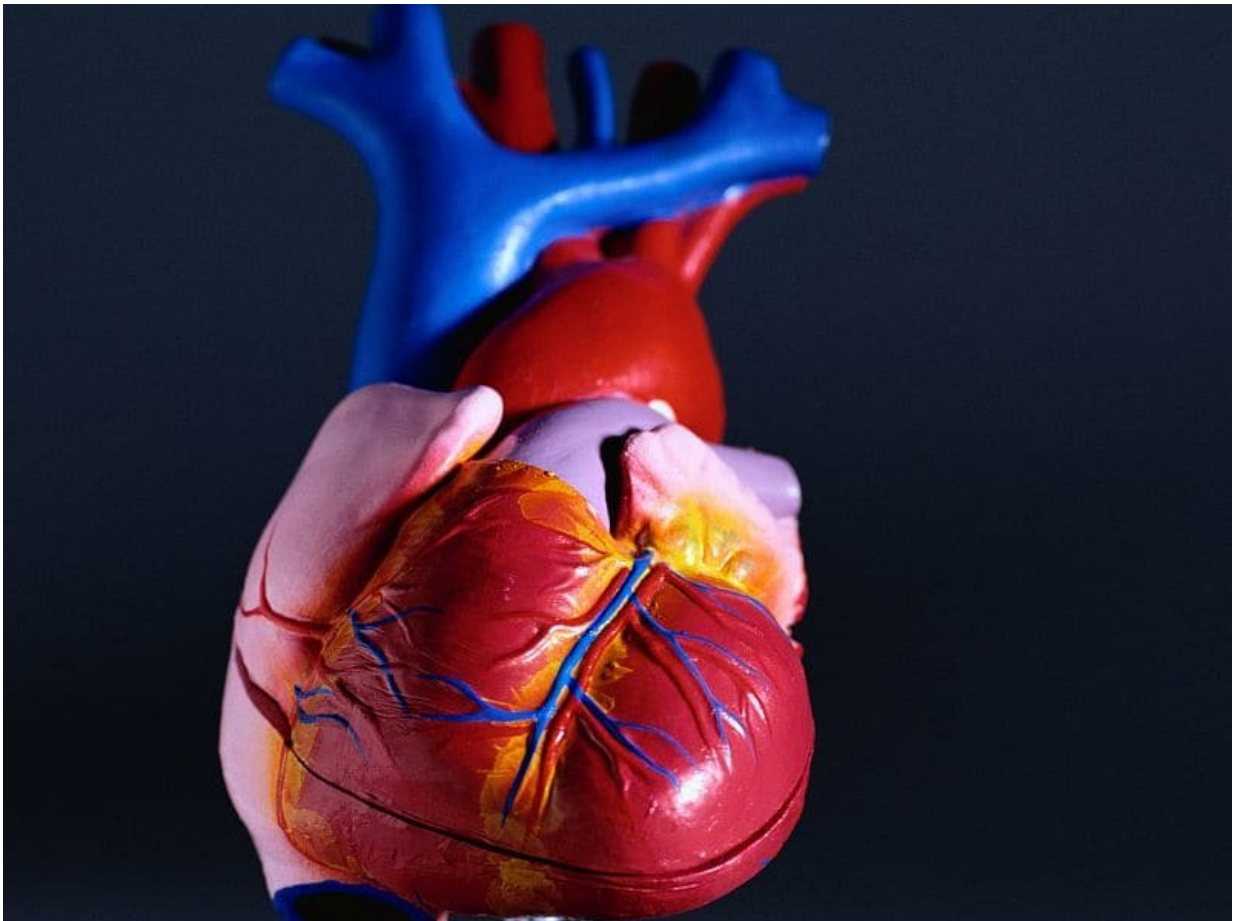


Drug use-associated infective endocarditis up 2007 to 2017

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(HealthDay)—From 2007 to 2017 there was an increase in drug-use

associated infective endocarditis (DUA-IE) hospitalizations and valve surgeries, according to a study published online Dec. 4 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Asher J. Schranz, M.D., from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and colleagues examined hospitalization trends for DUA-IE in a 10-year analysis of a statewide [hospital](#) discharge database for North Carolina hospitals. The authors sought to identify annual trends in IE admissions and IE hospitalizations with [valve surgery](#), stratified by patients' drug use status.

The researchers found that 11 percent of the 22,825 IE hospitalizations were for DUA-IE. Valve surgery was performed in 7 percent of 1,655 IE hospitalizations, including 285 (17 percent) for DUA-IE. There were increases seen in annual DUA-IE hospitalizations (from 0.92 to 10.95 per 100,000 persons) and DUA-IE hospitalizations with surgery (from 0.10 to 1.38 per 100,000 persons). Forty-two percent of IE valve surgeries were performed in patients with DUA-IE in the final year. Patients with DUA-IE were younger, more often female and white, and were mainly insured by Medicaid or uninsured, compared with other surgical patients with IE.

"Drug use-associated IE is a critical, emerging public health issue that is affecting the lives of young persons, burdening [health systems](#) and public insurance payers, and fundamentally reshaping the epidemiology and management of endocarditis," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the biopharmaceutical and medical technology industries.

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