

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

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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

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

Cardiac

Congenital Heart Disease (non-repaired/repaired)

Acyanotic	Cyanotic
ASD	cc-TGA
Aortic Valve Regurgitation	D-TGA
Aortic Valve Stenosis	Ebstein Anomaly
Bicuspid Aortic Valve	Univentricular Heart
Coarctation	Tetralogy of Fallot
Coronary anomalies/disease	
Mitral Regurgitation	
Mitral Stenosis	
PDA	
Pulmonary Valve Stenosis	
VSD	

Acquired Heart Disease

Kawasaki Disease
MIS-C
Myocarditis
Pericarditis

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

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

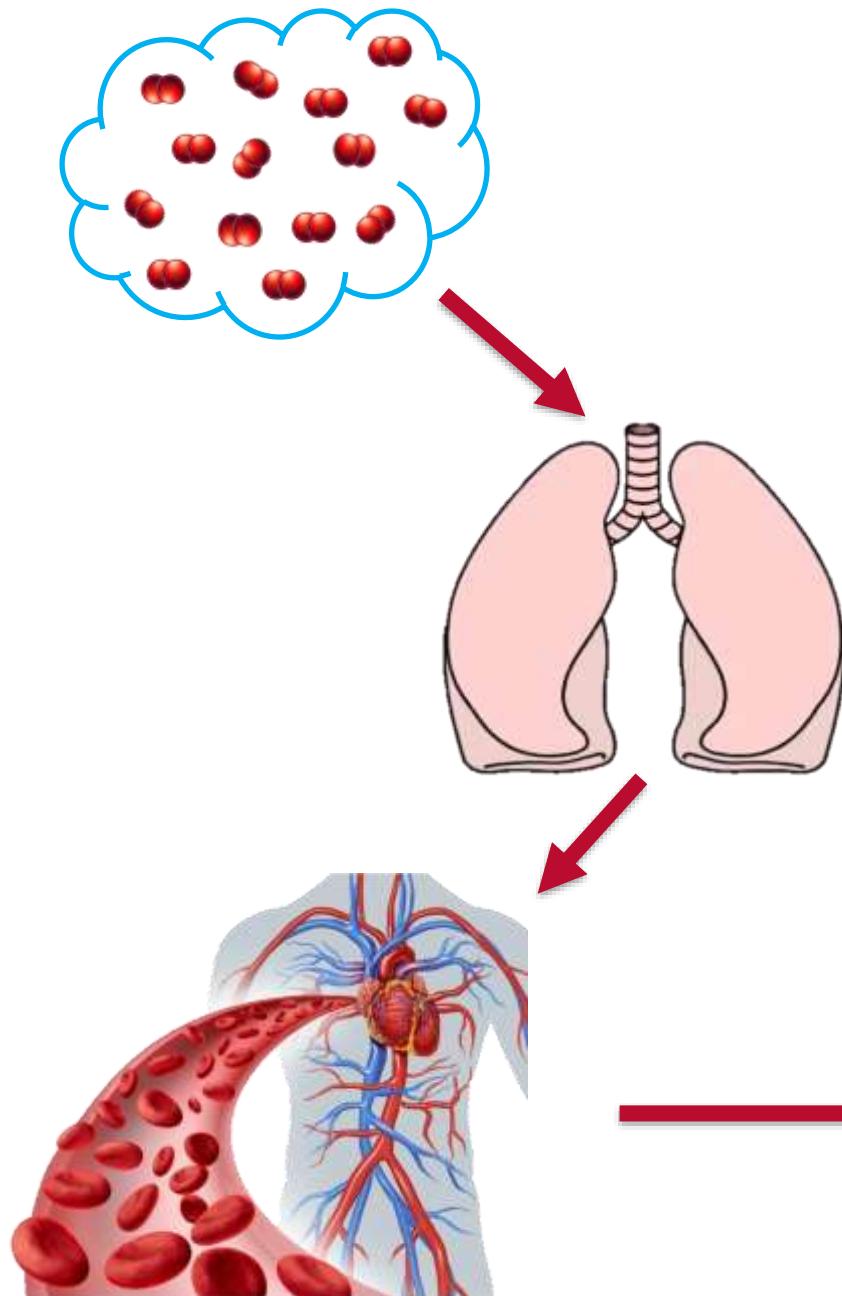
Graded ECG

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

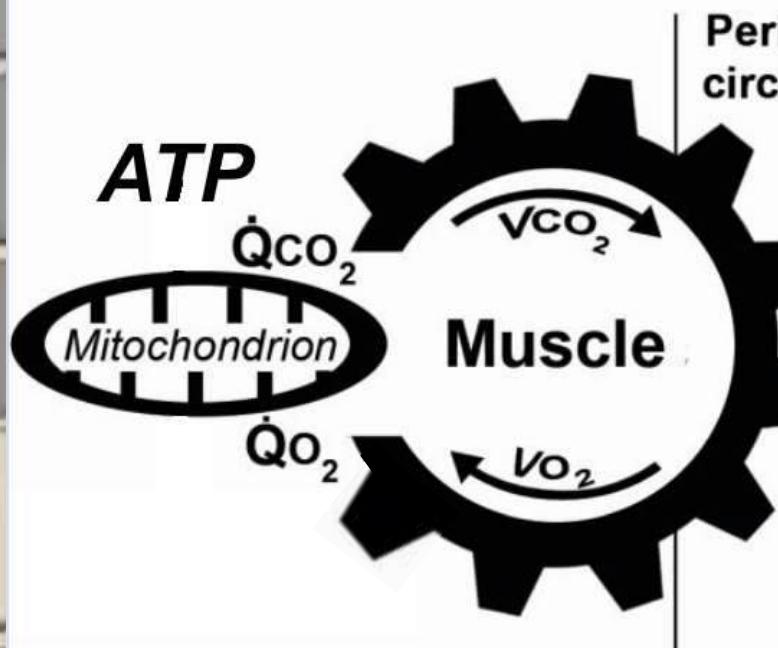
Cardiopulmonary Exercise Test (CPET)

- Graded ECG data
- Breath-by-breath data
- Peak oxygen consumption
- Ventilatory anaerobic threshold
- VO_2 and its relationship to: HR, WR, VCO_2
- O_2 Pulse
- Ventilation and its relationship to breathing capacity
- Lung mechanics
- Relationship of VE and CO_2 elimination

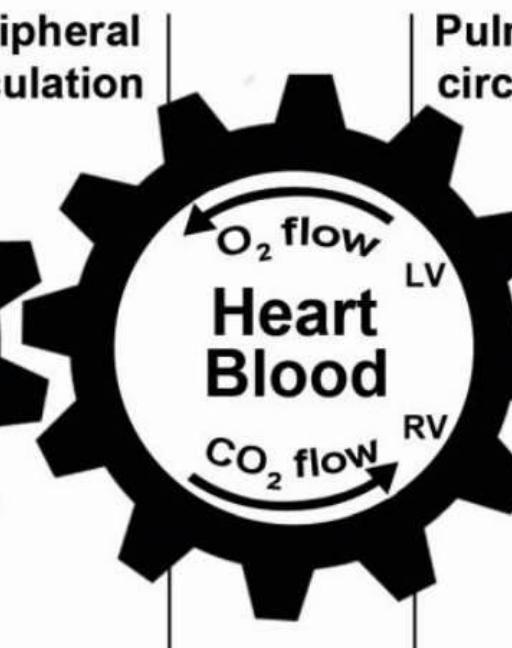




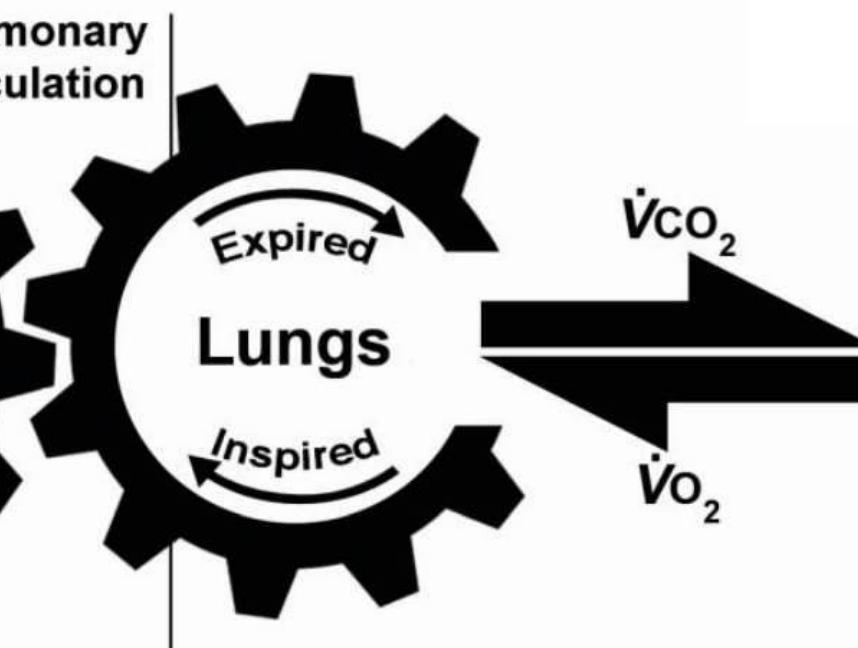
MUSCLE ACTIVITY



O_2 and CO_2 DELIVERY



VENTILATION ($\dot{V}A + \dot{V}D = \dot{V}E$)



