Images in Cardiovascular Medicine

Epitome of Cardiac Tamponade

David H. Spodick, MD, DSc

FIG. 1. A, Magnetic resonance image: Large pericardial effusion (pale zone overlying thin dark layer of epicardial fat).

B, 2-D echocardiogram (apical 4-chamber scan plane): Circumcardiac pericardial effusion with prominent right atrial collapse (arrow).
C. 12-Lead electrocardiogram: Marked electric alternation.

D. Noninvasive graphics: Top—Phonocardiogram showing pericardial rub and diminished first heart sound. Middle—Carotid displacement pulse. Bottom—Respiratory thermistor (Upward = inspiration). During inspiration the systolic pulse level falls and the rub is accentuated.

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