from coxsackievirus B to adenovirus in the late 1990s
 - and then to parvovirus B19 and other viruses

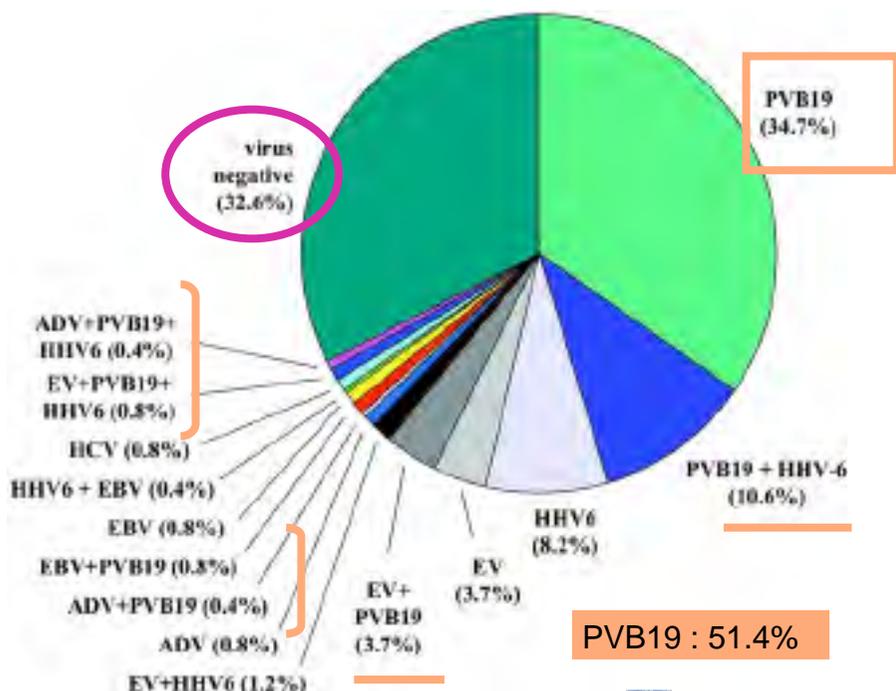


Tracking for the virus

Diagnosis	# Samples	# of Samples PCR+	PCR Amplimer (#)*
Myocarditis	624	239 (38%)	Adenovirus 142 (23%) Enterovirus 85 (14%) CMV 18 (3%) Parvovirus 6 (<1%) Influenza A 5 (<1%) HSV 5 (<1%) EBV 3 (<1%) RSV 1 (<1%)
DCM	149	30 (20%)	Adenovirus 18 (12%) Enterovirus 12 (8%)
Total	773	269 (35%)	
Controls	215	3 (1.4%)	Enterovirus 1 (<1%) CMV 2 (<1%)

*In 26 samples from myocarditis patients, two viruses were detected.

Bowles, N. E. et al. JACC 2003;42:466-472



PVB19 : 51.4%

Kühl et al. Circulation 2005; 111: 887.

Prognostic
signification?

Baseline Characteristics of the 181 Patients with suspected myocarditis

- Age, y 42.4±15.3, men 122 (67.4)
- NYHA functional class

I	39 (21.5)
II	52 (28.7)
III	73 (40.3)
IV	17 (9.4)
- LV end-diastolic dimension index, mm/m 36.2±6.90
- LV ejection fraction, % 37.7±18.5
- LV end-diastolic pressure, mm Hg 15.6±7.40

