**FEATURES OF PRIMARY DILATED CARDIOMYOPATHY AMONG EGYPTIAN HEART FAILURE PATIENTS**

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Objectives: As there are no reports of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) among Egyptian population in the literature, we tried to delineate the features of this disease in Egyptians.

Background: We have started the first heart failure unit in Egypt in April 2008. We examined characteristics of patients with primary DCM among our cohort.

Methods: We. Our registry now includes 500 patients being followed in our clinic. After exclusion patients with LV dysfunction secondary to ischemic, valvular, hypertensive or systemic diseases known to cause heart failure we examined those with primary DCM; their clinical, ECG, echocardiographic and follow-up features.

Results: over a period of about 3.5 years we have identified 66 patients as having primary dilated cardiomyopathy (13%). Among them there are 25 females (38%). Mean age is 40.7 years with the youngest being 18 years old. At initial referral to the heart failure clinic the majority were in NYHA III-IV Mean systolic BP on presentation was 101 mmHg, and pulse 91/min. LBBB was found in 30% of patients with primary DCM. Echocardiographically LV end diastolic diameter ranged from 59-89mm; mean 67. Mean EF was 28% range15-44. We identified one case of definite non-compaction cardiomyopathy. Our provisional diagnoses in the majority of cases were viral myocarditis versus idiopathic/familial DCM. On a mean follow-up of 1.5 years 10 patients died 15%.

Conclusion: Primary dilated cardiomyopathy is not uncommon cause among heart failure Egyptian population. In our community patients with DCM presents rather late with advanced disease