

# Pulmonary Hypertension in Heart Failure

2nd Annual Cardiac Care Associate Cardiovascular Update  
Ohio ACC Chapter  
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## Objectives

- To discuss the relationship between pulmonary venous and arterial hypertension, and potential cardiac causes
- To discuss the impact of pulmonary hypertension in left heart diseases
- To discuss diagnostic and treatment options for pulmonary hypertension in left heart diseases

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## Pulmonary Hypertension in Heart Failure

- Outline
  - Definition and Epidemiology
  - Diagnostics
    - Cardiac catheterization
    - Echocardiography
  - Pathophysiology
  - Consequences
  - Treatment
  - Future Strategies

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## Definitions

- **Pulmonary hypertension:** raised mean pulmonary artery pressures (PAP)

$$= \frac{(2 \times \text{PAP}_{\text{diastolic}} + \text{PAP}_{\text{systolic}})}{3}$$

- Normal: 7-18 mmHg
- Pulmonary hypertension: > 25 mmHg at rest  
> 30 mmHg with exercise

- **Heart failure:** Heart failure is a complex clinical syndrome that can result from any structural or functional cardiac disorder that impairs the ability of the ventricle to fill with or eject blood.

Focused Update ACC/AHA Guidelines, *Circulation* 2009



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## Pulmonary Hypertension in Heart Failure

Also known as:

- Pulmonary venous hypertension ("WHO Group 2")
- Post-capillary pulmonary hypertension
- Pulmonary hypertension with left heart disease
  - Systolic heart failure
  - Diastolic heart failure
  - Valvular heart disease
  - Restrictive or constrictive cardiomyopathy
- Secondary pulmonary hypertension in heart failure
  - "Passive" – proportionate to elevated filling pressures
  - "Reactive" – disproportionate to elevated filling pressures
  - "Intrinsic" or "Fixed" – vascular remodeling



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## Venice Classification of Pulmonary Hypertension

- Sporadic (IPAH)
- Familial (FPAH)
- PH Related to:
  - Collagen vascular diseases
  - Congenital L-to-R shunt
  - Porto-pulmonary HTN
  - HIV (1/200), HHV-8
  - Drugs / toxins (e.g. anorexic drugs, cocaine/amphetamines)
  - Others
- **Pulmonary venous occlusive disease**
- **Pulmonary venous HTN**
  - Left heart disease
  - Valvular dysfunction
- **Hypoxia-induced PH**
  - COPD
  - Interstitial lung disease
  - Sleep-disordered breathing
  - High altitude
- **Arterial obstruction**
  - Thromboembolic / PE (lupus)
  - Sickle-cell
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Sarcoidosis
  - Histiocytosis X
  - Lymphangiomatosis
  - External compression



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## Definition, Epidemiology, & Diagnostics: Summary

- Common: over two thirds of patients with chronic systolic heart failure or symptomatic valvular stenosis have associated PH
- Degree of PH often correlates with symptoms (e.g. mitral stenosis)
- Presence of PH is independent predictor of mortality in systolic heart failure, post-MI, or post-transplant
  - Some challenged the presence of RV systolic dysfunction as major determinant of prognosis rather than RVSP
- Persistent or “Fixed” PH is a contraindication for transplantation
  - TPG and PVR are important determinants



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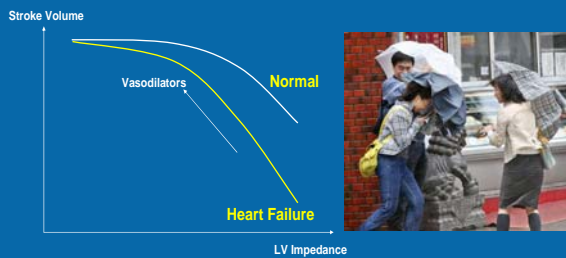
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## Pathophysiology: LV Impedance (“Afterload”)



