Cardiac Sarcoidosis



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Disclosures: None

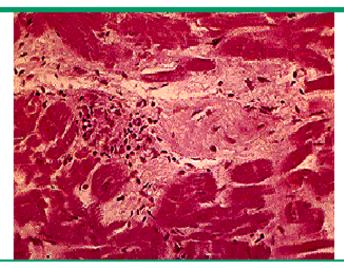


Sarcoidosis

- Sarcoidosis is a heterogeneous, noncaseating, granulomatous disorder of unknown etiology that can involve any organ within the body.
- Myocardial involvement may be more frequent in patients with cardiac symptoms, but asymptomatic cardiac involvement appears to be common



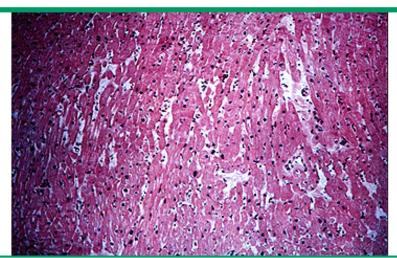
Myocardial sarcoidosis



Photomicrograph demonstrating granulomatous inflammation within the myocardial wall.

Courtesy of Om P Sharma, MD.

Normal endomyocardial byopsy



Light microscopy from a normal endomyocardial biopsy. Courtesy of Helmut Rennke, MD.

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Clinical Manifestations

- Conduction abnormalities (atrioventricular block or bundle-branch block)
- Tachyarrhythmias
- Sudden cardiac death
- Coronary infiltration (leading to spasm or vasculitis)
- Cardiomyopathy
- Congestive heart failure
 - Granulomatous involvement of myocardium
 - Granulomatous involvement of valves, pap muscles

Prevalence of cardiac findings in cardiac sarcoidosis

- AV block: 26-62%
- BBB: 12-61%
- SVT: 0-15%
- Vtach: 2-42%
- HF: 10-30%
- SD: 12-65%



Echo Findings

- Left ventricular dilatation
- Septal thinning
- Segmental or global hypokinesia of the left ventricle
- Ventricular aneurysms
- Valvular regurgitation
- Right ventricular dilatation and hypokinesis.



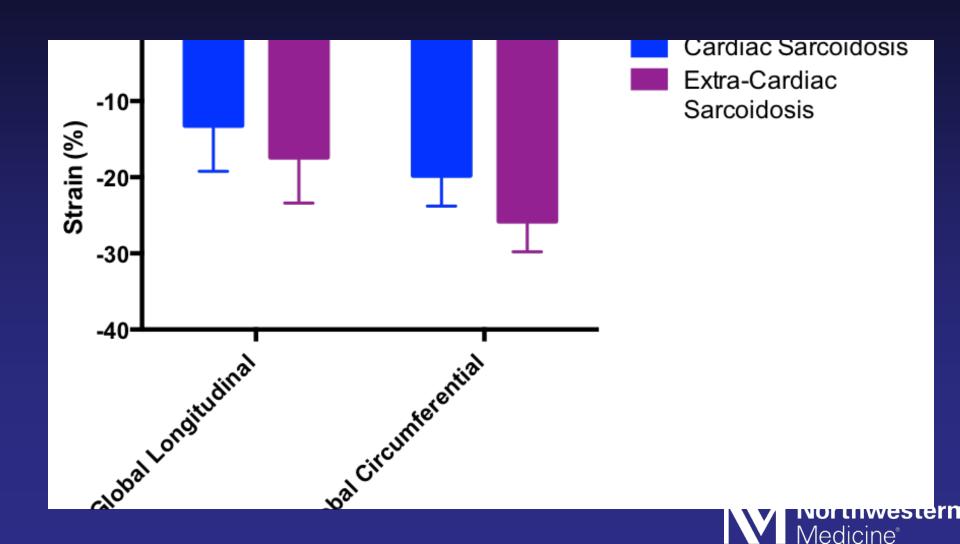
Echo Findings

- Septum and LV free wall most commonly affected
- Increase in wall thickness simulating LVH or HCM
- Wall motion abnormalities in noncoronary distribution



Speckle Tracking Echocardiography Identifies Patients with Cardiac Sarcoidosis

Sadiya S. Khan, MD; Jason Chodakowski, BS; Jyothy Puthumana, MD; Alex Chicos, MD



Cardiac MRI

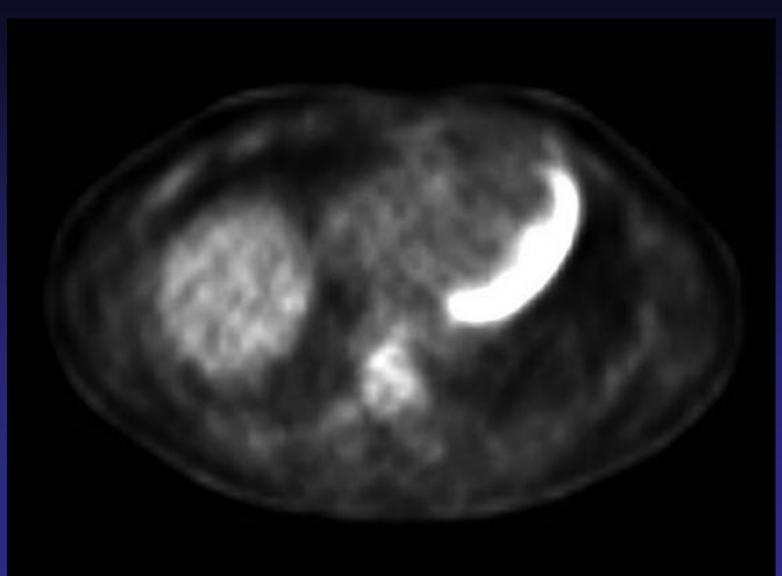
- T1 weighted images detect wall motion, hypertrophy, wall thinning
- T2 weighted images/early gad detect edema (inflammation)
- Late gad detects fibrosis/scar



¹⁸F-Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET

- Detects active sarcoidosis with high sensitivity
- May be positive in other inflammatory cardiac conditions





Radionuclide Imaging: Thallium-201

- Focal perfusion deficits may be seen at rest
- With exercise, "reverse redistribution" is seen
- Fixed defects may represent scar
- Gallium-67 can detect active inflammation



Accuracy of Diagnostic Tests

Diagnostic modality	Sensitivity	Specificity
ECG	Low	Low
Echocardiography	Low to moderate	Low
²⁰¹ Tl or ^{99m} Tc scintigraphy	Moderate	Moderate
⁶⁷ Ga scintigraphy ¹⁸ F-FDG PET	Low	High
¹⁸ F-FDG PET	High	Moderate to high
MRI	Moderate to high	High

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Guidelines for Diagnosis of Cardiac Sarcoidosis

Histologic diagnosis

Endomyocardial biopsy demonstrating noncaseating epithelioid granulomas

Clinical diagnosis

Among patients with a histologic diagnosis of extracardiac sarcoidosis, cardiac sarcoidosis should be suspected when criterion "a" and at least one of criteria "b" to "e" is present in patients in whom other causes such as hypertension and coronary heart disease have been excluded:

- a. Complete right bundle branch block, AV block, ventricular tachycardia, ventricular premature beats or pathologic Q wave or ST-T changes on the electrocardiogram
- b. Abnormal wall motion, regional wall thickening, or left ventricular dilation
- c. Perfusion defect on myocardial perfusion imaging or abnormal accumulation of 67-Gallium citrate or 99mTc-PYP myocardial scintigraphy
- d. Abnormal intracardiac pressure, low cardiac, or abnormal wall motion or reduced ejection fraction of the left ventricle
- e. On endomyocardial biopsy, interstitial fibrosis or more than moderate cellular infiltration, even if the findings are nonspecific

2006 Revised Guidelines by the Japanese Society of Sarcoidosis and Other Granulomatous Disorders

1. Histological diagnosis

Cardiac sarcoidosis is confirmed when cardiac biopsy specimens demonstrate noncaseating epithelioid cell granuloma with histologic or clinical diagnosis of extracardiac sarcoidosis.

2. Clinical diagnosis group

Cardiac sarcoidosis is diagnosed in the absence of an endomyocardial biopsy specimen or in the absence of typical granulomas on cardiac biopsy when extracardiac sarcoidosis has been proven and a combination of major or minor diagnostic criteria has been satisfied as follows.

- 1. More than 2 of 4 major criteria are satisfied, OR
- 2. 1 of the 4 major criteria and 2 or more of the minor criteria are satisfied.

