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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Diastolic and Systolic Heart Failure – Similarities and Differences. Part 2.

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Objectives:

In the second of a two-part series that compares and contrasts the morphologic and functional characteristics of patients with diastolic and systolic heart failure, the major emphases are on structural remodeling and therapeutic options. This issue reviews the therapeutic strategies for the treatment of these disorders and underscores their uneven progress, highlighting the need for further research. This issue of *Cardiology Rounds* will help readers acquire a better understanding of the morphologic and functional differences of the left ventricle that characterize these two forms of heart failure.

Questions:

1. Patients with diastolic heart failure have derangements in relaxation and passive stiffness that result in an increased left ventricular filling pressure relative to the ventricular volume.

   True ❑ False ❑

2. Left ventricular morphologic and functional characteristics of patients with diastolic heart failure commonly include all the following except:
   a. increased wall thickness
   b. reduced ventricular volumes
   c. increased wall stress
   d. increased mass
   e. increased ejection fraction

3. Elevations in pulmonary venous pressure with associated increased pulmonary vascular resistance is a common feature in both systolic and diastolic heart failure.

   True ❑ False ❑

4. Diuretics are the principal therapeutic agents to relieve congestive symptoms in both systolic and diastolic heart failure patients.

   True ❑ False ❑

5. Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors have been demonstrated to improve mortality in patients with both systolic and diastolic heart failure.

   True ❑ False ❑

6. Mechanical devices such as cardiac resynchronization therapy and implantable defibrillators improve prognosis of both patients with systolic and diastolic heart failure.

   True ❑ False ❑

7. Cardiac transplantation should not be considered as a therapeutic option for patients with severe refractory diastolic heart failure.

   True ❑ False ❑

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

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Please keep a copy of your test before submission. A certificate will be sent upon successful completion of the test, along with the answer key, after the deadline date, as indicated.

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