

Stress Echocardiography

Steven J. Lester MD, FRCP(C), FACC, FASE



DISCLOSURE

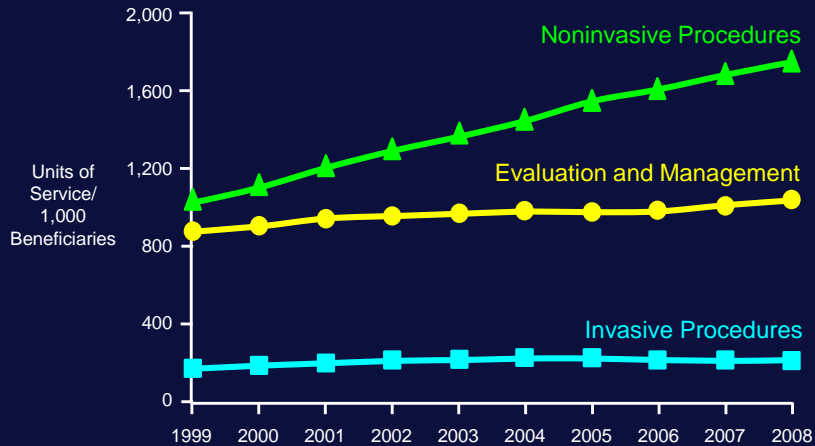
Relevant Financial
Relationship(s)

None

Off Label Usage

None

Growth in Services Provided by Cardiologists



Andrus and Welch, *Circ Cardiovasc Qual Outcomes*. 2012;5:31-36.

Appropriate Use Criteria

ACCF/AHA/ASE/ASNC/HFSA/HRS/SCAI/SCCT/SCMR/STS 2013 Multimodality Appropriate Use Criteria for the Detection and Risk Assessment of Stable Ischemic Heart Disease

A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation Appropriate Use Criteria Task Force, American Heart Association, American Society of Echocardiography, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, Heart Failure Society of America, Heart Rhythm Society, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography, Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance, and Society of Thoracic Surgeons

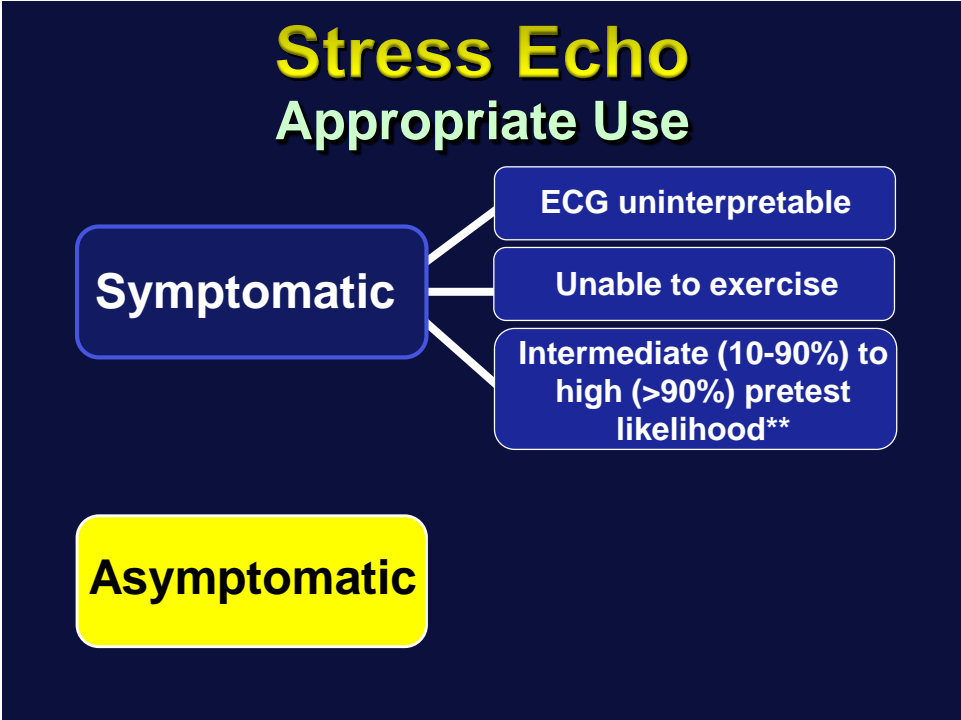
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MICHAEL J. WOLK, MD, MACC, *CHAIR*, STEVEN R. BAILEY, MD, FACC, FSCAI, FAHA, JOHN U. DOHERTY, MD, FACC, FAHA, PAMELA S. DOUGLAS, MD, MACC, FAHA, FASE, ROBERT C. HENDEL, MD, FACC, FAHA, FASNC, CHRISTOPHER M. KRAMER, MD, FACC, FAHA, JAMES K. MIN, MD, FACC, MANESH R. PATEL, MD, FACC, LISA ROSENBAUM, MD, LESLEE J. SHAW, PhD, FACC, FASNC, FAHA, RAYMOND F. STAINBACK, MD, FACC, FASE, AND JOSEPH M. ALLEN, MA

Technical Panel

RALPH G. BRINDIS, MD, MPH, MACC, *MODERATOR*, * CHRISTOPHER M. KRAMER, MD, FACC, *WRITING COMMITTEE LIAISON*, * LESLEE J. SHAW, PhD, FACC, FASNC, FAHA, *WRITING COMMITTEE LIAISON*, * MANUEL D. CERQUEIRA, MD, FACC, FASNC, † JERSEY CHEN, MD, FAHA, † LARRY S. DEAN, MD, FACC, FAHA, FSCAI, † REZA FAZEL, MD, FACC, * W. GREGORY HUNDLEY, MD, FACC, † DIPTI ITCHHAPORIA, MD, FACC, * PAUL KLIGFIELD, MD, FACC, FAHA, * RICHARD LOCKWOOD, MD, † JOSEPH EDWARD MARINE, MD, FACC, * ROBERT BENJAMIN McCULLY, MD, FACC, FASE, *

Journal of Cardiac Failure Vol. 20 No. 2 2014



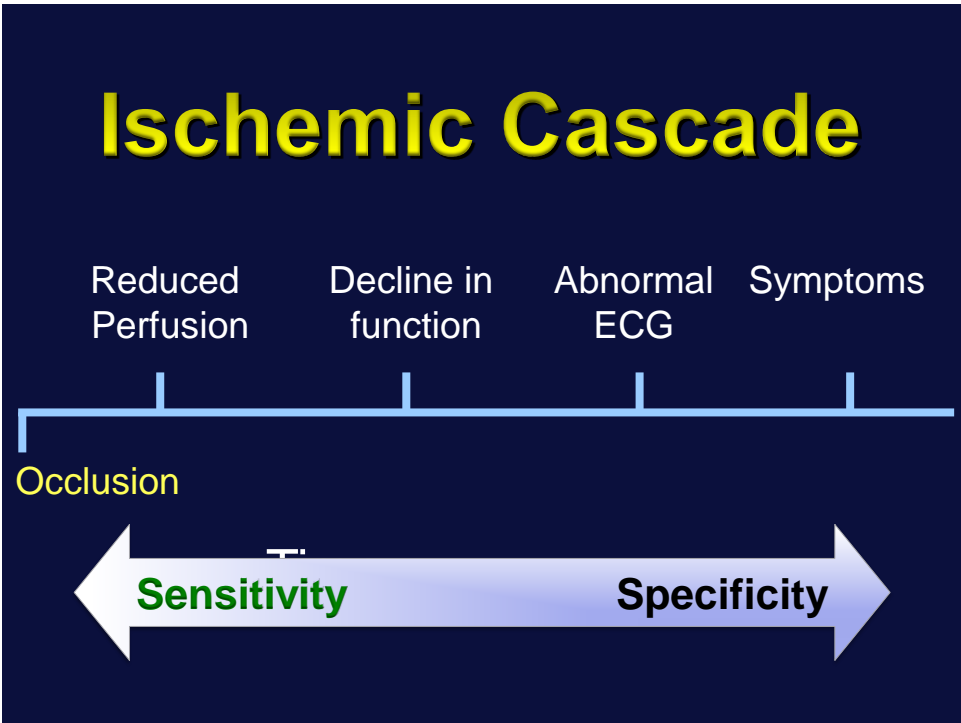
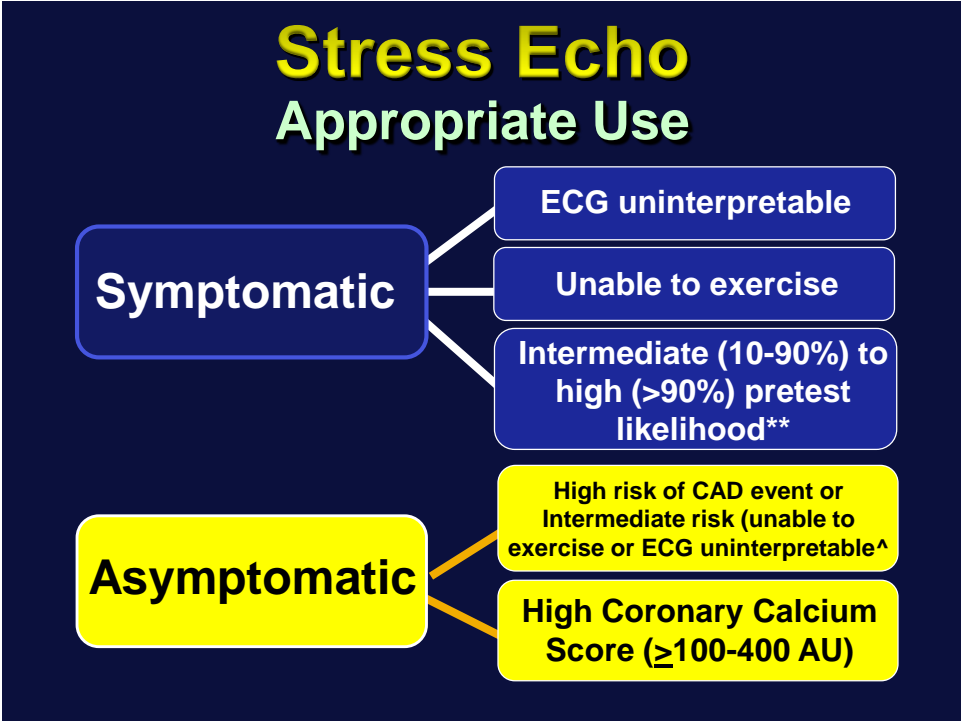
Diamond and Forrester Pre-Test Probability of CAD by Age, Sex and Symptoms

Age (years)	Sex	Typical/Definite Angina Pectoris	Atypical/Probable Angina Pectoris	Nonanginal Chest Pain
≤39	Men	Intermediate	Intermediate	Low
	Women	Intermediate	Very low	Very low
40-49	Men	High	Intermediate	Intermediate
	Women	Intermediate	Low	Very low
50-59	Men	High	Intermediate	Intermediate
	Women	Intermediate	Intermediate	Low
≥60	Men	High	Intermediate	Intermediate
	Women	High	Intermediate	Intermediate

Typical (Definite): 1. Substernal chest pain or discomfort; 2. provoked by exertion or emotional stress; 3. relieved by rest and/or nitroglycerin

Atypical (Probable): Chest pain or discomfort that lacks one of the Characteristics for definite or typical angina.

Nonanginal Chest Pain: Chest pain or discomfort that meets one or none of the Typical angina characteristics.



Prediction of Mortality and Major Cardiac Events by Exercise Echocardiography in Patients With Normal Exercise Electrocardiographic Testing

Alberto Bouzas-Mosquera, MD,* Jesús Peteiro, MD, PhD,* Nemesio Álvarez-García, MD,* Francisco J. Broullón, MS,† Victor X. Mosquera, MD,‡ Lourdes García-Bueno, MD,* Luis Ferro, MD,* Alfonso Castro-Beiras, MD, PhD*§

- 16.7% of patients who did not develop chest pain or ischemic ECG changes developed new or worsening regional wall motion abnormalities (+ Exercise Echo)

Methods We studied 4,004 consecutive patients (2,358 men, mean age 1± SD 59.6 ± 12.5 years) with interpretable

- Significant prognostic implications for predicting Mortality and MACE.