Major criteria

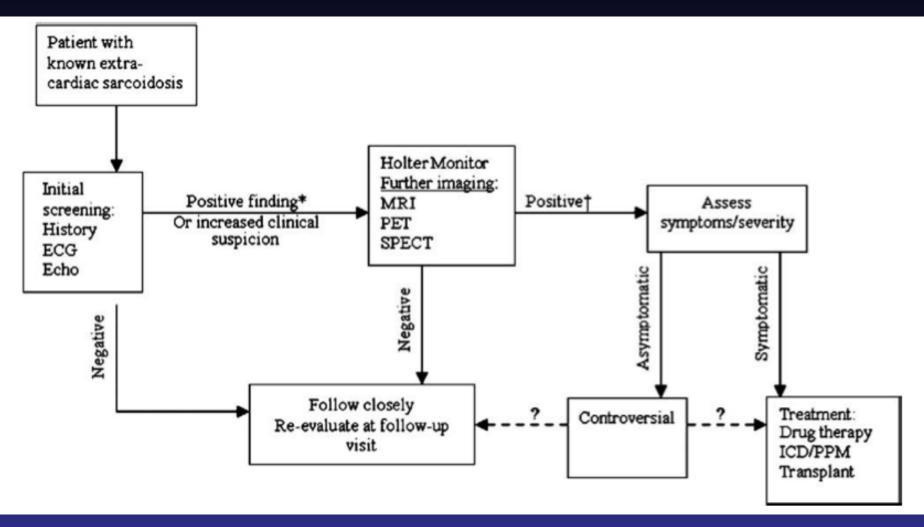
- (a) Advanced AV block
- (b) Basal thinning of the ventricular septum
- (c) Positive cardiac gallium uptake
- (d) Left ventricular ejection fraction less than 50%

Minor criteria

- (a) Abnormal electrocardiogram findings including ventricular tachycardia, multifocal frequent premature ventricular contractions, complete right bundle branch block pathologic Q waves, or abnormal axis deviation
- (b) Abnormal echocardiogram demonstrating regional wall motion abnormalities, ventricular aneurysm, or unexplained increase in wall thickness
- (c) Perfusion defects detected by myocardial scintigraphy
- (d) Delayed gadolinium enhancement of the myocardium on cardiac MRI scanning
- (e) Interstitial fibrosis or monocyte infiltration greater than moderate grade by endomyocardial biopsy



Suggested Clinical Algorithm





Case 1

- 48 yr old female who complains of palpitations for 1 month
- She presented to the ER when palpitations occurred with lightheadedness
- Initial rhythm was Afib. She converted to SR. VT then noted
- CT ordered to look for PE: Lymphadenopathy noted

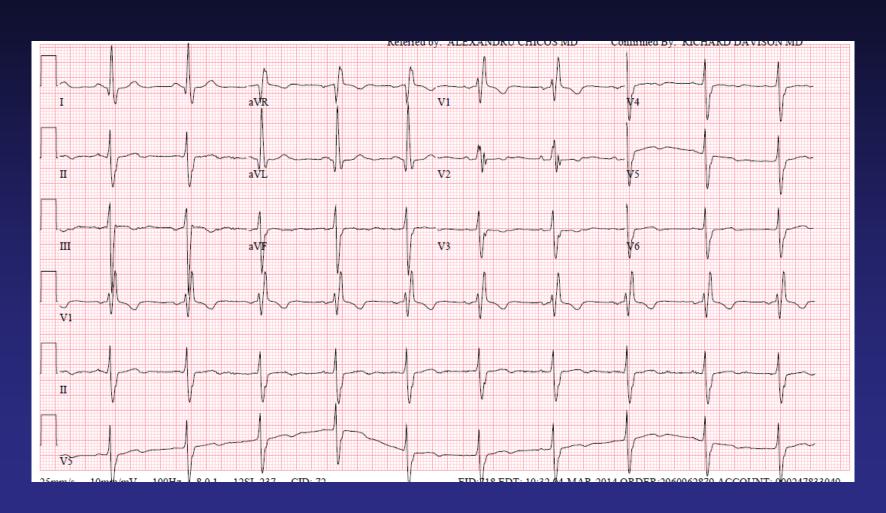


- Endobronchial biopsy: Sarcoidosis
- Endomyocardial biopsy: Negative
- Cardiac cath: No CAD





