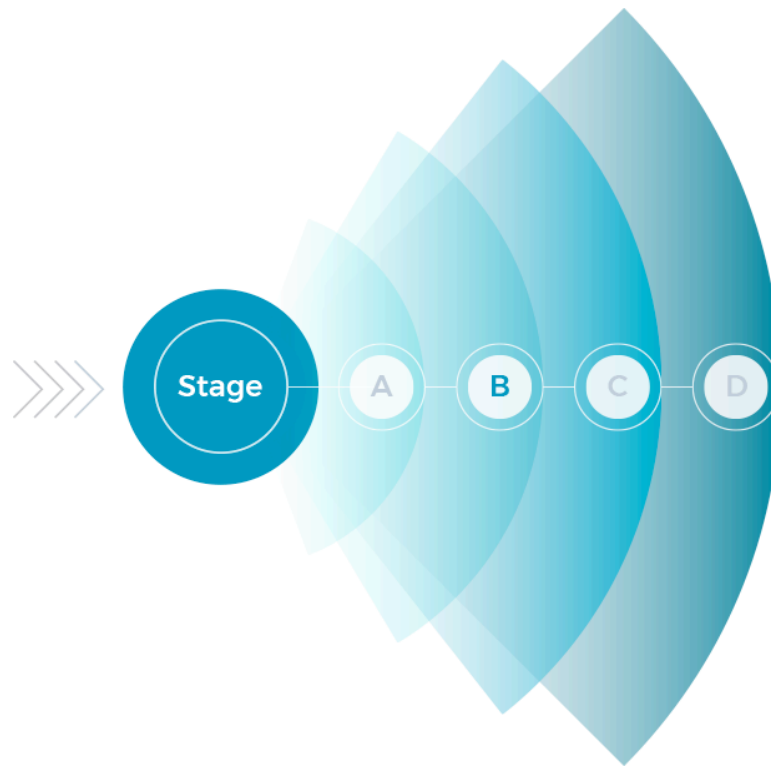




Stage B Heart Failure



Heart failure is a constellation of signs and symptoms that can be caused by DCM. There are many disease conditions that can cause DCM and other types of cardiomyopathy. Symptom severity of heart failure is classified and categorized by the New York Heart Association classification I, II, III, IV, which refer to symptoms of heart failure. Symptoms can improve, or they can worsen, so one can move back and forth across the classes. This classification does not necessarily correspond to the types of changes the heart has undergone or is undergoing.

The stages of heart failure describe changes to the heart structure. There are four stages of heart failure, named A, B, C and D. You are currently exploring Stage B.



What is Stage B heart failure?

The hallmark of Stage B is that structural changes to the heart have occurred, but symptoms of heart failure have not yet developed.

Examples of structural changes include damage to the heart muscle as a result of a heart attack or genetic abnormalities. These structural changes include reduced heart muscle contraction (systolic dysfunction), abnormalities to the heart valves, and enlargement of the heart.



What is the treatment for Stage B?

The treatments for Stage B heart failure includes all the treatments for Stage A and, for patients with reduced heart muscle contraction, the use of important classes of drugs such as ACE-inhibitors, ARBs, and specific beta blockers. Some of these patients may also be appropriate candidates for implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs).

Founded in 2017, the DCM Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to provide hope and support to patients and families with Dilated Cardiomyopathy through research, advocacy, and education.