Results 313 patients died, and 183 patients had a MACE before any revascularization procedure. The 5-year mortality and MACE rates were 6.4% and 4.2% in patients without ischemia versus 12.1% and 10.1% in those with ischemia, respectively ($p < 0.001$). In the multivariate analysis, Δ WMSI remained an independent predictor of mortality (hazard ratio [HR]: 2.73, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.40 to 5.32, $p = 0.003$) and MACE (HR: 3.59, 95% CI: 1.42 to 9.07, $p = 0.007$). The addition of the exercise hemodynamic data significantly increased the **J Am Coll Cardiol 2009;53:1981-90**

Conclusions The use of EE provides significant prognostic information for predicting mortality and MACE in patients with interpretable ECG and normal exercise ECG testing. **J Am Coll Cardiol 2009;53:1981-90** © 2009 by the American College of Cardiology Foundation

Characteristics and Outcomes of Patients With Abnormal Stress Echocardiograms and Angiographically Mild Coronary Artery Disease <50% Stenosis or Normal Coronary Arteries

Aaron M. From, MD, Garvan Kane, MD, PhD, Charles Bruce, MD, Patricia A. Pellikka, MD, Christopher Scott, MS, and Robert B. McCully, MD, Rochester, Minnesota

Background: Abnormal cardiac stress imaging findings are not always associated with angiographically significant coronary artery disease. The outcomes of patients with such false-positive findings have not been extensively examined. The aim of this retrospective study was to describe the characteristics and outcomes of patients with abnormal stress echocardiographic findings who had false-positive results compared with those who had true-positive results.

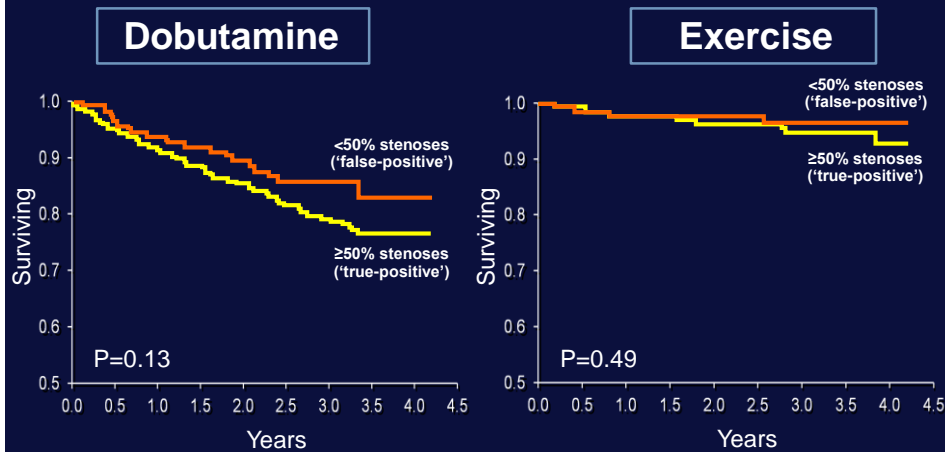
Methods: Of 1,477 consecutive patients (mean age, 66 ± 12 years; 61% men) with abnormal stress echocardiographic findings who underwent coronary arteriography within 30 days, death from any cause was ascertained.

Results: At coronary arteriography, 997 patients (67.5%) had true-positive results, defined by the presence of angiographically significant coronary artery disease ($\geq 50\%$ stenoses), and 480 (32.5%) had false-positive results, defined by $<50\%$ stenoses or normal coronary arteries. Of the subgroup of patients with markedly abnormal stress echocardiographic findings ($n = 605$), 28% had $<50\%$ stenoses or normal coronary arteries. During an average follow-up period of 2.4 ± 1.0 years, there were 140 deaths. The adjusted likelihood of subsequent death for patients with $<50\%$ stenoses compared to patients with $\geq 50\%$ stenoses after abnormal stress echocardiography was 1.05 (95% confidence interval, 0.86-1.31; $P = .62$).

Conclusions: A sizable proportion of patients with abnormal stress echocardiography have false-positive findings for coronary angiography. The outcomes of these patients were similar to those of patients with true-positive results. This finding suggests that patients with false-positive results on stress echocardiography should still receive intensive risk factor management and careful clinical follow-up. **J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2010;23:207-14**

J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2010;23:207-14

Abnormal Stress Echo Outcome

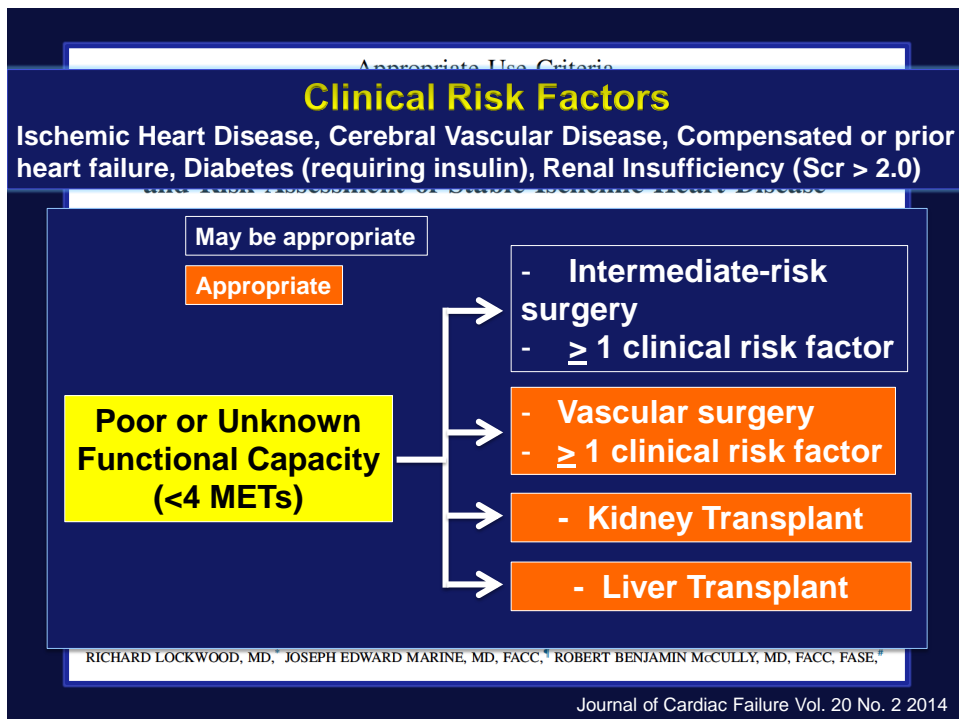


From et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2010;23:207-14

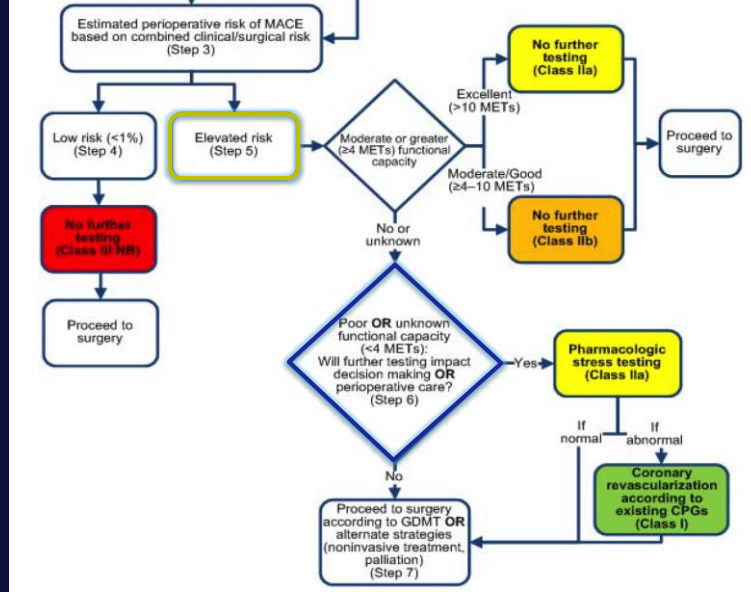
It is Not Always about the Anatomy.
 But it is Always about the Physiology.

Case

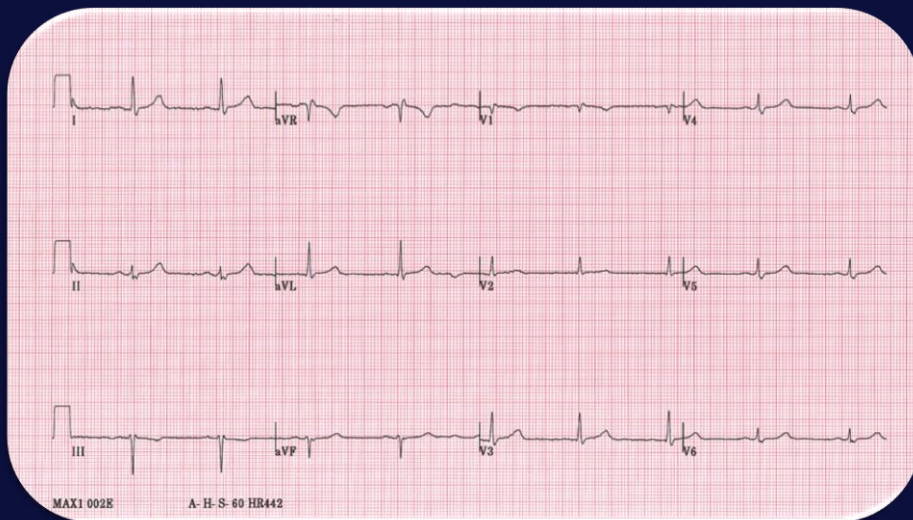
- 73 year old male
- No antecedent CV disease history. Asymptomatic
- Reduced functional capacity due to orthopedic limitations
- Hypertension, diabetes
- Pre-operative cardiac risk stratification prior to an orthopedic procedure

