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# Relevance of Rheumatic Valvular Heart Disease in the Aetiology of Heart Failure in Contemporary Times

*Pertinence de la Cardiopathie Valvulaire Rhumatismale dans L'étiologie du Cœur L'échec à L'époque Contemporaine*

E. J. Ogbemudia\*,†, E. M. Umuerri‡

## ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Rheumatic valvular heart disease (RVHD) is one of the foremost causes of heart failure (HF) in our population, particularly among young adults, but a decline in the prevalence of RVHD has been observed. The effect of this decline on the relevance of RVHD among other causes of HF is not established in our setting.

**OBJECTIVE:** To determine whether RVHD is still a leading cause of HF in our population or not.

**METHODS:** This was a retrospective study of HF patients hospitalized between August 2018 and June 2020. The demographic features, blood pressure, aetiology of HF and ejection fraction were retrieved from the unit's HF register. Data were presented as frequencies and medians. Associations were tested as appropriate.

**RESULTS:** RVHD accounted for 78 (35.5%) of HF, with a median age of 47 years. The young and middle-aged subgroups were 10 (12.8%) and 48 (61.6%), respectively. The affected valves were all regurgitant and 68 (77.2%) had definite RVHD. Isolated mitral valve, combined mitral and aortic valves were affected in 40 (51.3%) and 22 (28.2%), respectively. The median systolic blood pressure and ejection fraction were 110 mmHg and 26% respectively. RVHD was associated with HF with reduced ejection fraction. ( $P$  value <0.001)

**CONCLUSION:** RVHD remains one of the leading causes of HF (35.5%) among adults in our population. Young adults are now in the minority and most patients present late in the course of the disease. Valve surgery should be made readily accessible. Primary and secondary prevention of acute rheumatic fever should be reinforced. WAJM 2021; 38(3): 241–245.

**Keywords:** Heart failure, aetiology, Rheumatic valvular heart disease.

## ABSTRAIT

**CONTEXTE:** La cardiopathie valvulaire rhumatismale (RVHD) est l'une des principales causes d'arrete cardiaque (IC) dans notre population, en particulier chez les jeunes adultes, mais une baisse de la prévalence du RVHD a été observée. L'effet de ceci le déclin de la pertinence de la RVHD parmi les autres causes d'IC est pas établi dans notre environnement.

**OBJECTIF:** Déterminer si ou non la RVHD est toujours un cause de l'IC dans notre population

**MÉTHODES:** Il s'agissait d'une étude rétrospective de patients atteints d'IC hospitalisé entre août 2018 et juin 2020. Le caractéristiques démographiques, tension artérielle, étiologie de l'IC et les fractions d'éjection ont été extraites du registre HF de l'unité.

Les données ont été présentées sous forme de fréquences et de médianes. Les associations ont été testés le cas échéant.

**RÉSULTATS:** Le RVHD représentait 78 (35,5%) de l'IC, avec une médiane âge de 47 ans. Les sous-groupes jeunes et d'âge moyen étaient 10 (12,8%) et 48 (61,6%), respectivement. Les valves affectées étaient tous régurgitants et 68 (77,2%) avaient un RVHD défini. La valve mitrale isolée, les valves mitrale et aortique combinées étaient touchés dans 40 (51,3%) et 22 (28,2%), respectivement. La la pression artérielle systolique médiane et la fraction d'éjection étaient 110 mmHg et 26% respectivement. Le RVHD était associé à

HF avec fraction d'éjection réduite. (Valeur  $P$  <0,001)

**CONCLUSION:** Le RVHD reste l'une des principales causes de HF (35,5%) chez les adultes de notre population. Les jeunes adultes sont maintenant dans la minorité et la plupart des patients se présentent tard dans le cours de la maladie. La chirurgie valvulaire doit être rendue facilement accessible. Prévention primaire et secondaire de la fièvre rhumatismale aiguë devrait être renforcée. WAJM 2021; 38(3): 241–245.

**Mots clés:** Arrete cardiaque, étiologie, cœur valvulaire rhumatismal maladie.

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Abbreviations: **BP**, Blood Pressure; **HFmrEF**, Heart Failure with Midrange Ejection; **HFpEF**, Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction.

**HFrEF**, Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection; **HHD**, Hypertensive Heart Disease; **LVEF**, Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction; **RVHD**, Rheumatic Valvular Heart Disease.