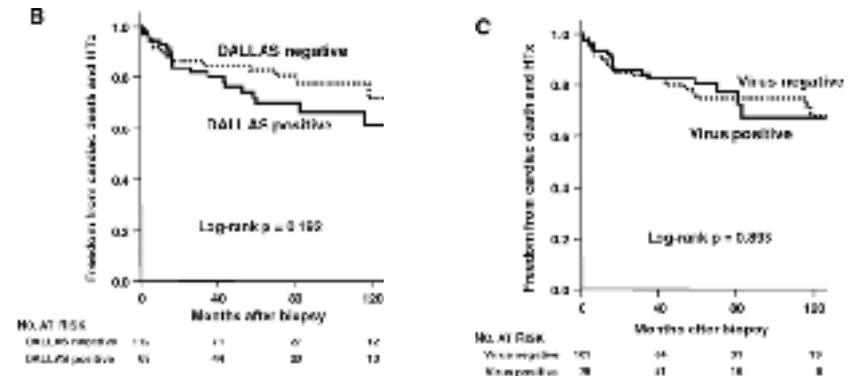
Endomyocardial biopsy results

Immunohistology positive	91 (50.3)
Immunohistology negative	90 (49.7)
Acute myocarditis	5 (2.8)
Recurrent myocarditis	64 (35.4)
No myocarditis	112 (61.9)
Detection of viral genome	79 (43.9)

Kindermann, I. et al. Circulation 2008;118:639-648



Baseline Characteristics of the 181 Patients with suspected myocarditis



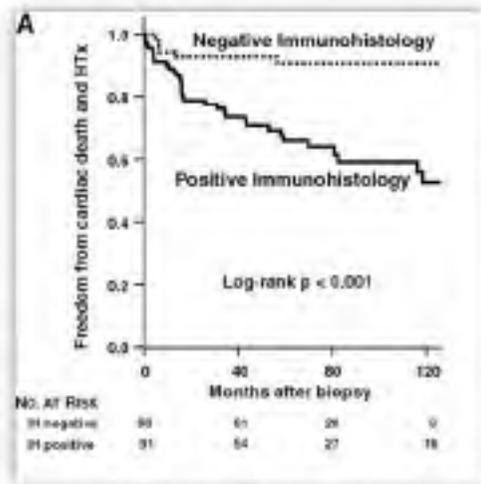
Kindermann, I. et al. Circulation 2008;118:639-648



Baseline Characteristics of the 181 Patients with suspected myocarditis

Table 2. HR for the Primary End Point: Time to Cardiac Death or Heart Transplantation

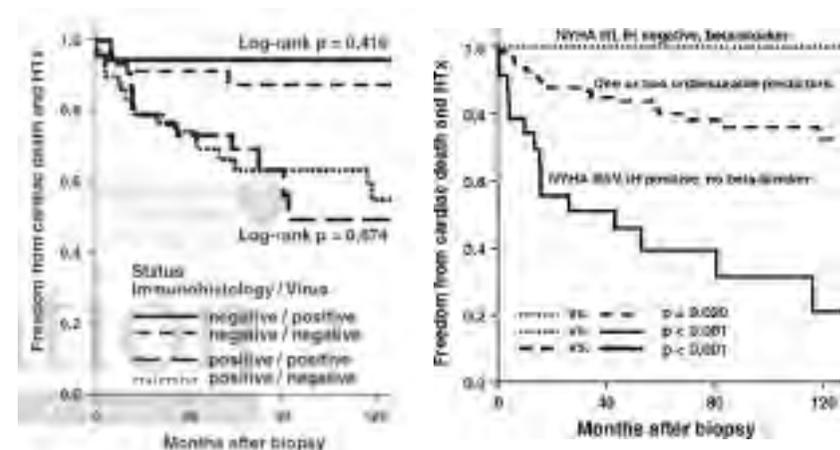
Variable	Univariate Analysis		Multivariate Analysis	
	HR (95% CI)	P	HR (95% CI)	P
Age (y)	1.02 (0.99-1.05)	0.000		
Male sex	0.98 (0.48-1.75)	0.702		
NYHA functional class (IV)	2.43 (1.12-4.77)	<0.001	2.28 (1.04-4.93)	0.038
LV end-diastolic dimension index (mm/m)	1.02 (0.91-1.14)	0.027	1.02 (0.91-1.15)	0.027
LV ejection fraction (%)	0.98 (0.95-1.00)	0.006	1.00 (0.97-1.04)	0.021
LV end-diastolic pressure (mm Hg)	1.02 (0.93-1.12)	0.000	1.00 (0.90-1.11)	0.000
Positive immunohistology	4.04 (2.61-18.22)	<0.001	3.85 (2.24-6.62)	0.000
Dallas-positive histopathology*	1.51 (0.81-2.83)	0.195		
Evidence of viral genome	0.96 (0.31-1.63)	0.862		
β-blocker prescription	0.58 (0.29-0.92)	0.024	0.43 (0.21-0.91)	0.027



