

**Review Article**

## OVERVIEW AND MYSTERIES OF CARDIOMYOPATHY: AN INTRODUCTION

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### ABSTRACT

Numerous complicated and diverse genetic variables that are heterogeneous all contribute to cardiomyopathy. Depending on the definition and location, different areas have different rates of cardiomyopathy. Cardiovascular disease is the most common inherited cause of cardiomyopathy. Other variables that contribute to the progression of cardiomyopathy include coronary heart disease and high blood pressure. The investigation of the relationship between cardiomyopathy and its genetic variations with biomarker is the major goal of this study. The pathophysiology and development of cardiomyopathy are significantly influenced by a few new genes linked to human hereditary cardiomyopathy. Human gene mutations and data compiled from several databases have revealed that various genes have been linked to cardiomyopathy, explaining the susceptibility of the illness. Our findings contribute to a better understanding of the genetic component with biomarker of cardiomyopathy and will help to better understand how the disease mode influences prognosis. Furthermore, improved understanding of molecular pathophysiology of genetic cardiomyopathy may open the framework for the growth of personalized therapies in the future. A structural or functional abnormality of the myocardium is a hallmark of cardiomyopathies, which are heart disorders. There are several kinds and sub kinds, some of which have a significant genetic component. Medical and genetic advancements have improved our understanding of cardiomyopathies. This article discusses the classification, pathogenesis, and biomarker presentation of the major cardiomyopathies.

**Keywords :** Cardiomyopathy, Genetic variations, Biomarkers, Human gene mutations

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Date of Receiving: 26 Apr 2023

Date of Acceptance: 24 May 2023

ISSN: 0970-1842



## INTRODUCTION

Injuries to the myocardium are referred to as cardiomyopathies (the heart muscle). Scar tissue and increased heart size, thickness, and hardness are all possible effects of cardiomyopathy. As a consequence, your heart has been unable to effectively pump more blood to an entire body. A wide range of hereditary and non-genetic etiologies can cause cardiomyopathy, which is a serious clinical disorder characterized by structural and functional myocardial abnormalities that prevent blood ejection from the ventricles or ventricular contraction. Left ventricular systolic dysfunction and distortion can also be present, and these signs might be explained by aberrant load circumstances or coronary artery disease. Cardiomyopathy is regarded as a significant cardiovascular illness due to its rising frequency and high mortality.

Throughout the course of the disease, it is linked to a number of outcomes, such as hospitalization, deadly arrhythmias, and death. Cardiomyopathy is a clinical condition marked by frequent patient complaints and abnormal physical examination findings brought on by ventricular failure. The term has a wide range of expressions, making its handling difficult. Numerous illnesses, including cardiac failure, hereditary conditions, and systemic illnesses, can lead to cardiomyopathy. It is possible for cardiomyopathy to be primary (i.e., inherited, mixed, or acquired) or secondary (eg,

infiltrative, toxic, inflammatory). Dilated cardiomyopathies, hypertrophic cardiomyopathies, restricted cardiopathies, and arrhythmic right ventricular cardiopathies are the main forms.

Although early stages of cardiomyopathy are asymptomatic, symptoms such as weariness, coughing up blood, orthopnea, and paroxysmal shortness of breath are all identical to the ones seen in any symptomatic type of disease failure. Breathing difficulties and swelling at night. B-type natriuretic peptide levels, baseline serum chemistry, electrocardiography, and echocardiography have all been used in clinical parameter. Targeted therapy alleviating cardiomyopathy symptoms and lowering mortality and hospitalization rates associated with heart failure. Heart transplantation, cardiac resynchronization therapy, implanted cardioverter-defibrillators, and medication are among the available treatments. Restricting alcohol use, eating a low-sodium diet, exercising, decreasing weight, and quitting smoking are all suggested modifications to lifestyle.

### *Dilated cardiomyopathy*

When aberrant loading circumstances (increased blood pressure or volume) or coronary roadway complaint, where an ischemic cardiomyopathy may crop, cannot explain for the heart failure, that's the most common factor of heart failure (Weintraub

et al., 2017), DCM is honored (Elliott et al, 2008). DCM is much more common for men and therefore can appear at any age. It accounted for around 60percent of all child cardiomyopathy cases. The term refers to a group of different diseases marked by abnormal ventricular dilatation or ventricular hypertrophy (thickening of the ventricle wall)(with thinning and blowup).

