

# What Can We Learn from an Exercise Test in the Young with Repaired Congenital Heart Disease?

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**WashU** Medicine



# Disclosures



- Washington University Site Principal Investigator:
  - Fontan Udenafil Exercise Longitudinal Assessment Trial (FUEL-2 Study); Mezzion Pharma Co.
- Missouri American College of Cardiology (ACC) Grant:
  - Improving Access to Pediatric Cardiac Rehabilitation Through Telemedicine and Remote Patient Monitoring Technology

# Exercise Testing Applications

## Pulmonary

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)  
Asthma and Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction  
Evaluation of Treatment Efficacy  
Interstitial Lung Disease  
Monitoring Disease Progression and Response to Therapy  
Pulmonary Hypertension  
Assessment of Persistent Dyspnea or Fatigue  
Vocal Cord Dysfunction

## Cardiac

### Electrophysiological

Arrhythmias  
Bradycardia  
Bundle Branch Block  
CPVT  
Heart Block  
Long QT  
Orthostatic Intolerance  
Pacemaker Optimization  
PVCs  
Sinus Node Dysfunction  
SVT  
Syncope  
WPW

### Other Cardiac

Chest Pain  
Exercise Intolerance  
Preparticipation Screening  
Hypertension

### Congenital Heart Disease (non-repaired/repaired)

#### Acyanotic

ASD  
Aortic Valve Regurgitation  
Aortic Valve Stenosis  
Bicuspid Aortic Valve  
Coarctation  
Coronary anomalies/disease  
Mitral Regurgitation  
Mitral Stenosis  
PDA  
Pulmonary Valve Stenosis  
VSD

#### Cyanotic

cc-TGA  
D-TGA  
Ebstein Anomaly  
Univentricular Heart  
Tetralogy of Fallot

### Cardiomyopathies

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy  
Dilated Cardiomyopathy  
Arrhythmogenic Cardiomyopathy  
LV Noncompaction  
Assessment of Cardiac Reserve  
Family History of Cardiomyopathy

### Heart Transplant

Pre/Post- Heart Transplant  
Cardiac Rehabilitation Planning

### Acquired Heart Disease

Kawasaki Disease  
MIS-C  
Myocarditis  
Pericarditis

## Neurological

Exercise-Induced Seizures  
Cerebral Palsy  
Muscular Dystrophies

## Other

Chemotherapy  
Post-COVID-19 Syndrome  
Exercise-Induced Hypoglycemia  
Obesity  
Pectus  
Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)  
Claudication  
Metabolic Disorders

# Exercise Test

## Graded ECG

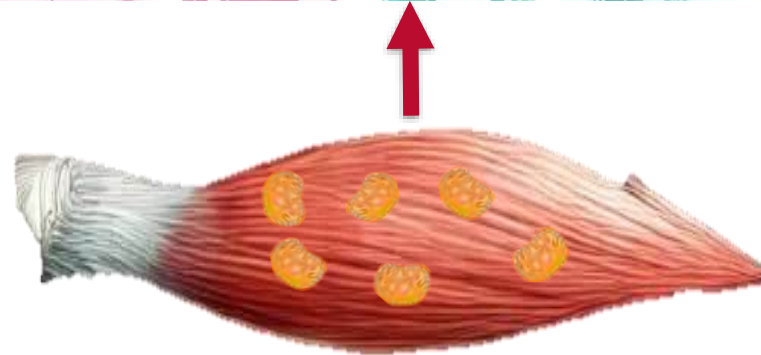
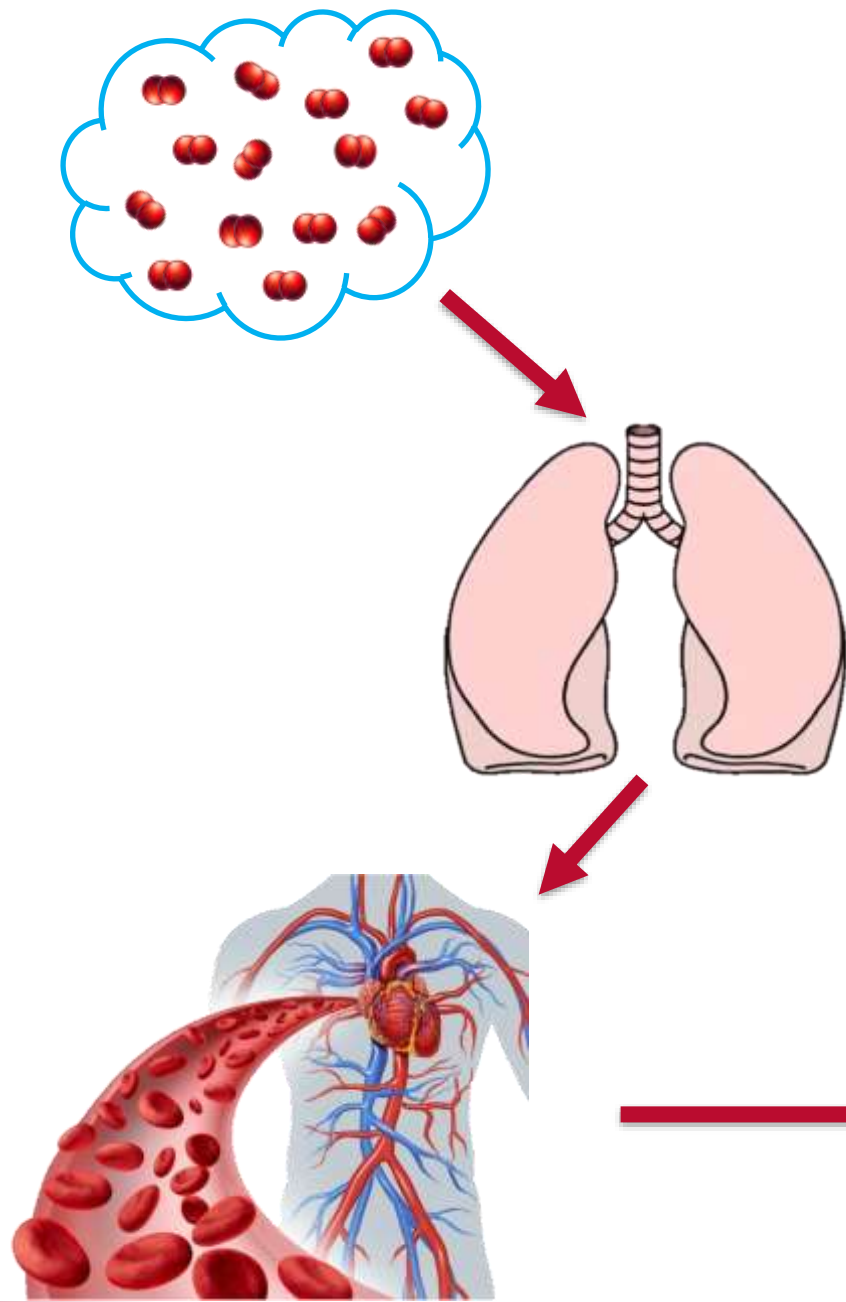
- HR response
- BP response
- Baseline ECG
- Arrhythmias
- QT intervals
- ST segment changes

## Cardiopulmonary Exercise Test (CPET)

- Graded ECG data
- Breath-by-breath data
- Peak oxygen consumption
- Ventilatory anaerobic threshold
- $\text{VO}_2$  and its relationship to: HR, WR,  $\text{VCO}_2$
- $\text{O}_2$  Pulse
- Ventilation and its relationship to breathing capacity
- Lung mechanics
- Relationship of VE and  $\text{CO}_2$  elimination



