Purulent Pericarditis

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This month's quiz is based on the article "Purulent Pericarditis: Acute Infections and Chronic Complications," which begins on page 9 of this issue. Choose the single best answer for each question.

1. **What is the leading cause of death for patients with purulent pericarditis?**
   (A) Acute myocardial infarction
   (B) Cardiac tamponade
   (C) Respiratory failure
   (D) Sepsis

2. **The pericardial sac normally contains what volume of fluid?**
   (A) 5–10 mL
   (B) 20–50 mL
   (C) 100–200 mL
   (D) 250–500 mL

3. **A 40-year-old man diagnosed with viral pericarditis experiences worsened chest pain and becomes bradycardic when reclining. Which of the following is the most likely cause of his bradycardia?**
   (A) Aortic compression
   (B) Cardiac tamponade
   (C) Complete heart block
   (D) Vagally-mediated reflex

4. **What is the most common presenting complaint for acute pericarditis?**
   (A) Hemoptysis
   (B) Lightheadedness
   (C) Positional or pleuritic chest pain
   (D) Shortness of breath
   (E) Syncope

5. **A 73-year-old woman on hemodialysis presents with fever, chest pain, leukocytosis, and an enlarged cardiac silhouette. What would be the most common sign indicating impending tamponade?**
   (A) Bradycardia
   (B) Hypertension
   (C) Pericardial rub
   (D) Tachycardia
   (E) Tachypnea

For answers, see page 45.

6. **A 22-year-old woman diagnosed with pericarditis has an elevated cardiac troponin value on initial testing. What is the appropriate next step?**
   (A) Administer thrombolytics
   (B) Arrange emergent cardiac catheterization
   (C) Do not check another value
   (D) Follow serial troponin values
   (E) Perform bed-side pericardiocentesis

7. **A 53-year-old homeless man with a history of alcoholism has hemoptysis and cavitary lung disease on chest radiograph with an enlarged, calcific pericardial shadow. Which test has the highest sensitivity to make the diagnosis of tuberculous pericarditis?**
   (A) Acid-fast stain of pericardial fluid
   (B) Culture of pericardial fluid
   (C) Pericardial biopsy
   (D) Polymerase chain reaction for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* of pericardial fluid
   (E) Purified protein derivative skin test for tuberculosis

8. **A 37-year-old man with advanced HIV infection presents with chest pain, dyspnea, hypotension, tachycardia, and muffled heart sounds. What is the best test to rapidly diagnose cardiac tamponade?**
   (A) Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging
   (B) Chest computed tomography
   (C) Chest radiograph
   (D) Echocardiography
   (E) Electrocardiogram

9. **The patient in question 8 is confirmed to have cardiac tamponade and becomes less responsive as his systolic blood pressure drops to 60 mm Hg. What is the most effective treatment?**
   (A) Blood product transfusion
   (B) Immediate pericardiocentesis
   (C) Initiation of positive pressure ventilation
   (D) Intravenous fluid bolus
   (E) Vasopressor infusion

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Answers to the Clinical Review Quiz, which appears on page 18. The article on purulent pericarditis begins on page 9.

1. (B) Cardiac tamponade
2. (B) 20–50 mL
3. (D) Vagally-mediated reflex
4. (C) Positional or pleuritic chest pain
5. (D) Tachycardia
6. (D) Follow serial troponin values
7. (C) Pericardial biopsy
8. (D) Echocardiography
9. (B) Immediate pericardiocentesis

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