

Abstract

Title : Comparing clinical and paraclinical Finding at patient with pericardial effusion were rest in Booali and Aliasghar hospital in March 2001- March 2004.

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Introduction: Accumulation of excessive fluid in the pericardial space called pericardial effusion, that is a pathologic condition and leads to cardiac dysfunction or death. Etiologic causes are wide from cardiac problem to many systemic disease. Easy, Low cost and standard device for estimation pericardial effusion is echocardiography. Diagnosis of background disease depend on attention to history, physical examination and analysis of pericardial fluid.

The aim of this reserch is determination of clinical and paraclinical finding and etiology of pericardial effusion.

Material and methods: During this research, the patients that showed moderate or massive pericardial effusion in echocardiography be slected. Then , after taking history, physical examination, ECG and pericardiocentesis, finding registcd in questionnaire. Data analiesed by SPSS.

The instruments used in this reserch include echocardiography, x ray and electrocardiography sets.

Results: 49 patients have inclusion criteria that 51 % were female and the other (49%) were male. Range of age were 10-85 Years old. Disease has high incidence in over 60 years old. Common chief complains were dyspnea (44.9 %) and chest pain (24.5%). In ECG most of patients have normal sinus rhythm (53.1%). Cardiac electrical axis in 83.7 % was normal. 83.7% of cases shew low voltage QRS. Common finding in CXR was cardiomegaly (85.7%) . 16.3% of patient have normal CXR.

The etilologic causes were : Idiopathic (44.8%), CRF (16.3%), HF (8.2%), TB (8.2%) Malignancy (6.1%), Dresler syndrome (4.1%), Collagen vascular disease (4.1%) and hypothyroidism (4.1%).

Discussion and conclusion : By attention to high frequency of dyspnea and chest pain as chief complain in pericardial effusion, in over 60 years old (especially) and other age groups with that pattern and show low Voltage QRS in ECG, we should put the pericardial effusion as one of differential diagnosis and use echocardiography to confirm the diagnosis.

However , analsis of pericardial fluid due to establishing viral pericarditis (for reduce idiopathic cases) is necessary.

Key Words: Pericardial effusion, Pericarditis, ECG, Echocardiography.