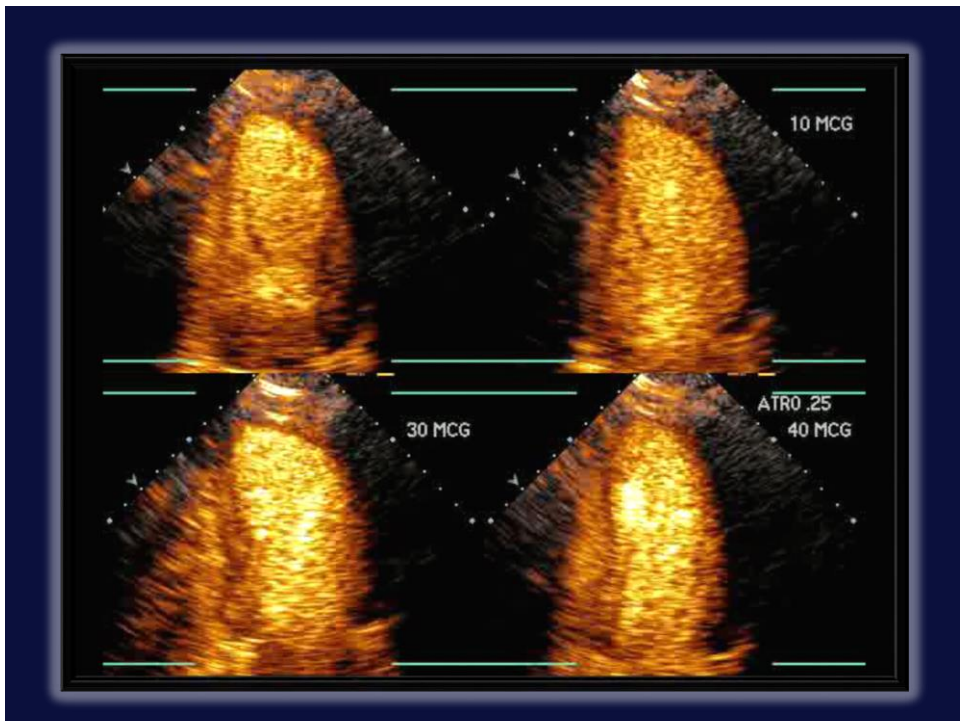
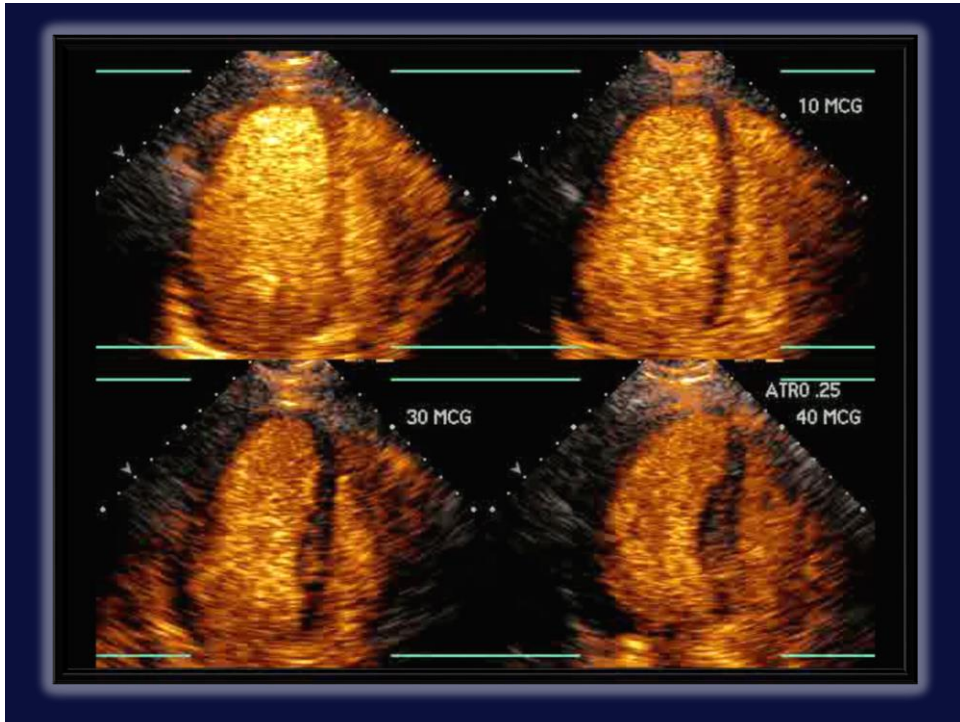


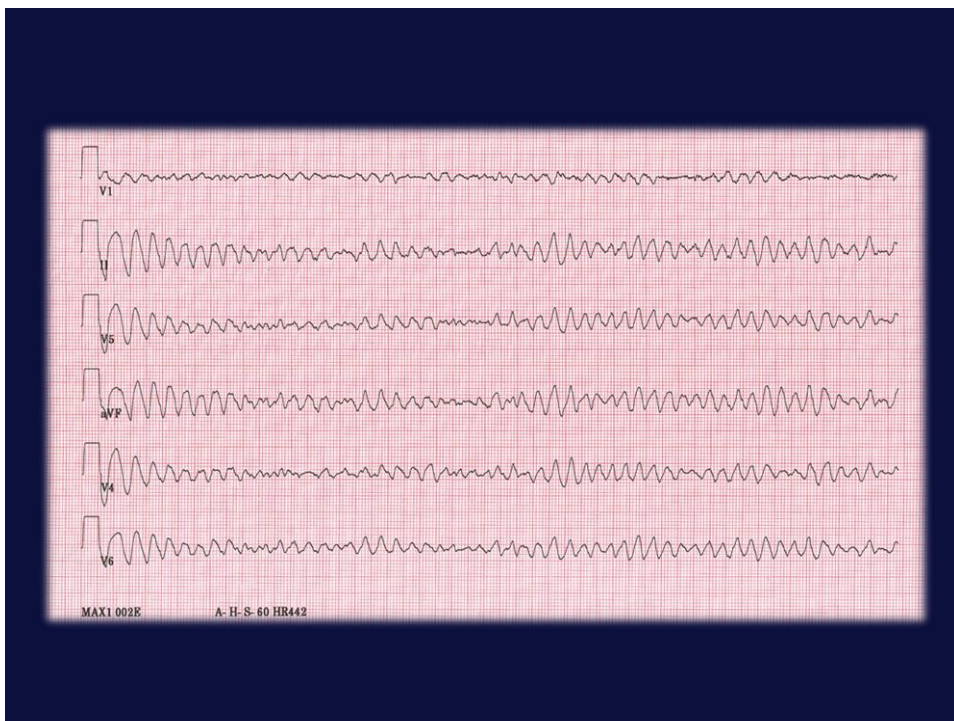
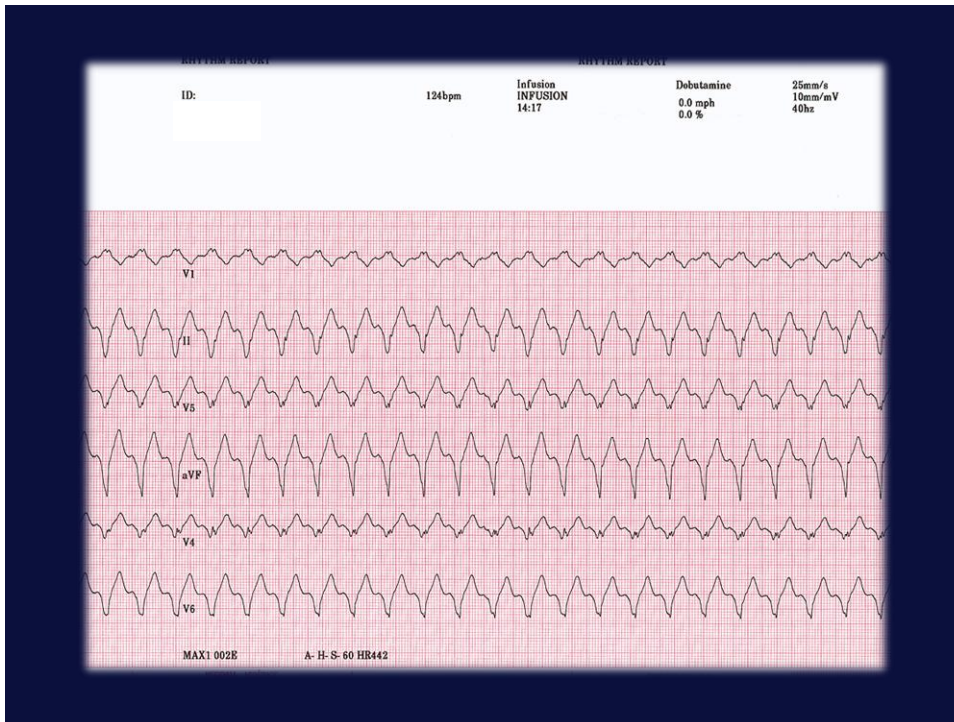
2014 ACC/AHA Guideline on Perioperative Cardiovascular Evaluation and Management of Patients Undergoing Noncardiac Surgery

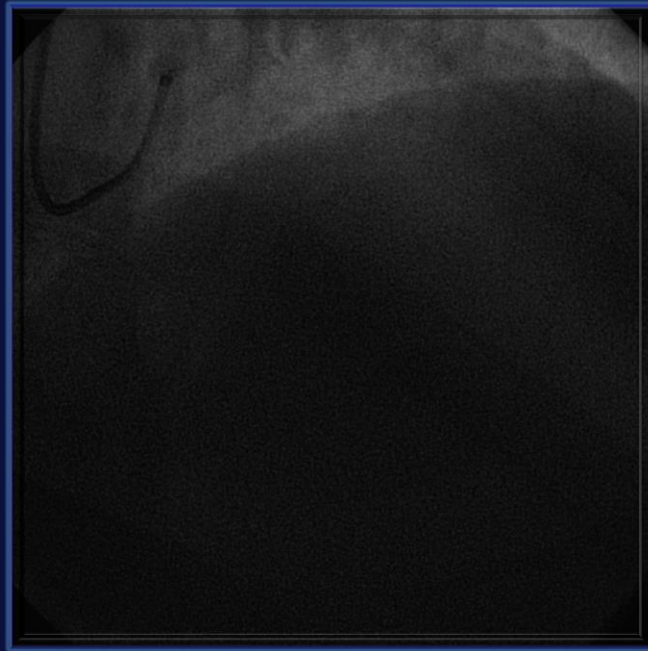


Resting ECG









Objectives

1. Stress Modalities
2. Interpretation
3. Test Characteristics:
Diagnosis
4. Prognostic Value
5. Safety
6. Other Uses
7. Appropriate Use

Stress Echocardiography Modalities

Exercise

- Treadmill
- Bicycle
 - Supine
 - Upright

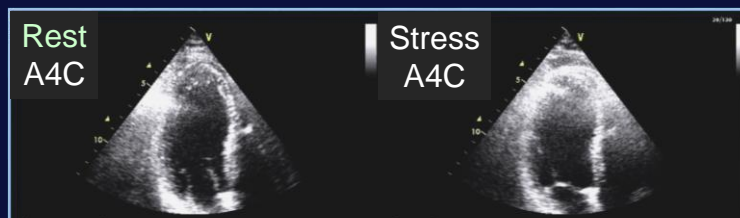
Pharmacologic

- Dobutamine / Atropine
- Vasodilator
 - Dipyradamole
 - Adenosine

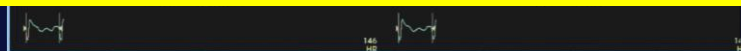
Other

- Handgrip
- Pacing

Stress Echocardiography Treadmill



- Most common is multistage Bruce protocol
- Modified Bruce and Naughton protocols are lower intensity exercise protocols used in those with limited exercise capacity
- Cornell protocol provides a more gradual increase in speed and incline compared to the Bruce protocol



Stress Echocardiography Bicycle

- The cycles are calibrated in kiloponds or Watts which can then be converted to metabolic equivalents (METs).
- It may allow image acquisition during exercise... Doppler information.

Treadmill Versus Supine Bicycle

Hemodynamic Effects	Upright	Supine
Duration and Maximum Workload	>	
Heart Rate	>	
End-diastolic Volume		>
Mean Arterial Pressure		>
Wall Stress		>
Myocardial Oxygen Demand		>
Filling Pressures		>

Exercise Stress Echocardiography Indications To Stop

Absolute

- ST elevation ≥ 1 mm in leads without Q waves
- Ventricular tachycardia
- Decrease in systolic blood pressure > 10 mm Hg from baseline with other signs of ischemia
- Moderate to severe angina
- Nervous system symptoms
- Signs of poor perfusion (cyanosis, pallor)
- Technical difficulties with ECG or blood pressure monitoring
- Patient's desire to stop

Relative

- Arrhythmias other than ventricular tachycardia
- ST or QRS changes including horizontal or downsloping ST depression > 2 mm
- Development of bundle branch block or intraventricular conduction delay that cannot be distinguished from ventricular tachycardia
- Increasing chest pain
- Decrease in systolic blood pressure > 10 mm Hg from baseline without other signs of ischemia
- Fatigue, shortness of breath, wheezing, leg cramps, claudication
- Hypertensive response (> 250 mm Hg systolic and/or > 115 mm Hg diastolic)

Stress Echocardiography Pharmacologic Inotropic / Dobutamine

- Dobutamine acts directly on β -1 adrenergic receptors \rightarrow **Increase in HR and Contractility** (4x in normal subjects and $< 2x$ in those with DCM)
- As dobutamine dose increases there is a greater β -2 response resulting in peripheral vasodilation which may lead to a **drop in BP**
- Compared with exercise LV volumes and wall stress increase **less** with dobutamine.

