

# Are We Really Getting Any Better, and If Not, How Might We Do it?

## Extremely Rare and Highly Variable: Pulmonary Vein Disease

Ryan Callahan MD, FSCAI, FPICS  
Medical Director, Pulmonary Vein Stenosis Program  
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

February 21, 2025  
Cardiology 2025

# Disclosures

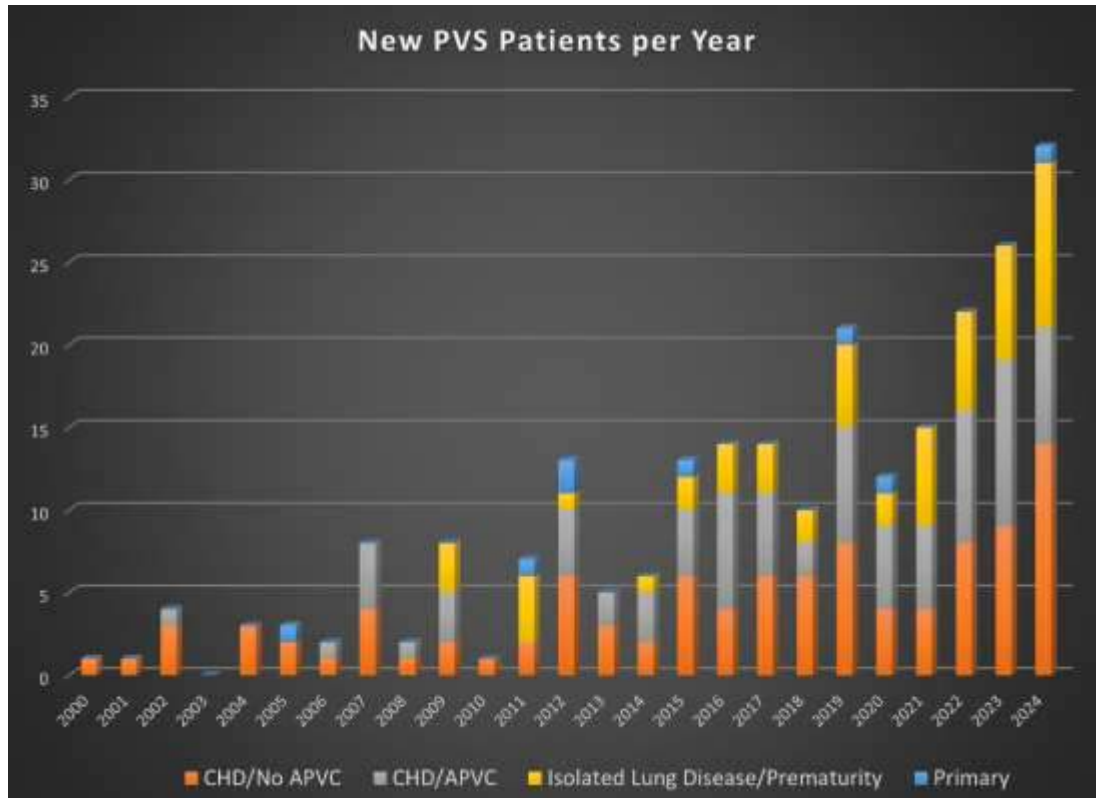
- None

- Are we really getting any better?
  - **YES**
  - (How = Objective #1)
- Can we do better?
  - **ABSOLUTELY**
  - (How = Objective #2)

# How are we getting better?

1. Diagnosis
2. Management

# New PVS Patients per Year (CHOP)



## Age at PVS dx

- 2024: med 9 mo [3,81]
- 2025: med 5 mo [3,14.5]
  - 41% (13/32) single vessel at diagnosis

# Screening High Risk Patients

## PVS associated with Prematurity

- 5% of severe BPD patients
- Associated with earlier gestation, IUGR, prolonged mech ventilation, NEC

Heching HJ et al. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 2014.  
Swier NL et al. Am J Perinatol 2016.  
Drossner DM et al. Pediatrics 2008.  
Zettler E et al. J Perinatol 2020.

## Screening

-Monthly echo for mod/severe BPD\*

-Echo for worsening (or failure to progress) resp status of unclear etiology

\*Jensen EA et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2019.

**Table II.** Multivariable model of clinical variables associated with PVS in infants with sBPD

Clinical variables	Odds ratios (95% CI)	P-value
Gestational age (wks)		
22-<24	0.7 (0.3, 1.3)	.19
25-<27	0.5 (0.2, 0.9)	.01*
≥28	REF	
Small for gestational age (weight <10% at birth)	2.1 (1.3, 3.6)	<.01*
Surgical necrotizing enterocolitis	5.1 (2.4, 10.6)	<.01*
Atrial septal defects	2.1 (1.2, 3.9)	<.01*
Pulmonary hypertension	6.2 (3.7, 10.5)	<.01*

**Table IV.** Multivariable model of infants on mechanical ventilation at 36 weeks' PMA (n = 102)

Clinical variables	Odds ratios (95% CI)	P-value
Gestational Age (weeks)		
22-<24	0.8 (0.4, 2.0)	.75
25-<27	0.7 (0.3, 1.6)	.36
≥28	REF	
Mechanical ventilation at 36 wks PMA	4.3 (1.8, 12.9)	<.01*

McArthur E et al. *The Journal of Pediatrics* 2024.  
3:1 case control trial from pool of 10171 patients.  
PVS prevalence = 1.1%

# Screening High Risk Patients

## Repaired TAPVC

- ~15% develop pulmonary venous obstruction
- Spectrum
  - Silent unilateral atresia
  - FTT, respiratory failure

## Screening

- Cross-sectional imaging (ideally cMRI) within 3 months of repair
- Identify at risk vessels



Seale AN et al. Circulation 2010.

