

Acute Myocarditis: Increasing Prevalence and Clinical Course

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Recently there has been an impression of increasing rate of hospitalization for acute myocarditis.

Aim: To evaluate rate of admission and course of acute myocarditis.

Methods: Retrospective screening of records of all patients admitted to hospital with diagnosis of acute myocarditis between 2005 and 2010 in Bnai Zion Medical Center.

Results: Thirty patients with acute myocarditis were identified, 90% were males, age 31 ± 2 years. At presentation, the majority of patients reported chest pain and a recent febrile disease. ECG changes were observed in 66% of patients; LV ejection fraction 45-55% at admission and 60-65% at follow-up. Pericarditis was codiagnosed in 75%. Four patients (13%) had severe course, 2 (6.5%) died, 1 was treated with Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) and survived, and one survived with inotropic support without need for ECMO. A trend toward increasing prevalence was observed, with 47% of patients presenting during the last 2 years of screening.

Conclusions: Increasing prevalence of hospital admissions with acute myocarditis was observed with male preponderance, and severe clinical course was characterized in 13% of patients with 6.5% mortality rate.