



Questions to Ask Your Doctor

HEART FAILURE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

Many people mistakenly believe that heart failure is an abrupt stopping of the heart. In fact, heart failure usually develops over time. It is a condition that occurs when your heart is unable to contract or relax properly. As a result, your heart cannot pump enough blood to meet your body's needs.



Depending on the level of severity, heart failure may be life-threatening. However, it is typically a chronic condition that worsens over time and needs treatment. There is no cure, but many people with heart failure who receive proper treatment go on to live long, full and enjoyable lives.

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF HEART FAILURE?

To help prepare for your appointment, here are some questions to ask your doctor during your visit:

- Should I see a cardiologist or heart failure specialist?
- What class is my heart failure (NYHA Class I, II, III or IV)?
- What are the three most important things my family and I should do now to manage my heart failure?
- How is my heart failure likely to progress and what treatment options should I start to consider?
- If I have Class III or IV heart failure, should I be evaluated for advanced heart failure therapies?

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