

# Pulmonary Hypertension in Anaesthesia and Critical Care

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# Disclaimers...

- ▶ I am not a cardiac anaesthetist
- ▶ I am definitely not a specialist in pulmonary hypertension or right heart failure
- ▶ My heart sinks when I hear / read the words “severe pulmonary hypertension” or “dilated poorly functioning right ventricle”

# Aims



Definitions and  
Classification



Operative risks  
and consent



Pre-op



“Spiral of  
death”



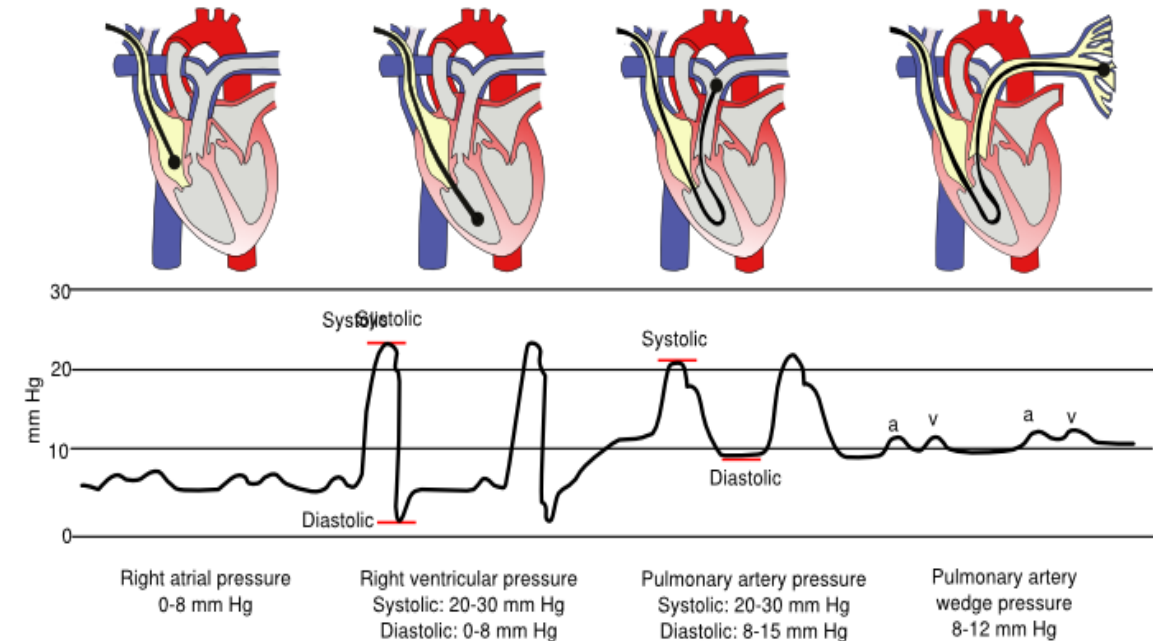
Intra-op



Plan for  
deterioration

# Definitions

- ▶ Right ventricular failure = inability of the right ventricle to provide adequate blood flow through the pulmonary circulation at a normal CVP
- ▶ Pulmonary hypertension = **mean PAP  $\geq$  25mmHg** at rest by right heart catheterisation
  - ▶ Mild: 25-40mmHg
  - ▶ Moderate: 41-55mmHg
  - ▶ Severe: >55mmHg
- ▶ ( $mPAP = 0.61 \times PASP + 2$ )





# PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

ELEVATED MEAN ARTERIAL  
PRESSURE  $\geq 25$  mmHg AT REST  
ASSESSED BY RIGHT HEART  
CATHETERIZATION

CATEGORIZED  
INTO FIVE GROUPS  
BY THE WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION (WHO)

GROUP 1:  
PULMONARY ARTERIAL  
HYPERTENSION (PAH)

PAH EXAMPLES:  
IDIOPATHIC, INHERITED,  
DRUG AND TOXIN INDUCED,  
CAUSED BY CONNECTIVE TISSUE  
DISEASE, HIV, SCHISTOSOMIASIS

