



# Dyspnea

**Prof. Giovanni Zuliani**



# Dyspnea

- Dyspnea is the sensation of breathlessness or inadequate breathing.
- The American Thoracic Society - ATS defines it as: "**a subjective experience of breathing discomfort that consists of qualitatively distinct sensations (effort/work, chest tightness, and air hunger - the feeling of not enough oxygen) that vary in intensity**". The ATS commends evaluating dyspnea by assessing the intensity of the distinct sensations, the degree of distress involved, and *its burden or impact on activities of daily living*.
- It is the most common complaint of patients with ***cardio-pulmonary diseases***.

# Dyspnea

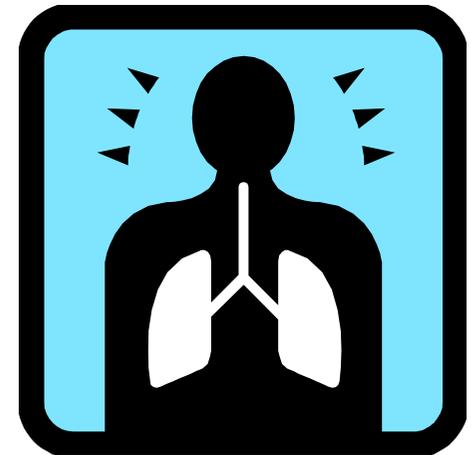
- There is no one specific cause of dyspnea, and thus no single specific treatment
- Treatment varies according to patient's condition:
  - Chief complaint
  - History
  - Physical examination
  - Laboratory and study results

# Dyspnea Differential Diagnosis

- Four general categories:
  1. **Cardiac**
  2. **Pulmonary**
  3. **Mixed cardiac and pulmonary**
  4. **Non-cardiac or pulmonary**

# 1. Pulmonary Etiology

- COPD (most frequent)
- Asthma
- Pneumonia
- Restrictive Lung Disorders
- Pneumothorax
- (Hereditary Lung Disorders)



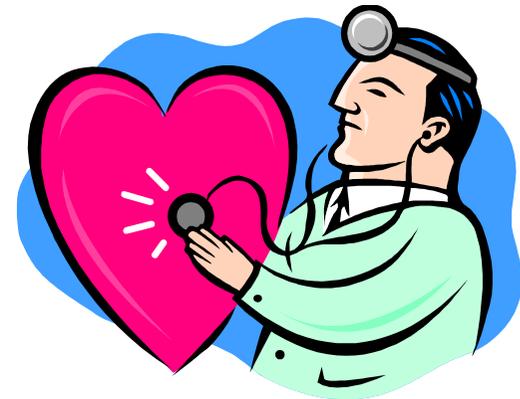
## 2. Cardiac Etiology

- Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)
- Coronary Heart Disease (CHD)
- Valvular dysfunctions
- Arrhythmias
- Left ventricular hypertrophy
- Cardiomyopathies
- Pericarditis



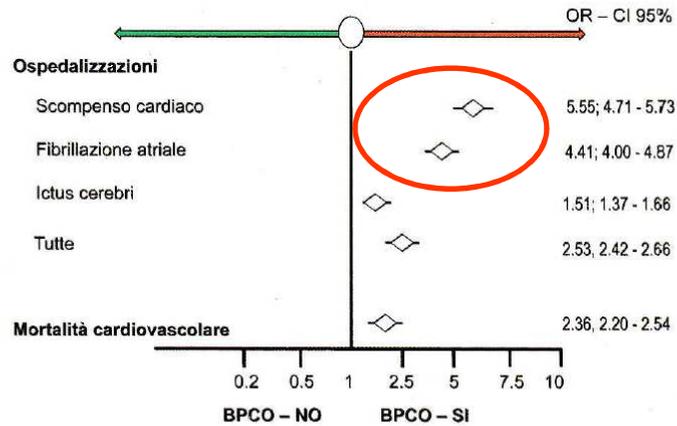
# 3. Mixed Cardiac-Pulmonary Etiology

- COPD with pulmonary hypertension and/or cor pulmonale
- Deconditioning (bed rest syndrome)
- Chronic pulmonary embolism
- Pleural effusion



# OVERLAP COPD - CHF

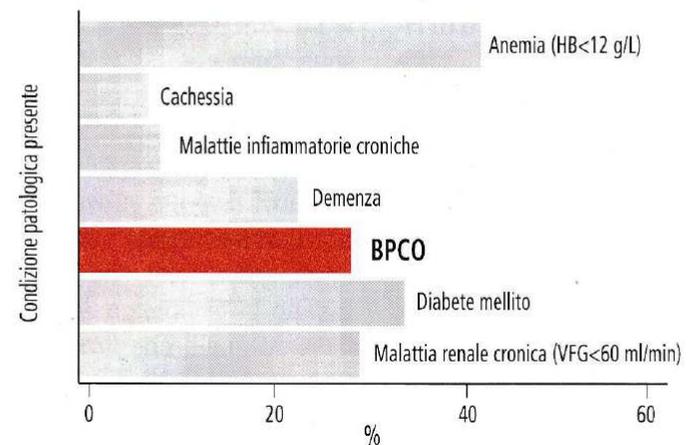
**BPCO ed incidenza di malattia cardiovascolare, ospedalizzazione e mortalità**  
Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program – 45,966 pazienti



BPCO= Broncopneumopatia cronica ostruttiva,  
CI= Intervallo di confidenza, OR= Odds ratio

Modificato da: Sidney S et al. *Chest*. 2005;128:2068-2075

**Multimorbilità nel paziente con scompenso cardiaco:  
lo studio italiano CONFINE**



Modificato da: Biagi P et al. *Int J Cardiol*. 2011

# 4. Non-cardiac or pulmonary Etiology

- Anemias
- Metabolic conditions (e.g. ketoacidosis)
- Neuromuscular disorders (e.g. myasthenia gravis)
- Chemical exposure
- Trauma (thorax, abdomen)
- Pain
- “Functional” dyspnea (anxiety, panic disorders, hyperventilation)

# Differential Diagnosis

Inpatient with dyspnea or change in pulse ox

## • Pulmonary pathology

- Pneumonia
- COPD/Asthma
- Pulmonary embolism
- Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome
- Pleural effusion
- Pneumothorax

## • Extra-pulmonary

- **CNS** (hemorrhage, ischemia, drugs, tumor)
- **Cardiac** (Pulm. Ede., arrhythmia, MI, CHF, pericardial/myocardial process)
- **Abdominal** (ascites, occlusion)
- **Hematologic** (anemia, sickle cell disease)
- **Renal** (acidosis)
- **Psychiatric** (anxiety)

# Diagnostic Interventions

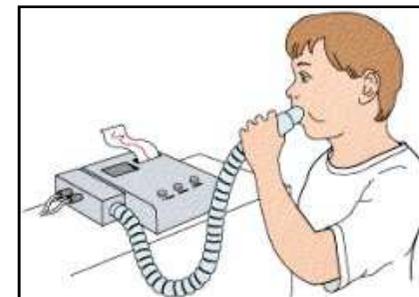
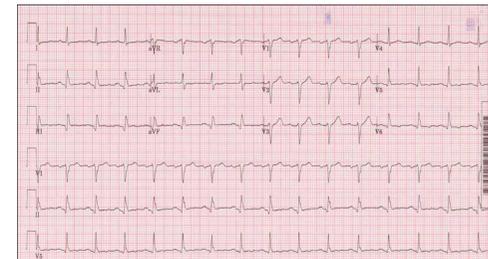
- Think to the differential diagnosis:

First **PULMONARY VS EXTRAPULMONARY**

1. CXR → is it the lungs ?
2. EKG → is it the heart ?
3. ABG → is there any imbalance ?
4. LABS → rule out other causes

# Easily Performed Diagnostic Tests

- Chest X radiographs
- Electrocardiogram
- Screening spirometry



# Dyspnea

- In cases where test results inconclusive:
  - repeat EKG or ECHO
  - repeat ABG
  - Standard exercise ***treadmill testing*** or complete cardiopulmonary exercise testing
  - (Consultation with pulmonologist or cardiologist)

# PULSE OX

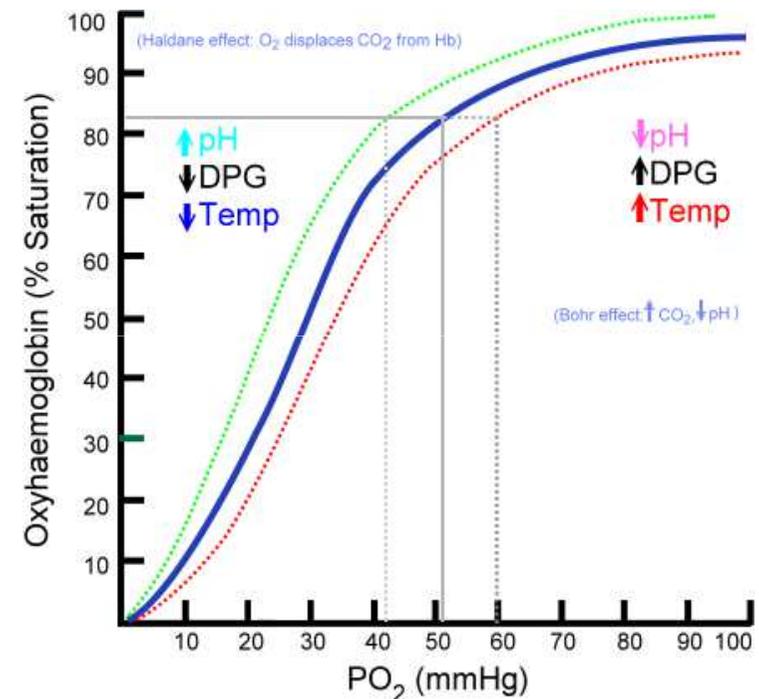
$$S_pO_2 = \frac{HbO_2}{HbO_2 + Hb}$$

- Rapid, widely available, non-invasive means of assessment in most clinical situations
- **Oxygen saturation** is a term referring to the *fraction of oxygen-saturated hemoglobin relative to total hemoglobin (unsaturated + saturated) in the blood.*
- Normal **blood saturation** in humans is considered > 95%. Levels below 90% are considered low, resulting in hypoxemia. *Blood oxygen levels below 80% may compromise organ function such as brain, heart, kidney, and should be promptly addressed*



# PULSE OX

- The % of oxygen saturation does not always correspond to the same  $\text{PaO}_2$
- The haemoglobin desaturation curve can be shifted depending on the *pH*, *temperature* or arterial carbon monoxide or carbon dioxide levels
- True tissue oxygenation depends not only on  $\text{O}_2$  saturation but also on **Hb Levels and Perfusion** (blood pressure)



# ABG (EGA)



## INDICATIONS:

- To obtain information about patient ventilation ( $PCO_2$ ), oxygenation ( $PO_2$ ) and acid-base balance
- Monitor gas exchange and acid base abnormalities for patient on mechanical ventilator or not
- To evaluate response to clinical intervention and diagnostic evaluation (oxygen therapy)
- An ABG test may be most useful when a person's breathing rate is increased or decreased or when the person has very high blood sugar levels, a severe infection, or heart failure

# ABG (EGA)



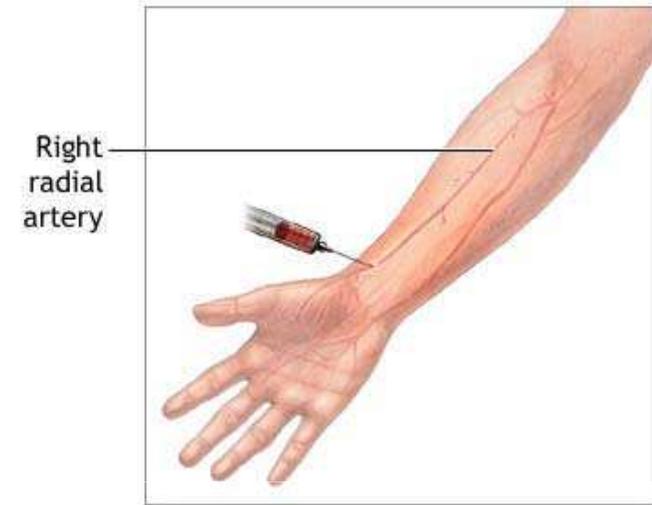
- **PH:**  
Measures hydrogen ion concentration, it indicates blood's acidity or alkalinity
- **PCO<sub>2</sub>:**  
It is the partial pressure of CO<sub>2</sub> that is carried by the blood for excretion by the lungs; it is an important respiratory parameter
- **PO<sub>2</sub>:**  
It is the partial pressure of O<sub>2</sub> that is dissolved in the blood, it reflects the body's ability to pick up oxygen from the lungs
- **HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>:**  
metabolic parameter, it reflects the kidney's ability to retain and excrete bicarbonate

# ABG (EGA)

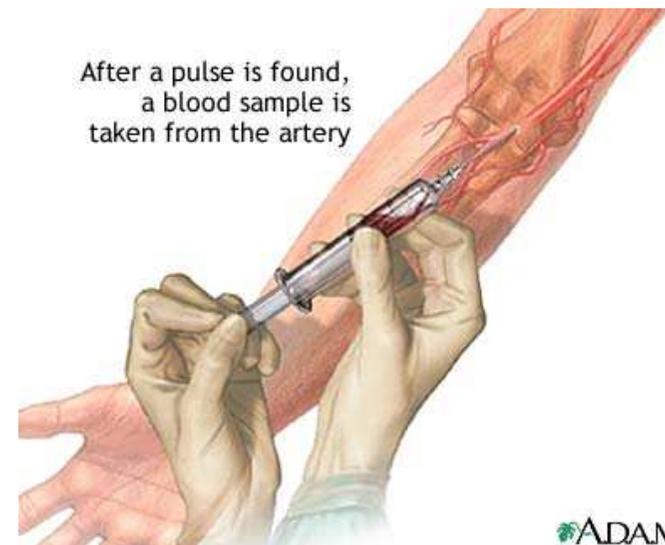
- Radial artery (most common)
- Brachial artery
- Femoral artery

Radial is the most preferable site used because:

- It is easy to access
- It is not a deep artery which facilitate palpation, stabilization and puncturing



ADAM.

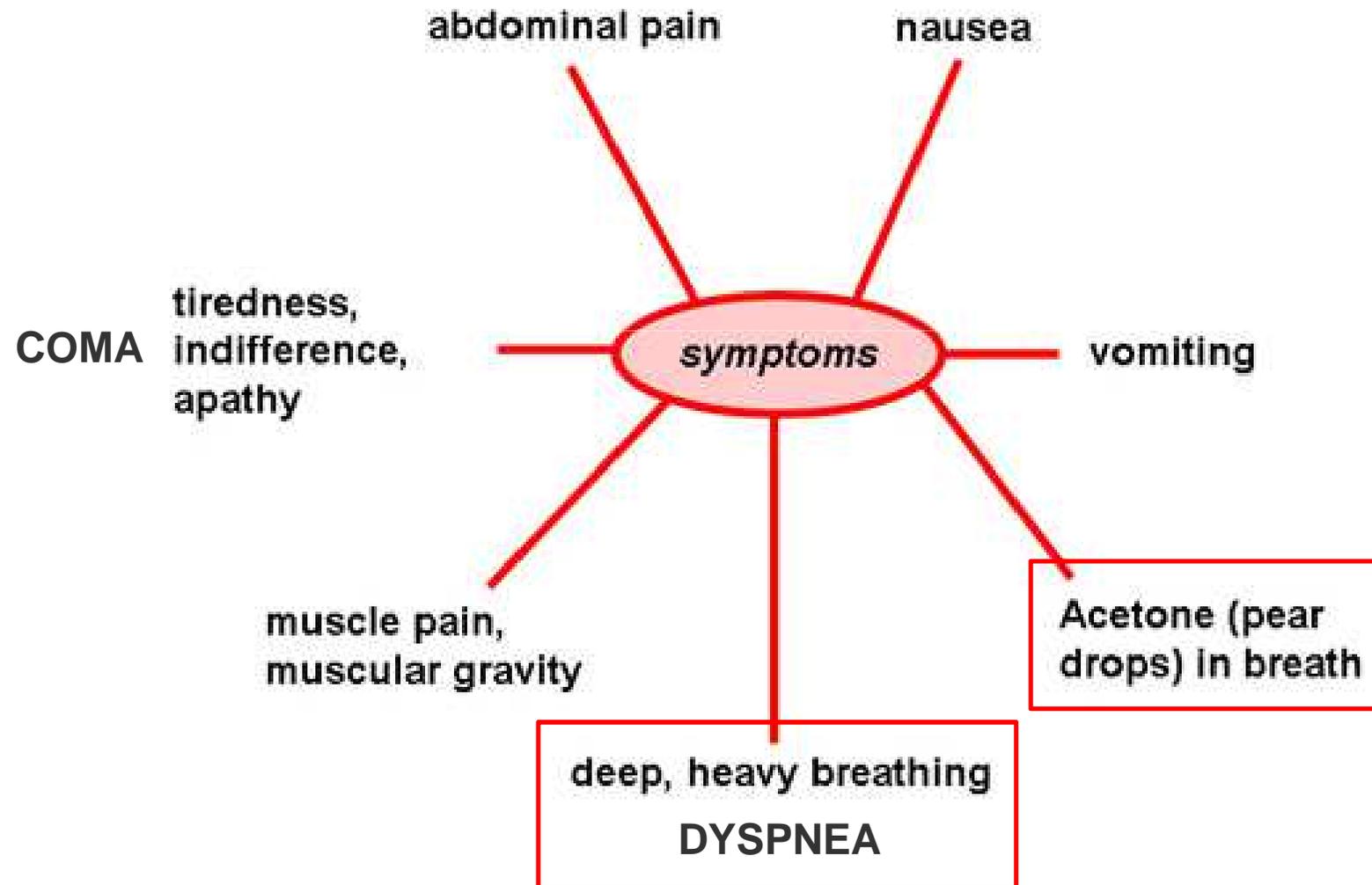


ADAM.

# **Differential diagnosis of Dyspnea**



# Diabetic Ketoacidosis



# Diabetic Ketoacidosis



**NEL PAZIENTE SOPOROSO O CON DISPNEA DI N.D.D.  
MISURARE SEMPRE LA GLICEMIA**



# ASTHMA



# Asthma

**WHO DEFINITION:** disease characterized by recurrent attacks of breathlessness and wheezing, which vary in severity and frequency from person to person. It is due to ***inflammation of the air passages in the lungs*** and affects the sensitivity of the nerve endings in the airways so they become easily irritated. In an attack, the lining of the passages swell causing the airways to narrow and reducing the flow of air in and out of the lungs.