Physiological responses:

$\uparrow \dot{QCO}_2$
 $\uparrow \dot{QO}_2$

Dilate

$\uparrow SV$
 $\uparrow HR$

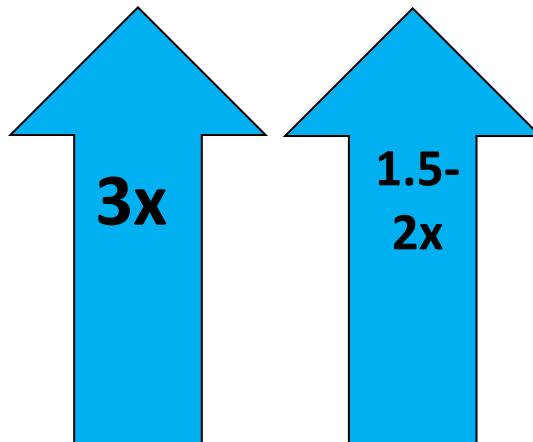
Recruit

$\uparrow VT$
 $\uparrow BF$



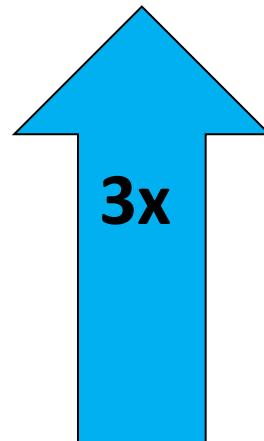
Oxygen Consumption

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



Sinus node Dysfunction

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



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

AV Block

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

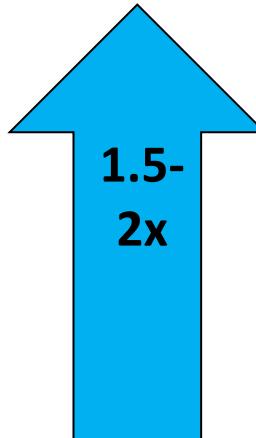
Pacemaker Optimization

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



Oxygen Pulse (O_2P)

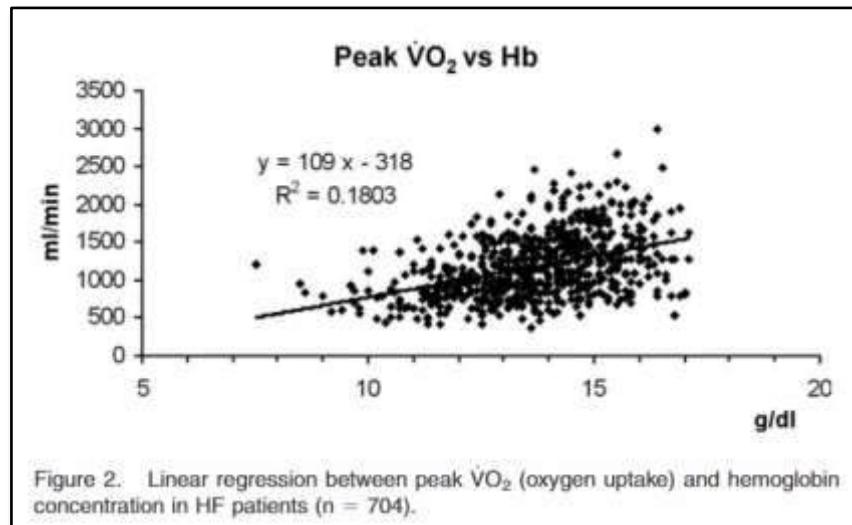
- $O_2P = VO_2/HR$
 - = Cardiac Output/HR $\times O_2$ extraction
 - = Stroke Volume $\times O_2$ extraction
- ↓ systolic/diastolic function
- Myocardial ischemia
- Cardiomyopathy
- Severe outflow tract obstruction
- Severe valvar regurgitation
- Fontan circulation



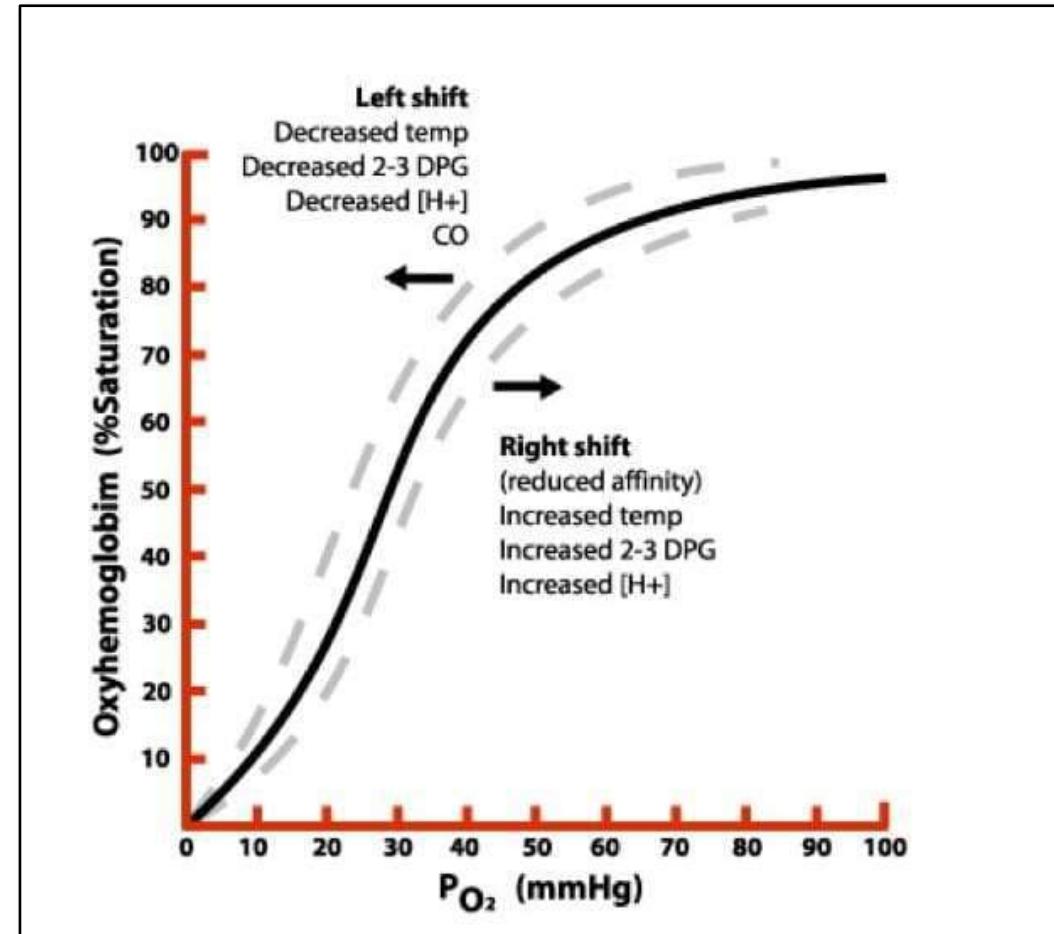
$$=[HR \times SV] \times [1.36 \text{ (Hgb)} (S_aO_2 - S_vO_2)]$$