It develops gradationally and can affect in decompensated cardiac failure (Weintraub et al., 2017). It's a current cause for demanding a heart transplant in the industrialized world (Maron et al, 2006). A myocardium-related issue may be the root of DCM. As according to Taylor et al. (2006), familial DCM is the term used when the illness is hereditary in 20–48% of cases. Gene abnormalities affecting the cytoskeleton, mitochondria, ion channels, and structural components of heart muscle cells. The most common causes in adults are dilated cardiomyopathy (CAD, ischemic cardiomyopathy), high blood pressure, and other factors like viral myocarditis, valvular disease, and genetic susceptibility.

The most likely causes of dilated cardiomyopathy in children are spontaneous myocarditis and neuromuscular abnormalities, which often manifest in the first year of life. Children with neuromuscular conditions similar Duchenne muscular dystrophy, Baker muscular dystrophy, and Barth's pattern, an

X-linked inheritable condition that causes dilated cardiomyopathy, cadaverous myopathy, and neutropenia, can develop cardiomyopathy. There are more than 500 unique transmutations in 11 mutant genes that cause hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. 16 The myosin-binding protein C and beta-myosin heavy chain are involved in the most typical variant. Not all individuals with a genetic hypertrophy cardiomyopathy defect show indications. This is more likely due to the diversity of phenotypes associated with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy rather than an effect of the environment or other genetic modifiers.

A rare form of restrictive cardiomyopathy develops when the ventricles become incapable of contracting. Often, infiltrative processes including sarcoidosis, hemochromatosis, amyloidosis, and desmin anomalies cause this (a protein marker found in sarcomeres). Restrictive and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy are caused by a troponin mutation in one of the family types of restrictive cardiomyopathy. A hereditary condition of the right ventricle's muscle known as arrhythmogenic right heart cardiomyopathy is autosomal dominant. Syncope, ventricular arrhythmia, cardiac failure, or—less frequently—sudden death might result. In arrhythmogenic right heart cardiomyopathy, fatty and fibrous tissue replaces the myocardium. This leads to pathologic abnormalities that damage the heart. The left

ventricle may be impacted by the same infiltrative mechanism.

Additionally, peripartum (or postpartum) cardiomyopathy and alcohol-related cardiomyopathy may be seen by family physicians. An uncommon form of myocarditis, peripartum cardiomyopathy frequently develops during the third trimester of gestation or within the first five ensuing months delivery. Multiparous women over 30 year who are fat and have endured preeclampsia are more likely to have it. Alcoholism can also cause a dilated cardiomyopathy, which may be treatable by quitting drinking. DCM may also develop as a result of systemic conditions such inflammation, malnutrition, and autoimmune, endocrine, or viral illnesses.

In high-income nations like the UK, alcohol abuse accounts for 21–36% of cases. Binge drinking raises the risk of developing DCM, which is driven by a variety of susceptibility factors, including racial and genetic ones. About 80% of those with DCM have heart failure symptoms include orthopnea, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea, dyspnea, tiredness, and chest discomfort. Also, they could have clinical pointers of a systemic underpinning aetiology.

It's pivotal to gain a thorough medical and family history, as well as information about any once contagion infections, medicine operation, and alcohol consumption, in order

to identify any underpinning causes. On examination, the cardiac nib beat may be mislaid as a development of ventricular dilatation, and congestive heart failure symptoms similar as blown legs from supplemental and/ or holy oedema, crackles from pulmonary traffic, and blown neck modes from amplified inward jugular venous tension may also be present. Congestive cardiac failure can create an additional heart sound (S3) that causes a "gallop rhythm," or a dilated left ventricle can cause characteristics of mitral regurgitation. Both of these conditions can be detected during auscultation.

### *Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy*

With a frequency of 0.2 in the overall population, HCM has entered mindfulness on a worldwide scale since it was first linked in eight cases at St. George's Sanitarium in London who held asymmetrical cardiac septal thickening (hypertrophy) of the left ventricle in 1957. (Houston and Stevens, 2015). Patients could have sudden cardiac death. Left ventricular hypertrophy and, occasionally, blockage of the left ventricular outflow tract are features of the diverse condition known as HCM (Houston and Stevens, 2015). Familial illness is the condition's primary aetiology in 60% of adults and adolescents (Marian and Braunwald, 2017).

