



-  Very important
-  Extra information

Physiology

OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

* Guyton corners, anything that is colored with grey is EXTRA explanation

Regulation of stroke volume and heart failure

Objectives :

- Explain how cardiac contractility affect stroke volume.
- Explain pathophysiology of heart failure and differentiate between left and right failure.
- Explain how the pathophysiology associated with heart failure results in typical signs and symptoms.

Important concept

Definitions

EDV

End diastolic volume

=

ESV

End systolic volume

+

SV

Stroke volume

The volume of blood present in each ventricle **at the end of ventricular diastole**.

It also called **Preload**

Value: **120-130 mL**

Note: It is the maximum amount of blood comes from all over the body & the lungs, and accumulate in the ventricle.

The volume of blood present in each ventricle **at the end of ventricular systole** “After pumping the blood”

Value: **50-60 mL**

The volume of blood **ejected** by each ventricle during each **ventricular systole**.

Value:

70-80 mL/beat

During ventricular **diastole**, filling of the ventricles with blood normally increases the volume of each ventricle to about **120-130 mL**

Is the volume of blood **pumped** by each ventricle **per beat**. while cardiac output is the amount of blood pumped **per minute**.

Factors affecting the SV

EDV

“ Preload ”

It depends on:

1- **Filling time:**

Which is the duration of ventricular diastole. \uparrow FT = \uparrow SV

2- **Venous return:**

The rate of blood flow during ventricular diastole. \uparrow VR = \uparrow SV

\Rightarrow \uparrow EDV = \uparrow SV

Note: It is the main determinant of stroke volume.

ESV

\uparrow ESV = \downarrow SV

\downarrow ESV = \uparrow SV

› Remember that $EDV = ESV + SV$
let suppose that EDV is constant, when one of (ESV and SV) increase, the other as a result will decrease of course.
that's why when ESV decrease = Increase SV to give the same constant value (EDV)

Afterload

› It is expressed as **tension** which must be developed in the **wall of ventricles** during **systole** to **open the semilunar valves** and eject blood to aorta or pulmonary artery.

› Is increased by any factor that **restricts** arterial blood,

e.g.:

1- \uparrow **Arterial blood pressure.**

2- **Vasoconstriction** “Low diameter”

\uparrow AL = \downarrow SV \Rightarrow Means \uparrow AL = \uparrow ESV
 \downarrow AL = \uparrow SV \Rightarrow \downarrow AL = \downarrow ESV

Afterload “EXTRA-EXPLANATION”

- **Remember from pharmacology ;**

الأدوية التي نستخدمها في علاج حالات فشل القلب تعمل على تقليل الـ Afterload لأنه يمثل المجهود الذي يبذله القلب، نظراً لكون قلب المريض مجهداً.

► Afterload is increased by any factor that restricts arterial blood flow like :

- **Increase arterial blood pressure.**

(\uparrow BP \rightarrow \uparrow tension \rightarrow more afterload to overcome high BP) note ; afterload = the tension that occurs in the muscle to overcome \uparrow BP (المجهود المبذول لضخ الدم) . So , if ; \uparrow BP \rightarrow \uparrow afterload.

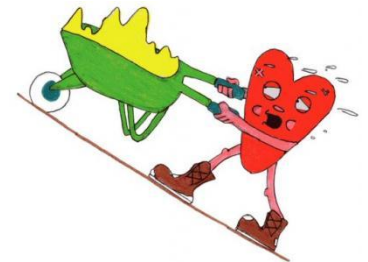
- **Vasoconstriction** = \uparrow BP = \uparrow afterload

► As afterload **increase** , stroke volume **decrease**. (WHY ?)

There is resistant \rightarrow \downarrow amount of blood \rightarrow \downarrow SV

مقاومة لضخ الدم = كمية الدم القابلة للضخ تقل (زيادة المقاومة = تقليل كمية الدم)

