

Pericardial Effusion

OP Kapoor

In olden days it was so routine to see a case of pericardial effusion and if we did see most likely it was a case of tuberculous pericarditis. Very rarely rupture of amoebic liver abscess or extension of lung cancer was seen. With sonography and echo cardiography coming, reporting of pericardial effusion has become very common.

The following are the causes and conditions:-

1. Quite often in normal people small pericardial effusion is seen
2. In common viral fevers including dengue small effusion could be seen
3. Patients with chronic renal failure often we see small pericardial effusion
4. In villagers coming from the interiors,

Ex. Hon. Physician, Jaslok Hospital and Bombay Hospital, Mumbai, Ex. Hon. Prof. of Medicine, Grant Medical College and JJ Hospital, Mumbai - 400 008.

very high TSH levels points towards hypothyroidism as the cause of pericardial fluid

5. Finally, there are few important illnesses where the patient is running fever for few days or weeks. These are:-
 - a. Young patients having fever with loss of appetite and loss of weight. Tuberculous Pericarditis should be excluded. Tuberculosis is more common in HIV positive patients
 - b. Young patients having fever and joint pain or joint swellings may complain of pericardial pain or pleural pain and are suffering from an illness of AOSD (Adult Onset Still's Disease)
 - c. Young female patients complaining of low fever, joint pain, hair loss, skin rashes or mouth ulcers are suffering from SLE (Systemic Lupus Erythymatosus).