HEART  
CAT(H)

ONLY GROUP 1 IS CALLED  
PULMONARY "ARTERIAL" HYPERTENSION,  
BUT ALL 5 GROUPS MAY BE REFERRED TO  
AS PULMONARY HYPERTENSION (PH)

GROUP 3:  
PH DUE TO LUNG  
DISEASE AND/OR  
HYPOXEMIA

GROUP 4:  
PH DUE CHRONIC  
THROMBOEMBOLISM

GROUP 2:  
PH DUE TO LEFT  
HEART DISEASE  
(MOST COMMON)

GROUP 5:  
PH WITH UNCLEAR  
MULTIFACTORIAL  
MECHANISMS



	Ramakrishna et al. (2005) (n = 145)	Minai et al. (2006) (n = 21)	Lai et al. (2007) (n = 62)	Price et al. (2010) (n = 28)	Memtsoudis et al. (2010) (n = 3543)	Kaw (2011) (n = 96)
Country	USA	USA	Taiwan	France	USA	USA
PH due to left heart disease	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
General anaesthesia	100%	79%	58%	50%	Data unavailable	100%
Major surgery	79%	86%	58%	57%	THR/TKR	100%
Mortality	7%	18%	9.7%	7%	2.4/0.9%	1%
Morbidity	42%	14%	24%	29%	–	28%
Study type/limitations	Retrospective No control ECHO criteria to define PH	Retrospective No control Severe PH	Retrospective Controlled Doppler ECHO criteria	Retrospective No control RHC criteria Mild-to-moderate disease	NIS database Matched samples. Immediate postoperative period only	Retrospective Controlled RHC criteria

ECHO, echocardiography; RHC, right heart catheterisation; THR/TKR, total hip/knee replacement; NIS, National Inpatient Sample.

# Does it matter?

# Pre-op assessment I



- ▶ Identify and stratify
- ▶ Appropriate consent – patient and surgeon
- ▶ Pre-optimize
- ▶ Consider optimal:-
  - ▶ Location: local hospital vs local cardiac centre vs specialised PH centre
  - ▶ Team: senior surgeon, senior (?cardiac) anaesthetist
  - ▶ Equipment: ?TOE ?PAC ?iNO ?inotropes
  - ▶ Post-op destination: ?HDU ?ICU
- ▶ Phone a friend