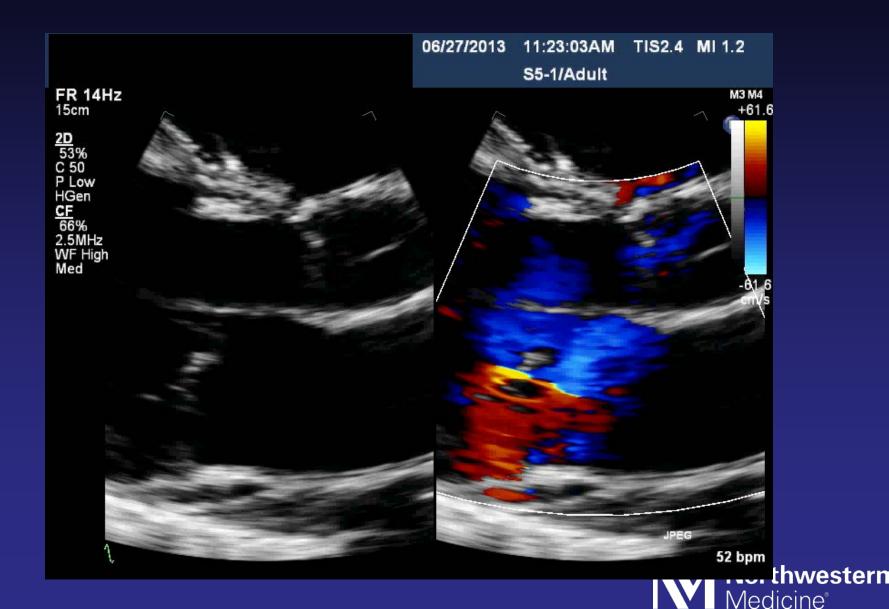
ECG



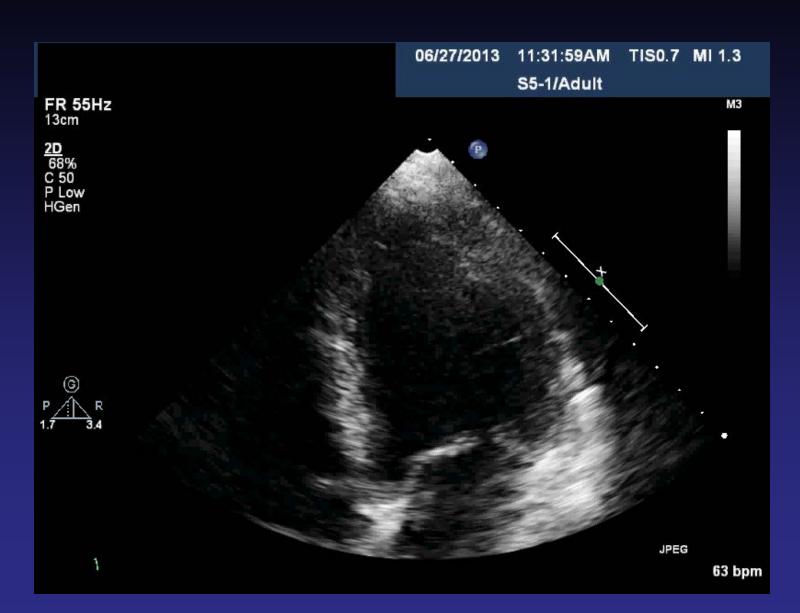


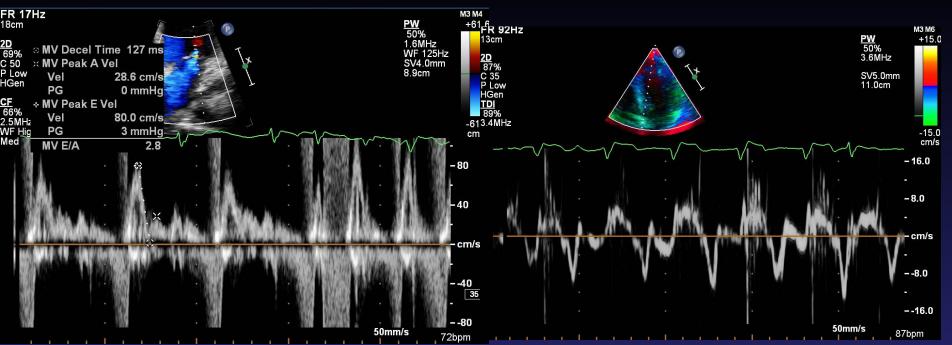
Echo



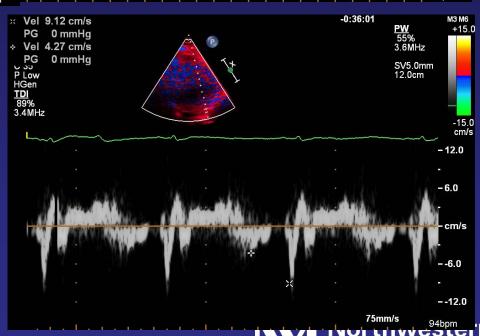




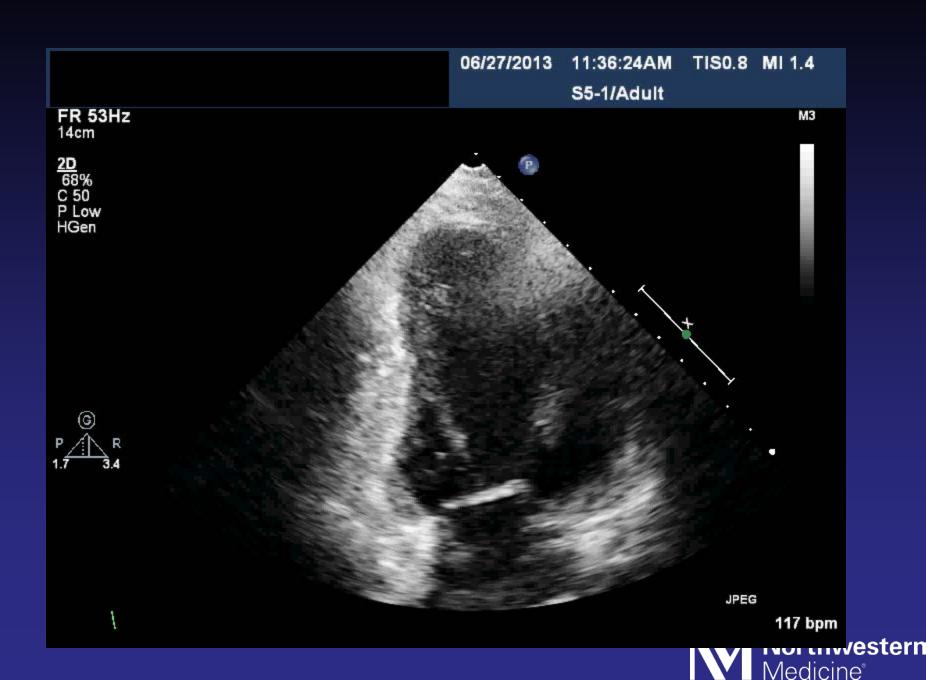


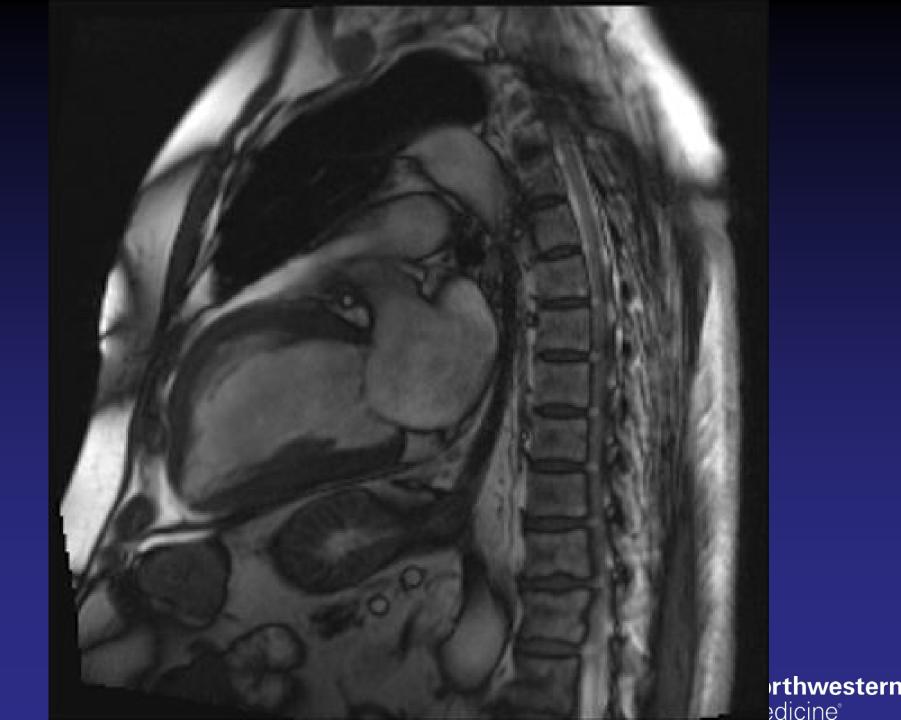


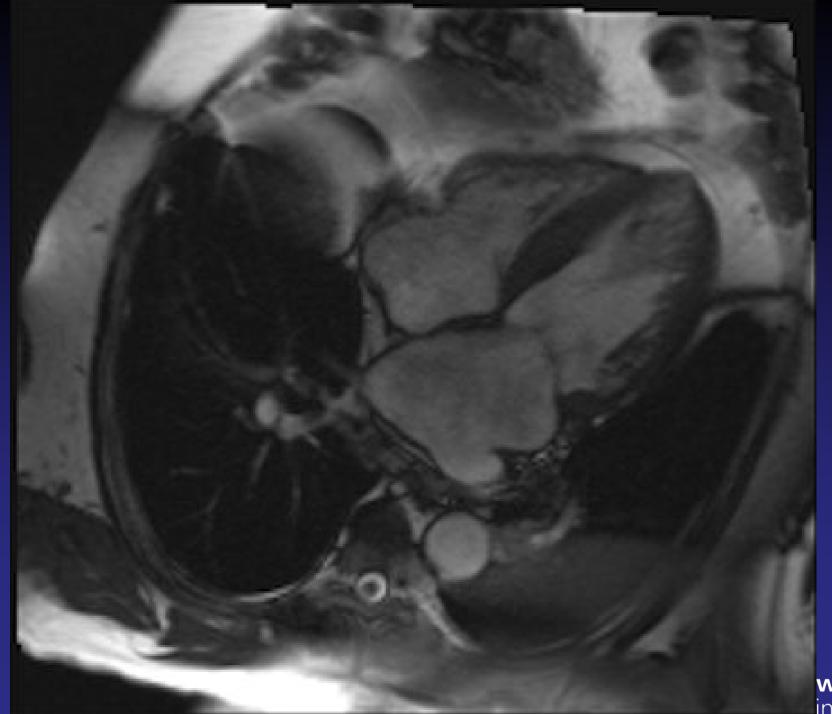




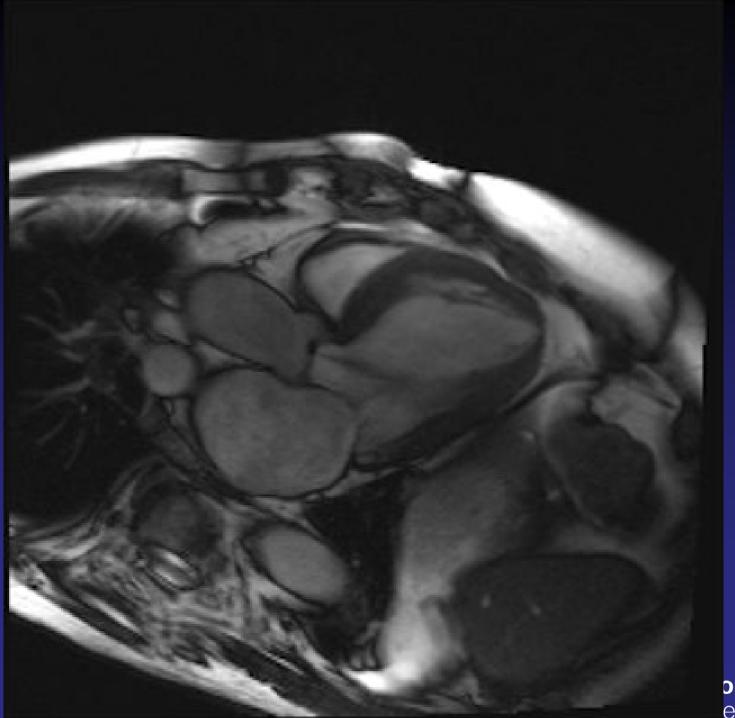
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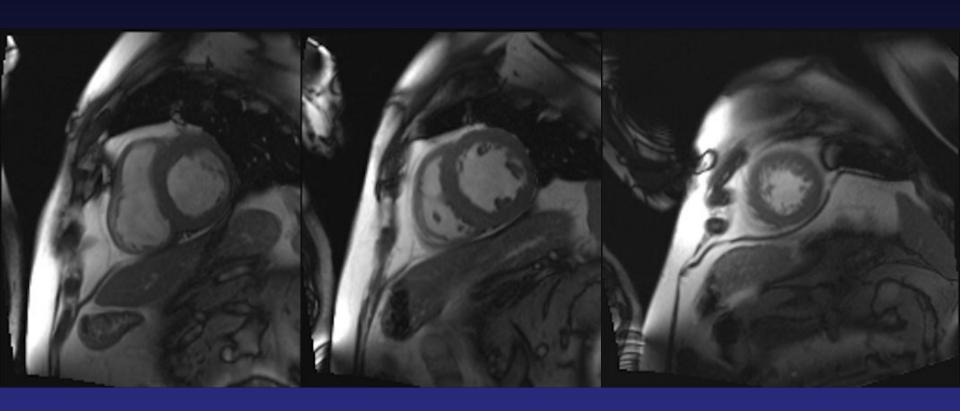


