



# RCPS

## MASTERCLASS

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### Participant Guide





# RCPS

MASTERCLASS

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DAY **1**

# DAY 1 AT-A-GLANCE



## GOAL

The goal of Day 1 is to ensure you can proficiently articulate key clinical details regarding echocardiogram in order to deepen your communication connections with HCPs.



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of Day 1 training, you will be able to:

- ✓ Confidently navigate clinical dialogue around echocardiogram.
- ✓ Apply active listening and impactful question techniques.
- ✓ Navigate conversational 'rabbit holes' with HCPs.



## AGENDA

### Day 1 AM Focus – Echo & Our Patients

9:00-9:30 am	Welcome & Icebreaker
9:30-10:45 am	Echo Clinical Cultivator – Howard Castillo & Melissa McGruder
10:45-11:00 am	BREAK
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Patient Identifiers – Howard Castillo & Melissa McGruder

### Day 1 PM Focus – Echo: Connection is Crucial/Application

12:00-1:00 pm	LUNCH
1:00-2:00 pm	Lead the Dialogue: Listening/ Questioning
2:00-2:15 pm	BREAK
2:15-3:15 pm	Managing Rabbit Holes
3:15-3:45 pm	G.R.O.W.
3:45-5:00 pm	Dialogue Trios Closing



# TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE WORKSHEET

As each participant presents their two truths and a lie, write their name and place a sticker on the statement number you think is the lie.

Name: .....

1	2	3
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Name: .....

1	2	3
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Name: .....

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Name: .....

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Name: .....

1	2	3
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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

NOTES

Howard Castillo, MSN, RN, APN, ACNP-BC\*  
Melissa McGruder, MSN-NE, CLNC, BSN, RN

## ECHO ASSESSMENT IN PAH

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### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Understand echocardiography and it's growing importance in risk assessment, patient prognosis, and disease management
- ✓ Learn how to interpret key information for impactful HCP conversations
- ✓ Practice interpreting and discussing imaging/test results

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### ROLE OF ECHOCARDIOGRAM IN PAH

- Integral assessment—often the **first test to raise suspicion of PH**
- Evaluates cardiac **structure, function** and hemodynamics
- Rule out congenital heart diseases and shunts
- Provides a reasonably accurate **estimate of sPAP/RVSP**
- **Guides** diagnosis and therapy
- **Helps determine prognosis:** many echo parameters are prognostic:
  - RV size and function (e.g., **TAPSE**)
  - **Pericardial effusion**
  - Estimate **RAP** and **RVSP** (hemodynamics)

PAH=pulmonary arterial pressure; RAP=right atrial pressure; RVSP=right ventricular systolic pressure; sPAP=systolic pulmonary arterial pressure; TAPSE=tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion.

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### 2022 ESC/ERS ECHO DIAGNOSTIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Class	Level
Echocardiography is recommended as the <b>first-line, non-invasive, diagnostic</b> investigation in <b>suspected</b> PH	I	B
It is recommended to assign an <b>echocardiographic probability</b> of PH, based on an abnormal TRV and the presence of other echocardiographic signs suggestive of PH	I	B
It is recommended to maintain the current threshold of <b>TRV (&gt;2.8 m/s)</b> for echocardiographic probability of PH according to the updated hemodynamic definition	I	C
Based on the probability of PH by echocardiography, further testing should be considered in the clinical context (i.e., <b>symptoms and risk factors</b> or associated conditions for PAH/CTEPH)	Ila	B
In symptomatic patients with intermediate echocardiographic probability of PH, <b>CPET may be considered</b> to further determine the likelihood of PH	Ilb	C

CPET=cardiopulmonary exercise test; CTEPH=chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension; TRV=tricuspid regurgitation velocity.

Reference: Humbert M, Kovacs G, Hoeper MM, et al. 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension. Eur Respir J. 2022 Aug 30;20200079. doi: 10.1183/13993003.00079.2022. Online ahead of print.

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

NOTES

### RISK ASSESSMENT AT FOLLOW-UP<sup>1,2</sup>

- Suggested assessment and timing for the follow-up of patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension

	At baseline	3-6 months after changes in therapy <sup>3</sup>	Every 3-6 months in stable patients <sup>4</sup>	In case of clinical worsening
Medical assessment (including WHO-FC)	Green	Green	Green	Green
6MWT	Green	Green	Green	Green
Blood test (including NT-proBNP) <sup>5</sup>	Green	Green	Green	Green
ECC	Green	Green	Green	Green
Echocardiography or <sup>2</sup> DPI	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
ABG or pulse oximetry <sup>6</sup>	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Disease-specific HR-QoL	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
CFET	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange
RHC	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange

6MWT: 6-minute walking test; ABG: arterial blood gas analysis; ALAT: alanine aminotransferase; ASAT: aspartate aminotransferase; BNP: brain natriuretic peptide; <sup>2</sup>DPI: cardiac magnetic resonance imaging; CFET: cardiopulmonary exercise testing; ECC: electrocardiogram; HR-QoL: health-related quality of life; RHC: right heart catheterization; TSH: thyroid-stimulating hormone; WHO-FC: World Health Organization functional class.

Green: is indicated; yellow: should be considered; orange: may be considered.

<sup>1</sup>Needs to be adjusted according to patient needs, PAH subtypes, risk category, demographics, and comorbidities.

<sup>2</sup>Basic laboratory tests include blood count, BNP (in patients receiving diuretics), angiotensin, serum creatinine, sodium, potassium, ASAT/ALAT, bilirubin, and BNP/NT-proBNP.

<sup>3</sup>Extended laboratory tests (eg, TSH, troponin, uric acid, iron status, etc.) according to clinical circumstances.

<sup>4</sup>ABG should be performed at baseline but may be replaced by pulse oximetry in stable patients at follow-up.

References: 1. Humbert M, et al. Eur Heart J. 2022;43:237. 2. Humbert M, Kovacs G, Hoeper MMA, et al. 2022 ESCERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension. Eur Respir J. 2022 Aug 31;2022:2197. doi: 10.1183/13993003.2022.2197-2022. Online ahead of print.

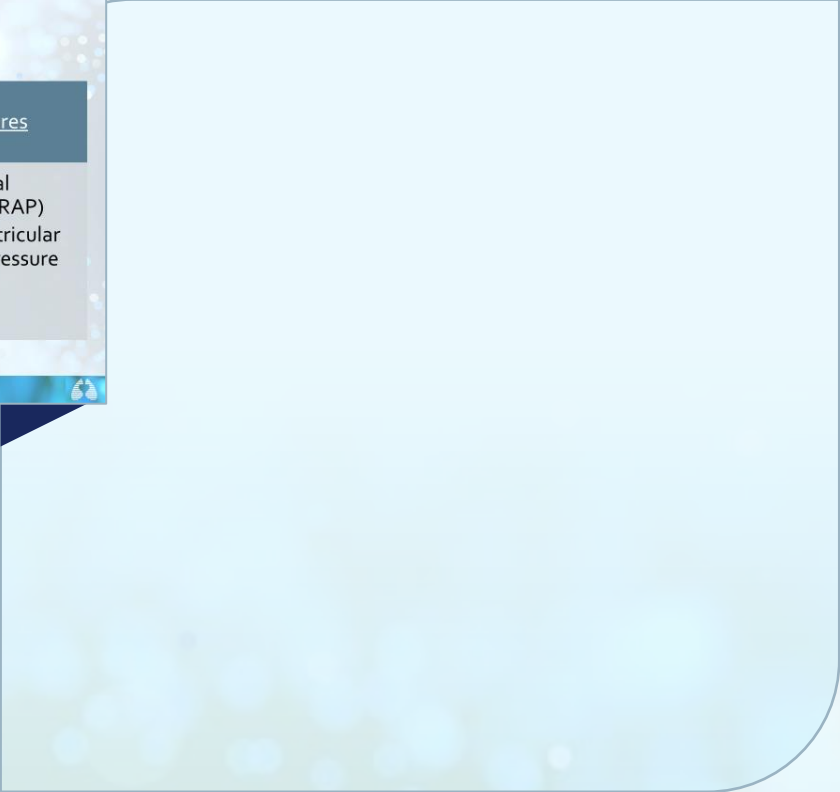
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### WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Structure	Function	Pressures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atria (left and right)</li> <li>Ventricles (left and right)</li> <li>Septum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eyeball method</li> <li>Tricuspid Annular Plane Systolic Excursion (TAPSE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right atrial pressure (RAP)</li> <li>Right ventricular systolic pressure (RVSP)</li> </ul>

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### HOW DOES ULTRASOUND WORK?

<https://www.acap.org/toroguide/physics.html>

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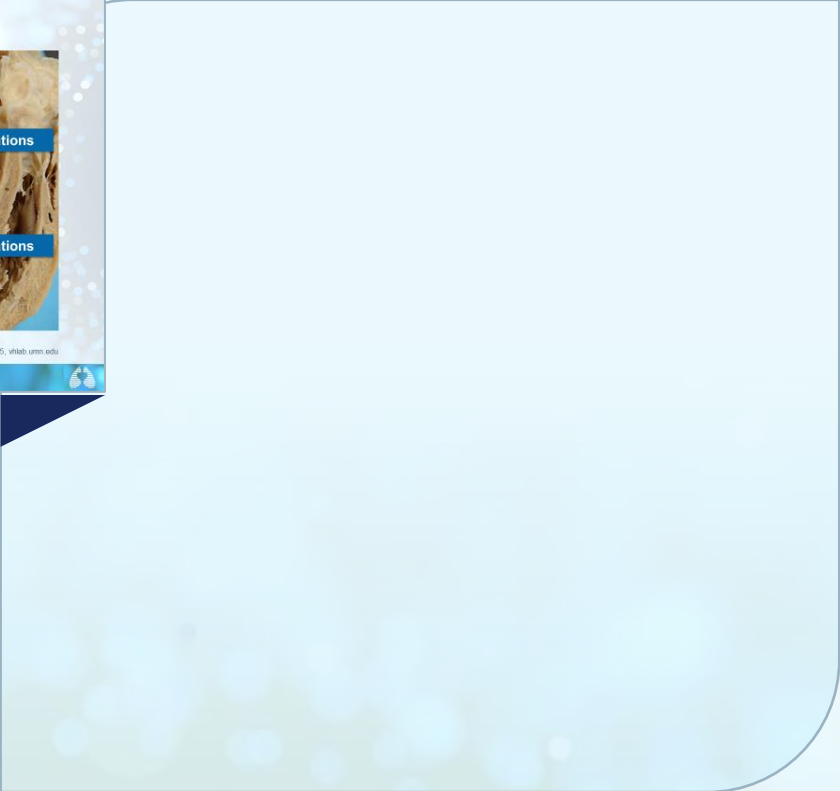


### LIMITATIONS OF ECHO IN THE RV

- Complex geometry
- RV trabeculations
- Anterior position of RV
- Lung Interference

Heart 2009; 94:1510-1515, vishab umm.edu

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

NOTES

TYPES OF IMAGES

2D Image      Doppler      M-Mode

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This slide displays three types of echocardiography images. The first is a 2D Image showing a cross-section of the heart. The second is a Doppler image showing blood flow velocity. The third is an M-Mode image showing motion over time. A footer contains the text 'FOR INTERNAL TRAINING ONLY. CONFIDENTIAL. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE. US-UTTR-0745'.



VISUALIZING THE HEART IN 3D

Long Axis      Short Axis

Subaxial 4-Chamber      2-Chamber

Short Axis      4-Chamber

<http://www.echobyweb.com>, <https://radiologykey.com> 3D Systems MentorLearn®

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This slide illustrates 3D visualization of the heart. It shows a 3D model of the heart with various axes and planes labeled: Long Axis, Short Axis, Subaxial 4-Chamber, 2-Chamber, and 4-Chamber. A footer contains the text 'FOR INTERNAL TRAINING ONLY. CONFIDENTIAL. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE. US-UTTR-0745' and a URL: 'http://www.echobyweb.com, https://radiologykey.com 3D Systems MentorLearn®'.





# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### RIGHT HEART STRUCTURE

Right and left atrial area should be similar appearing

RV should be less than  $\frac{2}{3}$  diameter of LV

RV shape should be triangular

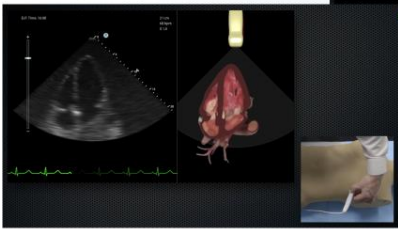
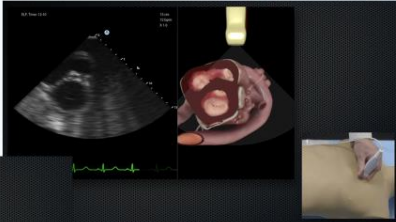
Septum should bow into RV and not flatten

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Large empty light blue box for taking notes on the Right Heart Structure slide.