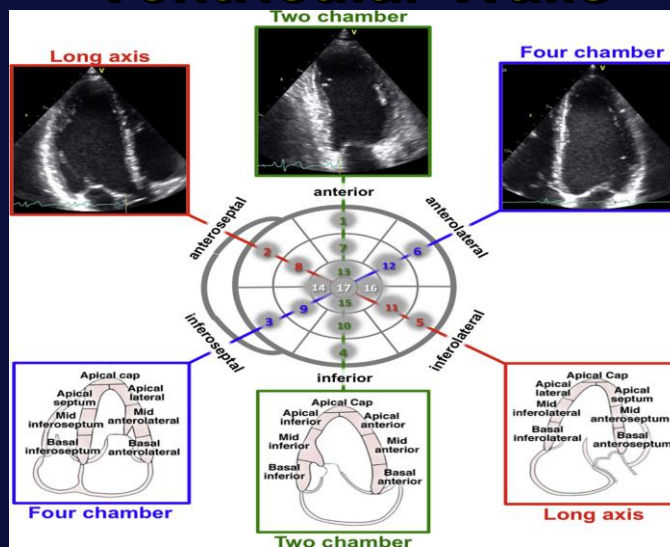
Stress Echocardiography Pharmacologic Vasodilators

- Dipyridamole, adenosine, regadenoson
- Small decrease in BP and increase in HR
- If obstructive epicardial disease or microcirculatory dysfunction



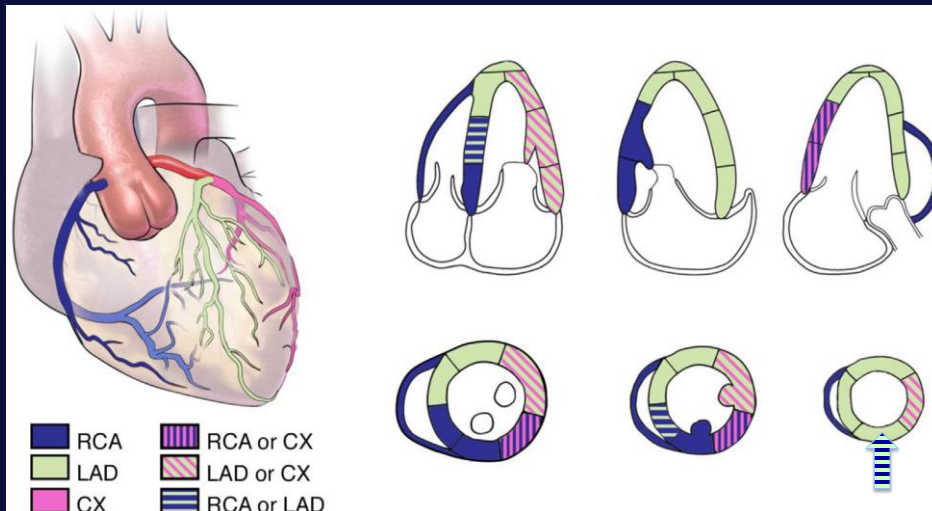
Heterogeneity of coronary blood flow between areas subtended by stenosis Vs. normal coronary arteries.

Segmental Analysis of Left Ventricular Walls



Lang RM et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2015;28:1-39

Arterial Distribution



Lang RM et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2015;28:1-39

Stress Echocardiography Interpretation

Change in LV Ejection Fraction

- **Increase EF: Normal** (global contractile reserve in patients with no resting dysfunction is defined by $\geq 5\%$ increase in LVEF)
- **No change or decrease: Abnormal**

Change in LV end-systolic size / volume

- **Decrease: Normal** (Flow reserve is defined by $\geq 20\%$ increase in forward stroke volume)
- **No change or increase: Abnormal (**supine bike)**

Regional LV Function Evaluation

- **Wall thickening, Wall motion Score Index**

Segmental Wall Motion Scoring

1 = Normal or hyperdynamic: (systolic increase in thickness >50%)

2 = Hypokinetic: delay in the velocity or onset of contraction (<30-40% systolic increase in thickness)

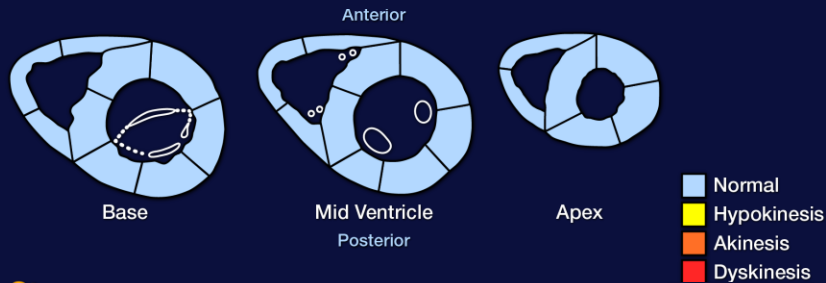
3 = Akinesis or minimal thickening: <10%

4 = Dyskinetic: Systolic outward motion of the segment

Wall Motion Score Index

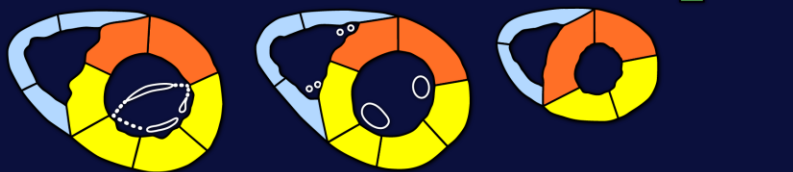
Wall Motion

Wall Motion Score Index = 1.0



Stress

Wall Motion Score Index = $38/16 = 2.38$



Interpretation Of Wall Motion

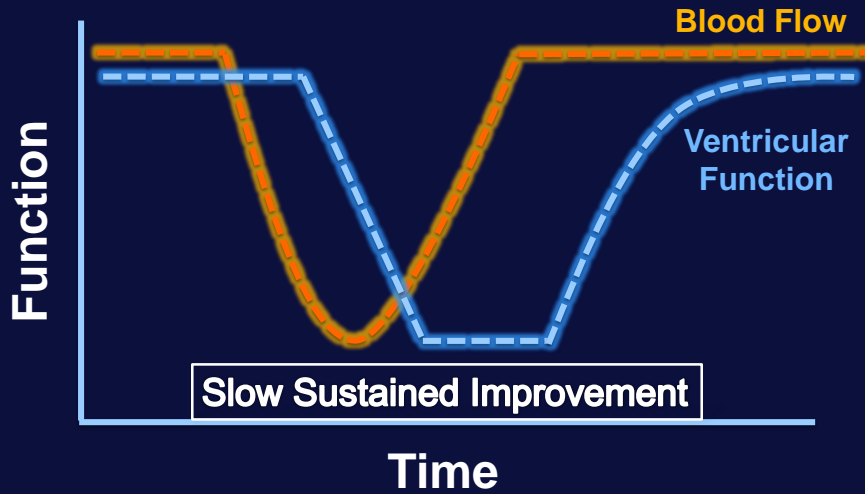
Rest	Stress	Interpretation
Normokinetic	Normal-hyperkinetic	Normal
Normokinetic	Wall Motion abnormality (segment worsens function)	Ischemic Response
Hypokinetic	Akinetic / Dyskinetic (segment worsens function)	Ischemic Response
Resting Dysfunction	Fixed / No Change in Function	Infarct / Necrotic
Resting Dysfunction	Slow Sustained Improvement	Stunning or Cardiomyopathy
Resting Dysfunction	Biphasic Response	Hibernating
Akinetic	Dyskinetic	Passive / Mechanical

Cause of Wall Motion Abnormalities

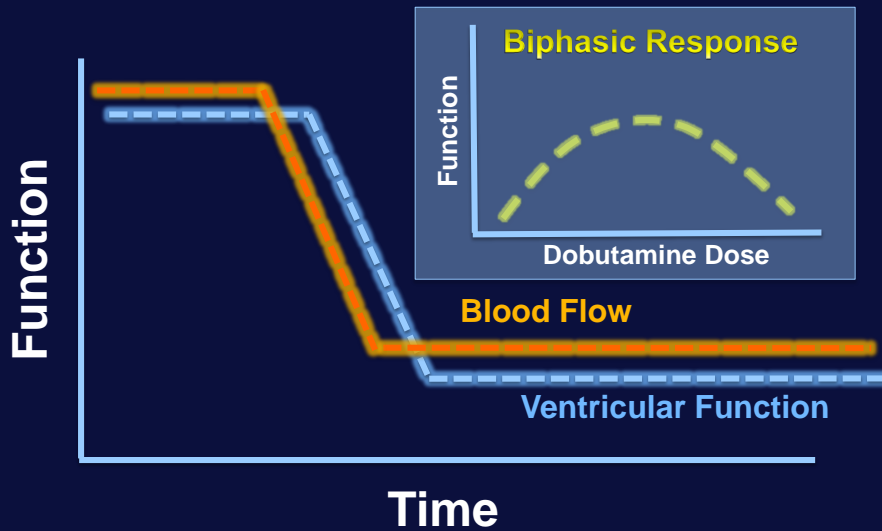
Wall Motion Abnormalities at Rest

- **Ischemic heart disease**
 - Infarction
 - Stunned / Hibernating
- **Conduction**
 - Pacing
 - LBBB
- **Cardiomyopathy**
- **Myocarditis**
- **Right ventricular volume / pressure overload**

Stunned Myocardium



Hibernating Myocardium

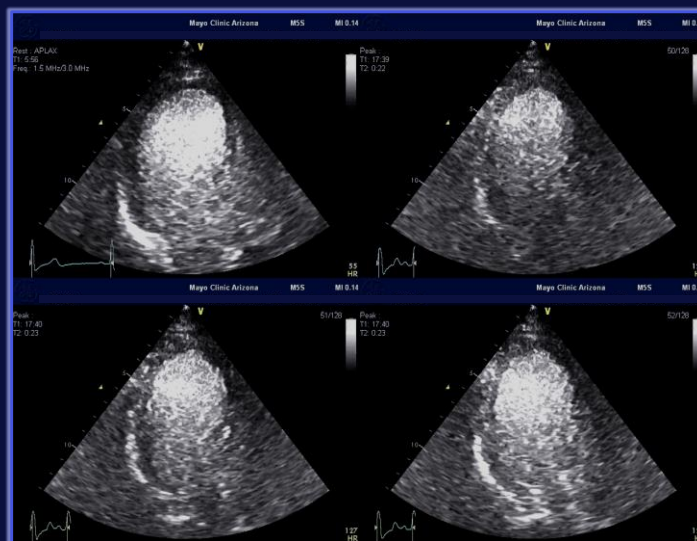


Cause of Wall Motion Abnormalities

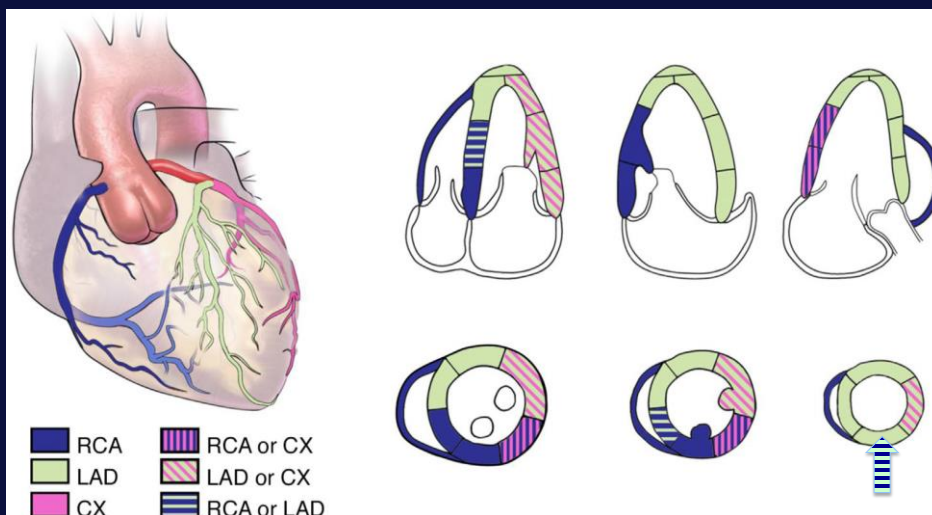
Wall Motion Abnormalities at Rest

- **Ischemic heart disease**
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- **Cardiomyopathy**
- **Myocarditis**
- **Right ventricular volume / pressure overload**