Oxygen Extraction

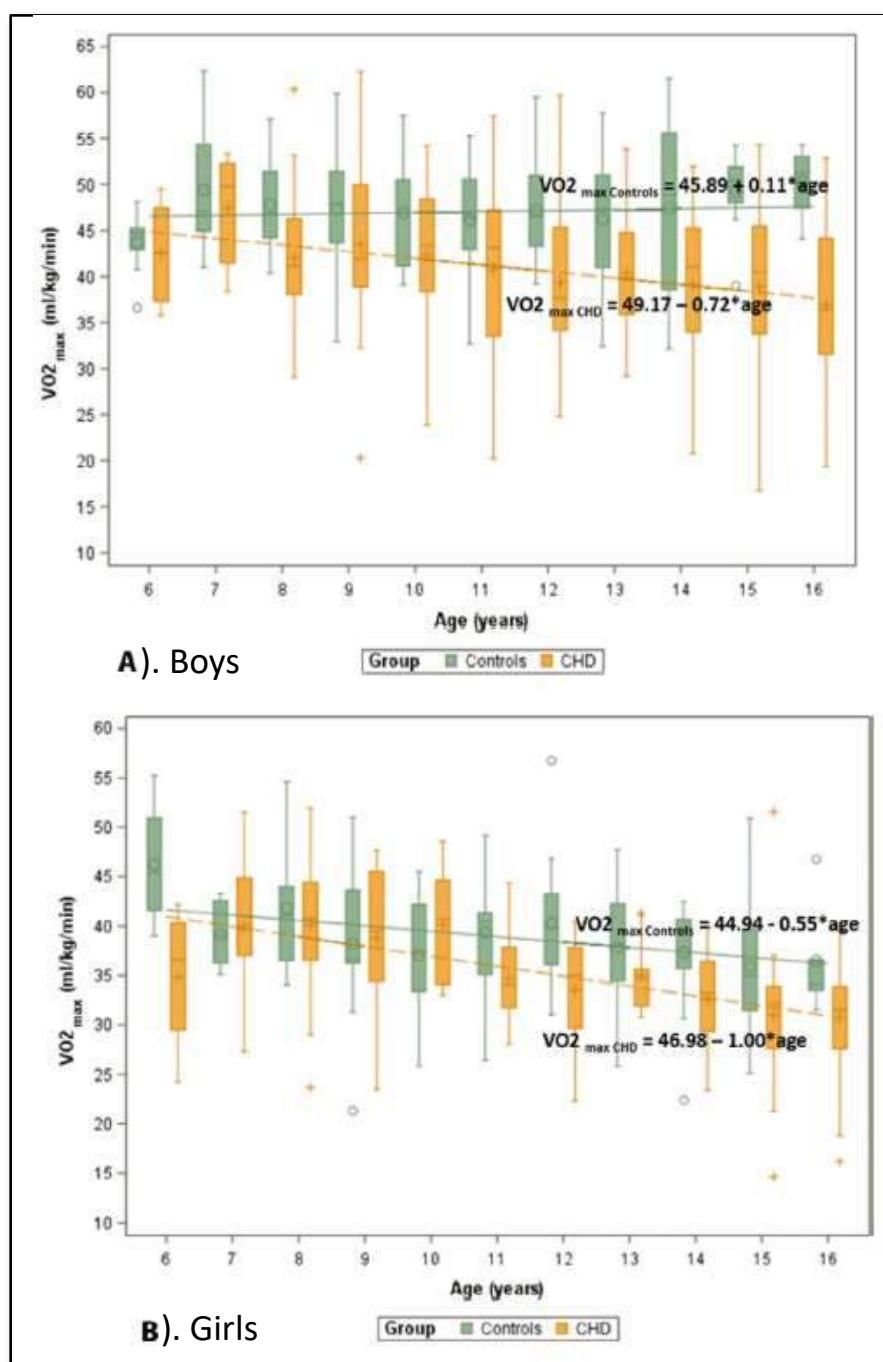
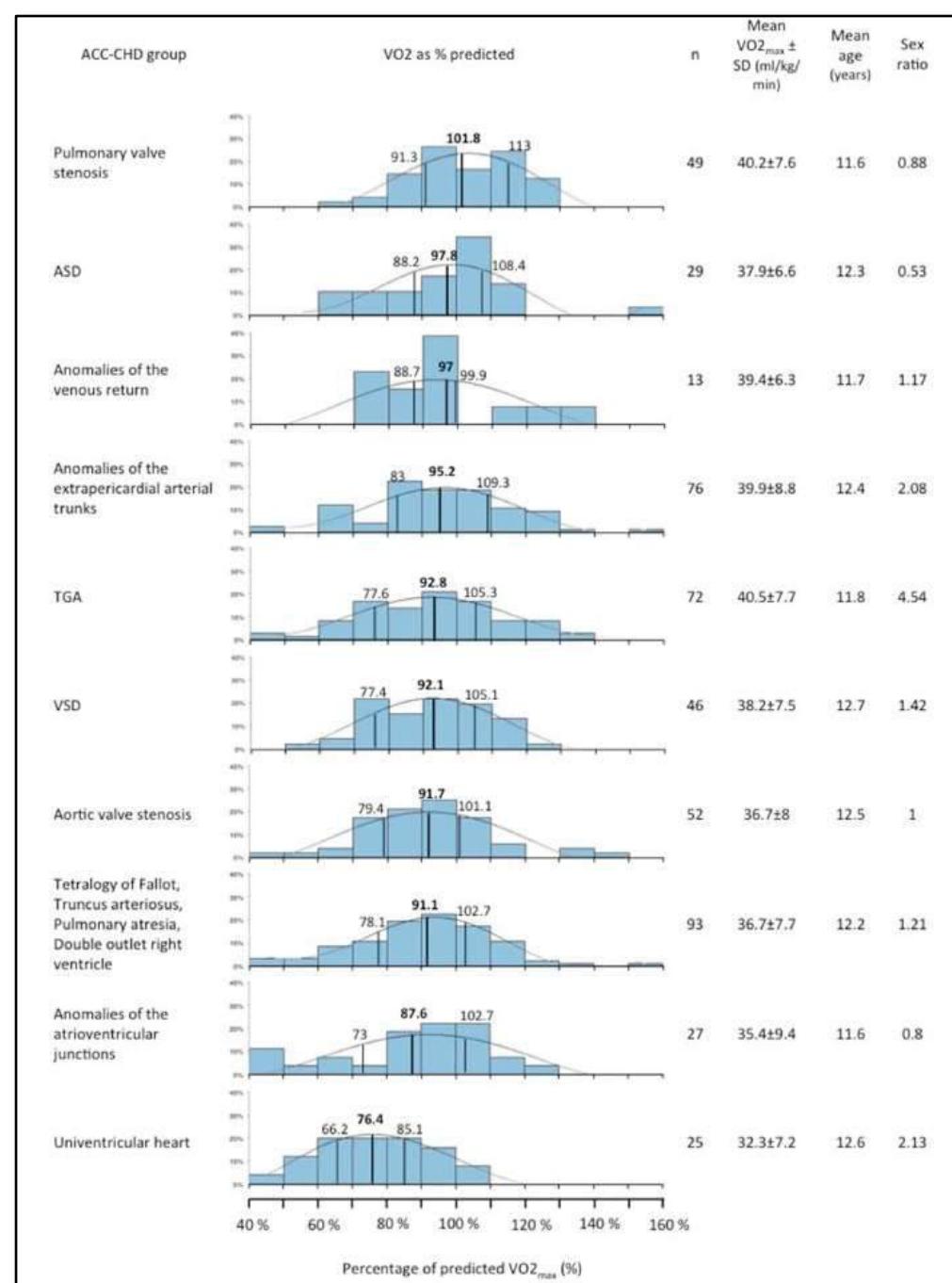
- During exercise mixed venous oxygen saturation typically falls to less than 30%
 - Vasodilation -> larger surface area
 - Accumulation of LA facility release of O₂