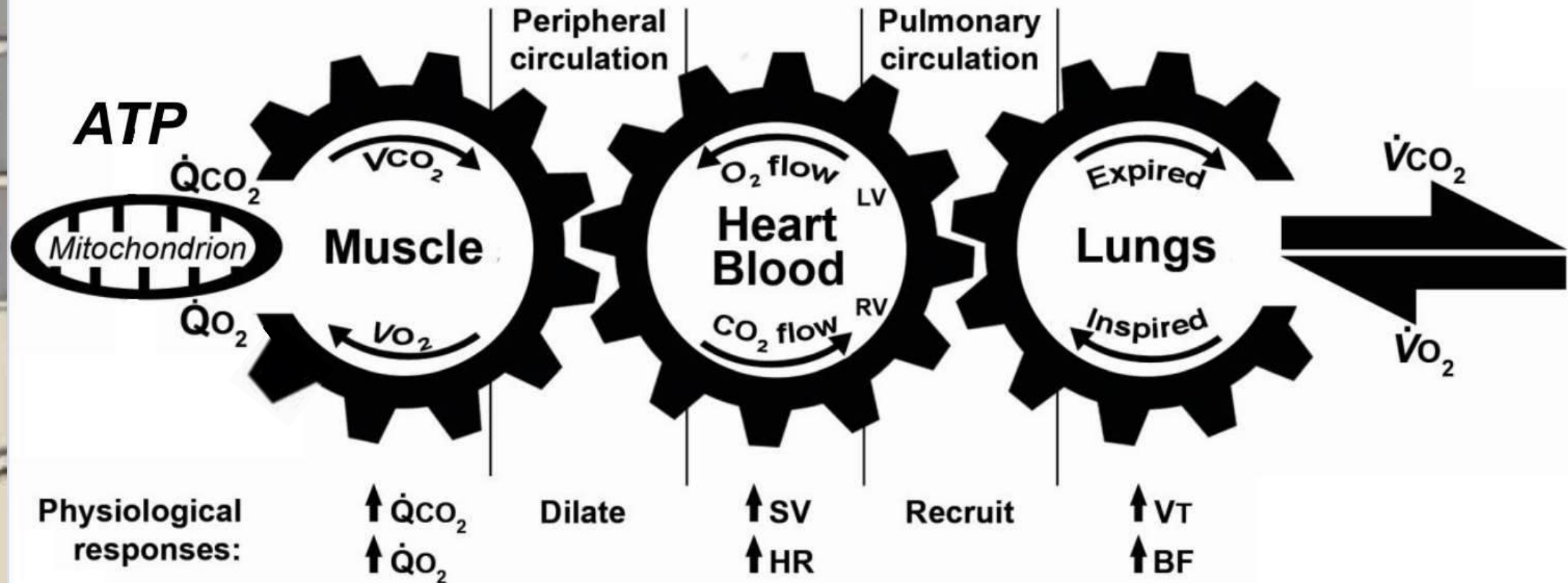




## MUSCLE ACTIVITY

## O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> DELIVERY

## VENTILATION ( $\dot{V}_A + \dot{V}_D = \dot{V}_E$ )

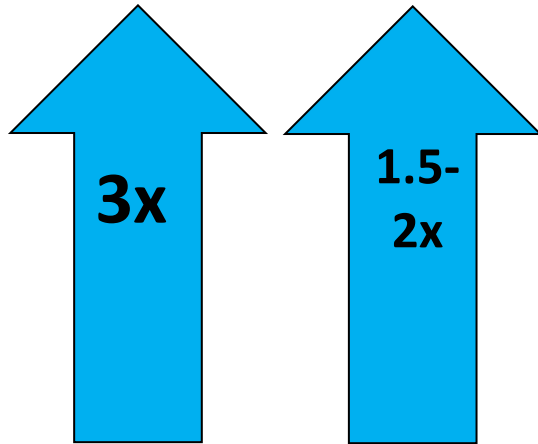






# Oxygen Consumption

- $VO_2 = [C.O.] \times [\text{oxygen extraction}]$   
=  $[HR \times SV] \times [C_aO_2 - C_vO_2]$   
=  $[HR \times SV] \times [1.36 (\text{Hgb}) (S_aO_2 - S_vO_2)]$



## Sinus node Dysfunction

- ASD (sinus venosus ASD)
- TAPVC
- Fontan Procedure
- Atrial switch (cc-TGA, Mustard, Senning)
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Ebstein's Anomaly
- Heterotaxy

## AV Block

- VSD
- AV canal
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- D-TGA
- DORV
- cc-TGA
- Subaortic stenosis
- Truncus Arteriosus

## Pacemaker Optimization

- Rate Response
- AV delay
- Upper Tracking Rate
- Mode Switching
- CRT



**3x**

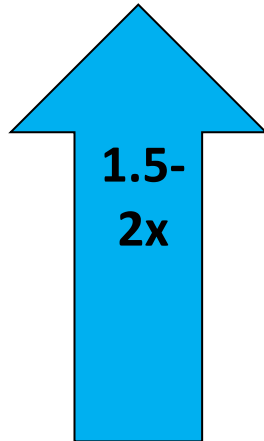
$$= [\text{HR} \times \text{SV}] \times [1.36 (\text{Hgb}) (\text{S}_a\text{O}_2 - \text{S}_v\text{O}_2)]$$



## Oxygen Pulse ( $O_2P$ )

- $O_2P = VO_2/HR$   
= Cardiac Output/HR x  $O_2$  extraction  
= Stroke Volume x  $O_2$  extraction

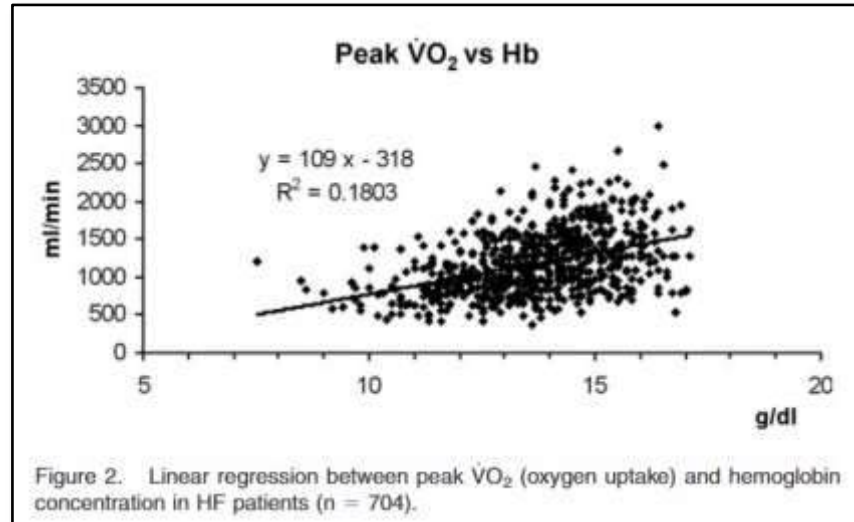
- $\downarrow$  systolic/diastolic function
- Myocardial ischemia
- Cardiomyopathy
- Severe outflow tract obstruction
- Severe valvar regurgitation
- Fontan circulation



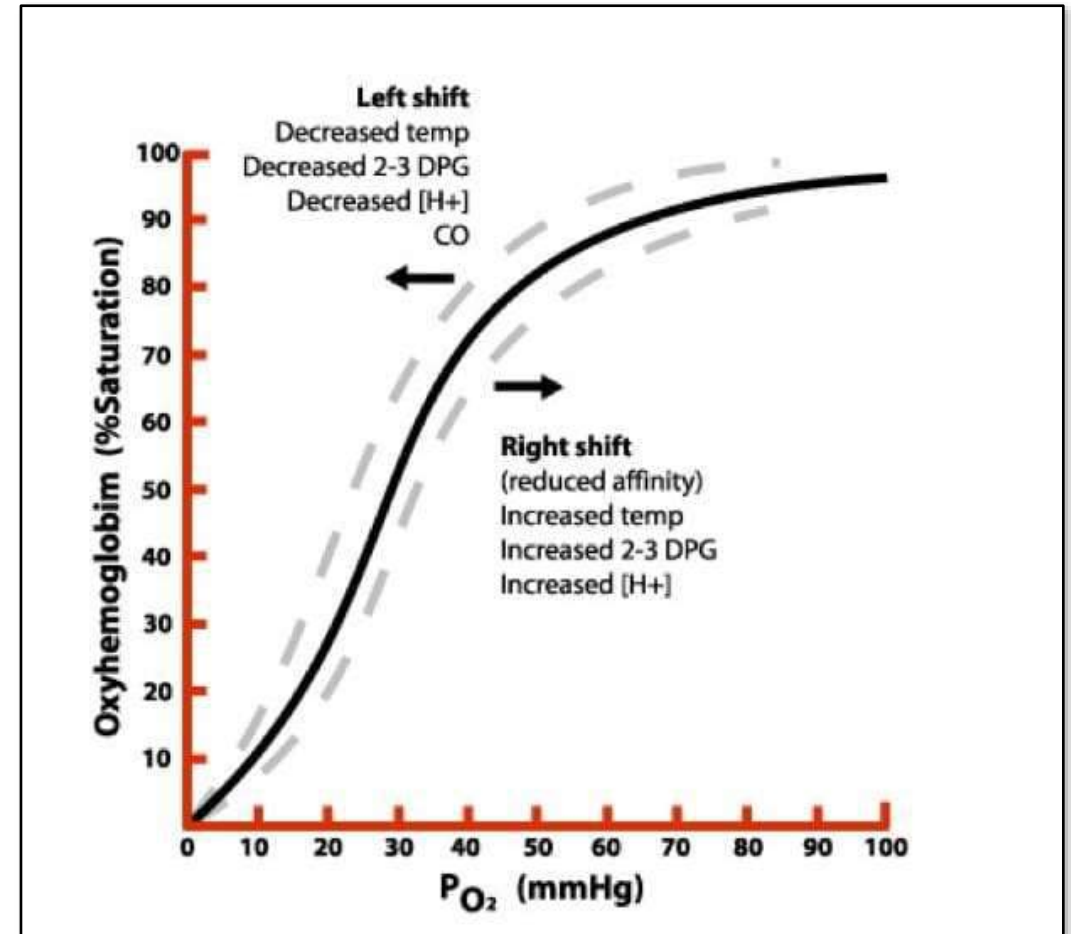
$$=[HR \times \mathbf{SV}] \times [1.36 (\text{Hgb}) (S_aO_2 - S_vO_2)]$$

