

CRITICAL REVIEW FORM: CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF DISEASE

Citation:

Templin C, Ghadri JR, Diekmann J, Napp LC, Bataiosu DR, Jaguszewski M, *et al.* Clinical features and outcomes of Takotsubo (stress) cardiomyopathy. *N Engl J Med* 2015; 373; 929 – 938.

Guide		Comments
I	How serious is the risk of bias?	
1	Did the investigators enroll the right patients? Was the patient sample representative of those with the disorder?	
2	Was the definitive diagnostic standard appropriate? Was the diagnosis verified using credible criteria that were independent of the clinical manifestations under study?	
3	Were clinical manifestations sought thoroughly, carefully, and consistently?	
4	Were clinical manifestations classified by when and how they occurred?	
II	What are the results?	
1	How frequently did the clinical manifestations of disease occur?	
2	How precise were these estimates of frequency?	

3	When and how did this clinical manifestations occur in the course of disease?	
III	How can I apply the results to patient care?	
1	Are the study patients similar to my own?	
2	Is it unlikely that the disease manifestations have changed since this evidence was gathered?	

Resolution of the Scenario:

Having reviewed this evidence about the frequency of various clinical manifestations of Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, consider the following questions.

1. Having reviewed this evidence, is it sufficiently convincing to you to change your diagnostic strategy for this patient?
2. Having reviewed this evidence, would you now recommend your clinical service adopt a policy that tests all adult patients with new dyspnea for Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, regardless of clinical features? If not for all, what about those who also have a physical or emotional trigger?

NOTE: Please keep in mind that this evidence addresses the frequency of dyspnea in patients with proved Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, and it does NOT address the frequency of Takotsubo in patients with new dyspnea. That latter question is a question of disease probability for differential diagnosis, and is addressed in a different package.

3. How could you summarize this evidence in a concise way?

You may find the following citation helpful for further learning about these issues:

Richardson WS, Wilson MC. Textbook descriptions of disease – where’s the beef? ACP J Club 2002 Jul-Aug; 137: A11 – A12.