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Constrictive epicarditis

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Pericardial constriction is an infrequent cardiac disease. It is more often subclinical than clinical. Constrictive process of the pericardium involves in the majority of cases both parietal and visceral pericardia. In extremely rare cases, this process interests only the visceral one. We report, herein a case of a 25 years old man with a constrictive epicarditis and we raise, along, some specific and general important points concerning the diagnosis, the surgical treatment and the outcome after surgery. We also rule out the right ventricular dysfunction frequently seen after pericardectomy which remains a great issue.

The parietal pericardium (black arrow) was minimally thickened and non-adherent to the heart which was surrounded by a dense visceral pericardium thickening (white arrow). V.P: visceral pericardium; P.P: parietal pericardium