Multitudinous inheritable mutations in HCM have been linked, some of which disrupt pivotal sarcomere- performing proteins (a

sarcomere is an introductory unit of repeating contractile proteins that make up muscle cells). Although autosomal and coitus-linked sheepish patterns have also been observed, autosomal dominant heritage is the typical mode of heritage for these gene abnormalities (Braunwald, 2017). For 70- 80 of all cases of heritable HCM, gene abnormalities may include the-myosin heavy chain gene, myosin-binding protein C, and troponin T. (Marian and Braunwald, 2017; Sisakian, 2014).

Some people may have more severe illness if they have more than one gene defect inherited. Metabolic or neuromuscular illnesses brought on by genetic issues account for 5 to 10% of additional causes of HCM (Houston and Stevens, 2015). Non-genetic reasons include amyloidosis, a rare disorder in which the aberrant protein amyloid builds up in the heart (Elliott et al, 2014). In HCM, age is a crucial indicator since inherited metabolic or neuromuscular reasons are more prevalent in newborns and babies than in older children and adults (Elliott et al, 2014). The heritage pattern of the illness can be defined by reconstructing an inheritable history. Important factors include

1. A history of unforeseen heart death in the family
2. Undiagnosed heart failure or arrhythmias

3. Symptoms of a systemic underpinning cause.

Some people show little symptoms, while others may have blackout, pulsations, dyspnea, and/ or casket discomfort. Even in the absence of any prior symptoms, HCM patients are nevertheless at risk for sudden mortality (Houston and Stevens, 2015). Given that not all patients have left ventricular outflow blockage brought on by a hypertrophied ventricle, an examination may not always detect anything wrong. When the sole of the hand is put on the left parasternal area (side of the sternum), possible symptoms include a significant para-sternal lift; if the hand rises off the chest wall with each heartbeat, this indicates a prominent anteroposterior lift and may indicate ventricular hypertrophy.

A patient's neck veins may swell due to increased jugular venous pressure. When the heart's apex beat is palpated, a stronger left ventricular apical impulse or, less frequently, a systolic thrill may be felt. A pan-systolic murmur brought on by mitral valve regurgitation is another possibility. Another murmur may be present, which is mid-systolic with a crescendo-decrescendo sound and is brought on by turbulent flow via the outflow tract.

### *Restrictive Cardiomyopathy*

RCM is suspected when individuals exhibit near normal systolic function but diastolic dysfunction on echocardiography. RCM is characterised by ventricular stiffness directing to decreased ventricular padding and diastolic quantity during the cardiac circle. Unlike some other cardiomyopathies, which are identified by morphological alterations in the ventricular, RCM is identified by the hemodynamic issues that ensue from it (Sisakian, 2014).

It accounts for 5% of paediatric cardiac diseases and is the least prevalent cardiomyopathy 1 (Mughtar et al, 2017). RCM has a number of reasons, although in 50% of cases there is no known cause (Mughtar et al, 2017). In discrepancy to other kinds of RCM, endomyocardial fibrosis is much more common in tropical and sub-Saharan African nations, including Cameroon (Mughtaretal., 2017; Cheloetal., 2015).

As a result, these cultural groups are more prevalent to experience these types of RCM than others. Amyloidosis, sarcoidosis, and hemochromatosis are more prevalent causes of RCM in other areas (Mughtar et al, 2017). Endomyocardial fibrosis, for example, may be the root cause of RCM. Additionally, it could answer to RCM may have an underlying main cause, such as endomyocardial degeneration. It may also be secondary to:

1. Other systemic conditions, such as amyloid, sarcoidosis, and radiation effects, that produce myocardial invasion;

2. Conditions that lead to aberrant loading inside the cardiac cells, such as Fabry disease (induced by buildup of globotriaosylceramide), glycogen storage disorders, or hemochromatosis (an iron overload syndrome)
3. Additional cardiomyopathies producing a pathogenesis that is restricted. Peripheral oedema, increased jugular venous pressure, and gallop rhythm are only a few examples of symptoms and indicators of congestive heart failure that may be present in RCM along with elements of an underlying systemic illness.

