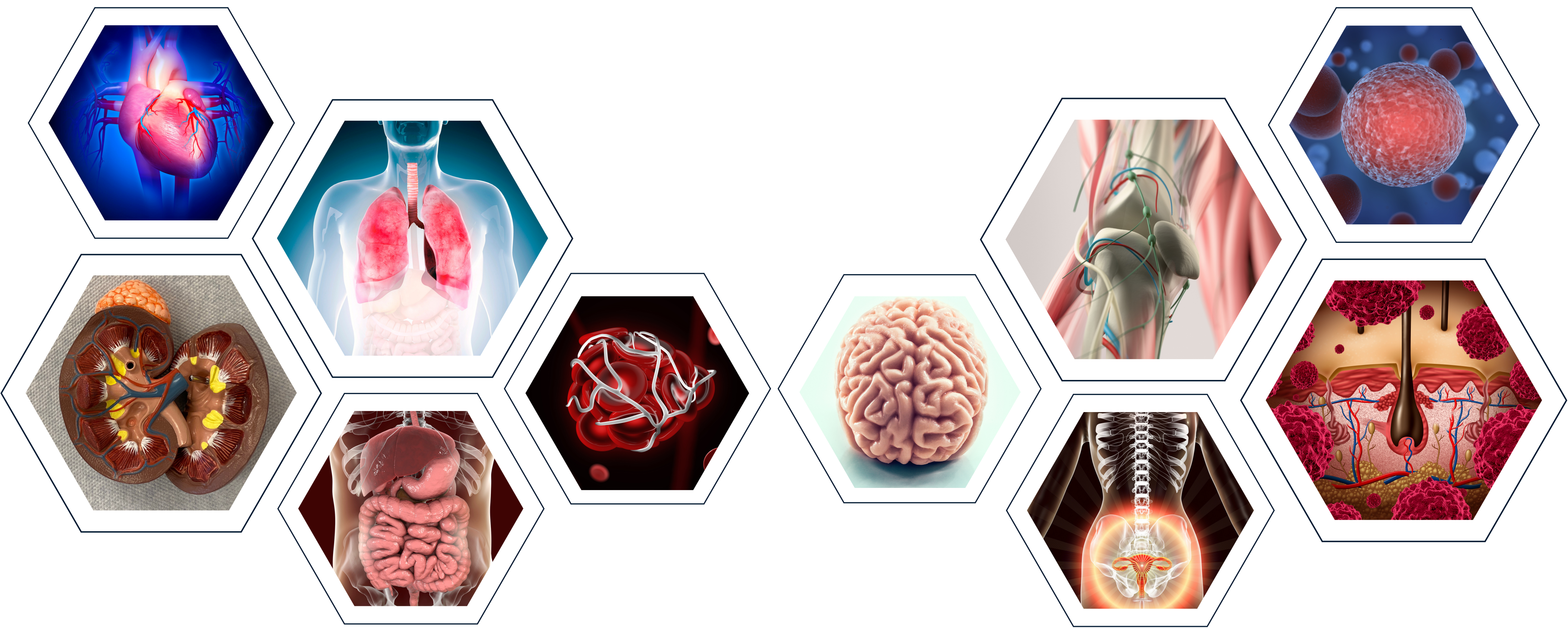


Learn. Integrate. Apply.
An Integrative Question-Based USMLE Resource



USMLE Step 1

NBME Top Concepts

Rahul Damania, MD



DEDICATION

To my students, mentors, and family. Without your support, insight, and guidance, our mission of inspiring the next generation of physicians would not be possible.

Designed by:

Ray Ann S. Sampil

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 CARDIAC PHYSIOLOGY	1
Cardiac Cycle	2
Isovolumetric Ventricular Contraction	4
Rapid Ventricular Ejection	5
Isovolumetric Ventricular Relaxation	6
Ventricular Filling	7
Atrial Systole	9
Jugular Venous Tracing	10
Pulsus Paradoxes	11
Pressure Volume Loops	12
Cardiac Action Potentials	14
Answer Key	17
CHAPTER 2 NBME TOP CONCEPTS: CARDIOLOGY	18
Digeorge Syndrome	19
Branchial Pouch Derivatives	20
Lipid Lowering Drugs	21
Shock	24
Thermoregulation	27
S3,S4,HOCOM,DCM,Murmurs	28
Vasculitis	32
Post Mi Complications	33
Answer Key	35
CHAPTER 3 HIGH YIELD IMAGES & PE FOR THE USMLE STEP 1: INTRODUCTION	37
USMLE Test Taking Strategy Approach to Multimedia Questions	38
Test Taking Strategy for Image Questions	39
Top Images You Will Encounter on the USMLE	40
Answer Key	52
CHAPTER 4 HIGH YIELD IMAGES & PE FOR THE USMLE STEP 1: CARDIOLOGY	56
Murmurs & Maneuvers	57
Right Heart Failure Vs. Left Heart Failure	62
Transudative Vs. Exudative For The USMLE	63
Mechanism Of Edema	64
Turner Syndrome	65
Rapid Review Genetic Heart Lesions & Cardiac Anomalies	66
Genetic Conditions & Heart Lesions	67
Pathophysiology Of Tetralogy Of Fallot	68
Pathophysiology Of Tet Spells	70
Endocarditis	71
Microbiology Integration	72
Infective Endocarditis On USMLE	73
Rheumatic Fever	74
Erythema Marginatam	76
Answer Key	77

