

HEART DISEASE

A Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine

Edited by

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PREFACE

Today cardiovascular disease is the greatest scourge afflicting the population of the industrialized nations. As with previous scourges—bubonic plague, yellow fever, and smallpox—cardiovascular disease not only strikes down a significant fraction of the population without warning but causes prolonged suffering and disability in an even larger number. In the United States alone, cardiovascular disease was responsible for almost one million fatalities in 1979—*well over one-half of all reported deaths*. Almost 5 million persons afflicted with cardiovascular disease are hospitalized annually. The cost of this disease in terms of human suffering is almost incalculable: direct annual costs approximate \$16 billion, and indirect annual costs due to morbidity amount to over \$8 billion.

Fortunately, research focusing on the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of heart disease is moving ahead rapidly. In the last 25 years, in particular, we have witnessed an explosive expansion of our understanding of the structure and function of the cardiovascular system—both normal and abnormal—and of our ability to evaluate these parameters in the living patient, sometimes by means of techniques that require penetration of the skin but also, with increasing accuracy, by noninvasive methods. Simultaneously, remarkable progress has been made in preventing and treating cardiovascular disease by medical and surgical means. Indeed, in the United States, a steady reduction in mortality from cardiovascular disease during the past decade suggests that the effective application of this increased knowledge is beginning to prolong man's life span, the most valued resource on earth.

An attempt to summarize our present understanding of heart disease in a comprehensive textbook for the serious student of this subject is a formidable undertaking. Following the untimely death of Dr. Charles K. Friedberg, whose masterful text served as a bible to me and to a whole generation of cardiologists during the 1950's and 1960's, the W. B. Saunders Company invited me to accept this responsibility. Younger colleagues, particularly cardiology fellows and medical residents at the Brigham, convinced me of the need for such a book, and the Dean of the Harvard Medical School and the Trustees of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital graciously allowed me to devote a sabbatical year toward completion of this project.

A single text—even a long one—cannot adequately cover every aspect of a subject as extensive as heart disease. Thus, my first task was to define those areas of the field that should be included. Since the early part of this century, clinical cardiology has had a particularly strong foundation in the basic sciences of physiology and pharmacology. More recently, the disciplines of molecular biology, genetics, developmental biology, biophysics, biochemistry, experimental pathology, and bioengineering have also begun to provide critically important information about cardiac function and malfunction. Although it was decided that *Heart Disease* was to be primarily a clinical treatise and not a textbook of fundamental cardiovascular science, an effort has been made to explain, in some detail, the scientific basis of cardiovascular diseases. To achieve this objective, the sciences fundamental to heart disease are in most cases presented in the chapters describing the various disease states and their treatment rather than in separate chapters. While it is recognized that cardiovascular surgery has had an enormous impact on the management of patients with heart disease, the major emphasis in this book is on the rationale and indications for cardiac operations rather than on operative techniques per se.

Heart Disease is divided into four parts: Part I deals with the examination of the patient in the broadest sense, including clinical findings and the theory and application of modern invasive and noninvasive techniques used to elicit information about the heart and the circulation. Part II is concerned with the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of the princi-

pal abnormalities of circulatory function, including heart failure, shock, arrhythmias, and abnormalities of arterial pressure. Part III consists of descriptions of the principal congenital and acquired diseases affecting the heart, pericardium, aorta, and pulmonary vascular bed in adults and children. Primary disease of other organ systems, such as the nervous, hematopoietic, endocrine, renal, and pulmonary systems, is frequently accompanied by important cardiac complications. Conversely, the presence of heart disease may significantly affect other organs and may alter the patient's response to the stresses of general anesthesia, pregnancy and delivery, and surgical procedures. Cardiovascular disorders are often expressions of systemic diseases that involve other organ systems as well. Both the internist and the cardiologist must frequently deal with these disorders that lie at the interface between cardiology and other areas of medicine such as neurology, rheumatology, psychiatry, and obstetrics. It is my impression that patients with these conditions present particularly challenging problems to both cardiac and noncardiac specialists. Accordingly, Part IV discusses the manner in which diseases of other organ systems affect the circulation and vice versa.

In order to provide a comprehensive, authoritative text in a field that has become as broad and deep as cardiovascular medicine, I chose to enlist contributions from a number of able colleagues. However, my personal involvement in the writing of about half the book has made possible a deliberate effort to eliminate the fragmentation, gaps, inconsistencies, organizational difficulties, and impersonal tone that plague many multiauthored texts. I sought a compromise between a book that is too lengthy (and therefore expensive) as a result of excessive repetition and one in which all duplication is eliminated, resulting in fragmented coverage of certain subjects. Some material is repeated within the text, but this has been done deliberately for the convenience of the reader. For example, the chapter on echocardiography describes the application of this technique in valvular heart disease, while the chapter on valvular heart disease includes discussions of echocardiography relevant to the recognition and assessment of these disorders. Whenever such repetition would have proved unwieldy, extensive cross references have been provided within the text.