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

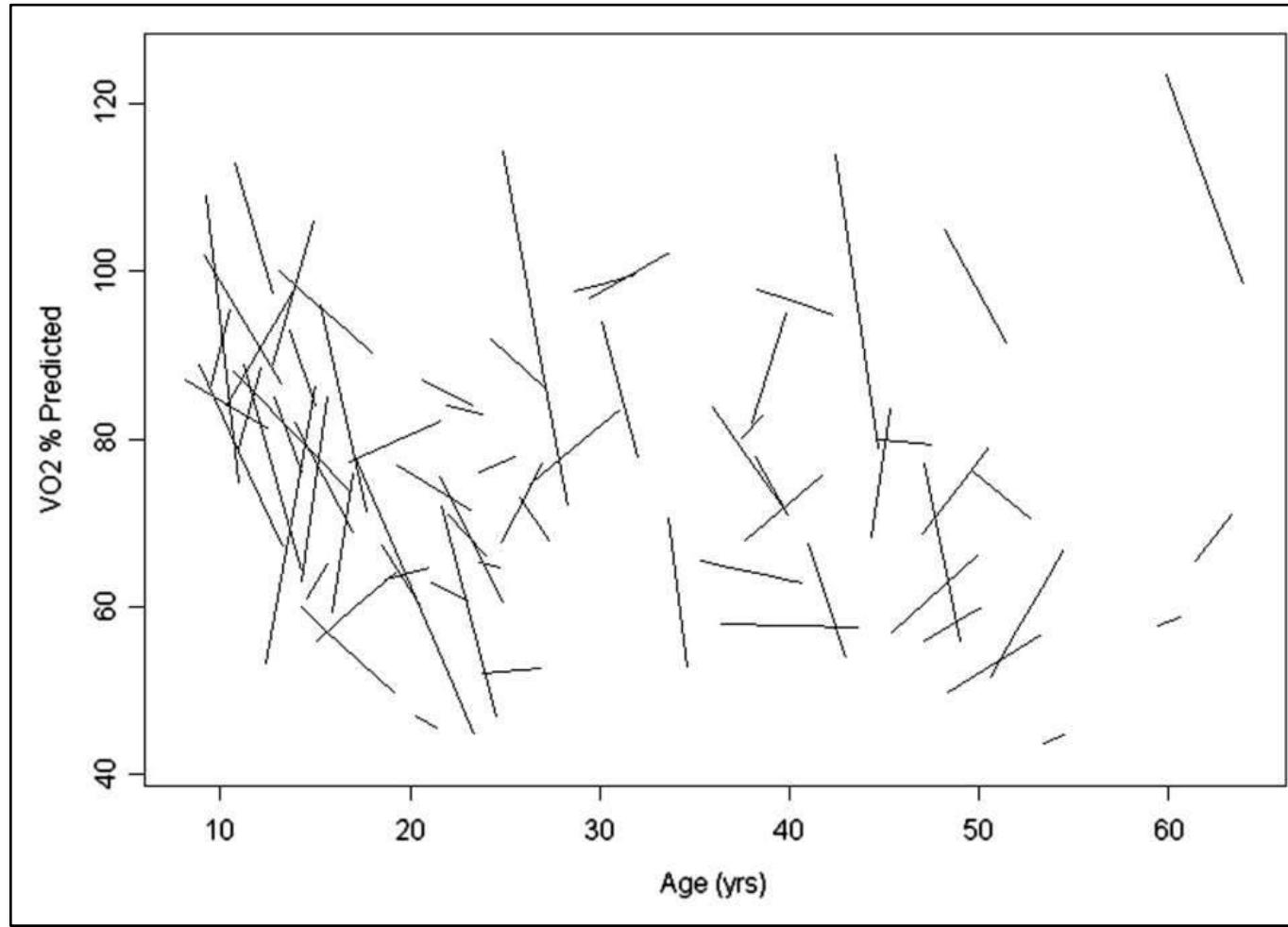


$$= [\text{HR} \times \text{SV}] \times [1.36 \text{ (Hgb)} (\text{S}_a\text{O}_2 - \text{S}_v\text{O}_2)]$$



Peak VO₂ – Tetralogy of Fallot

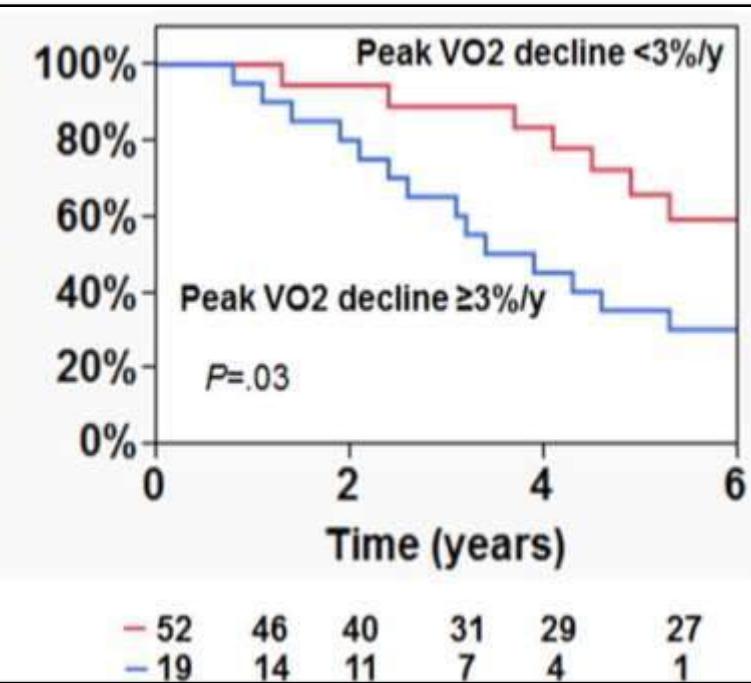
VO₂ Observed decrease of 1.4% points/yr



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

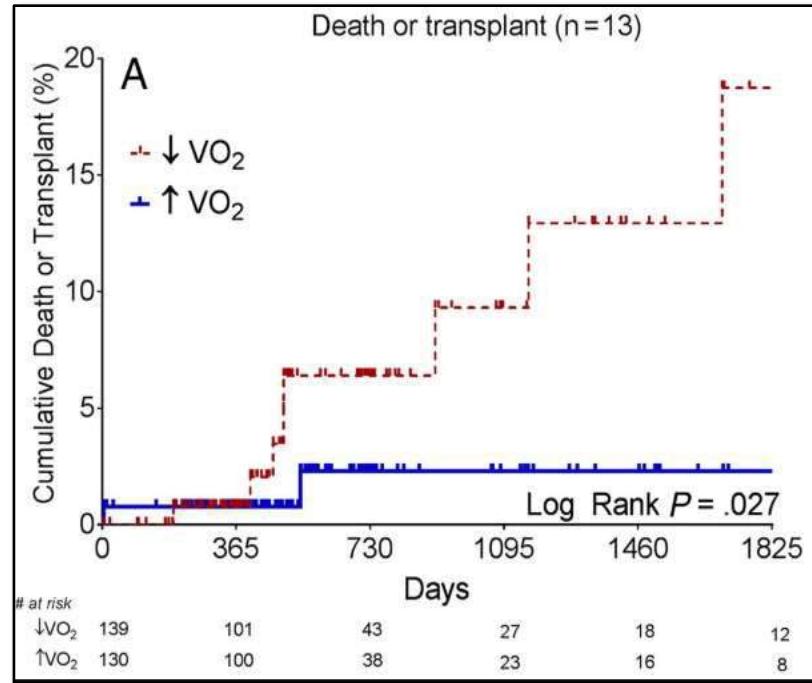
Peak VO₂ – Fontan

Adverse cardiovascular events



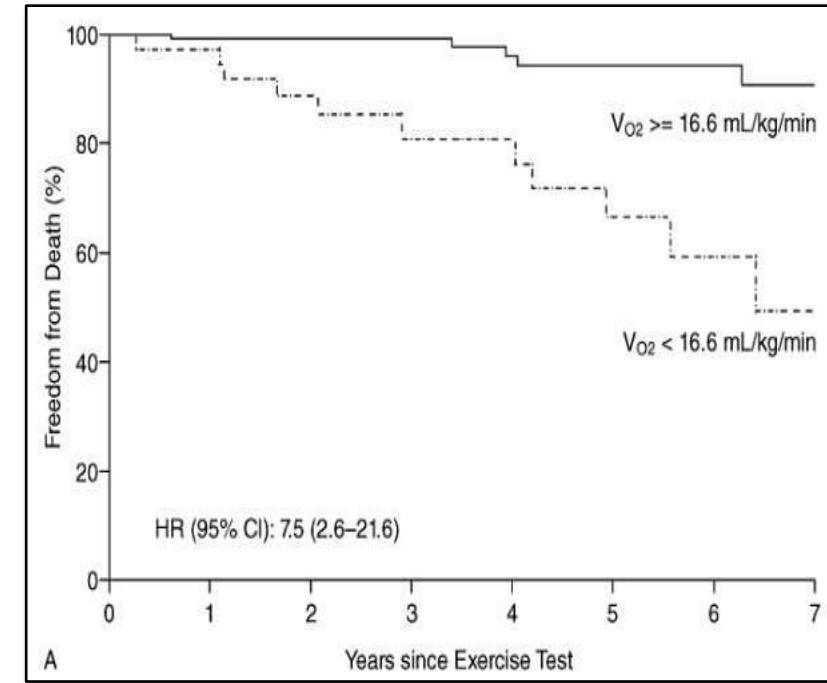
Egbe, Alexander C. et. al. "Cardiopulmonary exercise test in adults with prior Fontan operation: the prognostic value of serial testing." *International journal of Cardiology*