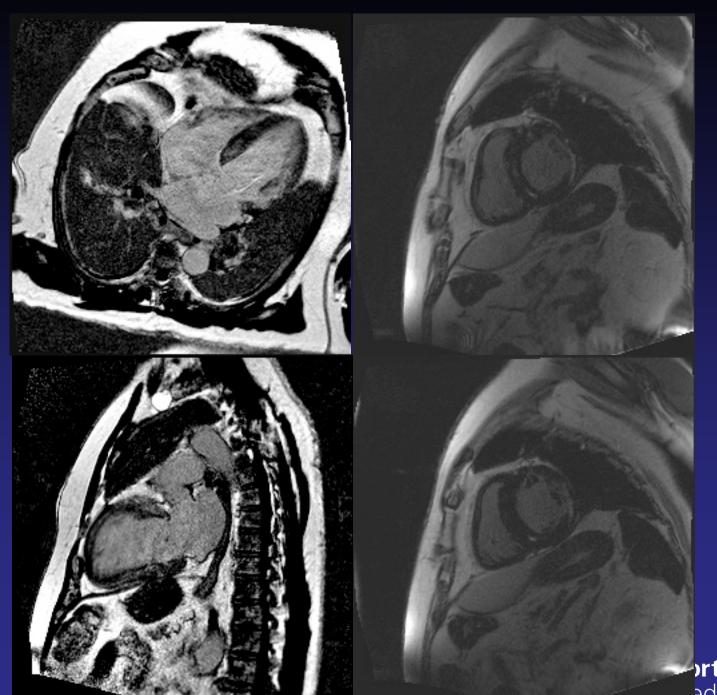


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Treatment

- Steroids
- Antiarrhythmic therapy
- ICD
- VT ablation (VT noted to come from multiple foci, including epicardium and paps)



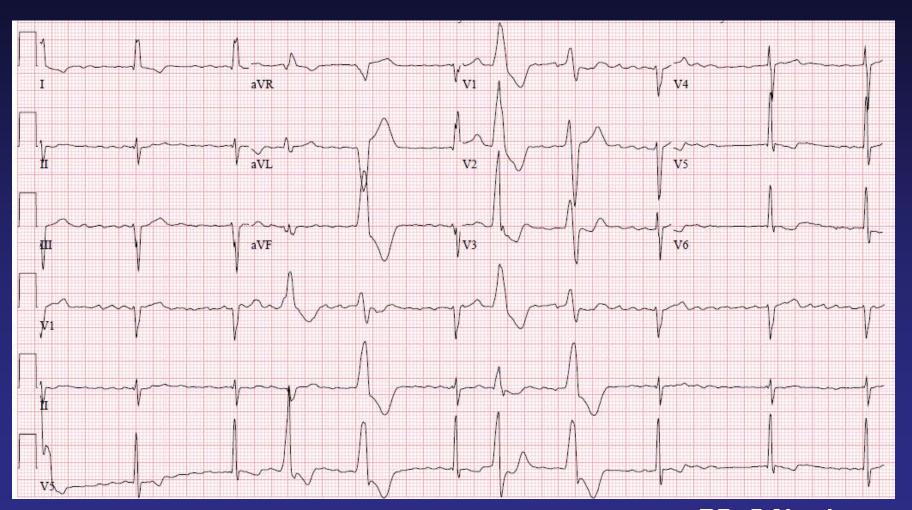


Case 2

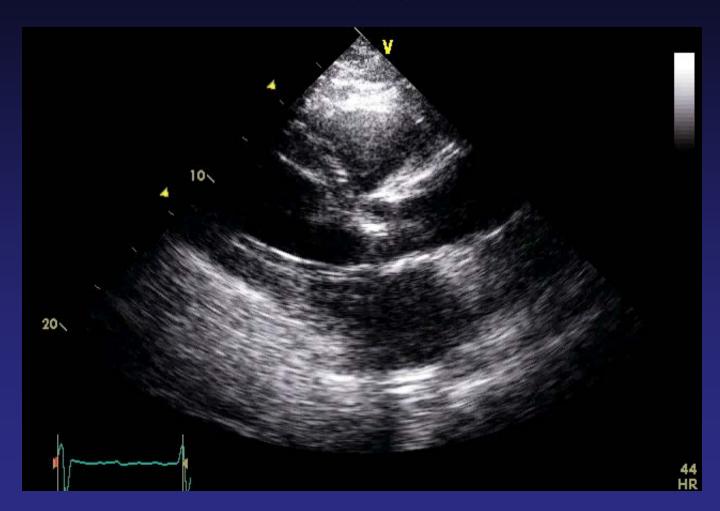
- 75 yr old male with a history of pulmonary sarcoidosis
- He complained of SOB and palpitations
- ECG showed Afib
- Cardiac cath: No obstructive CAD
- Endomyocardial biopsy: Negative