CHAPTER 5 NBME TOP CONCEPTS: RESPIRATORY	79
A-A Gradient (Hypoxemia)	80
Regional Circulation For The USMLE	86
Physical Exam Mcqs (Resp)	90
Restrictive Vs. Obstructive Disease	93
Lung Tumors	97
Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome	100
Answer Key	102
CHAPTER 6 HIGH YIELD IMAGES & PE FOR THE USMLE STEP 1: RESPIRATORY	106
Overview	107
Pneumothorax	110
Pneumonia For The USMLE	114
Clubbing	120
Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome	121
Answer Key	123
CHAPTER 7 NBME TOP CONCEPTS: ENDOCRINOLOGY	125
Hormone Signaling	126
Thyroid Disorders	129
Hypothyroid	131
Hyperthyroid	133
Pth And Calcium	135
Men Syndromes	138
Islet Cell Tumors	140
Dka Vs. Hhs	141
Diabetes Pharmacology	144
Aldosterone Disorders	145
Answer Key	146
CHAPTER 8 NBME TOP CONCEPTS: GASTROENTEROLOGY	148
Esophageal Issues	149
Acid Secretion In Stomach	153
Approach To Abdominal Pain On The USMLE	155
Hernias	157
Meckel's Diverticulum	158
Hirschsprung's Disease	160
Inflammatory Bowel Disease	161
Bile Acid Metabolism	164
Hepatitis B	165
Vesicular Steatosis	166
Answer Key	167
CHAPTER 9 HIGH YIELD IMAGES & PE FOR THE USMLE STEP 1: GASTROENTEROLOGY	169
Oral Pathology	170
Esophageal Pathology	174
Stomach Pathology	178
Intestinal Pathology	182
Answer Key	183

CHAPTER 10 | NBME TOP CONCEPTS: HEMATOLOGY**185**

Heme Synthesis	186
CYP Inducers	187
Lead Poisoning	188
Approach To The Blood Smear	189
Intro To Anemia	192
Microcytic Anemia	193
Acute Phase Reactants	195
Summary Of Microcytic	196
Macrocytic Anemia	197
B12 Physiology	199
Normocytic Anemia	200
HUS/TTP Polycythemia	203
Platelet Pathology	205
Warfarin Vs. Heparin	207
Multiple Myeloma	208
Summary & Courses	209
Answer Key	210

CHAPTER 11 | HIGH YIELD IMAGES & PE FOR THE USMLE STEP 1: HEMATOLOGY**213**

Hematology Overview	214
Peripheral Blood Smear	215
RBC Inclusions	216
Sickle Cell Disease	219
Complications Of Asplenia	222
Summary Of RBC Inclusions	223
Mechanisms Of Extravascular RBC Hemolysis	224
Mechanisms Of Intravascular RBC Hemolysis	225
Normocytic Anemia	226
Aplastic Anemia	228
Cold And Warm AIHA	230
Hus/TTP	231
Cells Of The Immune System	232
Causes Of Eosinophilia On USMLE	233
Causes Of Plasma Cells On USMLE	234
Causes Of Mast Cells On USMLE	235
Answer Key	236

CHAPTER 12 | NBME TOP CONCEPTS: NEUROLOGY**238**

Brain Hematomas	239
Herniation Syndromes & Cerebral Physiology	243
Cranial Nerve Path (1)	246
Bell's Palsy	249
Cranial Nerve Path	250
Multiple Sclerosis	251
Dementia	252
Dopamine Pathways	254
Trinucleotide Repeat Disorders	255
Neurocutaneous Syndromes	256
Brain Tumors	259
Stroke	261
Answer Key	263

CHAPTER 13 | HIGH YIELD IMAGES & PE FOR THE USMLE STEP 1: NEUROLOGY 266

Neuroanatomy	267
Trinucleotide Repeat Disorders	268
Pituitary Masses	269
Thalamic Stroke	270
Central Pontine Myelinolysis	271
Internal Capsule And Lacunar Strokes	272
Intracranial Tumours For The USMLE	274
Multiple Sclerosis	275
Cerebral Edema	276
Intracranial Pressure	277
Cerebral Autoregulation	278
Baroreceptor Reflex	279
Upper Motor Neuron Signs & Posturing	281
Spinal Cord Pathologies	282
Pseudotumor Cerebri	285
Hydrocephalus	286
CNS Infections	288
Answer Key	289

CHAPTER 14 | NBME TOP CONCEPTS: RENAL 291

Renal Casts	292
Kidney Stones	295
Urea Cycle + Stones (Pt.2)	298
Into To Nephritic/Nephrotic	301
Nephrotic Syndrome	302
Renal Failure	311
Diuretics	312
Answer Key	314

CHAPTER 15 | HIGH YIELD IMAGES & PE FOR THE USMLE STEP 1: RENAL 316

Renal Stones	317
Polycystic Kidneys	322
Nephrotic And Nephritic Syndromes	328
Tumors Of The Urinary Tract	337
Answer Key	339

CHAPTER 16 | NBME TOP CONCEPTS: REPRODUCTIVE 341

Disorders Of Sexual Development	342
Turner's Syndrome Integration	345
Testosterone Disorders	347
Mullerian Agenesis Vs. Ais	348
Summary Of Disorders Of Sexual Development	350
Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome	351
Ovarian Physiology	354
Ovarian Tumors	356
Repro Ligaments	360
Uterine Disorders	361
Cervical Disorders (HPV)	366
Answer Key	367

CHAPTER 17 | NBME TOP CONCEPTS: MUSCULOSKELETAL & RHEUMATOLOGY 370

NMJ Disorders	371
Bullous Diseases	373
Hemoptysis & Hematuria	375
Skin Cancers (With Neural Crest)	376
RA Vs. OA	382
Seronegative Spondyloarthritis	385
Lupus	388
Anti Body Rapid Fire (USMLE)	391
Answer Key	393

CHAPTER 18 | NBME TOP CONCEPTS: PSYCHIATRY 397

Mood Disorders	398
Bipolar + Li Pharm	399
Psychotic Disorders	404
Eating Disorders	408
Drugs Of Abuse (Toxicology)	411
Answer Key	414

CHAPTER 19 | NBME TOP CONCEPTS: ONCOLOGY 418

Cardiac Oncology	419
Endocrine Oncology	421
Gastrointestinal Oncology	423
Lymphoma & Vascular Tumors	428
Renal Oncology	431
Respiratory Oncology	435
Neuro Oncology	437
Breast Oncology	439
Neoplasia (Get Path Integration)	441
Answer Key	442