### ECHO VIEWS

Apical 4-chamber view



Parasternal short axis view

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Large empty light blue box for taking notes on the Echo Views slide.



# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

**RIGHT VENTRICULAR SIZE**

1+      2      3

J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2010;23:660-713

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Large empty light blue box for taking notes.

**Note how RV diameter changes with angulation:**

17. Time 20:46      20 cm      70 bpm      4.0

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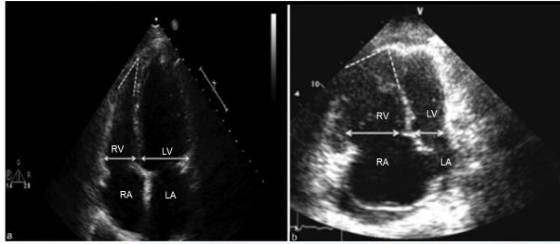


# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### RIGHT VENTRICULAR SIZE

- RV should be  $< 2/3$  LV diameter



Normal

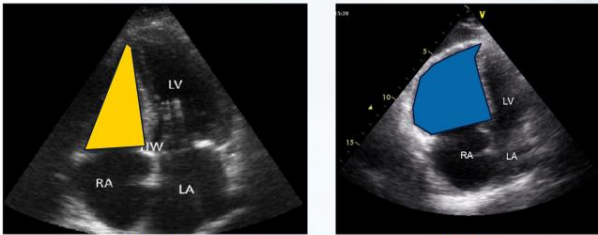
RV Failure

Pulmonary circulation, 1: 160-81, 10.4103/2045-8832.83446

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### RIGHT VENTRICULAR SHAPE

- RV shape should appear like a triangle



Normal

RV Failure

Metrology and Measurement Systems 2018(2): 305-314

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### SEPTAL FLATTENING

- Septum should bow into the RV and not flatten



Normal

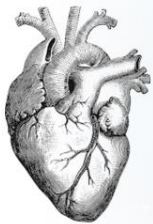


RV Failure

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Large empty light blue box for taking notes on the Septal Flattening slide.

### RIGHT HEART FUNCTION



Septum should move toward the RV during systole

RV free wall should move inward and upward during systole

TAPSE should be  $> 1.8$  cm

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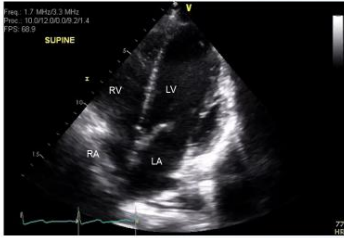
Large empty light blue box for taking notes on the Right Heart Function slide.



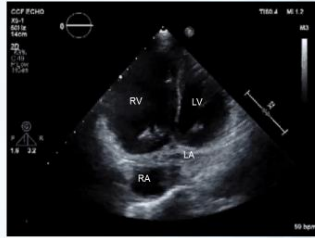
# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

NOTES

The eyeball test: which one looks better?



Normal



RV Failure

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Large empty light blue box for taking notes.

RV FUNCTION – ANATOMY MATTERS



Left ventricle – oblique fibers



Right ventricle – longitudinal fibers

Am Coll Cardiol 2014;64:26-37

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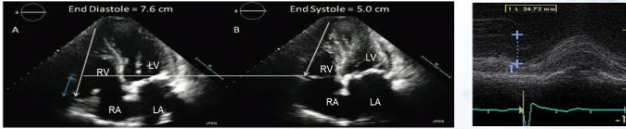


# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### TRICUSPID ANNULAR PLANE SYSTOLIC EXCURSION (TAPSE)

- Echo M-mode measures TAPSE
- TAPSE is the **distance** the tricuspid valve moves between the end of diastole to end of systole
- TAPSE measures RV contractility, a surrogate of **Right Ventricular Ejection Fraction**
- The annulus (a ring-shaped structure that provides support for the flaps of the tricuspid valve) moves with normal heart contractions (excursion)
- There's little movement in the overloaded/dilated RV
- TAPSE <1.8 cm is associated with greater RV systolic dysfunction and is prognostic of poor survival among patients with PAH (P=0.02)**



J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2010;23:685-713, Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2009;74: 1034-42, Am Heart J. 1984 Mar;107(3): 526-31

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### TRICUSPID ANNULAR PLANE SYSTOLIC EXCURSION (TAPSE)

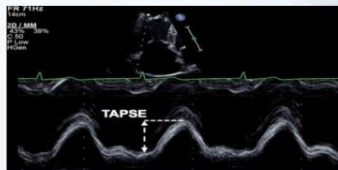
In the 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of PH, a refined indicator of RV to pulmonary artery coupling has been introduced into risk assessment:

sPAP/TAPSE ratio

Low risk: >0.32 mm/mm Hg

Intermediate risk: 0.19–0.32 mm/mm Hg

High risk: <0.19 mm/mm Hg



RV=right ventricle or ventricular; RVEF=right ventricular ejection fraction; sPAP=systolic pulmonary arterial pressure; TAPSE=tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion.

Reference: Humbert M, Kovacs G, Hoeper MM, et al 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension. Eur Respir J. 2022 Aug 30;2200879. doi: 10.1183/13993003.00079-2022. Online ahead of print.

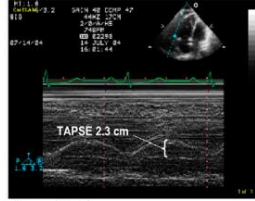
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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR


NOTES

### TAPSE: NORMAL RV FUNCTION VERSUS ABNORMAL RV DYSFUNCTION



TAPSE 2.3 cm

SVI	37 ml/m <sup>2</sup>
CI	2.9 l/min/m <sup>2</sup>
RAP	11 mmHg
mPAP	46 mmHg
PVR	6.5 mmHg/l/min



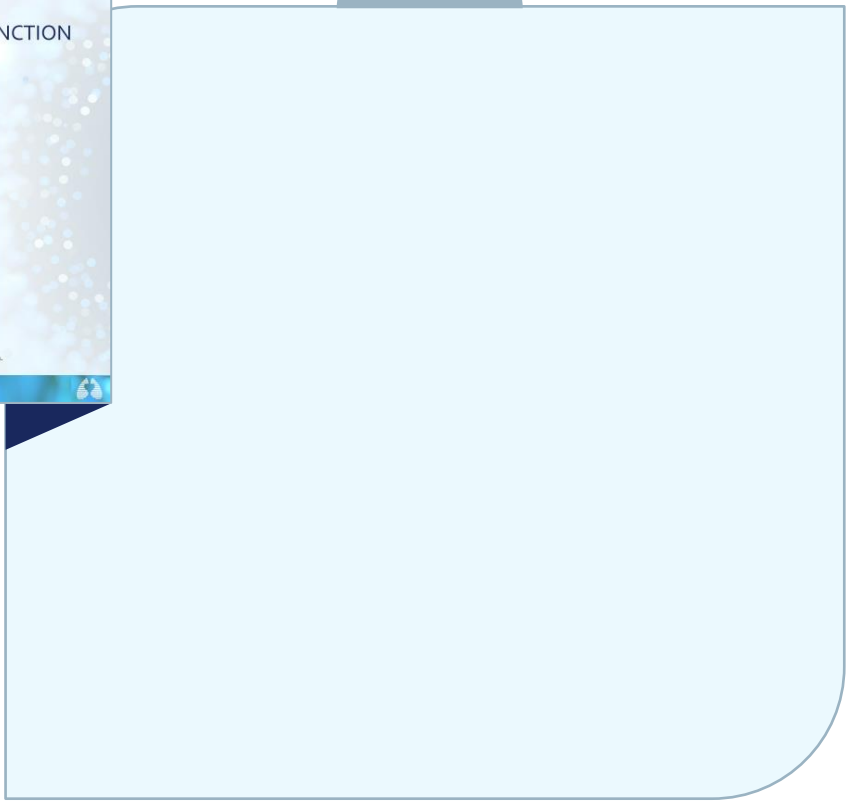
TAPSE 1.5 cm

SVI	24 ml/m <sup>2</sup>
CI	2.0 l/min/m <sup>2</sup>
RAP	10 mmHg
mPAP	50 mmHg
PVR	11.0 mmHg/l/min


CI, cardiac index; mPAP, mean pulmonary arterial pressure; PVR, pulmonary vascular resistance; RAP, right atrial pressure; SVI, stroke volume index; TAPSE, tricuspid annular plane systolic excursion.

Furlan et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2006;174:1038-1043. Images used with permission of the American Thoracic Society. Copyright © American Thoracic Society.

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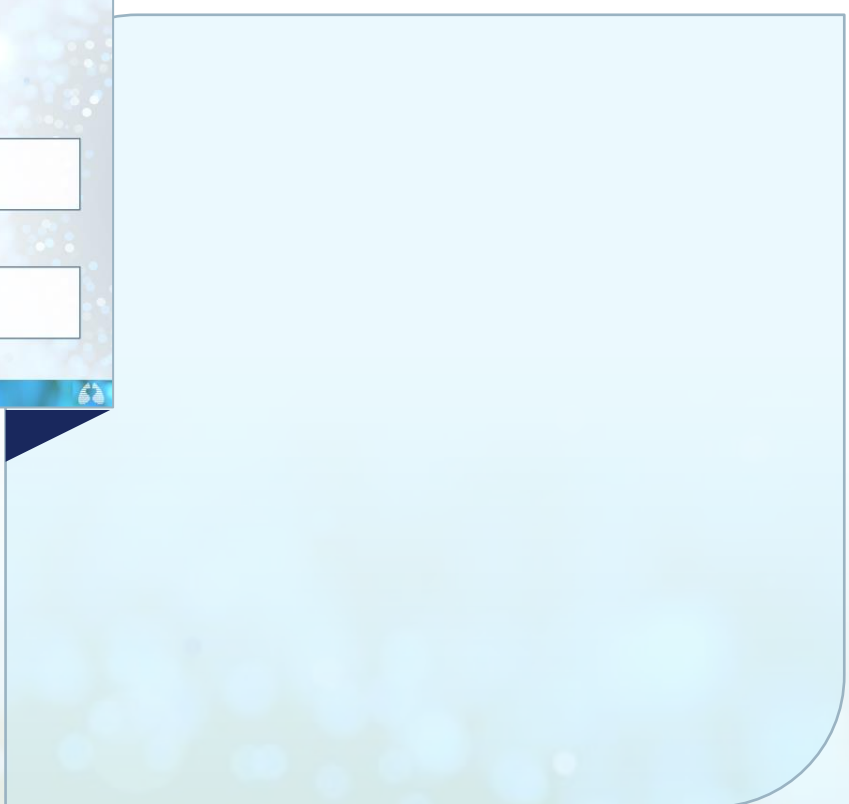
### RIGHT HEART PRESSURES



Right atrial pressures

Pulmonary artery pressures  
(Right ventricular systolic pressure)

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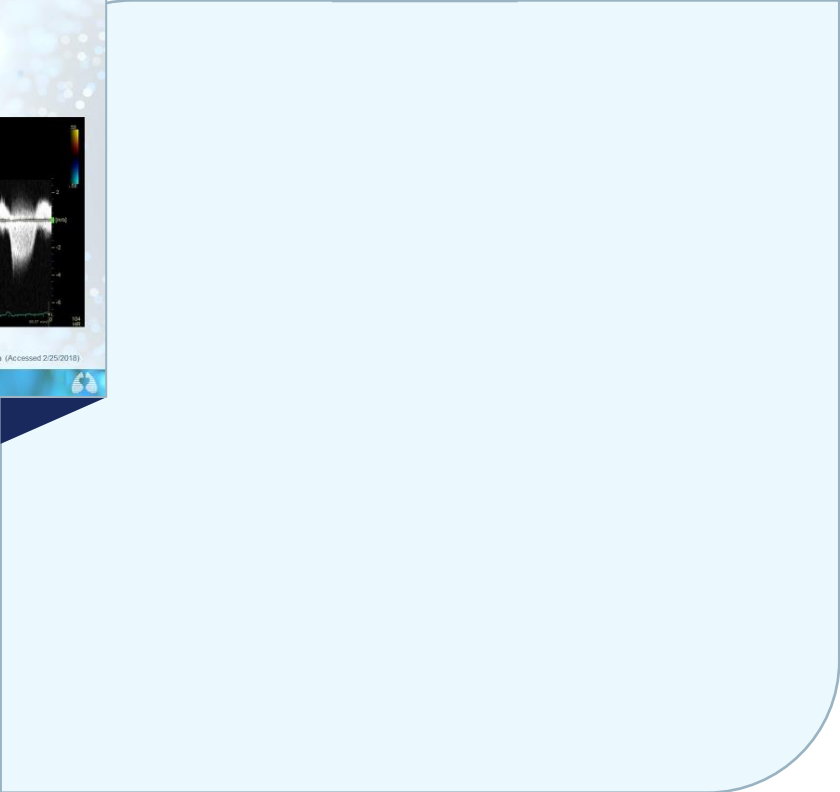
NOTES

