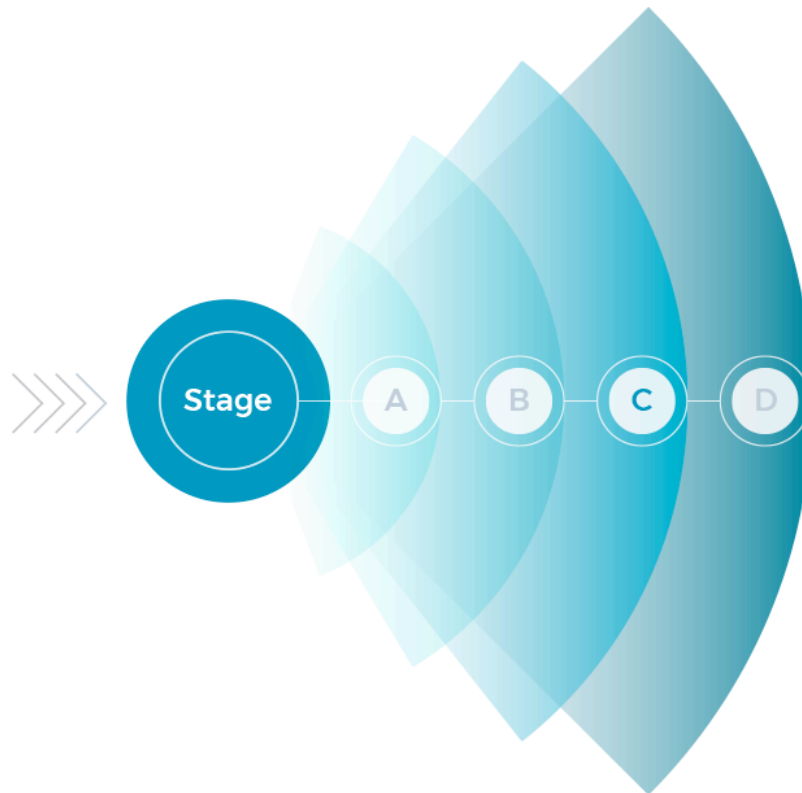




# Stage C Heart Failure



*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 C.*



### **What is Stage C heart failure?**

The hallmark of Stage C is that symptoms of heart failure have now occurred with changes to the heart structure. Symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, and decreased exercise tolerance (refer to symptoms of heart failure), systolic dysfunction (reduced heart pumping function), abnormalities to the heart valves, and enlargement of the heart.



### **What is the treatment for Stage C?**

The treatments for Stage C heart failure include those for Stage A and Stage B, plus additional classes of medications and devices (biventricular pacemakers) for appropriate patients. Specific surgeries such as coronary artery bypass and valve surgeries or procedures in appropriate patients are additional treatments.

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*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.*