Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Assessment of Myocarditis

Xiaohai Ma M.D, PhD
Beijing Anzhen Hospital, Capital Medical University
### Original Investigations Regarding to Myocarditis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journals</th>
<th>Papers of myocarditis</th>
<th>Recent 10 yrs papers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEJM</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAMA</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EHJ</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JACC</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues of Myocarditis Diagnosis

• Studies addressing the issue of sudden cardiac death in young people report a highly variable autopsy prevalence of myocarditis, ranging from 2 to 42% of cases.
• Myocarditis is a challenging diagnosis due to the heterogeneity of clinical presentations.
• The actual incidence of myocarditis is also difficult to determine as EMB, the diagnostic gold standard, is used infrequently.
Pathogenetic mechanisms involved in myocarditis and progression to DCM
Definitions

**Myocarditis** (WHO / ISFC\textsuperscript{1}):
Inflammatory disease of the myocardium diagnosed by established histological*, immunological and immunohistochemical criteria**.
* N.B. established histological Dallas criteria\textsuperscript{12} defined as follows:
  histological evidence of inflammatory infiltrates within the myocardium associated with myocyte degeneration and necrosis of non-ischaemic origin \textsuperscript{12}.
** N.B. unspecified immunohistochemical criteria\textsuperscript{1}, we propose an abnormal inflammatory infiltrate to be defined as follows:
  \( \geq 14 \text{ leucocytes/mm}^2 \) including up to 4 monocytes/mm\(^2\) with the presence of CD 3 positive T-lymphocytes \( \geq 7 \text{ cells/mm}^2 \).\textsuperscript{15,18,19}

**Inflammatory Cardiomyopathy** (WHO / ISFC\textsuperscript{1}):
Myocarditis in association with cardiac dysfunction.
N.B. Inflammatory cardiomyopathy, involved in the pathogenesis of DCM, includes idiopathic, autoimmune and infectious subtypes.\textsuperscript{1}

**Dilated Cardiomyopathy** (ESC\textsuperscript{13}; WHO / ISFC\textsuperscript{1}):
DCM is a clinical diagnosis characterized by dilation and impaired contraction of the left or both ventricles that is not explained by abnormal loading conditions or coronary artery disease.
N.B. DCM includes idiopathic, familial/genetic, viral and/or immune, alcoholic/toxic subtypes.\textsuperscript{1}
### Diagnostic criteria for clinically suspected myocarditis

#### Clinical presentations
- Acute chest pain, pericarditic, or pseudo-ischaemic
- New-onset (days up to 3 months) or worsening of: dyspnoea at rest or exercise, and/or fatigue, with or without left and/or right heart failure signs
- Subacute/chronic (> 3 months) or worsening of: dyspnoea at rest or exercise, and/or fatigue, with or without left and/or right heart failure signs
- Palpitation, and/or unexplained arrhythmia symptoms and/or syncope, and/or aborted sudden cardiac death
- Unexplained cardiogenic shock

#### Diagnostic criteria

1. **ECG/Holter/stress test features**
   - Newly abnormal 12 lead ECG and/or Holter and/or stress testing, any of the following: I to III degree atrioventricular block, or bundle branch block, ST/T wave change (ST elevation or non ST elevation, T wave inversion), sinus arrest, ventricular tachycardia or fibrillation and asystole, atrial fibrillation, reduced R wave height, intraventricular conduction delay (widened QRS complex), abnormal Q waves, low voltage, frequent premature beats, supraventricular tachycardia

2. **Myocardioysis markers**
   - Elevated TnT/TnI

3. **Functional and structural abnormalities on cardiac imaging**
   - New, otherwise unexplained LV and/or RV structure and function abnormality (including incidental finding in apparently asymptomatic subjects): regional wall motion or global systolic or diastolic function abnormality, with or without ventricular dilatation, with or without increased wall thickness, with or without pericardial effusion, with or without endocavitary thrombi

4. **Tissue characterization by CMR**
   - Oedema and/or LGE of classical myocarditic pattern (see text)
Temporal trends in use of diagnostic modalities in pediatric myocarditis in the US

![Graph showing the temporal trends in use of diagnostic modalities.](image-url)
Lake Louise Criteria

Proposed diagnostic CMR criteria (Lake Louise Consensus Criteria) for myocarditis

In the setting of clinically suspected myocarditis\textsuperscript{a}, CMR findings are consistent with myocardial inflammation, if at least two of the following criteria are present:

1. Regional or global myocardial SI increase in T2-weighted images\textsuperscript{b}.
2. Increased global myocardial early gadolinium enhancement ratio between myocardium and skeletal muscle in gadolinium-enhanced T1-weighted images\textsuperscript{c}.
3. There is at least one focal lesion with non-ischemic regional distribution in IR-prepared gadolinium-enhanced T1-weighted images ("late gadolinium enhancement")\textsuperscript{d}.

A CMR study is consistent with myocyte injury and/or scar caused by myocardial inflammation, if
- criterion 3 is present.

A repeat CMR study between 1 and 2 weeks after the initial CMR study is recommended, if
- none of the criteria are present, but the onset of symptoms has been very recent and there is strong clinical evidence for myocardial inflammation.
- one of the criteria is present.

The presence of LV dysfunction or pericardial effusion provides additional, supportive evidence for myocarditis.
What CMR can do
CMR mapping for myocarditis

A

Acute Symptoms (n = 61)

Chronic Symptoms (n = 68)

Sensitivity vs. 100-Specificity

T2; AUC 0.81
T1 native; AUC 0.82
ECV; AUC 0.75
Lake-Louise; AUC 0.56

T2; AUC 0.77
T1 native; AUC 0.53
ECV; AUC 0.61
Lake-Louise; AUC 0.53
QUICKLY CASES SHOW
M/14, CC: chest distress for 20 d, EF: 12%
M/20Y, Dx: myocarditis, heart failure
2015.9.23 EF: 47%
M/30Y, CC: chest distress, suspected of myocarditis
2015.11.26
T2WI

T2WI+FS
M/23Y, CC: chest pain, syncope, VT
2017.3.21

Lei Zhao, Cardiovasc Diagn Ther 2019;9(2):189-193
• the patient complained about sudden acute chest distress and nausea during hospital

• TnI, CKMB, MYO were significantly elevated then, **TPO Ab and TgAb increased!**

• iv. methylprednisolone (200 mg/Qd) and immunoglobulin (10 mg/Qd) was given for 5 days

• 3 days after therapy, TnIs were nearly back to normal, the patient’s symptoms resolved
Repeat CMR 2017.3.29
The symptom disappeared and lab results normalized, but imaging evidence of myocardial injury persisted!

Final Diagnosis
Autoimmunity
Myocarditis
Summary

- CMR provides non-invasive tissue characterization of the myocardium and can support the diagnosis of myocarditis
- CMR appears suitable to identify patients with significant ongoing inflammation
- Comprehensive CMR protocol to determine extent and regional distribution of reversible and irreversible myocardial injury
THANK YOU!