Wall Motion Abnormality Conduction

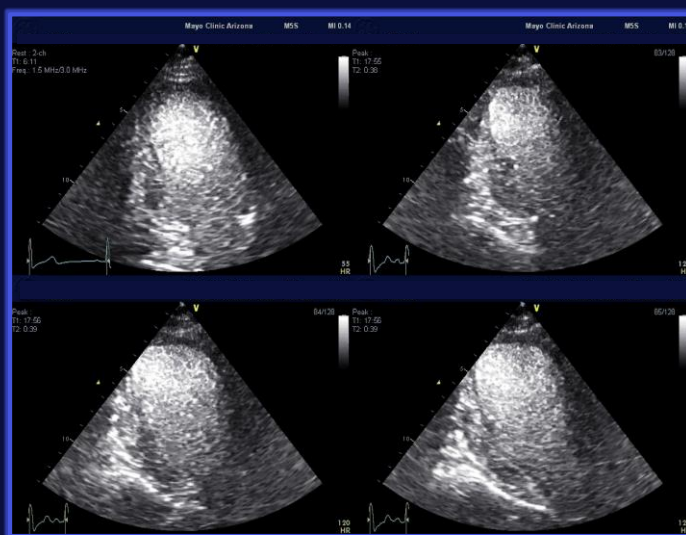


Arterial Distribution



Lang RM et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2015;28:1-39

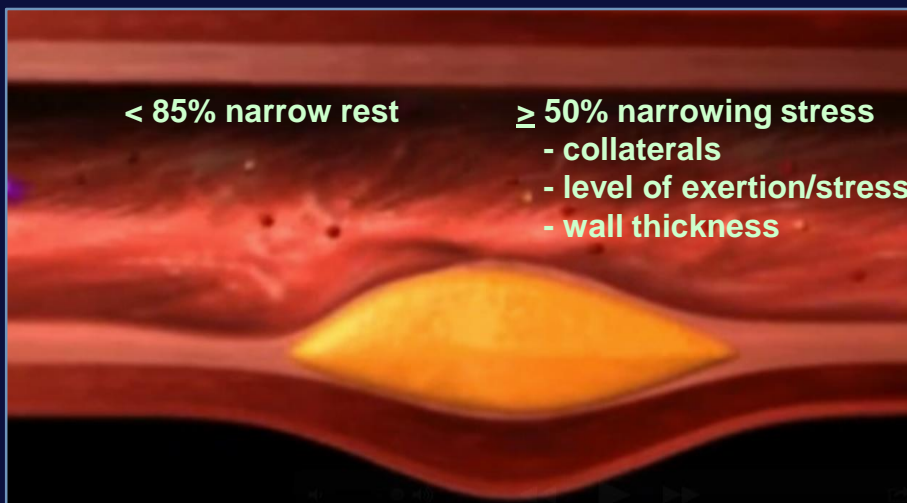
Wall Motion Abnormality Conduction



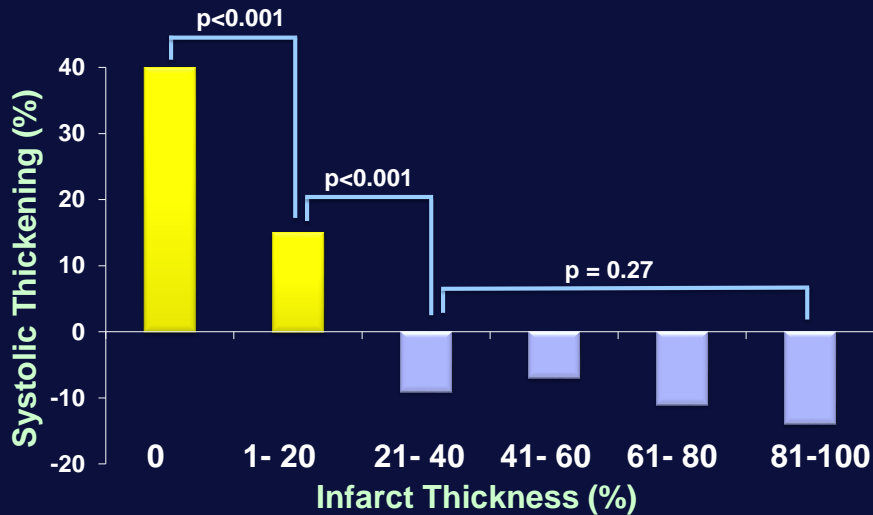
Cause of Wall Motion Abnormalities

Wall Motion Abnormalities at Rest	Wall Motion Abnormalities during Stress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ischemic heart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Infarction -Stunned / Hibernating • Conduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pacing -LBBB • Cardiomyopathy • Myocarditis • Right ventricular pressure overload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ischemia with obstructive CAD • Ischemia in the absence of epicardial obstruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -hypertensive response -microvascular disease • Cardiomyopathy • Rate-related LBBB • Pulmonary

Wall Motion Abnormality Diameter Stenosis

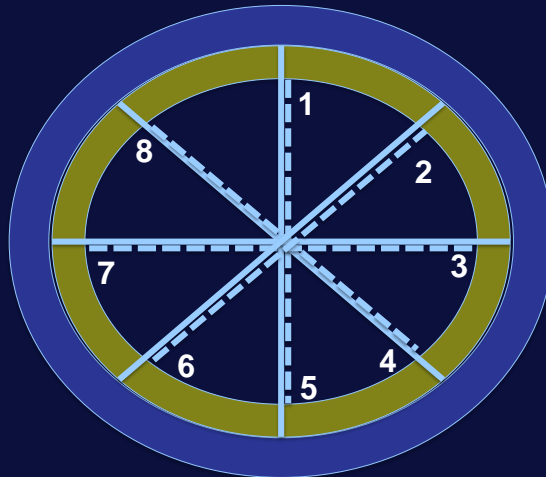


Transmural Extent of Infarct Thickness and Systolic Thickening



Lieberman et al. Circulation 1981;63:739-46

Quantitative Evaluation of Left Ventricular Function Chordal Center Line Analysis (Centroids)

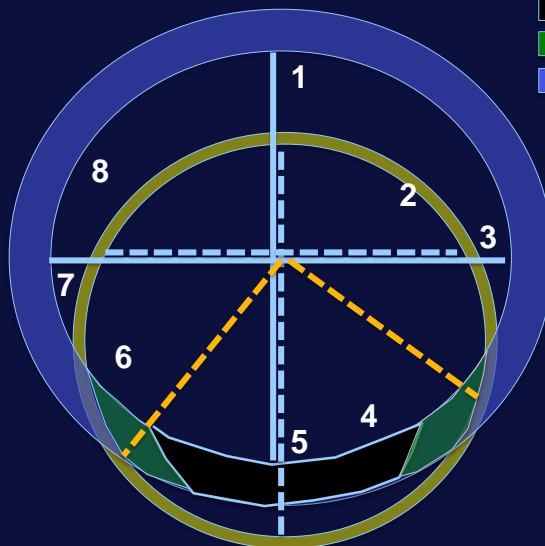


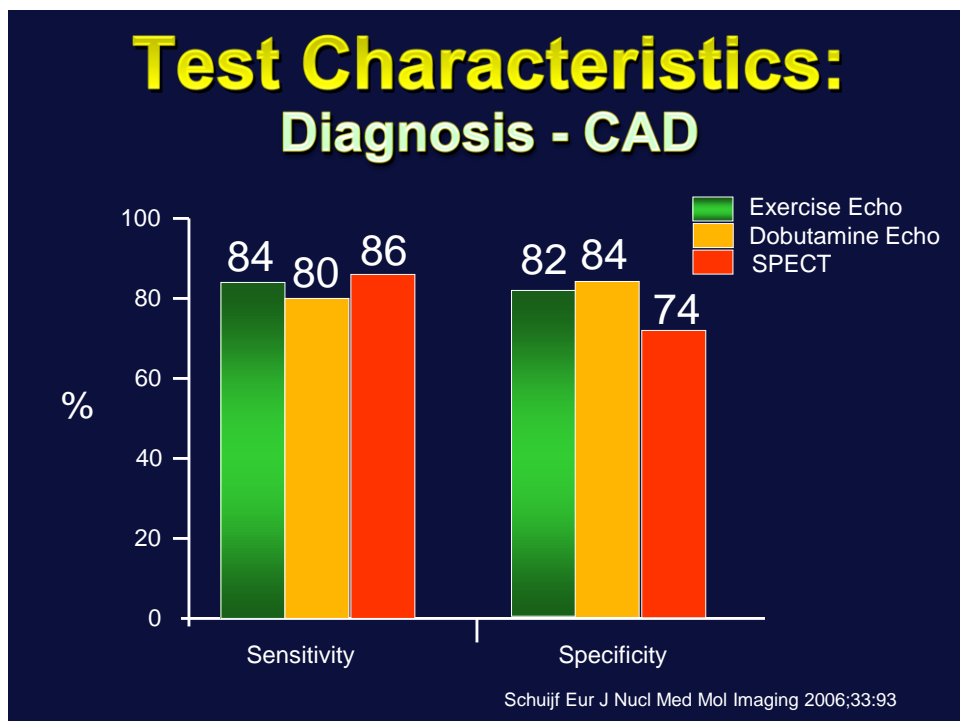
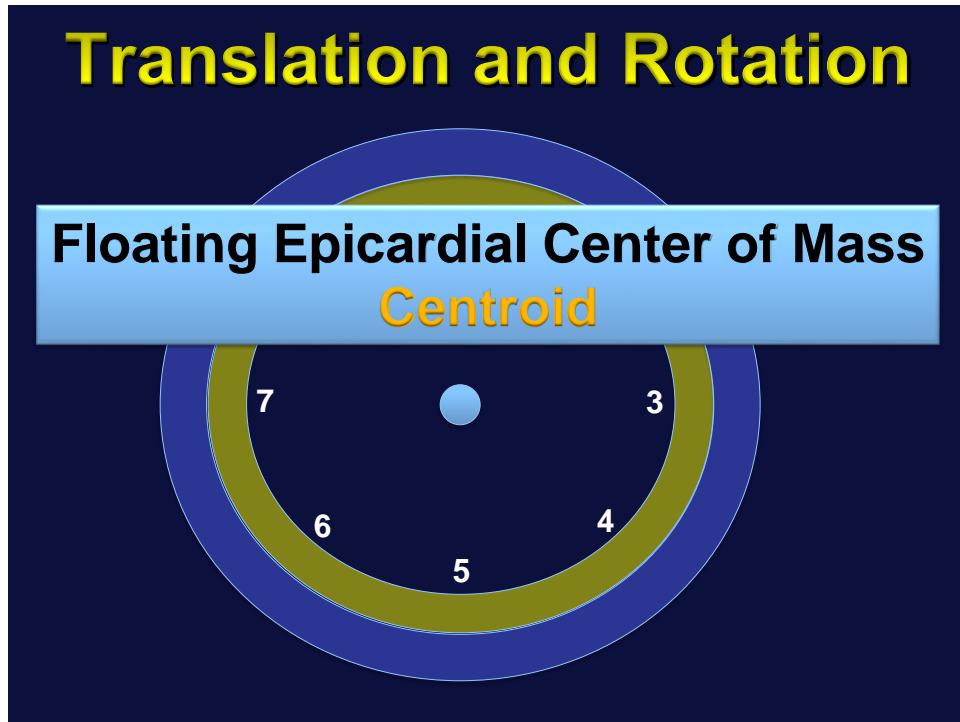
Dyskinesis