# Oxygen Extraction

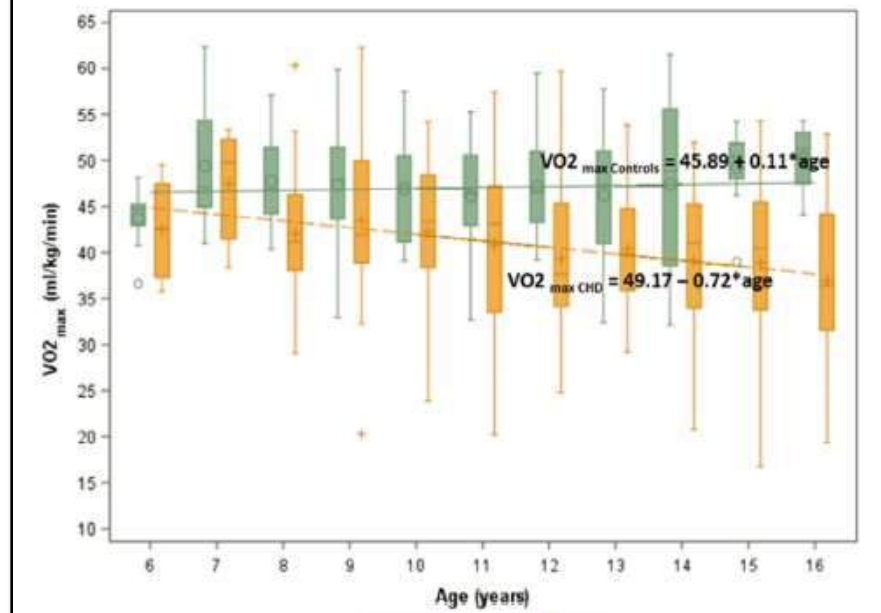
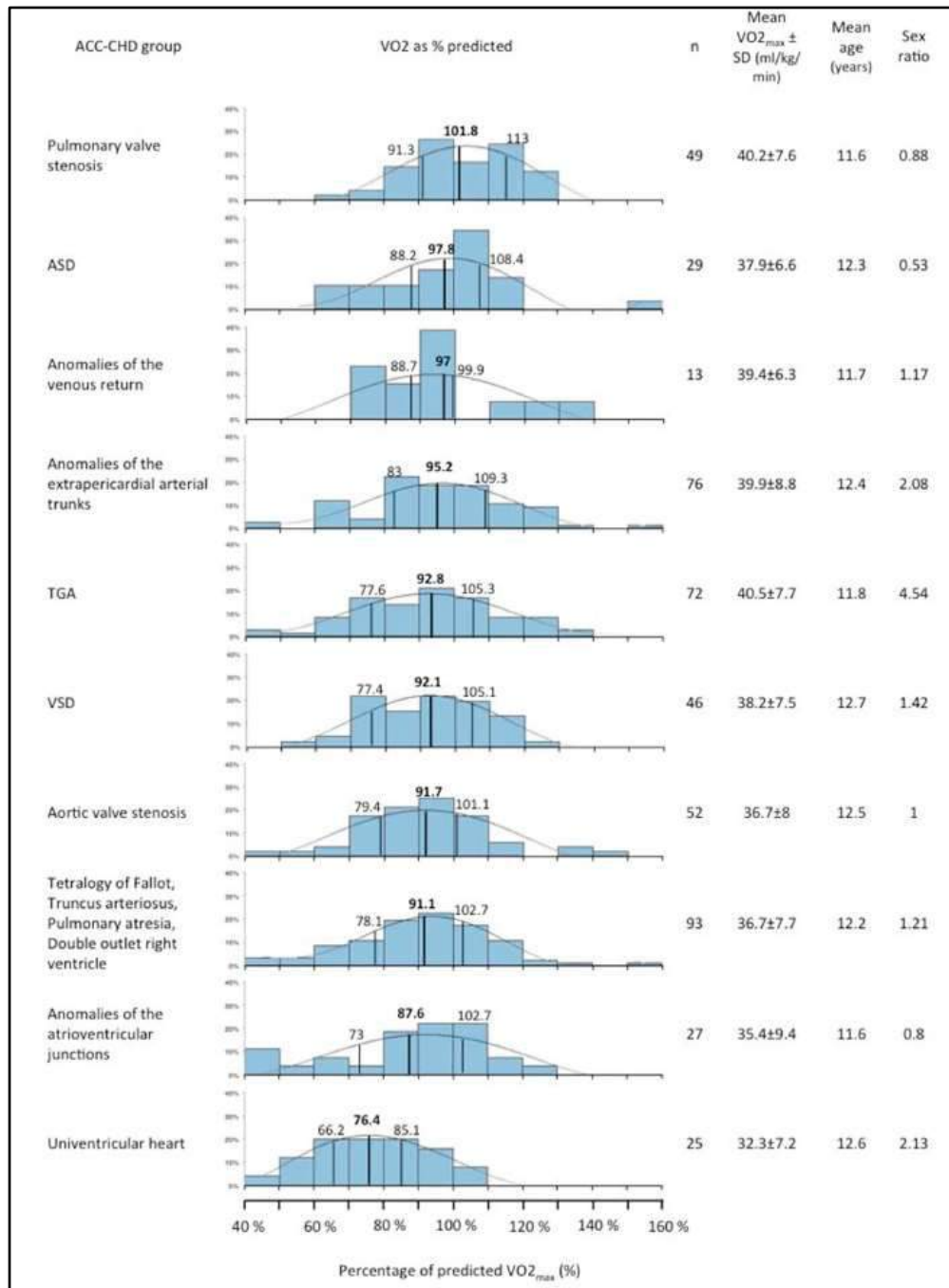
- During exercise mixed venous oxygen saturation typically falls to less than 30%
  - Vasodilation -> larger surface area
  - Accumulation of LA facility release of O2



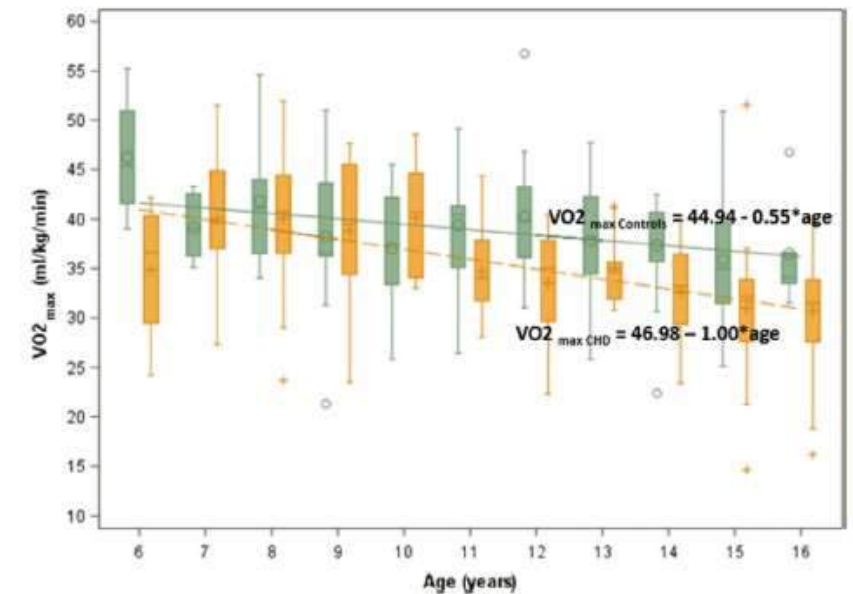
Agostoni, Piergiuseppe et.al. "Relationship of resting hemoglobin concentration to peak oxygen uptake in heart failure patients." *American journal of hematology*