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

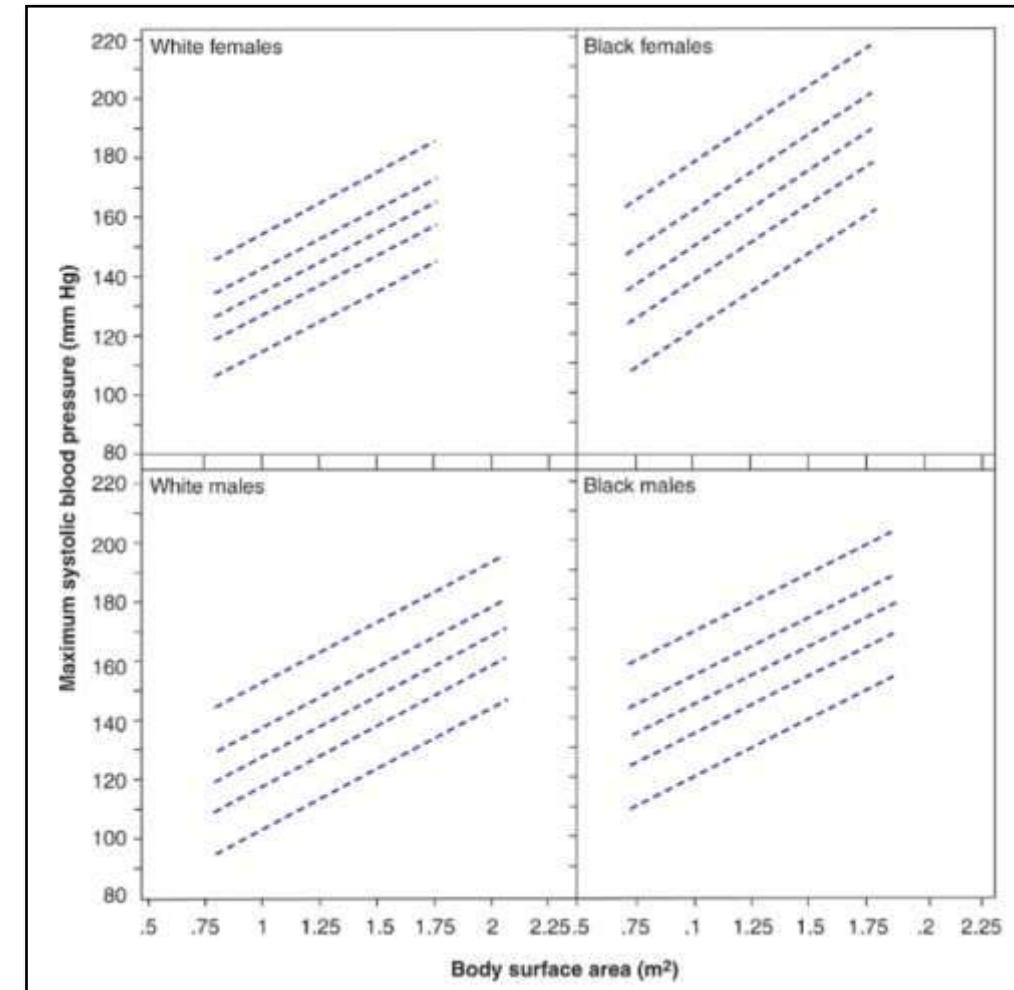
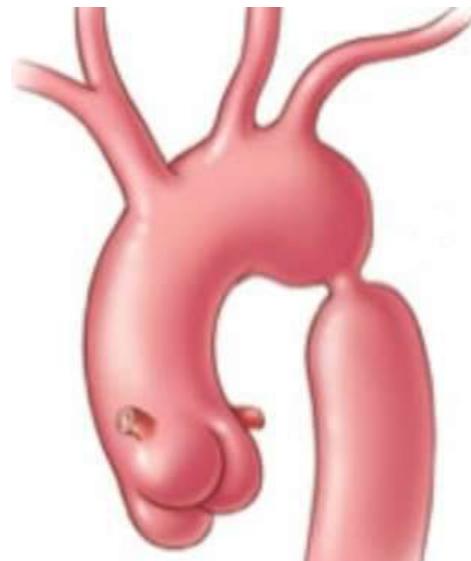


Fernandes, Susan M. et.al. "Exercise testing identifies patients at increased risk for morbidity and mortality following Fontan surgery." *Congenital heart disease*



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



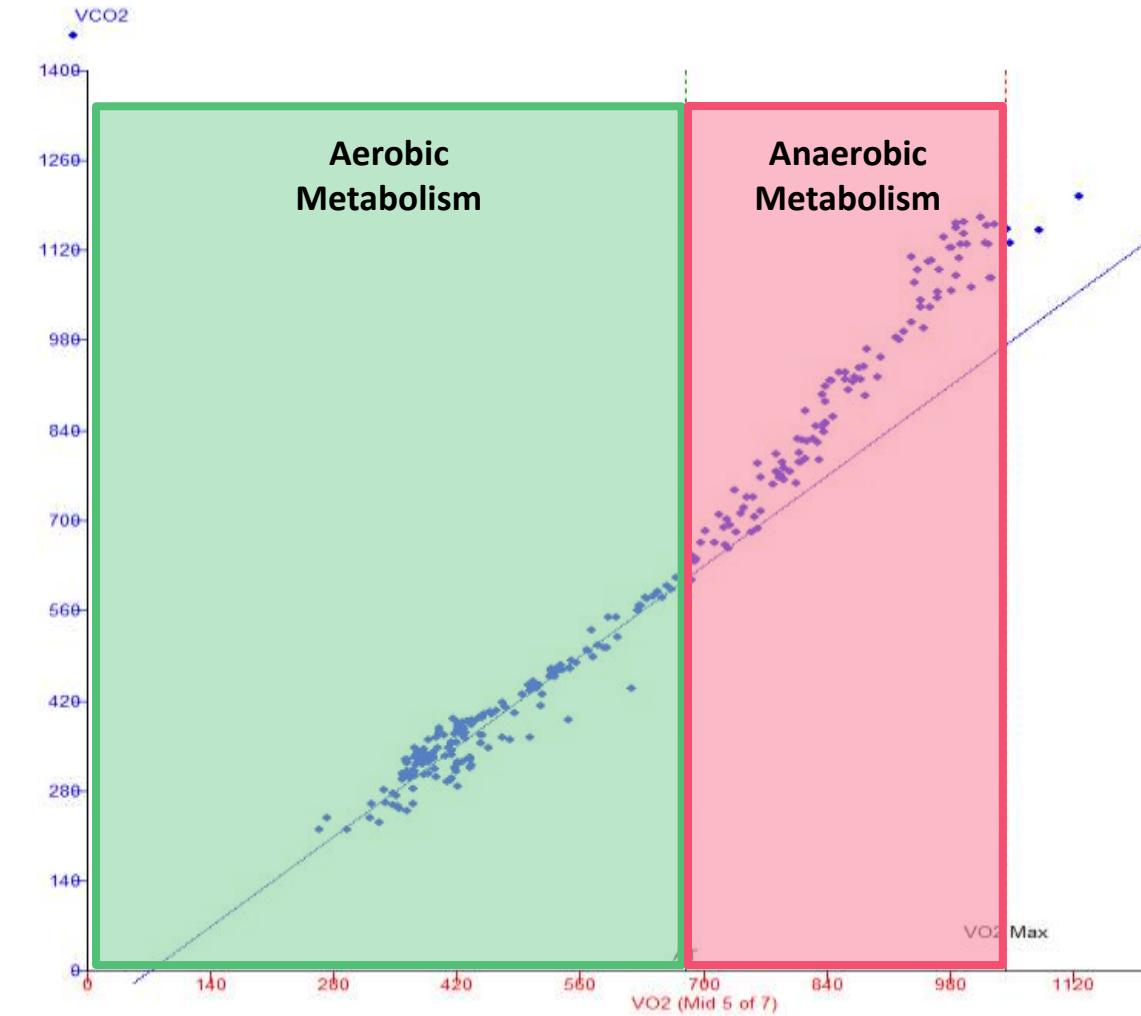
Rhodes, Jonathan et. al. *Exercise physiology for the pediatric and congenital cardiologist*.