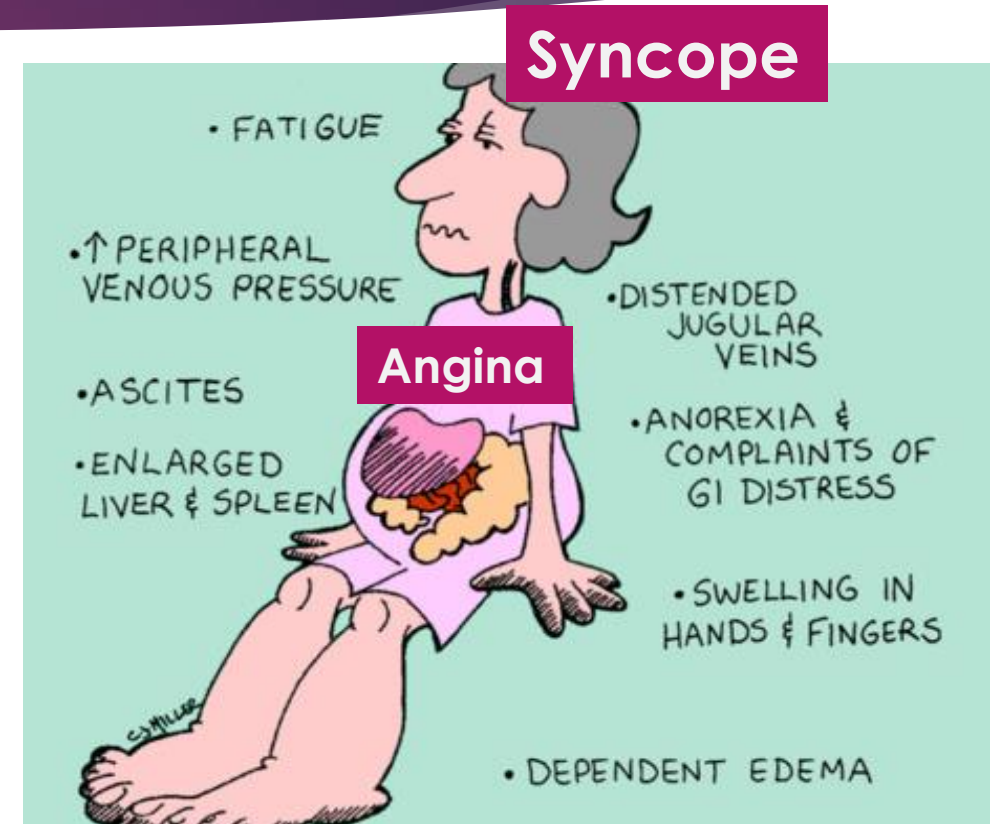
# At risk groups

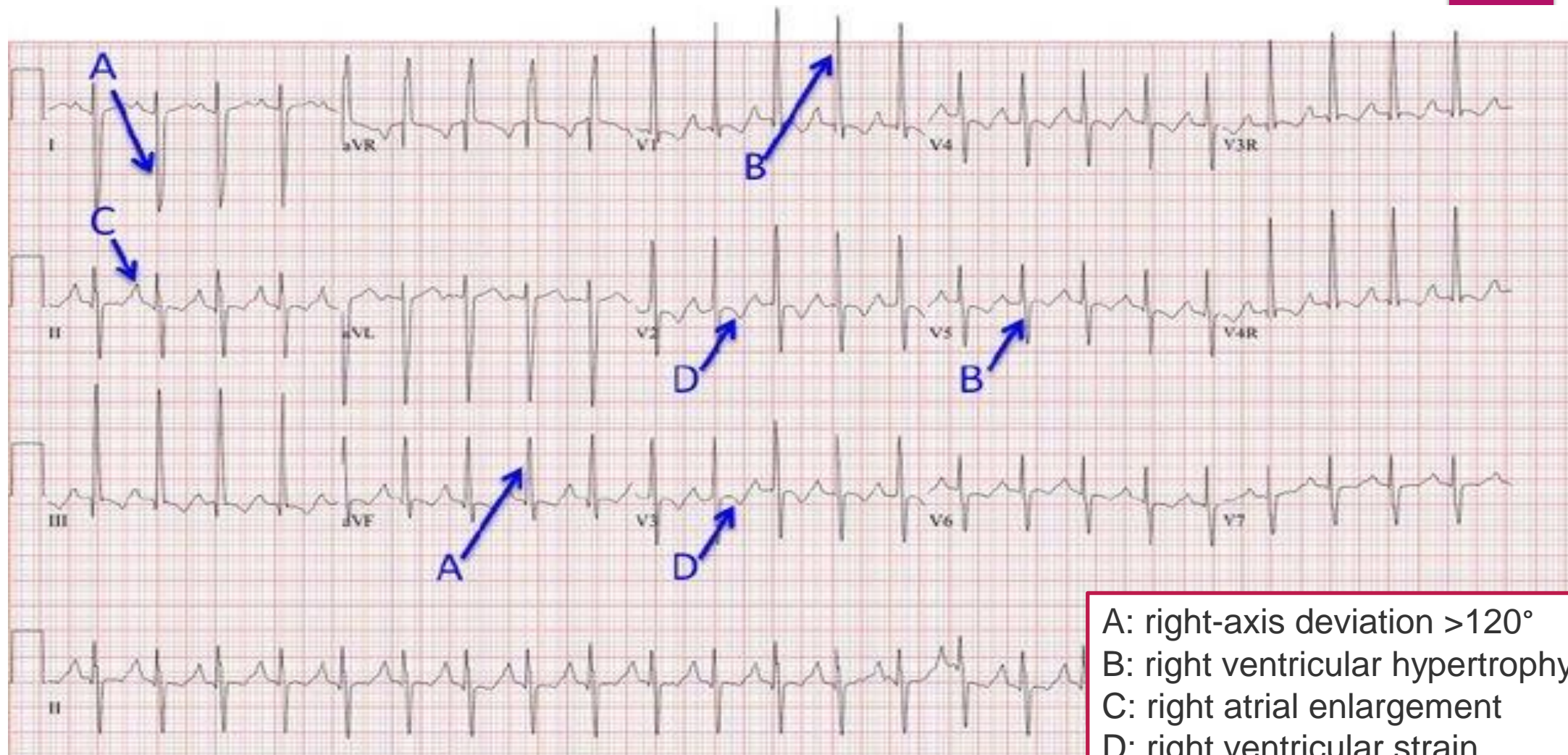
- ▶ **Group 1** – PAH: idiopathic, heritable, CTD (SLE, scleroderma), HIV, sickle cell, portal hypertension, congenital heart disease drugs (including methamphetamine, anorexogens, St John's Wort)
- ▶ **Group 2** – 2° LVF – systolic / diastolic (HFpEF) LV failure, valvular disease: mitral > aortic
- ▶ **Group 3** – 2° lung disease – COPD, OSA, ILD, obesity hypoventilation syn
- ▶ **Group 4** – CTEPH (chronic embolic / thrombotic)
- ▶ **Group 5** – Miscellaneous – metabolic disorders, chronic haemolytic anaemias, sarcoidosis, thyroid disease, CKD, neurofibromatosis, vasculitides, splenectomy

