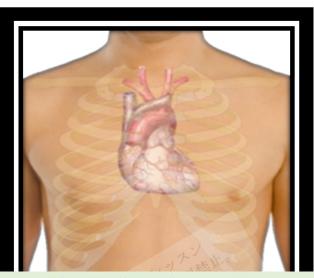
Approach to the Cardiac Patient



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Your teacher can send you the complete material.

Please ask them to send the complete version of this material before the lesson.

History

A thorough history is fundamental; it cannot be replaced by testing. The history must include a thorough systems review because many symptoms apparently occurring in other systems (eg, **dyspnea**, **indigestion**) are often caused by **cardiac disease**. A family history is taken because many cardiac disorders (eg, **coronary artery disease**, **systemic hypertension**, bicuspid aortic valve, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, **mitral valve prolapse**) have a **heritable basis**.

Serious cardiac symptoms include chest pain or discomfort, dyspnea, weakness, fatigue, palpitations, light-headedness, sense of an impending faint, syncope, and edema. These symptoms commonly occur in more than one cardiac disorder and in noncardiac disorders.

Reference: http://www.merckmanuals.com