# Purulent Pericardial Effusion with Cardiac Tamponade in the Setting of MRSA Bacteremia on Treatment

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September 10th, 2021



### Introduction

- An estimated 80-90% of acute pericarditis is idiopathic
  - Largely thought to be due to viral etiologies<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Other causes: bacterial, mycobacterial, fungal, neoplastic, autoimmune, and systemic inflammatory disorders
  - Bacterial causes represent <1% of cases</li>
- Normally, the pericardial space contains a small amount of fluid
  - In cases of pericardial inflammation, increased amounts of fluid can develop
  - Rapid increase in fluid accumulation can lead to cardiac tamponade



### Case – Initial Presentation

- 87 yo M with h/o T2DM, PVD s/p L BKA, pAF, HTN, and chronic unstageable sacral wounds with known ischial osteomyelitis
- Presentation: several weeks of drainage from RLE wounds with surrounding cellulitis and months of progressively worsening mobility
  - Superficial wound cultures obtained with MRSA and pseudomonas growth
  - Treated with 7 days of IV Vancomycin & cefepime for superficial infection
  - MRI deferred by patient, deemed poor surgical candidate by vascular & plastic surgery
  - Transferred to inpatient rehab floor for PT/OT/wound cares



# **Hospital Course**

- 2 months into rehab stay, tested positive for COVID19 (Asymptomatic)
- 1 week later, ICU transfer for a fib with RVR, hypotension, and fevers
  - 2/2 blood cultures revealed MRSA bacteremia
  - Stabilized with amiodarone and vancomycin
  - Repeat blood cultures negative
- Transferred back to the floor after improvement in hemodynamics
- Three days later post initial transfer, patient developed acute hypotension and lethargy



# Physical Exam & Labs

Vitals: afebrile, P90, BP 92/51, RR 25, 95% RA

General: A&Ox3, however lethargic, appears uncomfortable. Following commands

HEENT: Normocephalic, PERLA, EOMI, Normal neck ROM. Clear oropharynx.

Trachea midline.

Pulmonary: No adventitious breath sounds auscultated bilaterally including

wheezes, rhonchi, rales, or crackles. Normal inspiratory and expiratory phase.

Cardiovascular: irregular rhythm, clear S1/S2. No S3/S4. Pericardial rub present. No

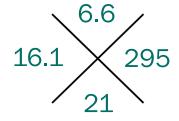
murmurs or gallops. JVD difficult to assess 2/2 habitus

Gastrointestinal: Normoactive bowel sounds, soft, Non-tender to light and deep palpation.

Integumentary: L BKA, R LE wrapped, sacral wounds not visualized

Neurological: No focal CN deficits, no focal weakness

132	102	109 / 378
4.1	19	2.61



AST - 248

ALT - 106

Alk phos – 78

T bili 0.3

Lactate 1.7



# Imaging

#### CT a/p - summary (salient results):

Solid organ evaluation limited without IV contrast and with artifacts. No evident retroperitoneal hematoma/hemorrhage at this time. Body wall edema.

Cardiomegaly, dense coronary calcifications, small to moderate size pericardial effusion. Partially seen moderate size pleural effusion



# **Imaging**

#### TTE - Summary:

- 1. Hyperdynamic left ventricular systolic function. Left ventricular ejection fraction is estimated at 70 to 75%.
- 2. Unable to assess left ventricular diastolic function due to technical limitations.
- 3. There is evidence of impaired RV filling and diastolic collapse consistent with tamponade.
- 4. In the subcostal views the effusion measures 4.3 cm in its largest dimension.
- 5. Large pericardial effusion, as described above.
- 6. Doppler assessment of respirophasic variation in flow velocities is limited due to irregular cardiac rhythm.

Comparison to prior study: The results of this study are significantly worse than the prior study. There is now a large circumferential pericardial effusion with cardiac tamponade. Findings discussed with the Cardiology consult service and the interventional cardiology service.



## **Hospital Course**

- Pericardiocentesis performed with 450cc serosanginous fluid drained
  - 1+ MRSA growth on culture
  - Cell count 7,900, 92% PMNs, cloudy, red, 0.4% Hct, RBC 48,000, protein 4.1, LDH 2,002
- Deemed not a candidate for pericardial window d/t instability, started on high dose colchicine
- Over the following days, vasopressors were weaned and pericardial drain was pulled after decreasing output
- Clinically improving until frank aspiration event led family to pursue comfort cares



### Discussion

- Bacterial pericarditis remains an uncommon but dangerous entity in the current antibiotic era, with mortality estimates of 15-40% in treated cases<sup>4-7</sup>
- Pathogenesis may involve contiguous spread of intrathoracic infections, hematogenous spread, surgical complications, or penetrating chest injury<sup>2,5</sup>
- Predisposing factors include immunosuppression, prior thoracic surgery, renal failure, and malignancy<sup>5,8</sup>
- Often presents as only fevers or decompensated sepsis, with typical pericarditis signs/symptoms of chest pain and friction rub less common<sup>4,5,9</sup>



### Discussion

- Diagnosis may be made through direct visualization of purulent pericardial fluid, culture data, or microscopic analysis<sup>4,5</sup>
- Therapy involves adequate drainage to normalize hemodynamics and achieve source control + IV antibiotics to treat infection<sup>2,4,5,10</sup>
- Intrapericardial infusions with fibrinolytics may be necessary in cases of loculation development or fibrin deposition<sup>2,5</sup>
- Further complications of constrictive pericarditis or mycotic aneurysms may warrant further surgical intervention<sup>5,10</sup>



### Take Home Points

- Most cases of acute pericarditis/pericardial effusion are idiopathic in nature, thought 2/2 viral causes
- Consider cardiac tamponade early in workup/differential of shock, and if found, emergent pericardiocentesis is indicated
- If acute bacterial pericarditis is suspected, empiric IV antibiotics with prompt drainage are vital for treatment and stabilization



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# Questions?