ECG



Echo

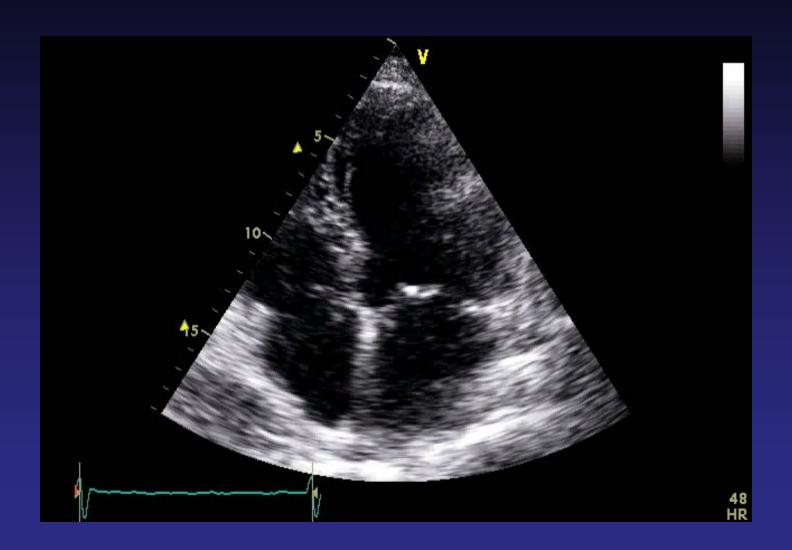


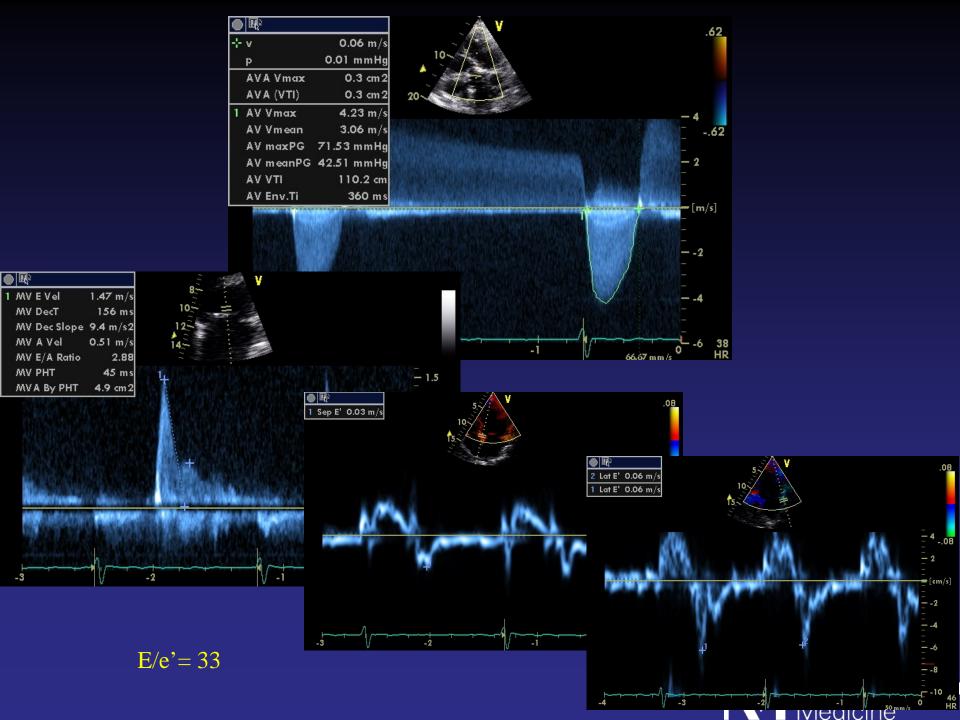






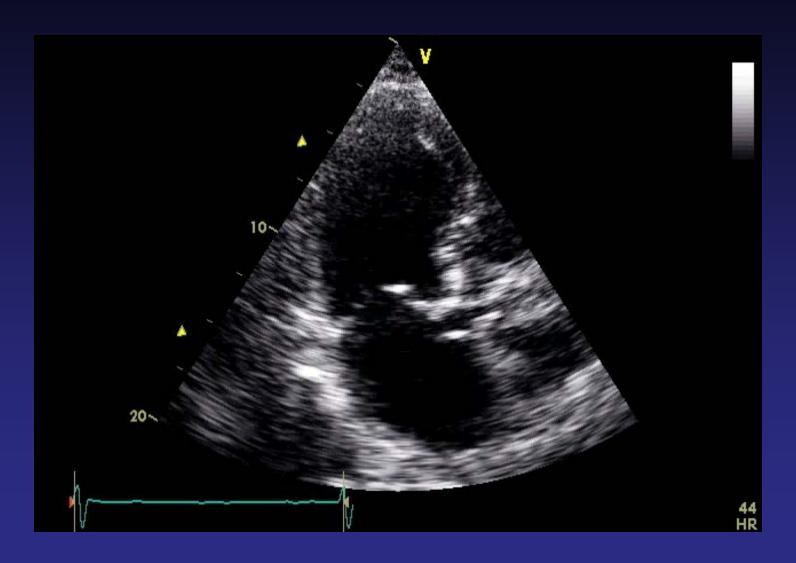




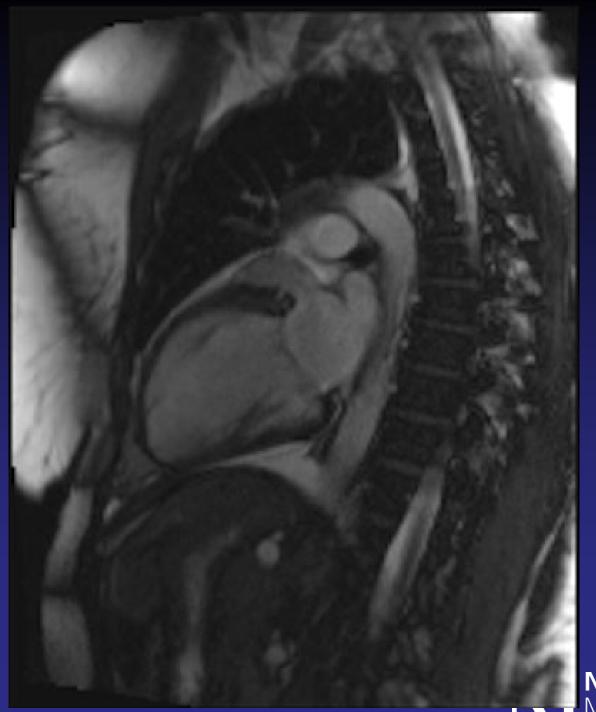






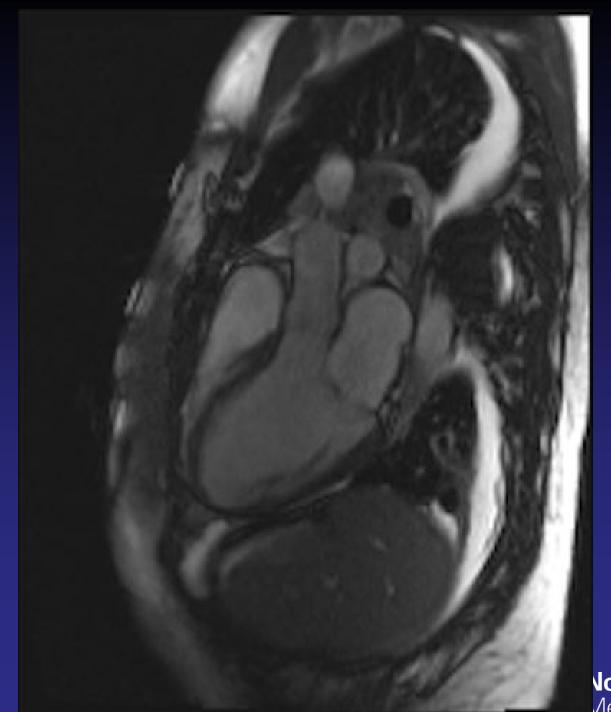




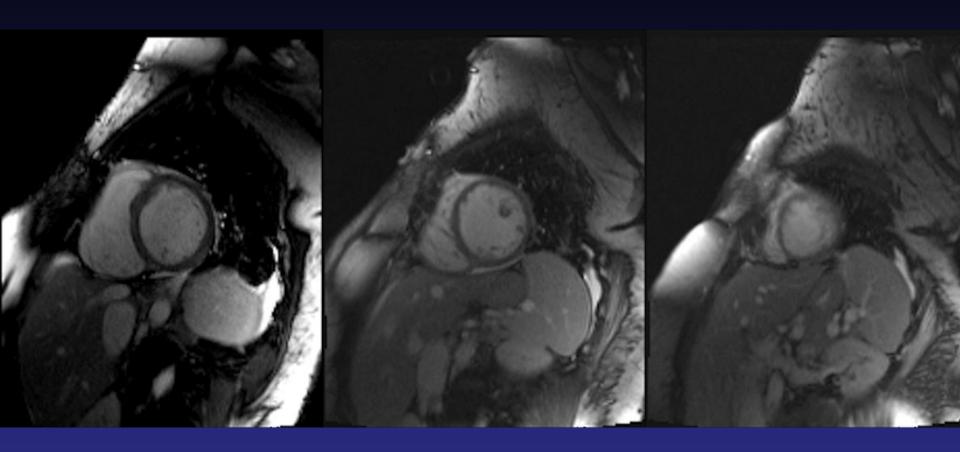


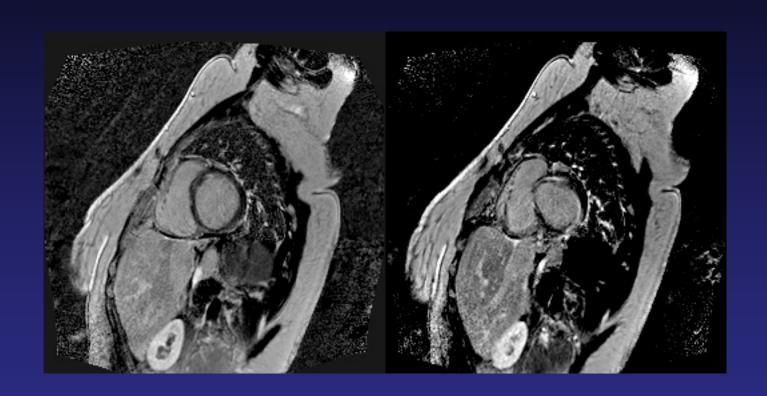
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- Patient sent to the OR for AVR
- Myocardial biopsy performed in the OR: Positive for sarcoidosis