- **Chronic disease of the airways that may cause:**
  - Wheezing
  - **Breathlessness, dyspnea**
  - Chest tightness
  - Night-time or early morning coughing

# Asthma

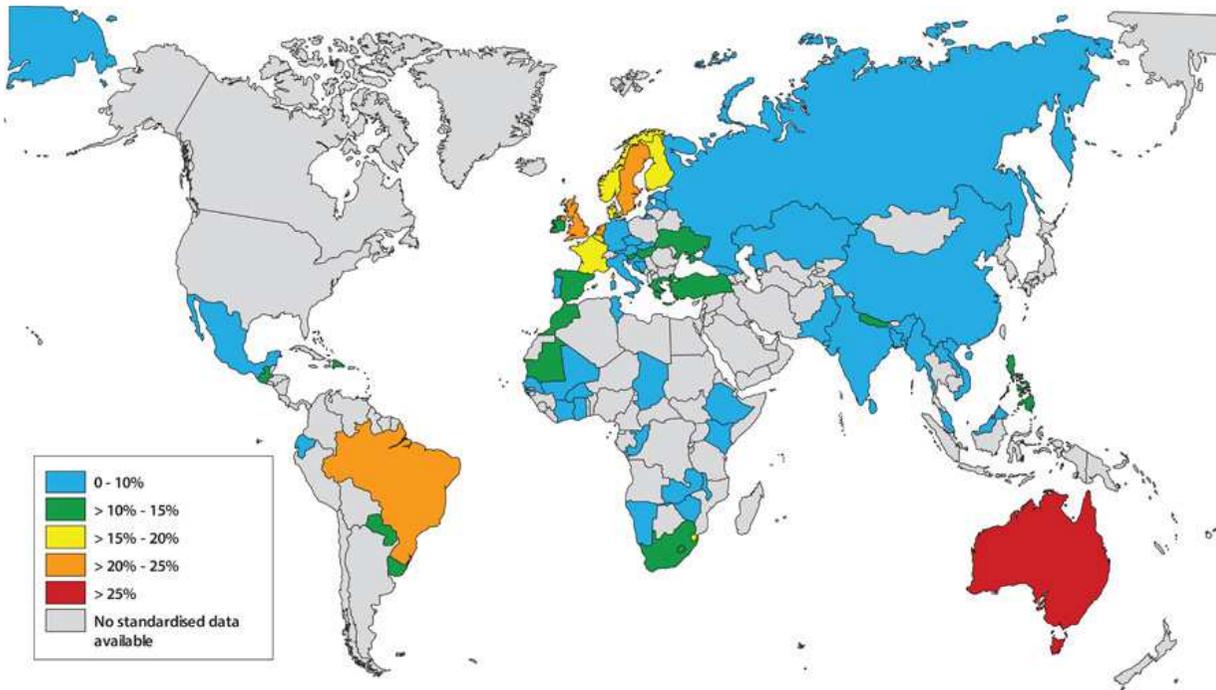
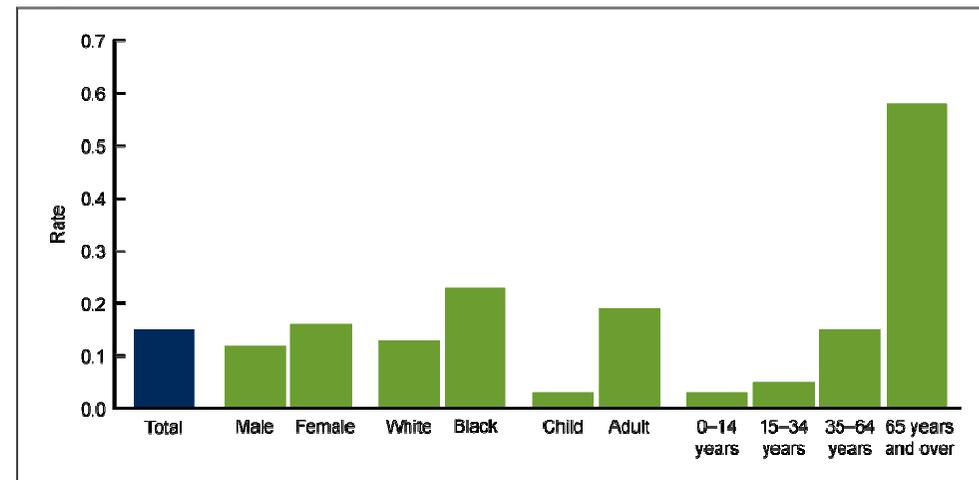


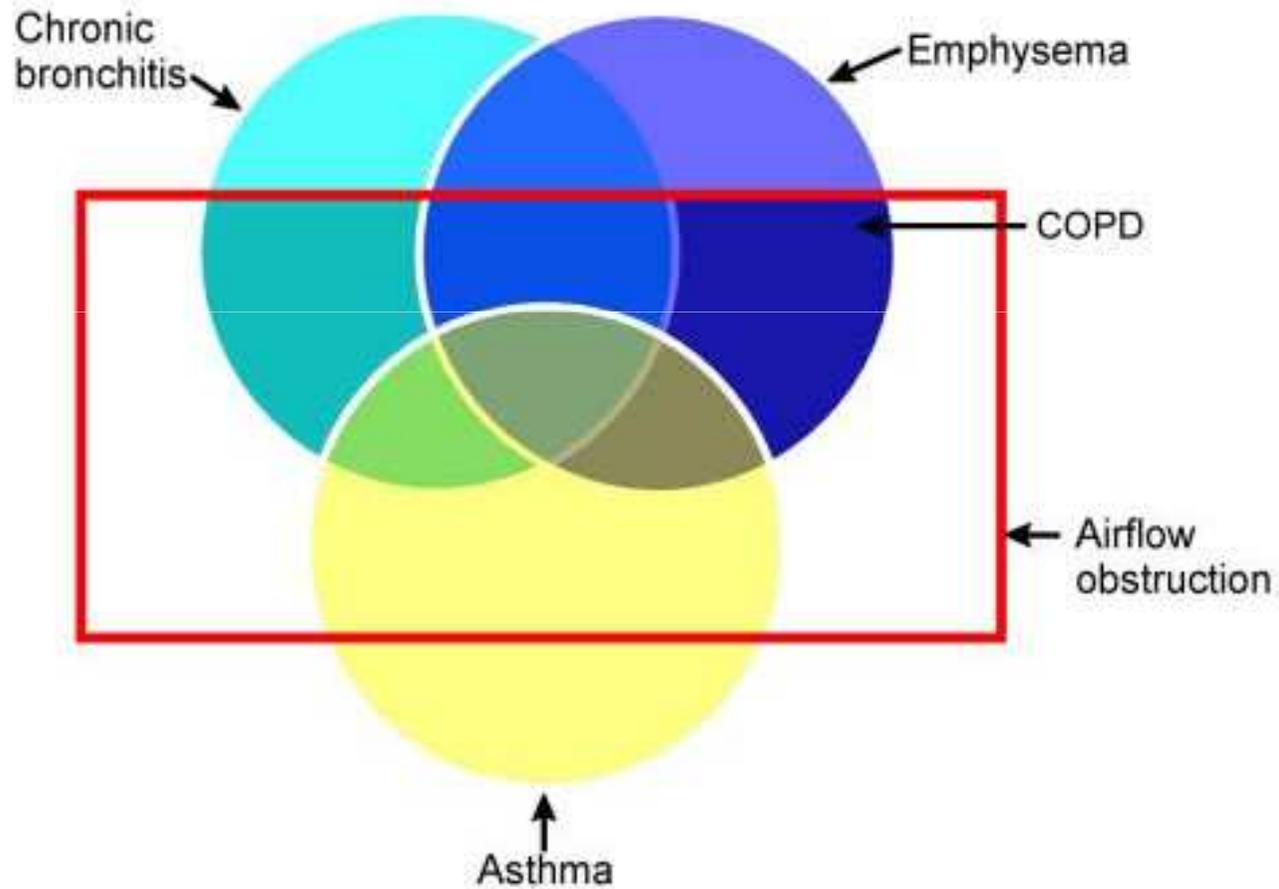
Figure 3: Prevalence of symptoms of asthma in the past 12 months among persons aged 18 to 45 years in 70 countries, World Health Survey 2002-2003.

Figure 5. Asthma deaths per 1,000 persons with asthma, by selected demographic characteristics: United States, average annual 2007-2009

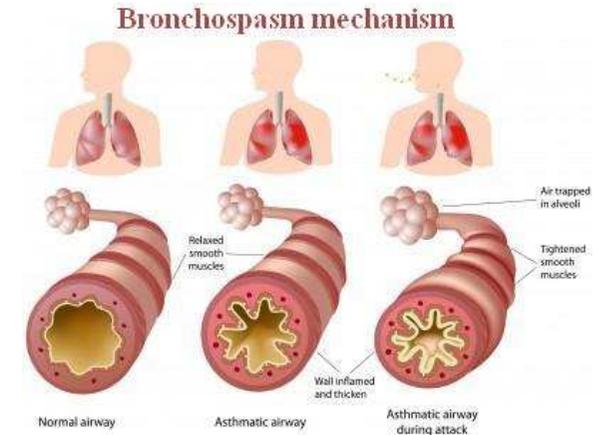


NOTE: Access data table for Figure 5 at: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/asthmaprevalence/asthmaprevalence\\_tables.pdf#5](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/asthmaprevalence/asthmaprevalence_tables.pdf#5).  
 SOURCES: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System and National Health Interview Survey.

# Asthma



# ASTHMA



- The ***bronchospasm*** characteristic of the acute asthmatic attack is typically reversible.
- It improves spontaneously or within minutes to hours of treatment.
- Asthma can exist by itself or coexist with chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or bronchiectasis.

# Asthma Triggers

- Immunologic reactions
- Viral respiratory - sinus infections
- Change in temperature - humidity
- Drugs and Chemicals:
  - aspirin, NSAIDS
- Physical exercise
- GE reflux
- Laughing and coughing
- Environmental factors:
  - strong odors, pollutants, dust, fumes

# Asthma



## Extrinsic / Childhood / Allergy Associated Asthma

- Most common in Children
- Improves with age, often disappearing in adulthood
- If it persists (in about 1% of patients), it's often mild
- An occasional patient may develop COPD, but it is rare

### Precipitating Factors:

- Stress
- Allergens like dust, animal fur
- Drugs like Aspirin, NSAIDs, Penicillin

# Patient Exam

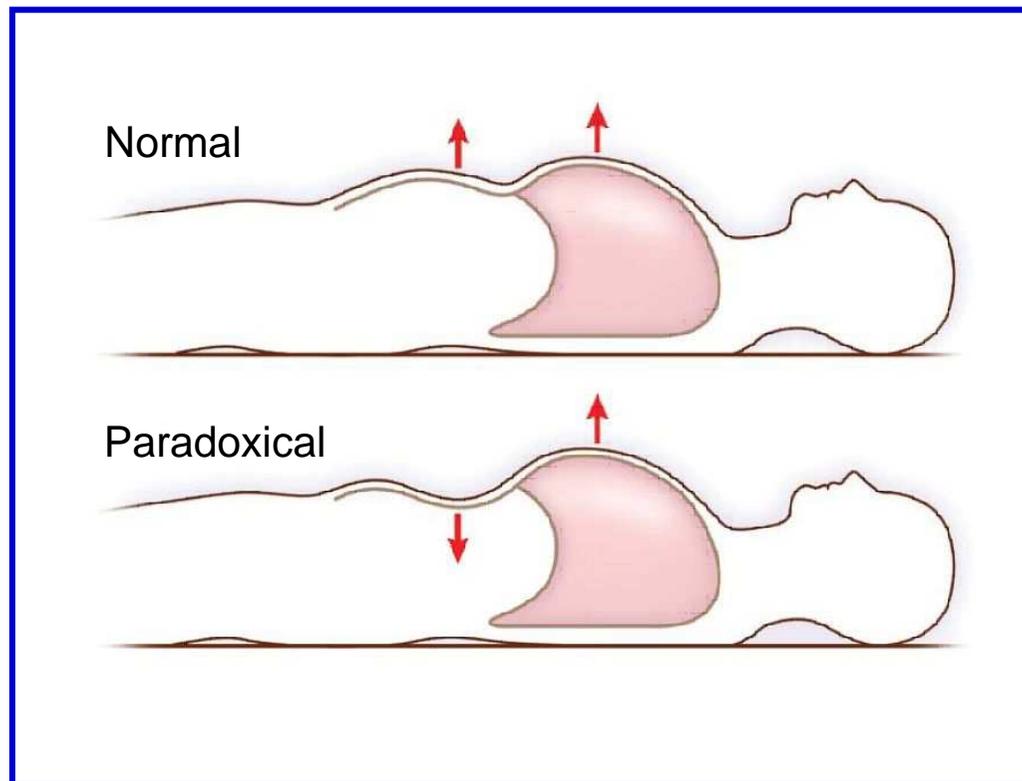
- **Prolongation of expiratory phase with or without wheezing**
- Decreased intensity of breath sounds
- Hypersonance to percussion
- The intensity of the wheeze may not correlate with the severity of airflow obstruction
- **“Quiet chest”**: very severe airflow obstruction

# Patient Exam

- Wheezing
  - may be audible without stethoscope
- Use of accessory muscles
- Diaphragmatic fatigue
- **Paradoxical respiration**
  - reflect impending ventilatory failure
- **Altered mental status**
  - lethargy, exhaustion, agitation, confusion



# Patient Exam



# Managing Asthma

- Indications of a severe attack:

- Hunched forward
- *Not talking, talking in words rather than sentences*
- *Agitated*
- *Paradoxical breathing*



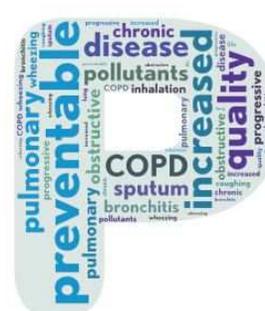
# ASTHMA TREATMENT



- **Oxygen**
- **Short acting B-2 agonists**, inhaled or IV (Salbutamol)
- **Anticholinergics**, inhaled (Ipratropium)
- **Corticosteroids**, inhaled or IV (max. effect: 4-8 h)
- **Magnesium sulfate IV (USA)**
- **Heliox-Oxygen mixture** inhaled (USA)
- **Adrenalin: 0.3-0.5 ml 0.001% IM-sub-cutaneous**
- If tiring (non-normalization of CO<sub>2</sub>/ rising CO<sub>2</sub> or mental status changes) or poorly oxygenating despite O<sub>2</sub> → **Intubate**



# Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)



# COPD

- 3<sup>o</sup> cause of death in USA (150.000/year)
- Hallmark symptom: ***Dyspnea***
- Chronic productive ***cough***
- Minor hemoptysis
- *Pink puffer phenotype*
- *Blue bloater phenotype*





# COPD - Physical Findings

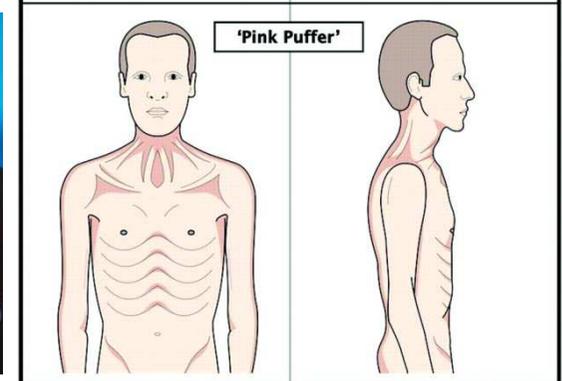
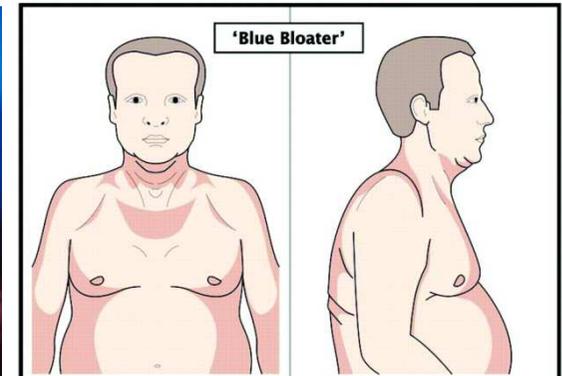
- Tachypnea
- Accessory respiratory muscles use
- Pursed lip exhalation
- Weight loss due to poor dietary intake and excessive caloric expenditure for work of breathing



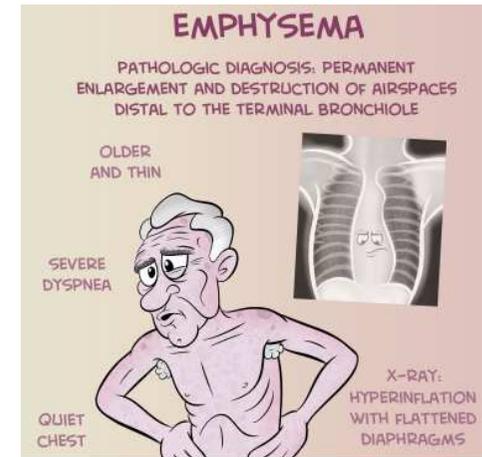
# Two Dominant Clinical Forms of COPD

- Chronic bronchitis (BB)
- Pulmonary emphysema (PP)

– Most of the patients exhibit a mixture of symptoms and signs

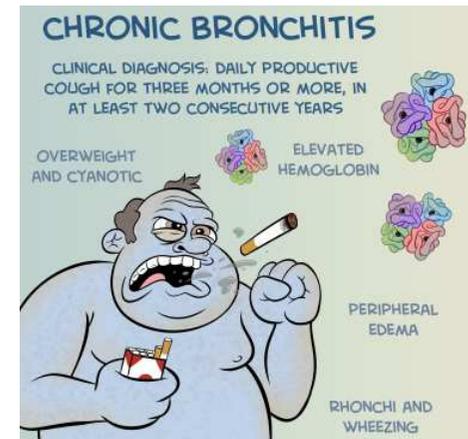


# Pink puffer

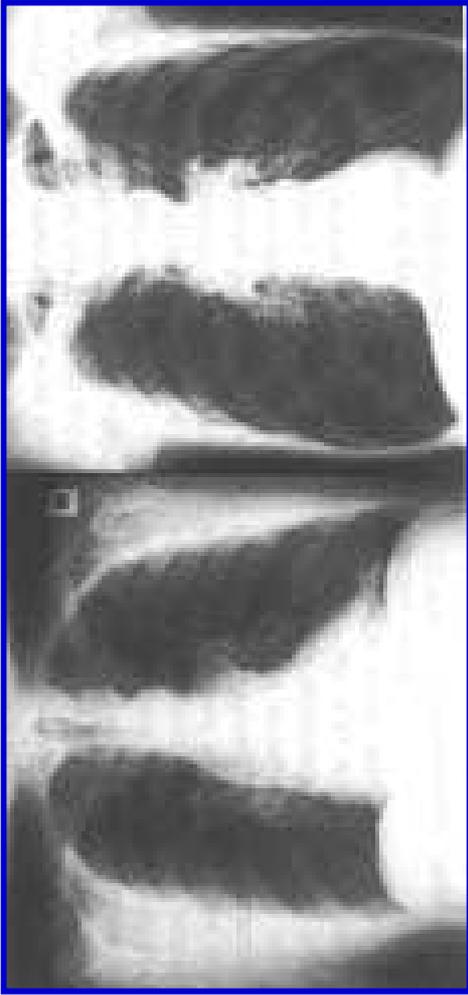


- In "pink puffer" **emphysema** is the primary pathology.
- Emphysema results from **destruction of the airways distal to the terminal bronchiole which includes the gradual destruction of the pulmonary capillary bed** and thus decreased inability to oxygenate. So, there is less surface area for gas exchange but also less vascular bed for gas exchange = **low ventilation-perfusion mismatch**.
- The body then compensate by **hyperventilation** (the "puffer" part). The ABG actually is relatively normal because of this compensatory hyperventilation. Eventually, people afflicted with this disease develop **muscle wasting and weight loss**.
- They actually have less hypoxemia compared to blue bloaters and appear to have a "pink" complexion and hence "pink puffer".

# Blue bloater



- In "blue bloater" the underlying pathology is **chronic bronchitis**
- Excessive mucus production with airway obstruction resulting from hyperplasia of mucus-producing glands, goblet cell metaplasia, and chronic inflammation around bronchi.
- Unlike emphysema, the pulmonary capillary bed is not damaged. The body responds to the increased obstruction by **increasing cardiac output**.
- There is a ventilation to perfusion mismatch leading to **hypoxemia and polycythemia**.
- In addition, they also have increased carbon dioxide retention (**hypercapnia**).
- They are hypoxemic/cyanotic and have worse hypoxemia than pink puffers and this manifests as bluish lips and faces the "blue" part.