Particular emphasis has been placed on insuring a comprehensive and up-to-date bibliography; considerable revisions have been made in both galley and page proofs to accommodate information about recent advances in the field, and several hundred references to publications appearing late in 1979 and early in 1980 have been inserted.

To the extent that this book proves useful to those who wish to broaden their knowledge of cardiovascular medicine and thereby aids in the care of patients afflicted with heart disease, credit must be given to the many talented and dedicated persons involved in its preparation. I offer my deepest appreciation to my fellow contributors for their professional expertise, knowledge, and devoted scholarship, which has so enriched this book. For their cooperation and willingness to deal with a demanding editor I am deeply in their debt. My editorial and writing efforts were also greatly aided by a number of individuals whom I consulted about specific sections. Extremely helpful advice and constructive criticism were provided by Drs. Joseph S. Alpert, Elliott M. Antman, Stephen M. Ayres, William H. Barry, Edward H. Bergofsky, C. Gunnar Blómqvist, Jeffrey S. Borer, Mary Jo Burgess, Lawrence H. Cohn, Peter F. Cohn, David M. Dawson, Nabil El-Sherif, Charles Fisch, Michael D. Freed, William F. Friedman, Victor F. Froelicher, Edward D. Frohlich, Jonas B. Galper, Jacques Genest, Lee Goldman, William Grossman, E. William Hancock, Norman K. Hollenberg, Roland H. Ingram, David C. Levin, Victor A. McKusick, James Metcalfe, Robert G. Narins, Alan S. Nies, William V. Parmley, Oglesby Paul, Joseph K. Perloff, Kirk L. Peterson, Peter Reich, Eugene D. Robin, Arthur A. Sasahara, Ronald H. Selvester, Laurence J. Sloss, Harold S. Solomon, Madison S. Spach, Jerry S. Trier, Gerard M. Turino, Max H. Weil, Arnold M. Weissler, Harvey Wolinsky, Roland Wyatt, and Barry L. Zaret.

It has been a personal pleasure for me to deal with the W. B. Saunders Company. Mr. John Hanley, Vice President and Editor of Health Sciences, has been particularly helpful, and I deeply appreciate his wise counsel at several critical junctures. One of Mr. Hanley's most notable contributions to this book was his assignment of Ms. Diane Q. Forti to serve as Special Editor for this project. It is a pleasure to be able to acknowledge the collaboration of a true professional. Ms. Forti provided this book with editorial talents of a higher quality than I have ever encountered. Her unusual insight; very high standards; and insistence on accuracy, consistency, and clarity of expression improved enormously the large section of the book that she personally edited. She has left a positive and lasting imprint on this book that will certainly

be felt in subsequent editions. Ms. Katherine Arnoldi and Ms. Wynette Kommer of W. B. Saunders provided very able editorial support, while Ms. Patricia Kadlick in my office rendered most capable secretarial services.

Without question, this book could not have become a reality were it not for the skill and dedication of two very special persons. My responsibilities to the Harvard Medical School and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital during my sabbatical year were shouldered most effectively by my friend and colleague Dr. Marshall Wolf, who provided the Department of Medicine with exemplary leadership during my absence. My administrative assistant, Mrs. Mary Jackson, expended incalculable time and effort to aid me in the completion of this project while at the same time maintaining the orderly flow of activity essential to a busy Department of Medicine. I am personally deeply indebted to both Dr. Wolf and Mrs. Jackson for going far beyond the call of duty, thereby permitting me to devote myself to *Heart Disease: A Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine*.

EUGENE BRAUNWALD

CONTENTS

PART I EXAMINATION OF THE PATIENT

Chapter 1	
THE HISTORY	3
<i>Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 2	
THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION	13
<i>Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 3	
HEART SOUNDS Phonocardiography; Carotid, Apex, and Jugular Venous Pulse Tracings; and Systolic Time Intervals	39
<i>Ernest Craige, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 4	
ECHOPHONOCARDIOGRAPHY AND OTHER NONINVASIVE TECHNIQUES TO ELUCIDATE HEART MURMURS AND TO SOLVE DIAGNOSTIC PROBLEMS	70
<i>Ernest Craige, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 5	
ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY	96
<i>Harvey Feigenbaum, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 6	
RADIOLOGICAL AND ANGIOGRAPHIC EXAMINATION OF THE HEART	147
<i>Murray G. Baron, M.D.</i>	

