

110 Treating Pericarditis

To air week of March 10, 2008

Intro: He was 26-years-old and too sick to work. For months the young man you're about to meet suffered from a disease called pericarditis. It's a heart condition that doctors at Mayo Clinic say can be difficult to diagnose, often hard to treat and very challenging for many of the people who suffer from it. The key to recovery is getting the right treatment and getting it quickly.

Video

Total running time 1:33

**David Geller
Had Pericarditis**

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Had Pericarditis**

To animation

Audio

ATTORNEY DAVID GELLER LOST MONTHS OF HIS LIFE BECAUSE OF A DISEASE CALLED PERICARDITIS. "I REALLY SPENT A YEAR JUST SITTING IN MY HOUSE BEING SICK." HIS FIRST SYMPTOMS MIMICKED THOSE OF A HEART ATTACK. "HORRIBLE PAIN IN MY CHEST AND MY NECK." BUT TESTS SHOWED THAT THE LINING OF HIS HEART, CALLED THE PERICARDIUM, WAS INFLAMED. THE INFLAMMATION, OFTEN CAUSED BY A COMMON VIRUS SUCH AS A COLD OR THE FLU, CAN BE DEBILITATING, BUT IT'S

USUALLY NOT LETHAL. IN FACT MOST CASES RESOLVE WITH PRESCRIPTION ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MEDICATION. BUT THE TREATMENT DAVID GOT AT FIRST— STEROIDS — MADE SYMPTOMS MUCH WORSE.

David Geller

From David Geller to Farouk Mookadam, M.D.

.“I JUST KEPT GETTING SICKER.”

DR. FAROUK MOOKADAM [**FAR- OOK’ MOO-KAH’-DUM**] SAYS THIS SITUATION IS NOT UNCOMMON.

**Farouk Mookadam, M.D.
Mayo Clinic**

“THE AVERAGE PATIENT WE SEE WITH PERICARDITIS IS ABOUT 18 MONTHS AFTER THE INITIAL INSULT.”

**Standup
Vivien Williams
Reporting**

PERICARDITIS USUALLY STRIKES PEOPLE UNDER AGE 50 AND IT’S NOT VERY COMMON. SO SOME DOCTORS AREN’T USED TO DEALING WITH IT. AND MAKING A DIAGNOSIS MAY REQUIRE A BATTERY OF TESTS -- BLOOD TESTS, X-RAYS, ECG’S, CAT

To graphics or test video

- **Blood tests**
- **X-rays**
- **ECG’s**
- **CT scans**

- MRI's
- Echo cardiograms

Farouk Mookadam, M.D.
Mayo Clinic

SCANS, MRI'S AND ECHO
CARDIOGRAMS.

“DIFFICULT FOR THE PATIENT,
DIFFICULT TO DIAGNOSE AND
DIFFICULT TO TREAT.”

DR. MOOKADAM GOT DAVID ON
THE RIGHT TREATMENT PLAN, BUT
BY THAT TIME HIS PERICARDIUM
WAS DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR
AND NEEDED SURGERY TO
REMOVE IT. NOW HE'S WORKING
TO LET OTHERS KNOW ABOUT
THIS DISEASE SO THEY WON'T
SUFFER AS HE DID. FOR MEDICAL
EDGE, I'M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Surgery to remove the pericardium is a big operation, open heart surgery. But your heart does not need that lining to function normally, so in severe cases, surgery may be the best option.

David says after his operation, he feels better than he has in a long time.

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