CHAPTER 20 | NBME TOP CONCEPTS: DERMATOLOGY 445

Approach To Urticaria	446
Dermatology Nomenclature	448
Plaques	450
Viral & Bacterial Exanthems	451
Rubella	453
Measles	454
Roseola	455
Erythema Infectiosum	456
Systematic Manifestations Of Herpes	458
Varicella Infections On USMLE	459
Erysipelas Vs. Cellulitis	461
Staph And Strep Infections	462
Nikolsky Sign Manifestations For The Usml	463
Neonatal Rashes	464
Precursor Lesions To Neoplasia	465
Summary	466
Answer Key	

CHAPTER 1

Cardiac Physiology for the USMLE

Dr. Carl Wiggers

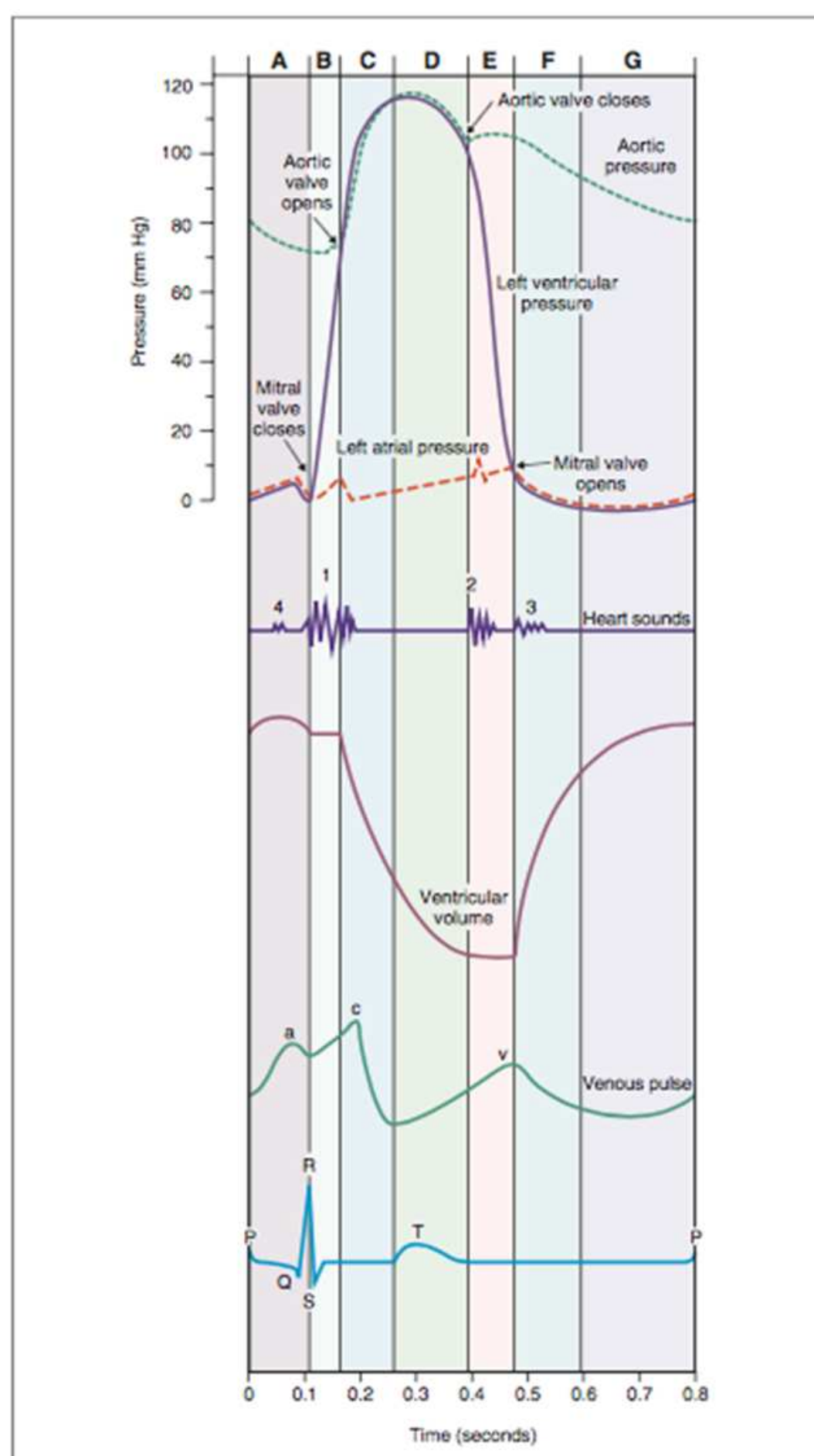


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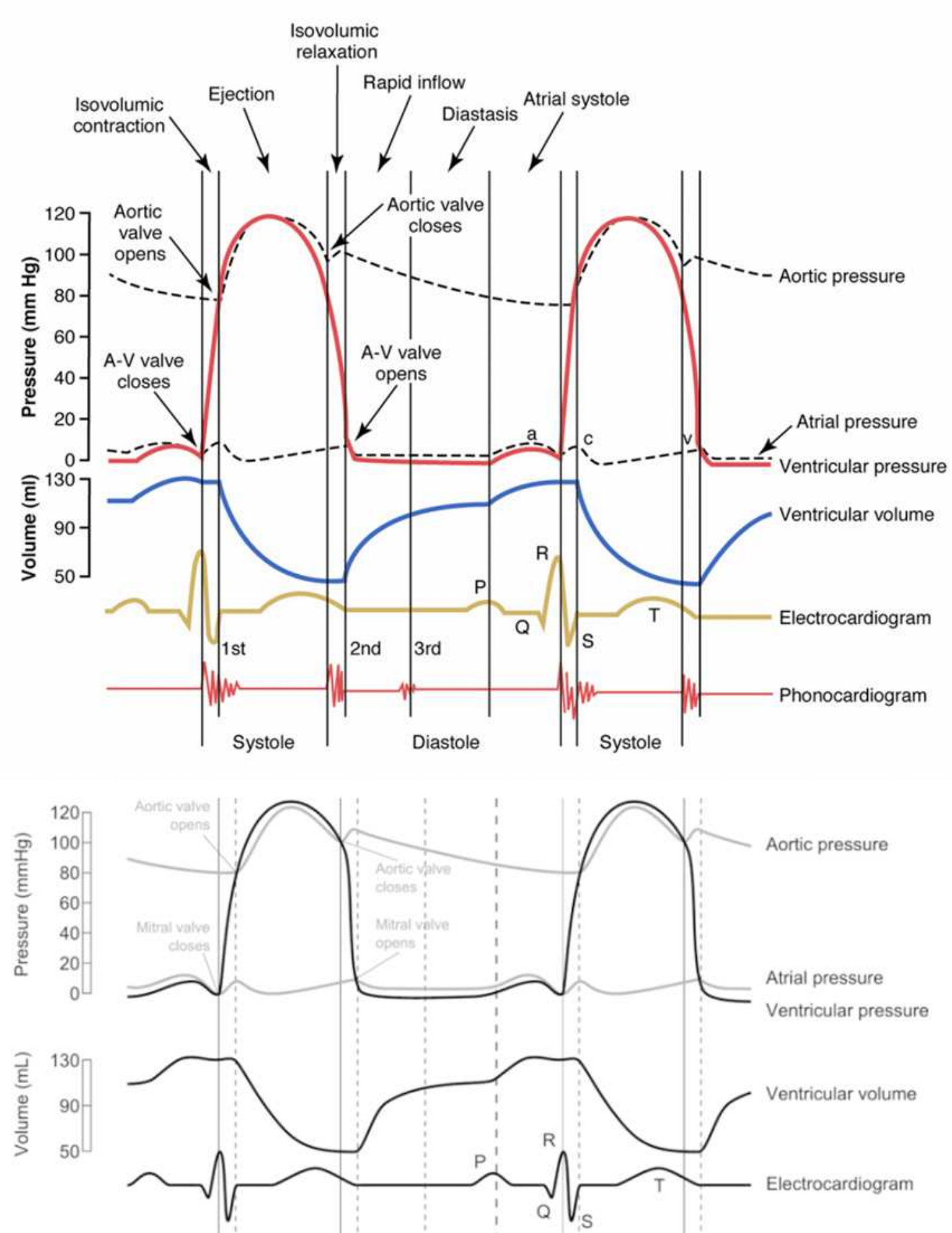
Dr. Carl Wiggers

- Earliest Descriptions published in 1915
- A comprehensive approach on learning the electrical & mechanical activity of the heart.
- Forms the basis for understanding Cardiac Physiology for the USMLE.

Mastering the Cardiac Cycle



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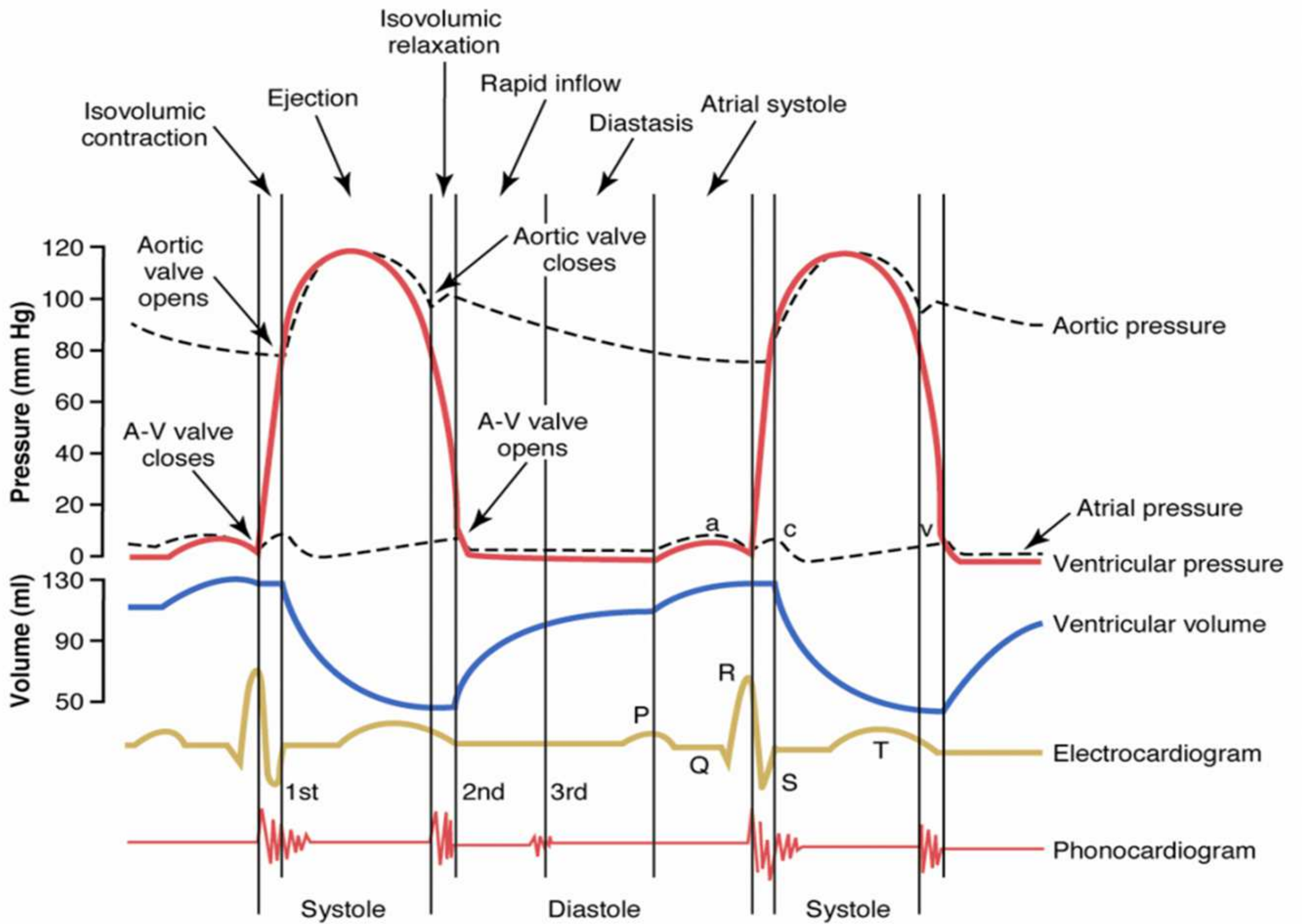