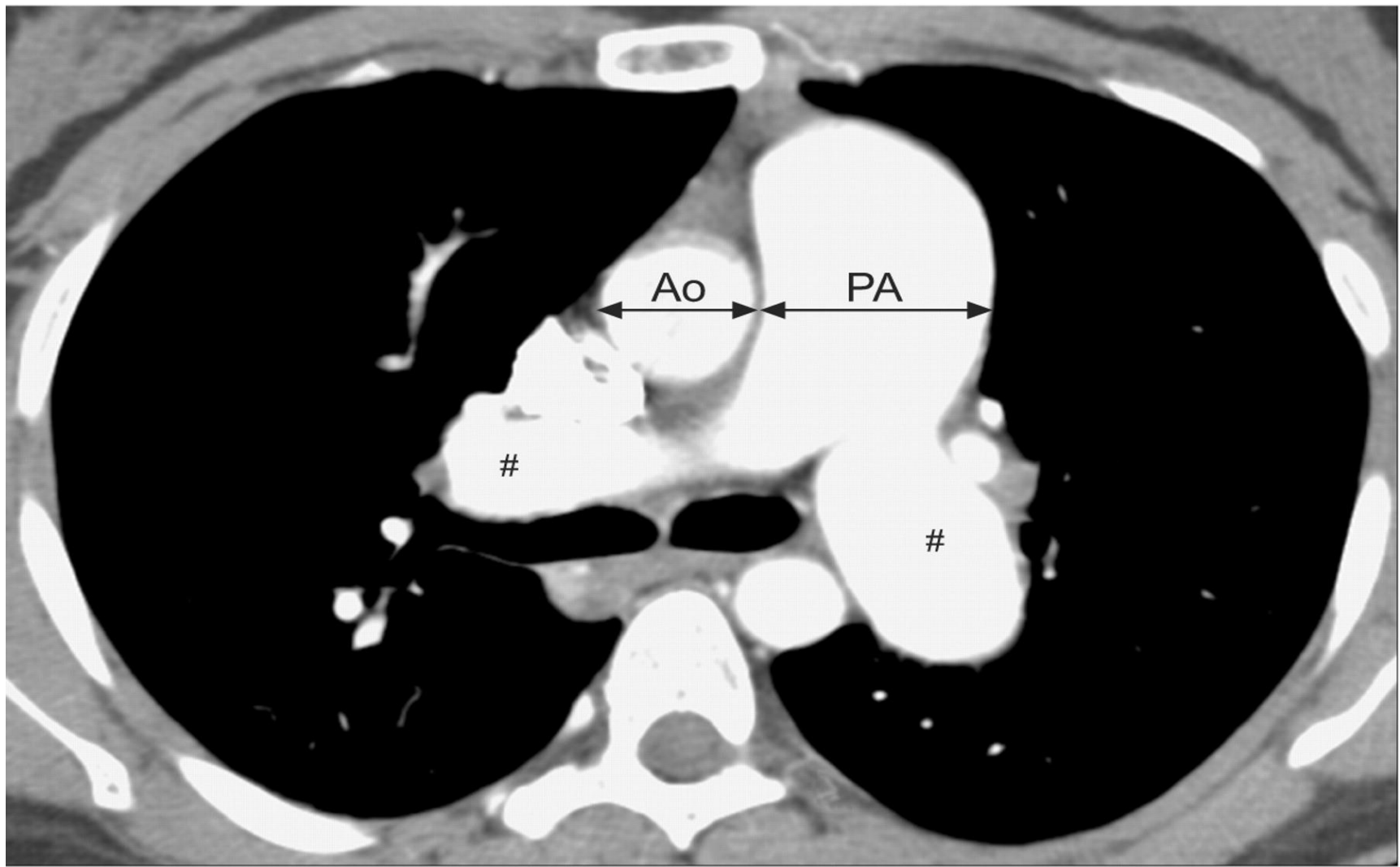


# Pre-op assessment II – not known to have PH

- ▶ Could this patient have undiagnosed PH?
  - ▶ At risk groups
- ▶ Signs / symptoms: vague and non-specific
  - ▶ SOB / Fatigue / Exercise intolerance
  - ▶ ?Signs of right ventricular failure
  - ▶ **Onset/worsening of angina**
  - ▶ **Syncope**
- ▶ Ix – ECG, CT, TTE, ?refer for RHC