### RVSP CALCULATION

$$RVSP = RAP + 4(TR \text{ jet velocity})^2$$

J Am Soc Echocardiogr. 2010 Jul 23(7):687-8, 691-2, 698-9. http://www.cshecho.ca (Accessed 2/25/2018)

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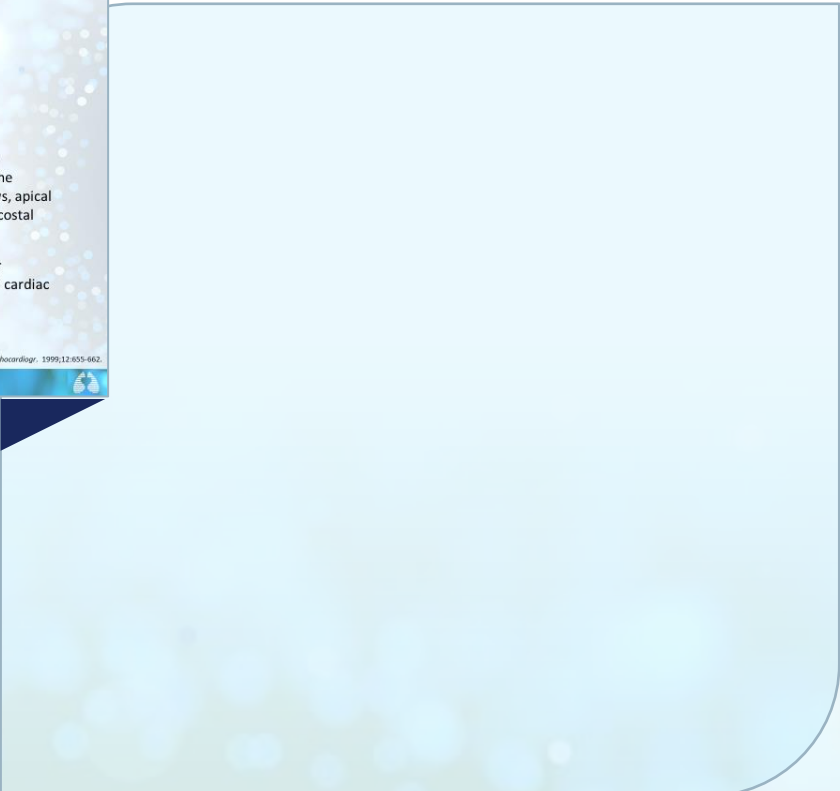
### Echocardiographic Features of Primary Pulmonary Hypertension

Eduardo Bossone, MD, PhD, Thanh H. Duong-Wagner, MD, Giuseppe Paciocco, MD, Hakan Oral, MD, Mark Ricciardi, MD, David S. Bach, MD, Melynn Rubenfire, MD, and William F. Armstrong, MD, Ann Arbor, Michigan

<p><b>Study Purpose:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To define the echocardiographic features present at the time of Primary (idiopathic) Pulmonary Hypertension diagnosis</li> </ul> <p><b>Patient Population:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51 patients, 88% Female</li> <li>Mean age 41.7 ± 12.2</li> <li>21% FC II, 69% FC III, 10% FC IV</li> </ul>	<p><b>Methods:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TTE and Doppler examinations were performed: specific views included the parasternal long- and short-axis views, apical 4-, 2-, and 3-chamber views, and subcostal views</li> <li>Pulsed and continuous wave Doppler interrogation was performed on all 4 cardiac valves</li> </ul>
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Bossone et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr. 1999;12:655-662.

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### RESULTS

- 98% of patients demonstrated **RV enlargement**
- 90% exhibit systolic (interventricular) **septal flattening**
- 76% had (qualitative) **RV systolic dysfunction**
- 92% had RA enlargement
- 70% of patients had “grade I” diastolic dysfunction (E<A)
- All patients demonstrated normal LV function
- <2% of patients had >mild mitral regurgitation

Triad of right heart findings in PVD

LV, left ventricular; PVD, pulmonary vascular disease; RA, right atrial; RV, right ventricular; Bosone et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr. 1999;12:655-662.

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### SUMMARY

- To paint a picture of the heart
  - Assess RA/RV structure
  - Assess RV function
  - Estimate RA/PA pressures
- Also consider
  - Confirm findings in other views
  - Look at the left heart
  - Look at valves
  - Look for congenital anomalies



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## INTERPRETATION STATIONS WORKSHEET 1

As you visit and discuss Interpretation Stations with your station colleagues, record notes below.



**Key-Data Observations and Conclusions:**



**HCP-to-Patient: What Information to Share and How to Verbalize It**



## INTERPRETATION STATIONS WORKSHEET 2

As you visit and discuss Interpretation Stations with your station colleagues, record notes below.



**Key-Data Observations and Conclusions:**



**HCP-to-Patient: What Information to Share and How to Verbalize It**



## INTERPRETATION STATIONS WORKSHEET 3

As you visit and discuss Interpretation Stations with your station colleagues, record notes below.



**Key-Data Observations and Conclusions:**



**HCP-to-Patient: What Information to Share and How to Verbalize It**



## PATIENT IDENTIFIERS WORKSHEET 1

---

Record below everything you would want to share with your attending about the patient case as if you were presenting Grand Rounds.

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Include:**

- The 'why' for each datapoint or nonclinical detail you choose to highlight.
- Language you would utilize with an actual attending.



## PATIENT IDENTIFIERS WORKSHEET 2

---

Record below everything you would want to share with your attending about the patient case as if you were presenting Grand Rounds.

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Include:**

- The 'why' for each datapoint or nonclinical detail you choose to highlight.
- Language you would utilize with an actual attending.



## PATIENT IDENTIFIERS WORKSHEET 3

---

Record below everything you would want to share with your attending about the patient case as if you were presenting Grand Rounds.

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Include:**

- The 'why' for each datapoint or nonclinical detail you choose to highlight.
- Language you would utilize with an actual attending.





# LEAD THE DIALOGUE: LISTENING & QUESTION-ASKING TECHNIQUES

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NOTES



## LEAD THE DIALOGUE: LISTENING & QUESTION-ASKING TECHNIQUES

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NOTES



## MANAGING 'RABBIT HOLES': IDENTIFY THE SPIRAL

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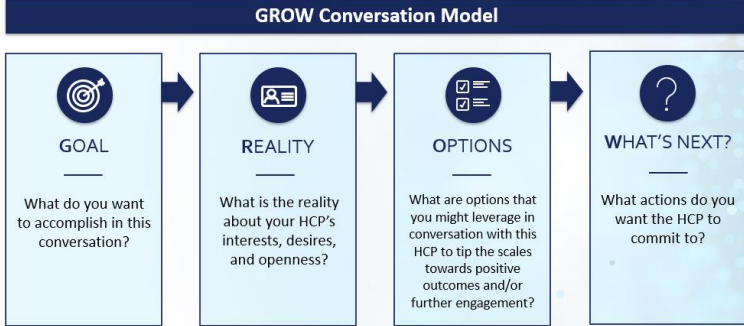
NOTES



# GROW CONVERSATION PLANNING

NOTES

## CONNECTING THROUGH A SIMPLE APPROACH





## DIALOGUE DUO PRACTICE

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NOTES

A large, light blue rounded rectangular area intended for taking notes during the dialogue duo practice.



# RCPS

## MASTERCLASS

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DAY **2**

# DAY 2 AT-A-GLANCE



## GOAL

The goal for Day 2 is to ensure you are proficient articulating key clinical details regarding right heart catheterization in order to deepen your communication connections with HCPs.



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of Day 2 training, representatives will be able to:

- ✓ Confidently navigate clinical dialogue around right heart catheterization.
- ✓ Apply active listening and impactful question techniques.
- ✓ Navigate conversational 'rabbit holes' with HCPs.



## AGENDA

### Day 2 AM Focus – Right Heart Catheterization & Our Patients

- 8:30-9:30 am** Headshots – Group A
- 9:30-10:00 am** Ice Breaker
- 10:00-11:15 am** RHC Clinical Cultivator – Howard Castillo & Melissa McGruder
- 11:15-12:00 pm** Patient Identifiers – Howard Castillo & Melissa McGruder

### Day 2 PM Focus – Right Heart Catheterization: Connection is Crucial/Application

- 12:00-1:15 pm** LUNCH & Headshots – Group B
- 1:15-2:15 pm** Lead the Dialogue: Listening/Questioning
- 2:15-2:30 pm** BREAK
- 2:30-3:45 pm** Managing Rabbit Holes
- 3:45-5:15 pm** Dialogue Trios
- Closing



# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

NOTES

Howard Castillo, MSN, RN, APN, ACNP-BC \*  
Melissa McGruder, MSN-NE, CLNC, BSN, RN

## RHC ASSESSMENT IN PAH

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### OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Understand right heart catheterization and its importance in diagnosis, patient prognosis, and disease management
- ✓ Learn how to interpret key information for impactful HCP conversations
- ✓ Practice interpreting and discussing test results

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### ROLE OF HEMODYNAMICS IN PAH

- **PAH/PH is defined** by hemodynamic criteria<sup>1</sup>
- Hemodynamic **progression of PAH** is well characterized<sup>2,3</sup>
- Hemodynamic parameters figure prominently in **risk assessment tools**<sup>1,4-10</sup>
- Increased **RAP** and decreased **CI** are independent predictors of death<sup>11</sup>
- Hemodynamics are an **early precursor of disease worsening**<sup>12</sup>

RAP=right atrial pressure, CI=Cardiac Index

**References:** 1. Galis et al. *Eur Heart J*. 2015;37:67-119. 2. Klinge. *J Respir Dis*. 2009;30:1-11. 3. Champion et al. *Circulation*. 2009;120:1192-1007. 4. Humbert et al. *Eur Respir J*. 2010;36:949-955. 5. Thangappan et al. *Eur Respir J*. 2010;35:1079-1087. 6. Thangappan T, Glasser C, Gombberg M, et al. *Chest*. 2012;141(3):642-650. 7. Lee et al. *Eur Respir J*. 2012;40:604-611. 8. Benza et al. *Circulation*. 2010;122:864-872. 9. Benza et al. *Chest*. 2012;142(4):448-456. 10. D'Alonso et al. *Ann Intern Med*. 1991;115:343-349. 11. Thangappan T et al. *Eur Respir J*. 2010;35:1079-1087. 12. van de Weterdonk MC et al. *Chest*. 2015;147(4):1060-1071.

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### 2022 ESC/ERS RHC DIAGNOSTIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation	Class	Level
RHC is recommended to confirm the diagnosis of PH (especially PAH or CTEPH), and to support treatment decisions	I	B
In patients with suspected or known PH, it is recommended to perform RHC in experienced centers	I	C
It is recommended that RHC comprises a complete set of hemodynamics, and is performed following standardized protocols	I	C
Vasoreactivity testing is recommended in patients with I/H/DPAH to detect patients who can be treated with high doses of a calcium channel blocker	I	B

I=illogical; H=hereditary; DPAH=drug- or toxin-induced PAH; RHC=right heart catheterization.

**Reference:** Humbert M, Kovacs G, Hoeper MM, et al. 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension. *Eur Respir J*. 2022 Aug 30;20200879. doi:10.1183/13993001.00879-2022.

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### RISK ASSESSMENT AT FOLLOW-UP

Suggested assessment and timing for the follow-up of patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension

	At baseline	3-6 months after changes in therapy*	Every 3-6 months in stable patients*	In case of clinical worsening
Medical assessment (including WHO-FC)	Green	Green	Green	Green
6MWT	Green	Green	Green	Green
Blood test (including NT-proBNP)**	Green	Green	Green	Green
ECG	Green	Green	Green	Green
Echocardiography or oPHI†	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
ABG or pulse oximetry†	Green	Green	Green	Green
Disease-specific HR-QoL	Green	Green	Green	Green
CFET	Green	Green	Green	Green
RHC	Green	Green	Green	Green

6MWT: 6-minute walking test; ABG: arterial blood gas analysis; ALAT: alanine aminotransferase; ASAT: aspartate aminotransferase; BNP: brain natriuretic peptide; oPHI: cardiac magnetic resonance imaging; CFET: cardiopulmonary exercise testing; ECG: electrocardiogram; HR-QoL: health-related quality of life; RHC: right heart catheterization; TSH: thyroid-stimulating hormone; WHO-FC: World Health Organization functional class.  
 Green: is indicated; yellow: should be considered; orange: may be considered.  
 \*Needs to be adjusted according to patient needs, PAH severity, risk category, demographics, and comorbidities.  
 †Basic laboratory tests include blood count, INR (in patients receiving vitamin K antagonists), serum creatinine, sodium, potassium, ASAT/ALAT, bilirubin, and BNP/NT-proBNP.  
 ‡Extended laboratory tests (eg, TSH, triiodothyronine, uric acid, iron status, etc.) according to clinical circumstances.  
 \*ABG should be performed at baseline but may be replaced by pulse oximetry in stable patients at follow-up.