Sengupta A et al. Ann Thorac Surg 2022.

**TABLE 4 Final Risk Prediction Model for Late Unplanned Transcatheter or Surgical Reintervention**

Predictor	SHR (95% CI)	P Value
PV residual lesion <sup>a</sup>		
Class 2 (minor)	4.8 (2.8-8.1)	<.001
Class 3 (major)	6.4 (3.5-11.7)	<.001
Age <sup>b</sup>		
Neonate or infant (<1 y)	3.3 (1.3-8.5)	.014
Preoperative obstruction	1.8 (1.1-2.8)	.015

<sup>a</sup>PV residua based on the predischARGE echocardiogram, with class 1 (no/trivial residua) as the reference group; <sup>b</sup>1 year of age and older as reference. The final risk prediction model for late reintervention was comprised of clinically relevant variables that were significant at the 0.05 level on previous multivariable analysis. The C-index for this model was 0.764. PV, pulmonary vein; SHR, subdistribution hazard ratio.

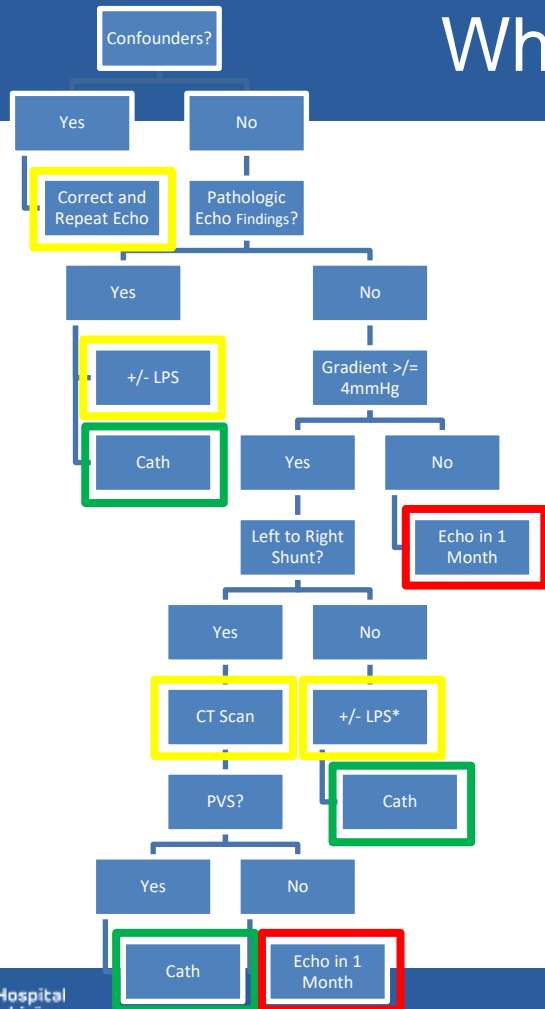
### SUBCOMPONENT SCORE

## **Class 2 (Minor Residua)**

Mild Obstruction; MG 2-4 mmHg

of systemic venous drainage. Each subcomponent was scored as optimal, adequate, or inadequate using specific echocardiographic or clinical criteria. Class 2 (minor PV residua) if one or more subcomponents were adequate, but none were inadequate, and Class 3 (major PV residua) if at least one subcomponent was inadequate. PV, pulmonary vein; TAPVC, total anomalous pulmonary venous connection.

# What do to with new Echo gradients?



## Confounders

- Tachycardia, anemia, high output state, fetal transitioning

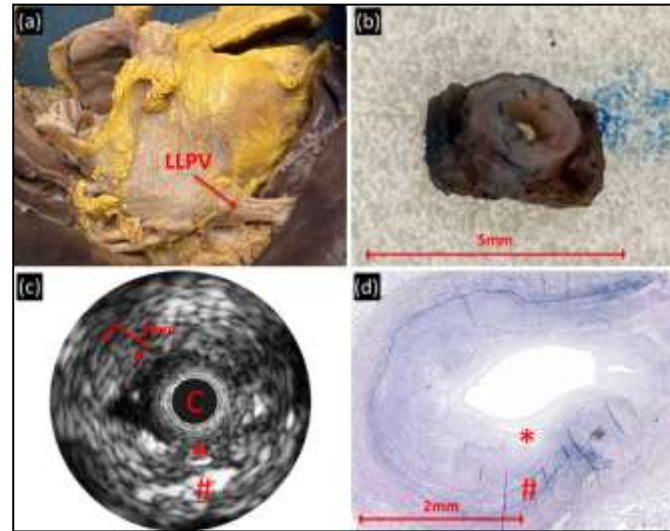
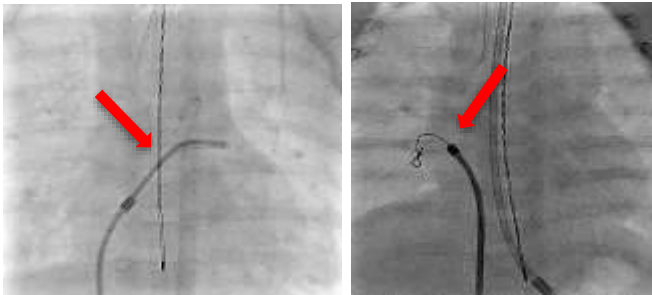
## Pathologic Echo Findings

- Doppler with loss of phasic variability
- New or worsening RV HTN or RV dysfunction w/o secondary cause (infection, acidosis, etc.)
- \*Reasonable to observe only if single vein gradient and preserved LPS flow
  - repeat echo/LPS in 1-month if risk factors for progression (h/o SGA, PH, NEC, aspiration, mech vent at 36 weeks PMA)

