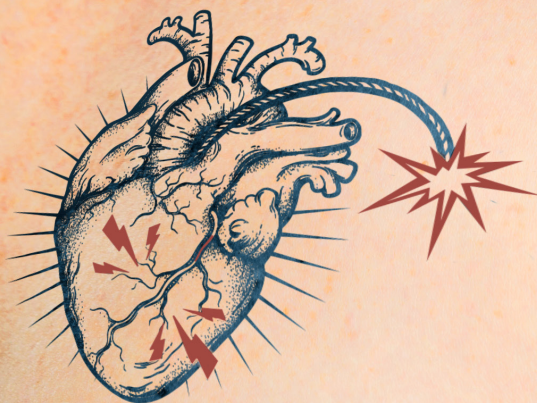


COVID-19

How to care for chronic and acute heart disease?

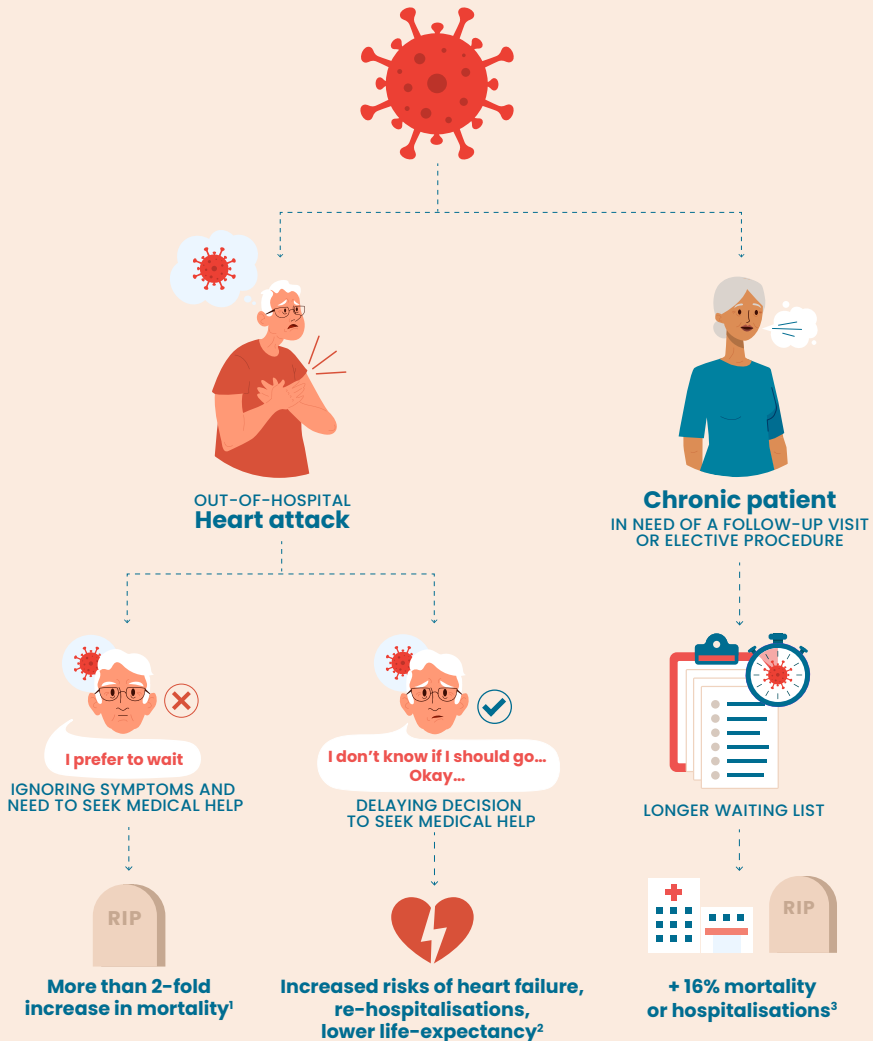


WE CARE

COVID-19:

A dramatic impact on cardiac patients' health

Figures show that since the outbreak of the pandemic, many patients are putting off going to the doctor's office or hospital for far too long, for both acute and chronic heart conditions. Consequences are dramatic, including a rise in the number of cardiac deaths at patients' homes and a higher percentage of complications due to delayed treatment.



1. Wadhera, R. K. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2021;77(2):159–69 **2.** De Rosa S, et al. Reduction of hospitalizations for myocardial infarction in Italy in the COVID-19 era. Eur Heart J 2020;41(22):2083–2088. **3.** Ryffel et al. JAMA Open 2020;3(9):e2020402 (data related to structural heart interventions)

Reminder – When you notice the signs, don't wait!

Time is of the essence at the onset of acute heart conditions. Don't be afraid of seeking medical help because of COVID-19.

The longer you wait, the higher your risk of dying or having serious long-term complications. Here are examples of when to take quick action:



SUDDEN CHEST TIGHTNESS OR PAIN; WORSENING DISCOMFORT DURING EFFORT.



Heart attack



SUDDEN NUMBNESS OF THE FACE, ARM/LEG; DIFFICULTY IN SPEAKING OR UNDERSTANDING.



Stroke



SWELLING OF THE LEGS/ANKLES; VERY RAPID WEIGHT GAIN FROM FLUID RETENTION.



Heart failure



IRREGULAR PALPITATIONS OR HIGH HEART RATE (± WEAKNESS AND DIZZINESS).



**Atrial
fibrillation /
Arrhythmia**



WORSENING SHORTNESS OF BREATH DURING EFFORT (± PALPITATIONS AND DIZZINESS).



Valve disease

If you experience any of these symptoms, contact the medical services immediately. They will be able to treat you in a safe environment.

About We CARE

There is a much higher risk to delaying cardiac care than there is of contracting the COVID-19 virus in a controlled environment such as a hospital or doctor's office.

We CARE aims to empower all stakeholders – healthcare practitioners, national authorities, and the media – to help patients regain trust that receiving timely cardiovascular treatment is both necessary and safe. Following a first awareness campaign targeting healthcare professionals, it is now spreading the word directly among patients and the general public.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.WECAREABOUTHEARTS.ORG**



Do you have any questions for the doctor or nurse?

Write them down here for your next visit.

My questions:

We CARE is a joint initiative of

www.stentsavealife.com



and



www.pcronline.com

The We CARE initiative is supported
by **Medtronic** in the form of an unrestricted grant