



## Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) : Inherited Heart Disease (IHD) Clinic

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**Abstract:** In arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC), the heart muscle is replaced by fat and scar tissue. This can make it harder for the heart to pump blood out to the body. ARVC usually affects the right side of the heart. The fat and scar tissue causes the right side of the heart to stretch. In very bad cases, a weak heart may cause fluid to build up outside of the heart, in the lungs (causing shortness of breath), or the ankles or belly (causing swelling). ARVC also affects the electrical activity of the heart and can cause fast, dangerous heart rhythms. The pamphlet gives the most common cause (inherited) of ARVC, symptoms, diagnostic procedures, and treatment (medications, a special pacemaker called an internal cardioverter defibrillator, and rarely a heart transplant). Websites for further information are also noted.

**Responsibility:** Prepared by: Inherited Heart Disease Clinic, QEII, Halifax

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