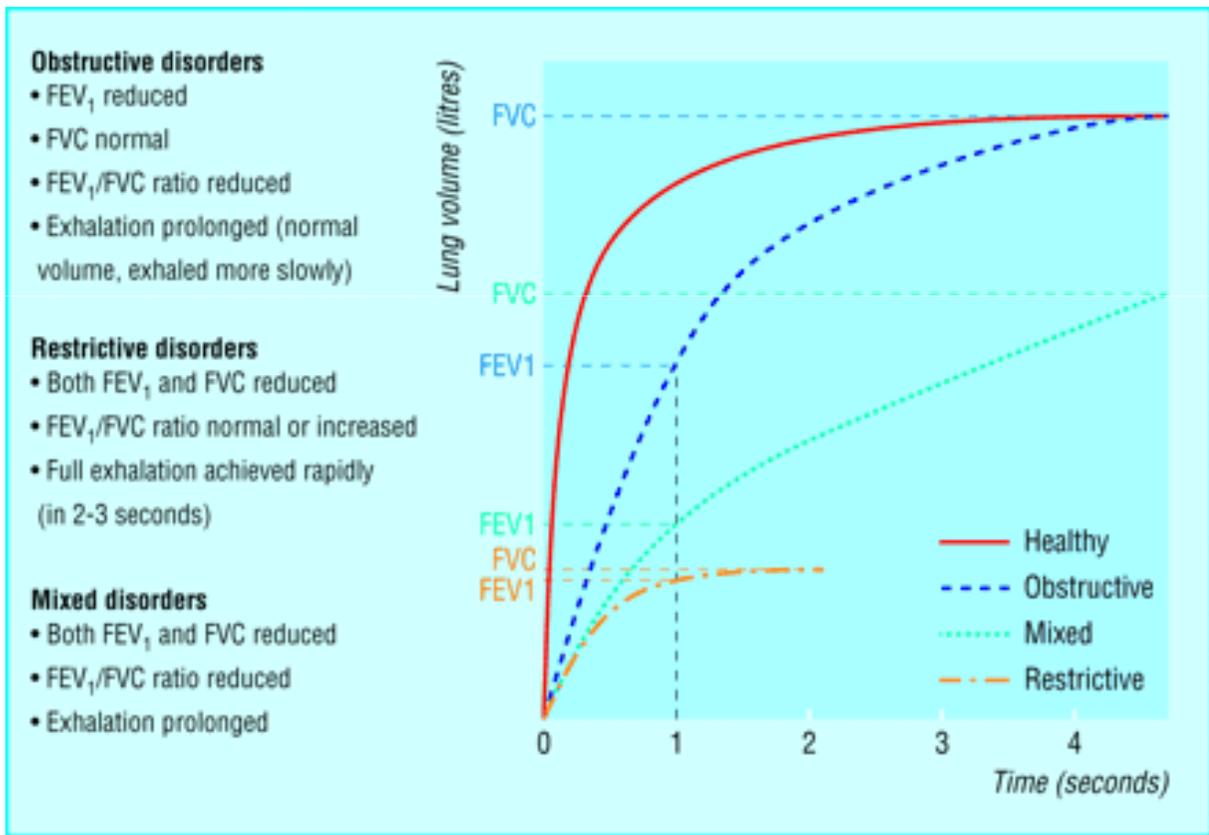


# COPD - Advanced Diagnosis

- Cyanosis
- Secondary polycythemia
- Secondary pulmonary hypertension with / without cor pulmonale
- *Tremor, somnolence, and confusion due to hypercapnia*



# Spirometry



COPD categories	
FEV <sub>1</sub> %age of predicted value	
MILD COPD	60-80%
MODERATE COPD	40-59%
SEVERE COPD	Below 40%

Global Strategy for Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of COPD

# Classification of Severity of Airflow Limitation in COPD

In patients with  $FEV_1/FVC < 0.70$ :

- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>GOLD 1: Mild</b>        | $FEV_1 \geq 80\%$ predicted        |
| <b>GOLD 2: Moderate</b>    | $50\% \leq FEV_1 < 80\%$ predicted |
| <b>GOLD 3: Severe</b>      | $30\% \leq FEV_1 < 50\%$ predicted |
| <b>GOLD 4: Very Severe</b> | $FEV_1 < 30\%$ predicted           |

\*Based on Post-Bronchodilator  $FEV_1$

## Manage **Exacerbations**: Assessments

***ABG measurements (in hospital):*** PaO<sub>2</sub> <90 mmHg with or without PaCO<sub>2</sub> >45 mmHg when breathing room air indicates respiratory failure.

***Chest radiographs:*** useful to exclude alternative diagnoses.

***ECG:*** may aid in the diagnosis of coexisting cardiac problems.

***Whole blood count:*** identify polycythemia, anemia or bleeding.

***Purulent sputum*** during an exacerbation: indication to begin empirical antibiotic treatment.

Biochemical tests: detect electrolyte disturbances, diabetes, and poor nutrition.

***Spirometric tests:*** are not recommended during an exacerbation.

# COPD EXACERBATION TREATMENT

- **Oxygen:** Must prevent hypoxemia. Watch for hypercapnia with O<sub>2</sub> therapy !!! (*reduced ventilatory drive*)
- **Inhaled B-2 agonist** (aerosol, e.g. Salbutamol, Albuterol)
- **Inhaled Anticholinergic** (aerosol, e.g. Ipratropium - Atem, Oxitropium)
- **Corticosteroids** (aerosol or oral or IV; e.g. methylprednisolone: Urbason 40 mg day; Betametasone: Bentelan)
- Consider use of **Antibiotics** if change in sputum or fever; e.g. Quinolones)
- If patient is tiring out, not oxygenating well despite O<sub>2</sub>, developing worsening respiratory acidosis or mental status changes → **Intubate.**

# COPD Treatment Strategy

- **Elimination of extrinsic irritants**
- **Inhaled Bronchodilators:**
  - Long-acting Anticholinergics (e.g. Tiotropium - Spiriva)
  - Long-acting B-adrenergic drugs (e.g. Salmeterol - Serevent, Indacaterol - Breezhaler)
- **Inhaled Glucocorticoids**
- **Mobilization of secretions**
- **Flu vaccination**
- **“Respiratory vaccines”**
- **Chronic Oxygen therapy:** if oxygen saturation constantly  $<90\%$  at rest on room air



**PNEUMONIA**

# Pneumonia

## - Definition

- **Pneumonia** is an abnormal inflammatory condition of the lung. It is often characterized as including inflammation of the parenchyma of the lung (that is, the alveoli) *and* abnormal alveolar filling with fluid (consolidation and exudation)

- 8th leading cause of death in the USA
- Number of discharges: 1.1 million/year
- Number of death: > 55.000/year



# Definizione di Polmonite

***Malattia acuta con immagine radiologica di addensamento polmonare segmentario o multiplo, non preesistente, né riferibile ad altre cause note, che compare entro 72 ore dall'esordio clinico dei sintomi.***

***(British Thoracic Society)***

# PNEUMONIA CLASSIFICATION

## PNEUMONIA CLASSIFICATION

CAP • Community Acquired

HCAP • Health Care Associated

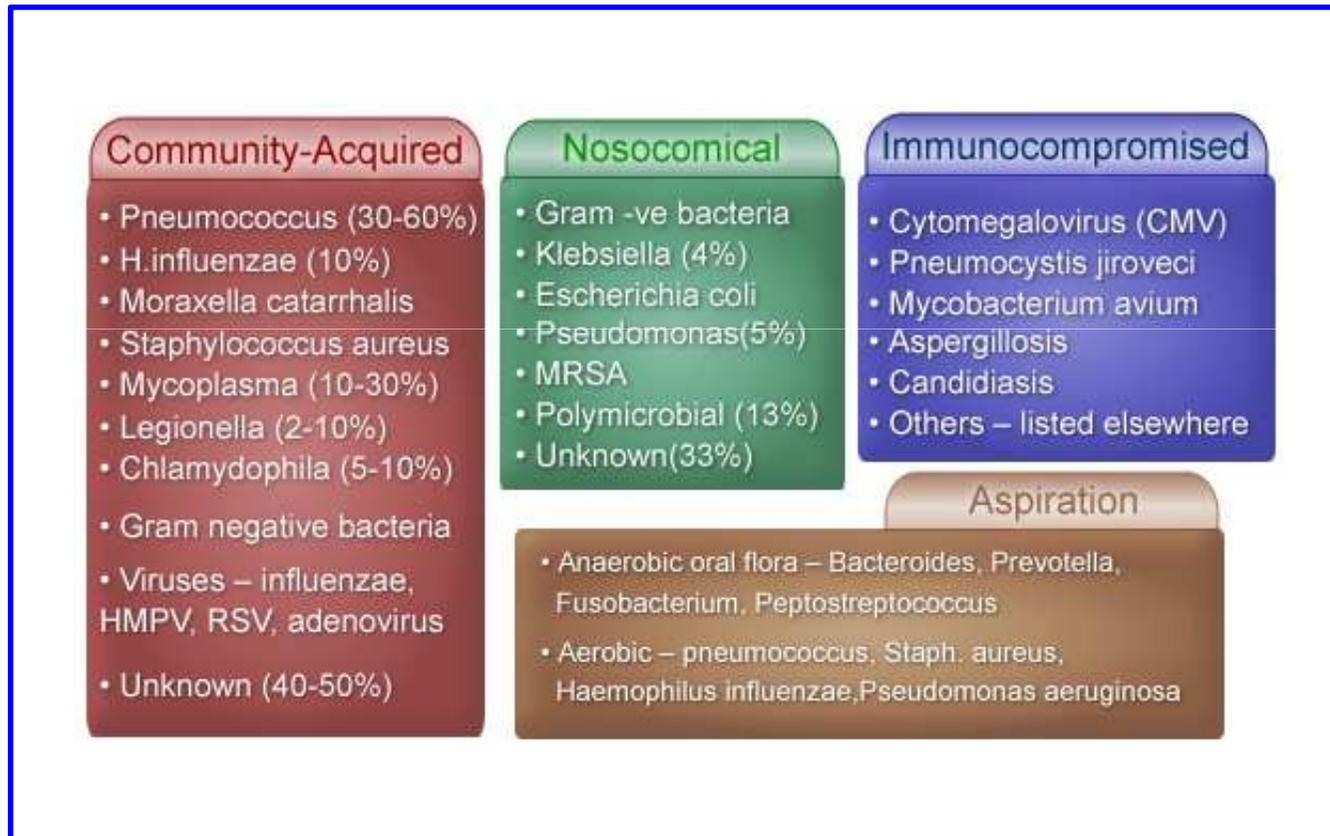
HAP • Hospital Acquired

ICUAP • ICU Acquired

VAP • Ventilator Acquired

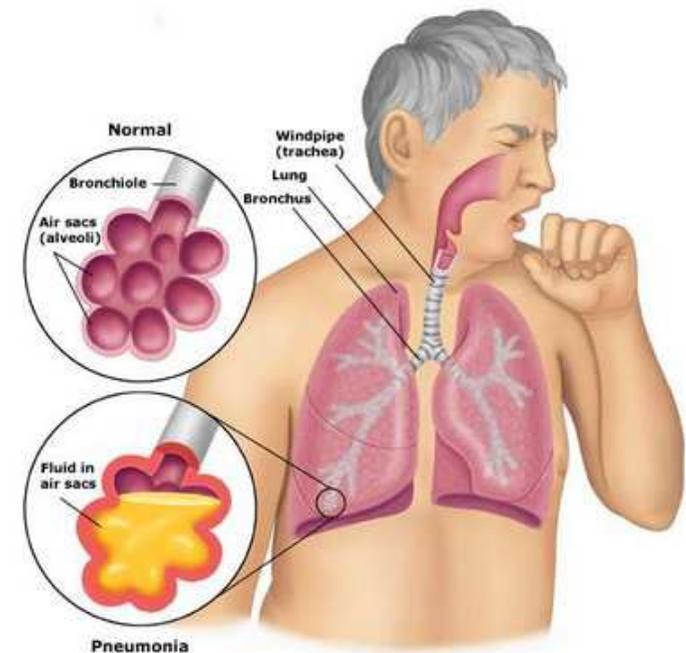
Nosocomial Pneumonias

# ETIOLOGY OF PNEUMONIA



# Classic Pneumonia Symptoms

- High fever, cough/sputum
- **Dyspnea**, chills
- Pleuritic chest pain
- May be all absent in elderly patients



# Bacterial pneumonia

- Often unilateral infiltrate on x-ray
- Most common cause: pneumococcal followed by haemophilus influenza
- *High mortality in elderly population*



- Pneumococcus pneumonia accounts for up to 60% of all bacterial pneumonias
- Older subjects and patients with chronic diseases are at an increased risk of contracting pneumonia

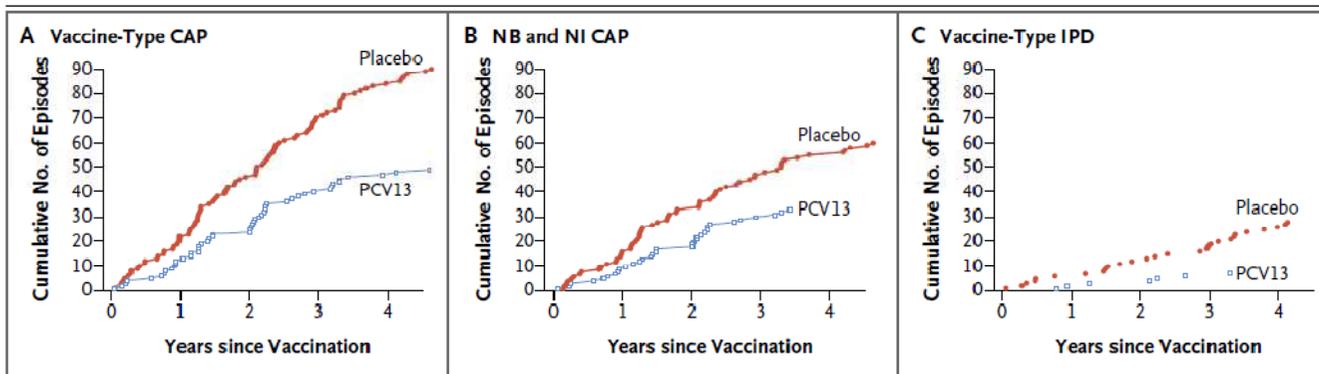
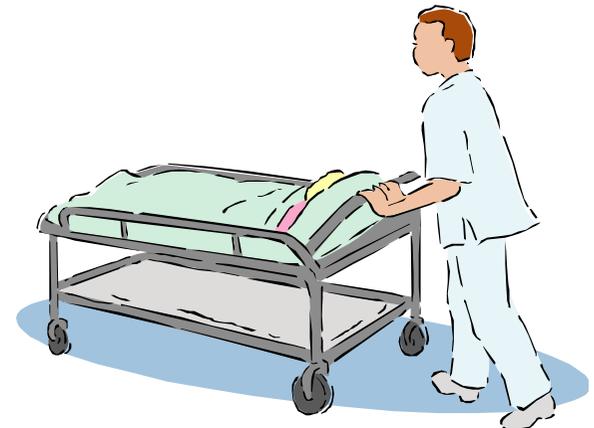


Figure 2. Post Hoc Analysis of the Cumulative Episodes of the Primary and Secondary Efficacy End Points in the Per-Protocol Population.



# Bacterial pneumonia presentation

- Acute shaking - chills
- **Dyspnea, tachypnea**
- Tachycardia
- Malaise
- Anorexia
- Myalgias
- Flank or back pain
- Vomiting



# Lab Tests

- **Chest X-ray**
- WBC
- Pulse Ox
- ABG
- Sputum exam
- Blood cultures
- Pleural fluid exam if present



# Atypical Pneumonia

- Accounts for about 20-30% of community acquired pneumonias
- **Mycoplasma / Chlamyda / Legionella**
- Can cause extrapulmonary manifestations:
  - meningitis, encephalitis, pericarditis, hepatitis, hemolytic anemia
  - typically bilateral infiltrates on chest x-ray
  - primarily effects younger persons



# Atypical Pneumonia

## (Typical) Pneumonia

- Typical CAPs with clinical and laboratory findings limited to the lungs
- Typical bacterial pathogens have classically responded to b-lactam antimicrobial therapy because they have a cell wall amenable to b-lactam disruption.
- Chest radiograph will show lobar or segmental homogeneous opacity in over 80% of typical bacterial pneumonias.

## Atypical Pneumonia

- Systemic infectious disease with a pulmonary component
- In contrast, most of the atypical pathogens do not have a bacterial cell wall and some are intracellular, e.g., Legionella, and still others are paracellular, e.g., M. pneumoniae
- This finding can also be seen in nearly half the cases of atypical infection, but diffuse patchy or ground glass shadows are more commonly observed.

\*Fishman's Pulmonary Diseases and Disorders, vol 2, 3rd edn, McGraw Hill, 1996

\*The atypical pneumonias: clinical diagnosis and importance, B.A. Cunha, Clin Microbiol Infect 2006; 12 (Suppl. 3): 12-24

## Antibiotics:

- **Macrolides:** e.g. Zitromax 500 mg/day for 3 days oral - IV
- **Quinolones:** Levofloxacin 500-1000 mg/day oral - IV
- **Doxycycline:** 100-200 mg/day

## Legionella



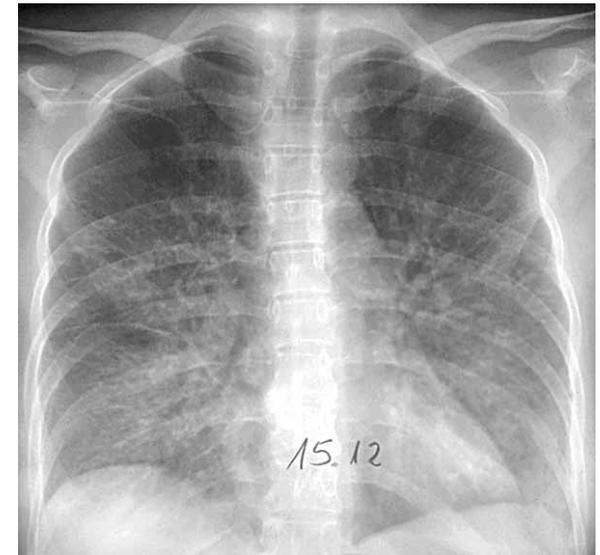
## Mycoplasma

# Viral Pneumonia - symptoms

- Fever
- **Dyspnea**
- Chest Pain
- Prodrome: malaise, upper respiratory symptoms, other G.I. symptoms

# Viral pneumonia: Clinical Findings

- Minimal / variable
- Chest exam: may reveal wheezing
- Fine rales if heard can signify interstitial involvement
- Chest x-ray: patchy densities or interstitial involvement



# Viral pneumonia Management

- Supportive treatment: decrease severity of symptoms
- Bed rest
- Analgesics (paracetamol)
- Expectorants
- Patients with:
  - airway obstruction: bronchodilators
  - secondary bacterial infection: antibiotics

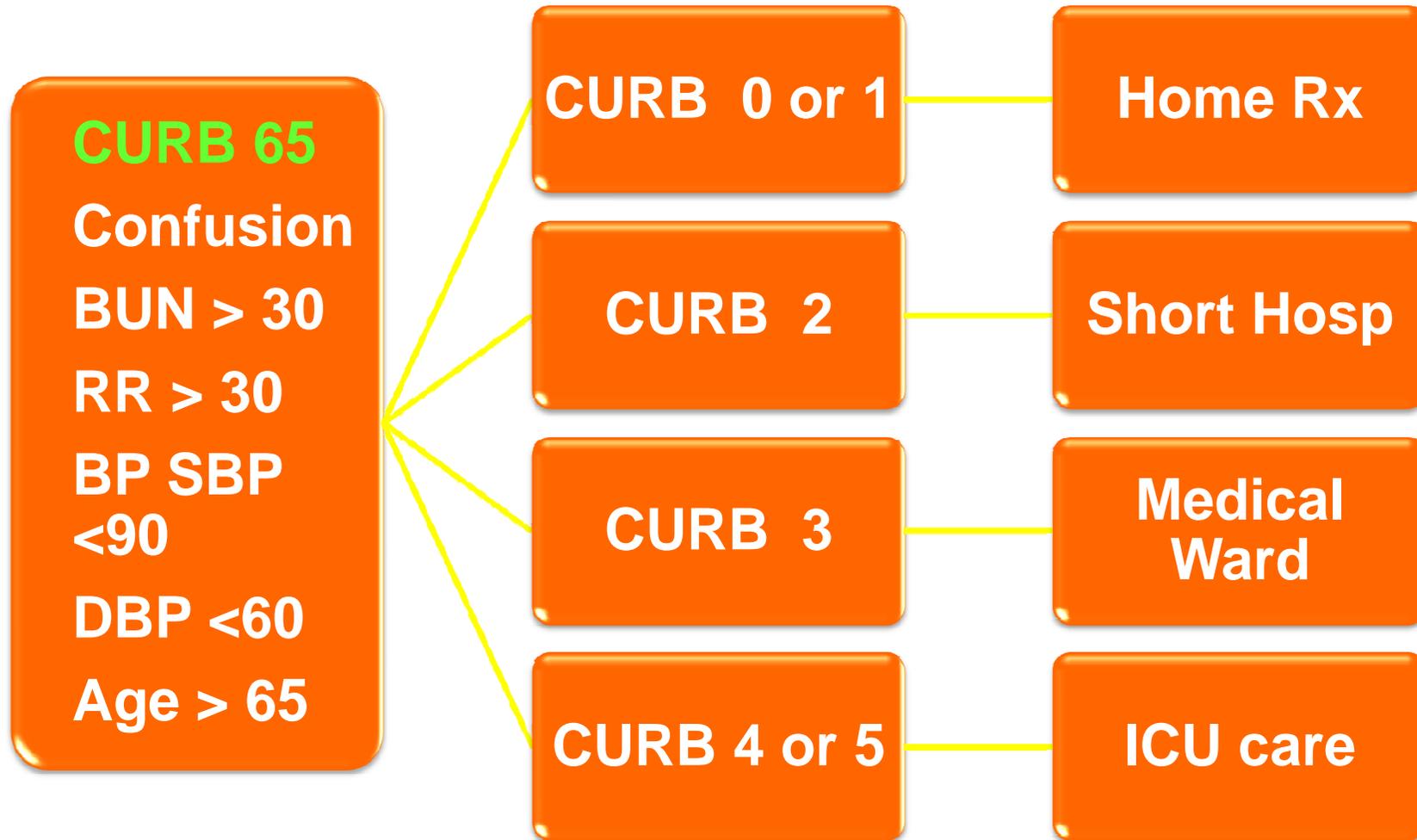
# Admit or not admit to hospital ?