$$= [HR \times SV] \times [1.36 (Hgb) (S_aO_2 - S_vO_2)]$$



**A). Boys**

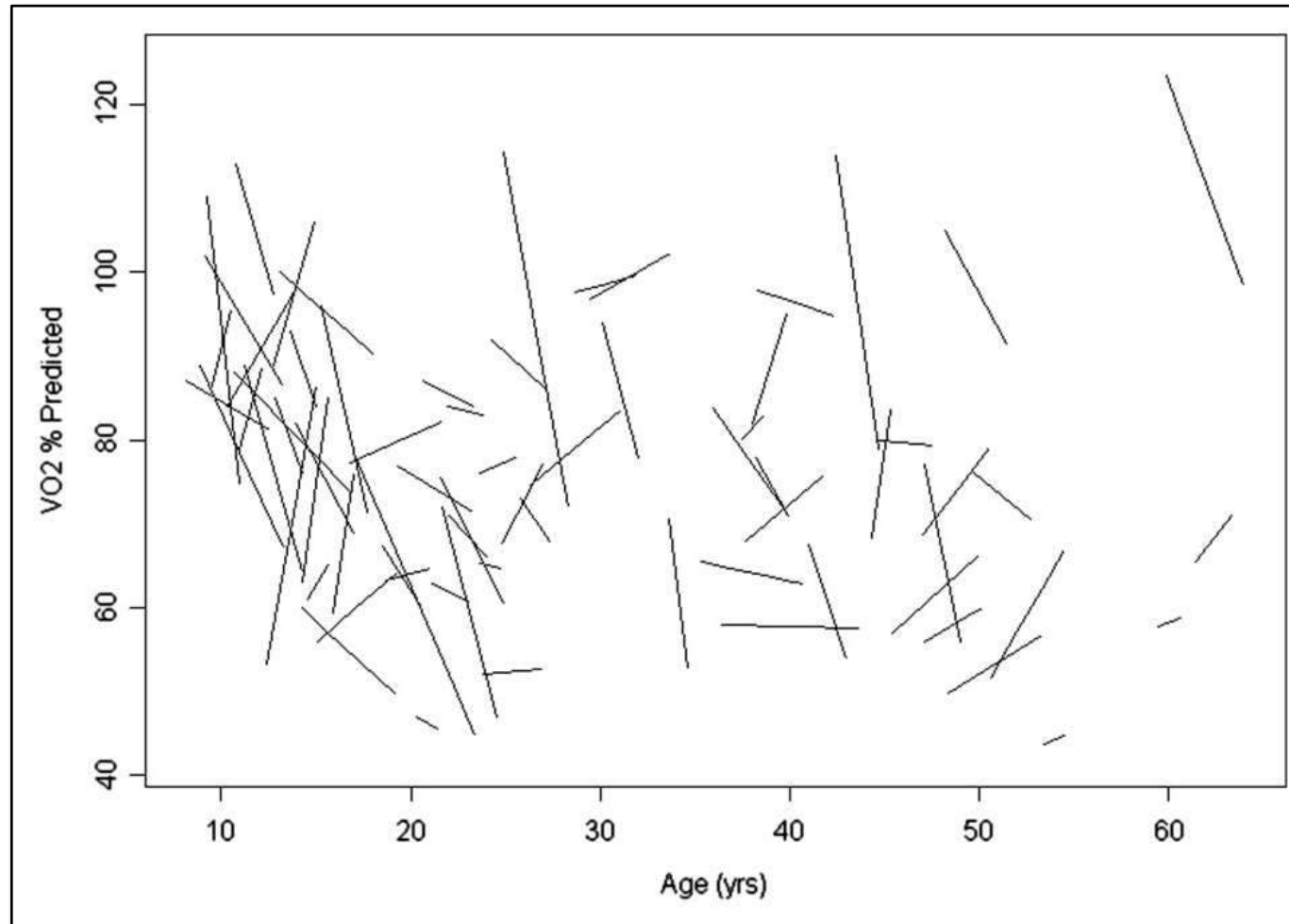


**B). Girls**

# Peak VO<sub>2</sub> – Tetralogy of Fallot



VO<sub>2</sub> Observed decrease of 1.4% points/yr

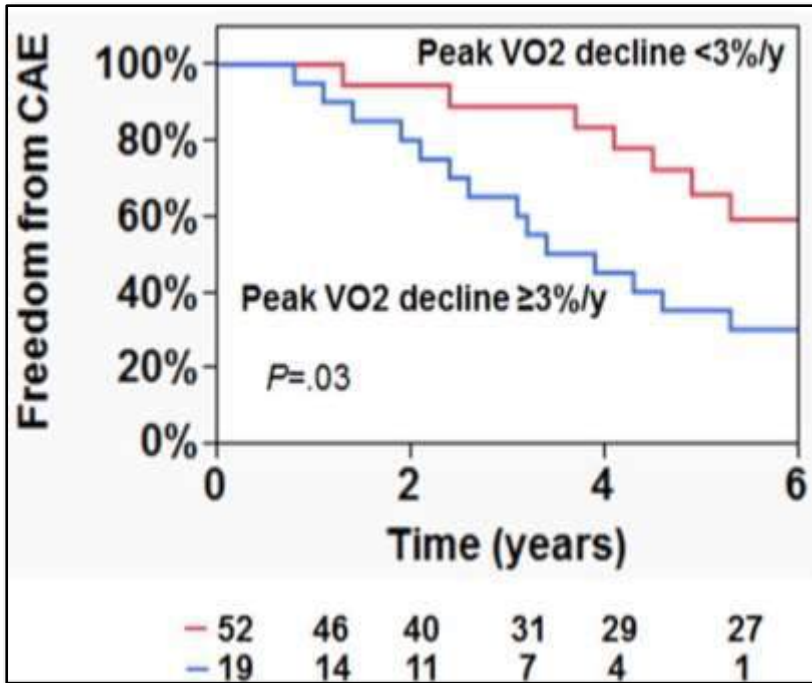


Kipps, Alaina K et.al. "Longitudinal exercise capacity of patients with repaired tetralogy of fallot." *The American journal of cardiology*



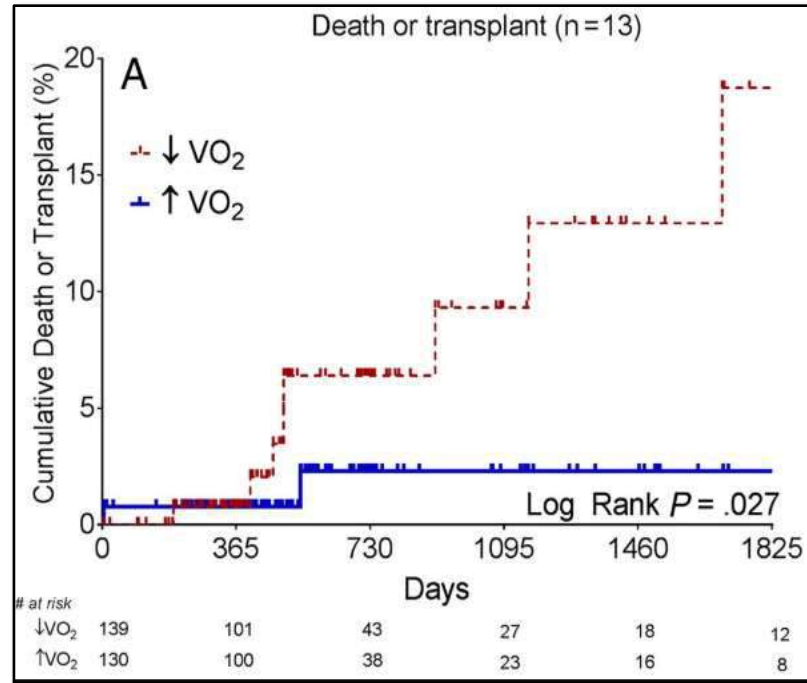
# Peak VO<sub>2</sub> – Fontan

## Adverse cardiovascular events



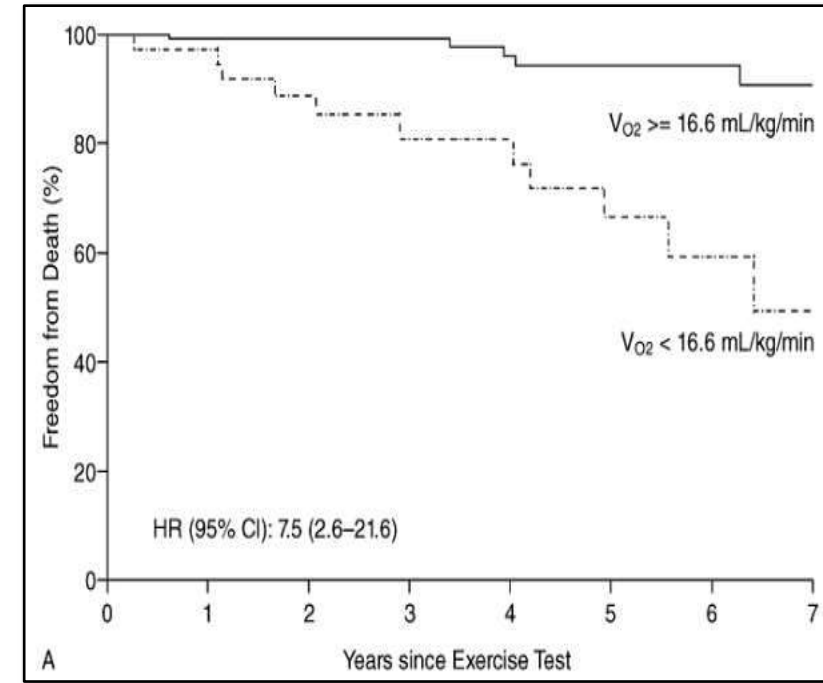
Egbe, Alexander C. et. al. "Cardiopulmonary exercise test in adults with prior Fontan operation: the prognostic value of serial testing." International journal of Cardiology

## Death/Cardiac Transplant



Cunningham, Jonathan W. et.al. "Decline in peak oxygen consumption over time predicts death or transplantation in adults with a Fontan circulation." American heart journal

