

Patient Information

Coronary Artery Vasospasm or Prinzmetal's Angina

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Chest pain/discomfort caused by spasm of the muscle within the walls of the coronary arteries (blood supply to the heart muscle.)
- Muscle spasm causes reduction in blood flow to the heart muscle.
- Symptoms are often very similar to pain associated with a more typical heart attack (development of a blockage in a heart artery.)
- Symptoms often occur at rest, and at night; this is different than typical chest pain associated with heart artery blockages which is more typically experience during exertion.

SYMPTOMS

- Chest pressure, heaviness, tightness
- Shortness of breath

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

- Blood testing to evaluate heart muscle inflammation/damage; usually ordered in conjunction with presentation to the emergency department
- Stress testing or coronary angiography (heart catheterization) is often required to rule out significant blockages in the coronary arteries

TREATMENT

- Medications that relax the muscle in the arteries can prevent spasm.
- Examples are calcium channel blockers and nitroglycerin type medications.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or to make an appointment at URMC Cardiology at Highland Hospital, please call (585) 341-6780 or visit us online at www.highlandheart.urmc.edu