

**Harvard Medical School Department of
Continuing Education and the Cardiovascular
Division of the Department of Medicine,
Brigham and Women's Hospital**



Cardiology Rounds
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The Value of a Heart Biopsy

Kenneth L. Baughman, M.D.

Objectives: In this issue of *Cardiology Rounds*, Professor Kenneth Baughman, an authority on the management of patients with advanced heart disease, brings his extensive experience to discuss the value of obtaining an endomyocardial biopsy for the diagnosis and management of patients with cardiomyopathy. Dr. Baughman provides an excellent overview of the differential diagnosis of dilated cardiomyopathy with a specific discussion on the classification of myocarditis. The reader of this issue will gain an improved understanding of the heterogeneity in the causes of dilated cardiomyopathy, as well as a clearer understanding of the utility of a heart biopsy and the complications associated with this diagnostic procedure.

TEST:

1. Which of the following is true?
 - a. Determining the etiology of dilated cardiomyopathy is unimportant
 - b. A virus causes most weakened heart muscles
 - c. Determining the etiology of a heart muscle disorder is of little value
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

2. In patients presenting with dilated cardiomyopathy of unknown etiology, coronary angiography should be performed in the following:
 - a. Men >40-years-old and women >45-years-old
 - b. Patients with risk factors for coronary atherosclerosis
 - c. Patients with focal wall motion abnormalities revealed by transthoracic cardiography
 - d. All of the above
 - e. None of the above

3. Patients with peripartum cardiomyopathy are characterized by which of the following:
 - a. Heart failure presenting during pregnancy
 - b. Heart failure presenting up to 12 months after delivery
 - c. Heart failure presenting within 1 month before and 5 months after delivery
 - d. All of the above

4. The risks of an endomyocardial biopsy include all of the following except:
- a. Myocardial perforation
 - b. Pneumothorax
 - c. Dye reaction
 - d. Supraventricular or ventricular arrhythmias
5. Idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy has specific histologic findings on endomyocardial biopsy including interstitial fibrosis, nuclear enlargement, and myocyte hypertrophy.
True False
6. Endomyocardial biopsy can assist in the distinction between restrictive cardiomyopathy versus a constrictive process.
True False
7. Which form of myocarditis does not have a distinctive clinical pathological presentation and specific findings by endomyocardial biopsy?
- a. Fulminant myocarditis
 - b. Giant cell myocarditis
 - c. Eosinophilic myocarditis
 - d. Subacute myocarditis

To receive AMA category 1 credit, you must correctly answer 60% of the test questions.

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