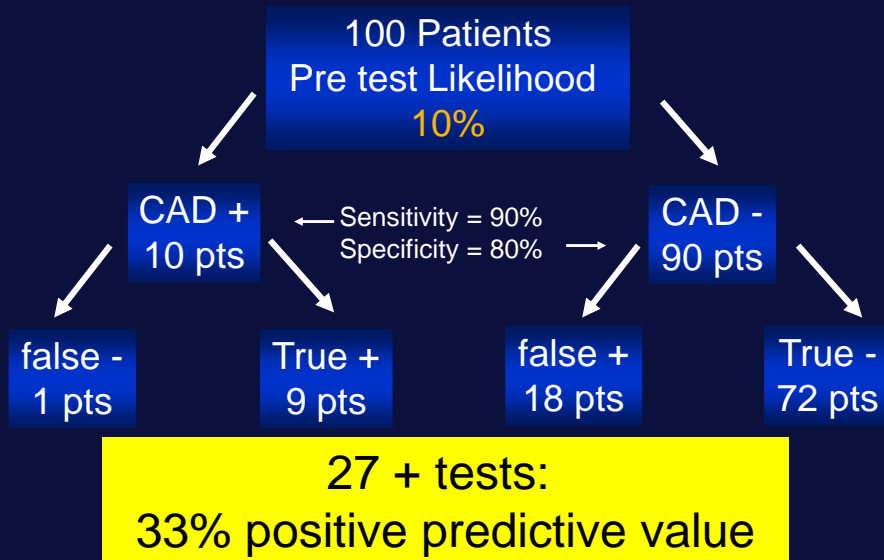
Tethering

- = Infarct
- = Tethered
- = Normal

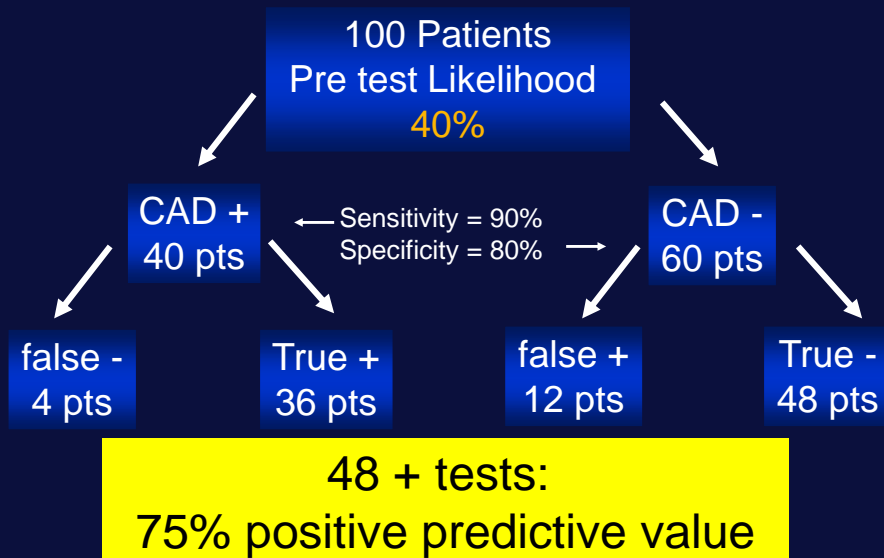




Impact of Pretest Probability



Impact of Pretest Probability



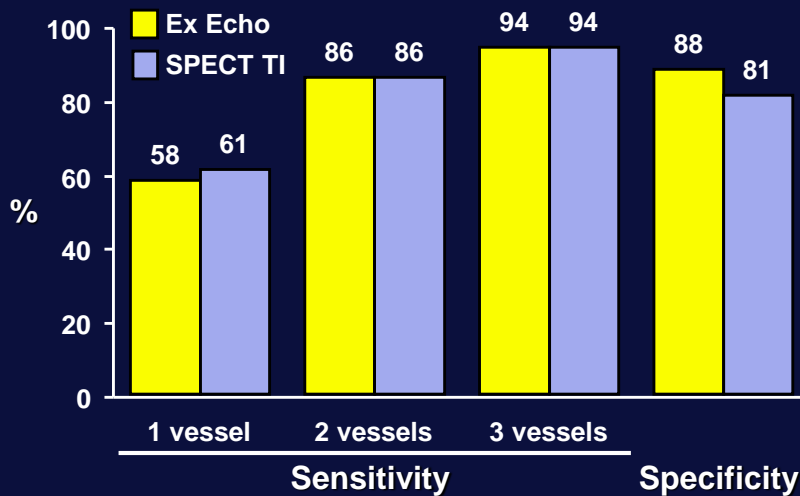
Test Characteristic: Diagnostic Criteria

Sensitivity

1 Segment, > 1 Segment, LV dilation

Specificity

Test Characteristics Exercise Echo vs SPECT TI



Quinones et al: Circ, 1992

Stress Echocardiography

Risk of adverse event
Prognosis

Detection/Exclusion CAD
Diagnosis

Normal SECHO

Physical or Pharmacologic

Very Low Risk

- < 1% per year risk of MI, cardiac death or late revascularization

Low Risk

- 1-3% per year risk of MI, cardiac death or late revascularization
 - submaximal stress (men <7 METS, women < 5 METS)
 - LVEF <40%



Mertz et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2007;49:227-37
Sicari et al. European Heart Journal (2009) 30, 278-289

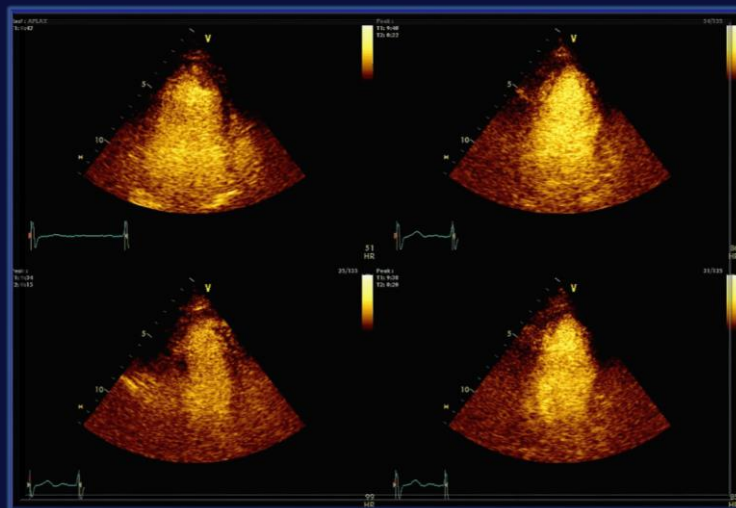
Safety of Stress Echocardiography Supervised by Registered Nurses: Results of a 2-Year Audit of 15,404 Patients

Garvan C. Kane, MD, PhD, Mary J. Hepinstall, RN, Glenda M. Kidd, RN,

	ExEcho n=8592	DSE n= 6755	P value	Total n = 5349
Overall Complication Rate	8 (0.09%)	47 (0.7%)	<0.001	55 (0.36%)
Arrhythmia Requiring Rx	4 (0.05%)	39 (0.58%)	<0.001	43 (0.28%)
SVT / AF	4 (0.05%)	33 (0.49%)	<0.001	37 (0.24%)
VT / VF	0	6 (0.09%)	<0.005	6 (0.04%)
Markedly + / Prolonged CP requiring hospitalization	3 (0.03%)	5 (0.07)	0.56	8 (0.05%)
Symptomatic hypotension requiring hospitalization	1 (0.01%)	3 (0.04%)	0.44	4 (0.03%)
Transfer to Hospital	5 (0.06%)	21 (0.31%)	0.0005	26 (0.17)
Cardiac Rupture or Death	0	0	----	0

comparable with previously reported studies evaluating the safety of stress echocardiography supervised by physicians.

Stress Echocardiography Diastolic Stress Test



Diastolic Stress Echocardiography: A Novel Noninvasive Diagnostic Test for Diastolic Dysfunction Using Supine Bicycle Exercise Doppler Echocardiography

Jong-Won Ha, MD, PhD, Jae K. Oh, MD, Patricia A. Pellikka, MD, Steve R. Ommen, MD, Vicky L. Stussy, RN, RDCS, Kent R. Bailey, PhD, James B. Seward, MD, and A. Jamil Tajik, MD, Rochester, Minnesota

Left ventricular filling pressures can be estimated reliably by combining mitral inflow early diastolic velocity (E) and annulus velocity (E'). An increased E/E' ratio reflects elevated filling pressures and may be useful in assessing an abnormal increase in filling pressures for patients with diastolic dysfunction. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the feasibility of supine bicycle exercise Doppler echocardiography for assessing left ventricular diastolic pressure during exercise. Mitral inflow and septal mitral annulus velocities were measured at rest and during supine bicycle exercise (100 W for 10 minutes) in 26 patients (10 men and 16 women) with a mean age of 66.07 ± 10.14 years (range 45-82 years) referred to our institution for evaluation of suspected diastolic dysfunction.

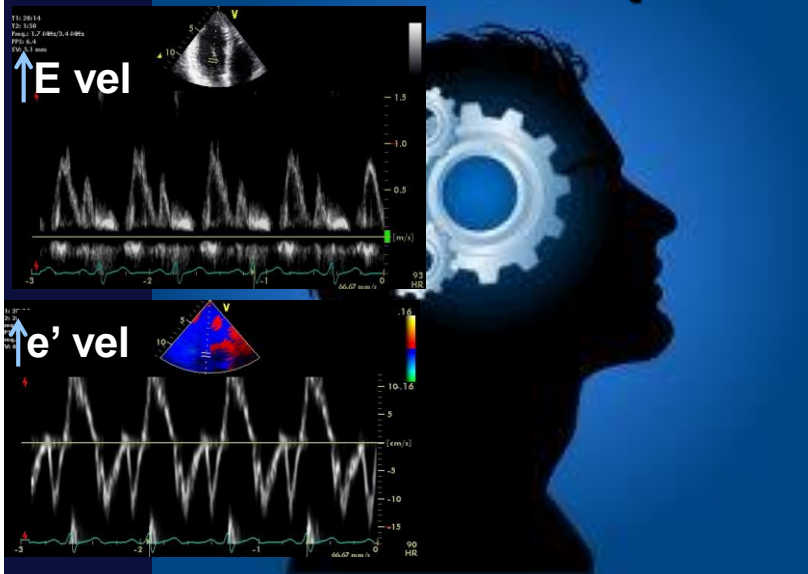
None had echocardiographic or electrocardiographic evidence of myocardial ischemia with exercise. Patients were classified according to E/E' ratio at rest: 26 had E/E' ≤ 10 at rest (group 1) and 19 had E/E' > 10 (group 2). For group 1, 17 had no increase

in E/E' during exercise (group 1A) and 9 did (group 1B). For group 2, E/E' did not increase during exercise. Despite different responses of E/E', there was no significant difference in changes of mitral inflow indices (E, A, E/A, deceleration time) between groups. Although the percentage of dyspnea as a primary reason for stopping exercise was similar for the groups, exercise duration was significantly shorter for groups 1B (7.2 ± 2.5 minutes) and 2 (7.1 ± 3.3 minutes) than in group 1A (10.4 ± 3.7 minutes, P = .0129). Diastolic stress echocardiography using

J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2005;18:63-8

is able for demonstrating the hemodynamic consequences of exercise-induced increase in diastolic filling pressure can be demonstrated noninvasively with exercise Doppler echocardiography. (J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2005;18:63-8.)

