Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) is:
- characterized by cardiac hypertrophy in the absence of another cardiac or systemic disease
- said to affect 1 in 500 people
- the most common cause of sudden cardiac death in the young

The evaluation and management of HCM is outlined in the table on the right. The principal role of genetic testing is not to confirm a diagnosis but rather to identify the causative gene in the affected individual and to provide a clinical tool for screening family members at risk of developing the disease. In general, affected individuals and their first degree relatives should be referred to both cardiology and genetics specialists.

For more information on HCM see the GECKO on the run in Educational Resources at www.geneticseducation.ca.