### MYOCARDIAL PEPTIDE

**FUNCTION:**

Myocardial Peptides make up heart structure tissues.

**ANTIBODIES APPEAR:**

- Acute Rheumatic Fever
- Autoimmune Myocarditis
- Heart Disease
- Heart Trauma
- Rheumatic Heart Disease

**CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

Myocardial Peptides are at higher levels prior to the onset of dilated cardiomyopathy, when heart dysfunction is undetectable, and will decline as the disorder evolves. It is important to screen patient’s symptom-free relatives to identify those at risk, to aid in diagnosis during pre-clinical period and to potentially prevent the progression to disease state by implementing preventive therapeutic protocols. Damage to heart muscle or pericardial tissue stemming from surgery, stab wounds or acute myocardial infarctions may result in an autoimmune response to myocardial antigens. Circulating autoantibodies appear 2-3 weeks after the event and subsequently drop between 3-8 weeks. However, high levels of anti-myocardial antibodies have been shown to remain in cases involving a series of injuries over an extended period in which these antibodies can persist for months or years. Due to a commonality in autoimmune heart disease and Celiac disease, patients presenting with autoantibodies to heart tissue, should be assessed for Celiac disease.

**KNOWN CROSS-REACTIONS:**

- Acute Rheumatic Fever
- Autoimmune Myocarditis
- Heart Disease
- Heart Trauma
- Rheumatic Heart Disease

**References:**