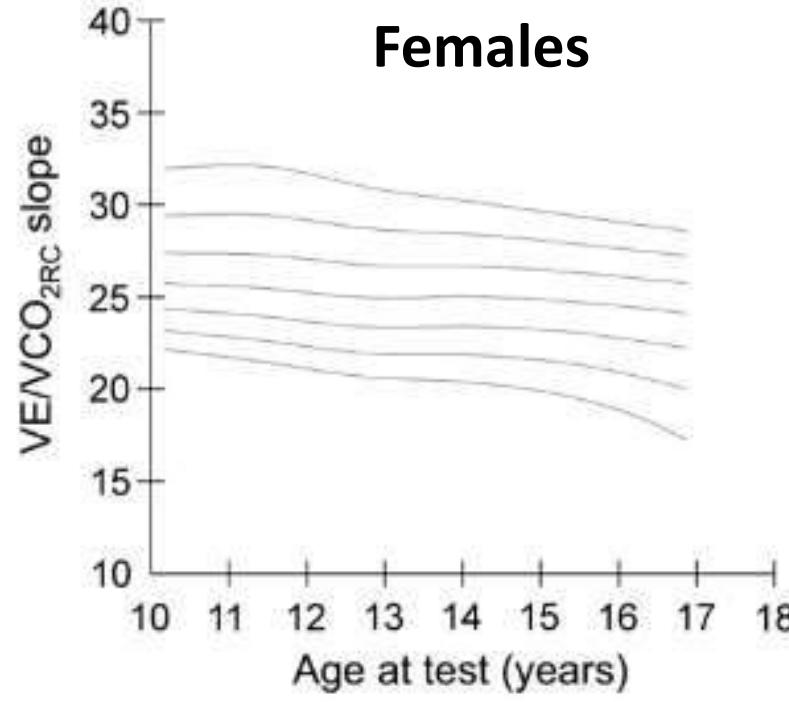
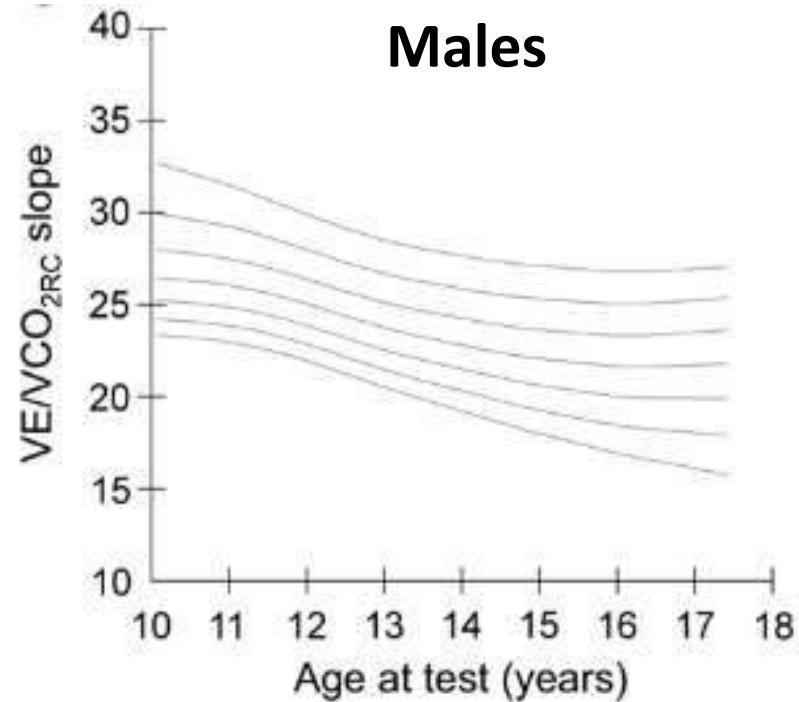
Ventilatory Anaerobic Threshold (VAT)