***Note :** Vasoconstriction decrease the stroke volume (SV) , while vasodilation increase the stroke volume (SV)



EXTRA

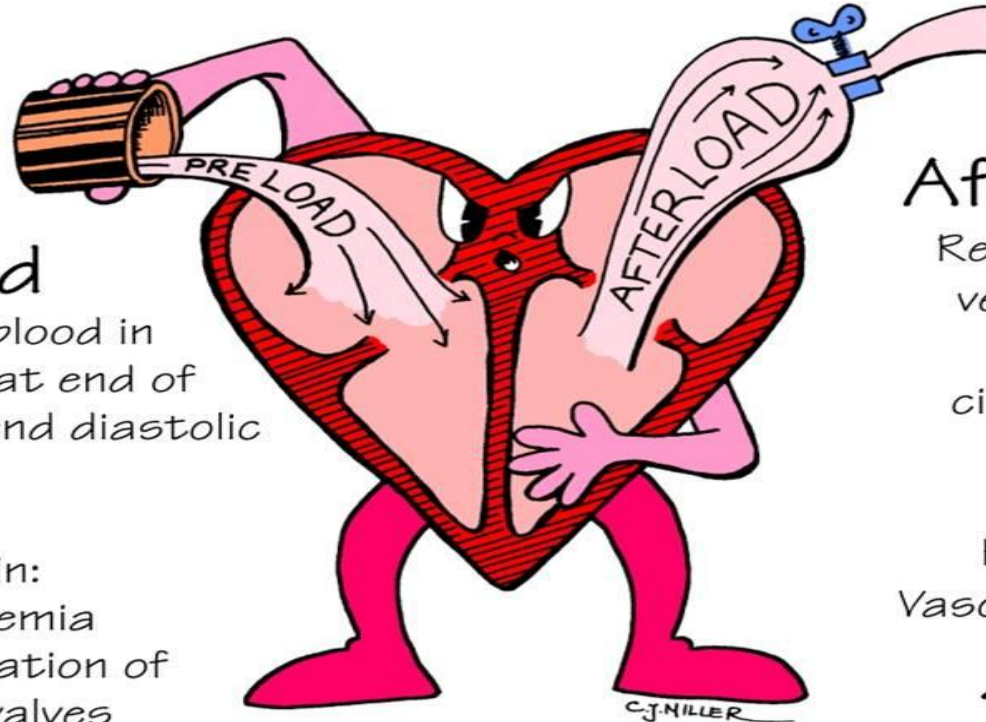
PRELOAD AND AFTERLOAD

Preload

Volume of blood in ventricles at end of diastole (end diastolic pressure)

Increased in:

- Hypervolemia
- Regurgitation of cardiac valves
- Heart Failure



Afterload

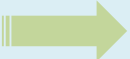
Resistance left ventricle must overcome to circulate blood

Increased in:
Hypertension
Vasoconstriction

↑ Afterload =
↑ Cardiac workload

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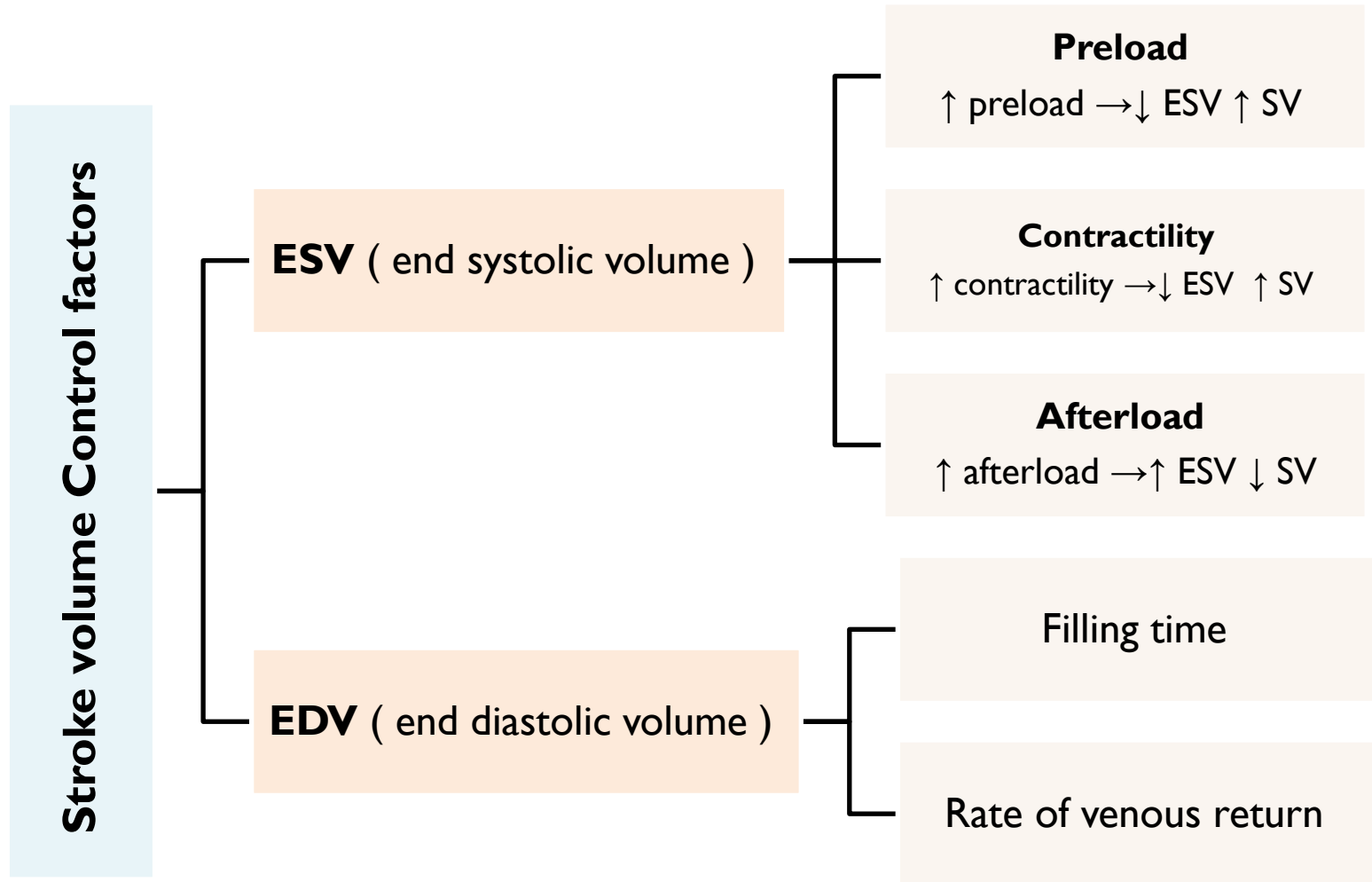
The Frank–Starling Principle (Starling's law of the heart)