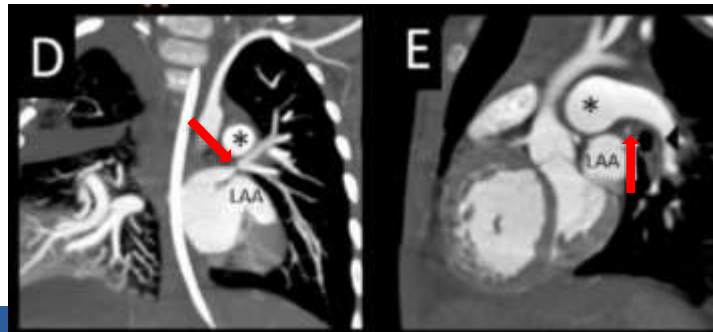
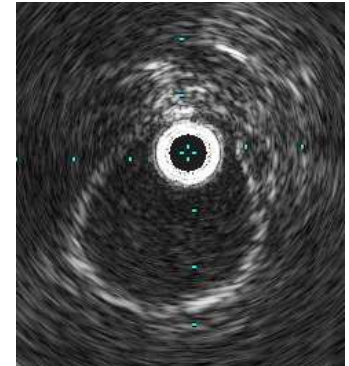
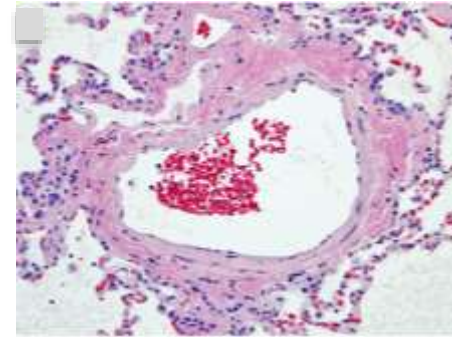


# Confirming PVS

Pediatric intraluminal pulmonary vein stenosis (**PVS**) is a disease of wall thickening (neo-intimal proliferation) leading to luminal narrowing -> pulm edema -> PH -> RH failure

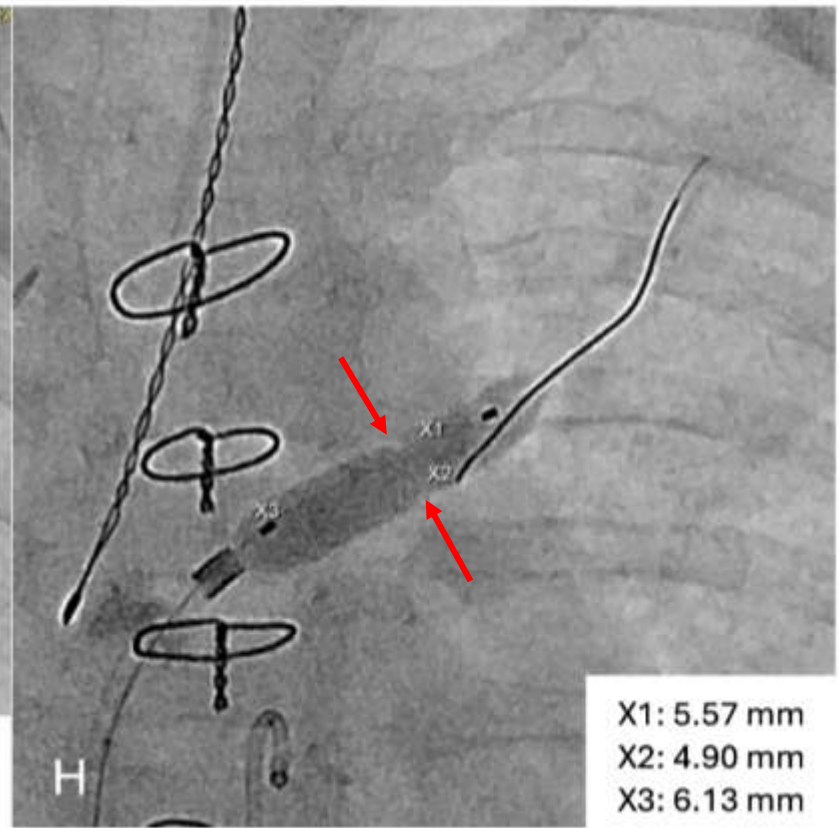
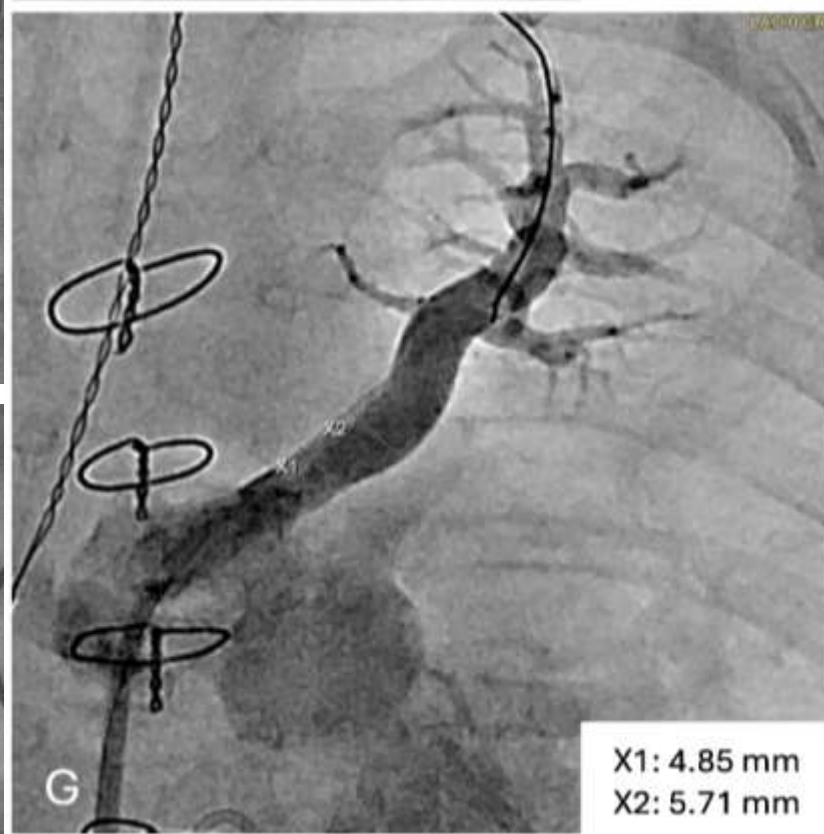


