



Cardiomyopathies. From Basic Research to Clinical Management.

by JOSEF VESELKA (editor). - 800 pages
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 (www. InTech - Book on Cardiomyopathies)

Dr. Josef Veselka, has long been a dedicated cardiomyopathy researcher who also worked in the technique of induced interventricular septal necrosis in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, by instillation of alcohol, to reduce dynamic left ventricular outflow tract obstruction. He summoned the worldwide leading specialized scientists on the controversial issue of cardiomyopathy to publish a real treatise that would fulfill all expectations. The work is highly interesting, deployed in 35 chapters written over 800 pages, where no detail on these myocardial conditions is neglected. Some of the coauthors describe the classic forms of the disease, but others address current issues such as genetic dependence, the role of micro-RNAs in the gene signaling network, thyrotoxicosis cardiomyopathy, anthracyclines, stress induced cardiomyopathy, drugs capable of generating this condition, and many other contents, without forgetting Chagas cardiomyopathy, so important to our environment.

But this work's highlight is chapter 3, which extends between pages 33 and 68, with the title "Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in infants and children", whose authors, Drs. Luis E. Moreyra and Eduardo Alday are two former Presidents of our Argentine Society of Cardiology. Dr. Eduardo Moreyra was the first researcher to describe the echocardiographic characteristics of this condition during his stay in the U.S. with Drs. Bernard Segal and William Likof. At the same time, Dr. Luis Alday devoted his research to this cardiomyopathy as well as to mitral valve myxomatous degeneration and mitral valve prolapse, during his stay in London and then in Toronto and Buffalo. In London, Wallace Brigden, who coined the term "cardiomyopathies", was among his teachers, while in Toronto he worked with E. D. Wigle, who along with E. Braunwald and J. Goodwin described the disease that had been recently discovered by E. Teare in 1958. I remember the enthusiastic meetings of those of us who worked at auscultation and phonocardiography in the

late sixties, especially when in one of these meetings we were impressed with superb presentations on these pathologies. I also remember Dr. Alday guiding us in the London of 1970 during the World Congress of Cardiology and recommending the most interesting books of the time. Under his advice I bought the Hamish Watson, a book on congenital heart disease which I still consult 40 years later.

These authors address the issue of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy covering all its aspects, from its disorganized genetics to its clinical forms, complications, diagnostic methods, natural history, therapeutic attempts, and not just with information collected from the best bibliography, but also with half a century of personal experience treating patients with this condition, researching and sharing experiences with other advanced centers of the world. It is a clever compilation, specific, that not only instructs the novice, but is also reference material for the specialized physician, turning its reading into a source of knowledge with synthetic, simple wording which avoids possible confusions.

Another highly important aspect of this work is its free Internet access to the address mentioned above, allowing home consultation to anyone interested. Incidentally, it can be seen that Chapter 3, written by our colleagues in Argentina, is the most accessed and read by this means.

Works of this magnitude, which instruct and enable a better work towards the ultimate goal of all physicians: the care of their patients, are welcomed and doubly welcomed, because they highlight the quality of Argentine cardiologists, who with a quiet, humble work, are summoned by the world's leading centers to publish their scientific expertise, often not properly recognized in their own setting.

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