### *Arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy*

In 1700, a family with a specific right ventricle dilation was found to have this hereditary cardiomyopathy for the first time (Braunwald, 2017). Ever since, there have been several accounts of people who suffer from the illness, which is characterised by the replacement of ventricular muscle by fibrofatty tissue. ACM was previously classified as arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, however it has now been shown that up to 75% of individuals also have left ventricle involvement (Sisakian, 2014; Falase and Ogah, 2012).

Due to electric instability and consequent ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation, the disease is a significant contributor to sudden cardiac death (Sisakian, 2014). Pulsations or blackout; Signs of ventricular failure (similar as ascites, hepatic

traffic, elevated jugular venous pressure, and significant oedema); and life-threatening arrhythmias are all symptoms of ACM.

### Other cardiomyopathies

#### *Peripartum cardiomyopathy*

Cardiomyopathy during pregnancy is an uncommon, potentially fatal illness known as peripartum cardiomyopathy. It can develop up to six months following birth and usually occurs in the final pregnancy month. It has clinical characteristics with dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), including systolic dysfunction and ventricular enlargement. Since cardiomyopathy shares many traits with those other types of systolic heart failure, a diagnosis is really only determined when all other potential causes have been ruled out. If peripartum cardiomyopathy occurs in a woman without pre-existing heart failure or any other known cause, she may be given this diagnosis. One theory for the poorly known pathophysiologic is that prolactin may contribute to oxidative damage (Honigberg and Givertz, 2019).

#### *Stress-induced cardiomyopathy*

Intense mental or physical stress is frequently the precursor to stress-induced cardiomyopathy, or takotsubo cardiomyopathy, with possible catecholamine release including adrenaline and noradrenaline. Additionally, postmenopausal women's oestrogen deficiency has been linked. On echocardiography, the complaint is

distinguished by a hyperdynamic left ventricular chamber and an irregular systolic shape suggesting an octopus trap (called takotsubo in Japanese).

The apex of the heart may thus inflate, still this condition isn't duly regarded as a DCM because it presents with distinct clinical characteristics. Left ventricular contractile dysfunction and related ST elevation may be seen on an ECG. To evaluate the coronary arteries and rule out myocardial infarction, many patients may require an angiography. The morphological and functional alterations to the heart in stress-induced cardiomyopathy can be reversed. With the use of nitrates and diuretics in treatment plans intended to prevent life-threatening consequences, they may go away in a matter of days or weeks (Kato et al, 2017).

#### *Left ventricular non-compaction*

As according to Nunez-Gil and Feltes-Guzmán(2012), spongy myocardium, also known as left ventricular non-compaction, is a rare natural cardiomyopathy. It generally affects the crest of the heart and is characterized by an altered myocardium walls with expansive trabeculae (irregular muscular column extending from the inner face of the heart) with deep intra-trabecular recesses, which results in a thickened myocardium with two layers (one non-compacted subcase and one thin compacted subcase). The left ventricular depression continues into the deep intra-trabecular recesses, which refill with

blood from the ventricular depression but show no substantiation of communicating with the epicardial coronary roadway network (Attenhofer- Jost and Connolly, 2019). Heart failure, arrhythmias, and embolic events are among the complications (Nunez- Gil and Felt).

### *Histiocytoid cardiomyopathy*

Left ventricular non-compaction, commonly referred to as spongy myocardium, is a relatively rare form of congenital cardiomyopathy (Nunez-Gil and Feltes-Guzmán, 2012). Histiocytoid cardiomyopathy, also known as Purkinje cell hamartoma, is an unusual cardiomyopathy that often affects females and appears between birth and the age of four. It typically affects the apex of the heart and is recognised by an altered histogram.

It is associated with congenital heart defects, arrhythmias, and abrupt cardiac death. Extra-cardiac symptoms including issues with the nervous system and eyes may also be present. Study to affect from a Purkinje cell (an element of the heart's conduction system) experimental abnormality, histiocytoid cardiomyopathy may also be caused by large quantities of inaptly shaped mitochondria seen in cardiac towel (Shehata et al, 2015).

### **CONCLUSION**

Cardiomyopathies patients may have a variety of symptoms or none at all. It is crucial

to collect a thorough clinical history of their current symptoms as well as pertinent information about their medical background, prescription usage, family history, and alcohol consumption.

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