References: Humbert M, Kovacs G, Hoeper MM, et al. 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension. *Eur Respir J*. 2022 Aug 30;202200879. doi: 10.1183/13993003.09879-2022.

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### RIGHT HEART CATHETERIZATION

Assesses	Evaluates	Excludes	Confirms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key hemodynamic parameters</li> <li>Congenital heart defects</li> <li>Response to vasodilator challenge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severity of PAH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Left-sided heart disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosis</li> <li>Gold standard (required for every patient with suspected PH)</li> </ul>

Reference: McLaughlin et al. *Circulation*. 2009;5(17):1573-1659.

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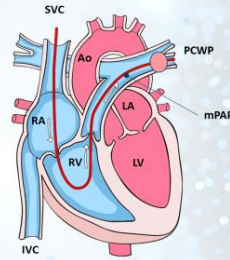


# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### THE INS AND OUTS OF RIGHT HEART CATHETERIZATION

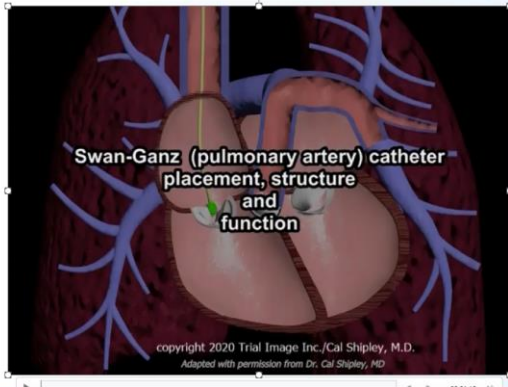
- **Broad indications (>12)<sup>1</sup>**
  - To diagnose or exclude PH
- **Few contraindications<sup>2</sup>**
  - Absolute: right-sided endocarditis, tumor, or thrombus
  - Relative: severe coagulopathy or bleeding diathesis
- **Performed by cardiologists and pulmonologists with high degree of expertise in cardiac catheterization**
  - Low rate of serious adverse events/complications (1.1%)<sup>2</sup>
- **Access the heart (in the supine position) through<sup>1</sup>**
  - Common femoral vein (groin)
  - Internal jugular vein (neck)
  - Cephalic vein (arm)



Ao=aorta; CO=cardiac output; Hb=hemoglobin; IVC=inferior vena cava; LA=left atrium; LV=left ventricle; mPAP=mean pulmonary arterial pressure; PCWP=pulmonary capillary wedge pressure; RV=right ventricle; SVC=superior vena cava.  
 References: 1. Mann BC and Chauthai SS. Right Heart Catheterization. NCBI Bookshelf. A service of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. 2020 (last update). 2. Hooper et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2006;48(12):2546-2552.

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### Swan-Ganz (pulmonary artery) catheter placement, structure and function



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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

**Right Atrium**  
Catheter is advanced into the right atrium using fluoroscopy. A pulsatile right atrial waveform will be observed.

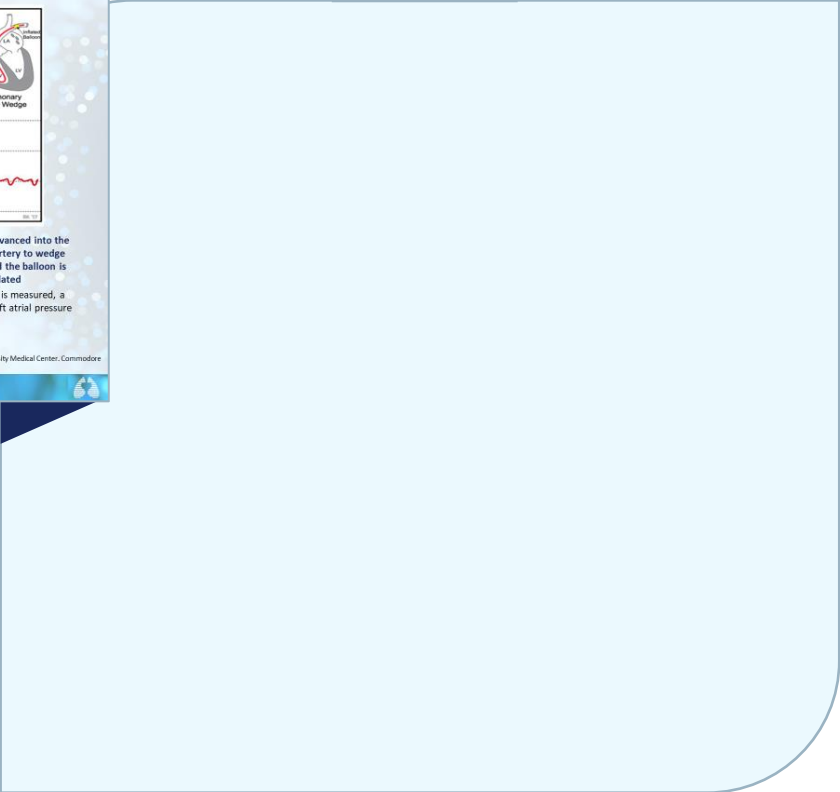
**Right Ventricle**  
Catheter is advanced into the right ventricle. A right ventricular waveform will be observed.

**Pulmonary Artery**  
Catheter is advanced into the pulmonary artery. Pressure is measured (mPAP). Blood sample is taken to measure  $SpO_2$ . Cardiac output is assessed (Thermodilution or Fick method).

**Pulmonary Artery Wedge**  
Catheter is advanced into the pulmonary artery to wedge position\* and the balloon is inflated. PAWP/PCWP is measured, a surrogate of left atrial pressure.

\*A branch of the pulmonary artery.  
mPAP=mean pulmonary arterial pressure; PAWP=pulmonary arterial wedge pressure; PCWP=pulmonary capillary wedge pressure;  $SpO_2$ =mixed venous oxygen saturation.  
Reference: Mair IC, and Chaudhuri SS. Right heart catheterization. NCBI Bookshelf. A service of the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health. 2020 (last update). Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Commodore Compendium. BHC. Accessed October 2021. <https://medlines.vumc.org/commodorecompendium/hc>.

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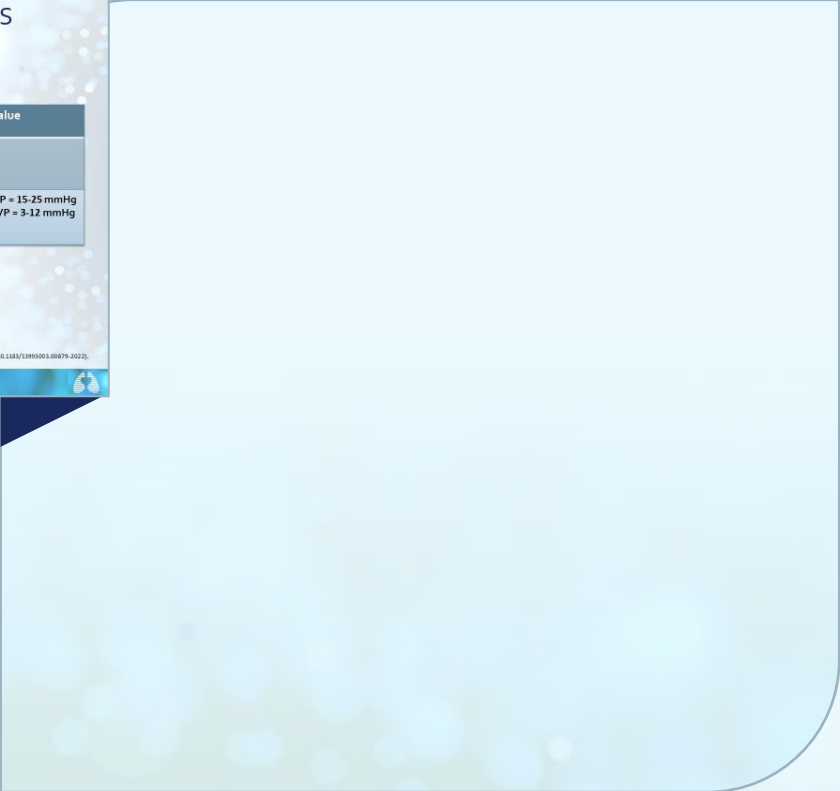


### PRESSURES MEASURED WHILE CATHETER ADVANCES

Parameter	Definition	Normal Value
RAP – Right Atrial Pressure	Measure that reflects the volume status and preload of the right ventricle	2-6 mmHg
RVP – Right Ventricular Pressure	Surrogate marker of pulmonary artery pressure (PAP) and preload	Systolic RVP = 15-25 mmHg Diastolic RVP = 3-12 mmHg

References: ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension (European Heart Journal, 2022 - doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehab277 and European Respiratory Journal, 2022 - doi: 10.1183/13993003.2022-2022).  
Goring SJ, et al. Transpulmonary Pressure. Ann J Respir Crit Care Med. 2016. doi: 10.1181/2161-2810-1857

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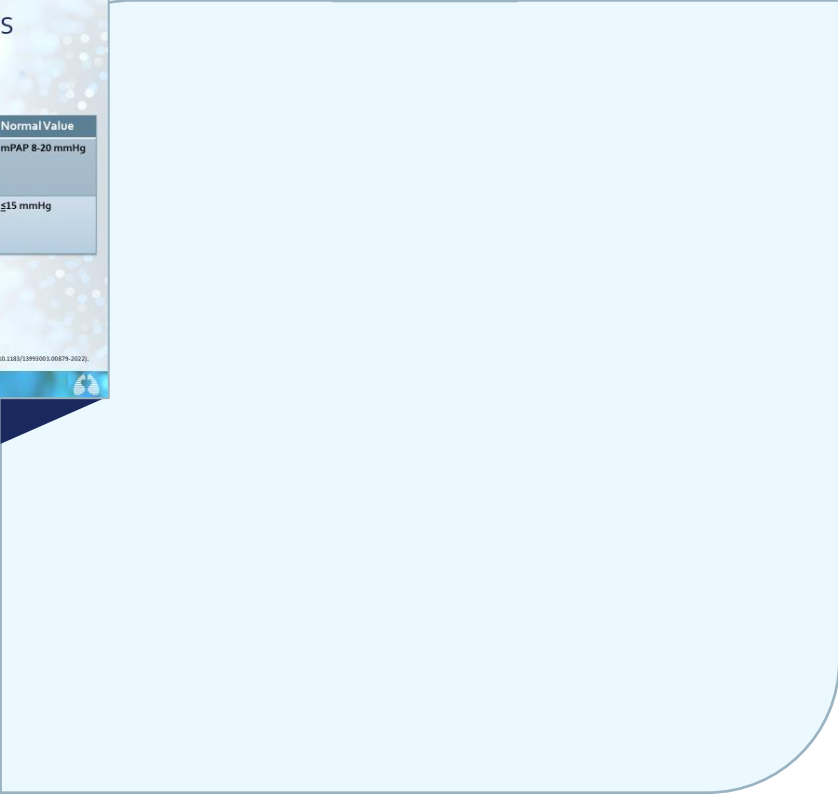
NOTES

### PRESSURES MEASURED WHILE CATHETER ADVANCES

Parameter	Definition	Normal Value
PAP – Pulmonary Arterial Pressure	Measure of pulmonary arterial pressure, which can be measured as systolic, diastolic, and mean	mPAP 8-20 mmHg
PAWP – Pulmonary Arterial Wedge Pressure	Measure of pulmonary venous pressure and indirect measure of left atrial pressure	≤15 mmHg

References: ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension (European Heart Journal, 2022 -doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehac237 and European Respiratory Journal, 2022 -doi: 10.1183/13995903.00079-2022), Lunging Sic. et al. Transpulmonary Pressure. Ann J Respir Crit Care Med. 2018 Dec 15;198(12):1462-1467.