Kindermann, I. et al. Circulation 2008;118:639-648



Baseline Characteristics of the 181 Patients with suspected myocarditis



Kindermann, I. et al. Circulation 2008;118:639-648



Treatment

Therapeutic implication?

- Supportive therapy for LV dysfunction.
 - patients will improve with ACEI, BB, diuretics,
- When deterioration despite optimal medical management:
 - mechanical circulatory support LVAD or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, as a bridge to transplantation or recovery
- Refrain from aerobic activity for a period of months after the clinical onset of the disease
 - reintroduction of aerobic activities depends on the severity of LV dysfunction and the extent of recovery



Arrhythmias

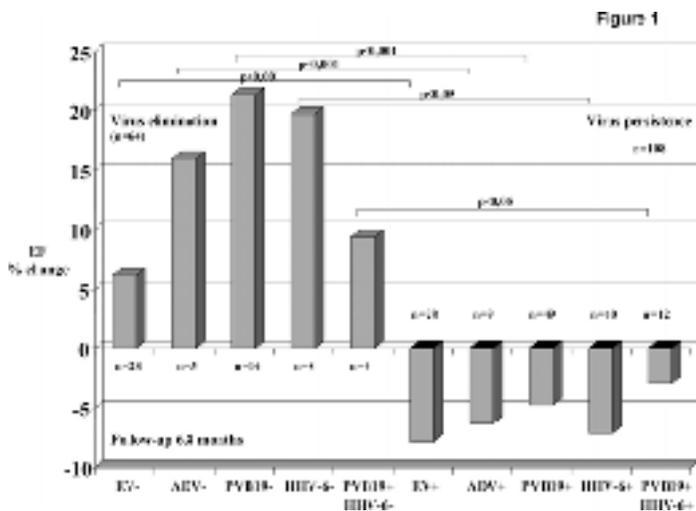
- Should be managed conventionally
- Acute myocarditis:
 - temporary pacemakers may be required for symptomatic bradycardia or complete heart block.
- Patients with symptomatic or sustained ventricular arrhythmias:
 - amiodarone
 - possibly an ICD, even if active inflammation is still present.
- The prognostic importance and treatment of nonsustained VT in acute myocarditis
 - not evaluated.



Antiviral therapy

- Acute myocarditis are diagnosed weeks after viral infection:
 - it is unlikely that antiviral therapy would be provided early enough to be of benefit in acute viral myocarditis
 - successful antiviral therapy or vaccines would need to be tailored to current viruses (changes in seroepidemiology)
- Interferon beta:
 - patients with viral persistence in chronic, stable dilated cardiomyopathy
 - viral clearance achieved, significant increase in LV function in the treatment group