STRATEGIES ON MASTERING THE CARDIAC CYCLE

Active Recall of Events

- Ask yourself 'Where is the blood flow?'
- Isolate each curve in your mind understanding pressure and volume
- Electrical activity of the heart precedes mechanical activity of the heart!

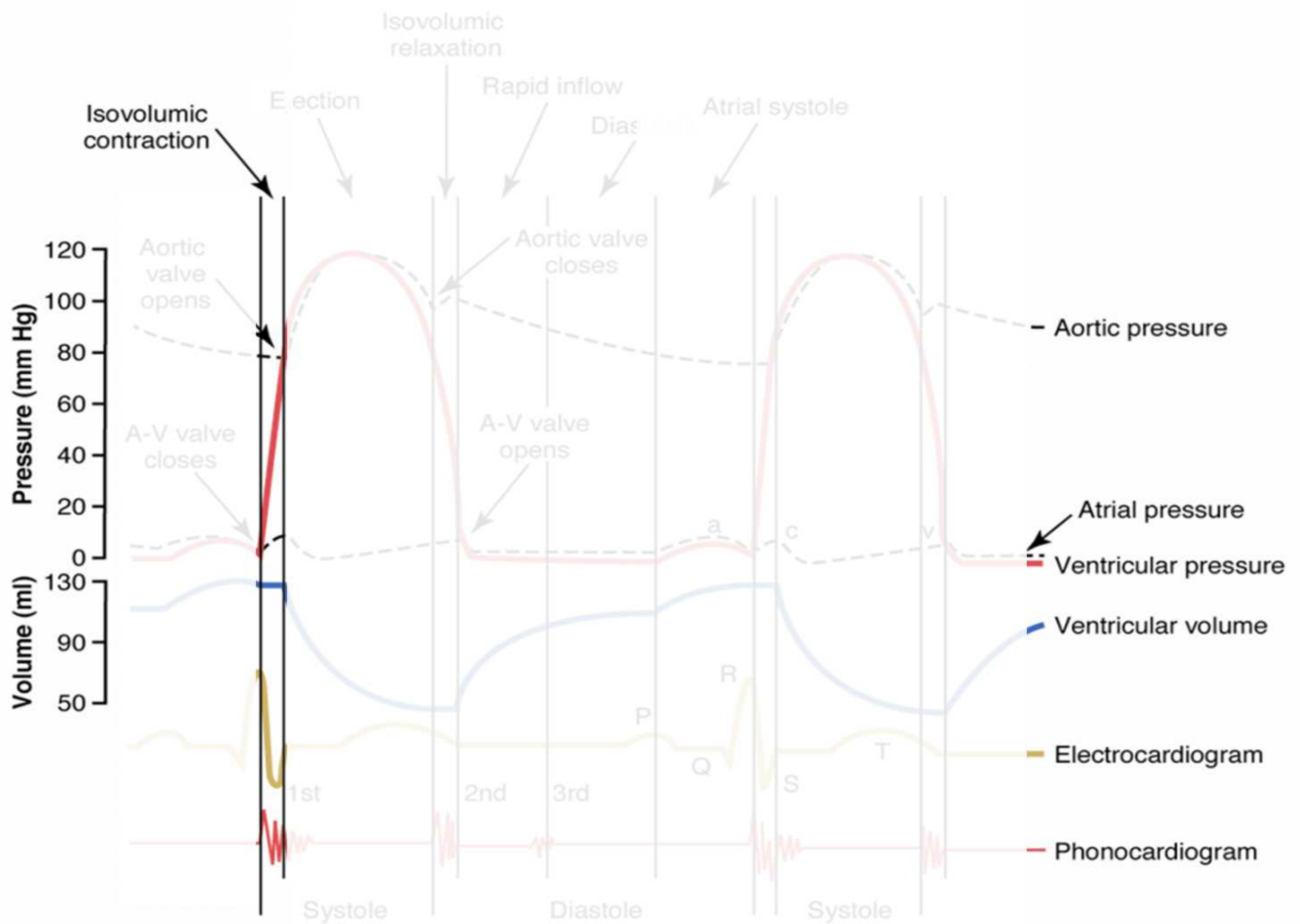
Major Events and Curves of the Cardiac Cycle



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Isovolumetric Ventricular Contraction