## Normal Vein



Callahan R, et al Children 2021.  
Sena L, et al Children 2021.

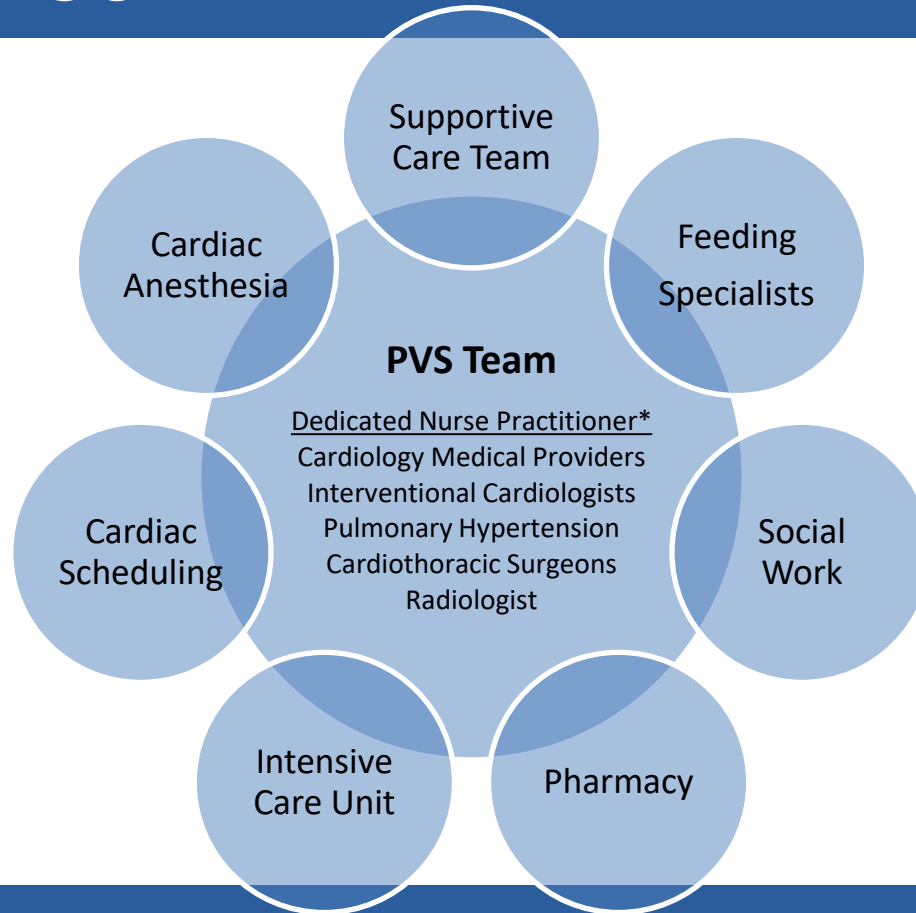
# Confirming PVS



# How are we getting better?

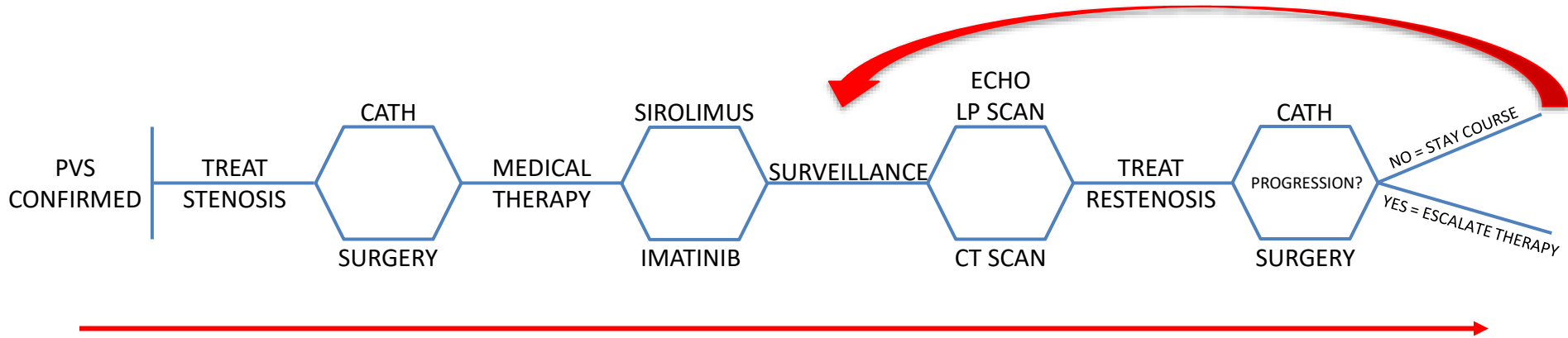
1. Diagnosis
2. Management

# PVS Team



\*Assertive and detail oriented

# Standardize PVS Management



# Diagnosis and Treat Restenosis Early

## Multivariable Analysis of Serious Adverse Events at The Time of PVS Catheterization (n=841)

Multivariable Analysis of Serious Adverse Events	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P Value
Age at intervention			
<6 months	2.05	1.11, 3.81	0.023
6-11.9 months	1.30	0.77, 2.22	0.33
≥1 year	1.00	--	--
Systemic arterial saturation <95% BiV, <78% SV	1.52	1.02, 2.27	0.041
Mean PA pressure ≥45 mm Hg BiV, ≥17 mm Hg SV	1.74	1.16, 2.63	0.008