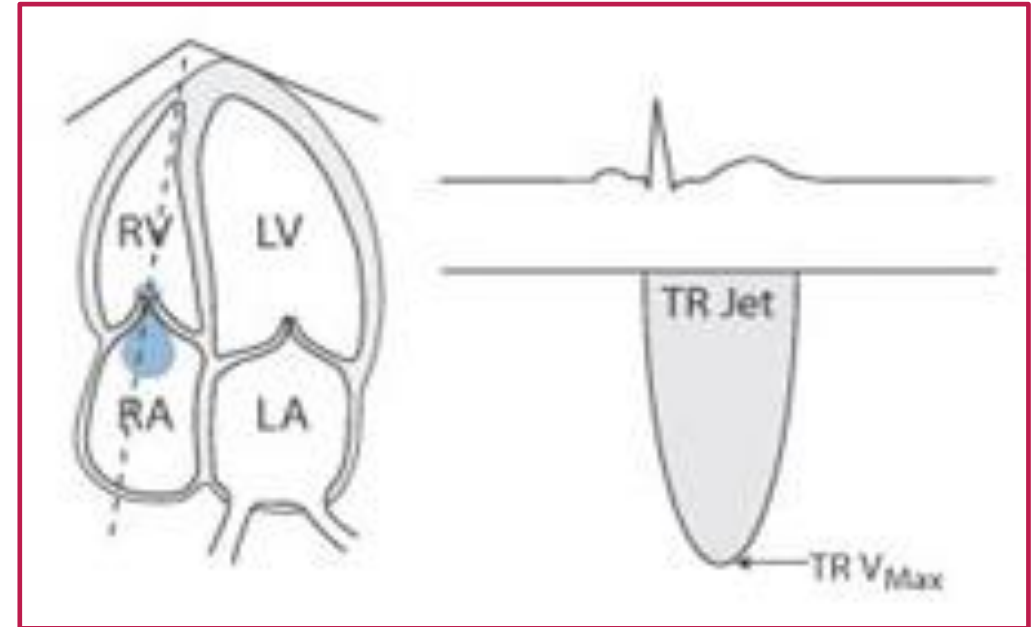






# Echo

- ▶ PASP – estimated from doppler signal through TR
  - ▶  $\text{PASP} > 40\text{mmHg} \approx \text{mPAP} > 25\text{mmHg}$
  - ▶  $\text{mPAP} = (\text{PASP} \times 0.61) + 2$
- ▶ Worrying features
  - ▶  $\text{TAPSE} \leq 15\text{mm}$  or  $\text{FAC} < 35\%$
  - ▶ Pericardial effusion
  - ▶ R ventricular hypertrophy: RV wall thickness  $> 5\text{mm}$  (diastole)
  - ▶ Dilated RV and severe TR
- ▶ Also check – LV and valvular function, intra-cardiac shunts





# NEW YORK HEART ASSOCIATION (NYHA) HEART FAILURE CLASSIFICATION



CLASS I

NO LIMITATION  
OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY;  
ORDINARY PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY DOES NOT  
CAUSE SYMPTOMS



CLASS II

SLIGHT LIMITATION  
OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY;  
COMFORTABLE AT REST;  
ORDINARY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY  
CAUSES SYMPTOMS



CLASS III

MARKED LIMITATION  
OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY;  
COMFORTABLE AT REST,  
BUT LESS THAN ORDINARY  
ACTIVITY CAUSES SYMPTOMS



