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## **Pericardiectomy for constrictive pericarditis via Median Sternotomy in a resource constraint setting**

**Isaac Okyere, Perditer Okyere**

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana

**Background:** Constrictive pericarditis is the endpoint of the natural history of acute pericarditis of different aetiologies where a chronic inflammatory process results in a thickened, fibrotic and inelastic pericardium with consequent impairment of diastolic function and systemic congestion.

**Aim:** The purpose of this study was to evaluate the clinical features, diagnosis, surgical management and outcome of patients with constrictive pericarditis as managed in a local setting of a tertiary hospital in Ghana.

**Patients and Methods:** It is a retrospective cohort analysis of patients who had undergone pericardiectomy for constrictive pericarditis at a teaching hospital.

**Results:** Ten patients underwent pericardiectomy for the period of study. There were 8 (80%) males. The mean age was  $20.4 \pm 17.2$  years. Six of the patients 6 (60%) were in NYHA Class III. Preoperative diagnostics included Chest x-ray, echocardiography, and computer tomography (CT) scan. The surgical approach for the pericardiectomy was median sternotomy. The mean operative time was  $159.9 \pm 43.0$  mins. The mean postoperative days spent before being discharged was  $6.9 \pm 2.3$  days. Nine (90%) of the patients were in NYHA Class I after a mean follow up of  $19.3 \pm 16.7$  months. One patient died 6 weeks after surgery with heart failure and one patient was lost to follow up.

**Conclusion:** Surgical pericardiectomy via median sternotomy is still the standard treatment for constrictive pericarditis and this can be done without cardiopulmonary bypass especially in less resource centres with excellent results.

**Keywords:** Median Sternotomy, Pericardiectomy, Constrictive Pericarditis, Tuberculosis

### **Recent Publications**

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### **Biography**

Isaac Okyere is a Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon. He is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Surgery, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi Ghana and Consultant Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, Kumasi, Ghana.

isaac.okyere@knust.edu.gh