

Congestive Heart Failure

Definition

A sudden worsening of the signs and symptoms of heart failure, which typically includes dyspnea, edema, and fatigue.

Disposition

Congestive heart failure is typically admitted to GIM. Cardiology is preferred in the following circumstances:

- Persistent hypotension
- Ongoing ischemia (e.g. troponin I > 1.5 ug/L)
- Dysrhythmia requiring close monitoring (including atrial fibrillation with rapid ventricular response)
- Associated with significant valvular abnormality requiring urgent investigations.

Caveats

Patients followed by the heart function clinic should be considered for cardiology.

(Continued...)

Flowchart