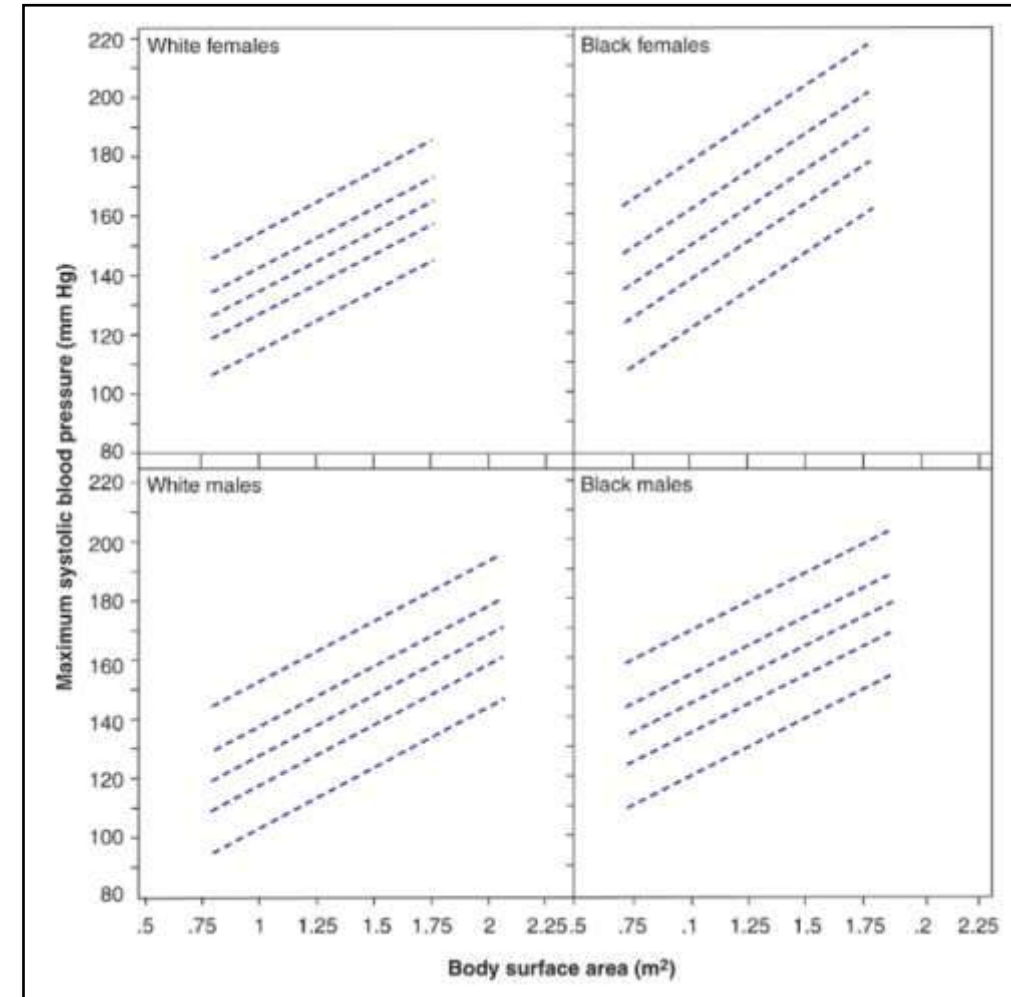
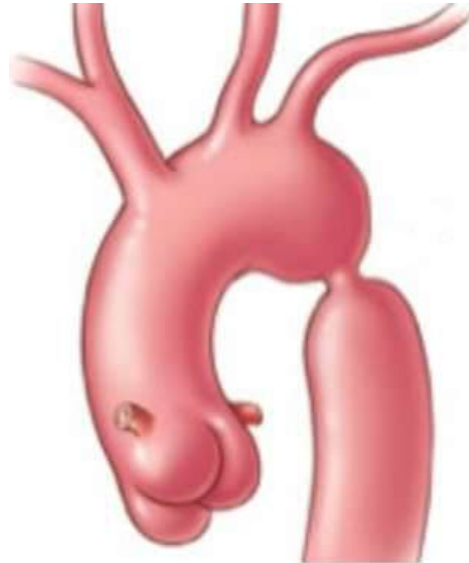
## Death



Fernandes, Susan M. et.al. "Exercise testing identifies patients at increased risk for morbidity and mortality following Fontan surgery." Congenital heart disease

# Blood Pressure Response to Dynamic Exercise

- SBP increases, DBP small increase (maybe 10 mmHg)
- Systolic blood pressure should exceed resting values by at least 20% or 20 mmHg
- Peak exercise: Rare for systolic blood pressure to exceed 200 in males in 180 in females



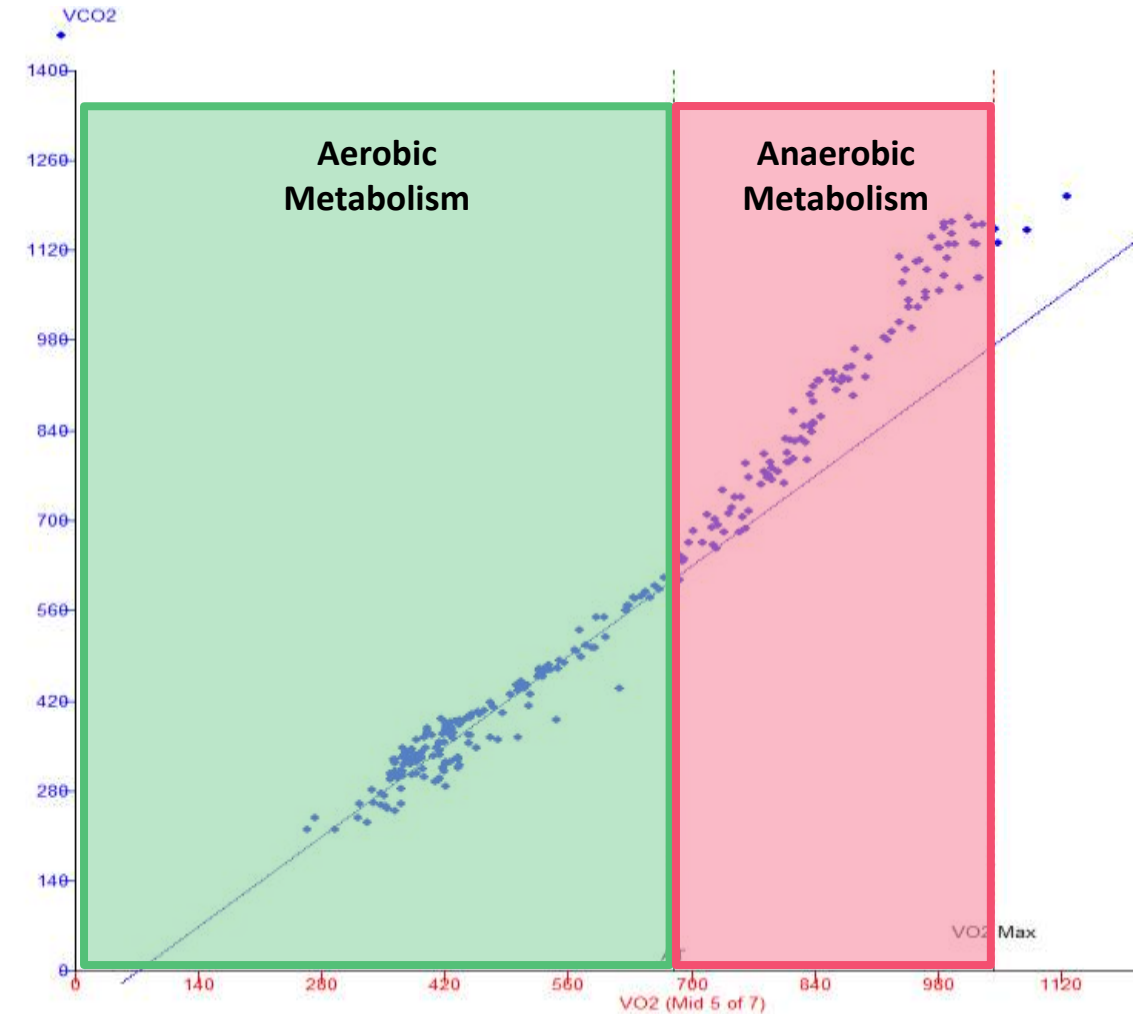
Rhodes, Jonathan et. al. *Exercise physiology for the pediatric and congenital cardiologist*.