- It is based on the **length-tension** relationship within the ventricle.
- If EDV (preload) **↑** it follows that the ventricular fiber length is also **↑**  resulting in an **increased 'tension'** of the muscle.
- Cardiac output is **directly** related to venous return.
- The most important determining factor is **preload**.
- The contraction has a direct proportion to SV, and therefore SV in response to changes in venous return is called the Frank-Starling mechanism (Starling's Law of the heart).

To understand the Frank–Starling principle: imagine a (rubber band), when you stretch the rubber band the length will increase then it will recoil, and when you stretch it more it will recoil more strongly. to compare this example with the heart, the rubber band is the muscle fibers of the heart, and when the blood volume stretch this muscle fibers, the length will increase so the force of contraction (tension) will increase.

- (increased end-diastolic volume → increased length → increased tension → increase stroke volume).

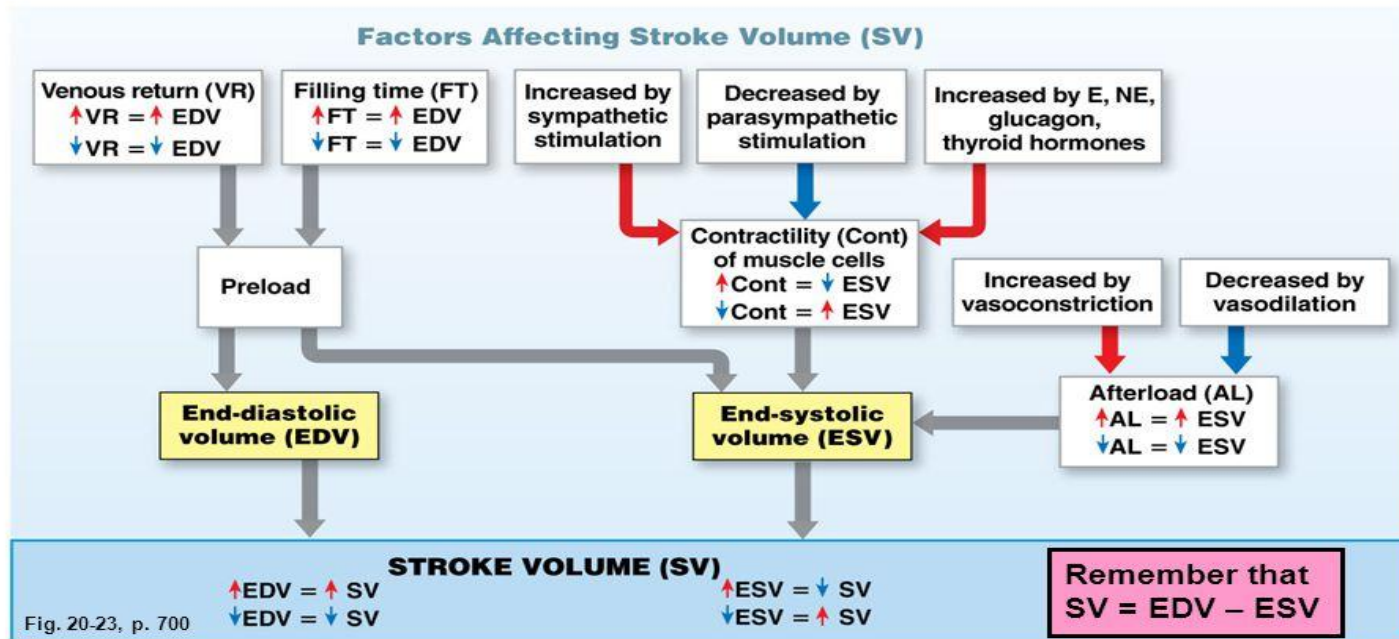
Stroke volume control factors



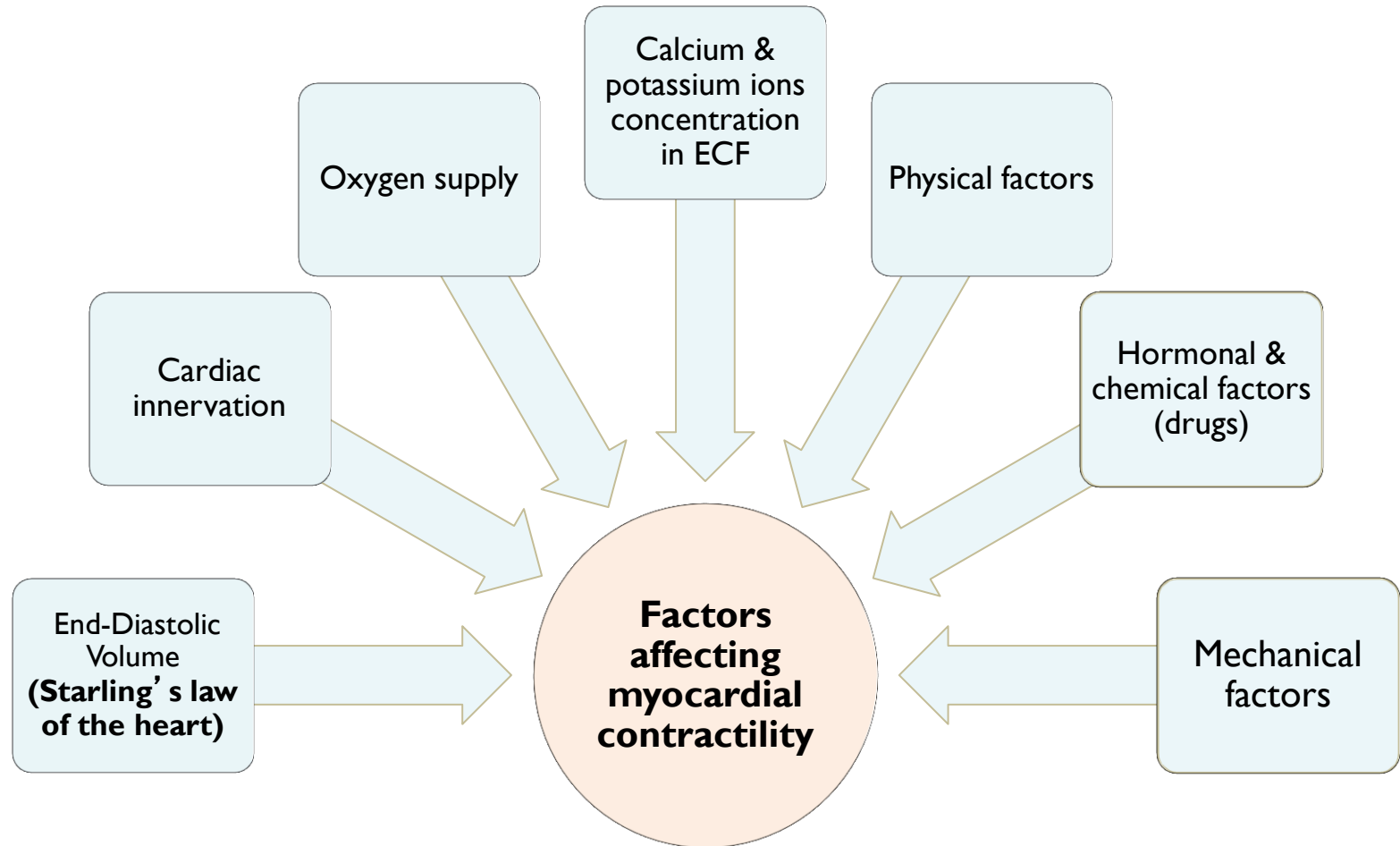
EXTRA

Factors that affect stroke volume (SV)

- **Filling time** = the duration of ventricular diastole (\uparrow HR \rightarrow \downarrow filling time)
- **Venous return** = the blood that returns to the heart during filling time (diastole)
- **Preload** = the degree of stretch of the ventricular myocardium at the end of diastole (\propto EDV)