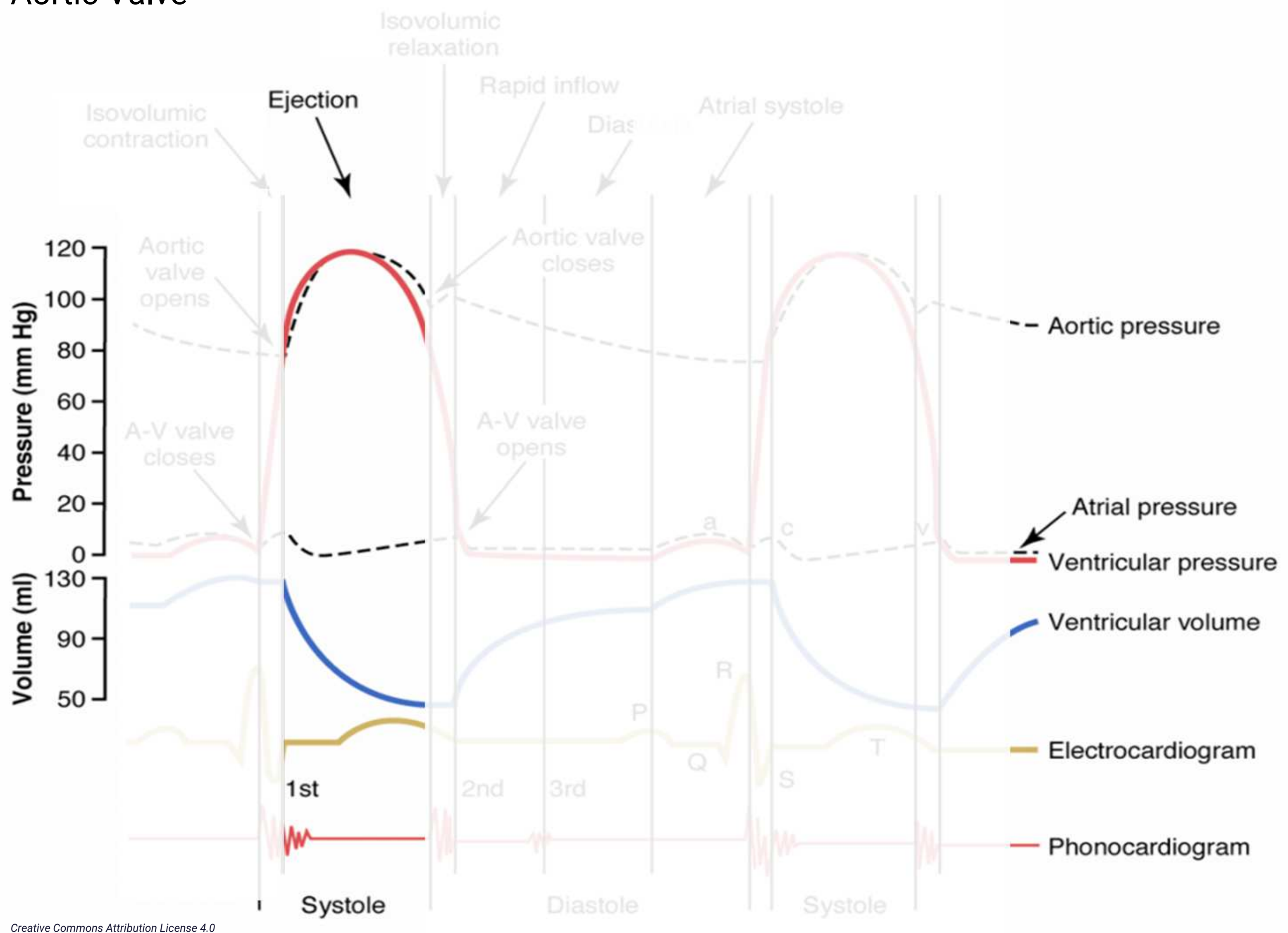
- Isovolumetric Ventricular Contraction
 - What is the heart doing?
 - Ventricles contracting → What does this say about pressure?
 - Increases
 - On the EKG, what wave does this correlate to?
 - QRS complex
 - What heart sound do you hear clinically at the beginning of this phase?
 - 1st heart sound



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Rapid Ventricular Ejection

- Rapid Ventricular Ejection
 - What is the heart doing?
 - Ventricles contract (max pressure) → blood is flowing into the aorta
 - Aortic pressure is increasing
 - What is happening with ventricular volume?
 - Decreasing
 - On the EKG, what wave does this correlate to?
 - ST Segment
 - Which valve is open during this time?
 - Aortic Valve



