

## AMA Criteria for Permanent Impairment Associated with Pericardial Heart Disease

Overview:

Pericardial heart disease can cause impairment which can be quantitated using the AMA criteria.

Selection: A patient should have evidence of pericardial disease based on physical examination laboratory studies or other findings.

Parameters:

(1) functional class (using the 1964 NYHA criteria)

(2) therapy (diet medication surgery) and its effectiveness

(3) clinical findings

Functional Class	Therapy	Clinical Findings	Impairment of the Whole Person
none with ordinary daily activities or moderately heavy physical exertion	continuous therapy not required	no signs of cardiac enlargement; no congestion of lungs or other organs	0 - 9%
none with ordinary daily activities	effective		10 – 29%
functional class II (slight to moderate discomfort with ordinary daily activities)	partially effective	increased venous pressure evidence of constriction	30 – 49%
functional class III or IV (symptomatic with ordinary daily activities)	ineffective		50 – 100%

where:

- A patient who has had a pericardial window or pericardectomy performed is classified based upon residual symptoms. If permanent complications occurred from surgery then these are combined with the impairment associated with the pericardial disease.

References:

Cocchiarella L Andersson GBJ (editors). Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment Fifth Edition. American Medical Association. 2001. (Table 3-10 page 52; for functional class see Table 3-1 page 26).