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

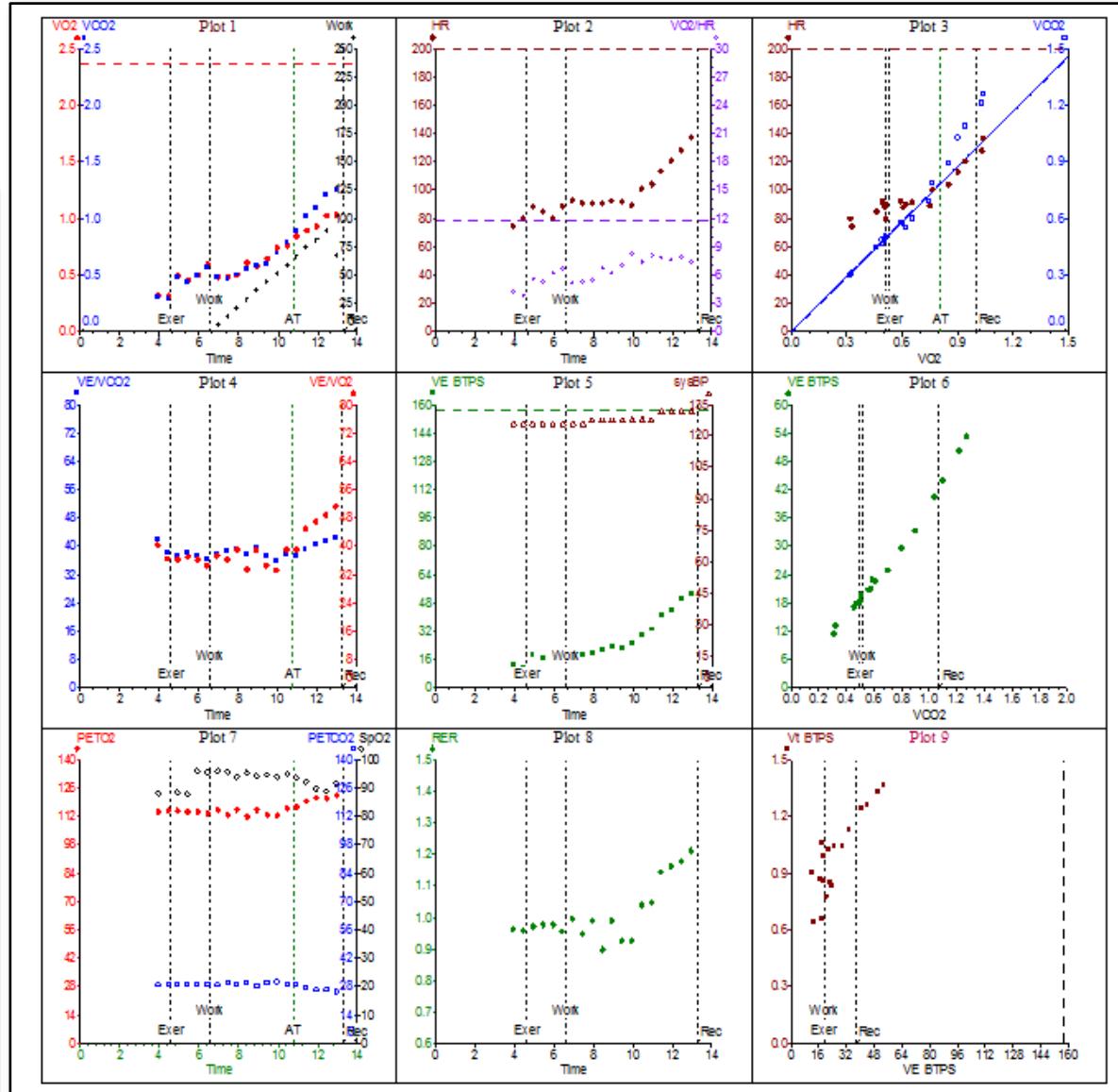


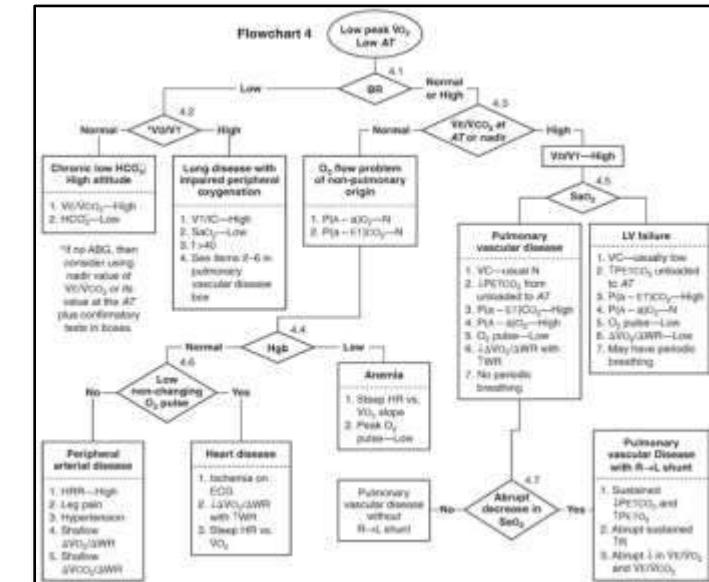
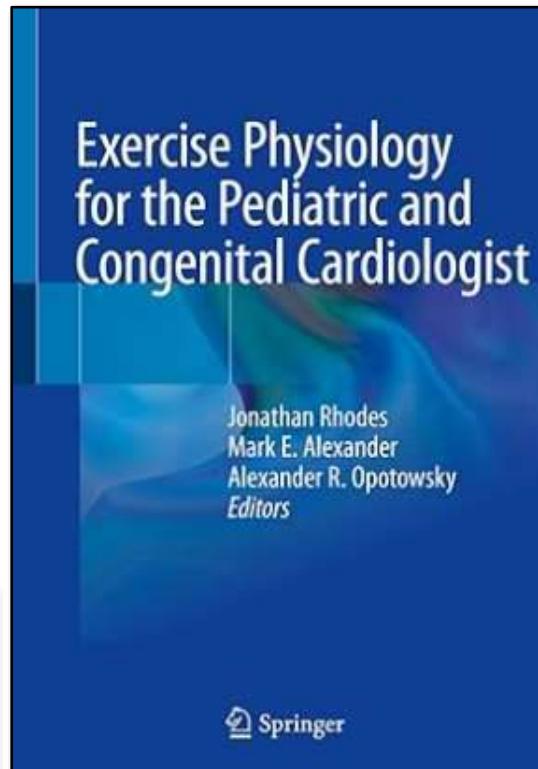
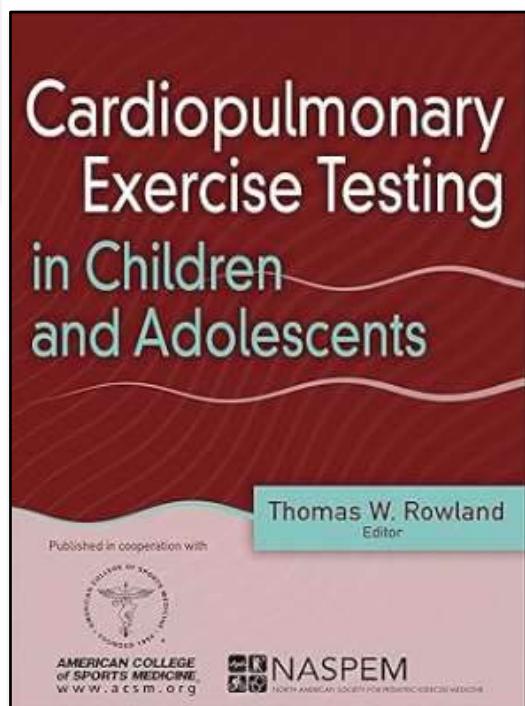
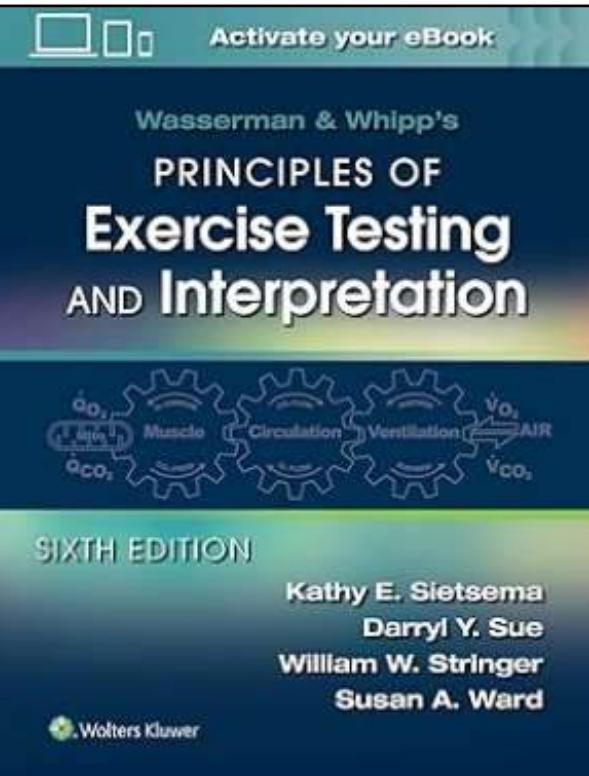
- Impaired transport of gases across the alveolar-capillary membrane
- Fontan Circulation
- Pulmonary Stenosis
- Elevated Wedge Pressures
- Right to left shunting
- Pulmonary Hypertension (ASD, PFO)

CPET Report

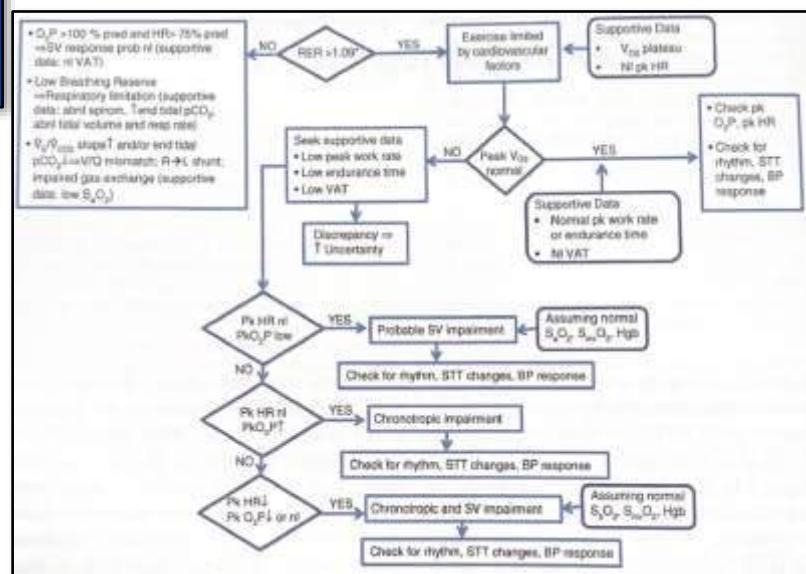
	Rest	AT	VO2 Max	Pred	AT / VO2 Max (%)	VO2 Max/Pred (%)
Time (min)	4:21	10:37	11:46			
Ex Time (min)		6:11	7:20			
--- WORK ---						
Work (Watts)	0	63	80	187	79	43
Speed (RPM)	3	53	56		95	
--- VENTILATION ---						
Vt BTPS (L)	0.70	1.02	1.42		72	
RR (br/min)	20	29	30		95	
VE BTPS (L/min)	13.9	29.3	43.1	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
PE TCO2 (mmHg)	28	29	29		102	
PE TO2 (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



