

How inflammation in COVID-19 alters the smallest vessels in the heart

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A–D MPX staining of cardiac tissue depicting CD68 + macrophages in orange, CD4 + T helper cells in green, CD8 + cytotoxic T cells in yellow, and CD20 + Bcells in magenta. All infected hearts (COVID-19, influenza, and lymphocytic non-influenza myocarditis) displayed a prominent infiltrate of CD68 + macrophages. While COVID-19 A (COVID-19 patient ID 24) and influenza, B (Influenza patient ID 9) hearts showed nearly absent lymphocytic infiltrate, lymphocytic non-influenza myocarditis, C (Myocarditis patient ID 5) was characterized by a mixed, T-cell dominated infiltrate. Non-infected control hearts, D (Control patient ID 1) showed markedly less inflammatory cells with a mixed population of macrophages and predominant t-cells and only scarce Bcells. Magnification 400x. Scale bars = 100 μ m. E Histogram of the inflammatory cell infiltrates (CD20, CD4, CD68, CD8). Cell counts are normalized to cells per mm² myocardial tissue. *p

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