

Special Issue

Clinical Advances in Endocarditis: From Diagnosis to Treatment

Message from the Guest Editors

Endocarditis is a rare but serious disease, with outcomes remaining challenging despite improvements in diagnostic and treatment strategies. Expert endocarditis centers and multidisciplinary endocarditis teams have reduced mortality by improving diagnosis and optimizing surgical timing. However, the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of patients are rapidly changing due to the aging population and the widespread development and implantation of different types of percutaneous cardiac devices. The increased use of transcatheter heart valve replacement procedures further exacerbates the challenging issue of prosthetic valve endocarditis. Precise patient assessment based on imaging findings and identification of the pathogen is a key point for patients' risk stratification, decision-making about the proper treatment strategy, the timing of cardiac surgery if indicated, and intraoperative management. The issue of post-operative antibiotic regimens is also debatable. Therefore, further research is needed to define the role of adaptive antibiotic regimens in preventing renal and neurological toxicity in the aging population.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

20 June 2026



Journal of Clinical Medicine

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.9
CiteScore 5.2
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/255945

Journal of Clinical Medicine
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