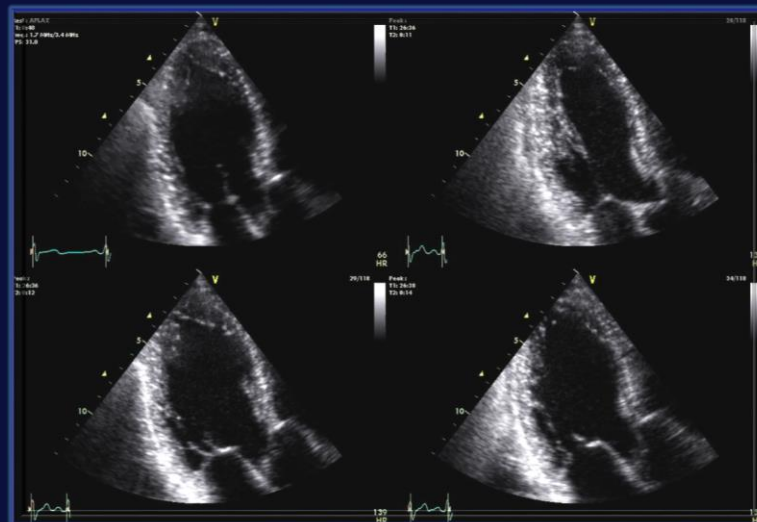
What do we expect?



Case

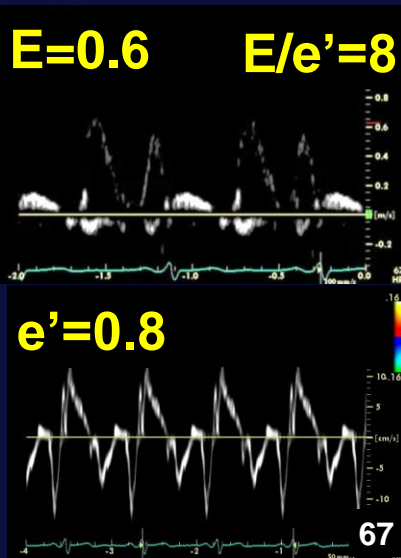
- 55 year old male
- No known CAD
- Hypertension & exertional dyspnea

Stress Echo

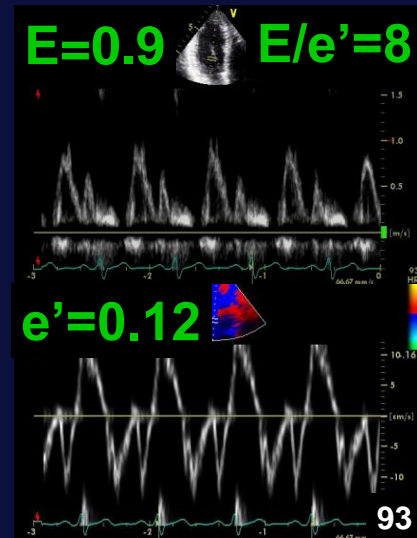


Diastolic Stress Test

Pre



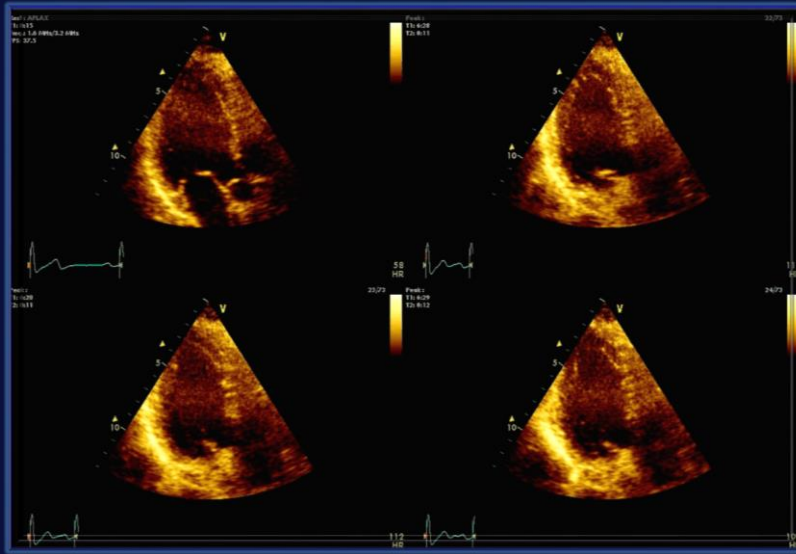
Post



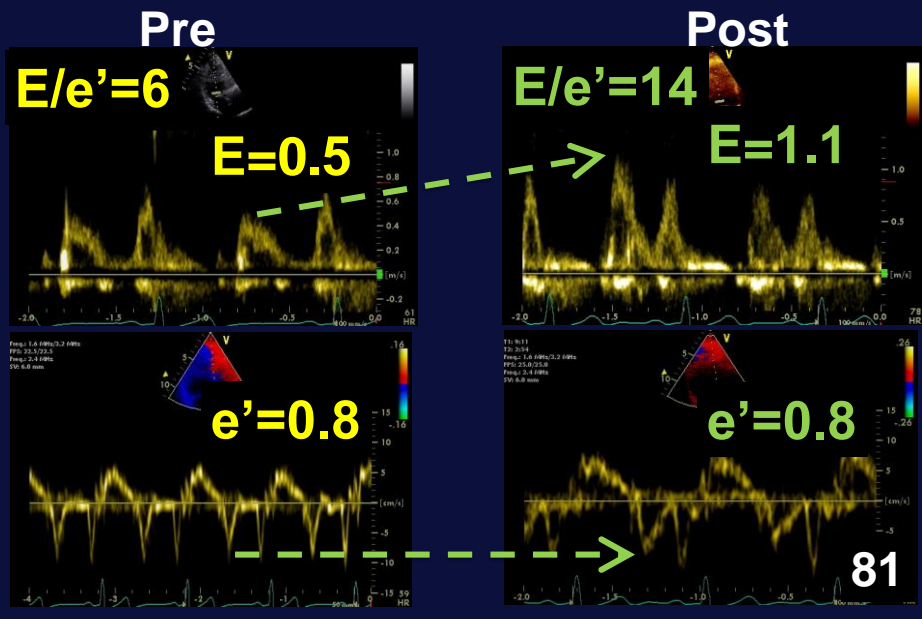
Case

- 67 year old male
- No known CAD
- Diabetes and hypertension
- Complains of dyspnea on exertion (NYHA II)

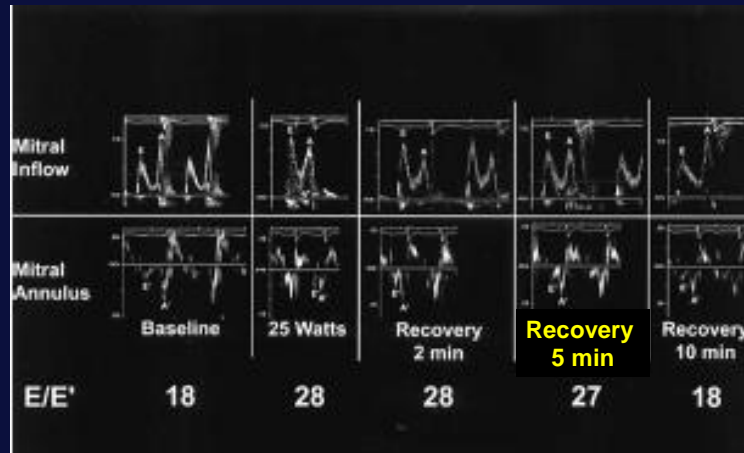
Stress Echo



Diastolic Stress Test



Important Observations From the Initial Studies



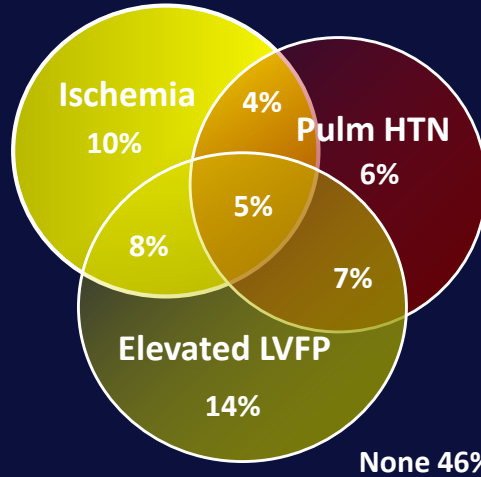
Ha et al J Am Soc Echocardiol 2005;18:63-8

Important Observations From the Initial Studies

- Those with increased filling pressure at baseline will further increase filling pressure with exercise
- Therefore, those who benefit most from diastolic stress testing are those with normal resting LVFP but abnormal relaxation (grade I)

Exercise-limiting Dyspnea

Courtesy Rob McCully



Ischemia 27%
 Pulmonary HTN 22%
 Elevated LVFP 34%
 Any abnormality 54%

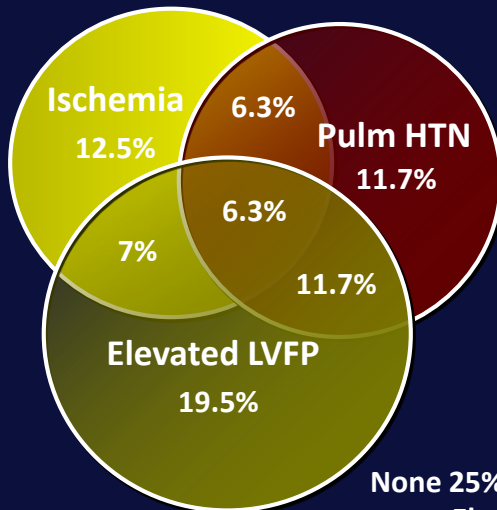
n=630

Elevated LVFP: ex. E/e' >13
 Pulm HTN: ex. RVSP >50 mm Hg

Reduced Exercise Capacity

Women <5 METs, Men <7 METs

Courtesy Rob McCully



Ischemia 32%
 Pulmonary HTN 36%
 Elevated LVFP 45%
 Any abnormality 75%

n=128

Elevated LVFP: ex. E/e' >13
 Pulm HTN: ex. RVSP >50 mm Hg

Treadmill Exercise Echo (2010 →) Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Baseline

EF, RWMA, valves
Color flow

+

LA Volume

Diastolic E/A, E/e'
RV systolic pressure
TR Vmax

Post-exercise

Quads for
EF, LVESV resp, RWMA

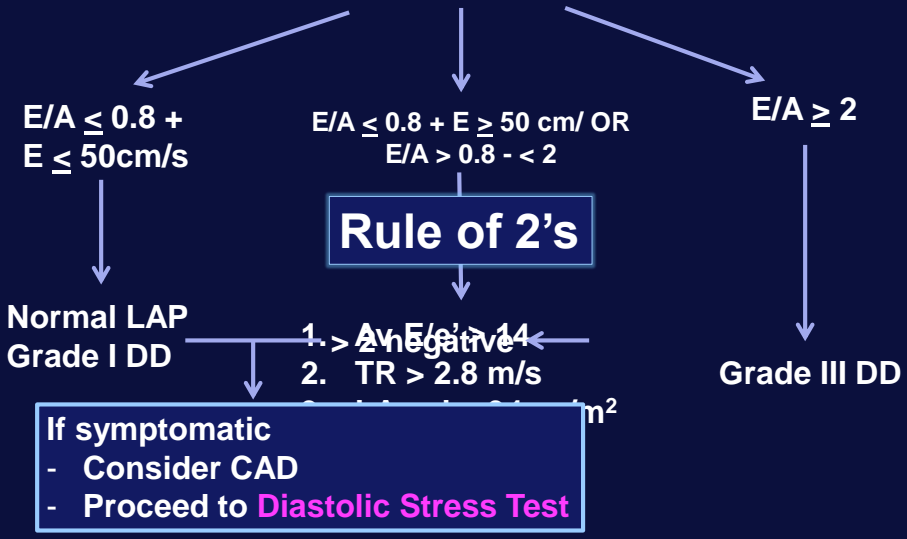
+

Then TR Vmax

RV systolic pressure
Then
LV filling pressure
E, e', E/e'

Grading LV Filling Pressures

Depressed EF / Myocardial Disease and Normal EF
When Is Diastolic Stress Testing Indicated?



