

# Sudden Cardiac Death

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BROWN  
Alpert Medical School

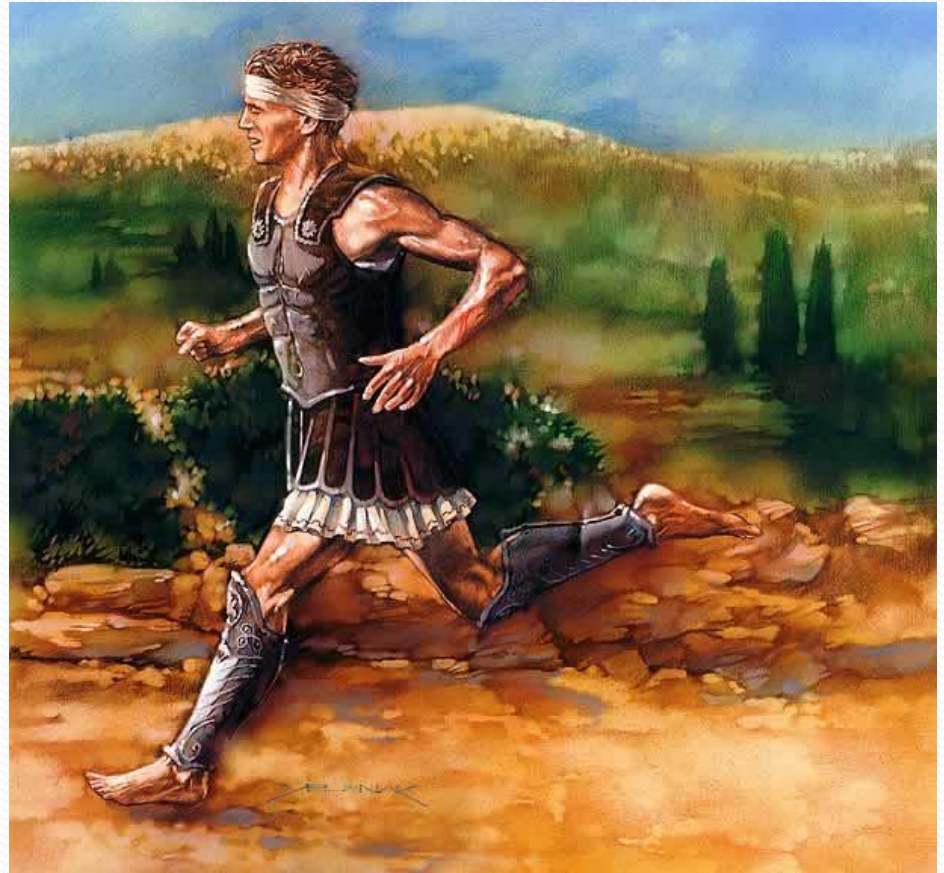


Ortho Rhode Island



# Sudden Cardiac Death

- Pheidippides
  - 490 BC
  - Greek Soldier
  - Ran from Marathon to Athens to announce victory over Persia (about 26 miles)
  - Shouted “Nike” (Victory), then collapsed



