# **Echo in Systemic Disease**



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## Introduction

- A variety of systemic diseases can affect the heart
- Echo is usually the first imaging technique used to evaluate such patients
- Typical systemic diseases with cardiac effects:
  - Infiltrative diseases (sarcoidosis, amyloidosis)
  - Autoimmune/collagen vascular
  - Endocrine
  - Malignancy
  - Radiation-induced injury
  - Drug-induced valvulopathy





### Rheumatologic disease & CV disease

- Pericardial disease: SLE, RA, SSc
- Epicardial: CAD: RA, SLE
- Cardiac microvascular disease: SSc
- Myocardial disease: SSc, SLE, (RA)
- Valvular disease: SLE, ankylosing spondylitis
- Conduction dz: SSc, ankylosing spondylitis
- Pulmonary arterial HTN: SSc, SLE

SLE=systemic lupus erythematosus, RA=rheumatoid arthritis, SSc=systemic sclerosis (scleroderma)







### Cardiac Manifestations of Scleroderma

- Diverse cardiovascular manifestations can occur in scleroderma
  - Primary: myocardial fibrosis, microvascular ischemia, pericardial disease, conduction disease, arrhythmias
  - Secondary: pulmonary hypertension
- Both PAH and PVH can occur in scleroderma



# **Case Presentation**

- 62-year-old female nurse with history of scleroderma and systemic HTN
- Progressive dyspnea, leg swelling
- Worsening exercise tolerance
- NYHA class III symptoms
- Scleroderma diagnosed 5 years earlier
   Raynaud's, skin tightening, GERD
- HTN well-controlled











# Question

• What is the most likely cause of this patient's symptoms?

- -A. Pulmonary arterial hypertension
- -B. Pulmonary venous hypertension
- -C. Primary RV failure
- -D. Constrictive pericarditis
- -E. Amlodipine-induced LE edema





### PAH vs PVH: Practical tips on echo

- Think PVH until proven otherwise
- Signs which favor PVH:
  - Left atrial enlargement
  - Interatrial septum bowing  $L \rightarrow R$
  - Grade 2 or worse diastolic dysfunction
    » NOTE: severe PAH usually causes grade 1 DD!
  - Reduced tissue Doppler lateral e'velocity
  - High E/e' (lateral) ratio





# **Invasive Hemodynamics**

- RA pressure:
  - 10 mmHg (normal < 6 mmHg)</li>
- PA pressure:
  - 62/22 mmHg, mean 35 mmhg)
  - (normal 30/12, mean < 20 mmHg)
- *PCWP*:
  - 22 mmHg (normal < 12 mmHg)
- CO: 6 L/min (normal 4-8 L/min)
- PVR: 2.2 Wood units (normal < 1.5 WU)











# Diffuse cardiac fibrosis on MRI in SSc



# Treatment

- Rx with bumetanide and spironolactone
- Dramatic improvement in symptoms
- NYHA class I







- 12 months after her initial evaluation → exertional lightheadedness and dizziness
  - -Especially when climbing stairs
- Symptoms progressed → exertional syncope
- Hospitalized for further evaluation









# Treatment

- Rx with sildenafil, bosentan
- Rapidly worsening symptoms
- Hypotension, recurrent syncope
- Admitted to CCU





# **Treatment**

### • Initially treated with dobutamine

- Persistent hypotension
- Urine output → dropped to zero

### • Treatment switched to:

- IV diuresis (furosemide gtt)
- Inhaled nitric oxide 20 ppm
- Phenylephrine
- Urine output increased
- Eventually transitioned to SQ treprostinil





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# **Clinical Manifestations**

- Conduction abnormalities (atrioventricular block or bundle-branch block)
- Tachyarrhythmias
- Sudden cardiac death
- Coronary infiltration (leading to spasm or vasculitis)
- Cardiomyopathy
- Congestive heart failure
  - · Granulomatous involvement of myocardium
  - Granulomatous involvement of valves, pap muscles





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# Prevalence of cardiac findings in cardiac sarcoidosis

- AV block: 26-62%
- BBB: 12-61%
- SVT: 0-15%
- Vtach: 2-42%
- HF: 10-30%
- SD : 12-65%









# <sup>18</sup>F-Fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG) PET

- Detects active sarcoidosis with high sensitivity
- May be positive in other inflammatory cardiac conditions







### **Radionuclide Imaging: Thallium-201**

- Focal perfusion deficits may be seen at rest
- With exercise, "reverse redistribution" is seen
- Fixed defects may represent scar
- Gallium-67 can detect active inflammation





### **Accuracy of Diagnostic Tests**

Diagnostic modality	Sensitivity	Specificity
ECG	Low	Low
Echocardiography	Low to moderate	Low
<sup>201</sup> Tl or <sup>99m</sup> Tc scintigraphy	Moderate	Moderate
<sup>67</sup> Ga scintigraphy	Low	High
<sup>18</sup> F-FDG PET	High	Moderate to high
MRI	Moderate to high	High

Kim JS et al. Am Heart J 2009;157:9-21.

























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# **Hospital Course**

- Endobronchial biopsy: +Sarcoidosis
- ICD/pacer implanted





























## Summary

- Echo is usually the first imaging modality used to image the heart in pts with systemic diseases
- Thorough knowledge of the cardiac manifestations of systemic diseases is necessary
- Scleroderma can have primary and secondary effects on the heart know how to differentiate!
- Cardiac sarcoidosis can range from subtle to extreme cardiac abnormalities. Have a high index of suspicion, especially when arrhythmias and/or conduction disease present











