

# Chapter 6

## INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS

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### Introduction

Infective endocarditis(IE) is the infection of the endocardial surface of the heart; it usually introduces with infection of one or more heart valves or infection of an intracardiac device. The real incidence of IE is difficult to ascertain because disease definitions have varied over time between clinical centers (1). In addition, the incidence of predisposing conditions such as rheumatic heart disease or injection drug use is variable over time and lastly there is highly variation between regions and in low- and high-income countries (2).

### Risk Factors

There is a number of factors predispose to the development of IE and can be group as patient factors and comorbid conditions.

#### Patient factors

##### Age >60 years

More than half of all IE cases occur in patients over the age of 60 and the median age has increased regularly during the past 40 years (3,4-6). This increasing is probably depending on decline in the incidence of rheumatic heart disease and the increasing proportion of older adult individuals in the whole population. Older adults are more likely to have degenerative valve disease and so, more likely need for valve replacement.

##### Poor Dentition Or Dental Infection

Poor dentition and/or dental infection are supposed to be risk factors for IE due to oral flora (7,8). Dental procedures involving the manipulation of gingival tissue or the periapical region of the teeth or perforation of the oral mucosa can increase risk for IE, otherwise only routine dental cleaning is not a risk. Antimicrobial prophylaxis of IE is recommended for patients undergoing invasive dental procedures with having underlying structural heart disease or prosthetic heart valve.

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