WashU Medicine

CARDIOLOGY
2025

Department of Pediatrics
Division of Pediatric Cardiology

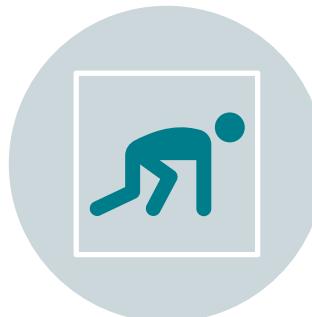
Symptom Provocation



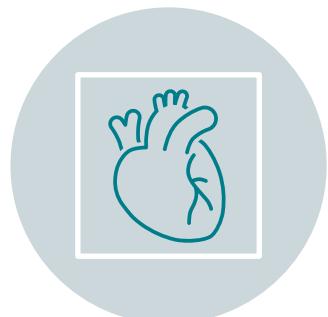
DIZZINESS



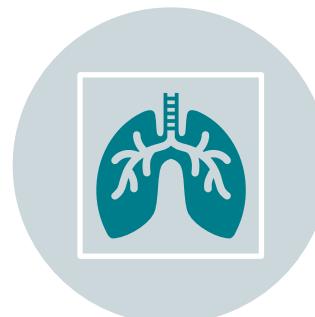
PALPITATIONS



SYNCOPE



CHEST PAIN



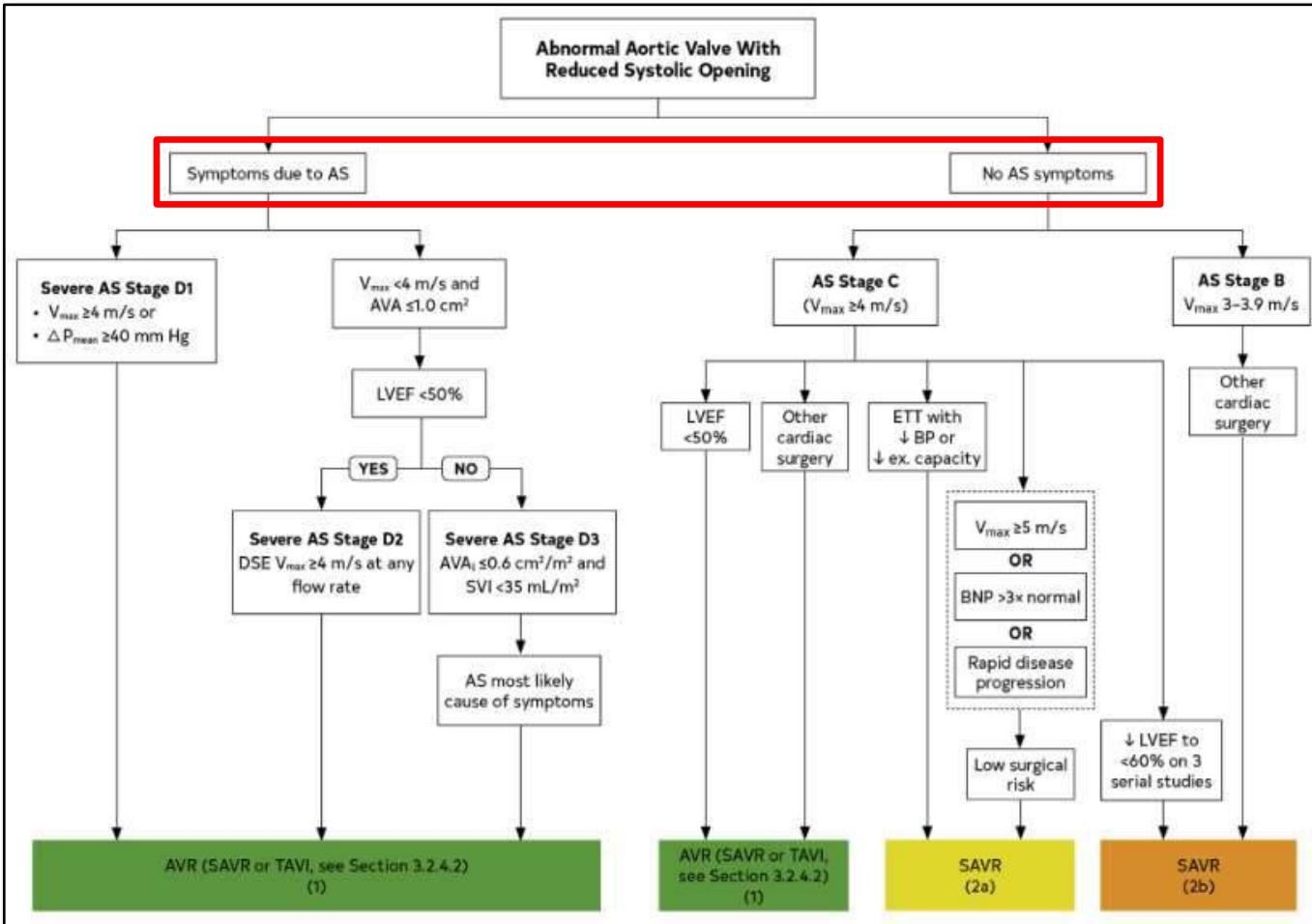
SHORTNESS OF
BREATH



EXERCISE
INTOLERANCE

- rTOF pulmonary valve replacement

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)

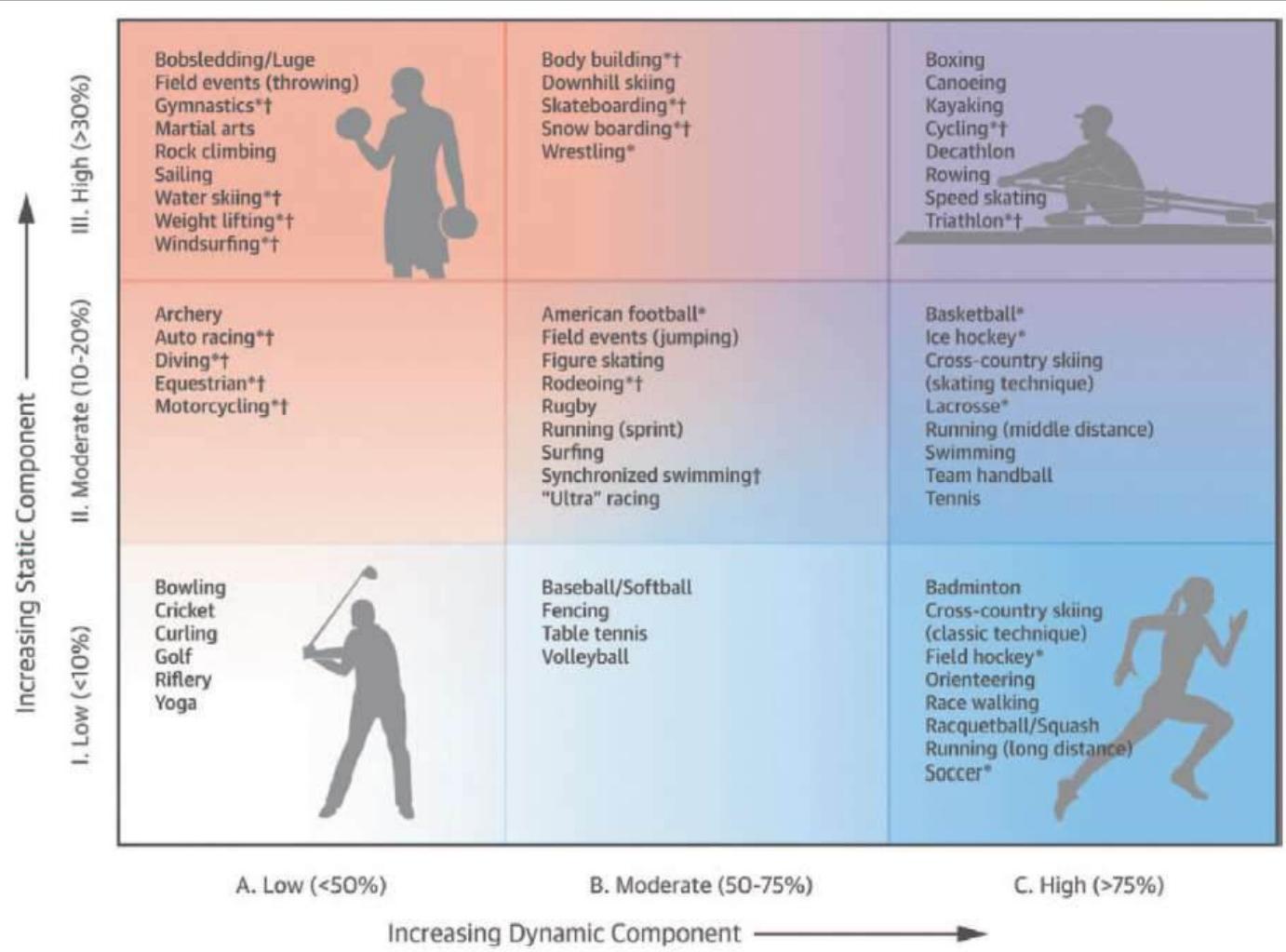
Recommendations

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 (z 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



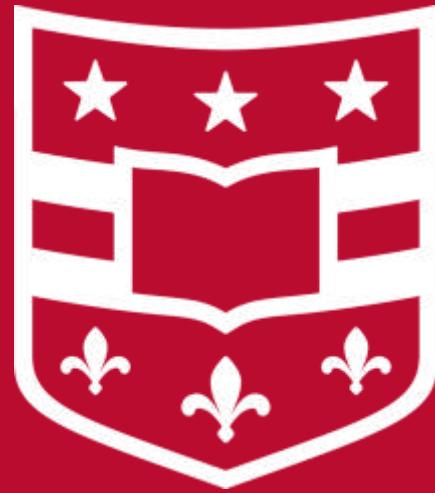
Keep our patient safe **AND** active



Consult your local exercise expert



Become the local expert and build a lab!



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