- **Afterload** = the amount of tension a ventricle must produce to force open a semilunar valve and eject blood (e.g. \uparrow peripheral resistance [e.g. vasoconstriction] in arteries \rightarrow \uparrow afterload \rightarrow longer isovolumetric contraction period \rightarrow \downarrow ventricular ejection \rightarrow \uparrow ESV)
- **Contractility** = the force of contraction produced *at a given preload*



Factors affecting myocardial contractility: (Inotropic effectors)



Factors affecting myocardial contractility: (Inotropic effectors)

► I- Starling's law of the heart

“Length-tension relationship”

- Within limits, the **power of contraction** is *directly proportional* to the initial **length** of the muscle fiber.
- **Overstretching** the fiber as in *heart failure* its power of contractility decreases.

• Guyton corner :

- Basically, the Frank-Starling mechanism means that the greater the heart muscle is stretched during filling, the greater is the force of contraction.
- When an extra amount of blood flows into the ventricles, the cardiac muscle itself is stretched to greater length. This in turn causes the muscle to contract with increased force because the actin and myosin filaments are brought to a more nearly optimal degree of overlap for force generation. However, when there is overstretching of the fibers due to any abnormality the contractility will decrease

Factors affecting myocardial contractility: (Inotropic effectors)

▶ 2- Cardiac innervation

Sympathetic NS :

↑ force of contraction.

Parasympathetic NS (vagus)

↓ atrial force of contraction with
no significant effect on *Ventricular*
contraction.

▶ 4- Calcium and potassium ions concentration

↑ Ca^{2+} → ↑ contractility.

↑ K^{+} → ↓ contractility.

▶ 3- Oxygen supply

Hypoxia → ↓ contractility.

