

# iMedix: Your Personal Health Advisor.

## Endocarditis

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### Overview

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#### What is it

**Endocarditis: Clinical Nursing Care** What is Endocarditis? Endocarditis is an infection of the inner lining of the heart chambers and heart valves, usually caused by bacteria. It can damage heart tissues and is a serious condition that needs prompt treatment. What Causes Endocarditis? Endocarditis is most commonly caused by bacteria entering the bloodstream and traveling to the heart. This can occur through everyday activities like brushing teeth, especially if you have poor dental health, or through medical procedures, injections, or surgery. What are the Symptoms of Endocarditis? Symptoms include fever, chills, night sweats, muscle aches, shortness of breath, persistent cough, fatigue, swollen limbs or abdomen, unexplained weight loss, and new or changed heart murmur. Some patients may experience small blood spots on skin or nails. How is Endocarditis Diagnosed? Diagnosis involves a combination of medical history review, physical examination, blood tests to identify bacteria, echocardiogram to view heart condition, and sometimes other imaging tests like CT scans or MRI. What are the Treatment Options for Endocarditis? Treatment typically includes a lengthy course of intravenous antibiotics. In some cases, surgery may be required to repair or replace damaged heart valves, remove clumps of bacteria and infected tissues, or treat complications like stroke. Who is at Risk for Endocarditis? Risk factors include having a heart valve disease, a prosthetic heart valve, a history of endocarditis, congenital heart defects, or a history of intravenous drug use. People undergoing frequent invasive procedures are also at higher risk. Can Endocarditis be Prevented? Prevention strategies include maintaining good oral hygiene, regular dental check-ups, avoiding intravenous drug use, and for those at high risk, taking preventive antibiotics before certain medical or dental procedures as recommended by a healthcare provider.

Fever and chills  
Fatigue and weakness  
Shortness of breath  
Chest pain or discomfort  
Swelling in the legs, ankles, or feet  
Heart murmur or irregular heartbeat  
Night sweats  
New or worsening heart murmurs  
Joint pain and swelling  
Unexplained weight loss  
Headaches

**Disease Causes Endocarditis**  
Bacterial or fungal infections entering the bloodstream  
Dental procedures that cause bleeding  
Intravenous drug use  
Prosthetic heart valves or damaged heart valves  
Certain medical conditions such as structural heart defects or immunodeficiency

**Beneficial Insights** All of these drugs belong to different pharmaceutical companies and are used to treat a wide range of medical conditions. Zovirax is an antiviral medication used to treat herpes infections, while Daklinza is a medication used to treat chronic hepatitis C. Addyi is a medication prescribed for hypoactive sexual desire disorder in women, and Xyzal is an antihistamine used to relieve allergy symptoms. Amoxil is a penicillin antibiotic effective against various bacterial infections, and Propecia is used to treat male pattern hair loss. Clomid is a fertility medication prescribed to women, while Priligy is used to treat premature ejaculation in men. Eriacta is another medication for erectile dysfunction, while Synthroid is a medication to treat an underactive thyroid. Cipro is an antibiotic effective against various bacterial infections, and Proscar is used to treat enlarged prostate in men. Suhagra is yet another medication for erectile dysfunction, and Nolvadex is used to treat breast cancer. Tadacip and Kamagra are both medications for erectile dysfunction, and Nizagara, Silagra, and Caverta are all generic versions of the famous erectile dysfunction medication Viagra. These medications serve a crucial role in modern medicine and have improved the quality of life for millions of people worldwide.

**Diagnosing Endocarditis** Diagnosing endocarditis typically involves the following: **Medical History:** The healthcare provider will ask about your symptoms, medical history, and any recent infections or procedures you've had. **Physical Examination:** The doctor will perform a thorough physical examination, including listening to your heart for abnormal sounds

or murmurs. **Blood Tests:** Blood tests can help determine if there is an ongoing infection in your body. These may include: **Blood cultures:** Several sets of blood cultures may be taken to identify the specific bacteria or fungi causing the infection. **Complete blood count (CBC):** This test gives information about the number and types of cells in your blood, including white blood cells that may indicate an infection. **Inflammatory markers:** Levels of inflammatory markers like C-reactive protein (CRP) and erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) may be elevated in endocarditis. **Echocardiogram:** An echocardiogram is a key diagnostic test for endocarditis. It uses sound waves to create images of your heart and heart valves. This test can detect any abnormalities, such as infected or damaged heart valves. **Electrocardiogram (ECG):** An electrocardiogram measures the electrical activity of your heart. It can help identify irregular heart rhythms that may be associated with endocarditis. **Other imaging tests:** Additional imaging tests, such as a chest X-ray or a CT scan, may be done to assess the overall health of your heart and identify any complications like abscesses or congestive heart failure. **Other Diagnostic Procedures:** In some cases, your doctor may recommend other procedures, such as a transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) or cardiac catheterization, to further evaluate the extent and severity of the infection. Please note that this HTML markup is meant for informational purposes only and should not be used as a substitute for professional medical advice. If you suspect you have endocarditis or any other medical condition, please consult with a qualified healthcare professional for an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

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