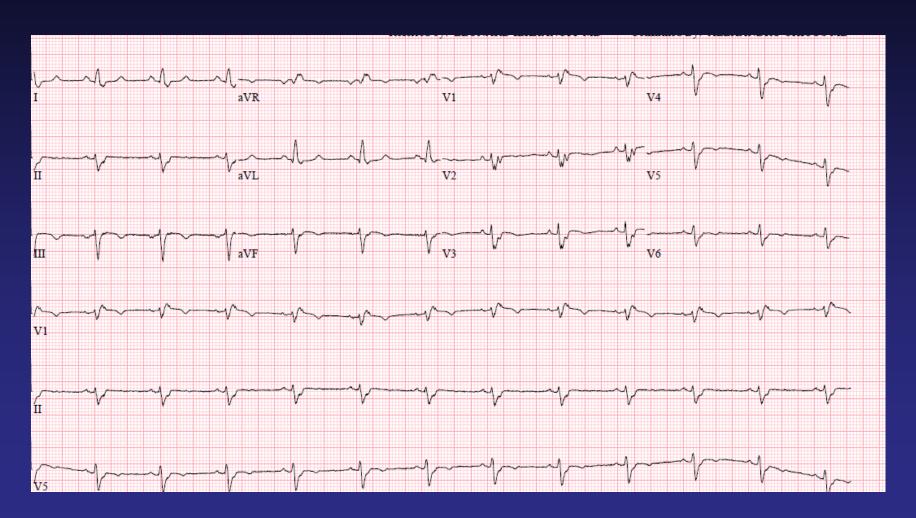
Case 3

- 48 yr old female who developed progressive SOB, LE edema and increasing abdominal girth.
- Admitted to the hospital with decompensated HF





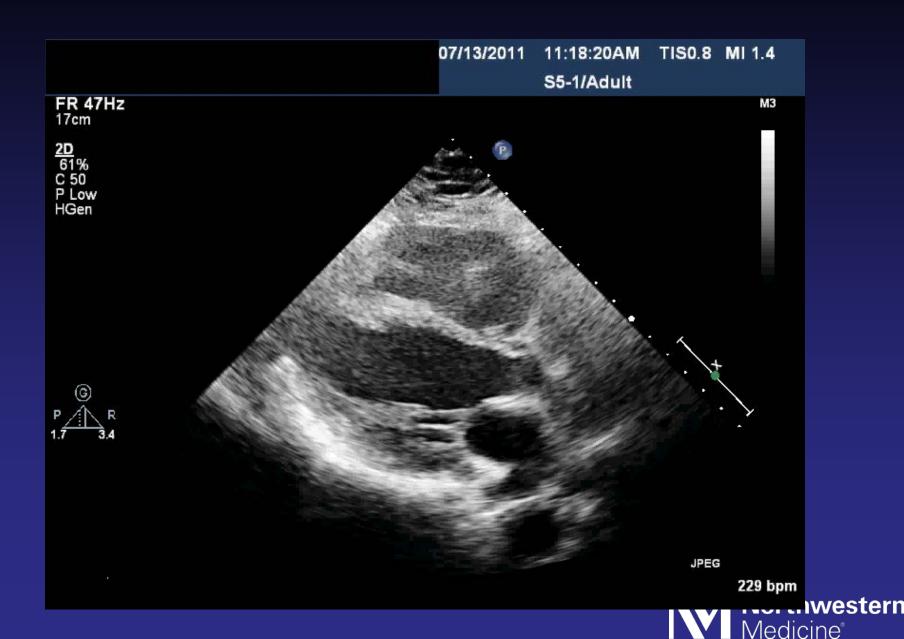
ECG



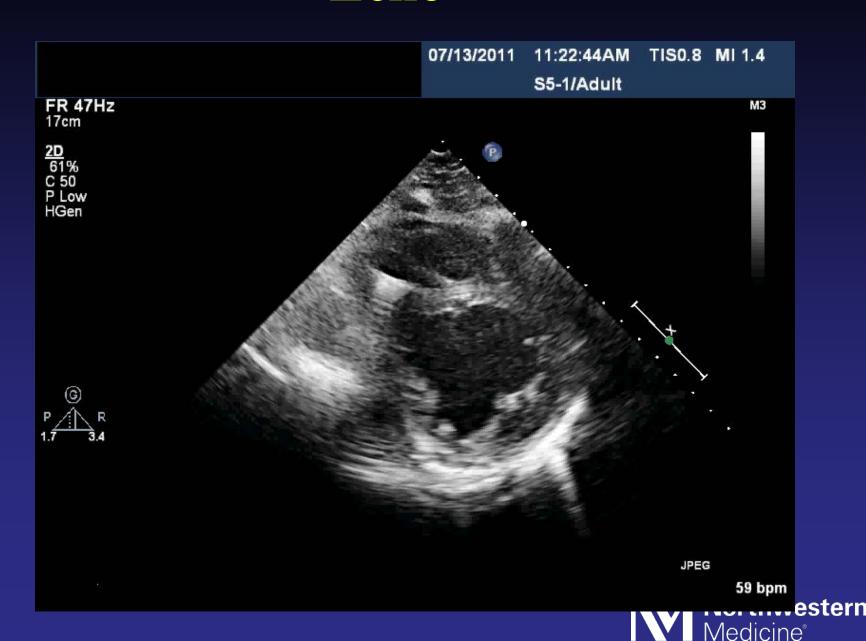


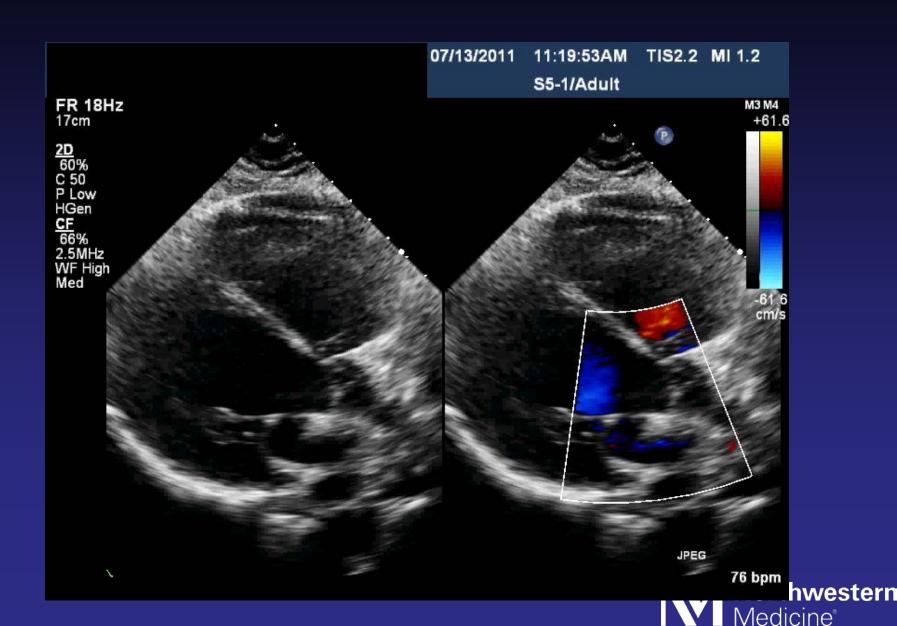
- Cardiac cath: No obstructive CAD
- Cardiac MRI: Myocardial infiltration suspicious for sarcoidosis
- Endomyocardial biospy:+Sarcoidosis