▶ 5- Physical factors

Warming → ↑ contractility.

Cooling → ↓ contractility.

- **Guyton corner :**

- sympathetic stimulation increases the force of heart contraction to as much as double normal.
- Strong stimulation of the parasympathetic nerve fibers in the vagus nerves to the heart can stop the heartbeat for a few seconds, but then the heart usually “escapes” and beats at a rate of 20 to 40 beats/min as long as the parasympathetic stimulation continues. In addition, strong vagal stimulation can decrease the strength of heart muscle contraction by 20 to 30 percent.
- The vagal fibers are distributed mainly to the atria and not much to the ventricles, where the power contraction of the heart occurs. This explains the effect of vagal stimulation mainly to decrease heart rate rather than to decrease greatly the strength of heart contraction.
- Elevation of potassium concentration can cause such weakness of the heart and abnormal rhythm that death occurs.
- These effects result partially from the fact that a high potassium concentration in the extracellular fluids decreases the resting membrane potential in the cardiac muscle fibers. That is, high extracellular fluid potassium concentration partially depolarizes the cell membrane, causing the membrane potential to be less negative. As the membrane potential decreases, the intensity of the action potential also decreases, which makes contraction of the heart progressively weaker.
- An excess of calcium ions causes effects almost exactly opposite to those of potassium ions, causing the heart to go toward spastic contraction. This is caused by a direct effect of calcium ions to initiate the cardiac contractile process. Conversely, deficiency of calcium ions causes cardiac *flaccidity*, similar to the effect of high potassium.

Factors affecting myocardial contractility: (Inotropic effectors)

► 6- Hormonal & chemical factors (drugs):

Positive inotropics:

- Adrenaline
- Noradrenaline
- Alkalosis
- Digitalis
- Ca^{2+}
- caffeine

Negative inotropics:

- Acetylcholine
- Acidosis
- Ether
- Chloroform
- some bacterial toxins (diphtheria toxins).
- K^{+}

- **Digitalis** like (digoxin) : treat heart failure and increase the contractility.
- **Caffeine** found in coffee , chocolate and tea.
- **Acidosis** is : excessive blood acidity (low PH) due to increase the concentration of CO_2 .
- One of the situation that cause acidosis is : exercise
(anaerobic metabolism → lead to the production of **lactic acid** → it cause acidosis → which decrease the contractility).

Factors affecting myocardial contractility: (Inotropic effectors)

► 7- Mechanical factors:

- Cardiac muscle obeys “**all or none law**”:
Minimal or threshold stimuli lead to **maximal** cardiac contraction, because cardiac muscle behaves as a **syncytium**.
- Cardiac muscle **cannot** be stimulated while it is contracted, Because its excitability during contraction is **zero** due to **Long** absolute refractory period, so it **cannot be tetanized**.
- Cardiac muscle can perform both **isometric & isotonic** types of contractions.

tetanize: To stimulate a muscle by a rapid series of stimuli so that the individual muscular responses (contractions) are fused into a sustained contraction.

Isotonic: contractions generate force by changing the length of the muscle.

Isometric: contractions generate force without changing the length of the muscle.

• **Guyton corner :**

- At each intercalated disc the cell membranes fuse with one another in such a way that they form permeable “communicating” junctions (gap junctions) that allow rapid diffusion of ions. Therefore, from a functional point of view, ions move with ease in the intracellular fluid along the longitudinal axes of the cardiac muscle fibers so that action potentials travel easily from one cardiac muscle cell to the next, past the intercalated discs. Thus, cardiac muscle is a **syncytium** of many heart muscle cells in which the cardiac cells are so interconnected that when one of these cells becomes excited, the action potential spreads to all of them, from cell to cell throughout the latticework interconnections.
- the heart actually is composed of two syncytium: the **atrial syncytium** and the **ventricular syncytium**.

Heart failure

▶ **Heart failure:**

It is the pathophysiological process in which the heart as a pump is unable to meet the metabolic requirements of the tissue for oxygen and substrates despite the **venous return** to heart is either normal or increased.

- ▶ **Heart failure** occurs when either side of the heart cannot keep up with the flow of blood.
- ▶ **Heart failure** can involve the left or right side of the heart or both BUT Usually the **left** side is affected first.