Barreto JA et al. Pediatric Cardiology 2023.

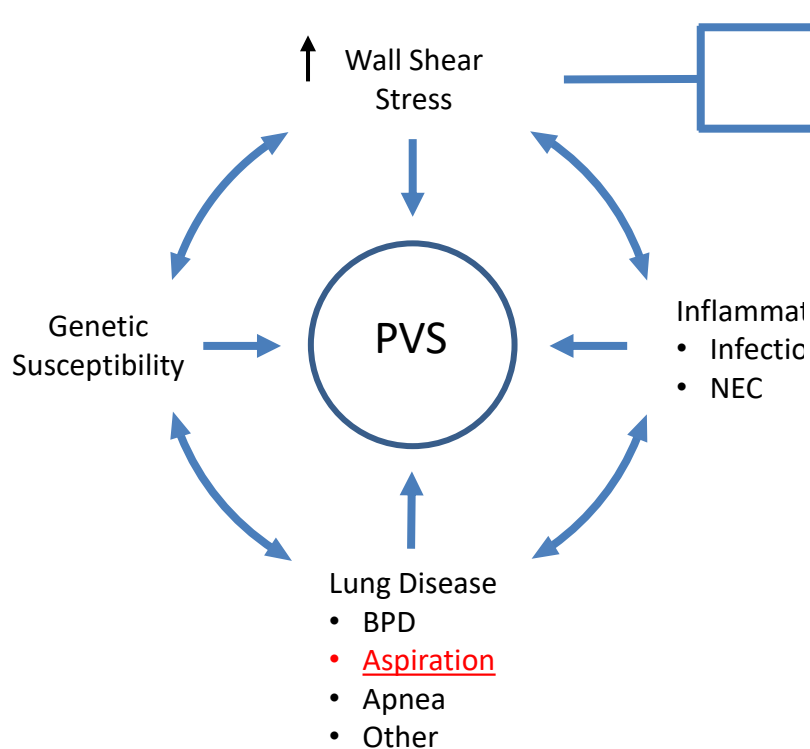
Table 5. Multivariate Analyses of Perioperative Factors and Postoperative ICU Admission and Mechanical Ventilation

N = 473

	ICU Admission		Mechanical Ventilation	
	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	p	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	p
Male gender	3.93 (1.64-9.41)	0.002	2.89 (1.26-6.66)	0.013
Body weight, per 1 kg increment	0.80 (0.68-0.92)	0.003	0.79 (0.68-0.92)	0.002
Preoperative O <sub>2</sub> supplement	4.01 (1.69-9.53)	0.002	3.67 (1.55-8.68)	0.003
PVS severity score, per 1 unit increment	1.15 (1.02-1.30)	0.028	1.11 (0.98-1.24)	0.10
Hypotension requiring inotrope	4.03 (1.38-11.77)	0.011	2.89 (1.08-7.77)	0.035
Red blood cell transfusion	3.25 (1.18-8.94)	0.023	4.09 (1.53-10.93)	0.005
Preintervention PaO <sub>2</sub> /F <sub>i</sub> O <sub>2</sub> ratio, per 100 units increment	0.63 (0.45-0.89)	0.009	0.59 (0.42-0.83)	0.002
Preintervention RVSP, per 10 mmHg increment	1.39 (1.11-1.75)	0.004	1.27 (1.03-1.57)	0.023

Maisat W et al. J Cardiothorac Vasc Anesth 2022.

# Remove PVS Triggers



**3:1 MATCHED CASE CONTROL STUDY DESIGN**

- N = 69 patients with multi-vessel PVS receiving medical and interventional therapy
- Poor treatment response = death, lung transplant, addition of Avastin due to disease progression, cath interval < 3 months after 1 year of therapy

