

Heart Failure: Solving the Unsolvable Challenge

Heart failure develops when the heart's normal methods for filling with blood and pumping it to the body become inefficient. The most common cause is a change in the heart's normal structure. This can often develop as a result of a heart attack, even when the patient seems to have survived the event unscathed.

The key to treatment is understanding normality. The heart's natural shape is elliptical (like a football). But a heart attack will change the heart muscle's structure into a spherical shape (like a basketball) that impairs performance. Standard drug treatment tries to manage the resulting symptoms, but fails to change the cause – the ventricle's stretched (dilated) spherical shape. The end result is that as dilation continues to progress, heart failure and symptoms worsen, often until premature death.

To use a sports analogy, a high school quarterback can accurately throw a 50-yard spiral, yet a professional basketball player cannot do the same with his ball at a distance of even 20 yards. The shape of the ball is the problem, not the athlete. What this really means is that despite all present medications and other treatments, you cannot correct congestive heart failure until you correct the heart's shape. Today, 7.5 million patients with spherical hearts suffer from heart failure.

Yet a proven surgical procedure exists to restore this distorted spherical form back to its natural elliptical shape. Surgical Ventricular Restoration was successfully tested internationally in 1200 patients. Instead of the 50-to-75% two-year death rate that typically occurs when only symptomatic treatment is delivered... this surgical treatment showed a 70% five-year survival, with a return to near normal heart function and only very rare occurrences of dangerous ventricular rhythms.

Sadly, a faulty NIH-funded study of this groundbreaking treatment utilized physicians who were not qualified to participate, disregarded proper selection of patients, and incorrectly performed procedures. Its erroneous findings led to the abandonment of this powerful treatment that restored a more normal size heart and performance. This persists, despite a European Society of Cardiology report that supports this treatment when it is done by experienced physicians that adhere to proper protocols for selecting patients and evaluating results.

Its dismissal by the greater medical community is tragic, and leads to enormous and unnecessary suffering upon the millions of congestive heart patients who would have benefitted. In managing heart failure in dilated hearts, we must recognize its cause is flawed heart anatomy – and appreciate that normality is restored after rebuilding the natural cardiac form.

Summary of Chapters 16 & 17 from the book:

SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF HEART DISEASE
Life-saving Answers Ignored by the Medical Establishment
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