# Ventilatory Anaerobic Threshold (VAT)

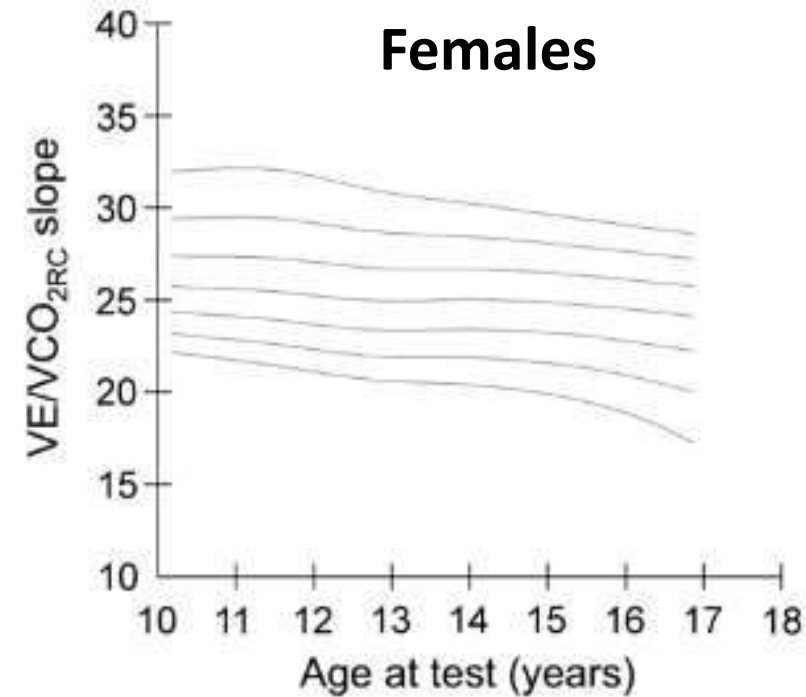
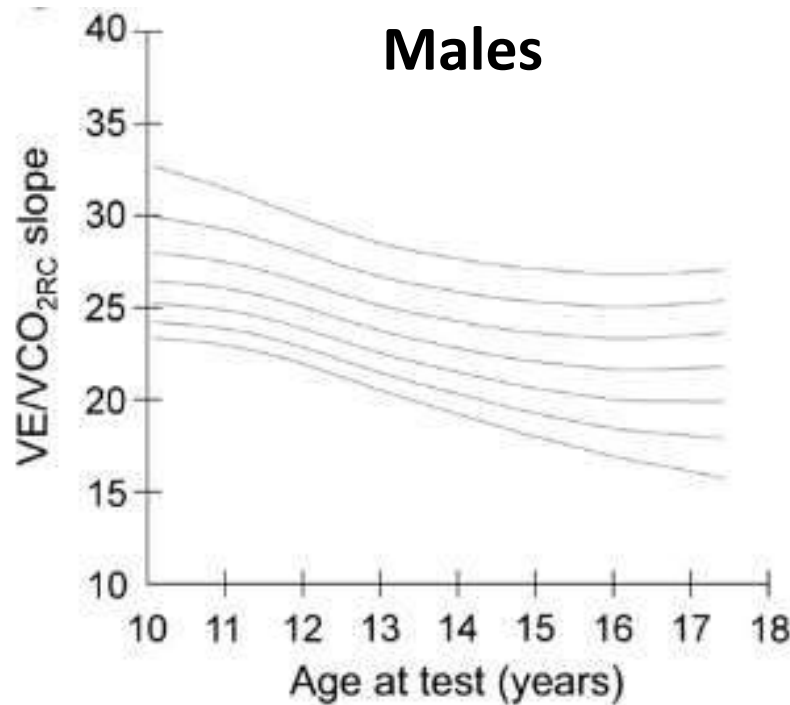


An excellent index of the cardiovascular system's capacity to support hemodynamic demands of exercise

Any cardiovascular condition that impairs oxygen delivery will lower anaerobic threshold



# $V_E/VCO_2$ Slope

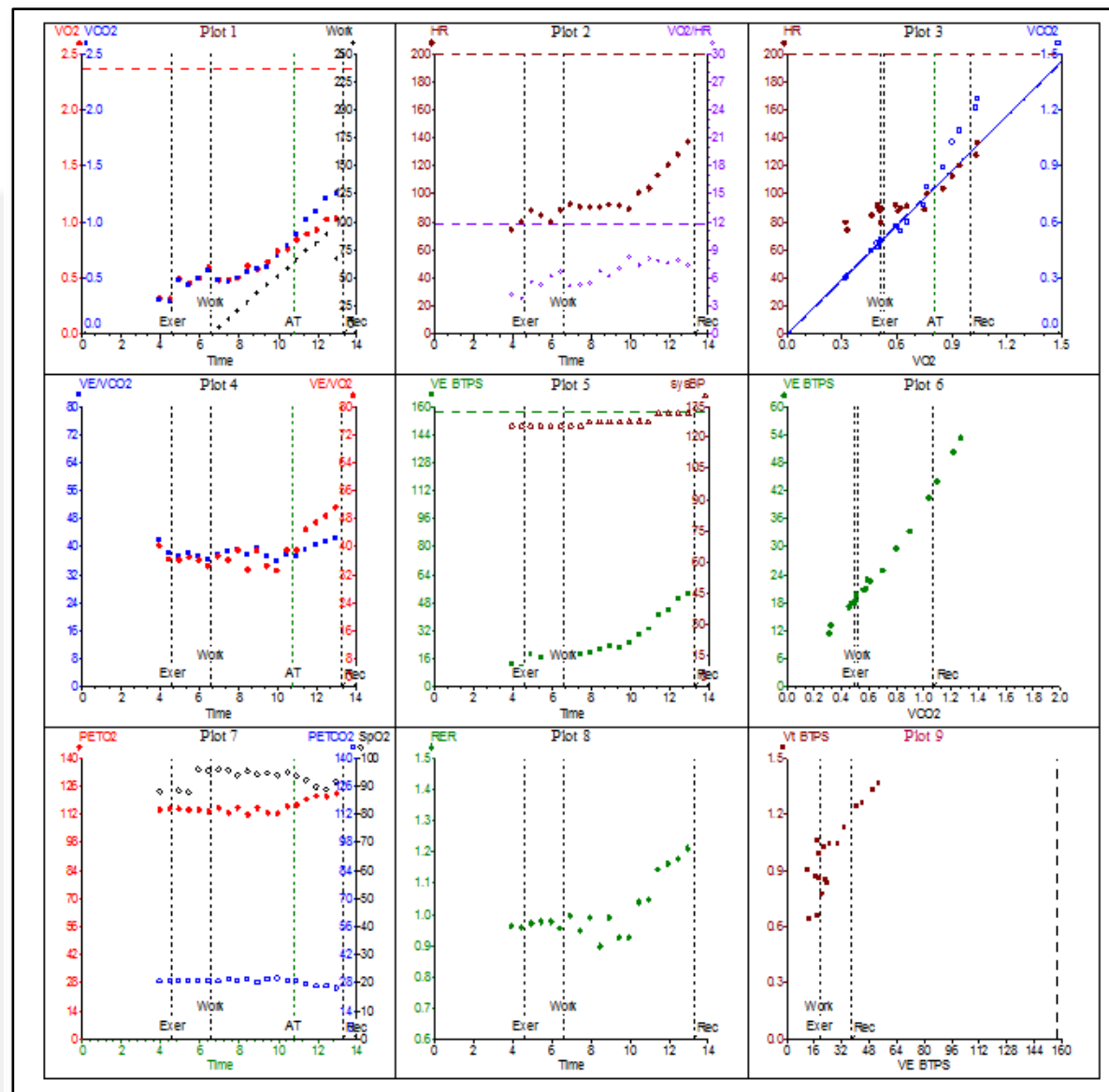


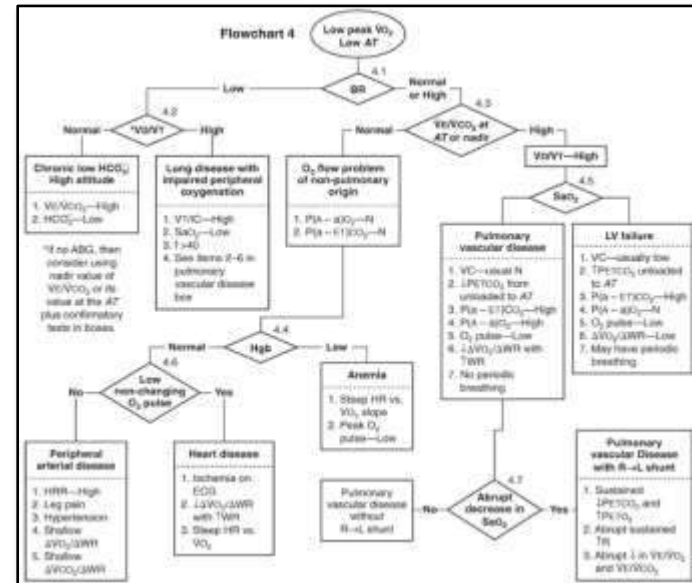
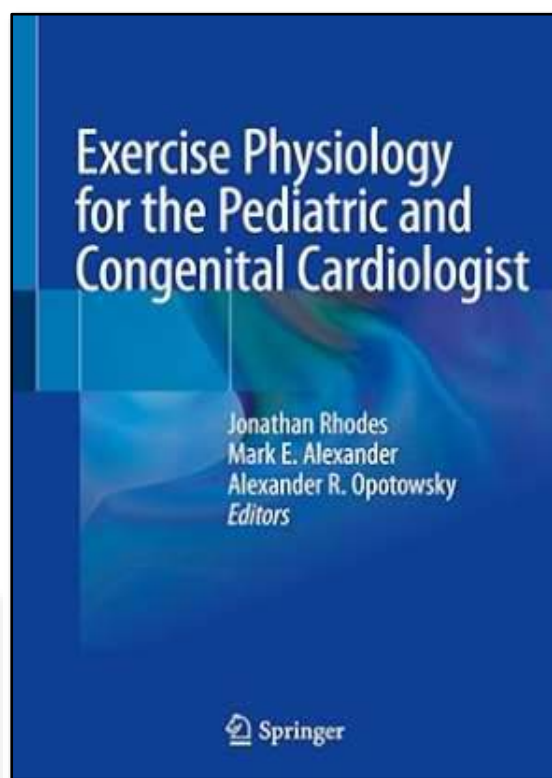
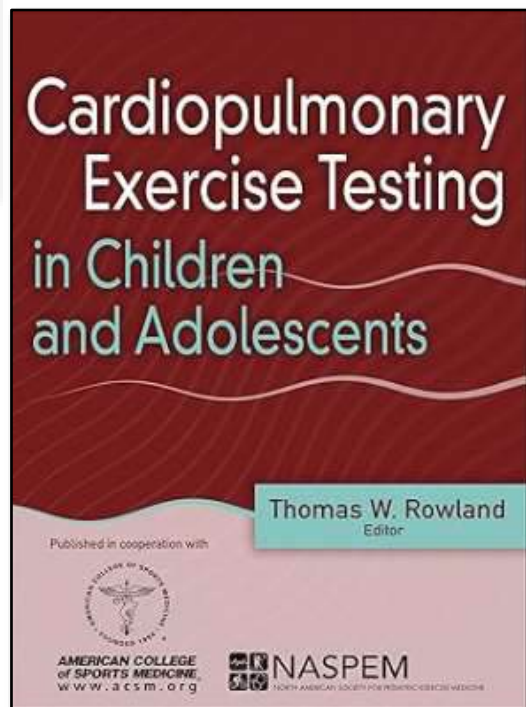
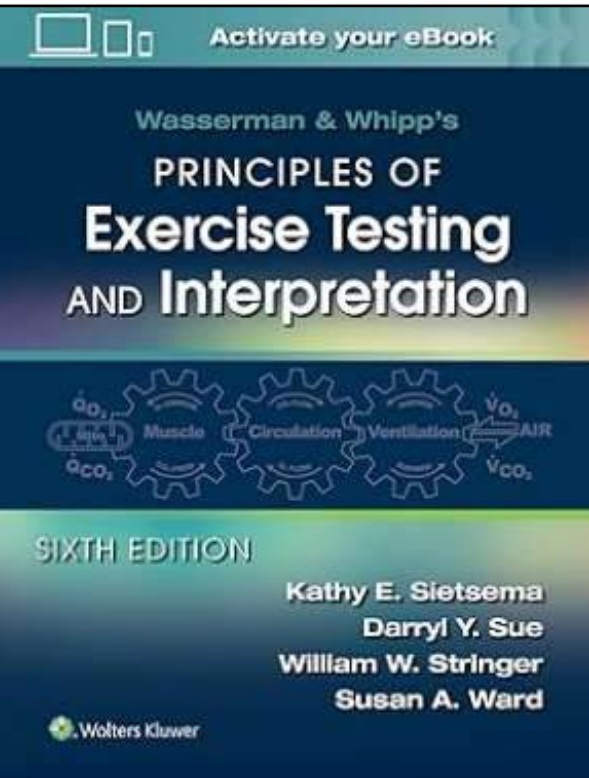
- Impaired transport of gases across the alveolar-capillary membrane
- Fontan Circulation
- Pulmonary Stenosis
- Elevated Wedge Pressures
- Right to left shunting
- Pulmonary Hypertension (ASD, PFO)



