What is Cardiac Amyloidosis?

Amyloidosis (pronounced am-uh-loy-doh-sis) is a disease that causes abnormal proteins (called amyloid) to build up in certain places in your body where they shouldn’t be, like your liver, nerves, or heart. The two most common types are called light chain cardiac amyloidosis (AL) and transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis (ATTR-CM).

How Do You Know You Have Cardiac Amyloidosis?

Medical tests can help determine if you have cardiac amyloidosis, and if so, which type. You may need to take several tests for a diagnosis. Ask your doctor about which tests are right for you.

What Are Common Symptoms Of Amyloidosis?

- Feeling tired
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Trouble breathing, when active or lying down
- Pressure or dull pain in the chest when active
- Swelling in the legs, ankles or stomach
- Tingling and numbness in the hands and feet

How Does Amyloidosis Affect My Heart?

When amyloidosis affects your heart, it is called cardiac amyloidosis. Cardiac amyloidosis causes:

- Your heart walls to thicken over time. This makes it hard for your heart to squeeze and relax normally. This affects how your heart pumps blood to your body.
- Your heart rhythms to be abnormal (called arrhythmias).
- Blocks in your heart’s electrical system, which tells your heart to beat. This is called heartblock.

Are There Treatments For Cardiac Amyloidosis?

Yes, but first you need to find out which type of cardiac amyloidosis you have. This will help determine which treatment may work best for you. It will also let you know whether your family members may be at risk for the disease.

Some treatments for cardiac amyloidosis treat the underlying problem. Others help with the symptoms of amyloidosis.

Diagnosing and treating amyloidosis early is important. It can help you live a longer, healthier life. It could help your family members, too.