# Sudden Cardiac Death

## Definition

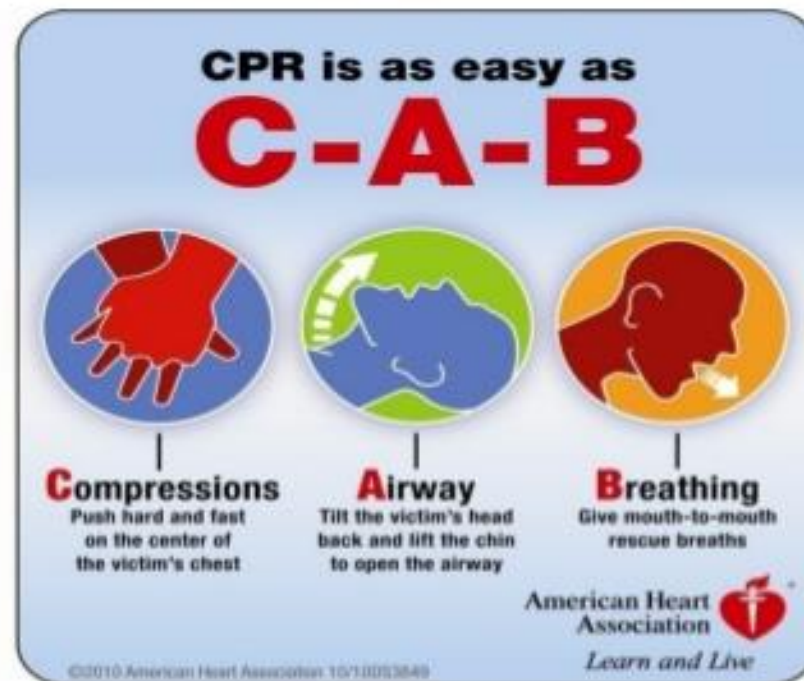
- Witnessed or unwitnessed natural death resulting from sudden cardiac arrest occurring unexpectedly within 6 hours of a previously normal state of health.  
(Maron, *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 1986)
- World Health Organization: “Sudden collapse occurring within one hour of symptoms.” (Goldstein, *Am Heart J*, 1982)







# New CPR Sequence



## Use an AED

- If you start CPR and then use an AED within a few minutes, you will have the best chance of saving a life
- AEDs are safe, accurate, and easy to use



# Cardiac Care

## CHAIN OF SURVIVAL



Early  
Access

1

Early  
CPR

2

Early  
Defibrillation

3

Early  
Advanced Care

4



## QUICK USE INSTRUCTIONS

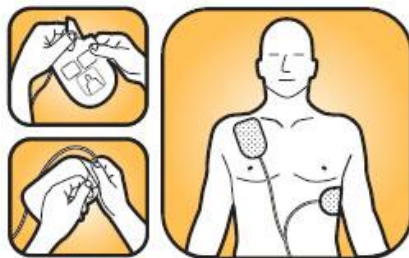
PRESS "ON"  
BUTTON

1



APPLY PADS  
FOLLOW AED  
INSTRUCTIONS

2



IF INSTRUCTED,  
PRESS "SHOCK"  
BUTTON

3



## WHEN TO USE

### WHEN TO USE THE AED

Use the AED when the patient is:

- Unconscious
- Unresponsive
- Not breathing

For patients under 8 years old or less than 55 pounds (25kgs), use child/infant electrode pads. Do not delay therapy to determine exact age or weight.

### WHEN NOT TO USE THE AED

The AED should not be used if the patient is:

- Conscious and/or responsive
- Breathing
- Has a detectable pulse

### WHO SHOULD USE THE AED

The user should have:

- Defibrillation training as required by local, state, provincial, or national regulations.
- Any additional training as required by the authorizing physician.
- Thorough knowledge and understanding of the material presented in this Operating Guide and in the User Manual (on Defibtech User CD).

# SCD in the Young

- **Structural Disease**

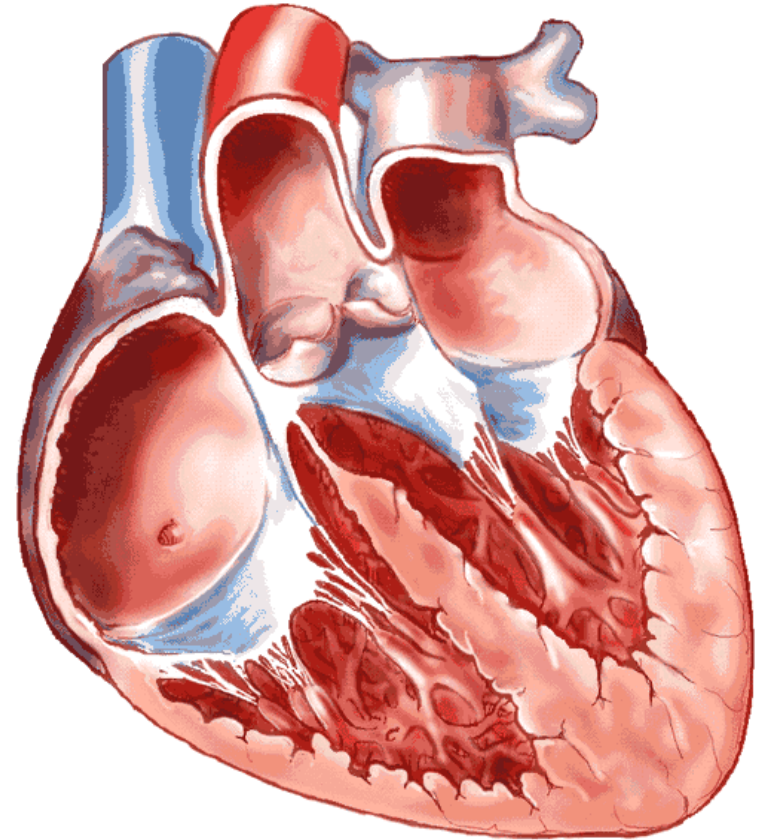
- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy
- Anomalous Coronary Artery
- Arrhythmogenic RV Dysplasia
- Myocarditis
- Marfan Syndrome / Ruptured Aneurysm
- Mitral Valve Prolapse
- Atrial Septal Defect

