



American Heart Association.

## Addressing Recurrent Pericarditis

# RECURRENT PERICARDITIS CAUSES



Though its cause isn't known in **90% of patients**, pericarditis is often presumed to be related to a recent viral infection such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19.

Recurrent pericarditis can affect anyone regardless of their sex, age, race, or economic background.



### Potential causes of a first-time episode of pericarditis include:

- Autoimmune conditions such as lupus, scleroderma or rheumatoid arthritis
- Complications from a heart attack or heart surgery
- Benign tumors or malignant cancers
- Health conditions, such as kidney failure
- Bacterial, viral, fungal or parasitic infections (most common in people with compromised immune systems)
- Radiation to the chest
- Injury to the chest
- Certain medications, such as phenytoin (an anti-seizure medicine) and procainamide (prescribed for irregular heartbeats)

**If the pericarditis returns, it's often because the initial episode (or flare) wasn't fully resolved or because the body has had an autoinflammatory response.**

**Visit [heart.org/recurrentpericarditis](https://heart.org/recurrentpericarditis) for more information.**