

# PREFACE

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Cardiogenic shock, whatever its precipitating cause, is a devastating event. As we have learned from years of clinical research, the mortality rate from shock is alarmingly high, reaching 90% in several series. Indeed, in many cardiac conditions such as myocardial infarction and myocarditis, cardiogenic shock is by far the major reason for death.

Best known as a complication of myocardial infarction, cardiogenic shock also occurs in patients with a wide variety of cardiac disorders, from congenital lesions in both child and adult, to valvular disease, to myocardial or pericardial disease, to mechanical injuries to the heart. The physical findings and imaging modalities used to diagnose these conditions vary, based upon etiology. Transport of the patient with cardiogenic shock to medical centers that deliver unique therapies is often challenging.

Therapies for cardiogenic shock include medical, percutaneous, and surgical procedures, temporary assist devices to allow the injured heart to recover, and artificial hearts to replace those beyond salvage. As newer advances in biotechnology, as well as laboratory work in genomics and proteomics and more traditional basic science, make it to the bedside, there will once again be reason to hope that more patients will survive cardiogenic shock with an acceptable quality of life.

We are honored that so many of the world's leading experts on the causes, consequences, and treatments of cardiogenic shock readily agreed to write chapters for this volume in their particular areas of expertise, and we are impressed by the depth and breadth of the chapters they have written. By bringing together all the various etiologies of cardiogenic shock in this single volume, we present the reader with a comprehensive overview of this dire condition, with emphasis on the unique diagnostic and therapeutic characteristics of each entity.

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**Cardiogenic Shock**

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