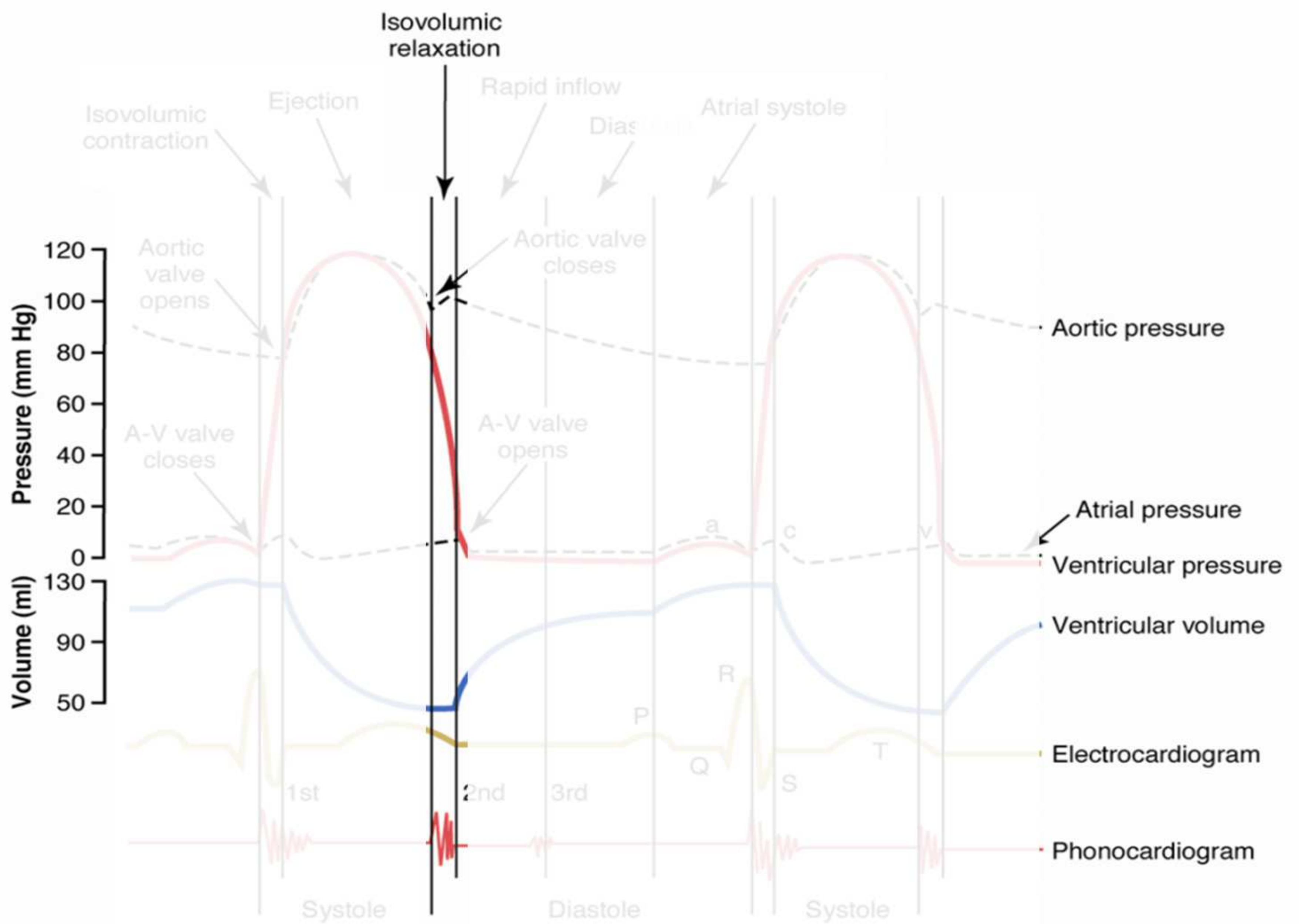
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Review Systolic Events of the Cardiac Cycle

Phase	Major Events	EKG	Valves	Heart Sounds
Isovolumetric Ventricular Contraction	Ventricles contract P↑	QRS Complex	All closed	First Heart Sound
Ventricular Ejection	Ventricles contract P↑ V↓	ST Segment	Aortic valve opens	--

Isovolumetric Ventricular relaxation

- Isovolumetric Ventricular Relaxation
 - What is the heart doing?
 - Ventricular pressure decreases
 - What valve just closed during this phase?
 - Aortic valve
 - What heart sound do you hear clinically?
 - 2nd heart sound



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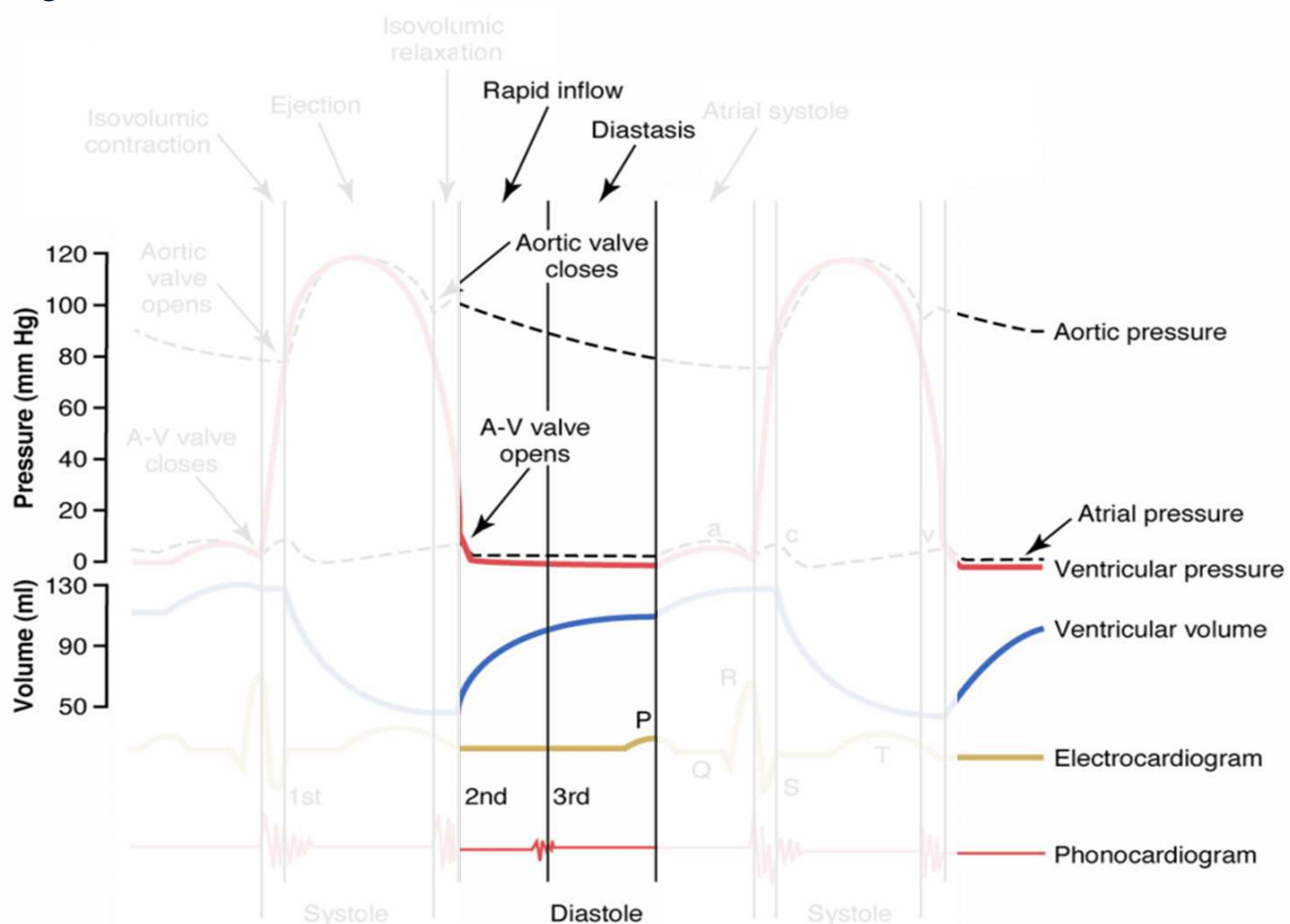
Rapid Ventricular Filling