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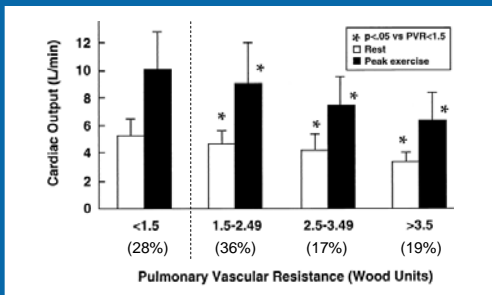
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## Pulmonary Hypertension and Exercise Capacity



Butler et al, *J Am Coll Cardiol* 1999



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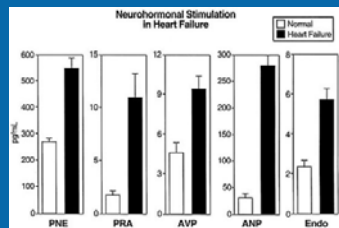
## Pathophysiology: Vasoconstrictor Excess

### Vasoconstrictors

- Norepinephrine
- Angiotensin II
- Aldosterone
- Vasopressin
- Endothelin
- Cytokines

### Vasodilators

- Natriuretic peptides



Cohn J, *Circulation* 1996

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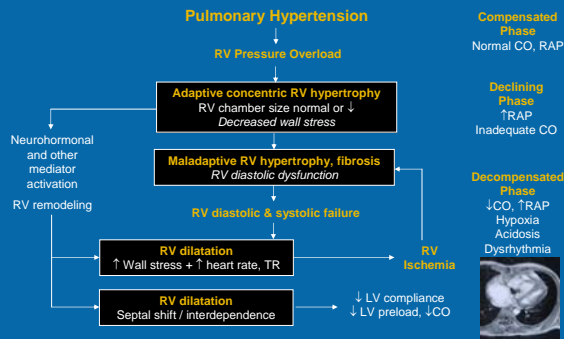
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## Pathophysiology of Right Heart Failure and *Cor Pulmonale* in Pulmonary Hypertension




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## Pathophysiology: Summary

- Mechanical complication of disturbed left ventricular filling
  - ↑ Hydrostatic pressure from:
    - **Passive** “backward” transmission of elevated intracardiac pressures
    - **Reactive** response due to endothelial dysfunction and structural abnormalities in pulmonary microcirculation
    - **Damage ?** *Surfactant Protein Type B*
  - Progressive pulmonary vascular remodeling similar to PAH
- Chronic hypoxia or high pulmonary artery flow
  - Cyanotic congenital heart defects or shunts
  - ? *Sleep apnea*

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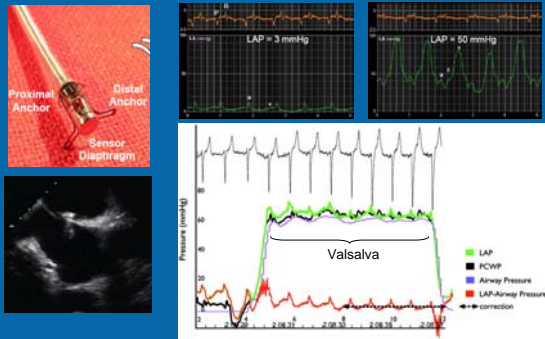








## Future: Left Atrial Pressure Monitoring



Ritzema et al, *Circulation* 2007



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## Conclusions

- Pulmonary hypertension is prevalent, clinically significant, but underappreciated in left heart failure
- “Find the lesion” is important: PH in left heart disease can be due to either pulmonary venous or pulmonary arterial hypertension (or both)
- Need to appreciate pros and cons of diagnostic tests
- RV dysfunction may alter pulmonary artery pressures and portends poor prognosis
- Potential interventions include valve surgery, heart failure drug titrations, mechanical assist devices ± transplant
- Limited treatment options, although vasodilators (especially nitric oxide donors) and PDE-V inhibitors are promising; PH drugs are of limited use.



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