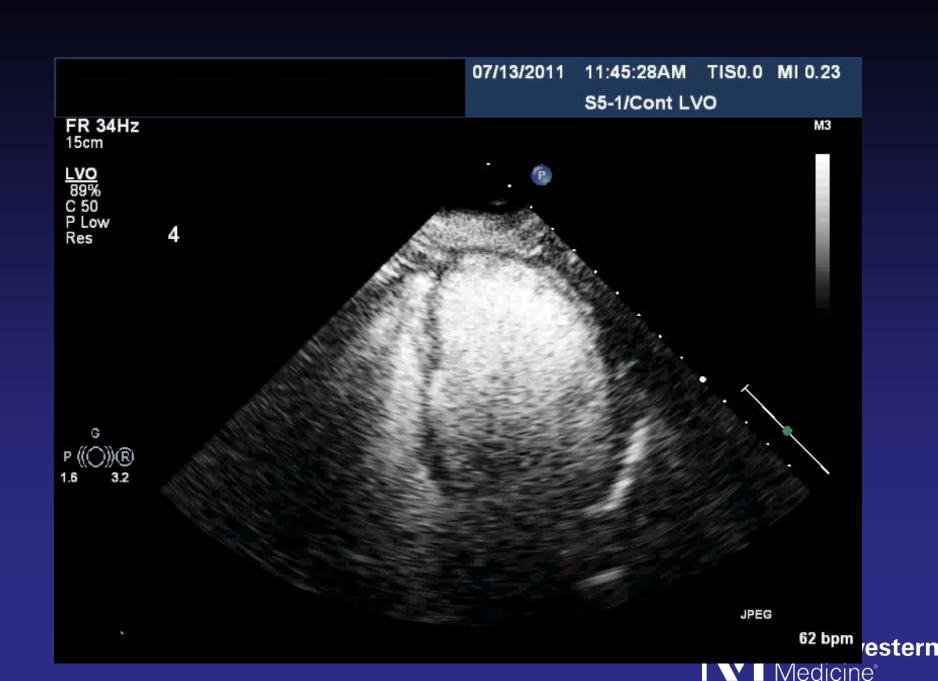


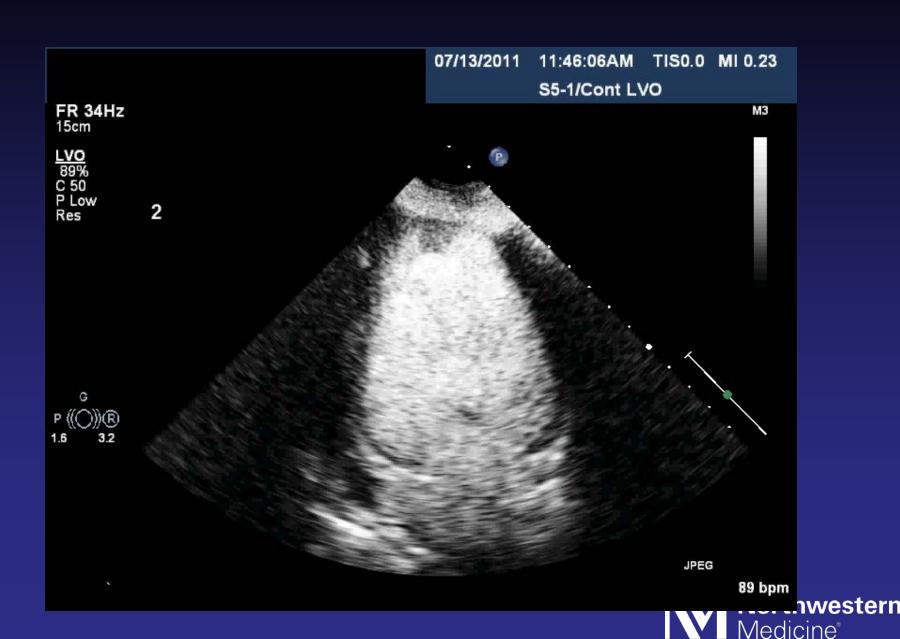


Echo



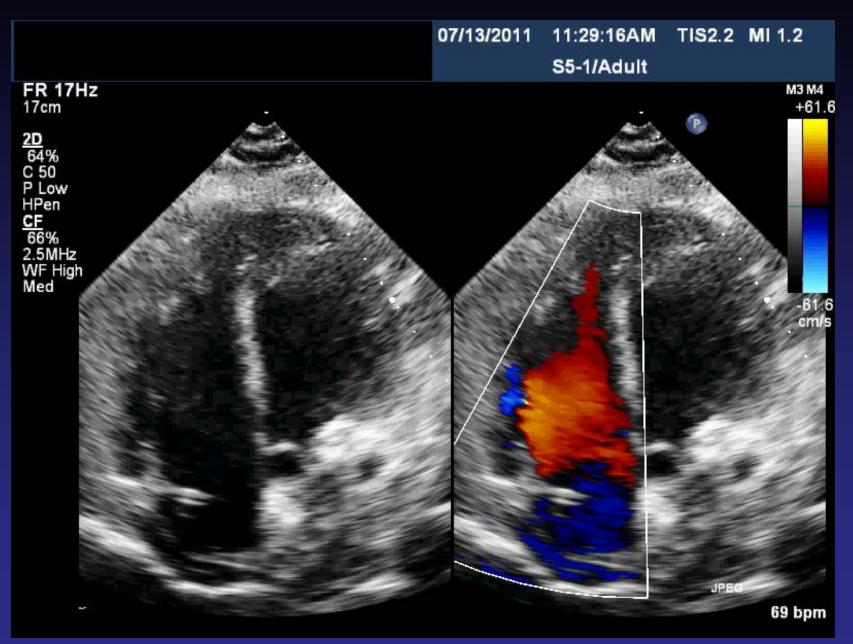






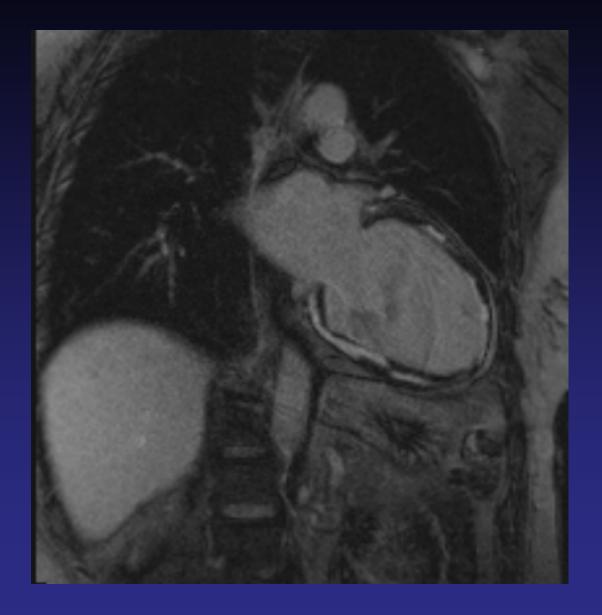
















- Patient had progressive heart failure despite maximal meds
- She ultimately underwent heart transplantation

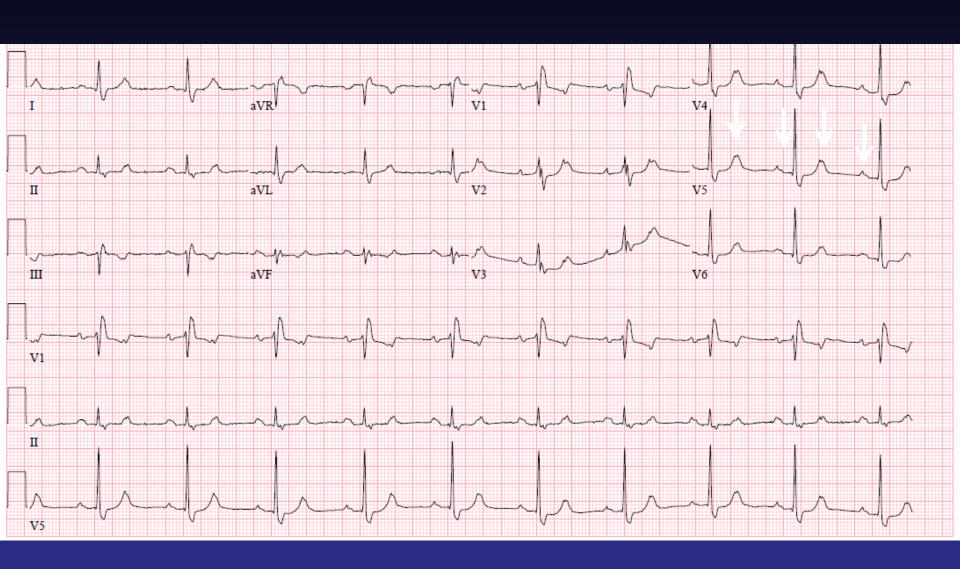


Case 4

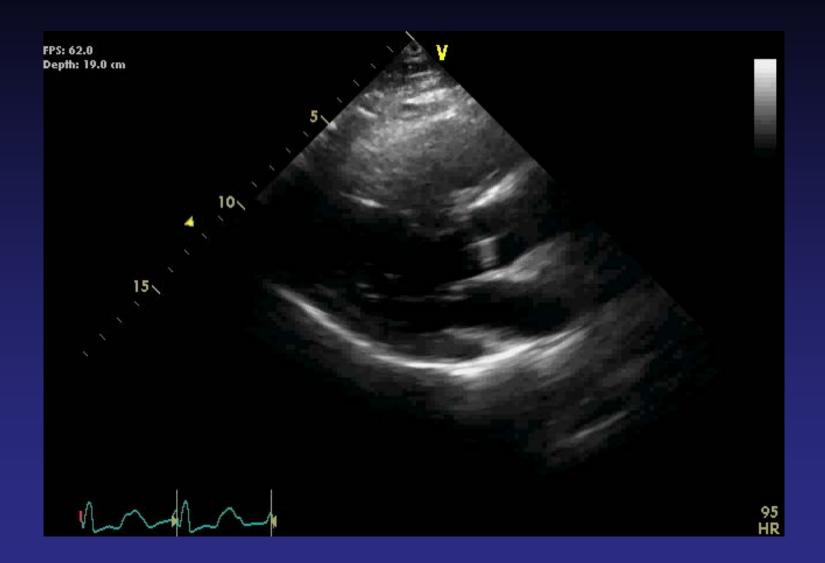
• 56 yr old ER physician with no past medical history who presented with dyspnea and palpitations