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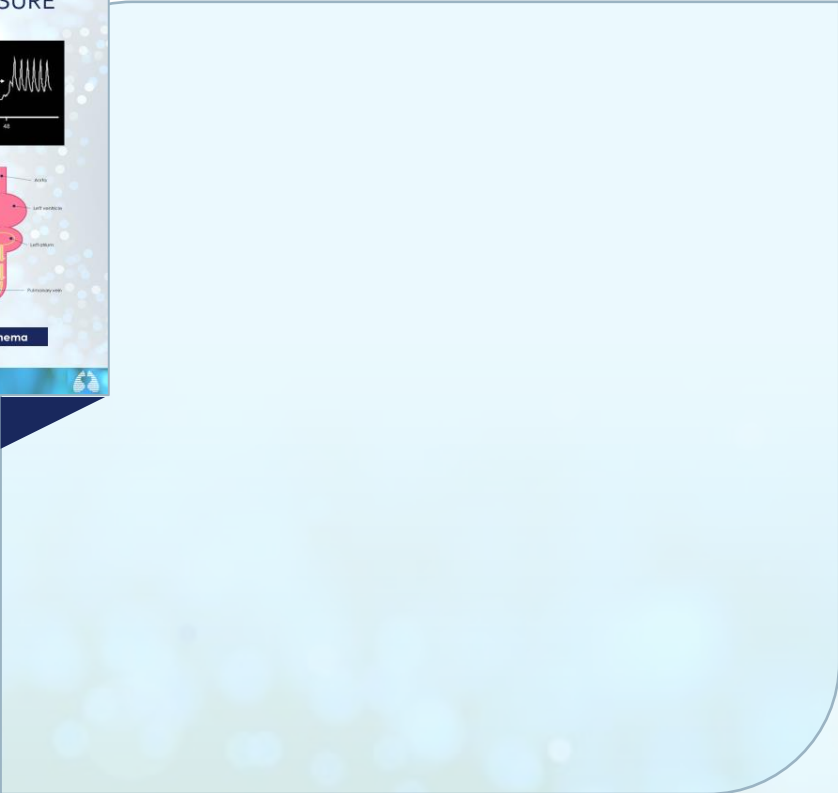
### ASSESSMENT OF PULMONARY ARTERIAL WEDGE PRESSURE

- **Accurate measurement of PAWP is critical to distinguishing the type of pulmonary vascular disease and appropriate treatment**
- PAWP under normal conditions provides accurate estimate of left-sided filling pressures
  - LA pressure waves are transmitted retrograde
  - During diastole (mitral valve is open), PAWP and left ventricular end-diastolic pressure (LVEDP) are approximately equal
- Elevation of PAWP
  - Pulmonary Venous Hypertension (PVH): limits treatment for PAH
- Elevation of PAWP with vasodilator
  - Pulmonary veno-occlusive disease (PVOD)
  - LV diastolic dysfunction
- **LVEDP should be measured if there is difficulty assessing PAWP or concern for left-sided heart disease remains**
  - (normal range is <12 mmHg)

**Cardiopulmonary Schema**

L:Left atrium, LVEDP:left ventricular end-diastolic pressure; PCWP:pulmonary capillary wedge pressure  
Reference: McLaughlin et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2009;53(17):1579-1593.

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

NOTES

## OTHER READINGS & CALCULATIONS

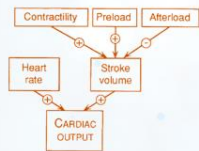
Parameter	Definition	Normal Value
SvO <sub>2</sub> – Mixed Venous Oxygen Saturation	Oxygen content of the blood that returns to the heart after meeting tissue needs	65-80%
PVR – Pulmonary Vascular Resistance	Resistance to blood flow within the pulmonary vasculature $PVR = \frac{mPAP - PAWP}{CO}$	0.3-2.0 WU
TPG – Transpulmonary Pressure Gradient	Pressure difference across the lung, from the opening of the pulmonary airway to the pleural surface $TPG = mPAP - PAWP$	≤12 mmHg
CO – Cardiac Output	Amount of blood pumped out of each ventricle in 1 minute (L/min)	4.0-8.0 L/min
CI – Cardiac Index	Turns CO into a normalized value that accounts for the body size of a patient $CI = CO / \text{Body Surface Area}$	2.5-4.0 L/min/m <sup>2</sup>

References: ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension (European Heart Journal, 2022 -doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehac237 and European Respiratory Journal, 2022 -doi: 10.1183/13995903.2021.2022), Loring Sh, et al. Transpulmonary Pressure. Am J Respir Crit Care Med. 2018; Dec 15;198(12):1462-1467

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## CARDIAC OUTPUT (CO)

- One of the most important parameters for monitoring cardiac function
  - Measured in Liters per minute (entire blood supply is pumped every minute)
    - Product of stroke volume (SV) x heart rate (HR)
    - Normal range, 4.0-8.0 L/min
- Cardiac output can be obtained invasively by thermodilution, indirect Fick or direct Fick method
  - Thermodilution more widely used and considered gold standard
  - If Fick is used, the direct method is preferred



References: Landis ET, et al. J Crit Care Sci. 2008;1(3):112-117.

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

- Sufficient cardiac output (HR x SV) is needed to provide an adequate and continuous supply of blood throughout the body tissues based on the needs of the body
- Conditions that affect heart rate and stroke volume directly affect CO
- CO is a measure of ventricular output and a clinical indicator of ventricular function

**Factors Affecting Heart Rate (HR)**

Autonomic innervation  
Hormones  
Fitness levels  
Age

↓

**Heart Rate (HR)**

**Factors Affecting Stroke Volume (SV)**

Heart size  
Fitness levels  
Gender  
Contractility  
Duration of contraction  
Preload (EDV)  
Afterload (resistance)

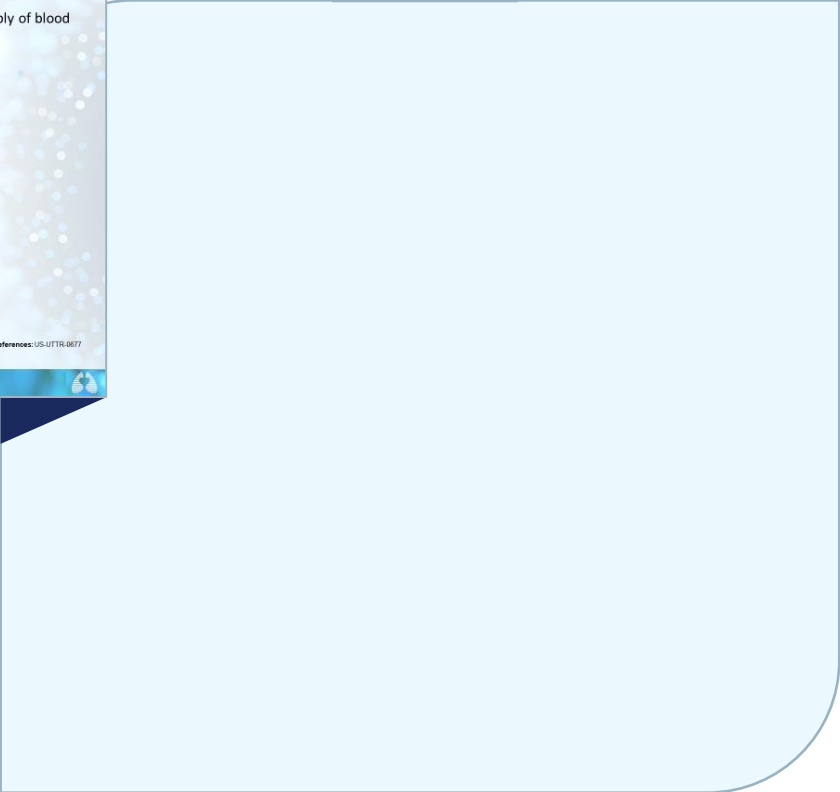
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**Stroke Volume (SV) = EDV - ESV**

**Cardiac Output (CO) = HR X SV**

References: US-UlTR-0677

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### PRELOAD & AFTERLOAD

**PRELOAD**

- Preload** is the stretch on the ventricles prior to contraction
  - Can be measured by echo and cardiac MRI - known as Ejection Fraction (EF)
  - Right Atrial Pressure is a measure that reflects the volume status and preload of the right ventricle
  - Right Ventricle Pressure is a surrogate marker of preload
- PAWP** is a measure of preload of the left side of the heart

**AFTERLOAD**

- Afterload** is the force the ventricles must generate to pump against resistance in the vessels
  - Systemic Vascular Resistance evaluates RV afterload
- Right Ventricle Afterload (RVA)** is the force against which blood is ejected from the right ventricle into the pulmonary artery

References: US-UlTR-0677

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

NOTES

## CARDIAC INDEX

- Cardiac index (CI) is the ratio of CO to the surface area of the body
- Cardiac index is calculated by dividing CO by body surface area
- It is measured in liters per minute per square meter (L/min/m<sup>2</sup>)
- It is a measure of ventricular output and a clinical indicator of ventricular function
- Low CI points to heart failure, RV failure, and pulmonary hypertension



References: US-UTTR-0077

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## VASOREACTIVITY TESTING OVERVIEW

- In patients with idiopathic, hereditary, and drug/toxin induced PAH, acute vasodilator testing during RHC is strongly recommended based on current guidelines<sup>1</sup>
- Acute vasodilator testing may identify patients who might respond favorably to calcium channel blockers (CCB)
- During RHC, acute pulmonary vasodilator testing assesses the ability of the pulmonary arteries to relax acutely in response to medications such as:
  - IV epoprostenol
  - Inhaled iloprost
  - Inhaled nitric oxide
- Guidelines consider a positive response to vasoreactivity testing by a reduction of mPAP  $\geq 10$  mmHg to reach an absolute value of mPAP  $\leq 40$  mmHg with an increased or unchanged cardiac output
  - Note that patients should have normal oxygen saturation prior to starting inhaled NO so that one can assess the true response on pulmonary vascular tone and not response to improved oxygenation
- While patients with a sustained long-term response to CCB therapy are rare, ~ 6-8%<sup>2</sup>, a positive response predicts a better clinical outcome and prognosis<sup>3</sup>

References: 1. Humbert M, Kovacs G, Hoeper MM, et al. 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension. *Eur Respir J*. 2022 Aug 30;20200879. doi: 10.1183/13993003.00879-2022. 2. Sisson D, Humbert M, Jais X, et al. Long-term response to calcium channel blockers in idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension. *Circulation*. 2005;111:3120-3115. 3. Raffy O, Azarian R, Brenot F, et al. Clinical significance of the pulmonary vasodilator response during short-term infusion of prostacyclin in primary pulmonary hypertension. *Circulation*. 1996;93:484-488.

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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### GOLD STANDARD FOR DIAGNOSIS

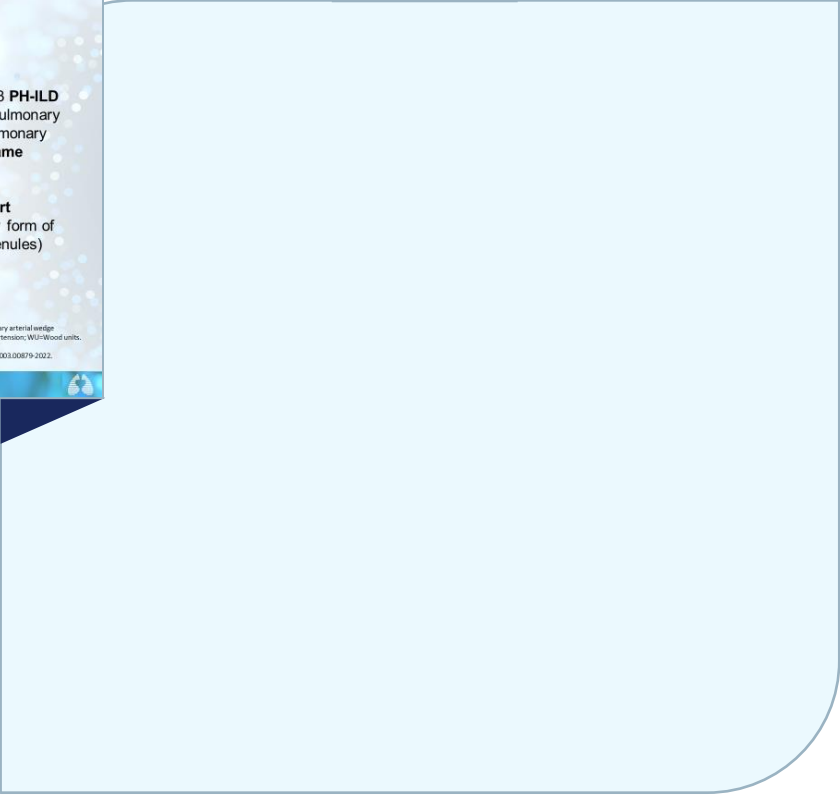
- 1 **PVR >2 WU**  
*Normal: 0.3-2.0 WU*
- 2 **PAWP ≤15 mm Hg**  
*Normal: 8.0 ±2.9 mmHg*
- 3 **mPAP >20 mm Hg**  
*Normal: 8-20 mmHg*

- Group 1 (PAH) and Group 3 PH-ILD are **precapillary** forms of pulmonary hypertension (occurs in pulmonary arterioles) that share the **same** hemodynamic criteria
- Group 2 PH due to **left heart disease** is a **post-capillary** form of PH (occurs in pulmonary venules)

Aortic: Aorta; CLD: Chronic lung disease; ILD: Interstitial lung disease; LA: Left atrium; LV: Left ventricle; mPAP: mean pulmonary arterial pressure; PA: pulmonary artery; PAWP: pulmonary arterial wedge pressure; PVR: pulmonary vascular resistance; RA: right atrium; RHC: right heart catheterization; RV: right ventricle; WHO: World Health Organization; WSPH: World Symposium on Pulmonary Hypertension; WU: Wood units.

**Reference:** Humbert M, Kovacs G, Hoeper MM, et al. 2022 ESC/ERS Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary hypertension. *Eur Respir J* 2022 Aug 30;22(200879). doi: 10.1183/13993003.000879-2022.

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### CARDIOPULMONARY PRESSURE PROFILE IN PAH

Does the patient have PAH?