## Pneumonia Severity & Deciding Site of Care

- Using objective criteria to stratify the risk and assist in decision outpatient vs inpatient management
- **CURB-65**
- **PSI (Fine)**
- Caveats:
  - Other reasons to admit apart from risk of death
  - Not validated for ward vs ICU
  - Labs/vitals dynamic



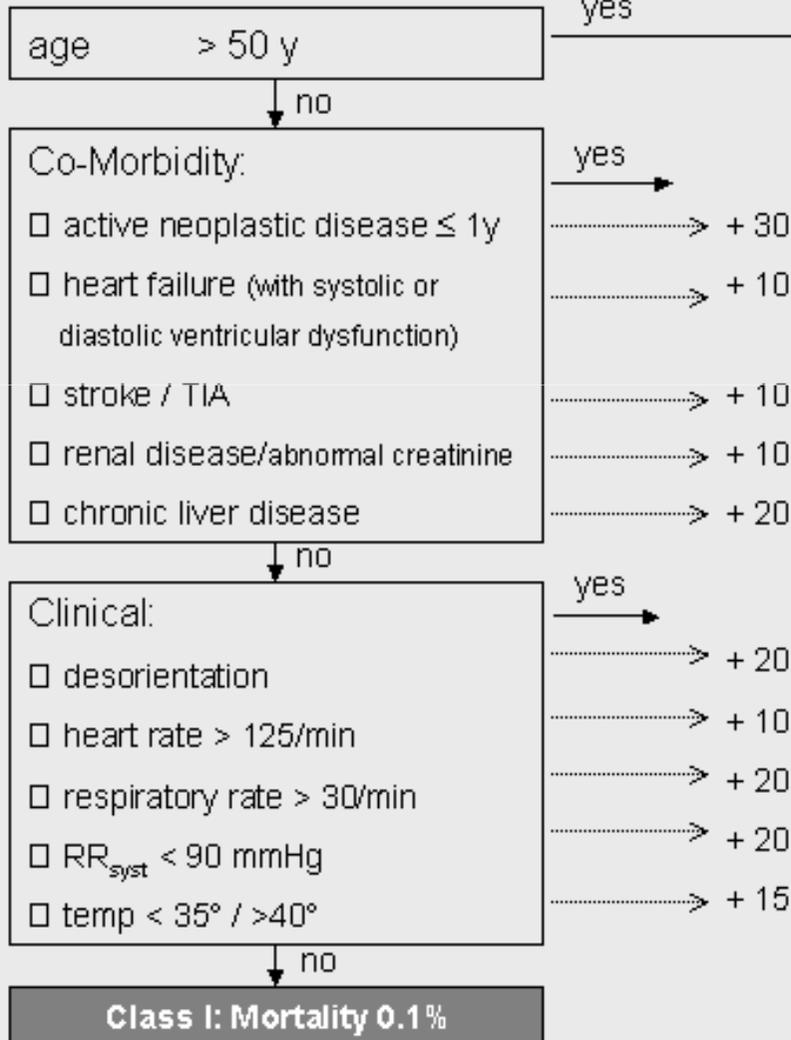
# CURB 65 Rule – Management of CAP



# Pneumonia Severity Index

PSI = Pneumonia Severity Index for immunocompetent adults (Fine N Engl J Med 1997;336:243)

## Step 1 without score



## Step 2 with scoring

age	m (in years)	.....
	f (in years -10)	.....
nursing home		+ 10
<b>Blood tests &amp; radiology</b>		
art. pH	< 7.35	..... + 30
P-urea	> 11mmol/l	..... + 20
P-sodium	< 130 mmol/l	..... + 20
P-glucose	> 14 mmol/l	..... + 10
Hematokrit	< 30%	..... + 10
PaO2	< 60 mmHg	..... + 10
effusion		..... + 10

total score .....

< 70	<b>Class II</b>	<b>Mortality 0.6%</b>
71-90	<b>Class III</b>	<b>Mortality 0.9%</b>
91-130	<b>Class IV</b>	<b>Mortality 9.3%</b>
> 130	<b>Class V</b>	<b>Mortality 27.0%</b>

**Class I-III: consider outpatient rx**

# PNEUMONIA: TREATMENT

## COMMUNITY DWELLING SUBJECT: (*Streptococcus pneumoniae*)

- \* B lactamin + Macrolide (Clarithromycin – Azitromycin) Oral - IV
- \* Fluoroquinolone: Moxifloxacin or Levofloxacin Oral - IV

## HOSPITAL acquired PNEUMONIA (Gram -)

- \* Second-third generation Cephalosporin + Macrolide/  
Fluoroquinolone or Piperacillin + Meropenem/Imipenem IV
- **Pseudomonas:** Ceftazidime/Cefepime + Imipenem/Cipro IV
- **Staphylococcus meticillin-resistant:** Vancomin or Teicoplanin IV

**TABLE 6 Guidelines for Treatment of Pneumonia in Adults**

Source/ Setting	Empiric Therapy	Empiric Therapy— Severe Penicillin Allergy <sup>1</sup>	Likely Pathogens	Directed Therapy	Usual Duration
Community <sup>2</sup>	Ceftriaxone + azithromycin	Levofloxacin	Pneumococcus <i>Legionella</i> Mycoplasma <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> <i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i> <i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>	Penicillin G Azithromycin Doxycycline Cefuroxime Doxycycline Cefuroxime	7-14 d
Community- aspiration	Amp/Sulb	Clindamycin	Mouth flora	Amp/Sulb or clindamycin	14 d
Hospital or hospital- aspiration or VAP	Pip/Tazo ± vancomycin ± gentamicin <sup>3</sup>	Ciprofloxacin + vancomycin	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> <i>Enterobacter</i> sp  <i>Serratia marcescens</i> <i>Klebsiella</i> sp <i>Acinetobacter</i> sp <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Pip/Tazo + gentamicin <sup>4</sup> Pip/Tazo <sup>6</sup> ± gentamicin Pip/Tazo Pip/Tazo Meropenem <sup>7</sup> Oxacillin <sup>8</sup>	8 d <sup>5</sup>

1 For severe penicillin allergy (ie, anaphylaxis). For delayed hypersensitivity reactions (eg, rash to a penicillin), a third/fourth-generation cephalosporin (ie, ceftriaxone for CAP/cefepime for HAP) or carbapenem may be considered.

2 In immunocompromised hosts, consider adding TMP/SMX for *Pneumocystis jirovecii* (*carinii*) coverage.

3 Amikacin should be considered in intensive care units where gentamicin/tobramycin susceptibilities are lower.

4 Substitute tobramycin if resistant to gentamicin.

5 Consider a longer 14-day duration for *Pseudomonas* and *Acinetobacter* HAP.

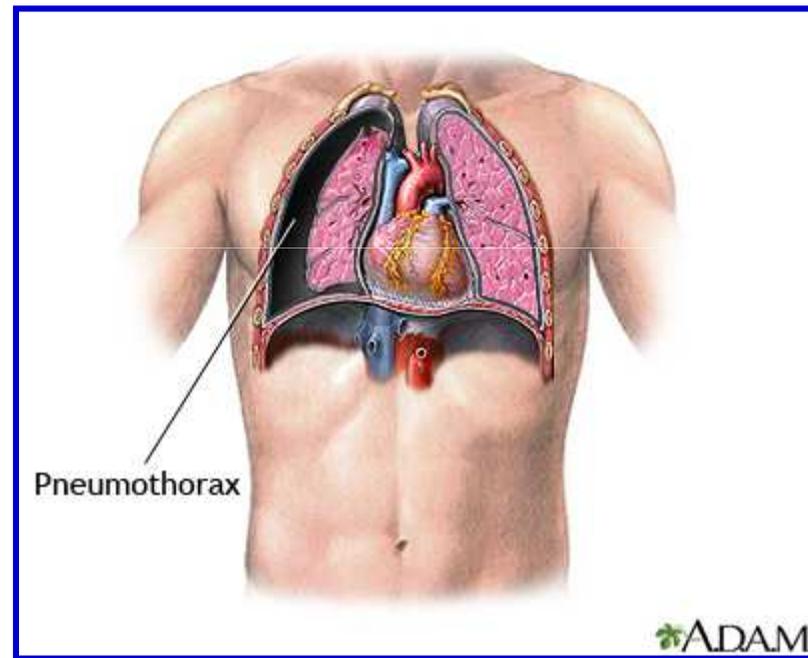
6 For piperacillin/tazobactam-resistant isolates, TMP/SMX or meropenem may be appropriate alternative agents.

7 Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter* have been detected. Consider ampicillin/sulbactam or ID consult for alternative therapies.

8 Note that 50% of *S aureus* are resistant to oxacillin (or methicillin) and ceftazolin. Vancomycin is appropriate in such patients.

<p><b>Guidelines for Antimicrobial Usage</b> 2012-2013</p>  <p><b>Cleveland Clinic</b></p>
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# Pneumothorax



# Two most common symptoms

- **Dyspnea**
- **Chest pain**

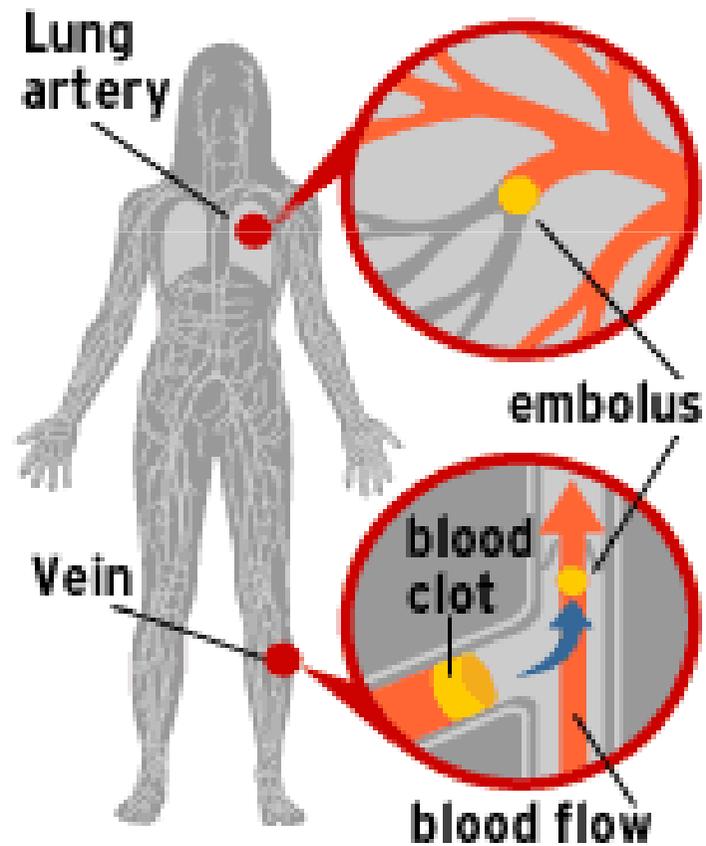


# Physical Examination

- Unilateral decreased breath sounds
- Hyper-resonance to percussion
- Decreased tactile fremitus

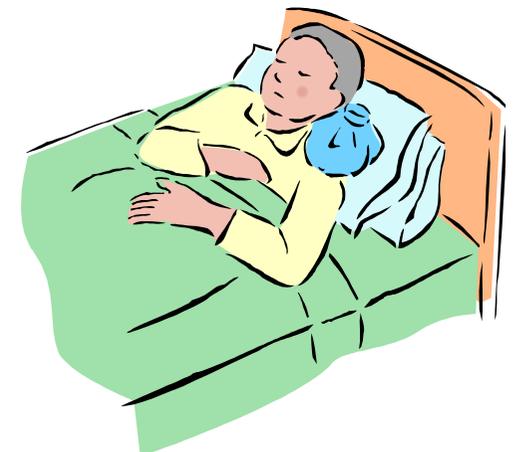
NB: In patients with emphysema - clinical findings may be subtle

# Pulmonary Embolism

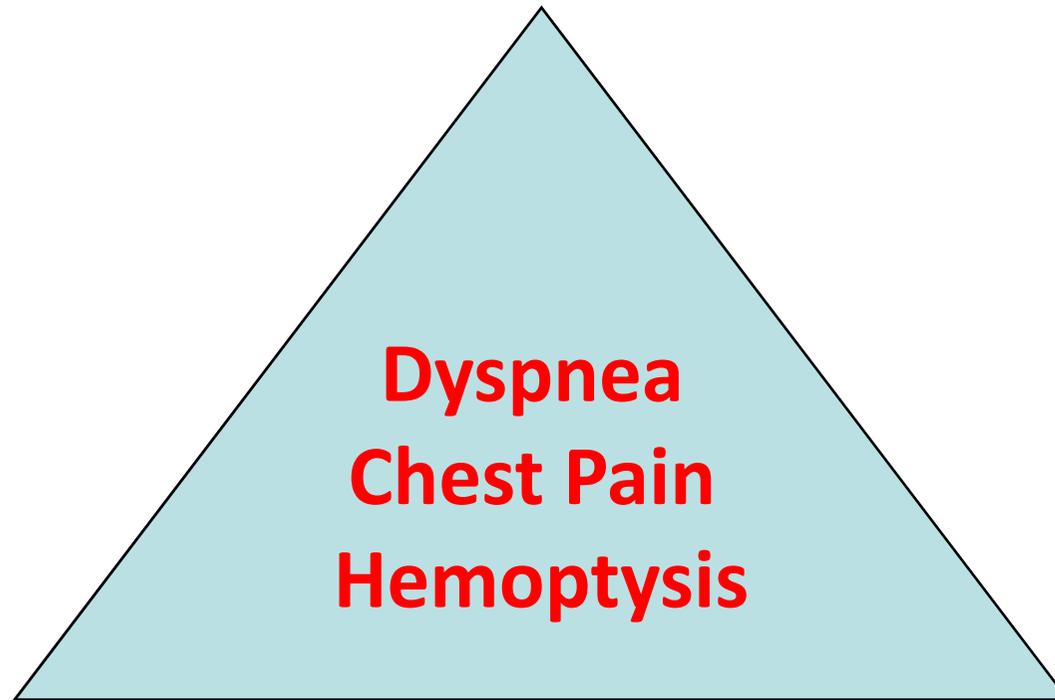


# PE History

- PE is so common and deadly that the diagnosis should be considered in any patient who presents with chest symptoms that cannot be proven to have another cause !



# Classic triad of signs/symptoms

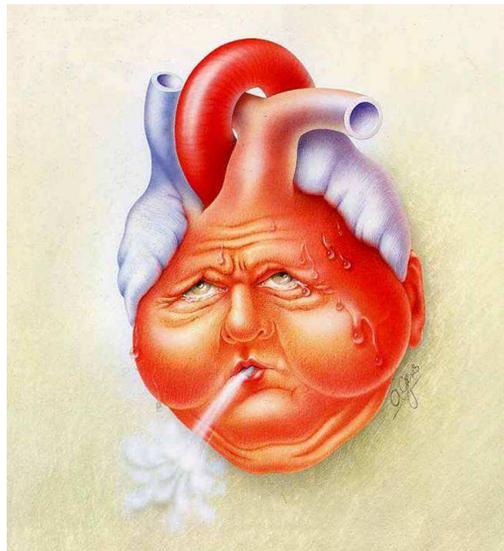


These symptoms are not sensitive nor specific  
and occur in fewer than 20% of patients  
diagnosed with PE !

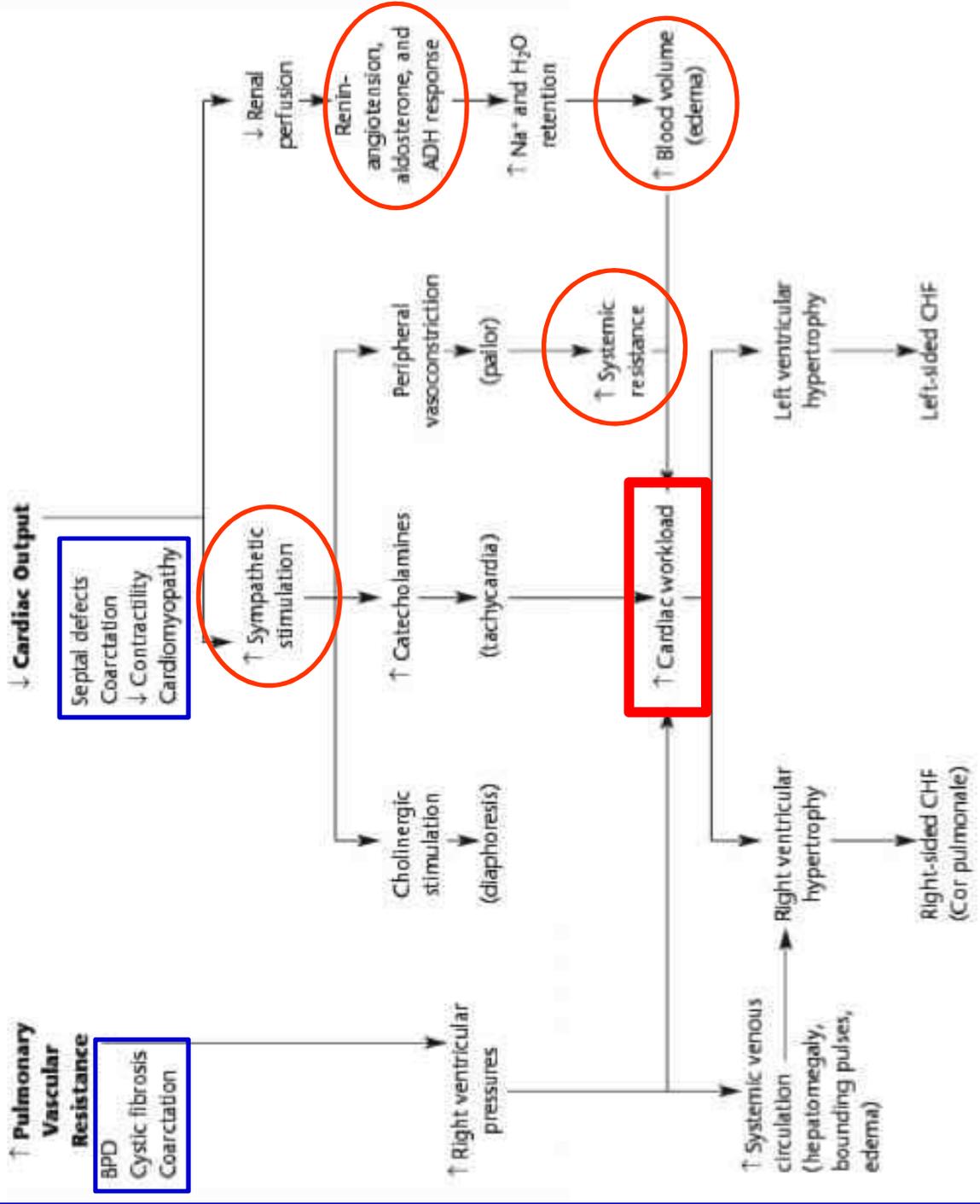
# Massive PE: Signs/Symptoms

- **Tachypnea / Dyspnea - 96%**
- **Rales - 58%**
- **Tachycardia - 44%**
- **Fever - 43%**
- S<sub>3</sub> or S<sub>4</sub> gallop - 34%
- Signs/symptoms suggestive of thrombophlebitis -32%
- Lower extremity edema - 24%
- Cardiac murmur - 23%
- Cyanosis - 19%

