

VALVULAR HEART DISEASE

Infective endocarditis

▪ Characteristics of IE :

1. Microbial (mostly bacterial) invasion of heart valves and endocardium
2. Bulky, friable vegetations (necrotic debris + thrombus + organisms)

▪ Risk Factors:

1. Congenital heart disease
2. Acquired heart disease
3. Indwelling vascular catheters
4. Intra-cardiac devices & prostheses
5. Immunodeficiency
6. IV drug use/ abuse
7. Septicemia
8. Dental procedures (in patients with risk factors)

▪ Classified into acute and subacute based on:

1. virulence of the microorganism.
2. underlying cardiac disease.

Acute endocarditis	Subacute endocarditis
highly virulent organism	low virulent organism
Staph. aureus	Streptococcus viridans
previously normal valve	previously abnormal valve
rapid development	Insidious disease
high morbidity and mortality	most patients recover after appropriate antibiotic therapy

▪ Most common involved valve in IE?

aortic and mitral valves

▪ Most common involves valve in IV drug abusers?

Tricuspid valve

▪ **Clinical Features:**

1. Fever, chills, weakness, and murmurs
2. Emboli
3. Abscesses
4. Septic infarcts
5. Mycotic aneurysms

▪ **Diagnosis:**

1. positive blood cultures
2. echocardiographic

▪ **Treatment:**

long-term (≥ 6 weeks) IV antibiotic therapy and/or valve replacement.

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