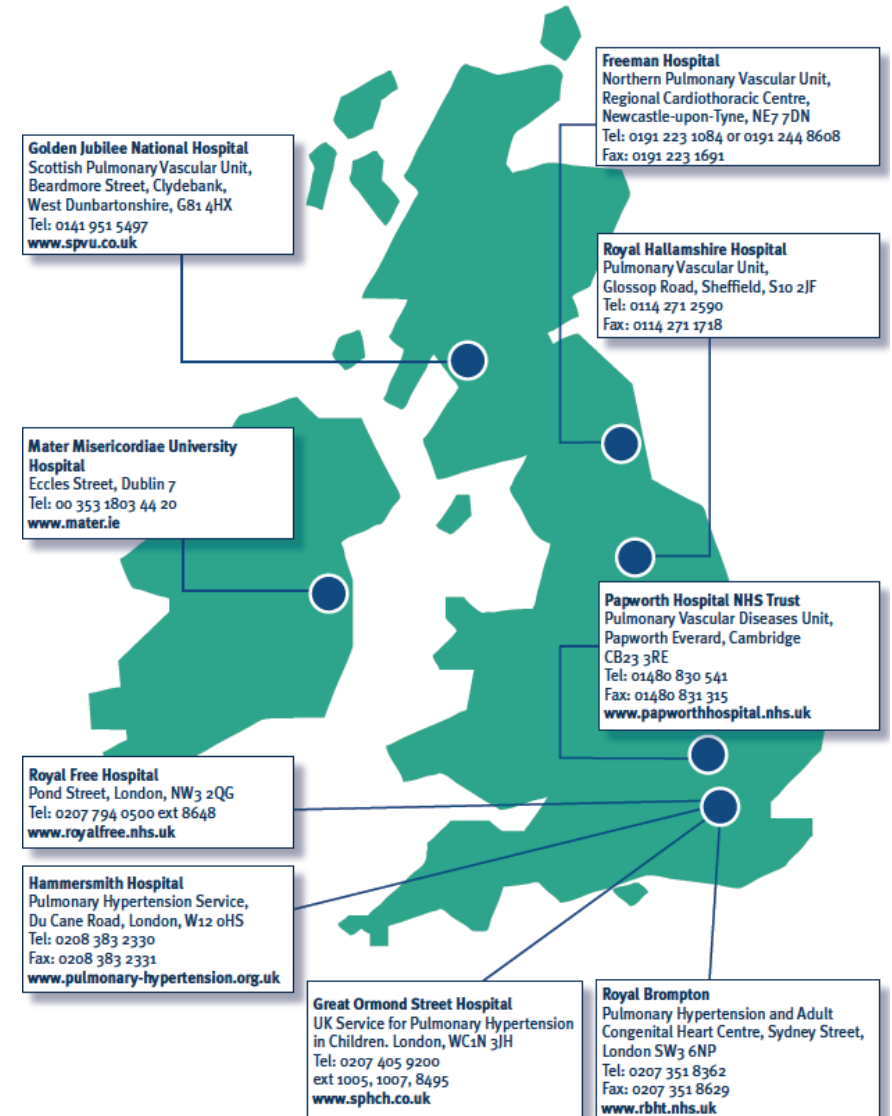
CLASS IV

SEVERE LIMITATION  
AND DISCOMFORT WITH  
ANY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY;  
SYMPTOMS PRESENT  
EVEN AT REST

# Pre-op assessment III

## - known to have PH

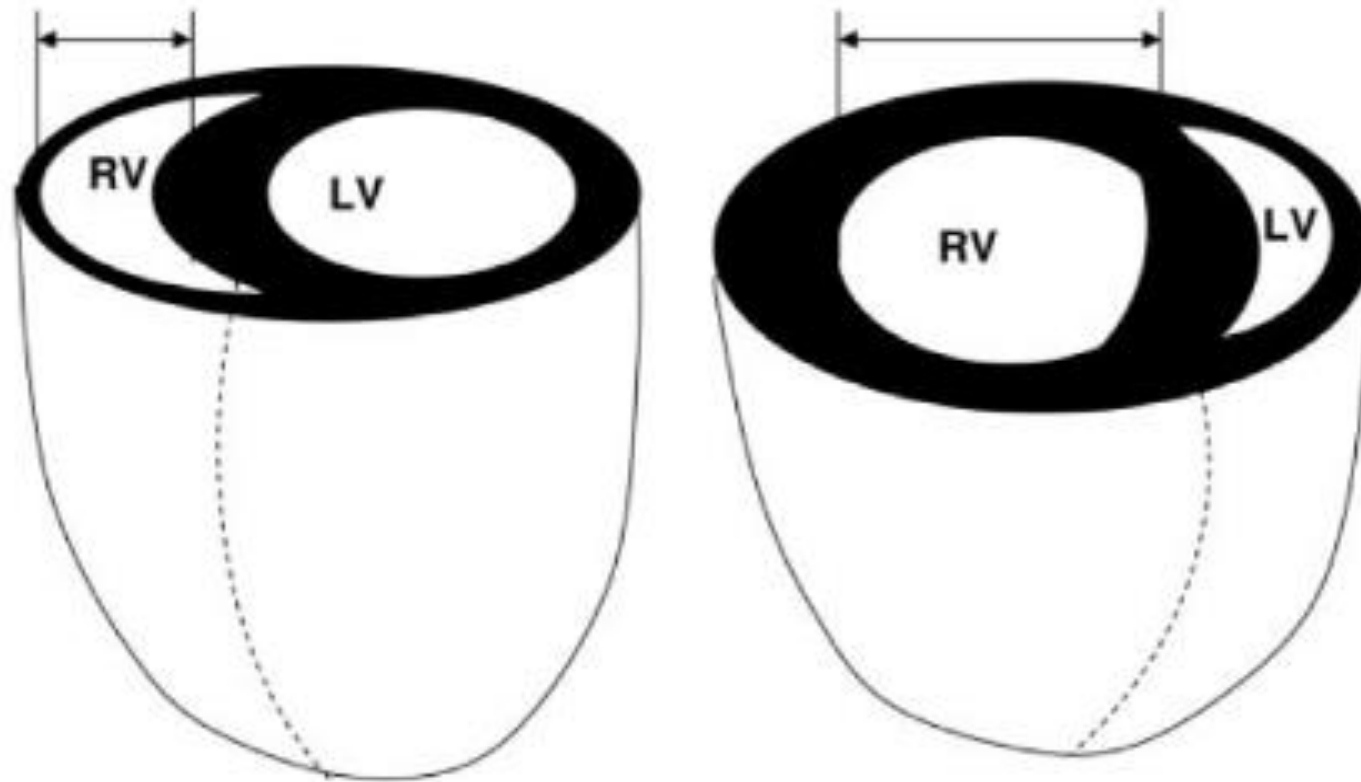
- ▶ Phone a friend – local PH centre – Royal Hallamshire (switchboard 0114 271 1900)
  - ▶ PH SpR (0900-1700 Mon – Fri bleep 2387)
  - ▶ PH Consultant (outside of office hours)
- ▶ Latest Right Heart Catheterisation & echo data
- ▶ Symptoms – NYHA class (esp syncope), any signs of decompensation
- ▶ DH: Ca-channel blockers, diuretics, bosentan, ambrisentan, sildenafil (regularly), tadalafil, riociguat, iloprost nebs, treprostinil, warfarin
  - ▶ Take on day of surgery, warfarin plan