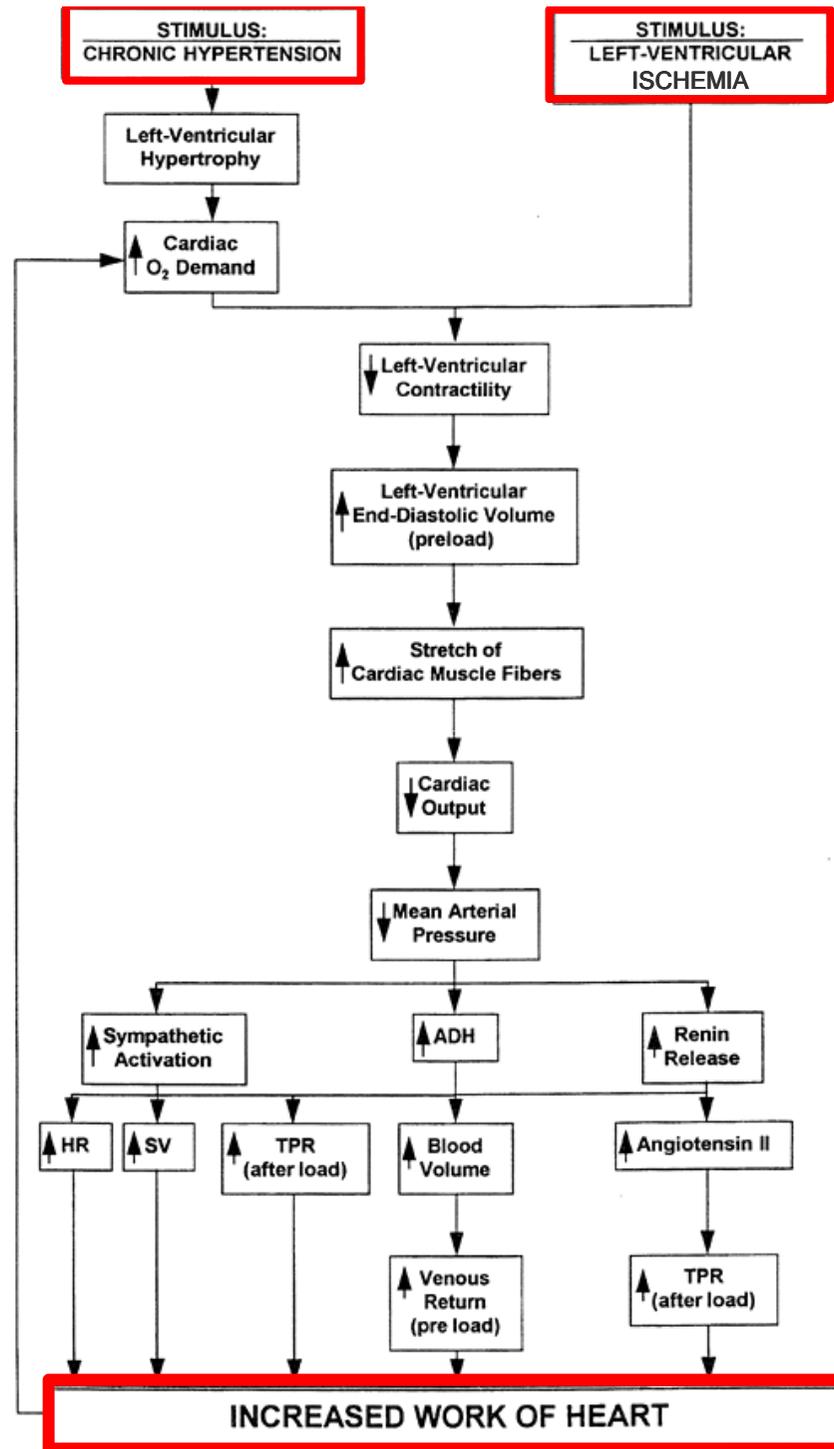
# Congestive Heart Failure (CHF)



# CONGESTIVE HEART FAILURE



# CHF



HR: HEART RATE

TRP: TOT. PER. RES



# Hibernating myocardium

In Hibernating Myocardium **some segments of the myocardium exhibit abnormalities of contractile function**; these abnormalities can be visualised by ECHO.

**The wall of the affected segments is hypo-, a-, or dyskinetic.**

The phenomenon is clinically important since it usually manifests in setting of **chronic ischemia that is potentially reversible by revascularisation**. **The regions of myocardium are still viable and can restore its function**

There develops a new steady state between myocardial blood flow (MBF) and myocardial function: MBF reduced and in consequence function is reduced too. The clinical situations where one can expect hibernating myocardium are: **angina, silent ischemia, post-AMI**

# Hibernating myocardium

**initial situation**

chronically reduced O<sub>2</sub>-supply

**ISCHEMIA CRONICA**

- downregulation of regional function
- intra- and extracellular degeneration

**MIOCARDIO  
IBERNATO**

**adaptation**

complete

incomplete

**degeneration**

slight — moderate — severe

dependent on severity of degeneration

**intervention**

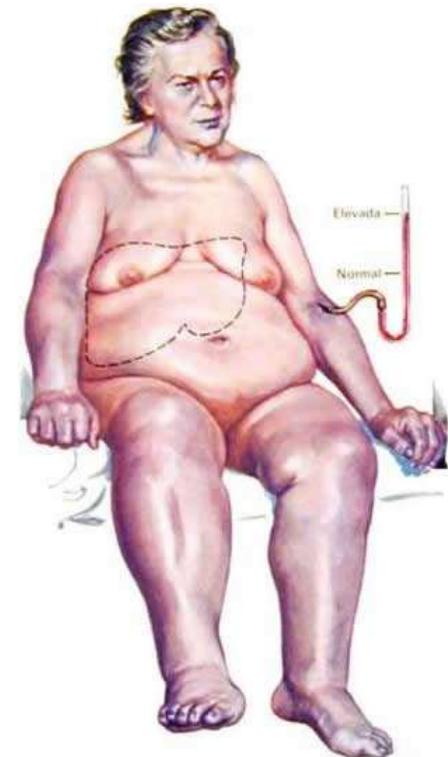
**recovery**

complete — partial



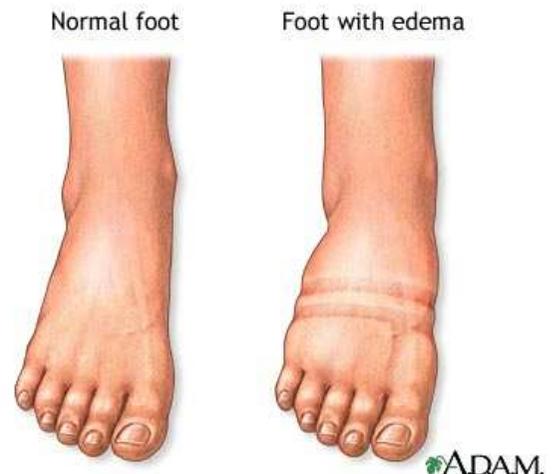
# Left sided Failure

- Blood/fluid back-up into the lungs results in:
  - **Dyspnea**
  - **Paroxysmal Nocturnal Dyspnea**
  - **Orthopnea**
  - Cough (especially at night)
  - Fatigue



# Right sided Failure

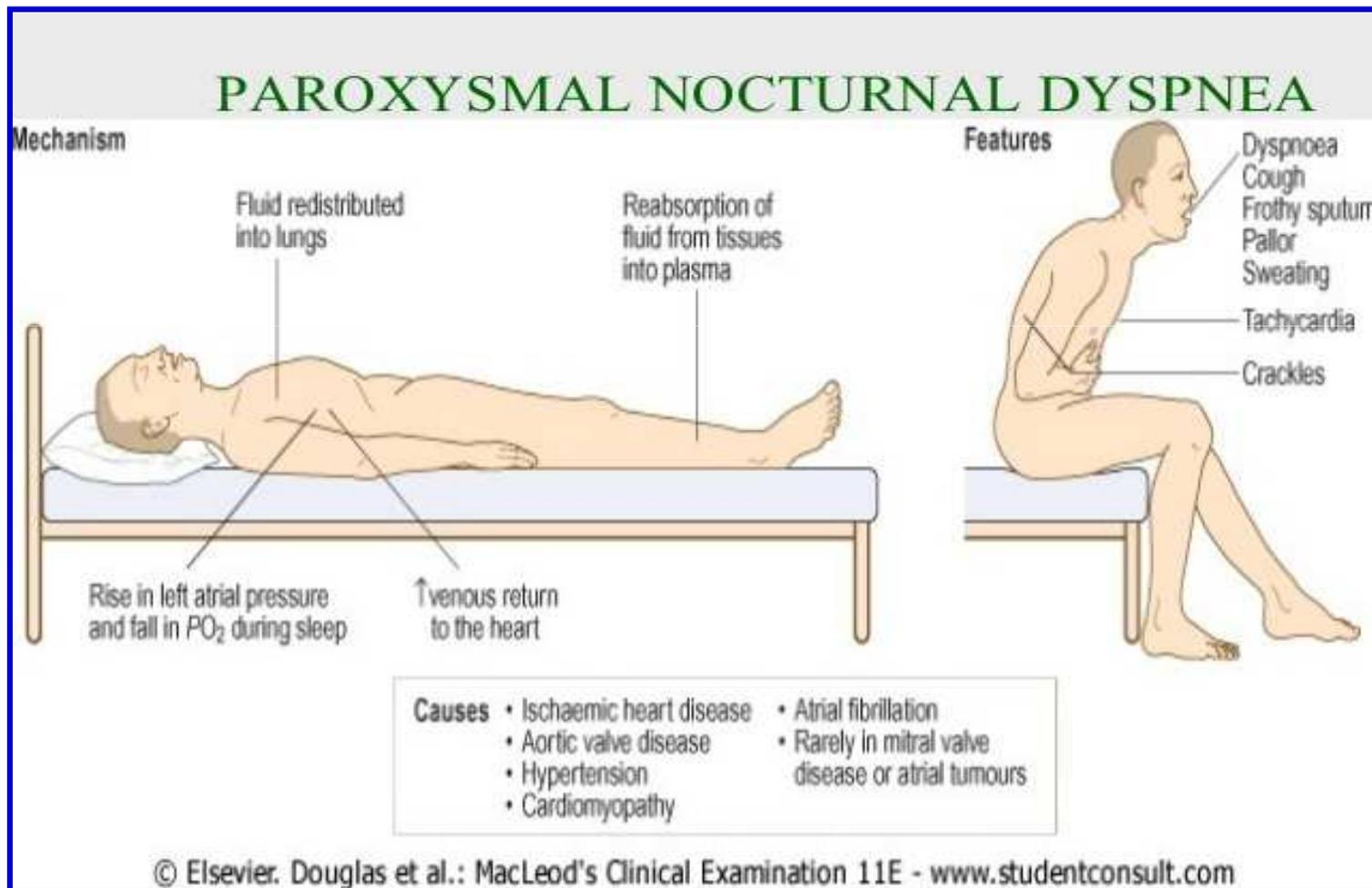
- Build-up of fluid in the veins:
  - **Edema** of feet, legs and ankles
  - May effect liver/portal circulation and 3rd spacing into soft tissue / **ascites** / **pleural effusion**



# Physical Findings in CHF

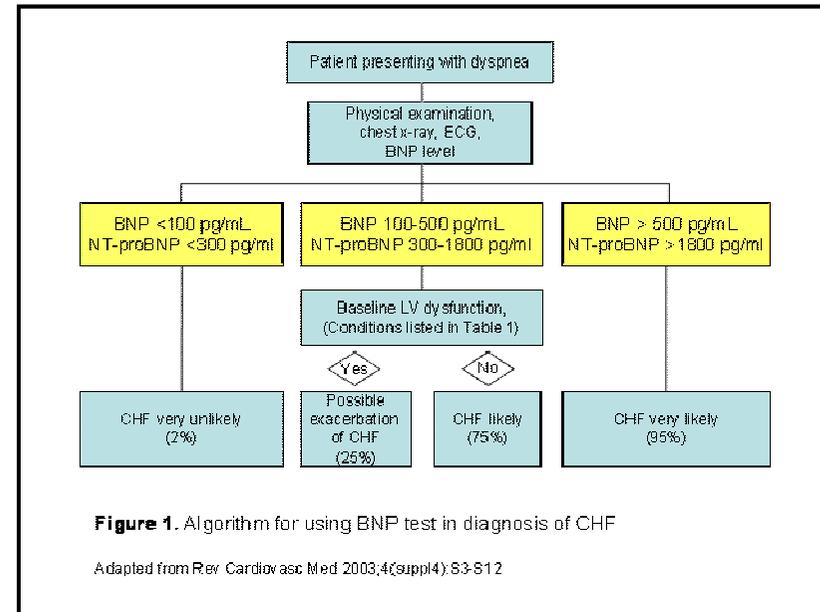
- Peripheral edema (legs, back)
- **Dyspnea, Tachypnea** (using accessory muscles of respiration)
- Jugular veins distension
- Tachycardia
- Skin: diaphoretic / cold / gray / cyanotic
- Wheezing / rales on auscultation
- Ascites
- Hepatosplenomegaly
- Apical impulse displaced laterally

# Physical Findings in CHF



# Diagnostic Work-Up in CHF

- History – risk factors
- **Physical examination**
- EKG
- **Echo**
- **Chest x-ray**
- **BNPs** →
- ABG





# 2013 ACCF/AHA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure

*Developed in Collaboration With the American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Chest Physicians, Heart Rhythm Society, and International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation*

Endorsed by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation

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# Definition of Heart Failure

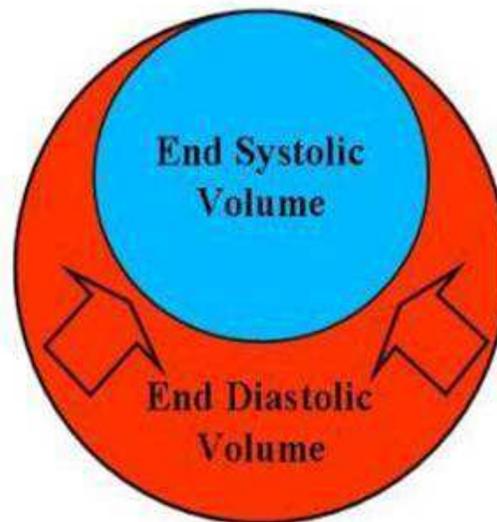


Classification	Ejection Fraction	Description
<b>I. Heart Failure with <i>Reduced</i> Ejection Fraction (HFrEF)</b>	<b><math>\leq 40\%</math></b>	Also referred to as <b>Systolic HF</b> . Randomized clinical trials have mainly enrolled patients with HFrEF and it is only in these patients that <u>efficacious therapies have been demonstrated to date.</u>
<b>II. Heart Failure with <i>Preserved</i> Ejection Fraction (HFpEF)</b>	<b><math>\geq 50\%</math></b>	Also referred to as <b>Diastolic HF</b> . Several different criteria have been used to further define HFpEF. The diagnosis of HFpEF is challenging because it is largely one of excluding other potential noncardiac causes of symptoms suggestive of HF. <u>To date, efficacious therapies have not been identified.</u>
<b>a. HFpEF, Borderline</b>	<b>41% to 49%</b>	<i>These patients fall into a borderline or intermediate group. Their characteristics, treatment patterns, and outcomes appear similar to those of patient with HFpEF.</i>
<b>b. HFpEF, Improved</b>	<b><math>&gt;40\%</math></b>	<i>It has been recognized that a subset of patients with HFpEF previously had HFrEF. These patients with improvement or recovery in EF may be clinically distinct from those with persistently preserved or reduced EF. Further research is needed to better characterize these patients.</i>

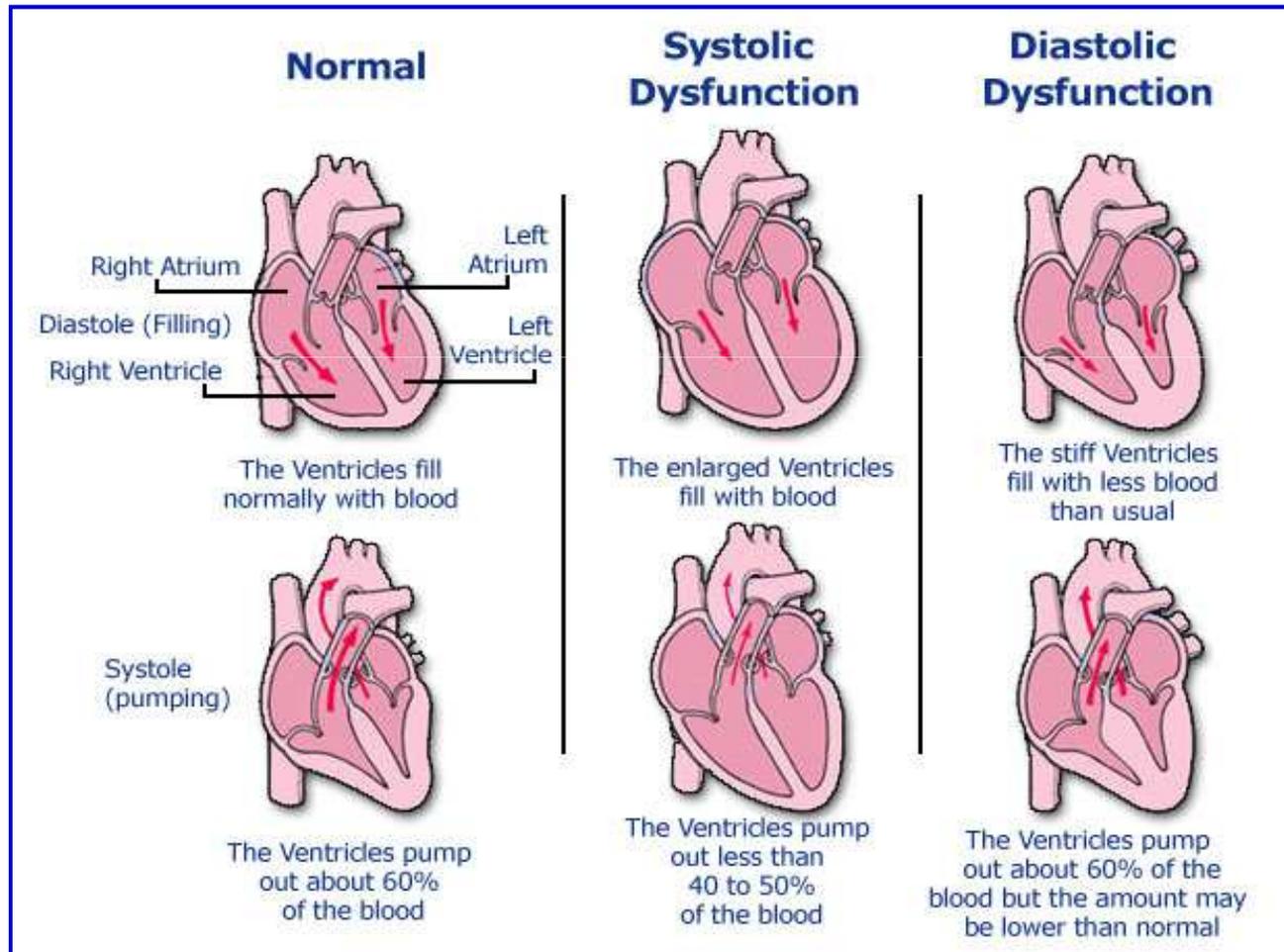
# FRAZIONE DI EJEZIONE

## Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction

$$\text{LVEF} = \frac{\text{STROKE VOLUME} = \text{END DIASTOLIC VOLUME} - \text{END SYSTOLIC VOLUME}}{\text{END DIASTOLIC VOLUME}}$$



