

Dilated Cardiomyopathy

Dilated cardiomyopathy, also known as congestive cardiomyopathy, indicates an enlarged heart disorder. The most common cause is advanced coronary artery disease. Other subtypes are: viral, alcoholic, postpartum and idiopathic. The term idiopathic means the cause is as yet unknown. Common symptoms of congestive dilated cardiomyopathy include shortness of breath, fatigue and irregular heart beats. It carries a high mortality rate. Drug therapy is the basis of treatment: beta blockers, ACE inhibitors, digitalis, diuretics, anti-arrhythmics, and anti-coagulants. In some cases, implantable defibrillator or heart transplant is necessary. Where alcohol is a factor, complete abstinence may lead to recovery. For ischemic cardiomyopathy, the underlying coronary artery disease must be treated.

1. At what age was the disorder first diagnosed:

2. Have any of the following symptoms occurred? (check all that apply)

Fainting or dizziness yes or no

Palpitations yes or no

Shortness of breath yes or no

Chest pain yes or no

3. Has an echocardiogram been done?

If yes, (please submit a copy of the report) _____

4. Is your client on any medications?

If yes, please give details _____

5. Has treatment other than medication (please note above) been given? (check all that apply and give details)

Pacemaker _____

Defibrillator _____

Heart surgery _____

6. Has your client smoked cigarettes or used other form of tobacco in the last 5 years? If yes, please give details _____

7. Does your client have any other major health problems (ex: cancer, etc.)?

If yes, please give details
