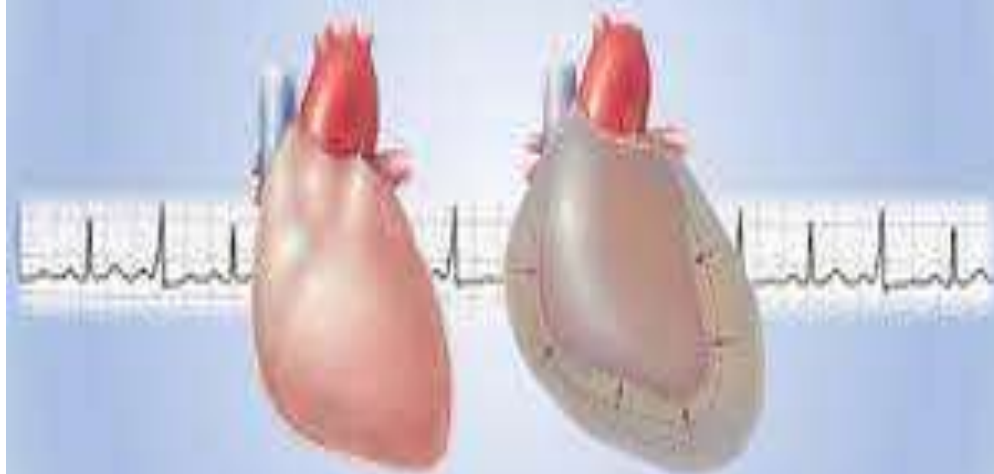


PERICARDIAL EFFUSION

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- The pericardial sac contains around **30-50ml** of fluid. It is **clear, straw colored, serous** fluid. various conditions results in accumulation of more fluid in this cavity. This is called **pericardial effusion**.

PERICARDIAL EFFUSION



- The amount of fluid accumulated varies
- It may be upto 1000ml when the accumulation is slow
- In rapid accumulation death can occur even with collections as little as 250ml.it restricts the cardiac filling during diastole causing cardiac tamponade.

Types

- Types of pericardial fluid effusion
 1. Hydro pericardium
 2. Haemopericardium

Hydropericardium

- Accumulation of fluid in the pericardial cavity due to non inflammatory cause is called hydropericardium or pericardial effusion
- Pericardial effusion is detected by cardiac enlargement in the X-rays and by faint apex beat.

Various types of effusions and causes

- **Serous effusion**-Accumulation of **serous fluid** is seen in congestive cardiac failure and renal, nutritional and hepatic causes. Serous fluid is clear, watery, straw coloured with specific gravity 1.015.
- **Serosanguineous effusion**-Accumulation of Serosanguinous fluid is seen in blunt chest trauma, malignancy or ruptured myocardial infarction.
- **Chylous effusion**-Milky or Chylous fluid accumulation is seen in mediastinal lymphatic obstruction.

- Cholesterol effusion: this is rare type of fluid accumulation characterised by presence of cholesterol crystals such as in myxoedema.

Haemopericardium

- Accumulation of pure blood in the pericardial sac is termed as haemopericardium. The cause of haemopericardium are
 1. Rupture of the heart through myocardial infarct
 2. Rupture of dissecting aneurysm.
 3. Trauma following cardiopulmonary resuscitation or by lacerations of coronary artery
 4. Bleeding diathesis such as such as in scurvy, acute leukaemias, thrombocytopenia.

Summary