Heart failure

Heart failure

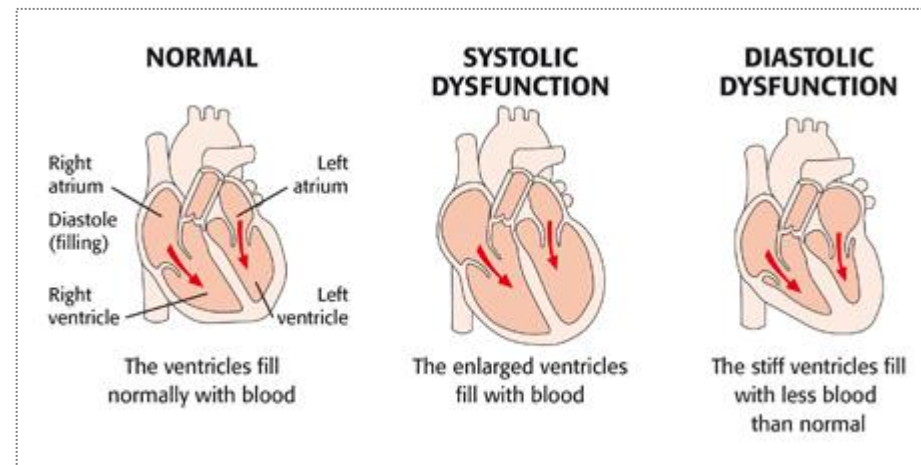
Diastolic failure

The heart loses its ability to relax because it becomes **stiff Heart**

cannot fill properly between each beat

Systolic failure

The heart loses its ability to contract or pump blood into the circulation



Congestive Heart Failure

► Symptoms of congestive heart failure:

Shortness of
breath

Leg swelling
(edema)

Breathing
worsens
with lying
flat
(orthopnea)

Fatigue

- **Guyton corner :**

Many cardiologists have considered fluid retention to always have a detrimental effect in cardiac failure. However, a moderate increase in body fluid and blood volume is an important factor in helping to compensate for the diminished pumping ability of the heart by increasing the venous return. P:272

Heart failure signs and symptoms

	WHY?	SYMPTOM
Persistent Cough or Wheezing	Fluid “backs up” in the lungs	Coughing that produces white or pink blood-tinged sputum
edema	Decreased blood flow out of the weak heart Blood returning to the heart from the veins “backs up” causing fluid to build up in tissues	- Swelling in feet, ankles, legs or abdomen - Weight gain
Tiredness, fatigue	Heart can’t pump enough blood to meet needs of bodies tissues Body diverts blood away from less vital organs (muscles in limbs) and sends it to the heart and brain	- Constant tired feeling - Difficulty with everyday activities
Lack of appetite/ Nausea	The digestive system receives less blood causing problems with digestion	Feeling of being full or sick to your stomach

Heart failure

▶ Left Heart Failure :

Systolic and **diastolic** heart failure are treated with different types of medications. **Both** types can cause :

- The **'backing-up'** of blood back into the lungs. **"Pulmonary Edema"**.
- As fluid builds up in tissues throughout the body.

▶ Right Heart Failure :

- Usually occurs **as a result of left heart failure**.
- Occasionally isolated right heart failure can occur due to **lung disease** or blood clots to the lung (**pulmonary embolism**).

• Guyton corner :

What causes peripheral edema?

Fluid retention by the kidneys.

How does pulmonary edema happen?

- Because of limited pumping capacity of the left heart, blood begins to dam up in the lungs.

- The increased blood in the lungs elevates the pulmonary capillary pressure, and a small amount of fluid transude in the lung tissue and alveoli.

* Guyton and hall medical physiology, 13th edition (p. 276-277)

Heart failure

Acute non cardiac conditions:

- Volume overload
- Fever
- Hyperthyroidism
- Infection

Causes of Heart failure

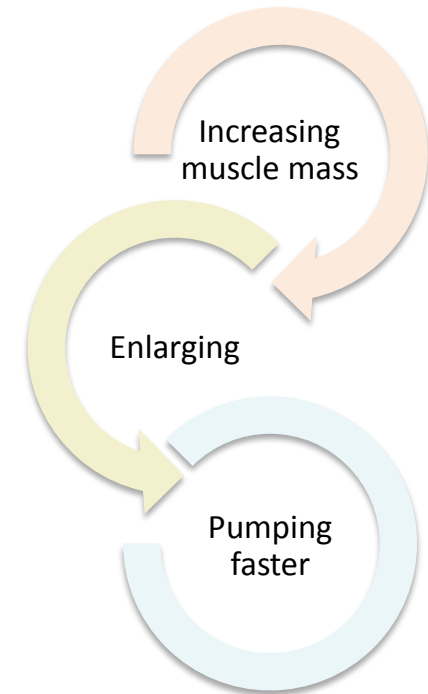
Increased cardiac workload:

- Hypertension
- Valvular disorders
- Anemias
- Congenital heart defects

Impaired cardiac function:

- Coronary heart disease
- Cardiomyopathies (muscle disease)
- Rheumatic fever
- Endocarditis

Compensating mechanisms:



- The renal failure can cause heart failure , because when the kidney is not functional properly it will cause volume overload due to the non-secretion of the extra amount of water (water retention)
- Hyperthyroidism will increase the heart rate and the contractility.

Heart failure

Left-sided heart failure

1- Pathogenesis :

Increase Aortic pressure causes backward pressure travels to Left ventricle → Then Pulmonary Veins → finally goes to the lung → Sort of accumulation of the blood in the lung that can not go back to the heart, , Causing **Pulmonary Edema** present as area of consolidation on the X-ray imgings.

2-Signs and Symptoms :

- Dyspnea
- Orthopnea and paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
- Cheyne Stokes breathing (abnormal pattern of breathing which is deeper and faster than normal).
- Fatigue ,Anxiety
- Rales (abnormal sound heard from unhealthy lung by stethoscope)
- pallor, cyanosis
- Increased heart rate and blood pressure.

