

# Clinical characteristics and treatment of constrictive pericarditis in Taiwan

陳復銓

**Chen FC;Lai CP;;;**

摘要

## **Abstract**

Background Constrictive pericarditis is an uncommon disease that prevents the normal diastolic filling of the heart and pericardiectomy is the only satisfactory treatment. Methods and Results The clinical characteristics and treatment of patients who underwent pericardiectomy for constrictive pericarditis (n=23) were reviewed. Surgery was performed via left anterolateral thoracotomy plus transsternal extension in 3 patients, and median sternotomy in 20 patients. There were 2 deaths, resulting in an overall mortality rate of 8.7%. Of the 23 patients, 8 had Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Tb) infection, 2 had streptococcus infection, 1 had strongyloidiasis (*Strongyloides stercoralis*) and 1 developed the condition after a myocardial infarction; 2 patients underwent pericardial substitute insertion as post-heart surgery, and 3 patients had connective tissue disorders; 6 patients had idiopathic disease. Conclusion These results show that bacterial infection, especially Tb, is a major etiology of constrictive pericarditis in Taiwan and that median sternotomy is an excellent approach for exposing the heart for pericardiectomy. (Circ J 2005; 69: 458 - 460).