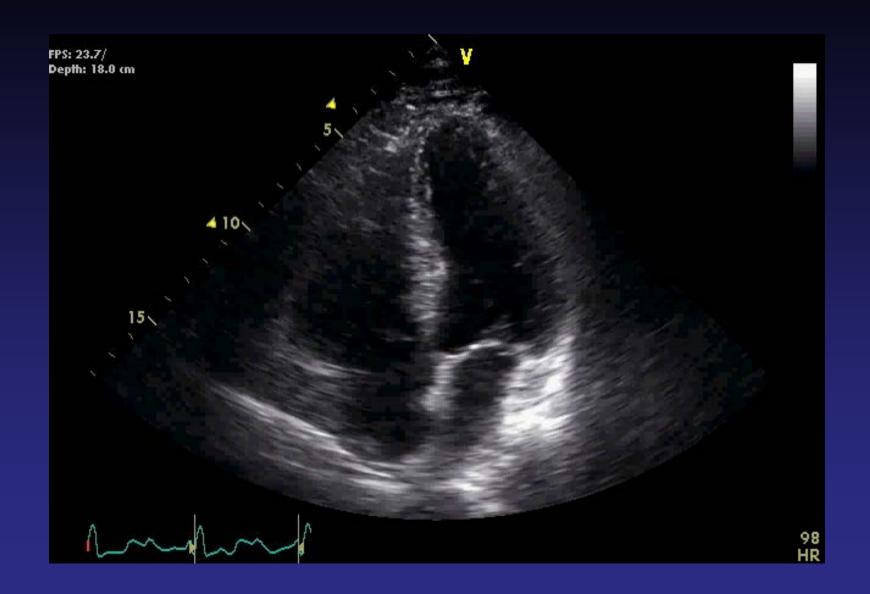


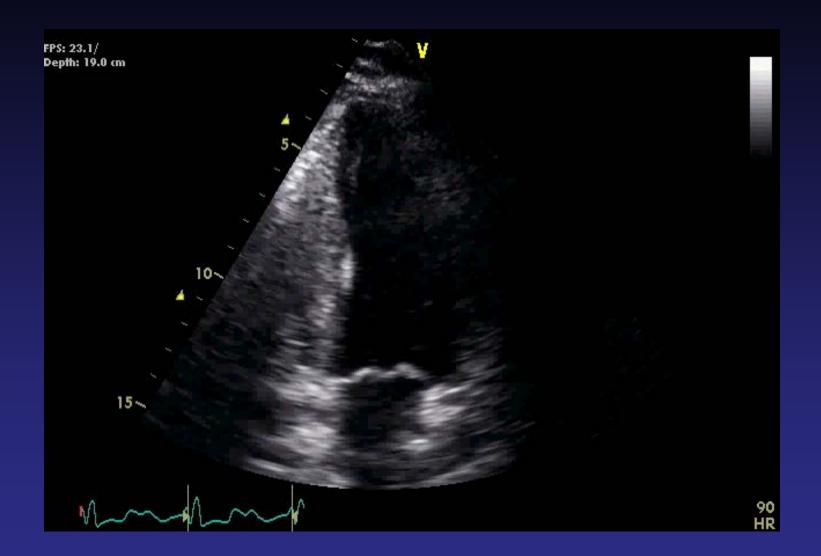






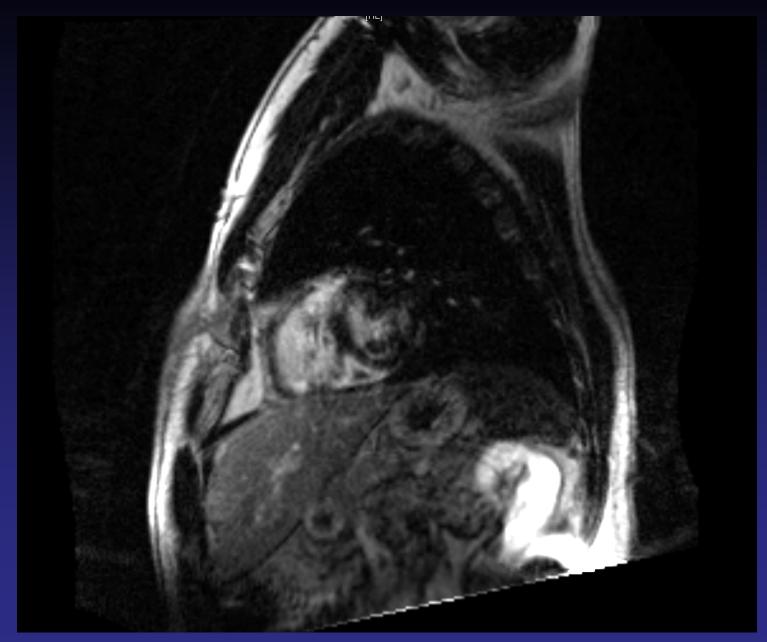




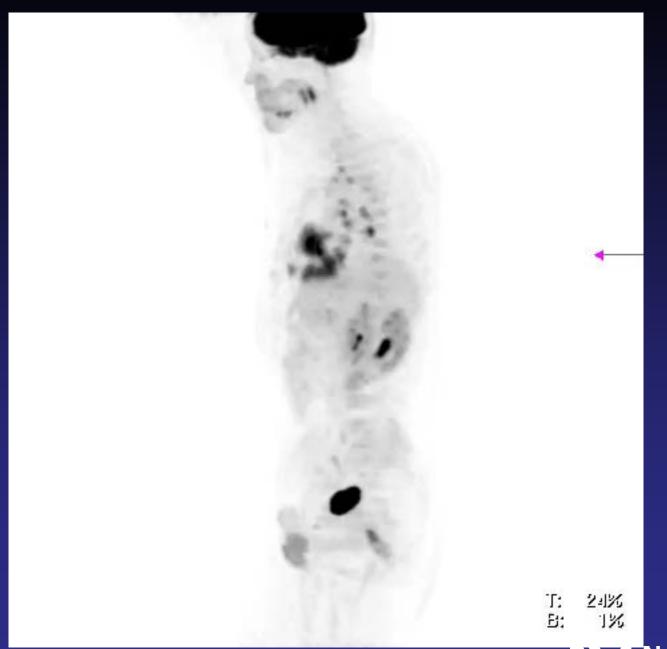


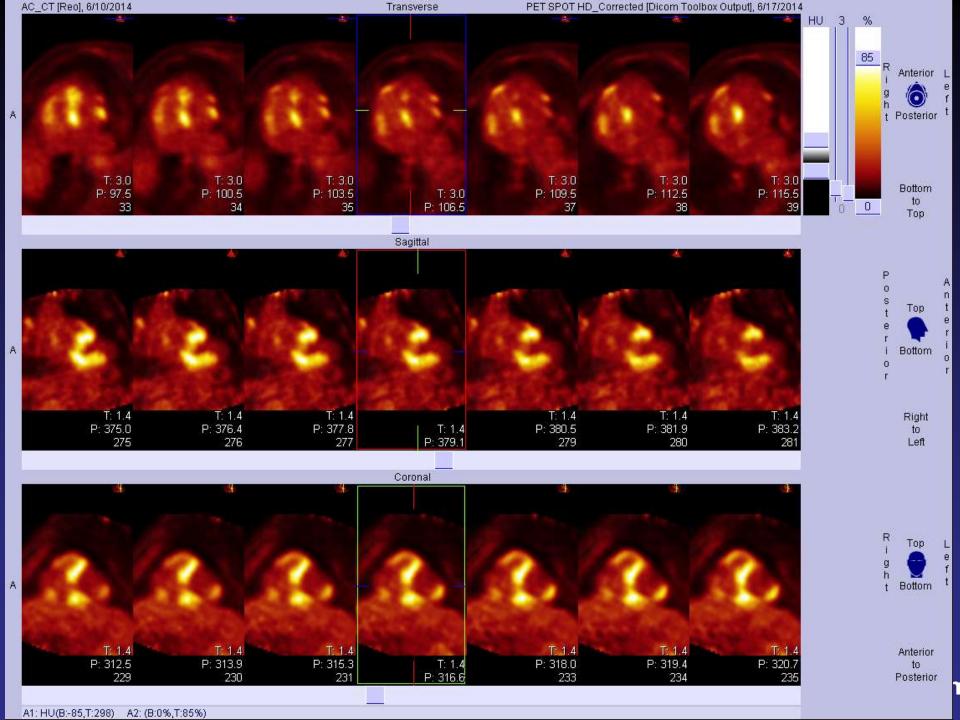












Hospital Course

- Endobronchial biopsy pending
- ICD/pacer implanted





Thank You

