

# Introduction

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The International Society for Chemotherapy commissioned a working group to propose recommendations for the diagnosis and therapy of infective endocarditis. This group was led by Ethan Rubinstein and Claude Carbon, and was composed of several experts from different parts of the world. The initial working party was enlarged and joined by the recently established International Society for the Study of Cardiovascular Infections.

The following seven papers represent the consensus of the working group. Two or three individuals were responsible for writing each of them, but every paper reflects the position of the group as a whole. The content of each paper must be considered as the

recommendations of a group of experts based on the current knowledge as expressed in the literature as well as the experience of each contributor, following an open and fruitful debate within the working party.

We hope that these seven selected topics reflect the most interesting aspects of the main problems currently raised by infective endocarditis. Obviously, the other aspects that would have been useful to consider represent the future projects of the group.

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Guest Editors

# Endocarditis Working Group

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