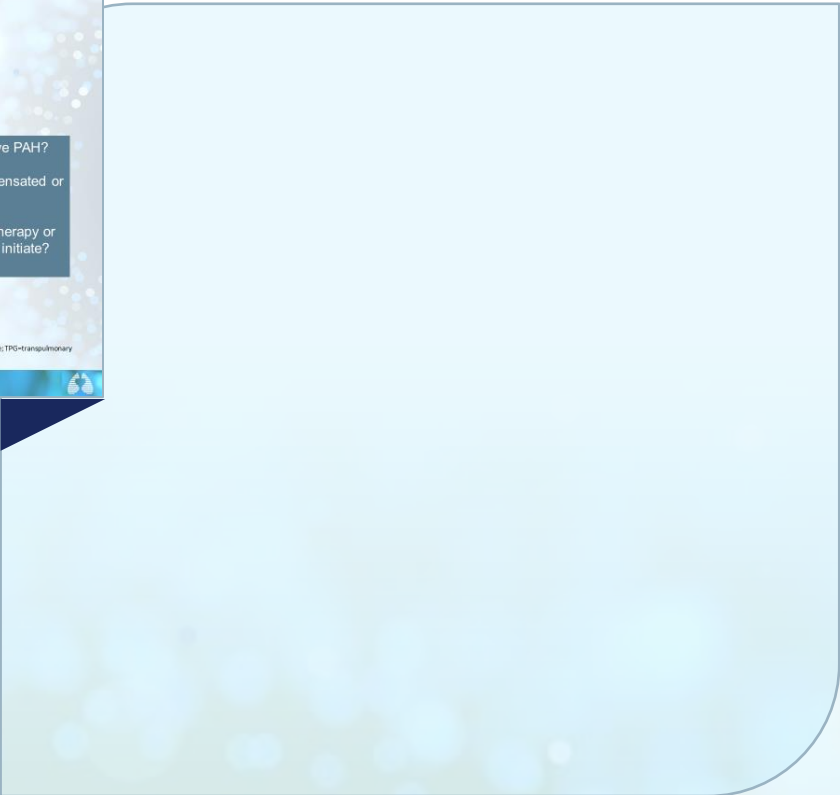
Is the disease compensated or decompensated?

What PAH-specific therapy or therapies would you initiate?

CO=cardiac output; PA=pulmonary artery; PAH=pulmonary arterial hypertension; PCWP=pulmonary capillary wedge pressure; PVR=pulmonary vascular resistance; RA=right atrium; RV=right ventricle; TPG=transpulmonary pressure gradient; WU=Wood units.

Tracing courtesy of Michael A. Mathai, MD, FACC, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

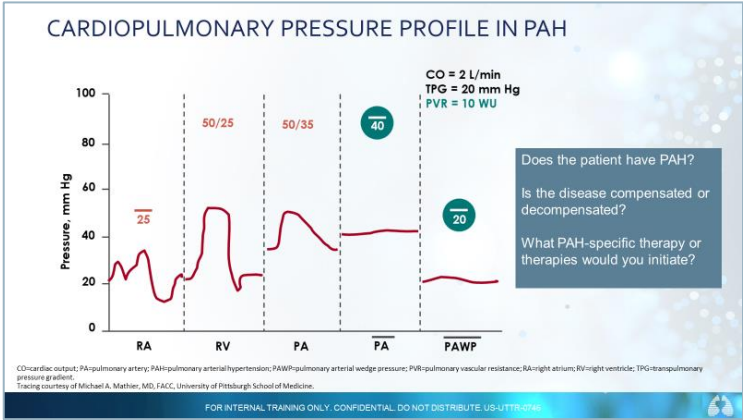
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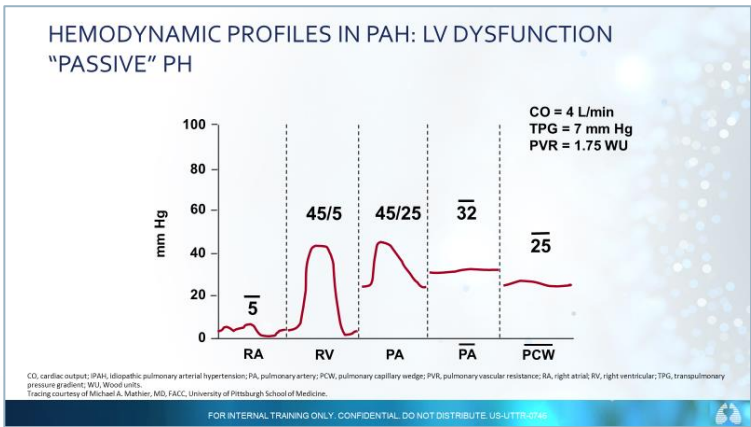


# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

NOTES



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# CLINICAL CULTIVATOR

## NOTES

### SUMMARY

- Remains “gold standard” for diagnosis of PAH
- Required for every patient with suspected PAH
- Allows assessment of key hemodynamic parameters (RAP, PAP, PAWP, and CO) as well as calculation of CI and PVR
- Allows assessment of response to vasodilator challenge
- Allows determination of disease severity and appropriate selection of PAH therapy



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## PATIENT IDENTIFIERS WORKSHEET 1

---

Record below everything you would want to share with your attending about the patient case as if you were presenting Grand Rounds.

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Include:**

- The 'why' for each datapoint or nonclinical detail you choose to highlight.
- Language you would utilize with an actual attending.



## PATIENT IDENTIFIERS WORKSHEET 2

---

Record below everything you would want to share with your attending about the patient case as if you were presenting Grand Rounds.

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Include:**

- The 'why' for each datapoint or nonclinical detail you choose to highlight.
- Language you would utilize with an actual attending.



## PATIENT IDENTIFIERS WORKSHEET 3

---

Record below everything you would want to share with your attending about the patient case as if you were presenting Grand Rounds.

**Patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Include:**

- The 'why' for each datapoint or nonclinical detail you choose to highlight.
- Language you would utilize with an actual attending.



## LEAD THE DIALOGUE: LISTENING & QUESTION-ASKING TECHNIQUES

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NOTES



# LEAD THE DIALOGUE: LISTENING & QUESTION-ASKING TECHNIQUES

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NOTES





## MANAGING 'RABBIT HOLES': MANAGING THE SPIRAL

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NOTES



## DIALOGUE DUO PRACTICE

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NOTES



# RCPS

## MASTERCLASS

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DAY **3**

# DAY 3 AT-A-GLANCE



## GOAL

The goal of Day 3 is for you to apply key insights previously learned from SMEs and colleagues to work through a challenging problem with a real-life HCP.



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of Day 3 training, you will be able to:

- ✓ Apply solutions to overcome challenges with real-life HCPs.
- ✓ Demonstrate skills learned during Masterclass to hold successful HCP conversations.



## AGENDA

### Day 3

**9:00-11:30 am** Solve MY Problem

**11:30 am- 12:00 pm** Program Close



## GROW WORKSHEET

### Directions:

Complete the information below for the specific HCP you identified as the hardest to connect with.

**GOAL:** What do you want to accomplish in this conversation?

**REALITY:** What is the reality about your HCP's interests, desires, and openness?

**OPTIONS:** What are options that you might leverage in conversation with this HCP to tip the scales towards positive outcomes and/or further engagement?

**WHAT'S NEXT?:** What actions do you want the HCP to commit to?



## PART 3: PAIR & SHARE

---

NOTES



## OBSERVATION EVALUATION

**Directions:**

While observing each HCP conversation, use the rubric below to help guide your oral feedback.

Demonstrated Clinical Knowledge				
5	4	3	2	1
Can teach a course with this level of effortless expertise	Anticipates potential question, and addresses them before asked	Provides responses to every question asked	Demonstrates subject matter expertise	Baseline generalist knowledge

Level of Active Listening				
5	4	3	2	1
Is globally listening, with an applied balance of logic and emotion, and utilizes selective silence	Acknowledges, mirrors, and actively listens in a way that demonstrates interpersonal acumen	Appears to listen to the meaning behind the words	Appears to listen to the words	Appears to listen with the intent to speak

Use of Impactful Questions				
5	4	3	2	1
Uses questions that stimulate the HCP's sense of responsibility and takes ownership of the process	Uses questions that develop the HCP's awareness and focus	Gathers all the relevant information	Uses primarily open questions	Uses primarily closed questions

Avoidance of Rabbit Holes				
5	4	3	2	1
Maintains a positive attitude and body language, all while redirecting from the potential rabbit hole	Redirects from potential rabbit hole/s by describing what they're hearing, finding common ground, and moving forward	Manages to close the conversation within the allotted time and includes some follow-up dialogue	Active, somewhat forceful steering of the conversation	Passive, polite approach to steering the conversation



**RCPS**  
MASTERCLASS

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# Resources





# PAH Diagnostic FAQs

## Echocardiogram

### What is an echocardiogram? How is it performed? Do patients need to be sedated? Is this an in-patient procedure? Where do they go for it?

Several echo imaging approaches are used to evaluate right heart anatomy and function, and findings may vary based on a patient's position, body build, and technician techniques. Transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) is a tool to image the effects of PAH on the heart and is used in conjunction with continuous wave Doppler measurements to assess blood flow.

Patients do not need to be sedated for TTE and it only takes 10-20 minutes. TTE is the most common type of echocardiogram and is an outpatient, noninvasive procedure, taking place entirely outside the body. Gel is applied to the chest and a handheld transducer scans the heart. An echo can be performed at a doctor's office or a hospital.

### What is the role of an echocardiogram in PAH?

It is an integral assessment tool, and often the first to detect PAH by evaluating cardiac structure, function, and hemodynamics. It is also used to rule out left heart disease and shunts. Many echo parameters are prognostic, such as RV/RA size and function, pericardial effusion, and estimates of PAP, RAP and CO/CI.

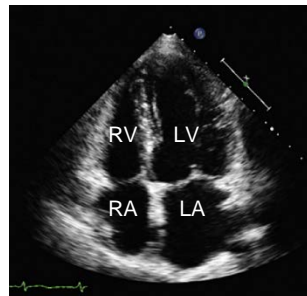
**RA diameter and pericardial effusion are variables of risk assessment in the 2015 ESC/ERS guidelines, and pericardial effusion is a variable in the REVEAL 2.0 calculator.**

### What are the limitations in using an echocardiogram to identify PAH?

Most limitations are based on the over/underestimation of RV pressure. These findings don't tend to match those of right heart catheterization. The ability of echo to determine peak TR jet velocity to estimate right ventricular systolic pressure (RVSP) is limited. TR jet can also over/underestimate RVSP in individual patients and can be hard to visualize in patients with chronic lung disease. Potential challenges also include angle variances during an echo and chest cavity abnormalities.

### What can an echocardiogram measure?

- TAPSE
- RV/RA Diameter
- RA Area
- LV/LA Diameter
- TRV
- PA Diameter
- Pericardial Effusion
- RV Hypertrophy
- IVC Diameter

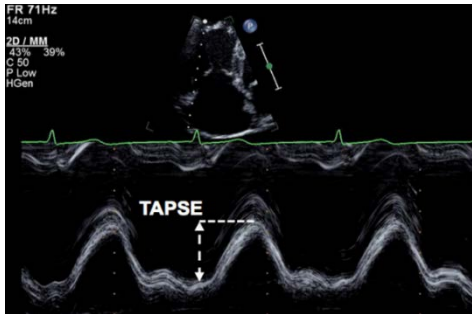


Normal Echocardiogram

### What is TAPSE (Tricuspid Annular Plane Systolic Excursion)?

TAPSE is the distance the tricuspid valve moves between the end of diastole to end of systole (M-mode echo);  $<1.7$  cm = RV dysfunction.

TAPSE is a surrogate for the ejection fraction of the RV. TAPSE measures the excursion (contractility) of the RV when the heart pumps based on the movement of the annulus of the tricuspid valve. The annulus (a ring-shaped structure that provides support for the flaps of the tricuspid valve) moves with normal heart contractions (excursion). When the RV is overloaded, there's little movement of the tricuspid annulus because the RV is so full or dilated. The position of the echo at the right angle of the annulus is vital to get an accurate measurement.



### What is RVSP (Right Ventricular Systolic Pressure)?

RVSP and TAPSE are terms incorrectly used interchangeably, but RVSP is different than TAPSE. RVSP is calculated from TR jet velocity and RAP and can be used to estimate the systolic pressure of the PA. If miscalculated, RVSP can be over/underestimated.

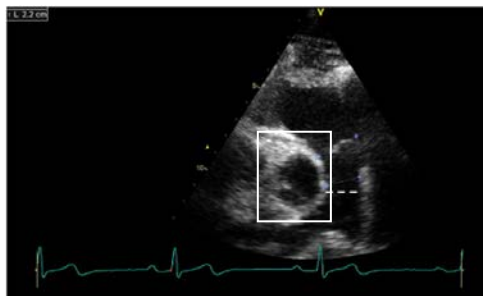
### Is RVSP the same as mPAP?