ASE/EACVI GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

Recommendations for the Evaluation of Left Ventricular Diastolic Function by Echocardiography: An Update from the American Society of Echocardiography and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging

Diastolic Stress Test Interpretation

Definitely Abnormal

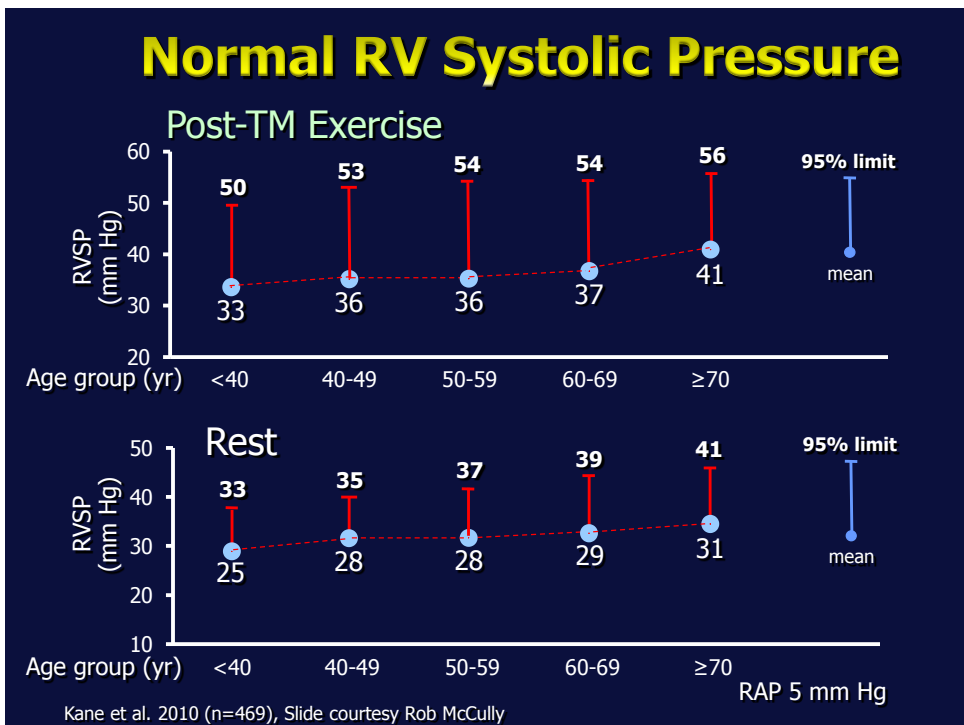
- Average E/e' > 14 or Septal >15
- Septal $e' < 7$ cm/sec or Lateral $e' < 10$ cm/sec
- Peak TR velocity > 2.8 m/sec

Normal

- Average (or septal) $E/e' < 10$
- Peak TR velocity < 2.8 m/sec

J Am Coll Cardiol 2016;29:277-314

277



Summary

- 1. Exertional dyspnea portends a poor prognosis (> angina).**
- 2. An exercise induced increase in E/e' relates to changes in filling pressure and its finding has adverse prognostic significance.**

Summary

- 3. The post exercise E/e' can be measured minutes into recovery, ideally as soon as the discrete waves are appreciated.**
- 4. The ideal patient is one with exertional dyspnea and baseline grade I diastolic dysfunction.**

2014 AHA/ACC Guideline for the Management of Patients With Valvular Heart Disease

A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines

Developed in Collaboration With the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American Society of Echocardiography, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists, and Society of Thoracic Surgeons

Class IIa

Exercise testing is reasonable in selected patients with asymptomatic severe VHD to

- 1) confirm the absence of symptoms, or**
- 2) assess the hemodynamic response to exercise, or**
- 3) determine prognosis.**

(Level of Evidence: B)

Lesley H. Curtis, PhD, FAHA

David DeMets, PhD

Robert A. Guyton, MD, FACC§§

Frank W. Sellke, MD, FACC, FAHA

Win-Kuang Shen, MD, FACC, FAHA

William G. Stevenson, MD, FACC, FAHA§§

Clyde W. Yancy, MD, FACC, FAHA§§

EACVI/ASE CLINICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Clinical Use of Stress Echocardiography in Non-Ischaemic Heart Disease: Recommendations from the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging and the American Society of Echocardiography



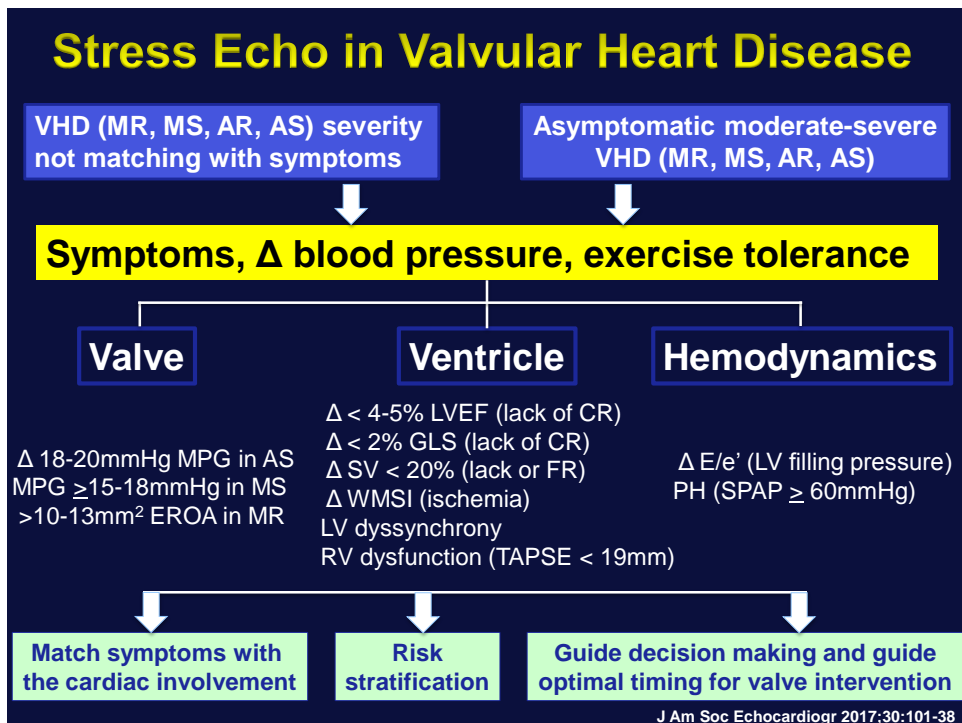
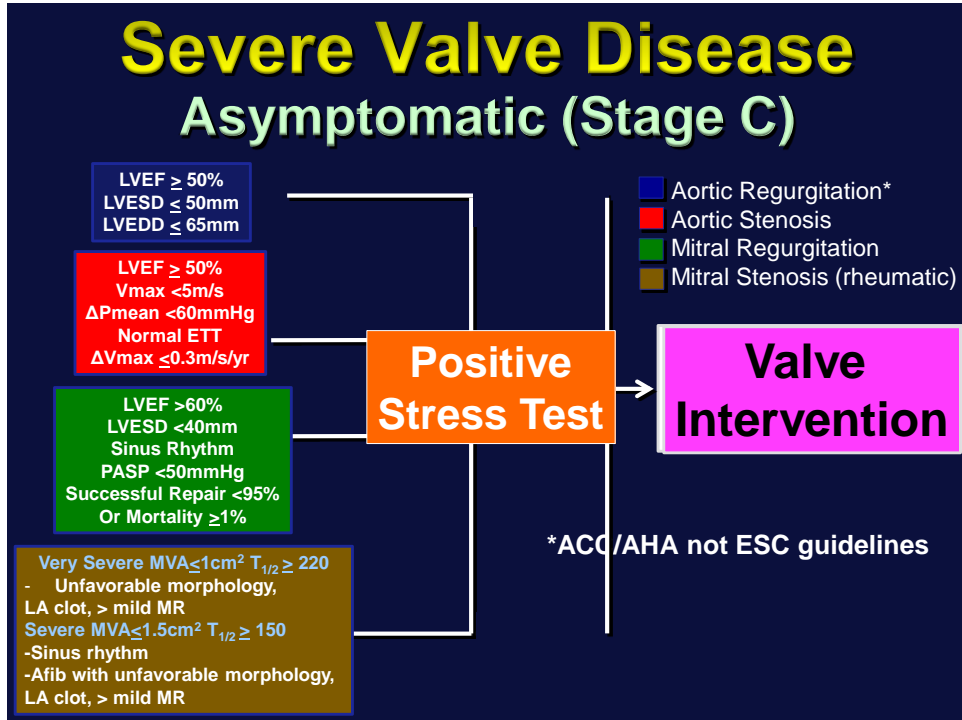
Patrizio Lancellotti, MD, PhD, FESC (Chair), Patricia A. Pellikka, MD, FASE (Co-Chair), Werner Badis, MD, PhD, Farooq A. Chaudhry, MD, FASE, Erwan Donal, MD, PhD, FESC, Raluca Dulgheru, MD, Thor Edvardsen, MD, PhD, FESC, Madalina Garbi, MD, MA, Jong Won Ha, MD, PhD, FESC, Garvan C. Kane, MD, PhD, FASE, Joe Kreeger, ACS, RCCS, RDCCS, FASE, Luc Mertens, MD, PhD, FASE, Philippe Pibarot, DVM, PhD, FASE, FESC, Eugenio Picano, MD, PhD, Thomas Ryan, MD, FASE, Jeane M. Tsutsui, MD, PhD, and Albert Varga, MD, PhD, FESC, *Lège, Belgium; Bari and Pisa, Italy; Rochester, Minnesota; Leuven, Belgium; New York, New York; Rennes, France; Oslo, Norway; London, UK; Seoul, South Korea; Atlanta, Georgia; Toronto and Québec, Canada; Columbus, Ohio; São Paulo, Brazil; and Szeged, Hungary*

A unique and highly versatile tool for the evaluation of non-ischaemic heart disease and haemodynamics under physiological conditions.

SE has become widely implemented to assess various conditions other than ischaemic heart disease. It has thus become essential to establish guidance for its applications and performance in the area of non-ischaemic heart disease. This paper summarizes these recommendations (J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2017;30:101-38).

Keywords: Cardiomyopathy, Congenital heart disease, Heart failure, Pulmonary hypertension, Stress echocardiography, Stress test, Valvular heart disease

J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2017;30:101-38



Low EF Area Gradient Mismatch

Baseline Doppler
hemodynamics

Class IIa

AVR is reasonable in symptomatic patients with low-flow/low-gradient severe AS with reduced LVEF (stage D2) with a low-dose dobutamine stress study that shows an aortic velocity ≥ 4.0 m/s (or mean pressure gradient ≥ 40 mm Hg) with a valve area ≤ 1.0 cm² at any dobutamine dose

True Severe AS
(D2) IIa

Pseudo Severe AS

Conclusion

1. Understand the differences and indications for the various stress modalities.
2. Know the walls and their coronary supply.
3. Understand the methods and interpretation of wall motion.
4. Viability: stunning versus hibernation.
5. Understand the test characteristics.
6. Emerging uses: Valve Disease and SOB.
7. Appropriate use.