Right-sided heart failure

1- Pathogenesis :

Increase Right Ventricle pressure causes backward pressure on Right Atria → Increasing right atrial pressure → Stagnation of the blood On the :
1- Superior Vena Cava → increased Jugular venous pressure
2- Inferior Vena Cava → Ascites (An accumulation of fluid in the peritoneal cavity –Abdomen-).

2-Signs and Symptoms :

- Fatigue
- Weakness
- Lethargy
- Weight gain, including abdominal girth
- Anorexia
- Elevated neck veins
- Hepatomegaly
- Pitting edema (present in the extremity)

Cor pulmonale [or right sided heart failure] is an enlargement of the right ventricle due to high blood pressure in the lungs , it is usually **caused by chronic lung diseases.**

Heart failure

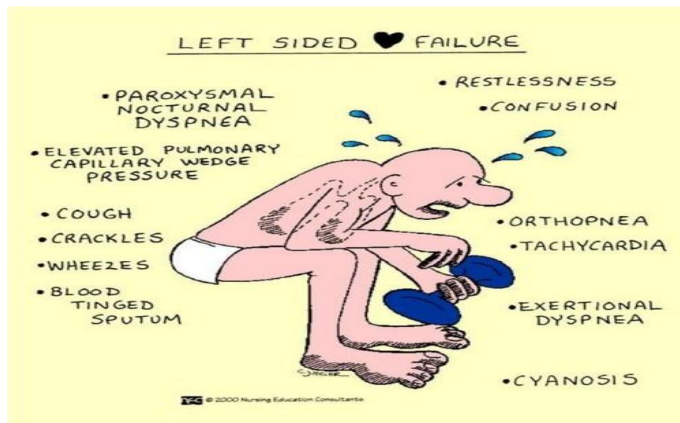
Left-sided heart failure



dyspnea



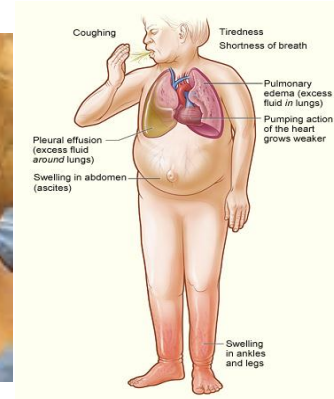
Pulmonary edema



Right-sided heart failure



Elevated JVP



Ascites



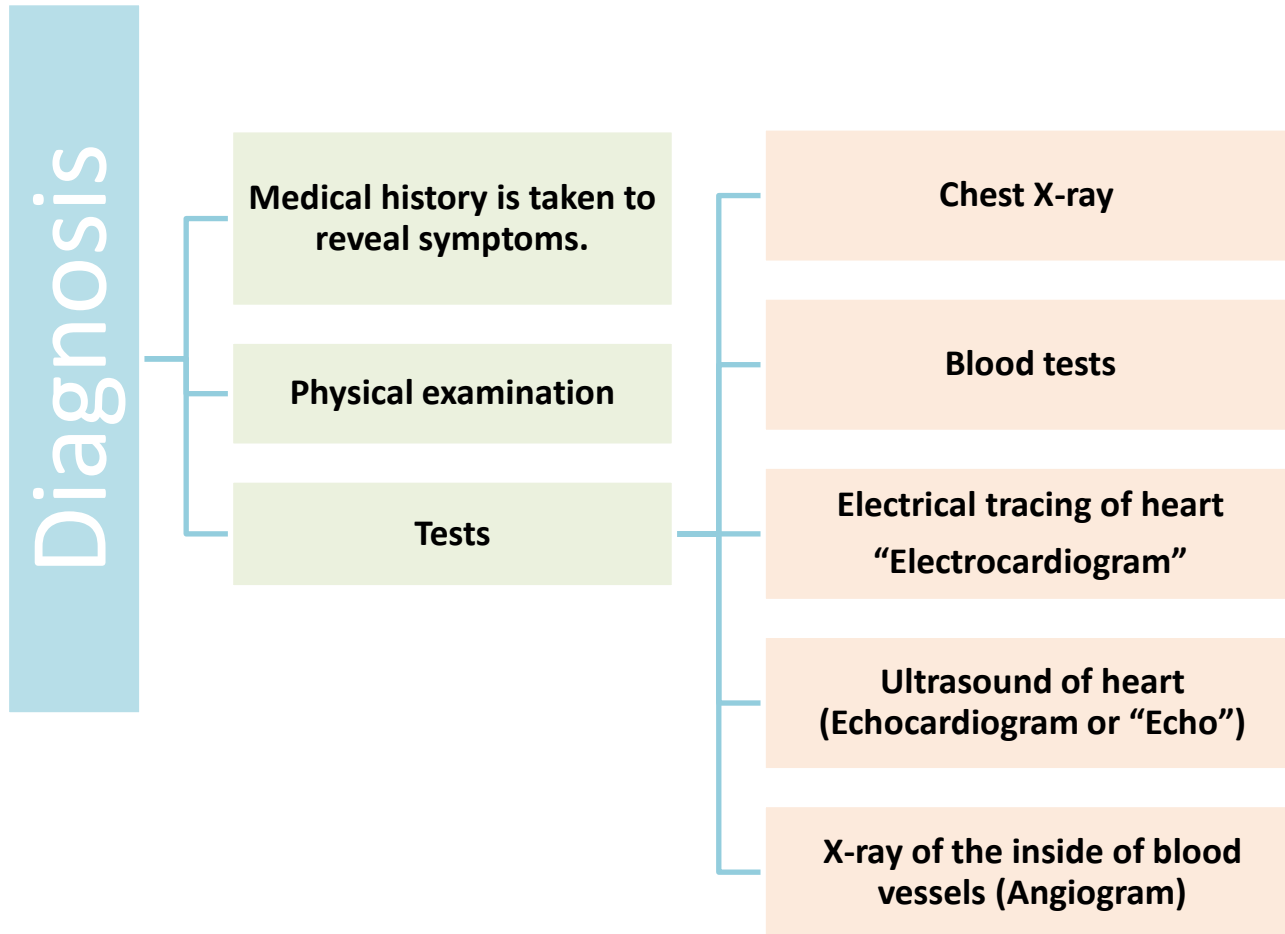
Pitting edema



Heart failure “EXTRA”

Signs and symptoms	Left-sided HF	Right-sided HF
Pitting Edema (legs and hands)	Mild to moderate	Moderate to severe
Fluid Retention	Pulmonary edema (fluid in lungs) Pleural effusion (fluid around lungs)	Abdomen (Ascites)
Organ Enlargement	Heart	Liver (Mild jaundice may be present)
Neck Veins	Mild to moderate raised in jugular venous vein pressure (JVP)	Severe raised in jugular venous vein pressure (JVP), Neck veins visibly distended