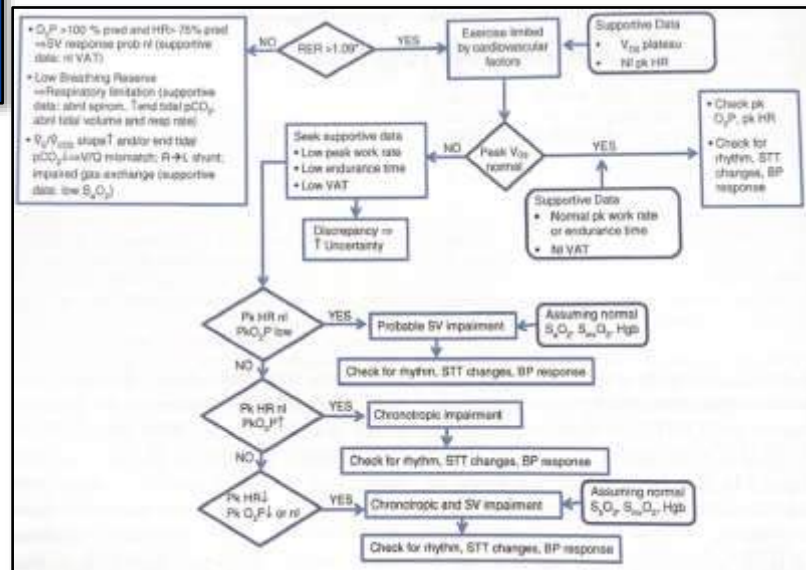
# CPET Report

	Rest	AT	VO2 Max	Pred	AT / VO2 Max (%)	VO2 Max/Pred (%)
Time (min)	4:21	10:37	11:46			
Ex Time (min)		6:11	7:20			
--- WORK ---						
Work (Watts)	0	63	80	187	79	43
Speed (RPM)	3	53	56		95	
--- VENTILATION ---						
Vt BTPS (L)	0.70	1.02	1.42		72	
RR (br/min)	20	29	30		95	
VE BTPS (L/min)	13.9	29.3	43.1	157.0	68	27
BR (%)	91.1	81.3	72.5		112	
--- O2 CONSUMPTION ---						
VO2 (mL/kg/min)	6.7	14.1	20.7	43.3	68	48
VO2 (mL/min)	365	767	1131	2359	68	48
VCO2 (mL/min)	343	788	1173	2854	67	41
RER	0.94	1.03	1.04		99	
METS	1.9	4.0	5.9	12.4	68	48
--- CARDIAC ---						
HR (BPM)	84	103	113	200	91	56
VO2/HR (mL/beat)	4	7	10	12	74	85
--- V/Q ---						
VE/VCO2	41	37	37	39	101	95
VE/VO2	38	38	38	47	100	82
PETCO2 (mmHg)	28	29	29		102	
PETO2 (mmHg)	115	116	117		99	
-----						
sysBP (mmHg)	126	128	132		97	
diaBP (mmHg)	72	72	70		103	
RatePrsPd SBP*HR/100	106	132	149	380	88	39
Borg PE						
SpO2 (%)		95	92		103	





Sietsema, Kathy E., et. al Wasserman & Whipp's: principles of exercise testing and interpretation.



Rhodes, Jonathan et. al. Exercise physiology for the pediatric and congenital cardiologist.

