SACK TO HEART & VASCULAR CENTER

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

Home > Departments & Services > Centers of Excellence > Heart & Vascular Center > Cardiac Amyloidosis

RESEARCH

Cardiac Amyloidosis **VIEW MORE INFO** 

heart. Cardiac amyloidosis causes the heart to become stiff and makes it difficult for the heart to work properly. This can cause fluid to build-up in the lungs, leading to breathlessness, and fluid build-up in soft tissues leading to the legs, causing abdominal swelling. Because cardiac amyloidosis can cause symptoms that are very similar to other heart diseases, it is often misdiagnosed.

Cardiac amyloidosis is a group of diseases caused by deposits of abnormal proteins, or amyloid, in the

kind in the U.S. focusing specifically on this disease. Led by Rodney H. Falk, MD, a renowned cardiac amyloidosis expert, this multidisciplinary program draws on the expertise of some of the country's leading cardiology specialists who collaborate on research and patient care at the state-of-the-art Heart & Vascular Center. Symptoms of cardiac amyloidosis

The Cardiac Amyloidosis Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) is the only clinical program of its

## Because amyloidosis can affect other organs in addition to the heart, the spectrum of symptoms for cardiac amyloidosis can be quite broad, but may include:

Swelling in the legs, ankles, abdomen and other parts the body

- Difficulty breathing while lying down
- Pressure or dull pain in the chest during exertion, similar to angina

Fatigue and reduced tolerance for activity

- Shortness of breath during physical activity
- Because the symptoms are common to other forms of heart disease like hypertrophic cardiomyopathy or
- heart failure, such as congestive heart failure, a careful physical examination and review of patient history play an important role in diagnosing cardiac amyloidosis.

and improving care for patients who have the disease. Watch Part 2 of this video: Advancing the Diagnosis and Treatment of Cardiac Amyloidosis. Treatment for cardiac amyloidosis As patients with cardiac amyloidosis are very sensitive to sodium and retain fluid quickly, doctors will typically immediately limit salt intake. Diuretics may be prescribed to help the body remove excess fluid.

• Chemotherapy for patients with light-chain associated (AL) amyloidosis and access to new

Rodney H. Falk, MD, and the Brigham and Women's Cardiac Amyloidosis Program are featured in this video.

amyloidosis. This unique program was established in order to help fill a significant void in the diagnosis and

BWH's Cardiac Amyloidosis Program is the only clinical program in the U.S. focusing exclusively on cardiac

treatment of systemic amyloidosis, with a view to acquiring a better understanding of cardiac amyloidosis

## investigational agents for amyloid of aging and familial cardiac amyloidosis. • Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator to treat atrial and ventricular arrhythmias

Other treatments may include:

 Pacemaker to manage problems with heart signals • Prednisone, an anti-inflammatory medicine

certain types of cardiac amyloidosis. The Cardiac Amyloidosis Program at BWH provides comprehensive diagnostic and treatment services that

include cardiac biopsy, genetic testing for patients with suspected familial amyloidosis, and precise

In addition to treatment for cardiac amyloidosis, patients at the Heart & Vascular Center may seek

assessment of cardiac function by state-of-the-art, noninvasive testing.

• A heart transplant may be recommended for some patients with very poor heart function and

conditions. Learn more now about the wide range of medical services available at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

BWH offers treatment across many specialties, including orthopedic surgery, cancer treatment and services

for sports medicine and women and heart disease. Use our physician directory to find a specialist in these

arrhythmia treatment, congestive heart failure treatment, and treatment for a broad range of other heart

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Learn more about the Cardiac Amyloidosis Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

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