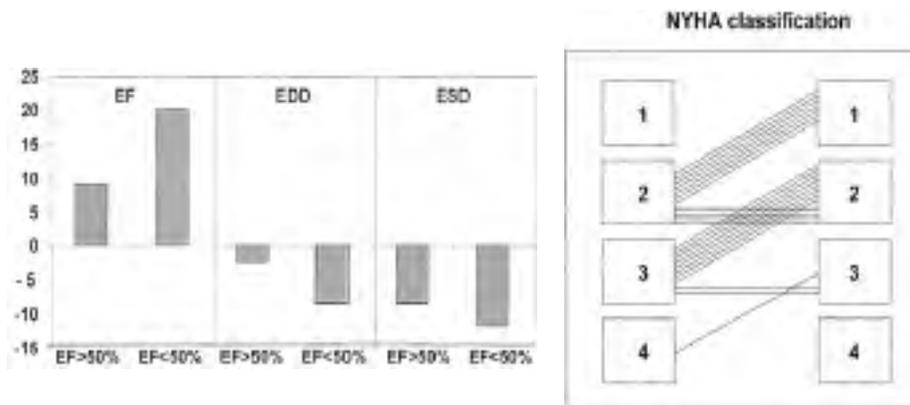




Kuhl, U. et al. Circulation 2005;112:1965-1970



Interferon-beta treatment eliminates cardiotropic viruses and improves left ventricular function in patients with myocardial persistence of viral genomes and left ventricular dysfunction. 22 pts



Kuhl et al Circulation 2003;107:2793-8

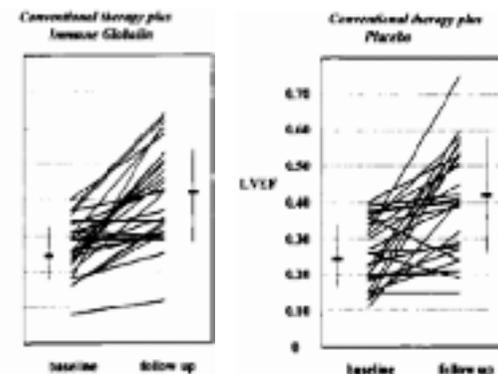


Treatment Trial	Trial Type	Disease	No. of Patients	Agent(s)	Primary Outcome Measure	Result
Adult Acute Myocarditis						
Jones ¹⁹ 1991	Prospective	Acute Suppurative myocarditis	9	Penicillin, cloxacillin, erythromycin	Improvement in ECG	No treatment benefit
March ²⁰ 1996	RCT	Acute Suppurative myocarditis	17	Penicillin, cloxacillin, erythromycin or ampicillin	Improvement in ECG	Significant treatment benefit
March ²⁰ 1998	RCT	Acute Suppurative myocarditis	11	Penicillin, cloxacillin, erythromycin	Improvement in ECG	No treatment benefit
Myocarditis Treatment Trial						
McNamara ²¹ 1997	Prospective	Acute Suppurative myocarditis	11	IVIg	Improvement in ECG	Treatment benefit
McNamara ²¹ 1999	RCT	Acute Suppurative myocarditis	21	IVIg	Improvement in ECG	No treatment benefit
Chronic Myocarditis						
Casper ²² 2000	Prospective	Chronic Myocarditis	10	IVIg	Normal ECG	Treatment benefit
Children Acute Myocarditis						
Chen ²³ 1991	Retrospective	Acute myocarditis	11	Penicillin	Overall improvement (ECG changes, heart size, systolic function)	Small treatment benefit
Decker ²⁴ 1994	RCT	Acute myocarditis	21	IVIg	Survival and improvement in ECG at 1 y	Treatment benefit
Chronic Myocarditis/DCM						
Parfitt ²⁵ 1998	RCT	Myogenic DCM	100	Treatment	Improvement in LVEF	Small treatment benefit
Wasson ²⁶ 2001	RCT	DCM	94	Hydroxychloroquine, azathioprine	Improvement in LVEF, heart size, systolic function, quality of life	No treatment benefit
Lawless ²⁷ 2001	Prospective	Chronic myocarditis with dilated heart failure	41	Treatment and antibodies	Improvement in LVEF at 1 y	Treatment benefit for patients with no viral genome in the myocardium
Leibman ²⁸ 2001	RCT	DCM	90	IVIg	Improvement in LVEF at 6 mo	Treatment benefit
Kaul ²⁹ 2001	Prospective	Chronic myocarditis/DCM	22	Antibiotic	Not stratified comparison to LVEF and LVEF at 6 mo	Treatment benefit for some patients
Frank ³⁰ 2001	RCT	Chronic myocarditis/DCM	51	Treatment and antibodies	Improvement in LVEF at 1 mo	Significant treatment benefit