Prognosis/  
Surveillance



Symptom  
Provocation



Risk  
Stratification



# Symptom Provocation



DIZZINESS

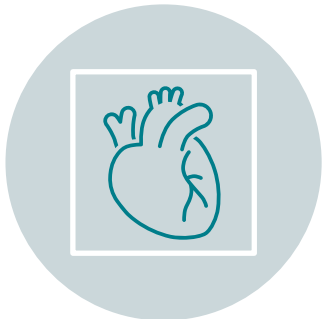


PALPITATIONS



SYNCOPE

- rTOF pulmonary valve replacement



CHEST PAIN



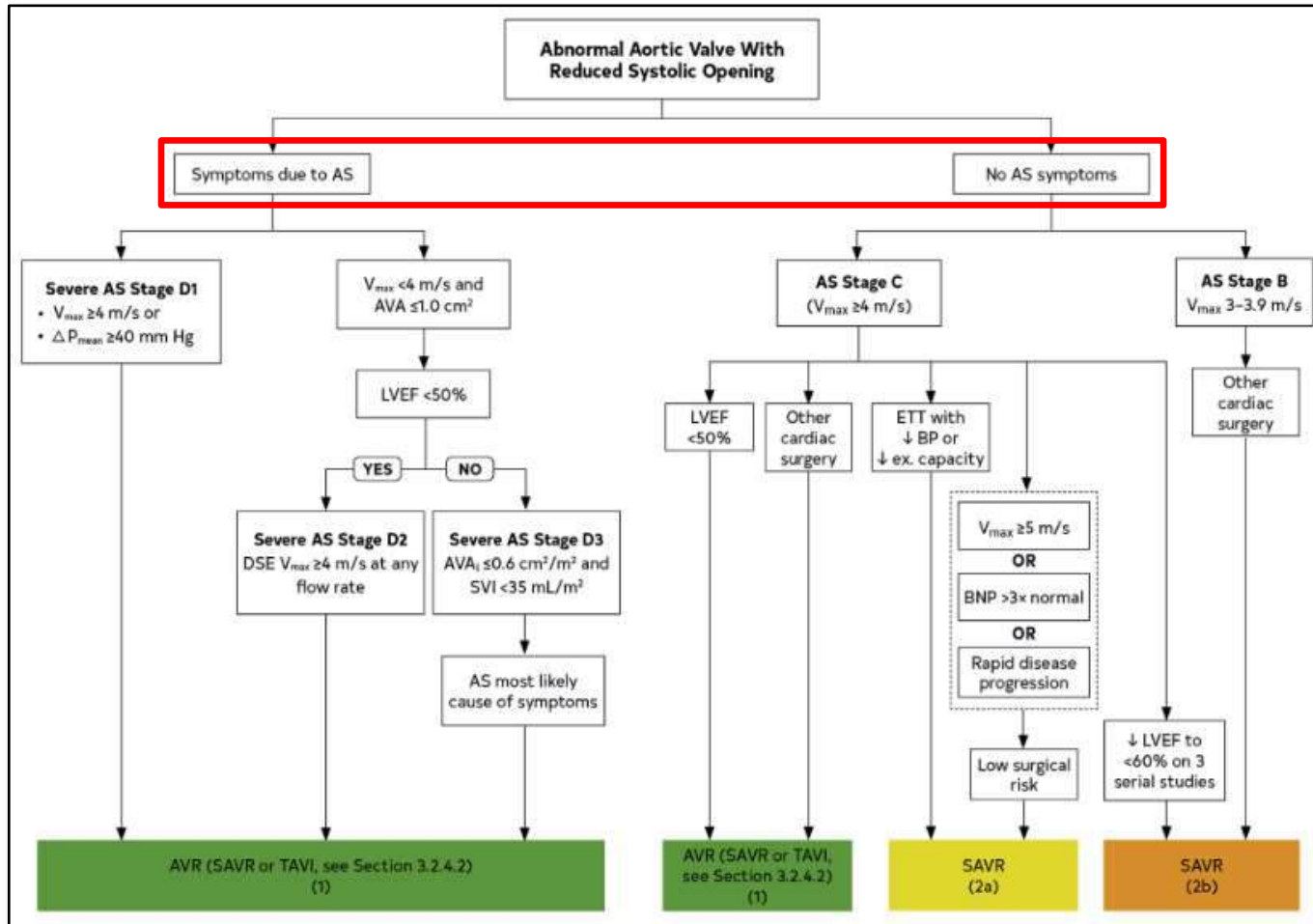
SHORTNESS OF  
BREATH



EXERCISE  
INTOLERANCE



# Symptom Provocation



- rTOF pulmonary valve replacement
- Valvular heart disease

Catherine M. Otto et al. "2020 ACC/AHA guideline for the management of patients with valvular heart disease." JACC

# Risk Assessment

## Transposition of the Great Arteries: After Atrial Switch (Mustard or Senning Operation)

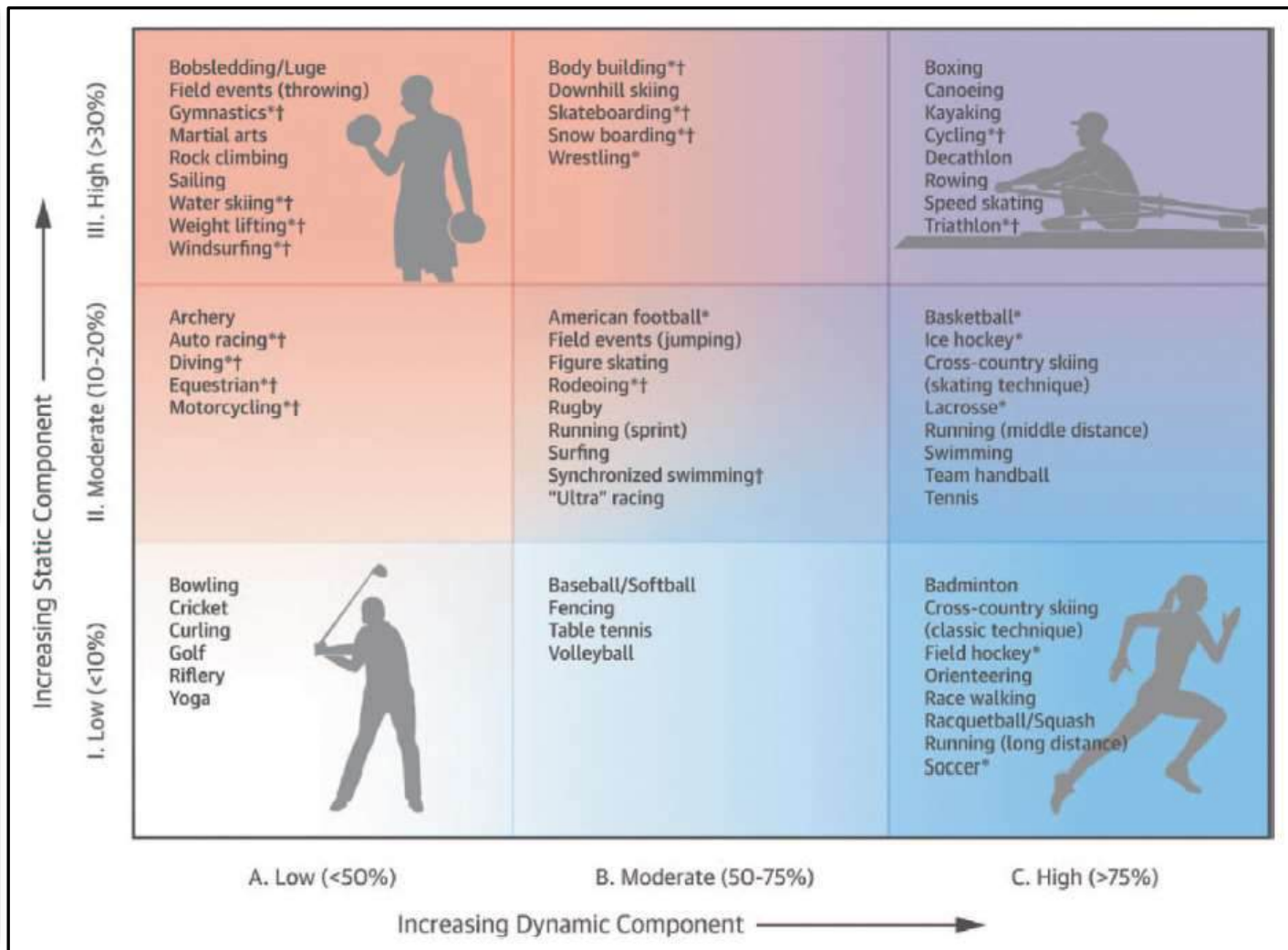
### Recommendations

1. It is recommended that before participation in competitive sports, all athletes who have undergone the Senning and Mustard procedure should undergo an evaluation that includes clinical assessment, ECG, imaging assessment of ventricular function, and **exercise testing** (Class I; Level of Evidence B).
2. Participation in competitive sports in those athletes with a history of clinically significant arrhythmias or severe ventricular dysfunction may be considered on an individual basis based on clinical stability (Class IIb; Level of Evidence C).
3. Athletes without clinically significant arrhythmias, ventricular dysfunction, exercise intolerance, or exercise-induced ischemia may be considered for participation in low- and moderate-intensity competitive sports (classes IA, IB, IIA, and IIB) (Class IIb; Level of Evidence C).

## Ventricular Dysfunction After CHD Surgery

### Recommendations

1. Before participation in competitive sports, all athletes with ventricular dysfunction after CHD surgery should undergo evaluation that includes clinical assessment, ECG, imaging assessment of ventricular function, and **exercise testing** (Class I; Level of Evidence B).
2. Athletes with normal or near-normal systemic ventricular function (EF  $\geq 50\%$ ) can participate in all sports (Class I; Level of Evidence B).
3. It is reasonable for athletes with mildly diminished ventricular function (EF 40%-50%) to participate in low- and medium-intensity static and dynamic sports (classes IA, IB, and IIA and IIB) (Class IIb; Level of Evidence B).



Maron, Barry J. et al. "Eligibility and disqualification recommendations for competitive athletes with cardiovascular abnormalities." *Circulation*

## Congenitally Corrected TGA

### Recommendations

1. It is recommended that before participation in competitive sports, all CCTGA athletes should undergo evaluation that includes clinical assessment, ECG, imaging assessment of ventricular function, and **exercise testing** (Class I; Level of Evidence B).
2. Participation in competitive sports in those CCTGA athletes with a history of clinically significant arrhythmias or severe ventricular dysfunction may be considered on an individual basis based on clinical stability (Class IIb; Level of Evidence C).

## Coarctation of the Aorta: Treated by Surgery or Balloon and Stent

### Recommendations

1. Athletes who are >3 months past surgical repair or stent placement with <20 mm Hg arm/leg blood pressure gradient at rest, as well as (1) a **normal exercise test** with no significant dilation of the ascending aorta ( $\alpha$  score <3.0), (2) no aneurysm at the site of coarctation intervention, and (3) no significant concomitant aortic valve disease, may be considered for participation in competitive sports, but with the exception of high-intensity static exercise (classes IIIA, IIIB, and IIIC), as well as sports that pose a danger of bodily collision (Class IIb; Level of Evidence C).

## Postoperative Tetralogy of Fallot

### Recommendations

1. Before participation in competitive sports, it is recommended that all athletes with repaired tetralogy of Fallot should undergo evaluation, including clinical assessment, ECG, imaging assessment of ventricular function, and **exercise testing** (Class I; Level of Evidence B).
2. Athletes without significant ventricular dysfunction (EF >50%), arrhythmias, or outflow tract obstruction may be considered for participation in moderate- to high-intensity sports (class II to III). To meet these criteria, the athlete must be able to complete an exercise test without evidence of exercise-induced arrhythmias, hypotension, ischemia, or other concerning clinical symptoms (Class IIb; Level of Evidence B).



Martinez, Matthew W. et al. "Sports Participation by Athletes With Cardiovascular Disease." *JACC*



# What you learned today



Another non-invasive tool



CHD surveillance and progression



Objective assessment of symptoms



Keep our patient safe **AND** active



Consult your local exercise expert



Become the local expert and build a lab!





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