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Peripartum cardiomyopathy:an intriguing challenge

Peripartum cardiomyopathy is a rare life threatening disease affecting 1 in 1300 to 1in 15000 pregnancies and 0.2 – 3% of live births with literature quoting between 20 % and 50% mortality in the afflicted. This is a type of dilated cardiomyopathy and is defined as systolic cardiac failure (left ventricular ejection fraction <45%).The patient may present with apparently simple symptoms like fatigue , dyspnoea or may present dramatically with acute pulmonary oedema and sudden collapse necessitating immediate critical care and multidisciplinary intervention.

We present a patient with a completely normal antenatal course admitted at term for evaluation of fever ;had acute pulmonary edema during second stage of labour with systolic dysfunction . With multidisciplinary care we were able to revive the patient and she was discharged in 2nd week with a healthy baby.

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