Controlled Trial of Intravenous Immune Globulin in Recent-Onset Dilated Cardiomyopathy

Dennis M. McNamara, MD; Richard Holubkov, PhD; Randal C. Starling, MD; G. William Dec, MD; Evan Loh, MD; Guillermo Torre-Amione, MD; Alan Gass, MD; Karen Janosko, RN, MSN; Tammy Tokarczyk, RN, BSN; Paul Kessler, MD; Douglas L. Mann, MD; Arthur M. Feldman, MD, PhD; for the Intervention in Myocarditis and Acute Cardiomyopathy (IMAC) Investigators

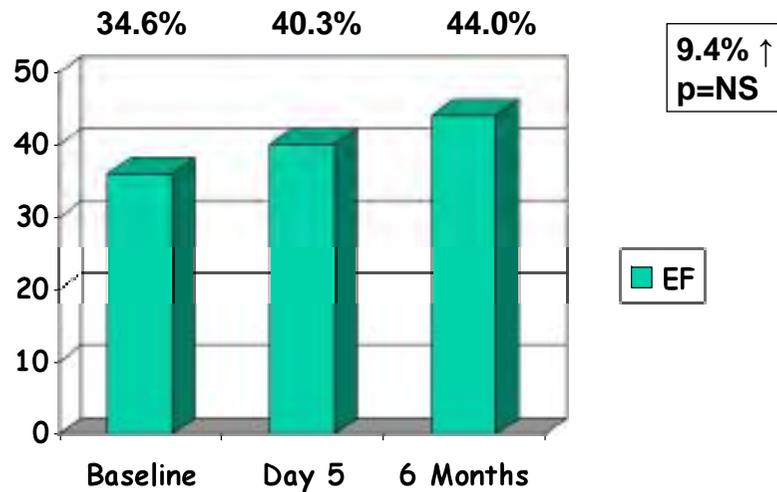
- 62 pts MCD < 6 months
- IVIG did no better than those given placebo.
- The use of IVIG for acute myocarditis in adults is not recommended.
- IVIG has not been evaluated rigorously for the treatment of chronic dilated cardiomyopathy with inflammation or viral persistence.



Circulation 2001;103:2254-9



Immuno-adsorption



Cooper, LT et al J Clin Apheresis 2007



Immunosuppressive treatment

- **Acute lymphocytic myocarditis**
 - RCT were negative or only marginally positive
 - ★ – immunosuppression is not beneficial in the routine treatment of acute lymphocytic myocarditis.
 - future trials involving patients with acute myocarditis are probably not feasible since the disease affects so few patients, has a highly variable clinical prognosis, and is associated with substantial improvement in left ventricular function with usual care.
- **Giant-cell myocarditis**
 - ★ – transplant-free survival in patients with may be prolonged with a combination of cyclosporine and corticosteroids.
- **Chronic, moderate-to-severe cardiomyopathy**
 - May be broader role for immunosuppression
 - condition is unlikely to improve further after optimal care has been given for 6 to 12 months.
 - ★ – In one trial involving 84 patients with chronic DCM and HLA expression on cardiomyocytes, the use of azathioprine and prednisone was associated with improvement in cardiac function and in NHYA

Conclusion

- Lots of question are unsolved
 - heterogeneity of clinical scenarios
 - echocardiography
 - role of the endomyocardial biopsy
 - necessity of histologic confirmation
 - cardiac MRI:
 - does not respond to all the diagnostic and prognostic issues
 - transcriptomics, proteomics, genetics ?
 - specific treatment:
 - ?