RVSP is not the same as mPAP. RVSP is an estimation of the systolic pressure of the RV whereas mPAP is measured by RHC and is a true measured value from the pulmonary artery. The systolic pressure of the PA is used to calculate mPAP.

### How is PA diameter measured? How is it used?

Pulmonary artery diameter is measured in end diastole halfway between the pulmonary valve and bifurcation of the main pulmonary artery.

PA diameter  $>25$  mm is considered abnormal.



### What is TRV (Tricuspid Regurgitant Jet Velocity)?

The tricuspid valve sits between the RA and RV. When the RV pumps blood into the pulmonary artery (a process known as systole), the tricuspid valve is supposed to be closed to avoid back-flow of blood into the RA (regurgitation). Under high pressure the RV becomes dilated, the valve stretches, and regurgitation occurs. Blood regurgitation will increase under higher pressure, increasing the velocity of blood movement into the right atrium. In an echo, TR jet velocity is measured, which is used to calculate the RVSP. A TRV <2.8 m/s is considered normal.



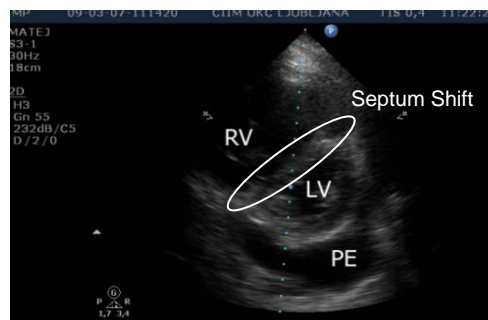
### How is RA area measured? How is it used?

Right atrial area is measured at end ventricular systole on the frame just prior to tricuspid valve opening. Depending on TR jet velocity, finding RA area >18cm<sup>2</sup> along with other echo measures increases the probability of PAH. RA area is a component of risk assessment in the 2015 ESC/ERS guidelines.



### What is Interventricular Septal (IVS) flattening?

In an echo, there is a view which looks at the heart from the bottom up. The RV and LV are next to each other, but the LV is bigger than the RV, and the septum is between them. When the RV gets bigger, it pushes the septum into the LV. Overload of the RV will cause a shift of the septum or flattening of the septum.

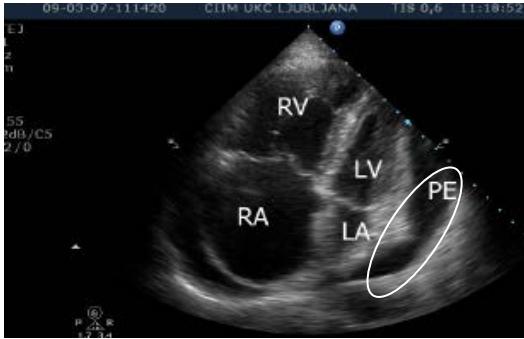


### What does RV dilation mean and how is it related to NT-proBNP?

The RV dilates in response to increased pressure, which can lead to the RV becoming thinner and eventually failing. RV dilation will lead to a release of NT-proBNP. Monitoring NT-proBNP can reveal signs of strain in the RV sooner than physical findings.

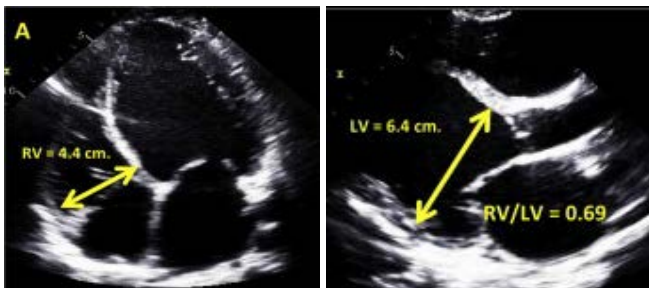
### What is pericardial effusion?

Pericardial effusion is the buildup of extra fluid in the pericardium (fibrous sac) around the heart. Fluid buildup puts pressure on the heart, preventing it from pumping normally. Pericardial effusion is a component of risk assessment in the 2015 ESC/ERS guidelines and REVEAL 2.0.



### What is RV/LV diameter ratio?

This is measured from the standard A4C view. Measurement is taken at end diastole. A ratio of  $>1$  measured at end diastole suggests RV dilation.



### What echocardiogram readings suggest PAH? How often should they be assessed?

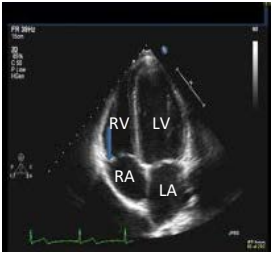
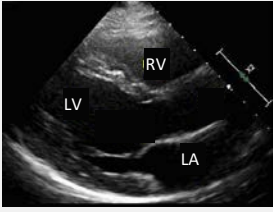
- RV/LV diameter ratio  $>1.0$
- Flattening of the IVS
- RA area  $>18\text{cm}^2$
- RV hypertrophy
- Elevated sPAP ( $>50$  mmHG)
- TRV  $>3.4$  m/s

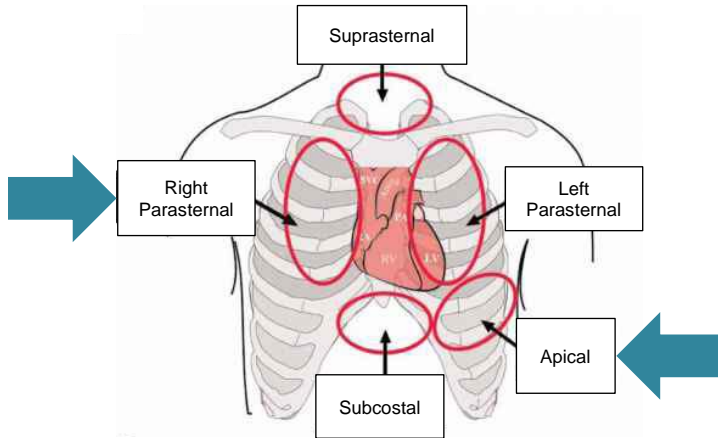
After baseline, an echo should be performed every 6-12 months, 3-6 months after changes in therapy, and in case of clinical worsening, according to the 2015 ESC/ERS guidelines.

## ECHOCARDIOGRAM TYPES

Type	Description
<b>Transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE)</b>	<b>Most common type of echocardiogram</b> and is noninvasive, taking place entirely outside the body ( <b>in about 20 minutes</b> ). Gel is applied to the chest, and a handheld transducer scans the heart.
<b>Transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE)</b>	Provides <b>better images</b> because the esophagus and heart sit close together, and the sound waves do not need to pass through skin, muscle, or bone. TEE is a better choice for some conditions. Additionally, <b>obesity and lung disease can interfere with standard echocardiography</b> . This is more invasive than TTE and requires mild sedation (patient cannot drive for 24 hours).
<b>Doppler echocardiogram</b>	Assesses the <b>flow of blood through the heart's chambers and valves</b> . The amount of blood pumped out with each beat is an indication of the heart's functioning. Also, Doppler can detect abnormal blood flow within the heart, which can indicate a problem with one or more of the heart's four valves, or with the heart's walls.
<b>M-Mode (motion-mode) echo</b>	This, the simplest type of echocardiography, produces an image that is similar to a tracing rather than an <b>actual picture of heart structures</b> . M-mode echo is useful for measuring heart structures, such as the heart's pumping chambers, the size of the heart itself, and the thickness of the heart walls; also, M-mode for TAPSE.
<b>3-D echo</b>	Echocardiography typically shows a flat picture, but the machines can also create 3-D imaging. This technology is <b>particularly helpful for identifying problems with heart valves</b> , replacement heart valves, and the heart's lower left chamber (left ventricle). Additional ways to use 3-D echo are under investigation.
<b>Stress echo</b>	Stress test that deliberately increases heart rate and blood pressure. Two sets of images are taken: one at rest, and another after working out on a treadmill or stationary bike. If poor health prevents such physical activity, medication is injected that mimics the effect of exercise. This test is called a pharmacologic stress echocardiogram.

**ECHOCARDIOGRAM VIEWS**

View	Transducer Position	Structures Seen
<p>Apical 4-chamber</p> 	<p>Over the <b>apex</b> of the heart (fifth intercostal space)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right Ventricle</li> <li>• Left Ventricle</li> <li>• Right Atrium</li> <li>• Left Atrium</li> <li>• Interventricular Septum</li> <li>• Interatrial Septum</li> <li>• Tricuspid leaflets</li> <li>• Lateral wall of LV</li> </ul>
<p>Right Parasternal</p> 	<p>Over the third or fourth left intercostal space adjacent to sternum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RV outflow tract</li> <li>• Pulmonary artery</li> <li>• Pulmonary valve</li> </ul>



The **apex** (the most inferior, anterior, and lateral part as the heart lies in situ) is located on the midclavicular line, in the **fifth intercostal space**. It is formed by the **left ventricle**.

## GLOSSARY/ABBREVIATIONS

<b>A4C</b>	Apical four-chamber view of an echocardiogram.
<b>Annulus</b>	Ring-shaped structure that provides support for the flaps of a valve.
<b>Bifurcation</b>	A division into two branches.
<b>CI</b>	Cardiac Index
<b>CO</b>	Cardiac Output
<b>Diastole</b>	Dilatory-relaxation phase of the cardiac cycle during which the heart's chambers fill with blood.
<b>Dilation</b>	The state of being expanded or enlarged.
<b>Doppler</b>	Used to measure and assess the flow of blood through the heart's chambers and valves.
<b>Effusion</b>	The escape of fluid from the blood vessels or lymphatics into the tissues or a cavity.
<b>ESC/ERS</b>	European Society of Cardiology/European Respiratory Society
<b>Hypertrophy</b>	Enlargement of an organ or a tissue as a result of an increase in size.
<b>Intercostal Space</b>	An interval between the ribs, occupied by intercostal muscles, veins, arteries, and nerves.
<b>IVC</b>	Inferior Vena Cava
<b>IVS</b>	Interventricular Septum
<b>LA</b>	Left Atrium/Atrial
<b>LV</b>	Left Ventricle
<b>M-mode</b>	Simplest type of echocardiography, produces an image that is similar to a tracing.
<b>mPAP</b>	Mean Pulmonary Arterial Pressure
<b>NT-proBNP</b>	N-Terminal pro B-type Natriuretic Peptide
<b>PA</b>	Pulmonary Artery
<b>PAH</b>	Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
<b>PAP</b>	Pulmonary Arterial Pressure
<b>Pericardial</b>	Pertaining to the area around the heart.
<b>PV</b>	Pulmonary Valve
<b>RA</b>	Right Atrium/Atrial
<b>RAP</b>	Right Atrial Pressure
<b>RHC</b>	Right Heart Catheterization
<b>RV</b>	Right Ventricle
<b>RVSP</b>	Right Ventricular Systolic Pressure
<b>Septum</b>	A thin wall dividing two cavities.
<b>sPAP</b>	Systolic Pulmonary Arterial Pressure
<b>Systole</b>	The period during which the chambers of the heart (the atria and the ventricles) contract.
<b>TAPSE</b>	Tricuspid Annular Plane Systolic Excursion
<b>TRV</b>	Tricuspid Regurgitant Jet Velocity
<b>TTE</b>	Transthoracic Echocardiography



# The Echo in PAH

State of the Art  
in Right Heart  
Assessment



**PAH Initiative**

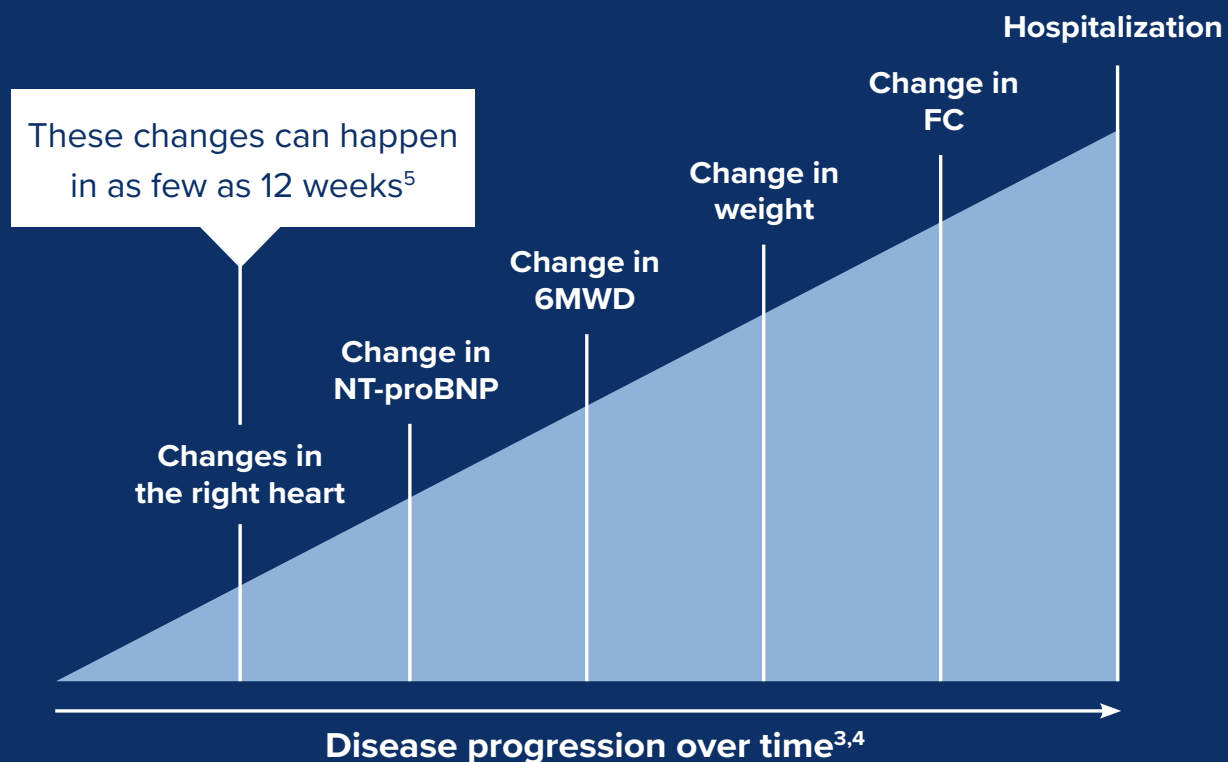
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# Echocardiography Is a Critical Component of Patient Care in PAH

Regular, ongoing evaluation of the RH is essential in screening for PAH and early detection of its progression over time.<sup>1,2</sup>

Detrimental changes to RH structure and function are leading indicators of PAH progression.<sup>1</sup>



Adapted from Milks MW, et al. *J Heart Lung Transplant*. 2021;40(3):172-182.

