

00. CARDIAC TAMPONADE

The term cardiac tamponade (CT) designates the circulatory consequences of compression caused by accumulation of blood or fluid in the pericardial space. The poor distensibility of the normal pericardium means that rapid pericardial effusion results in compression and hinders filling of the cardiac chambers. This explains the hemodynamic effect of acute circulatory failure, with a low arterial pressure and a high central venous pressure (values above 20 cm H 2 O are common).

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