# CHF sub-types



# Classification of Heart Failure

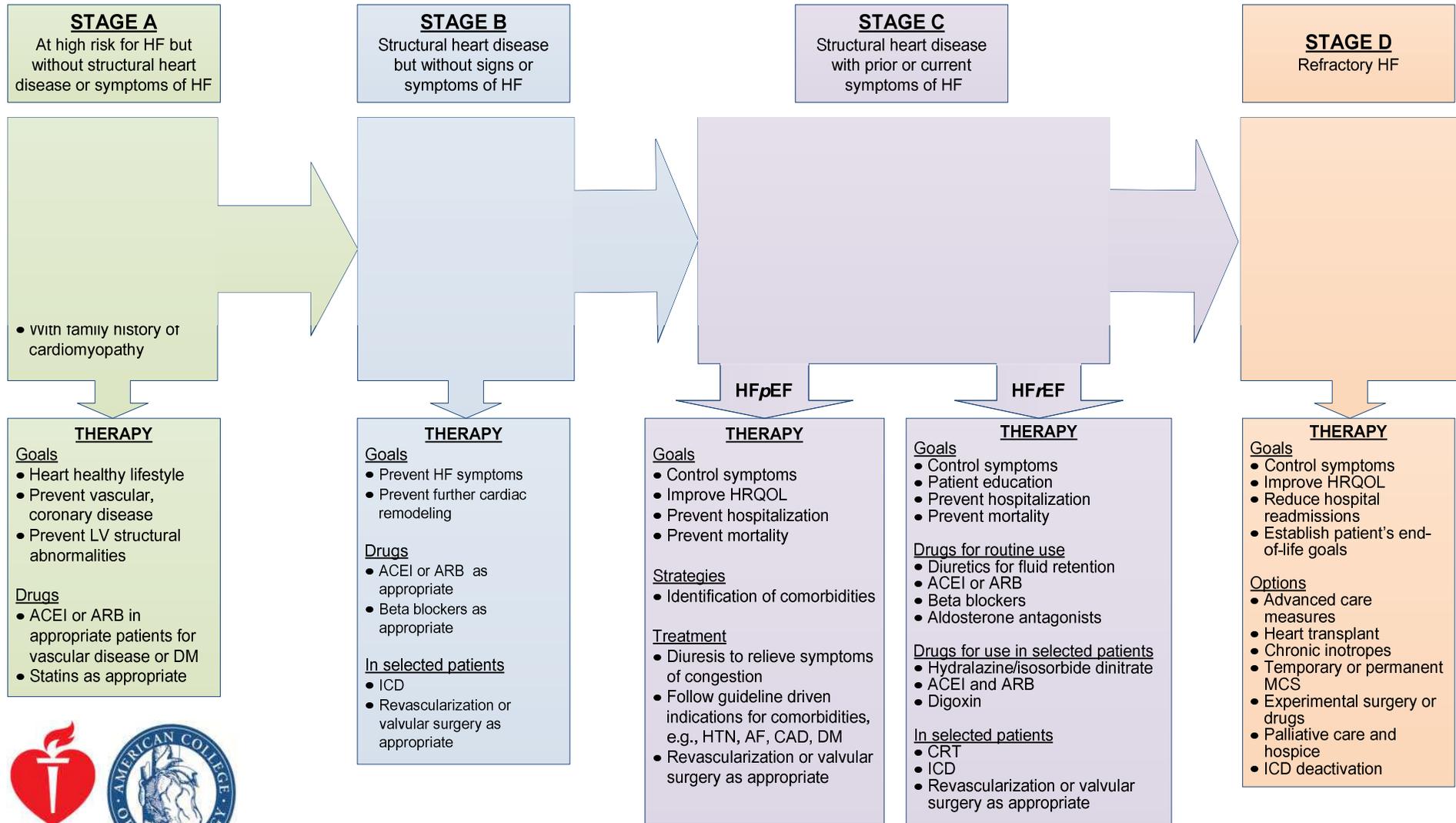


ACCF/AHA Stages of HF		NYHA Functional Classification	
<b>A</b>	At high risk for HF but <i>without</i> structural heart disease or symptoms of HF.	None	
<b>B</b>	Structural heart disease but without signs or symptoms of HF.	<b>I</b>	No limitation of physical activity. Ordinary physical activity does not cause symptoms of HF.
<b>C</b>	Structural heart disease with prior or current symptoms of HF.	<b>I</b>	No limitation of physical activity. Ordinary physical activity does not cause symptoms of HF.
		<b>II</b>	Slight limitation of physical activity. Comfortable at rest, but ordinary physical activity results in symptoms of HF.
		<b>III</b>	Marked limitation of physical activity. Comfortable at rest, but less than ordinary activity causes symptoms of HF.
<b>D</b>	Refractory HF requiring specialized interventions.	<b>IV</b>	Unable to carry on any physical activity without symptoms of HF, or symptoms of HF at rest.

# Stages, Phenotypes and Treatment of HF

## At Risk for Heart Failure

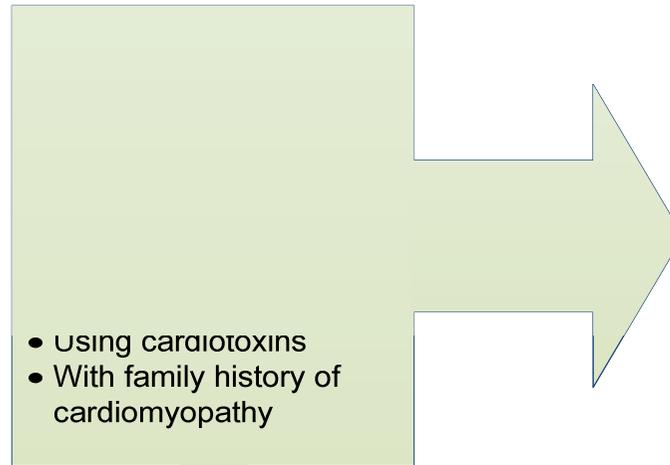
## Heart Failure



# Stages, Phenotypes and Treatment of HF

**At risk for HF  
No structural disease**

**STAGE A**  
At high risk for HF but  
without structural heart  
disease or symptoms of HF



**THERAPY**

Goals

- Heart healthy lifestyle
- Prevent vascular, coronary disease
- Prevent LV structural abnormalities

Drugs

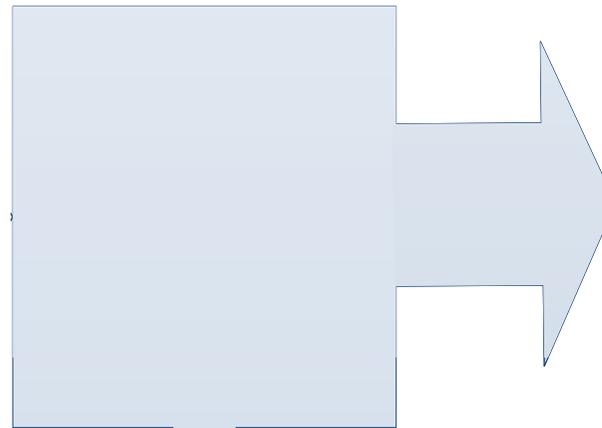
- ACEI or ARB in appropriate patients for vascular disease or DM
- Statins as appropriate



# Stages, Phenotypes and Treatment of HF

At risk for HF  
Structural disease

**STAGE B**  
Structural heart disease  
but without signs or  
symptoms of HF



**THERAPY**

Goals

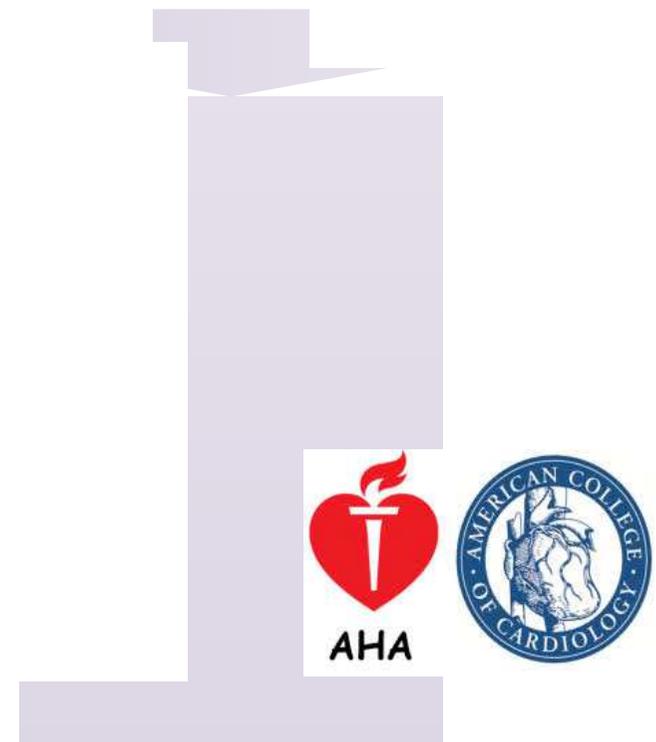
- Prevent HF symptoms
- Prevent further cardiac remodeling

Drugs

- ACEI or ARB as appropriate
- Beta blockers as appropriate

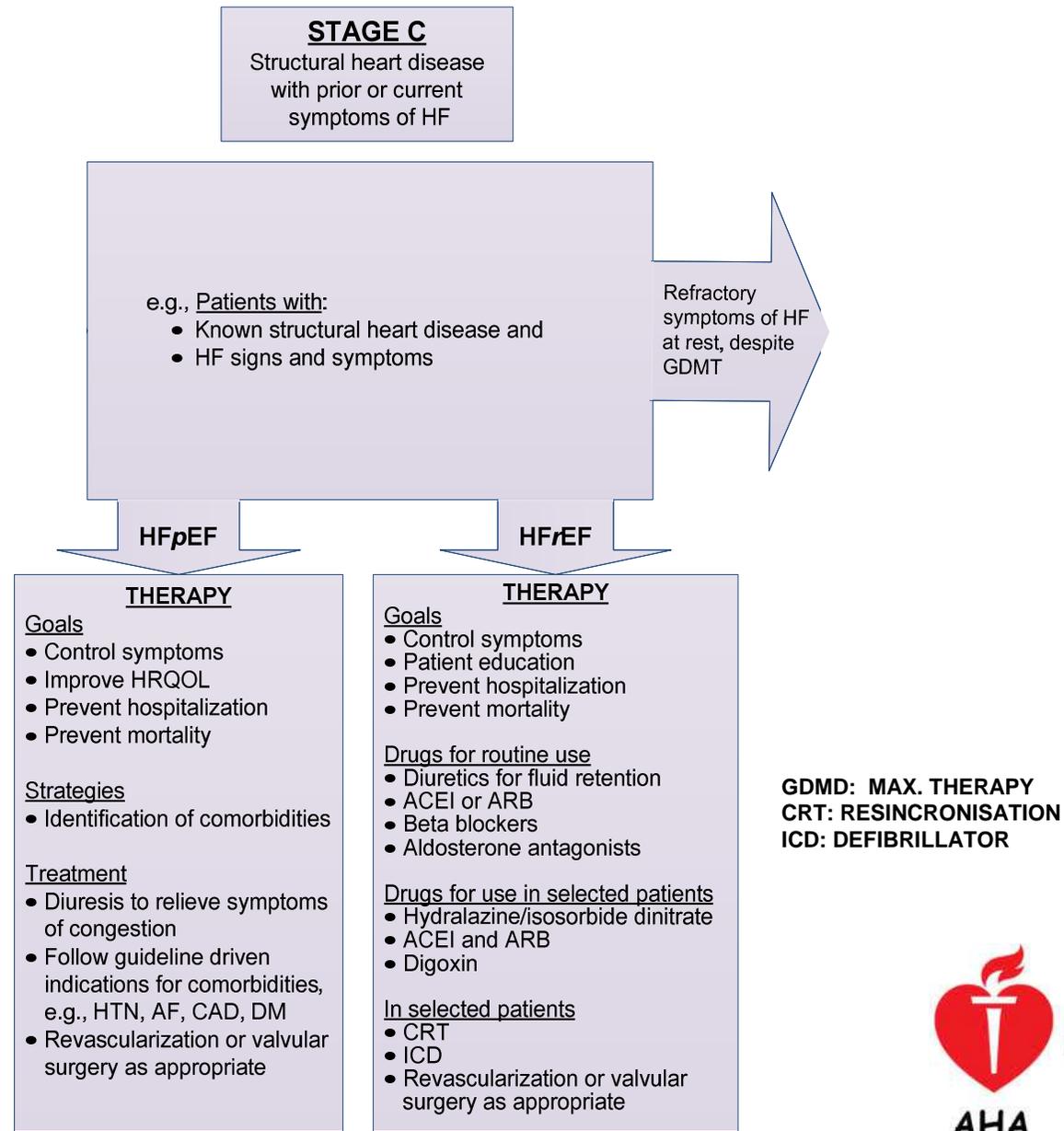
In selected patients

- ICD
- Revascularization or valvular surgery as appropriate



# Stages, Phenotypes and Treatment of HF

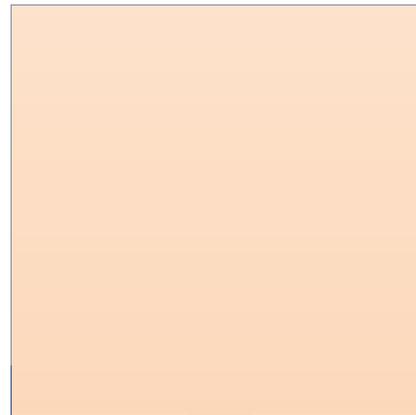
## Clinical HF



# Stages, Phenotypes and Treatment of HF

Clinical HF

**STAGE D**  
Refractory HF



**THERAPY**

Goals

- Control symptoms
- Improve HRQOL
- Reduce hospital readmissions
- Establish patient's end-of-life goals

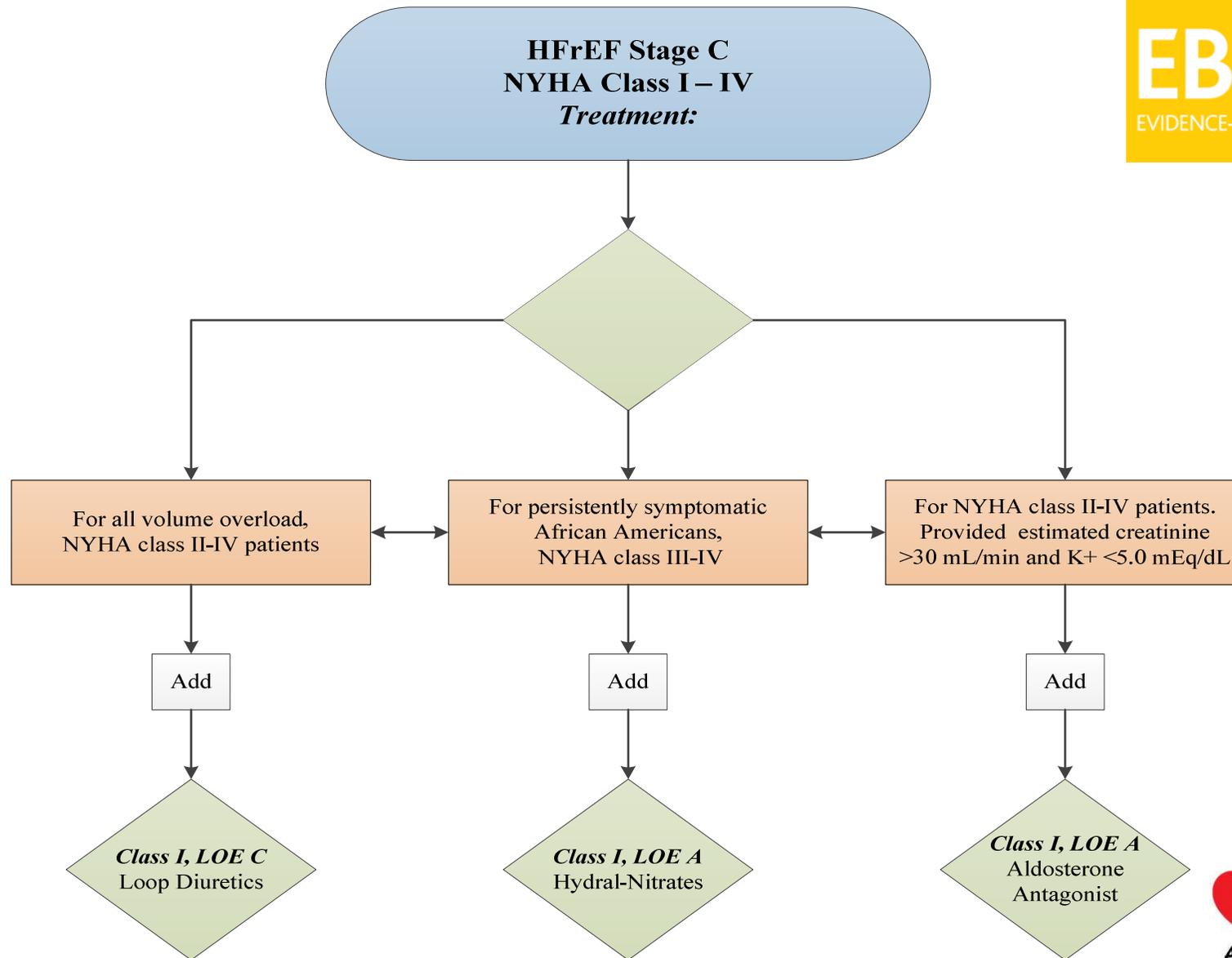
Options

- Advanced care measures
- Heart transplant
- Chronic inotropes
- Temporary or permanent MCS
- Experimental surgery or drugs
- Palliative care and hospice
- ICD deactivation

GDMD: MAX. THERAPY  
HRQOL: LIFE QUALITY  
MCS: MECH. CIRC. SUPPORT  
ICD: DEFIBRILLATOR



# Pharmacologic Treatment for Stage C of HFrEF



# Drugs Commonly Used for HFrEF (Stage C of HF) 1



Drug	Initial Daily Dose(s)	Maximum Doses(s)	Mean Doses Achieved in Clinical Trials
<i>ACE Inhibitors</i>			
<b>Captopril</b>	6.25 mg 3 times	50 mg 3 times	122.7 mg/d (421)
<b>Enalapril</b>	2.5 mg twice	10 to 20 mg twice	16.6 mg/d (412)
<b>Fosinopril</b>	5 to 10 mg once	40 mg once	-----
<b>Lisinopril</b>	2.5 to 5 mg once	20 to 40 mg once	32.5 to 35.0 mg/d (444)
<b>Perindopril</b>	2 mg once	8 to 16 mg once	-----
<b>Quinapril</b>	5 mg twice	20 mg twice	-----
<b>Ramipril</b>	1.25 to 2.5 mg once	10 mg once	-----
<b>Trandolapril</b>	1 mg once	4 mg once	-----
<i>ARBs</i>			
<b>Candesartan</b>	4 to 8 mg once	32 mg once	24 mg/d (419)
<b>Losartan</b>	25 to 50 mg once	50 to 150 mg once	129 mg/d (420)
<b>Valsartan</b>	20 to 40 mg twice	160 mg twice	254 mg/d (109)
<i>Aldosterone Antagonists</i>			
<b>Spironolactone</b>	12.5 to 25 mg once	25 mg once or twice	26 mg/d (424)
<b>Eplerenone</b>	25 mg once	50 mg once	42.6 mg/d (445)

# Drugs Commonly Used for HFrEF (Stage C of HF) 2

Drug	Initial Daily Dose(s)	Maximum Doses(s)	Mean Doses Achieved in Clinical Trials
<i>Beta Blockers</i>			
<b>Bisoprolol</b>	1.25 mg once	10 mg once	8.6 mg/d (118)
<b>Carvedilol</b>	3.125 mg twice	50 mg twice	37 mg/d (446)
<b>Carvedilol CR</b>	10 mg once	80 mg once	-----
<b>Metoprolol succinate extended release (metoprolol CR/XL)</b>	12.5 to 25 mg once	200 mg once	159 mg/d (447)
<i>Hydralazine &amp; Isosorbide Dinitrate</i>			
<b>Fixed dose combination</b>	37.5 mg hydralazine/ 20 mg isosorbide dinitrate 3 times daily	75 mg hydralazine/ 40 mg isosorbide dinitrate 3 times daily	~175 mg hydralazine/90 mg isosorbide dinitrate daily
<b>Hydralazine and isosorbide dinitrate</b>	Hydralazine: 25 to 50 mg, 3 or 4 times daily and isosorbide dinitrate: 20 to 30 mg 3 or 4 times daily	Hydralazine: 300 mg daily in divided doses and isosorbide dinitrate 120 mg daily in divided doses	 <b>AHA</b> 

# Medical Therapy for Stage C HF *r* EF:

## Magnitude of Benefit Demonstrated in RCTs !!!

DRUGS	RR Reduction in Mortality	NNT for Mortality Reduction (Standardized to 36 month)	RR Reduction in HF Hospitalizations
ACE inhibitor or ARB	<b>17%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31%</b>
Beta blocker	<b>34%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>41%</b>
Aldosterone antagonist	<b>30%</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>35%</b>
Hydralazine/nitrate	<b>43%</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>33%</b>



# Diuretics in Hospitalized Patients



Patients with HF admitted with evidence of significant fluid overload should be **promptly treated with intravenous loop diuretics** to reduce morbidity.