Shortness of breath	Prominent dyspnea Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea (PND)	Dyspnea present but not as prominent
Gastrointestinal	Present but not as prominent	Loss of appetite Bloating (any abnormal general swelling) Constipation Symptoms are more prominent

How heart failure is diagnosed ?



Indicator for diagnosing heart failure

► Ejection fraction (EF) :

The percentage of blood that is pumped out of your heart during each beat.

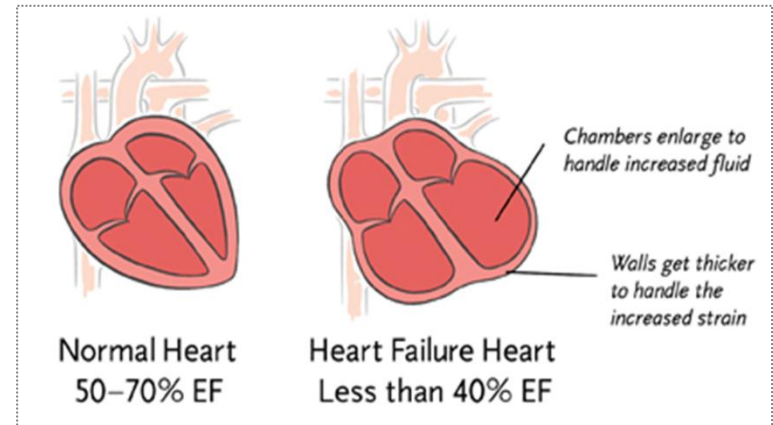
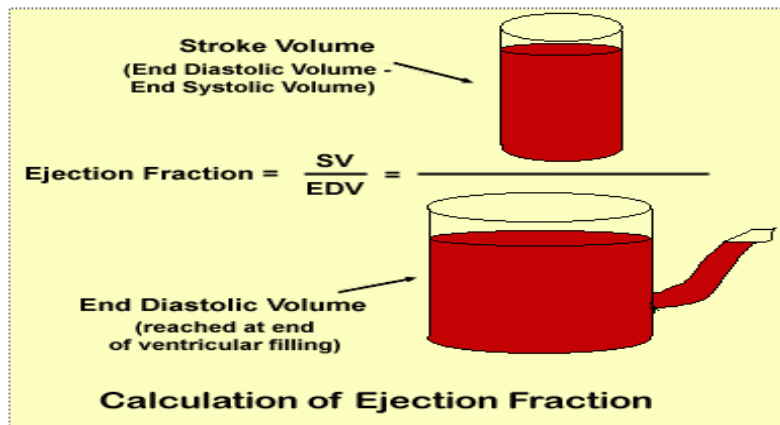
► How do we calculate EF ?

It is the fraction of end-diastolic volume ejected during a heart beat

$$\text{Ejection Fraction} = \text{Stroke volume} / \text{End diastolic volume}$$

$$\text{EF} = \text{SV} / \text{EDV} = 70 \text{ ml} / 130 \text{ ml} = 0.54 \text{ "no unit"}$$

-The heart **does not eject all the blood** in the ventricle.
 Only about 2/3 of the blood is normally pumped out with each beat.
 - That fraction is referred to as the **Ejection Fraction**.
 - it's decrease when the cardiac muscle becomes diseased.



Physiology

OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

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- Hassan Albeladi
- Omar Alshehri
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- Abdunasser Alwabel
- Saad Almutairy