# SCD in the Young

- **Non-Structural Disease**
  - Commotio Cordis
  - Ion Channelopathies:
    - Long QT Syndrome
    - Short QT Syndrome
    - Brugada Syndrome
  - Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome
  - Idiopathic VF

# The Athlete's Heart

- Thickened wall AND increased LV chamber size
- Echocardiographic findings reverse by 1/3 with 3 weeks of no training



# Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- 1:350 to 1:625 of general population
- More common cause of SCD in African-Americans than Caucasians

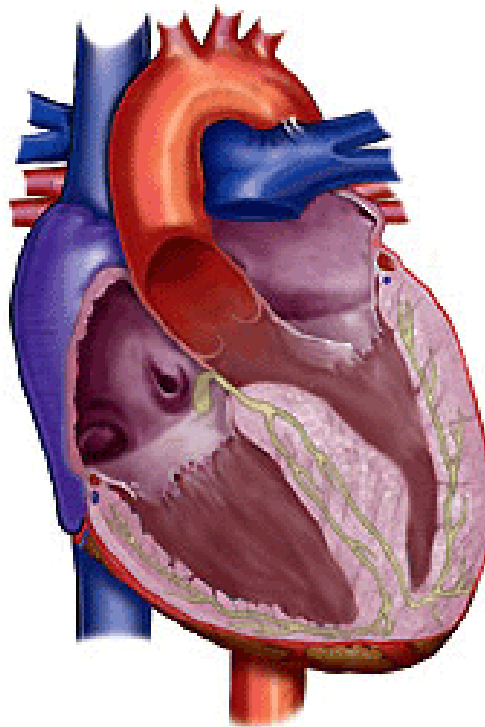


Figure 5

Asymmetric Septal Hypertrophic  
**without** obstruction

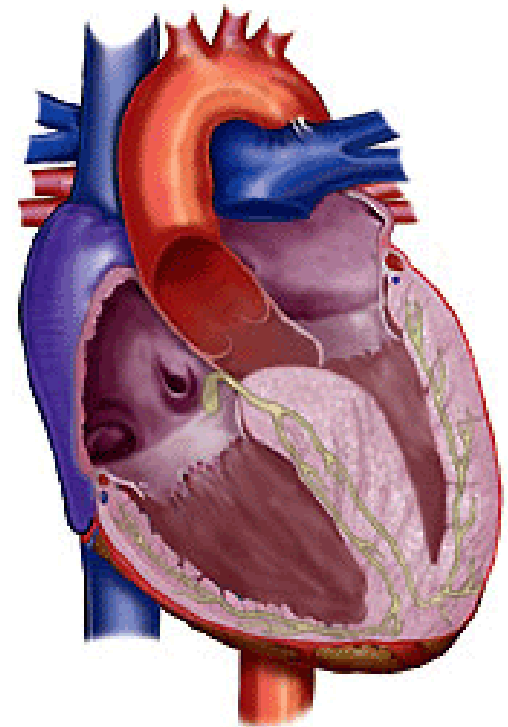


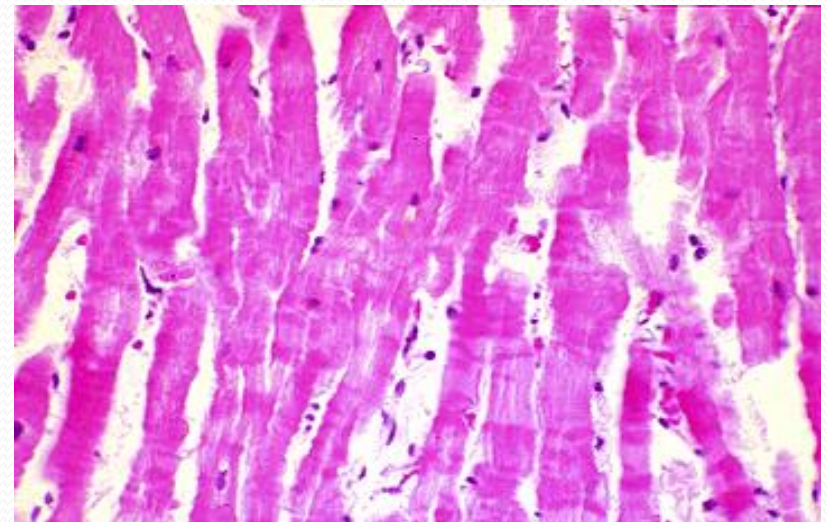
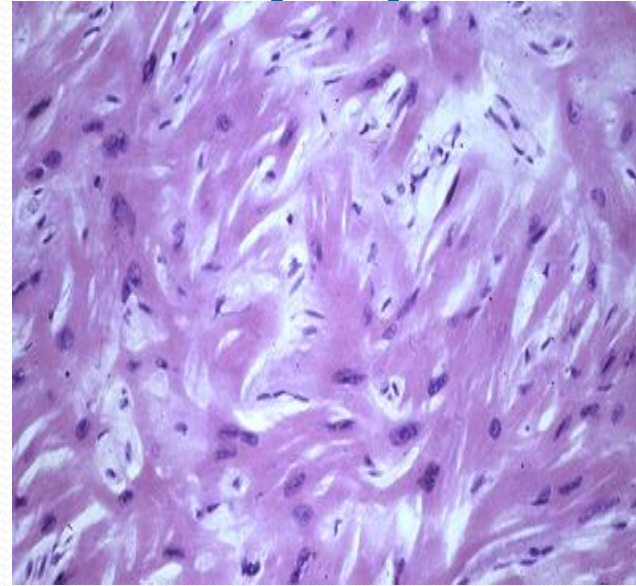
Figure 6

Asymmetric Septal Hypertrophic  
**with** obstruction



# Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- Autosomal Dominant with variable expression
- Many different mutations in components of heart muscle
- Disorganized architecture / structure



# Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy

- Symptoms
  - Most have **NONE**
  - Light headedness
  - Syncope
  - Shortness of breath out of proportion to exercise
  - Chest Pain
- Objective findings
  - Exam: Systolic Ejection Murmur, best at left lower sternal border
  - ***INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL*** TO VENOUS RETURN
    - Increases with decreased venous return (Valsalva, standing)
    - Decreases with increased venous return (squatting, hand gripping)