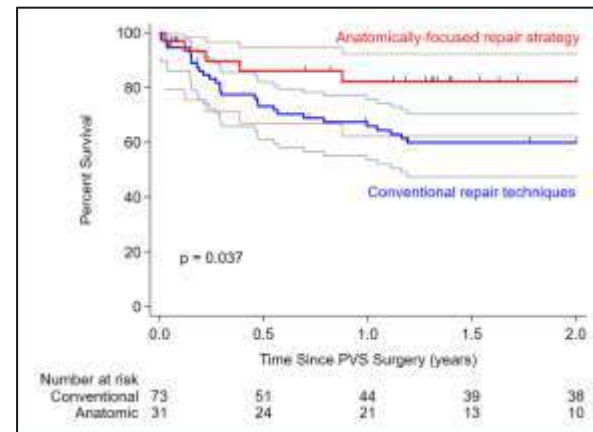
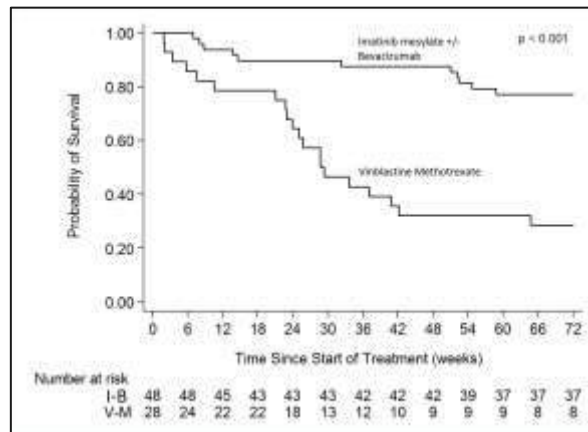
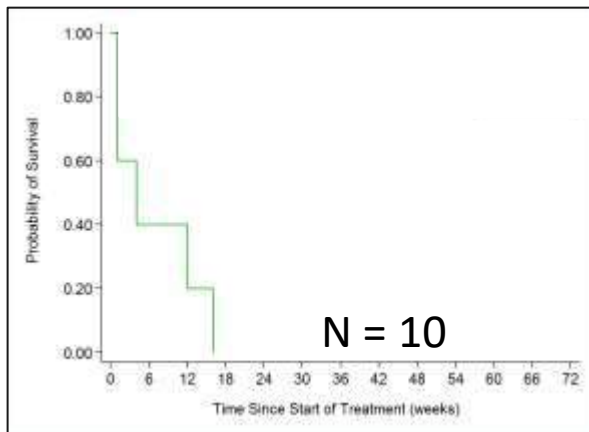
**Table II. Multivariable model of clinical variables associated with PVS in infants with sBPD.**

Clinical variables	Odds ratios (95% CI)	p-value
<b>Gestational age (weeks)</b>		
22 – < 24	0.7 (0.3, 1.3)	0.19
25 – < 27	0.5 (0.2, 0.9)	0.01*
≥ 28	REF	
Small for gestational age (weight < 10% at birth)	2.1 (1.3, 3.6)	<0.01*
Surgical necrotizing enterocolitis	5.1 (2.4, 10.6)	<0.01*
Atrial septal defects	2.1 (1.2, 3.9)	<0.01*
Pulmonary hypertension	6.2 (3.7, 10.5)	<0.01*

Longer exposure to Left-to-Right Shunts is a Risk Factor for Pulmonary Vein Stenosis in Patients with Trisomy 21. Niccum M et al. Children 2021. 3:1 case control trial from pool of 10171 patients.



# Survival (Center 1)



Sadr IM et al. *The American Journal of Cardiology* 2000.

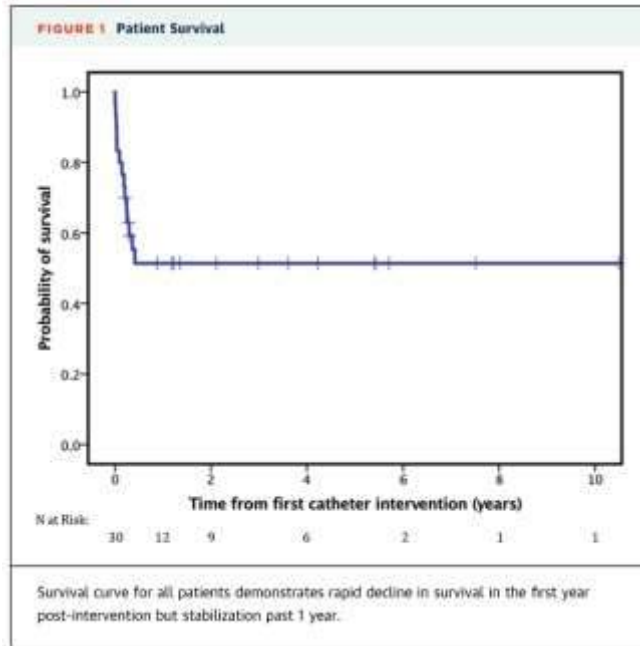
Rehman M et al. *Congenital Heart Disease* 2011.

Callahan R et al. *The Journal of Pediatrics* 2018.

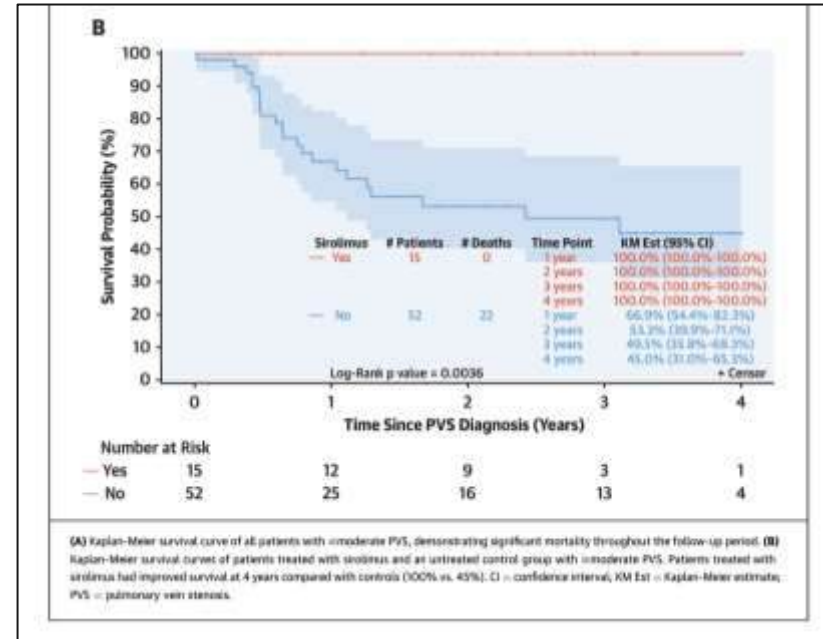
Feins EN et al. *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery* 2021.



