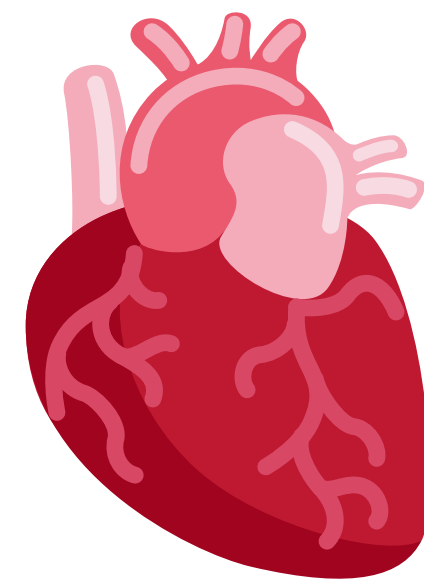


Pericarditis:



Inflammation of the pericardium

Causes

1

Idiopathic or secondary to:

- Viruses
- Bacteria
- Fungi
- Myocardial infarction (Dressler's syndrome)
- Drugs
- Others: uraemia, rheumatoid arthritis, SLE

Clinical features:

Central chest pain

- Relief on sitting forward
- Worse on inspiration

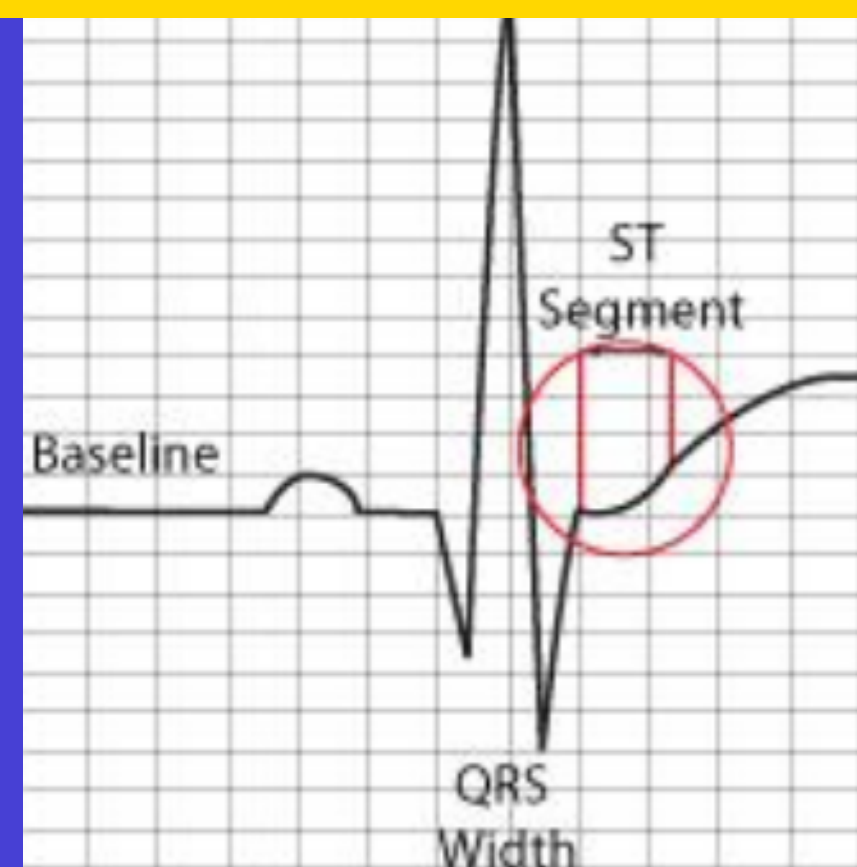
Pericardial rub

2

ECG changes:

Saddle-shaped (concave) ST segment

3



Other investigations:

4

- Bloods: FBC, ESR (may be elevated), U&Es, troponin (may be elevated), viral serology, blood cultures
- CXR: may indicate pericardial effusion

5

Treatment:

- Analgesia e.g. ibuprofen 400mg/8h PO (+ gastric protection)
- Treat cause
- Add colchicine 500mcg OD/BD for 3months to reduce risk of recurrence
- If no improvement → consider steroids

Discharge advice

Patients should NOT perform rigorous exercise until chest pain has resolved and inflammatory markers normalised