**Echo provides a noninvasive assessment of the hemodynamic burden of the RV at diagnosis and throughout treatment<sup>1</sup>**

## Echo as a Diagnostic Screening Tool<sup>6</sup>

- Assesses parameters that are closely related to hemodynamic variables
- Can be used to evaluate the probability of PH\*

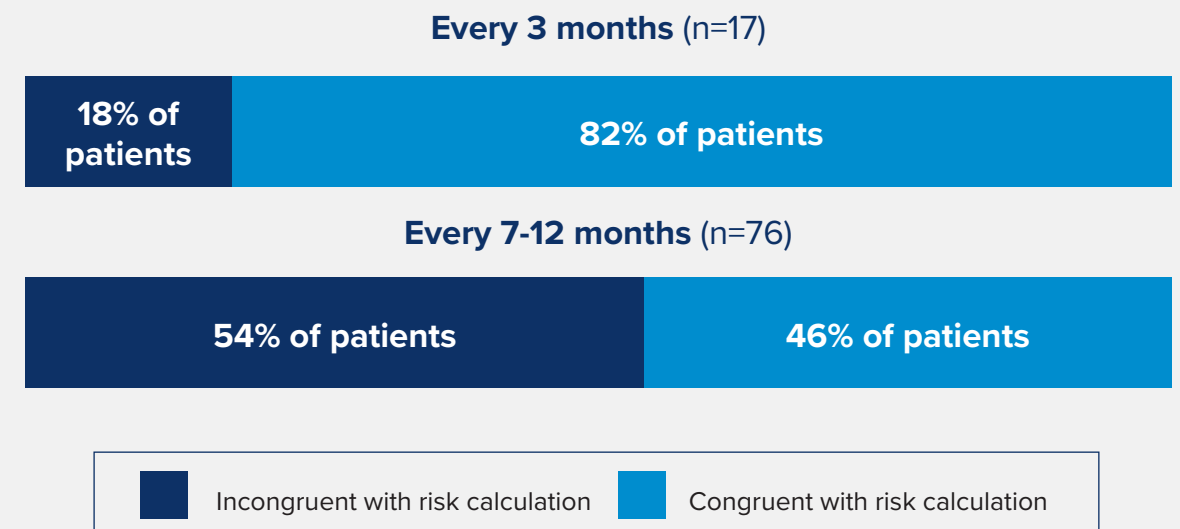
## Echo as a Treatment Monitoring Tool<sup>1,3,4,7</sup>

- Gives insight into disease progression before symptoms worsen
- Can be used to inform treatment approaches
- May provide important prognostic information

**Echos are recommended at baseline and as often as every 3 to 6 months in patients with PAH<sup>2,6</sup>**

In a retrospective study of 153 FC II patients, physicians who ordered Echos more frequently (every 3 months) were more likely to accurately assess their patient's risk status.<sup>2</sup>

### Congruence of gestalt and formal risk calculation based on Echo frequency ( $P=0.01$ )<sup>†</sup>



\*An RHC is required for definitive diagnosis of PAH.<sup>2</sup>

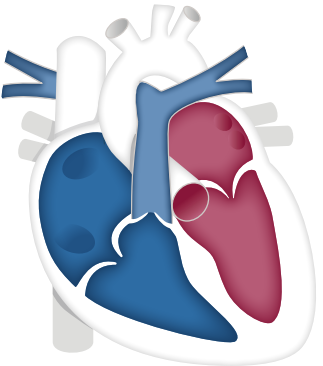
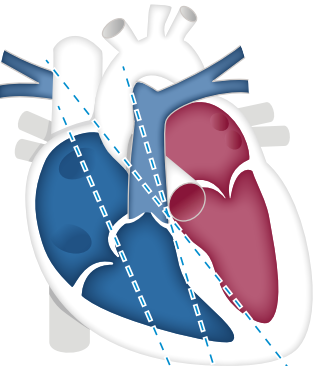
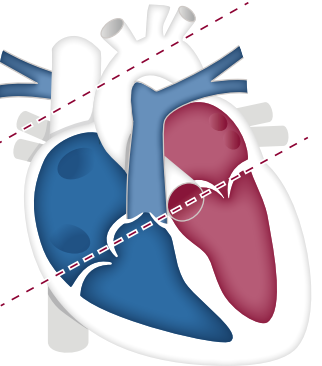
<sup>†</sup>No statistically significant difference in incongruency between an Echo frequency of every 3 months compared with every 4 to 6 months ( $P=0.069$ ).<sup>2</sup>

# Echo Provides a Detailed Assessment of RH Structure and Function

To conduct a comprehensive Echo examination of changes in the RH, it is important to perform a multiparameter assessment that includes measurements of RV size, the relative proportion of the RV to the LV, and RV systolic function.<sup>8</sup>

## Views

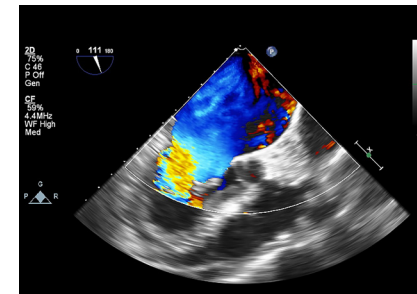
Echo assessments should capture views along each axis of the heart at various levels to cover the structures relevant to PAH.<sup>9-11</sup>

Window	Apical	Parasternal long-axis	Parasternal short-axis
Views	4-chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standard</li> <li>RV inflow</li> <li>RV outflow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aortic valve</li> <li>Mid-cavity</li> </ul>
Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Left ventricle (inferior septum and anterior lateral segments)</li> <li>Right ventricle</li> <li>Left atrium</li> <li>Right atrium</li> <li>Mitral valve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Right atrium</li> <li>Tricuspid valve</li> <li>Pulmonary valve</li> <li>Pulmonary artery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pulmonary valve</li> <li>Pulmonary artery</li> <li>Mitral valve</li> <li>Interventricular septum</li> <li>Right ventricle</li> </ul>
			

# Echo Also Evaluates the Velocity of Blood Flow

## Modalities

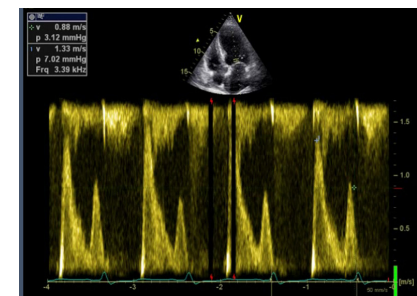
To assess the RH in PAH, the Echo sequence should include a Doppler examination, which generates images of the heart while also evaluating blood flow. Different types of Doppler are useful for capturing specific parameters.<sup>11</sup>



### Color Doppler

**Definition:** In color Doppler, the colors represent the speed and direction of blood flow in real time<sup>12</sup>

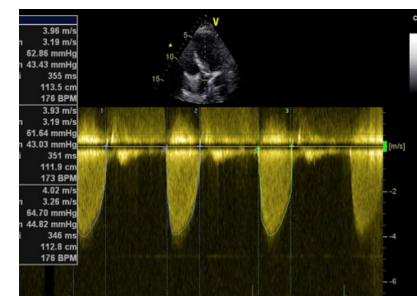
**Use in PAH:** All apical and parasternal views should be captured using color Doppler<sup>11</sup>



### Pulsed-wave Doppler

**Definition:** Pulsed-wave Doppler uses short pulses of sound to measure blood flow<sup>12</sup>

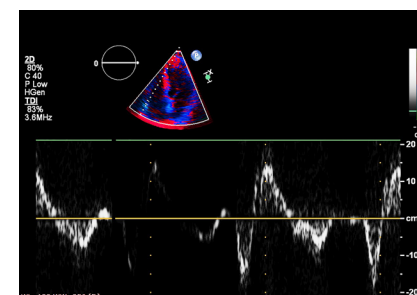
**Use in PAH:** Pulsed-wave Doppler is used to determine transmitral velocities, LV outflow tract, tricuspid inflow, and RVOT<sup>11</sup>



### Continuous-wave Doppler

**Definition:** Instead of pulses, continuous-wave Doppler uses constant sound waves to permit measurement of faster blood flows<sup>12</sup>

**Use in PAH:** Continuous-wave Doppler can be used to assess the LV outflow aortic valve, the tricuspid valve, and the pulmonary valve<sup>11</sup>



### Tissue Doppler

**Definition:** Tissue Doppler assesses the lower velocity, higher amplitude motion of the myocardium<sup>12</sup>

**Use in PAH:** It is useful in evaluating the velocity of RV contraction in the longitudinal axis<sup>11</sup>

# Echo Measures Dimensions and Functional Parameters Relevant to the Management of PAH

## Important Echo Parameters in PAH

Parameters	Definition/Purpose	View	Significance in PAH
<b>Dimensions</b>			
<b>LA AP dimension</b> <sup>13,14</sup>	Simple-to-measure indicator of LA size	Parasternal long-axis	Left atrial AP dimension <3.2 cm is indicative of PH when other abnormal parameters are present
<b>Pulmonary artery diameter</b> <sup>15</sup>	Evaluation of pulmonary artery size	Parasternal short-axis	Diameters of >25 mm are considered abnormal and may indicate increased RV afterload
<b>RA area</b> <sup>15</sup>	Indicator of RA size	Apical 4-chamber	RA area >18 cm <sup>2</sup> is indicative of dilation
<b>RV:LV dimension</b> <sup>8</sup>	Comparison of RV to LV size provides an indirect measure of RV systolic dysfunction	Apical 4-chamber	RV:LV ratio >1.0 is suggestive of RV dilation
<b>Functional parameters</b>			
<b>E/e'</b> <sup>13,16</sup>	Estimation of LH filling pressures	Tissue Doppler imaging	E/e' >10 with an abnormal RVOT Doppler is indicative of PH
<b>RV fractional area change</b> <sup>8,11,17</sup>	Total area change of the RV during systole; direct indicator of RV systolic function	Apical 4-chamber	Associated with survival in PAH
<b>Septal flattening</b> <sup>8,15,16</sup>	Indicator of possible afterload-dependent RV dysfunction	Parasternal short-axis	Early sign of underlying PH; even mild septal flattening is abnormal
<b>TAPSE</b> <sup>11,17,18</sup>	Displacement of the tricuspid annulus toward RV apex; direct indicator of RV systolic function	Apical 4-chamber	TAPSE of <1.8 cm is associated with greater RV systolic dysfunction; correlates with RV ejection fraction
<b>TRV</b> <sup>8,15</sup>	Estimate of the pressure difference between the RV and the RA	Multiple views (apical 4-chamber, parasternal long-axis, parasternal short-axis)	Peak TRV >3.4 m/s suggests a high probability of PH

### Views

#### Apical 4-chamber

#### Parasternal long axis

Standard, RV inflow, and RV outflow

#### Parasternal short axis

Mid-cavity level, aortic valve level

### Modalities

#### Color Doppler

#### Pulsed-wave Doppler

#### Continuous-wave Doppler

#### Tissue Doppler

### Measurements

#### Dimensions

- LA AP dimension
- Pulmonary artery diameter
- RA area
- RV:LV dimension

#### Functional parameters

- E/e'
- RV fractional area change
- Septal flattening
- TAPSE
- TRV

### Notes