# Survival Outcomes (Center 2)

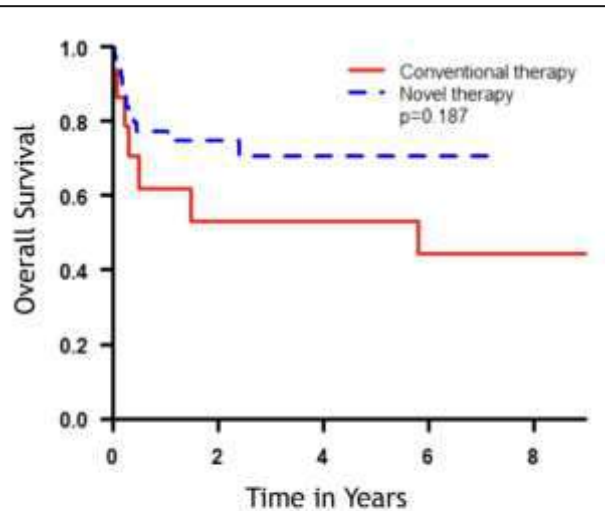


Cory MJ et al. *JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions* 2017.



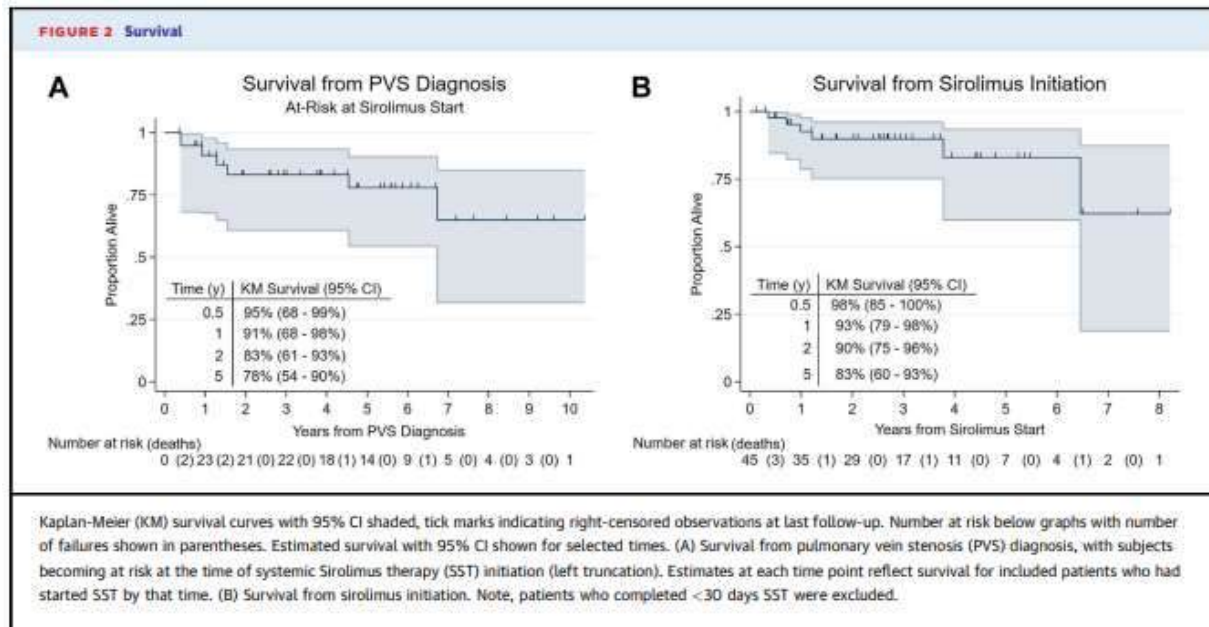
Patel JD et al. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* 2021.

# Survival Outcomes (Center 3)



**FIGURE 3** Survival curve comparing patients receiving conventional therapy using BMS alone (red) and novel therapy using a combination of DES and BMS (blue). BMS, bare metal stents; DES, drug-eluting stents [Color figure can be viewed at [wileyonlinelibrary.com](http://wileyonlinelibrary.com)]

Khan A et al. *Catheter Cardiovasc Interv* 2019.



Kalustian AB et al. *JACC Adv* 2024.