Chapter 7	
ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY AND VECTORCARDIOGRAPHY . . .	198
<i>Leo G. Horan, M.D., and Nancy C. Flowers, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 8	
EXERCISE STRESS TESTING	253
<i>L. Thomas Sheffield, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 9	
CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION	278
<i>William H. Barry, M.D., and William Grossman, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 10	
CORONARY ARTERIOGRAPHY	308
<i>Goffredo G. Gensini, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 11	
RADIOISOTOPIC EXAMINATION OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM	363
<i>B. Leonard Holman, M.D.</i>	
PART II ABNORMALITIES OF CIRCULATORY FUNCTION	
Chapter 12	
CONTRACTION OF THE NORMAL HEART	413
<i>Eugene Braunwald, M.D., Edmund H. Sonnenblick, M.D., and John Ross, Jr., M.D.</i>	
Chapter 13	
PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF HEART FAILURE	453
<i>Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 14	
ASSESSMENT OF CARDIAC PERFORMANCE	472
<i>Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 15	
CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF HEART FAILURE	493
<i>Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	

Chapter 16	
THE MANAGEMENT OF HEART FAILURE	509
<i>Thomas W. Smith, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 17	
PULMONARY EDEMA: CARDIOGENIC AND NONCARDIOGENIC FORMS	571
<i>Roland H. Ingram, Jr., M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 18	
CARDIAC AND NONCARDIAC FORMS OF ACUTE CIRCULATORY COLLAPSE (SHOCK)	590
<i>Burton E. Sobel, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 19	
MECHANISMS AND DIAGNOSIS OF ARRHYTHMIAS	630
<i>J. Thomas Bigger, Jr., M.D.</i>	
Chapter 20	
MANAGEMENT OF ARRHYTHMIAS	691
<i>J. Thomas Bigger, Jr., M.D.</i>	
Chapter 21	
THE USE OF CARDIAC PACEMAKERS	744
<i>Doris J. W. Escher, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 22	
CARDIOVASCULAR COLLAPSE AND SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH	778
<i>Bernard Lown, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 23	
HIGH CARDIAC OUTPUT STATES	818
<i>William Grossman, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 24	
PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	835
<i>William Grossman, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	

Chapter 25

SYSTEMIC HYPERTENSION: MECHANISMS AND DIAGNOSIS 852

Norman M. Kaplan, M.D.

Chapter 26

SYSTEMIC HYPERTENSION: THERAPY 922

Norman M. Kaplan, M.D.

Chapter 27

HYPOTENSION AND SYNCOPE 952

Burton E. Sobel, M.D., and Robert Roberts, M.D.

PART III DISEASES OF THE HEART, PERICARDIUM, AORTA, AND PULMONARY VASCULAR BED

Chapter 28

CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD 967

William F. Friedman, M.D.

Chapter 29

CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE IN THE ADULT 1057

Joseph S. Alpert, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.

Chapter 30

ACQUIRED HEART DISEASE IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD 1079

William F. Friedman, M.D.

Chapter 31

VALVULAR HEART DISEASE 1095

Eugene Braunwald, M.D.

Chapter 32

INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS 1166

Louis Weinstein, M.D.

Chapter 33	
PRINCIPLES OF THE PATHOGENESIS OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS	1221
<i>Robert W. Wissler, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 34	
RISK FACTORS FOR CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE AND THEIR MANAGEMENT	1246
<i>Robert I. Levy, M.D., and Manning Feinleib, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 35	
CORONARY BLOOD FLOW AND MYOCARDIAL ISCHEMIA	1279
<i>Eugene Braunwald, M.D., and Burton E. Sobel, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 36	
PATHOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION	1309
<i>Joseph S. Alpert, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 37	
MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION	1353
<i>Burton E. Sobel, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 38	
CHRONIC CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE	1387
<i>Peter F. Cohn, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 39	
THE CARDIOMYOPATHIES AND MYOCARDITIDES	1437
<i>Joshua Wynne, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 40	
PRIMARY TUMORS OF THE HEART	1501
<i>Wilson S. Colucci, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 41	
DISEASES OF THE PERICARDIUM	1517
<i>John R. Darsee, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	

Chapter 42	
TRAUMATIC HEART DISEASE	1583
<i>Peter F. Cohn, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 43	
DISEASES OF THE AORTA	1597
<i>Eve E. Slater, M.D., and Roman W. DeSanctis, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 44	
PRIMARY PULMONARY HYPERTENSION	1633
<i>Joseph S. Alpert, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 45	
COR PULMONALE AND PULMONARY THROMBOEMBOLISM	1643
<i>E. Regis McFadden, Jr., M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
PART IV HEART DISEASE AND DISEASES OF OTHER ORGAN SYSTEMS	
Chapter 46	
GENETICS AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE	1683
<i>Joseph L. Goldstein, M.D., and Michael S. Brown, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 47	
CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM	1723
<i>Gene H. Stollerman, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 48	
HEMATOLOGIC-ONCOLOGIC DISORDERS AND HEART DISEASE	1771
<i>David S. Rosenthal, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 49	
NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AND HEART DISEASE	1801
<i>Joseph K. Perloff, M.D.</i>	
Chapter 50	
ENDOCRINE AND NUTRITIONAL DISORDERS AND HEART DISEASE	1825
<i>Gordon H. Williams, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.</i>	

Chapter 51

RENAL DISORDERS AND HEART DISEASE	1854
---	------

Michael N. Gottlieb, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.