# Myocarditis

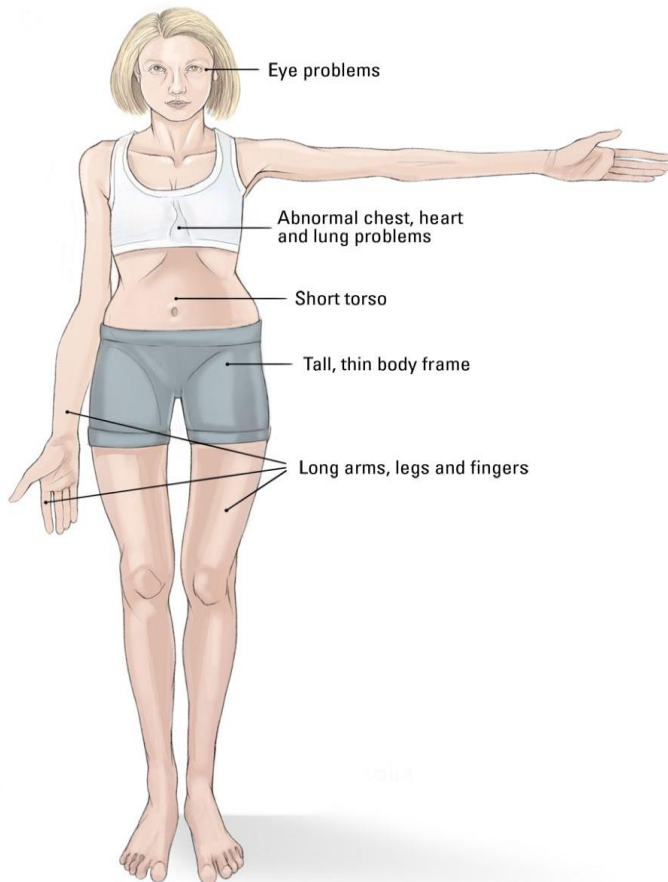
- Inflammation of the heart muscle
- Most often from acute viral infection
- Symptoms of progressive exercise intolerance and congestive symptoms of dyspnea, cough, orthopnea
- Leads to weakness of heart muscle and disturbance in conduction secondary to scarring of heart muscle

# Marfan Syndrome

- Autosomal dominant disorder of connective tissue. 1:10,000 to 1:20,000

## PARTS OF THE BODY AFFECTED BY MARFAN SYNDROME

### Marfan syndrome



#### EYESIGHT

near-sighted (myopic)  
eye (or ocular) lens dislocation  
retinal detachment

#### LUNGS

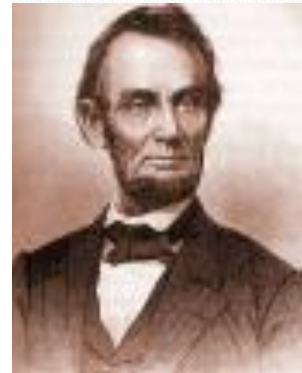
spontaneous lung collapse (pneumothorax)

#### CARDIO-VASCULAR SYSTEM

aorta widening or dilatation  
aortic aneurysms  
mitral and/or aortic valve(s) prolapse / leakage

#### SKELETON

curvature of the spine (scoliosis)  
pigeon or funnel chest (pectus deformity)  
tall stature  
loose jointedness



# Coronary Artery Disease

- Peak incidence of ventricular fibrillation within first 48 hours after acute MI (Goldberg, *Am J Cardiol*, 1987)
- 50% deaths due to acute MI occur out of the hospital, and most episodes occur within 1 hour of symptom onset (Gheeraert, *J Am Coll Cardiol*, 2000)
- Plaque rupture more common with exercise (n=141)
  - 72% who died during exercise had plaque rupture compared to 23% of those who died at rest
  - Histological evidence of acute MI was present in 0 of 25 in the exertion group and in 15 (13%) of 116 in the rest group. (Burke, *JAMA*, 1999)



# Commotio Cordis

- “Cardiac Contusion”
- Fatal arrhythmia triggered by chest trauma
- 87% Caucasian, 95% males, ages 4-16 (mean of 14)
- Most commonly from baseball, softball, and hockey, where projectile was pitched, thrown, batted. (Avg. speed 30-50 mph)
- Also in karate, lacrosse, football, martial arts, motor vehicle accidents (32% bodily contact)

### Source of Blow

Hockey puck



Lacrosse ball



Baseball



Fist or elbow



### Primary determinants and triggers

Precordial impact site  
Timed during upstroke of T wave

### Contributing variables

Greater hardness of projectile  
Smaller sphere  
Direct orientation  
Thinner, more compliant chest wall

