

## REVIEW

### CARDIAC TUMORS

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**Abstract:** Cardiac tumors represent a rare and challenging clinical situation. They can be primary (benign or malignant) or secondary (metastatic). Secondary tumors are more frequent than the primary tumors. Most of the primary cardiac tumors are benign and originate from the endocardium or myocardium, while the metastatic tumors develop from lung, breast, kidney carcinoma, melanoma and lymphoma. The diagnosis of cardiac tumors is often difficult because of their rarity, variety and nonspecific symptoms. The clinical manifestations depend on tumor's size, location, infiltration and consist of four categories: systemic manifestations, cardiac manifestations, embolic events, and metastatic manifestations. Echocardiography represents the main imaging technique used to detect cardiac masses. Computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are used to achieve more information about tumor's composition, extension, vascularization, and possibility of surgical treatment. The histological evaluation is necessary for a positive diagnosis and staging of the cardiac tumor. The treatment of cardiac tumors depends on the type of tumor and symptomatology.

**Keywords:** cardiac tumors, echocardiography, metastases.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Cardiac tumors are extremely rare and represent a challenging clinical situation. They are classified in primary and secondary (metastatic). The prevalence of primary cardiac tumors is approx. 0.05% in autopsy series, while the secondary ones are 20-40 times more frequent than primary tumors [1]. 75% of primary tumors are benign (atrial myxoma being the most common) and 25% are malignant (mostly rhabdomyosarcoma) [1]. Usually, primary cardiac tumors originate from the myocardium or endocardium, while the metastatic cardiac tumors originate from lung,

breast, kidney carcinoma, melanoma and lymphoma. 15% of patients suffering from a form of cancer develop heart metastases [2].

#### CLASSIFICATION

##### I. Primary cardiac tumors

##### I.1. Benign cardiac tumors

##### I.1.1 Myxoma

Myxoma represents the most common benign tumor, comprising 25% of all cardiac tumors and 50% of benign cardiac tumors [4]. It affects mostly women aged 30-65 years old. Myxomas have different locations: 75% in the