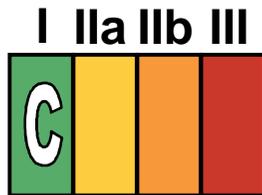


If patients are already receiving loop diuretic therapy, the **initial intravenous dose should equal or exceed their chronic oral daily dose and should be given as either intermittent boluses or continuous infusion.**

*Urine output and signs and symptoms of congestion should be serially assessed, and the diuretic dose should be adjusted accordingly to relieve symptoms, reduce volume excess, and avoid hypotension.*



# Diuretics in Hospitalized Patients (cont.)



The effect of HF treatment should be monitored with **careful measurement of fluid intake and output, vital signs, body weight** that is determined at the same time each day, and clinical signs and symptoms of systemic perfusion and congestion. **Daily serum electrolytes, urea nitrogen, and creatinine concentrations should be measured** during the use of intravenous diuretics or active titration of HF medications.

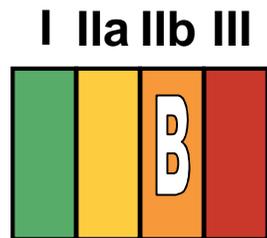


When diuresis is inadequate to relieve symptoms, it is reasonable to intensify the diuretic regimen using either:

- a. higher doses of intravenous loop diuretics
- b. addition of a second (e.g., thiazide) diuretic



# Diuretics in Hospitalized Patients (cont.)



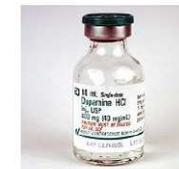
**Low-dose Dopamine** infusion may be considered in addition to loop diuretic therapy to improve diuresis and better preserve renal function and renal blood flow.

## Dopamine

- Dose dependent receptor activation
  - Low dose - increases blood flow via dopamine receptors in renal, mesenteric, cerebral circulation
  - Intermediate dose - increases cardiac output via  $\beta$ -receptors
  - High dose - progressive vasoconstriction via  $\alpha$ -receptors in systemic and pulmonary circulation
- In vivo, receptor effects are often mixed
- Tachyarrhythmias are most common complication
- Low dose dopamine has no proven renal benefit
- Significant immunosuppressive effects through suppression of prolactin from hypothalamus

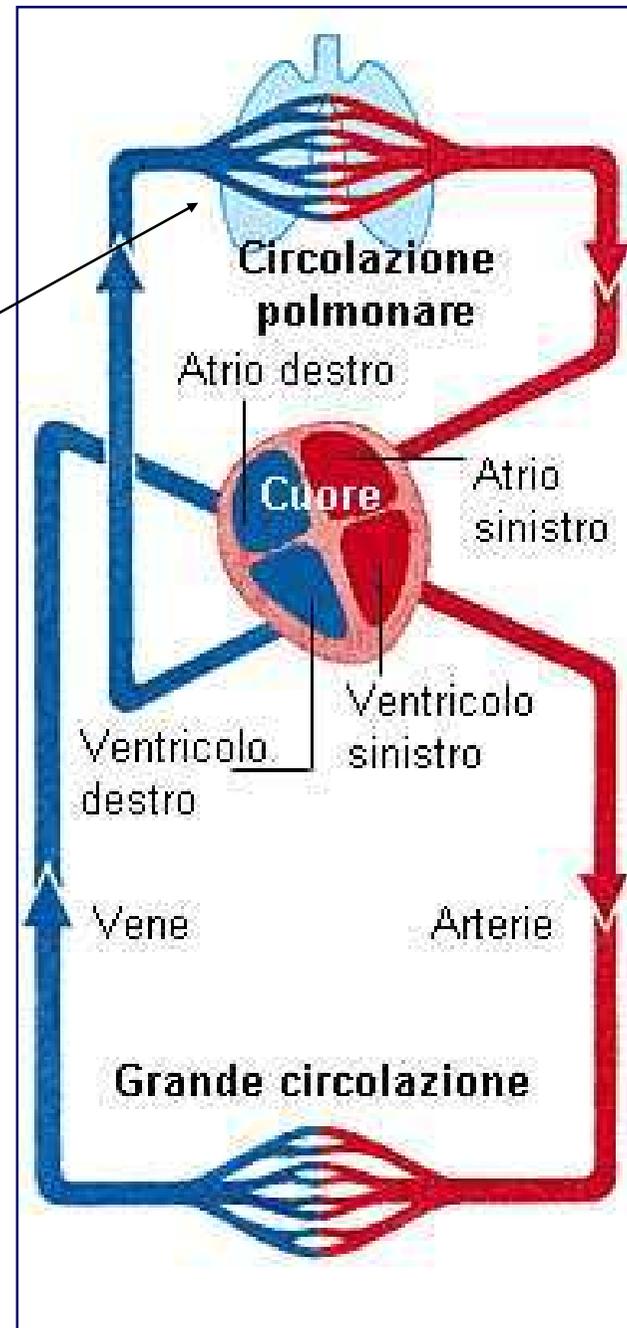
## Dopamine

- Dose-dependent stimulation
  - **Low-dose** ( $< 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{min}$ )
    - dopaminergic receptors
  - **Moderate dose** ( $5\text{-}10 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{min}$ )
    - $\beta_1$  stimulation  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  cardiac output
  - **High dose** ( $> 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{min}$ )
    - $\alpha_1$  stimulation  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  SVR



# **ACUTE PULMONARY OEDEMA**

IL CUORE E' FORMATO  
DA 2 POMPE POSIZIONATE  
IN SERIE: NEL MEZZO STA  
LA CIRCOLAZIONE POLMONARE



# Edema Polmonare Acuto (EPA)

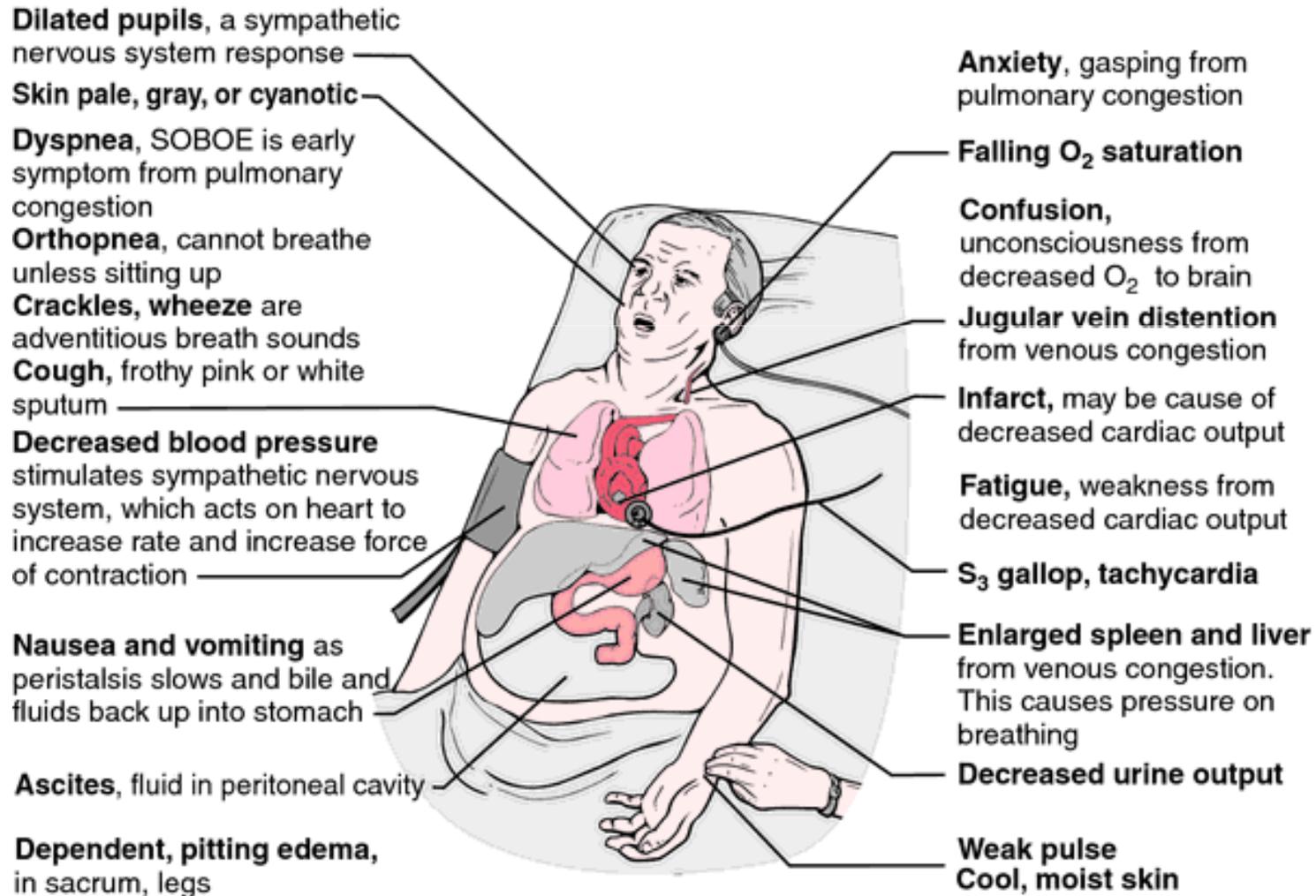
## DEFINIZIONE

Sindrome clinica grave caratterizzata da **aumento dell'acqua extravascolare nel polmone per trasudazione o essudazione di liquido sieroematico nell' interstizio, negli alveoli e nei bronchioli polmonari.**

## 3 POSSIBILI PATOGENESI:

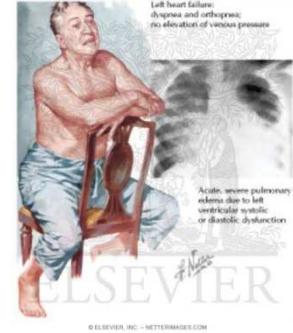
<b>Emodinamica</b>	<b>EPA cardiogeno</b>	<b>pressione capillare polmonare elevata</b>
<b>Lesionale</b>	<b>EPA non cardiogeno</b>	<b>pressione capillare polmonare normale</b>
<b>Mista</b>	<b>EPA neurogeno</b>	

# Physical Findings in acute CHF

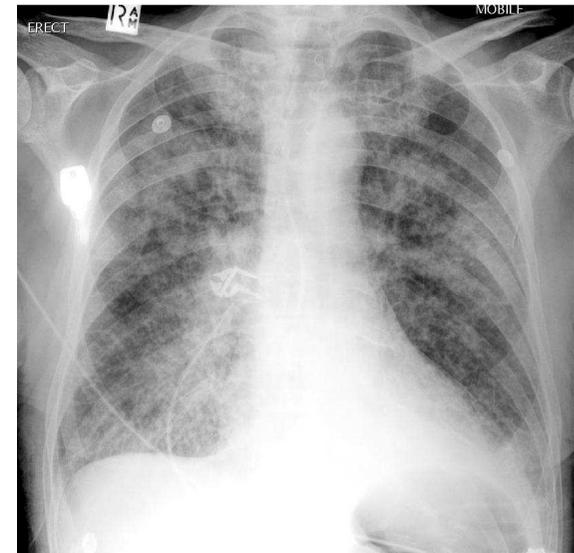


# CHF Treatment

## acute hypertensive pulmonary edema



- Patient sitting
- Diuretics: Furosemide IV 2-4 ph repeatable; if already using furosemide, double the dosage !
- Peripheral vasodilators (NTG 2-5 ph in 500 ml saline 30-60 ml/h)
- Oxygen → sat. O<sub>2</sub> > 90%
- Morphine (e.g. 1 ph 10mg → 10 cc saline: 2-4 cc SC – IV )
- cPAP
- (Digitalis)



# cPAP Definitions



## 2.2 DEFINITION

**Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) is the maintenance of a positive pressure throughout the whole respiratory cycle (inspiration and expiration), when breathing spontaneously** (Keilty and Bott, 1992).

The CPAP system is totally closed incorporating a tight-fitting face or nasal mask (or cuffed endotracheal or tracheostomy tube), and a valve, usually at a pressure of 5-10 cm H<sup>2</sup>O, against which the patient exhales (Heath 1993; Simmonds 1994; Ashurst 1995).

# cPAP Indications

2.4 It is a well known therapy appropriate for **patients who are hypoxic, but not exhausted.**

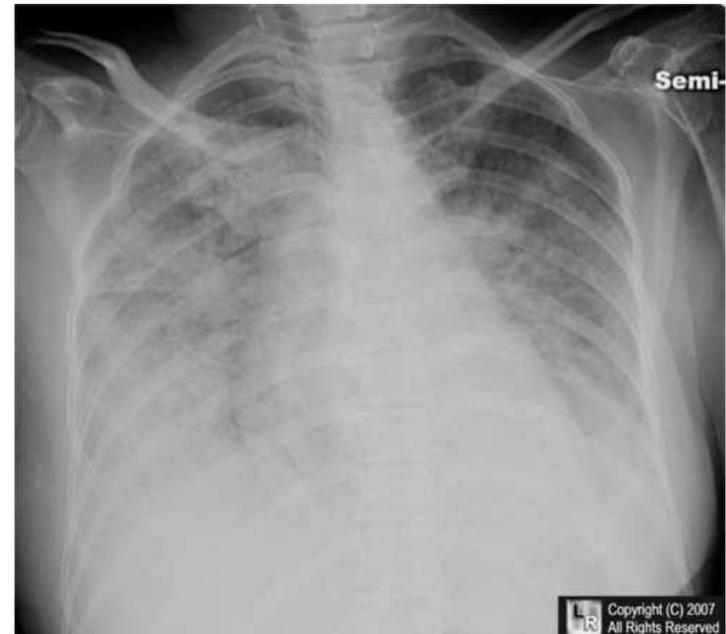
A list of conditions where CPAP may be appropriate includes:

- **Pneumonia**
- **Cardiogenic pulmonary oedema**
- **Infective exacerbation of COPD (B-level NIV may be more appropriate if respiratory acidosis is present, but many NIV machines do not deliver high oxygen concentrations)**
- **Fibrotic lung disease**
- **Mild to moderate Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome**
- **Sleep apnoea**

# CHF Treatment

## acute hypotensive pulmonary edema

- **Inotropic drugs (e.g. IV Dopamine 2 ph in 500 ml saline – (ml/h? → kidney, heart, pressure)**
- **Diuretics: Furosemide IV**
- **Oxygen → sat. O<sub>2</sub> > 90%**
- **Digitalis**
- **Bad prognosis !**

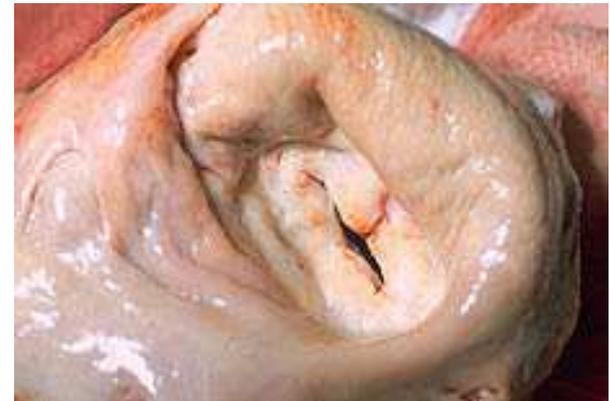


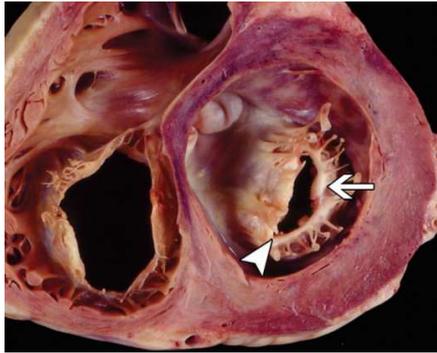
# Stenosi Mitralica

La causa della stenosi mitralica era prevalentemente **reumatica** in era pre-antibiotica. Gli **streptococchi beta-emolitici di gruppo A** possiedono antigeni di superficie simili a proteine presenti nella struttura valvolare. La **reazione antigene - anticorpo** che ne deriva causa la formazione di **noduli fibrotici** sui lembi valvolari, con successiva calcificazione e retrazione. Il processo può estendersi alle corde tendinee provocandone la fibrosi con arresto del movimento dei lembi valvolari e danno alla valvola (aspetto a "bocca di pesce").

I lembi valvolari possono essere interessati da altre cause che ne modificano la struttura e conducano all'alterazione anatomica:

- **Stenosi congenita**
- **Endocarditi**
- **LES**
- **Artrite reumatoide**
- **Sindrome da carcinoide**



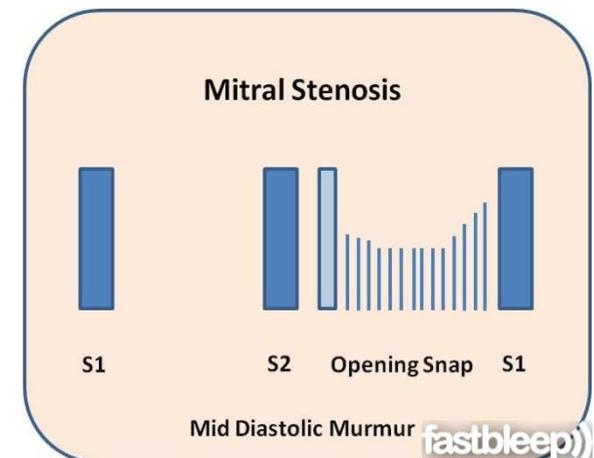


# Stenosi Mitralica

Conseguenza della stenosi è un aumento di pressione nell'atrio sinistro per superare la resistenza opposta dalla valvola stenotica. L'aumento pressorio con il progredire della patologia si trasmette per via retrograda a tutto il sistema circolatorio del polmone.