Left lung

Rib

Chest wall

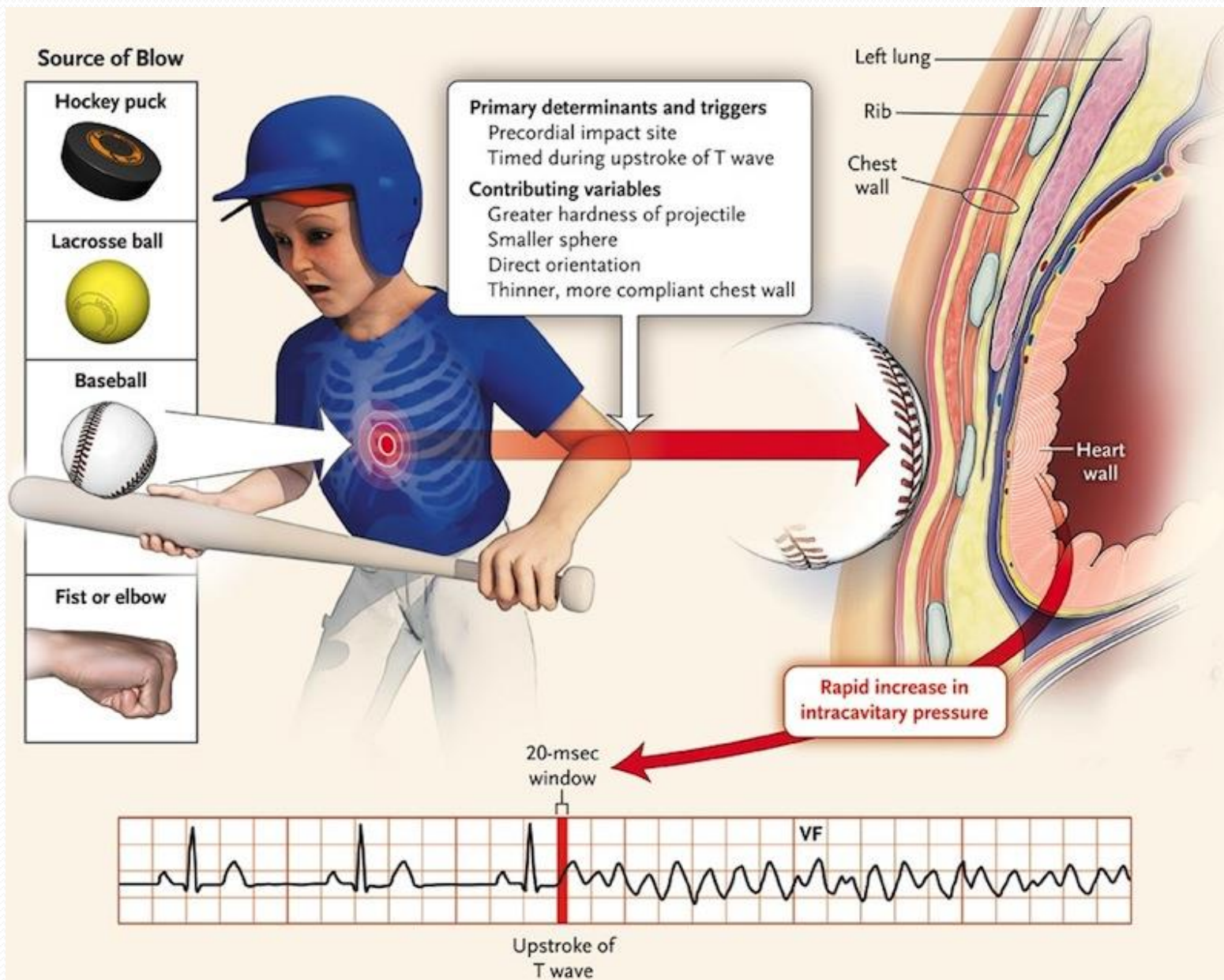
Heart wall

Rapid increase in  
intracavitary pressure

20-msec  
window

VF

Upstroke of  
T wave

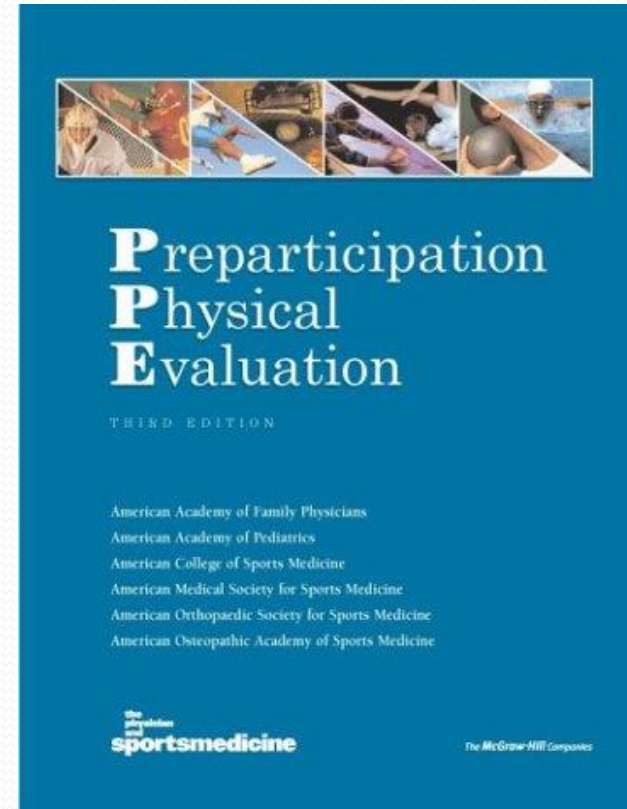


# Commotio Cordis

- Participation recommendations:
  - PREVENTION:
    - Protective equipment and softer-than-normal safety baseballs
  - TREATMENT:
    - With correct mechanism, don't underestimate injury
    - ABC's. **Readily available AED's**
    - Time to defibrillation important
      - **Within 3 minutes – Survival 50%**
      - 10% decrease for every minute thereafter

# Legal Issues – Screening

- **Preparticipation Physical Evaluation**
  - Drafted in 1992
  - Updated in 1997
  - Third Edition Published 2004
  - Endorsed by 6 major sports medicine organizations



# www.riil.org

**PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION**  
**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

**PHYSICIAN REMINDERS**

1. Consider additional questions on more sensitive issues

- Do you feel stressed out or under a lot of pressure?
- Do you ever feel sad, hopeless, depressed, or anxious?
- Do you feel safe at your home or residence?
- Have you ever tried cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
- During the past 30 days, did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
- Do you drink alcohol or use any other drugs?
- Have you ever taken anabolic steroids or used any other performance supplement?
- Have you taken any supplements to help you gain or lose weight or improve your performance?
- Do you wear a seat belt, use a helmet, and use condoms?

2. Consider reviewing questions on cardiovascular symptoms (questions 5–14).

EXAMINATION			
Height	Weight	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
BP / ( / )	Pulse	Vision R 20/	L 20/ Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS	
Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, arm span &gt; height, hyperloxy, myopia, MVP, aortic insufficiency)</li></ul>			
Eyes/ears/nose/throat <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pupils equal</li><li>• Hearing</li></ul>			
Lymph nodes			
Heart* <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Murmurs (auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva)</li><li>• Location of point of maximal impulse (PMI)</li></ul>			
Pulses <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Simultaneous femoral and radial pulses</li></ul>			
Lungs			
Abdomen			
Genitourinary (males only)*			
Skin <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HSV, lesions suggestive of MRSA, tinea corporis</li></ul>			
Neurological			