# Ventricular interdependence





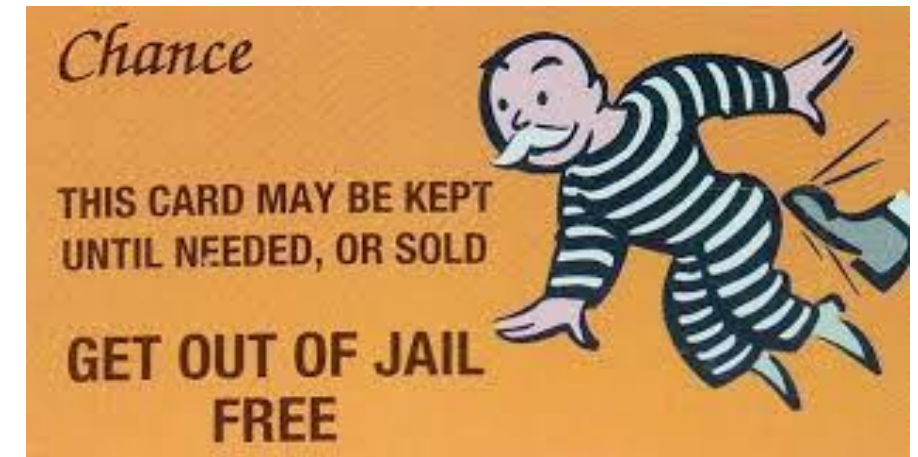
# Intra-operative management

- ▶ Communicate concerns with team + **plan for deterioration**
- ▶ Local vs regional vs GA
- ▶ Surgeon and surgical plan
- ▶ Monitoring
- ▶ **“Physiological difficult airway”**
- ▶ Drugs to use and avoid
- ▶ Ventilation strategy
- ▶ Warm everything
- ▶ Post-op plan



# Plan for deterioration

- ▶ **Rising CVP / falling BP / falling SpO2 / signs of end organ hypoperfusion**
- ▶ Echo confirmation
- ▶ Small fluid bolus vs bolus diuretic?
  - ▶ Passive leg raise
- ▶ Optimise ventilation – gentle recruitment, increase FiO2, mild hyperventilation,
- ▶ Arrhythmias – Amiodarone + DCCV
- ▶ Vasopressors – NA +/- vasopressin
- ▶ Inotropes / inodilators – milrinone, dobutamine (adrenaline)
- ▶ Pulmonary vasodilators – iNO, iloprost neb (ultrasonic), epoprostenol infusion



# Conclusions



Definitions and  
Classification



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# References

- ▶ Ramikrishna et al (2005) Pulmonary hypertension and postoperative outcomes. JAVV: 45(10) 1691-9
- ▶ Kaw et al (2011) Pulmonary hypertension: An important predictor of outcomes in patients undergoing non-cardiac surgery. Resp Med 105(4):619-24
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