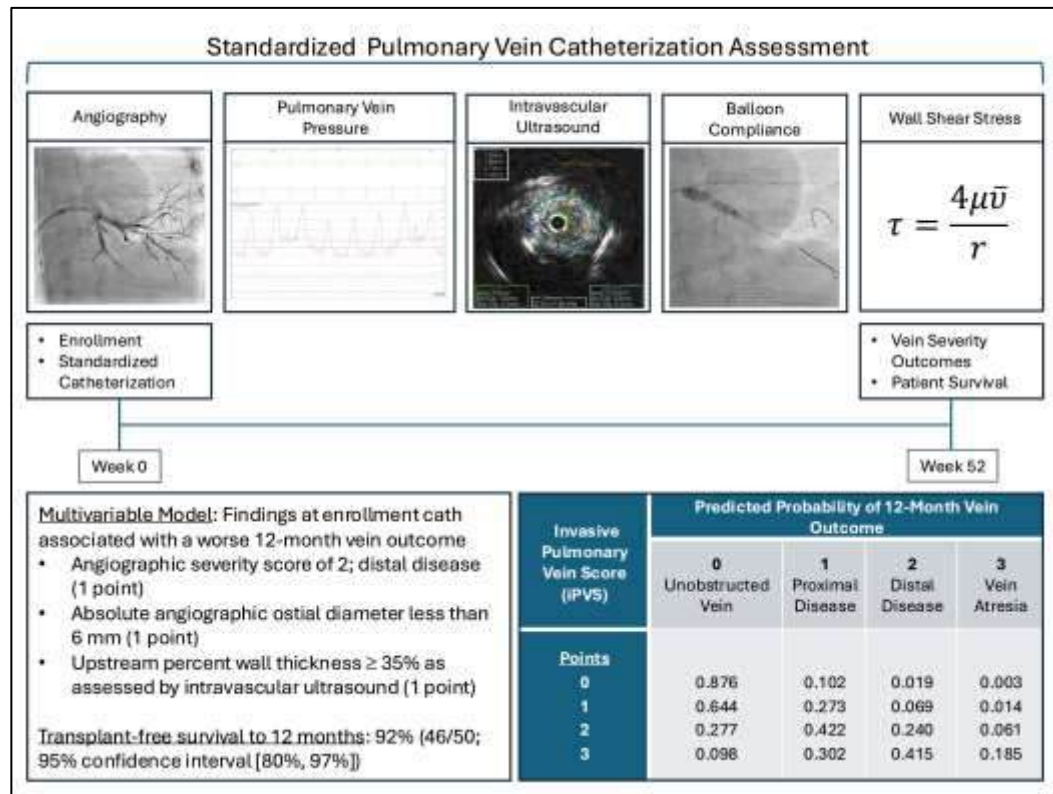
# How can we do better?

PVS Overall 5-year survival = ~70-80%

1. Optimize current therapies
2. PVS prevention
3. Novel therapies

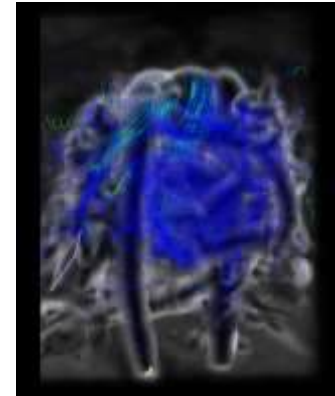
# Optimize Current Therapies

- Patient level
  - Multi-center PVS registry via Congenital Cardiac Research Collaborative
    - Identify best practices
    - Data acquisition begins 2025
- Vein level
  - Multi-center Prospective Standardized Pulmonary Vein Catheterization Assessment (NCT 04696289)
    - Prediction Model Cohort
      - BCH: 50/50 enrolled
      - Under peer review
    - Validation Cohort
      - CHOP: 30/30 enrolled
      - Awaiting outcomes data



# Prevention

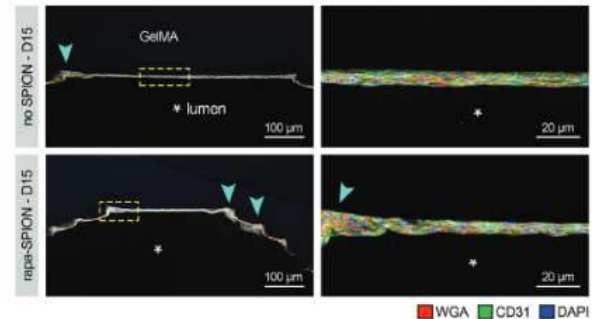
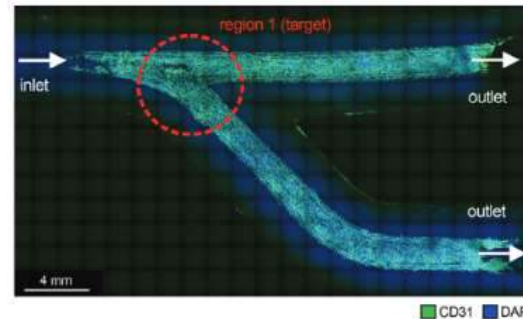
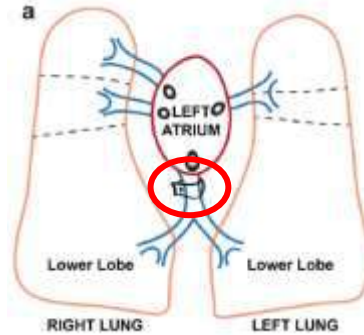
- Goal: Non-invasively ID high-risk infants for PVS; improve stratification
- Study: Calculate wall shear stress in pulmonary veins of infants using cardiac MRI, 4D flow and computational fluid dynamics
  - Quantify effect of removal of triggers
  - Known PVS: Prioritize pulmonary vein interventions which minimize WSS



# Novel Therapies

- Porcine PVS Model
  - scRNA sequencing
    - ID new targets for meds
  - Test new to market drug coated balloons
  - Test novel surgical techniques
- Targeted rapamycin delivery via magnetic nanoparticles in an in vitro model of pulmonary veins

Ning L et al. Adv Sci 2024.



# SUMMARY

- Early diagnosis, screening high-risk infants and management (therapy, surveillance, etc.) protocols have increased patient survival.
- Identifying best practices, optimizing current therapies, and knowledge sharing can further improve PVS outcomes.
- PVS prevention and novel therapies are needed to win the war.



PVS Team

Heather Meluskey

Kim Butler

Jihee Lee

Stephanie Fuller

Jack Rome

Kate Avitabile

Michael O'Byrne

David Frank

Mudit Gupta

Jess Tang

Dave Biko

PVS at  
CHOP







# REGISTRATION



## Save The Date

Pulmonary Vein Stenosis Symposium

Friday, April 4 and  
Saturday, April 5, 2025

Hosted by



Roberts Center for Pediatric Research

