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Advanced Research in Arrhythmogenic Cardiomyopathy

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy (ACM) is a leading cause of sudden cardiac death (SCD) and a familial, non-ischemic heart disease that can affect both the left and right ventricles. ACM is often considered a “disease of the cardiac desmosome,” as over 60% of cases are associated with pathogenic desmosomal variants. Clinical characteristics involve cardiac dysfunction and increased arrhythmia, whereas pathological traits include myocardial inflammation and fibrofatty replacement of the myocardium. Exercise is a known contributor to disease progression, and patients with ACM are advised against high-intensity exercise or complete exercise cessation. Antiarrhythmics are the mainstay in ACM therapeutics, with treatment strategies directed at preventing fatal ventricular arrhythmias (FVAs) and aborting SCD. The most effective intervention is an implantable cardiac defibrillator, yet this does not prevent pathological disease progression. Recent advancements in therapeutics, albeit often in animal models of ACM, suggest that alternative therapeutics such as gene therapy may prevent these pathological hallmarks and thus avert cardiac dysfunction.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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