Chapter 52

PREGNANCY AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE	1871
--	------

Joseph K. Perloff, M.D.

Chapter 53

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DISEASES OF THE HEART AND LUNGS	1893
--	------

E. Regis McFadden, Jr., M.D., and Roland H. Ingram, Jr., M.D.

Chapter 54

GENERAL ANESTHESIA AND NONCARDIAC SURGERY IN PATIENTS WITH HEART DISEASE	1911
--	------

Marshall A. Wolf, M.D., and Eugene Braunwald, M.D.

Chapter 55

EMOTION, PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS, AND THE HEART	1923
---	------

Thomas P. Hackett, M.D., and Jerrold F. Rosenbaum, M.D.

INDEX	i
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Part I

EXAMINATION
OF THE PATIENT

IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORY: THE PHYSICIAN'S ROLE, p. 3

PRINCIPAL SYMPTOMS OF HEART DISEASE, p. 4

Dyspnea, p. 4

Chest Pain or Discomfort, p. 5

Cyanosis, p. 7

Syncope, p. 7

Palpitation, p. 9

Edema, p. 9

Cough, p. 10

Hemoptysis, p. 10

THE HISTORY IN SPECIFIC FORMS OF HEART DISEASE, p. 10

GENERAL REFERENCES, p. 12

THE HISTORY

by

EUGENE BRAUNWALD, M.D.

IMPORTANCE OF THE HISTORY: THE PHYSICIAN'S ROLE

Specialized examinations of the cardiovascular system, presented in Chapters 3 to 11, provide a large portion of the data base required to establish a specific anatomical diagnosis of cardiac disease and to determine the extent of functional impairment of the heart. Although the development of these methods represents one of the triumphs of modern medicine, their appropriate use is *to supplement but not to supplant* a careful clinical examination, which remains the cornerstone of the assessment of the patient with known or suspected cardiovascular disease. There is a temptation in cardiology, as in many other areas of medicine, to carry out expensive, uncomfortable, and occasionally even hazardous procedures to establish a diagnosis when a detailed and thoughtful history and physical examination may be sufficient. Obviously, it is undesirable to subject patients to the unnecessary risks and expenses inherent in many specialized tests when a diagnosis can be made based on an adequate clinical examination, or when their management will not be altered significantly as a result of these tests. Intelligent selection of investigative procedures from the broad array now available requires more sophisticated decision-making than was necessary when the choices were limited to the electrocardiogram and chest roentgenogram. The history and physical examination provide the critical information necessary for these decisions.

The overreliance on laboratory tests has increased as physicians attempt to utilize their time more efficiently by delegating responsibility for taking the history to a physician's assistant or nurse or even by issuing a questionnaire—an approach that I consider to be an undesirable trend insofar as the patient with known or suspected heart disease is concerned. First of all, it must be appreciated that the history remains the richest source of information concerning the patient's illness, and any practice that might diminish the quality of information provided by the history could ultimately impair the

quality of care. Second, the physician's attentive and thoughtful taking of a history establishes a bond with the patient that may be valuable later in securing the patient's compliance in following a complex treatment plan, undergoing hospitalization for an intensive diagnostic work-up or a hazardous operation, and, in some instances, accepting that heart disease is not present at all. It is largely through the direct contact established between the patient and physician during the clinical examination that this confidence can best be established.

Taking a history also permits the physician to evaluate the results of diagnostic tests that have strong subjective components, such as the determination of exercise capacity (see p. 261). Perhaps most importantly, a careful history allows the physician to evaluate the impact of the disease, or the fear of the disease, on the patient's total life and to assess the patient's personality, emotion, and stability; often it provides a glimpse of the patient's responsibilities, fears, aspirations, and threshold for discomfort as well as the likelihood of compliance with one or another therapeutic regimen. Whenever possible, the physician should question not only the patient but also relatives or close friends of the patient in order to obtain a clearer understanding of the extent of the patient's disability and a broader perspective concerning the impact of the disease on both the patient and the family.

In interpreting the history obtained from a patient with known or suspected heart disease it must be appreciated that the combination of the widespread fear of cardiovascular disorders and the deep-seated emotional and sometimes even religious connotations concerning this organ's function often provokes symptoms that mimic those of organic heart disease in persons with normal cardiovascular systems. Functional complaints referable to the cardiovascular system may also develop in patients with organic heart disease. The unraveling of symptoms and signs due to organic heart disease from those not directly related to it is an important and challenging task, and the history is the most valuable tool in carrying out this task.