• Pericarditis is a common condition characterized by inflammation of the pericardium, which can result in symptoms such as pain, swelling, and fluid accumulation around the heart.

• The most common etiology of pericarditis is idiopathic, which accounts for approximately 25% of cases. Other causes include infections, autoimmune diseases, and trauma.

• Recurrences of pericarditis are common, with approximately 20% of patients experiencing a second episode within 4 years of the initial diagnosis.

• The risk of recurrence is highest in the first year after the initial episode, with a peak incidence in the second year.

• The use of claims data to infer etiology may explain the lower rates of recurrence observed in studies that rely on hospital records alone.

• Persistent recurrence and inadequate response to treatment may contribute to increased disease burden.

• To address the study objective, a retrospective cohort design was used.

• Data was sourced from a nationwide claims database, with information on demographics, medical procedures, and diagnoses.

• The study population included patients with an idiopathic AP diagnosis and no conditions or procedures related to non-idiopathic causes.

• The study excluded patients who did not meet the inclusion criteria, such as those with a previous history of AP or those with conditions that could be associated with recurrent pericarditis.

• The study used a combination of hospitalization and outpatient claims to define recurrence events.

• The study findings indicate that the risk of recurrence is highest in the first year after the initial episode, with a peak incidence in the second year.

• The study also identified that the most common non-idiopathic etiologies included metastatic neoplasm and autoimmune disease.

• The study results suggest that further research is needed to better understand the risk factors and predictors of pericarditis recurrence.

• Despite advancements in the understanding of pericarditis, there is a need for improved risk stratification and early intervention to reduce the risk of recurrence and improve outcomes.