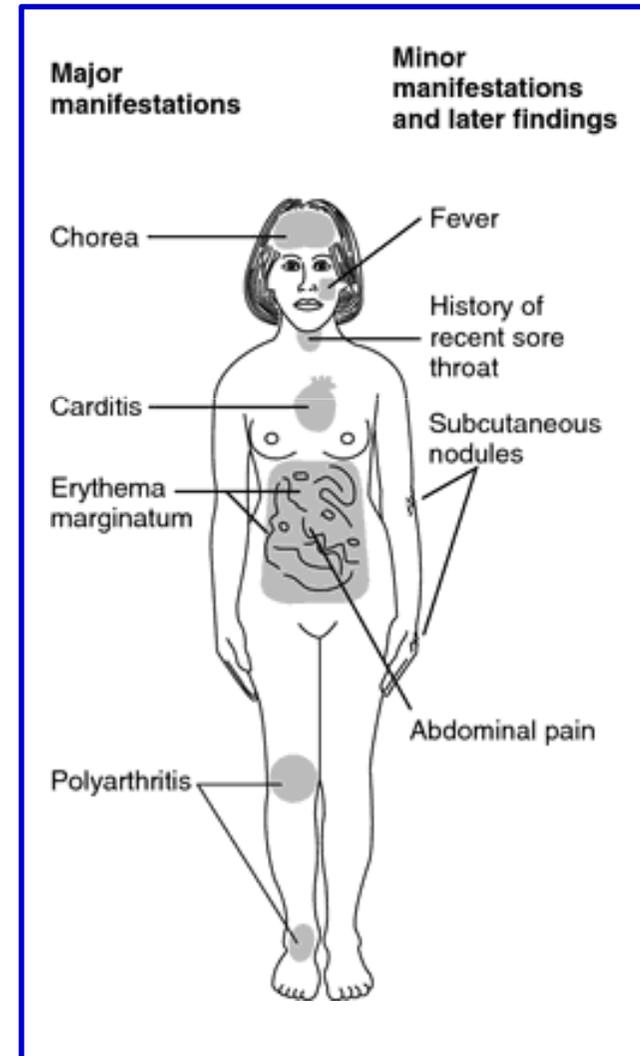
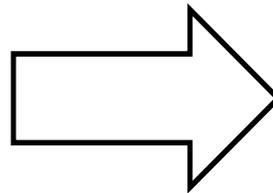
I sintomi sono:

- **dispnea da sforzo**
- **ortopnea e dispnea parossistica notturna**
- **ipertensione polmonare con emoftoe**
- **facile affaticamento**
- **fibrillazione atriale con possibile comparsa di trombi nell'atrio o nell'auricola sn**



# Rheumatic Fever

Streptococcus Beta - A



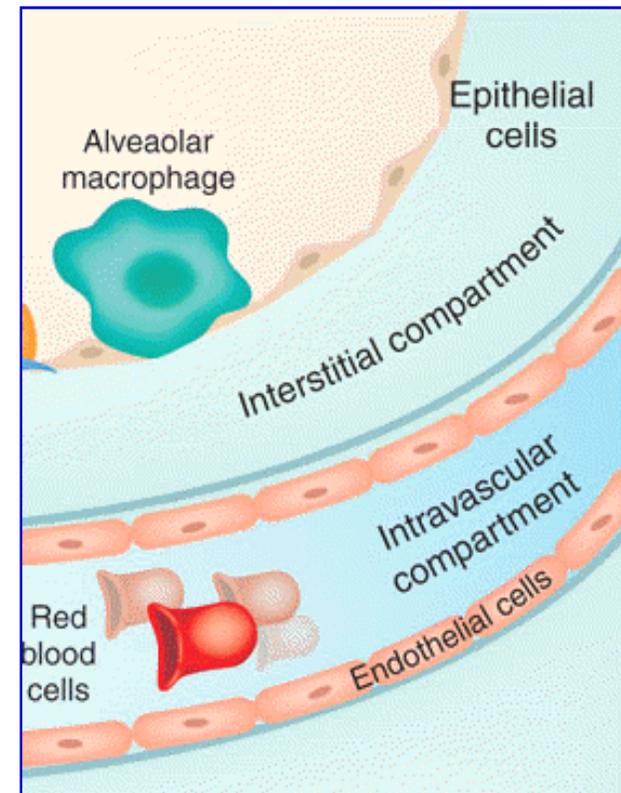
*... sfiora le articolazioni e morde il cuore ...*

# Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis

# Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis

Interstitial pulmonary fibrosis is a group of diseases characterized by **deposition of fibrous tissue in the interstitial tissue of the lung.**

Interstitial tissue is the tissue occupying the space between the alveoli and the pulmonary capillaries.



# Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis

## Etiology and Classification

Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis  
or  
Cryptogenic Fibrosing Alveolitis  
(the commonest)

Secondary Interstitial Fibrosis  
Pulmonary fibrosis secondary  
to known cause that can be  
defined from clinical and  
investigational details

# Causes of secondary interstitial fibrosis

## 1. Infections

These include:

- Viral pneumonia
- Atypical pneumonia
- Chronic miliary TB
- Fungal infections

## 2. Occupational Diseases

**Inorganic** dusts: • Silicosis • Asbestosis

**Organic** dusts: e.g. extrinsic allergic alveolitis

for examples: • Farmer's lung • Bird fancier's lung



## 3. Connective tissue disorders

This include:

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- SLE
- Systemic progressive sclerosis



# Causes of secondary interstitial fibrosis

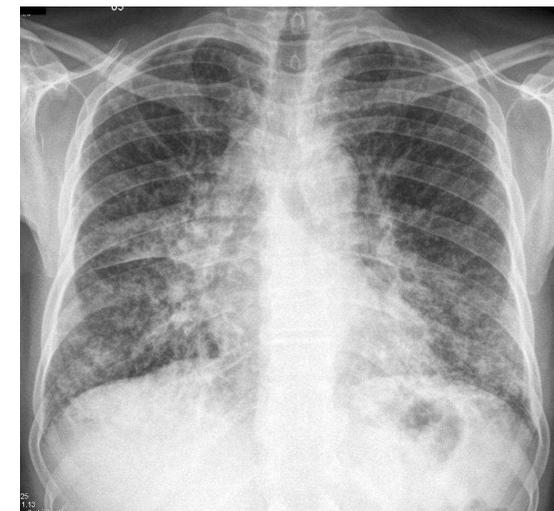
## 4. Drugs and Vapors

- Drugs: e.g. Amiodarone, Methotrexate, Cyclophosphamide
- Vapor inhalation: e.g. insecticides



## 5. Malignancy

- Alveolar cell carcinoma - Lymphoma
- Leukemia



## 6. Miscellaneous

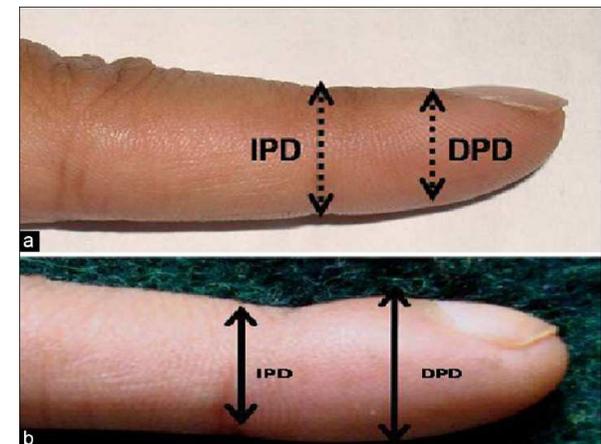
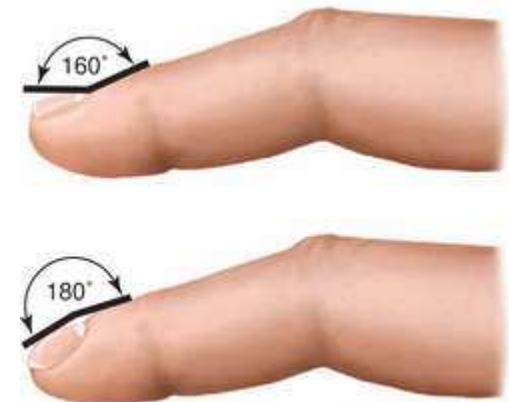
- Sarcoidosis
- Post-irradiation fibrosis

# Clinical Manifestations of IPF

- It occurs more in female (F to M ratio: 2-1)
- It is a syndrome that characterized by four important clinical manifestations:
  - 1 ***Progressive exertional – persistent dyspnea*** without wheezes
  - 2 Central cyanosis
  - 3 Clubbing (in 2/3 of cases)
  - 4 Bilateral end inspiratory fine crepitations which has leathery character (leathery crepitations) by auscultation

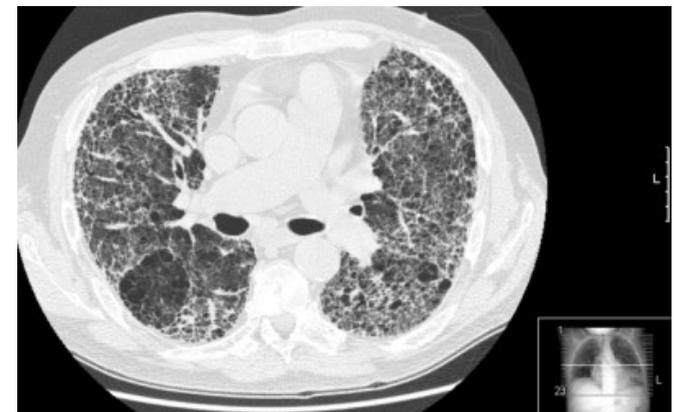
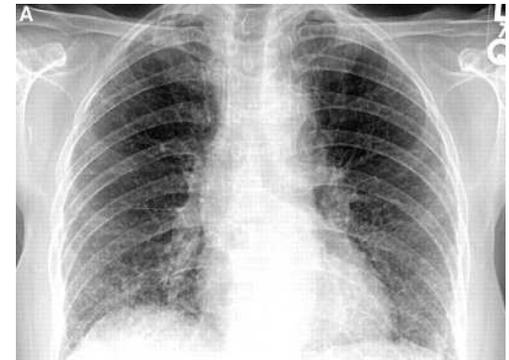
# Clubbing

Hypertrophic osteoarthropathy (HOA)



# Investigations for IPF diagnosis

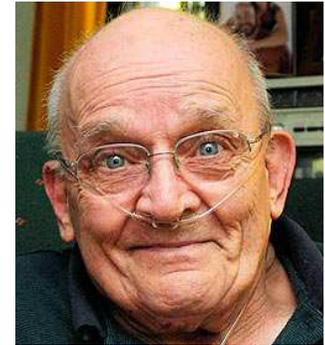
1. Chest X- Ray
2. Chest High resolution CT (HRCT)
3. Pulmonary function tests
4. Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL)
5. Echocardiography and ECG
7. Other Investigations



# Treatment of IPF

- **Corticosteroids** (prednisolone 0.5 mg/kg in active stage, with gradual withdrawal)
- **Immunosuppressive drugs:** Azathioprine or Cyclophosphamide or Methotrexate may be added
- **Supportive therapy:** oxygen therapy and pulmonary rehabilitation
- **Lung transplantation** is indicated in severe cases in young age

# Dyspnea Case 1



- 75 years, history of CHD and OSAS, presents with **haematemesis**. He underwent EGDS on arrival which revealed **peptic ulcer** with clot. Hb: 7, HCT: 23 respectively; **2 units of RBC** were ordered to be infused during the evening. At 11 pm, the patients pulse ox is 90% on 2L NC.
- On review of the RECS information, you note that his **Eject Fraction** (1 year ago) **was 40%**. He is receiving IV PPI as and the plan is to check serial h/h after transfusion.

- On arrival at the bedside:
  - afeb, HR: 99, BR: 24, BP: 155/90 (baseline was 130/80)
  - he is 90% on 2L - which responded to increased of 35% VM at 92%

Exam: pt using some intercostal muscles for respiration, ***diffuse crackles bilaterally.***

- What is your impression?
- What can you expect to learn from any additional data obtained?
- What is the next step?

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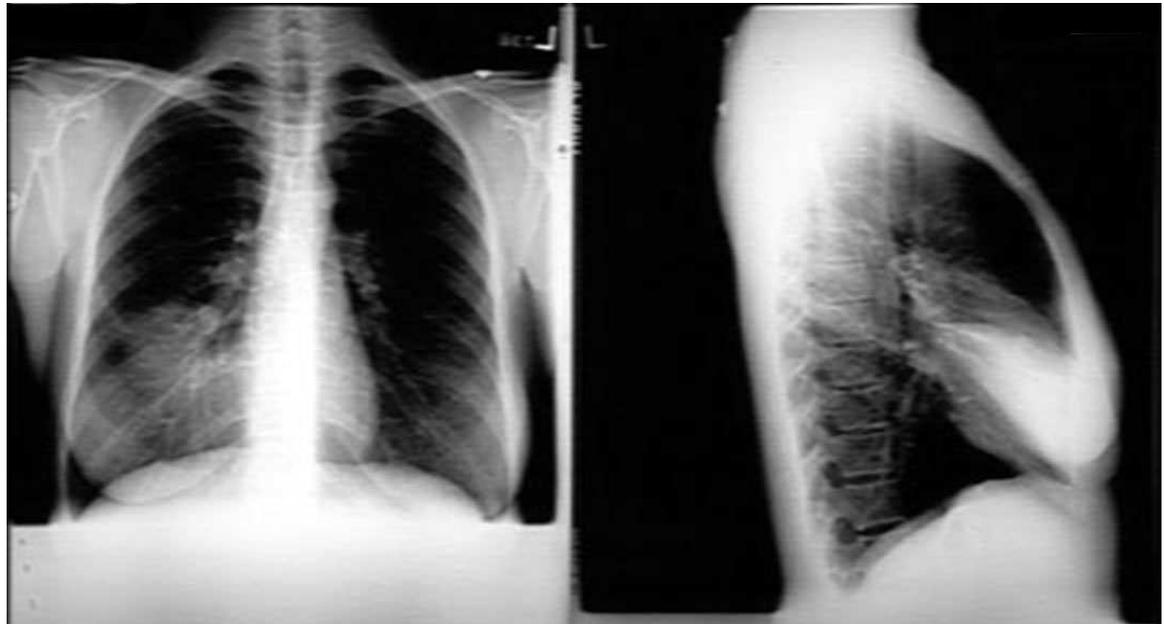
# Dyspnea Case 2



- 93 year, **PEG tube** for feeding and foley, presented to the hospital with **altered mental status**. Treated with IV antibiotics, cultures are pending. Her MS had improved after IV **fluids and IV antibiotics**. At 9 PM on hospital day 3, the patient is requiring 6L oxygen by N-C to maintain sat. 90% and her temp at 8 PM was 38.5.
- You review her signout. You note that she has just been transitioned to **oral Bactrim** for her urinary tract infection; she also underwent **modified barium swallow** that morning.

- What is your interpretation?
- What is the next step?

- What is your interpretation?
- What is the next step?



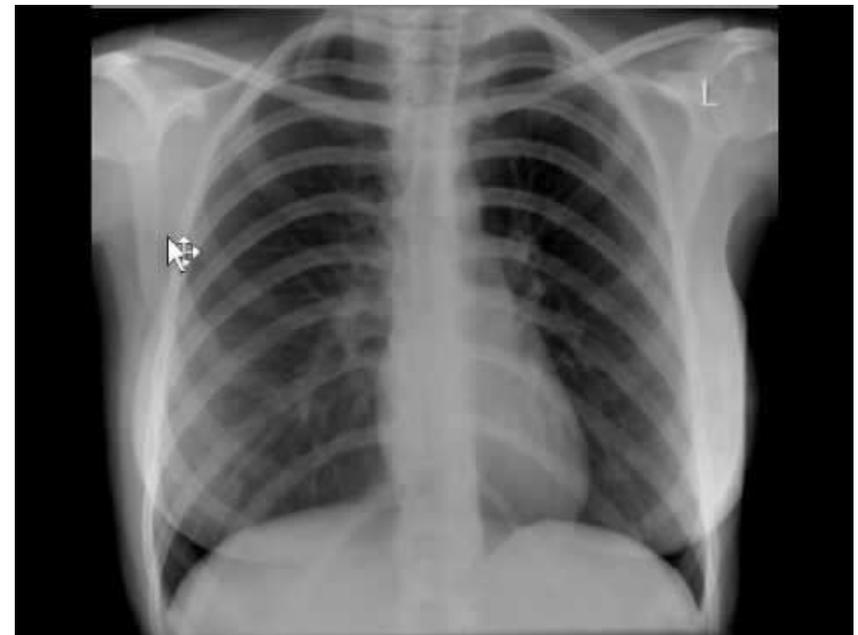
# Dyspnea Case 3



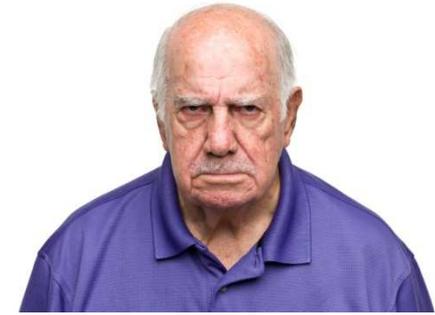
- 58 years, history of **breast cancer**, admitted to with newly diagnosed a single **brain metastasis**. She is awaiting surgical intervention by neurosurgery. You are called as the patient's HR is increased to 120 and that her oxygen requirements have increased over the past 4 hours.
- On review, surgery is scheduled for 2 days from today. She has been started on **high dose IV steroids** and she was given **BZP for anxiety** due to her upcoming surgery. She is also on tamoxifen, SQ heparin and PPI.

- As you approach her room, you note that her VS are: afeb, HR:120, BP: 134/88, BR:19.
- You enter the room and observe a slightly distressed female. Upon questioning, she states that she is anxious about her surgery.
- Her breathing feels somewhat different than earlier in the day, and *it hurts to take a deep breath.*

- You increase supplemental oxygen and obtain ABG as well as ECG due to tachycardia.
- What is your biggest concern?
- What is the appropriate course of action?



# Dyspnea Case 4

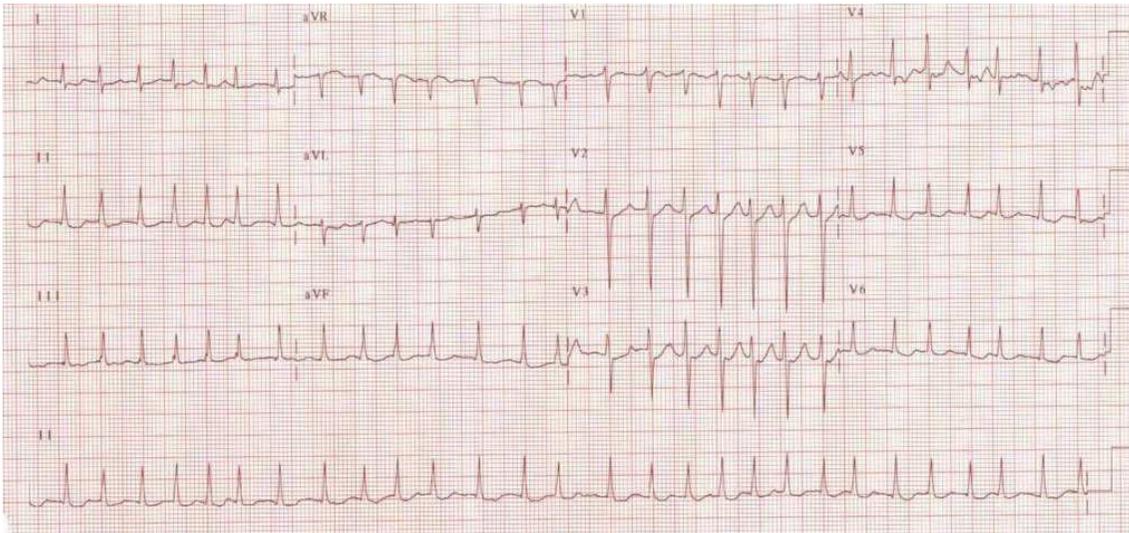


- 77 years, admitted to hospital for **palpitations/syncope**. On hospital day 2, no underlying etiology of his symptoms have surfaced.
- You are called by the nurse for a HR 130 and a new oxygen requirement of 2L NC.

- As you approach the room, the patient is undergoing a 12 lead ECG.
- You note that his BP is 110/60, HR:150 and SpO2 on 2L NC is 95%.
- Patient states that he is feeling OK, some fluttering in chest.
- On exam, his beats are irregular

- What is next step in management?
- What do you think other studies will show?

- What is next step in management?
- What do you think other studies will show?



# Dyspnea Case 5



- 79 years, **tobacco abuse** (60 pk/year) who has not seen a doctor in over 15 years (!) presented to hospital with a left **leg erysipelas/cellulitis**. He initially had an important leukocytosis (23.000 mmc), and was given antibiotics and **morphine for pain control**.
- You are called that the **patient is not arousable**. He was visited by his wife 4 hrs ago and at that time, she requested that he have his IV morphine. The nurse went to hang his PM dose of antibiotics and found him to be extremely lethargic.

- You note that the patient is on IV antibiotics, a nicotine patch and newly initiated diuretics for hypertension. He has an order for PRN albuterol.
- On arrival, the patient is difficult to arouse; afebrile, oxygen sats are 85%, his BP is stable. Lungs with diminished breath sounds bilaterally.

- You obtain an ABG and note that:  
**pCO<sub>2</sub> is high and pO<sub>2</sub> is marginal.**

- Why did his pCO<sub>2</sub> climb?
- What are your options for reducing pCO<sub>2</sub>?

