

Cardiovascular Considerations for Patients, Health Care Workers, and Health Systems During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

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Cardiac Arrhythmia and Cardiac Arrest.

Cardiac arrhythmias are another common CV manifestation described in patients with COVID-19 infection. While nonspecific, heart palpitations were part of the presenting symptomology in 7.3% of patients in a cohort of 137 patients admitted for COVID-19 disease (26). In hospitalized COVID-19 patients, cardiac arrhythmia was noted in 16.7% of 138 patients in a Chinese cohort and was more common in ICU patients compared to non-ICU patients (44.4% vs. 6.9%) (19). Unfortunately, specifics about the types of arrhythmias that occur in these patients are yet to be published or presented. High prevalence of arrhythmia might be, in part, attributable to metabolic disarray, hypoxia, neurohormonal or inflammatory stress in the setting of viral infection in patients with or without prior CVD. However, new onset of malignant tachyarrhythmias in the setting of troponin elevation should raise suspicion for underlying myocarditis (44,52).