# SUDDEN CARDIAC DEATH

- **CAD** overwhelming cause as age increases above 30-35 years old

- **Structural Disease**

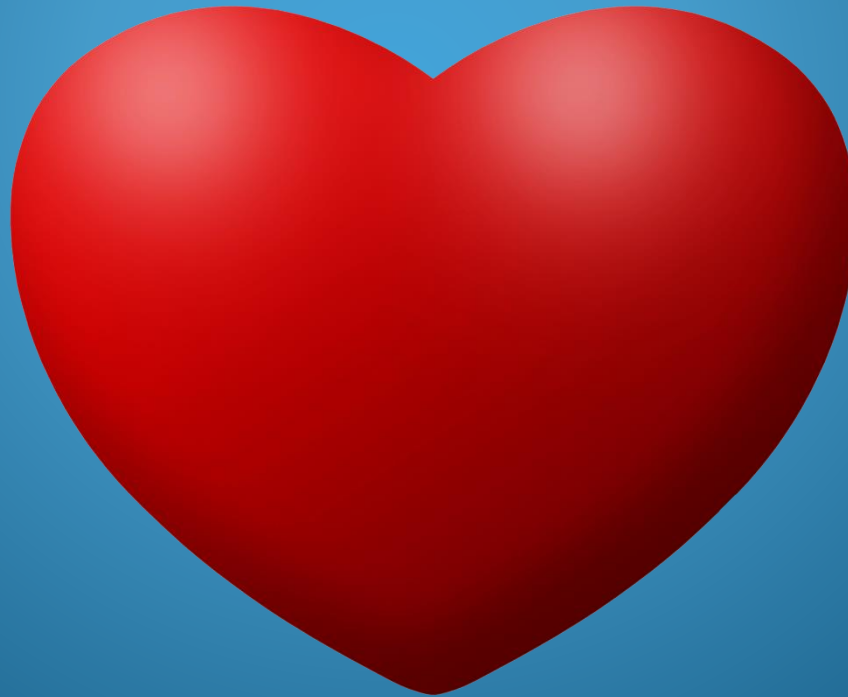
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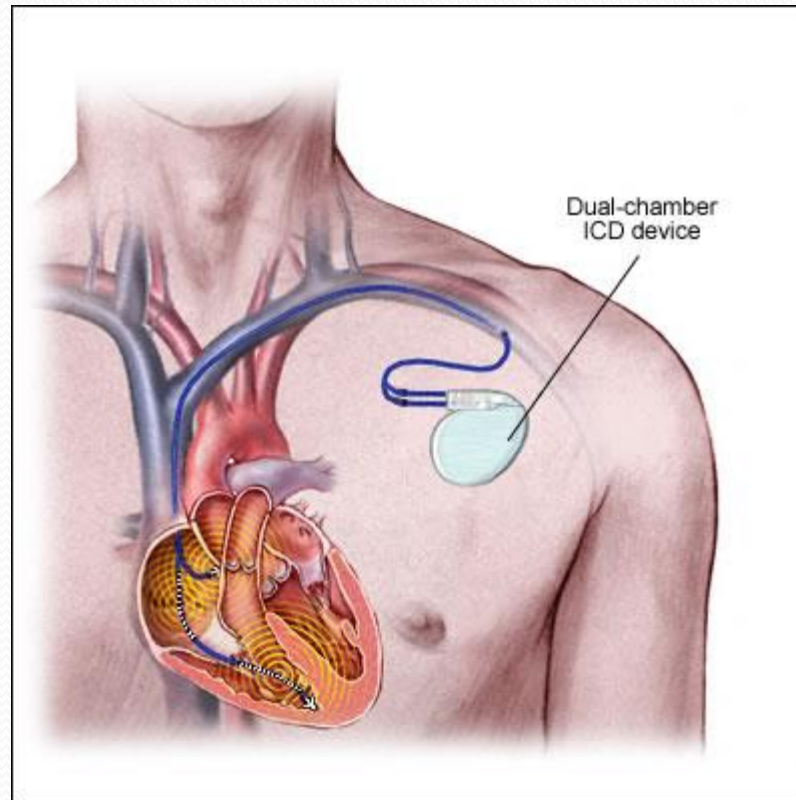
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# Non-traumatic collapse

Think.....





# ICD's and Athletes

- 2005 36<sup>th</sup> Bethesda Conference:
  - Should not engage in sports with high danger of bodily collision (football, rugby, boxing, martial arts, hockey, and lacrosse)
  - Protective padding advisable for other sports
  - Must wait 6 months to participate after last episode of clinical arrhythmia requiring intervention

(1 of 4)



# What can we do?



"We have to get to a point where it's not a LUXURY to have an athletic trainer, it's a NECESSITY."



# What can we do?







# Thank You

Questions?



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