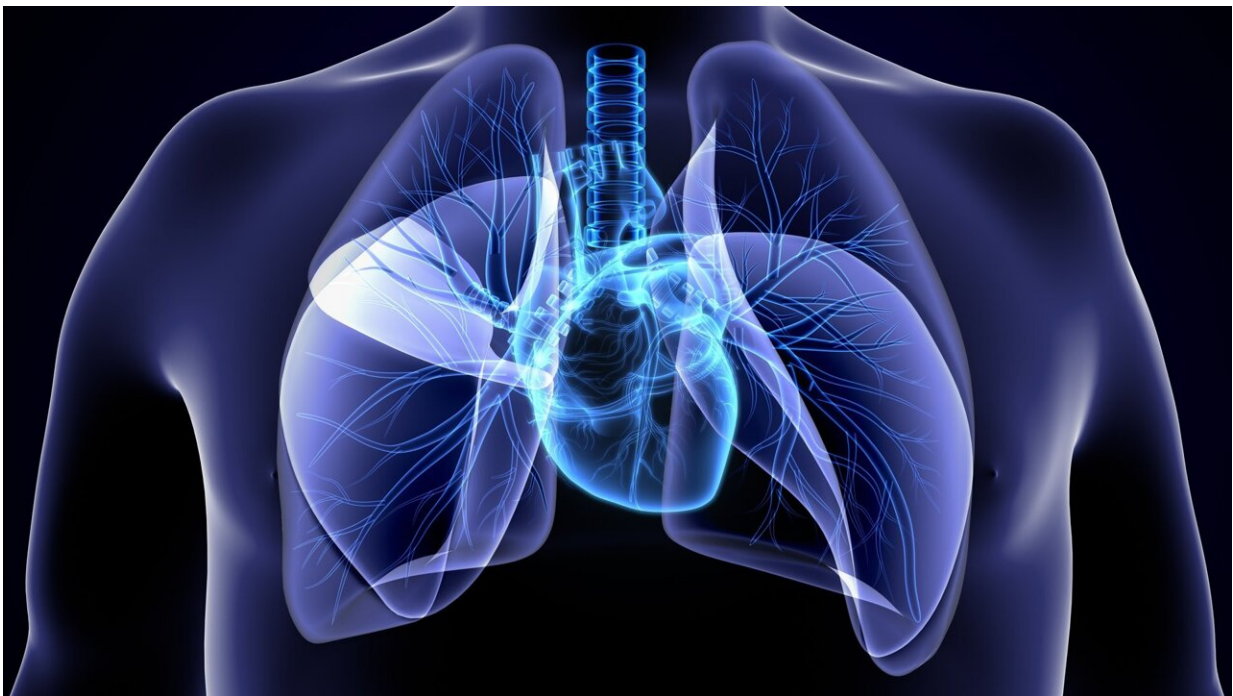


Study indicates mortality in rheumatic heart disease is high

June 7 2024, by Lori Solomon



Mortality related to rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is high and is correlated with the severity of valve disease, according to a study [published](#) online June 5 in the *Journal of the American Medical*

Association.

Ganesan Karthikeyan, D.M., from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, and colleagues assessed the risk and predictors of major patient-important clinical outcomes in patients with clinical RHD. Analysis included 13,696 patients in 24 low- and middle-income countries.

The researchers found that over a median duration of 3.2 years, 15% of patients died overall (4.7% per patient-year). Vascular causes accounted for most deaths (67.5%), mainly [heart failure](#) or sudden cardiac death. Both stroke (0.6% per year) and recurrent rheumatic fever was rare.

Higher mortality was seen with markers of severe valve disease, including congestive heart failure (hazard ratio [HR], 1.58), pulmonary hypertension (HR, 1.52), and atrial fibrillation (HR, 1.30). Lower mortality was seen with [surgical treatment](#) (HR, 0.23) or valvuloplasty (HR, 0.24). Lower mortality was also seen with higher country income level, when adjusting for patient-level factors.

"Study findings suggest a greater need to improve access to surgical and interventional care, in addition to the current approaches focused on [antibiotic prophylaxis](#) and anticoagulation," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed ties to pharmaceutical companies, including Bayer, which funded the study.

More information: Ganesan Karthikeyan et al, Mortality and Morbidity in Adults With Rheumatic Heart Disease, *JAMA* (2024). [DOI: 10.1001/jama.2024.8258](https://doi.org/10.1001/jama.2024.8258)

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