- Rapid Ventricular Filling
 - What is the heart doing?
 - Ventricles are filling passively with blood
 - Ventricular volume is increasing
 - Ventricular pressure is low and constant to keep the passive flow going
 - What valve is open?
 - Mitral
 - What heart sound do you hear clinically?
 - 3rd heart sound

Reduced Ventricular Filling

- Reduced Ventricular Filling
 - What is the heart doing?
 - Ventricles are relaxed
 - What valve is open?
 - Mitral
- This is the **longest phase** of the cardiac cycle.
- A patient is undergoing an exercise stress test on a treadmill. What effect will this have on this phase of the cardiac cycle?
 - Decreased time available for ventricular filling.

Ventricular Filling



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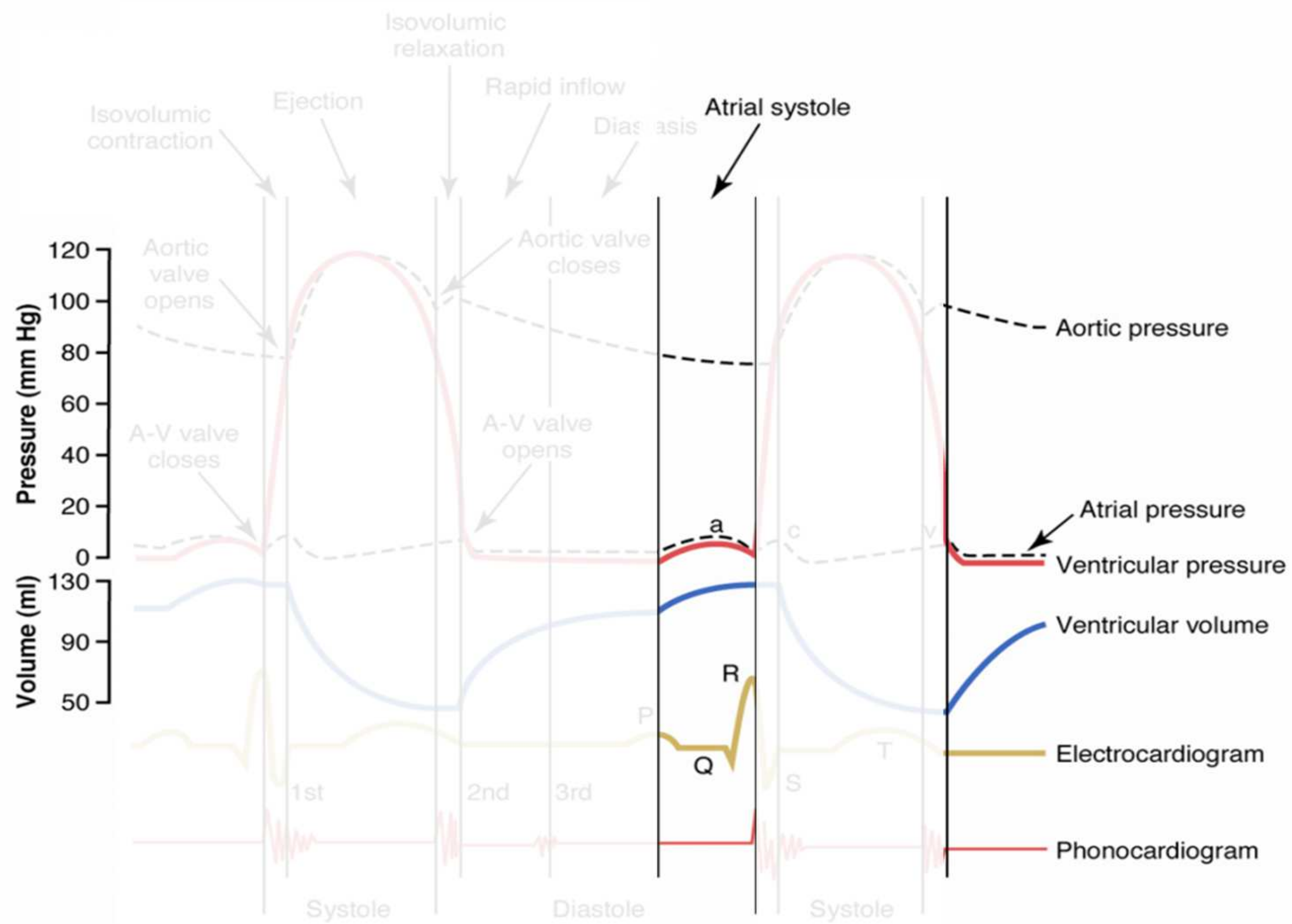
NBME Style Question

A middle-aged male presents with shortness of breath while lying flat. He is found to have a 3/6 holosystolic murmur heard best at the apex. Dilated cardiomyopathy is suspected. Which of the following physical exam findings would be less likely to be associated with this presentation?

- A. Apical impulses shifted to the axillary line at the sixth intercostal space.
- B. S4 gallop.
- C. Bibasilar crackles.
- D. Peripheral edema.
- E. Hepatomegaly.

Atrial Systole

- Atrial Systole
 - What is the heart doing?
 - Atria contracting → final phase of ventricular filling
 - On the EKG, what wave does this correlate to?
 - P wave and PR interval
 - Clinically, what can you hear on cardiac exam?
 - 4th heart sound

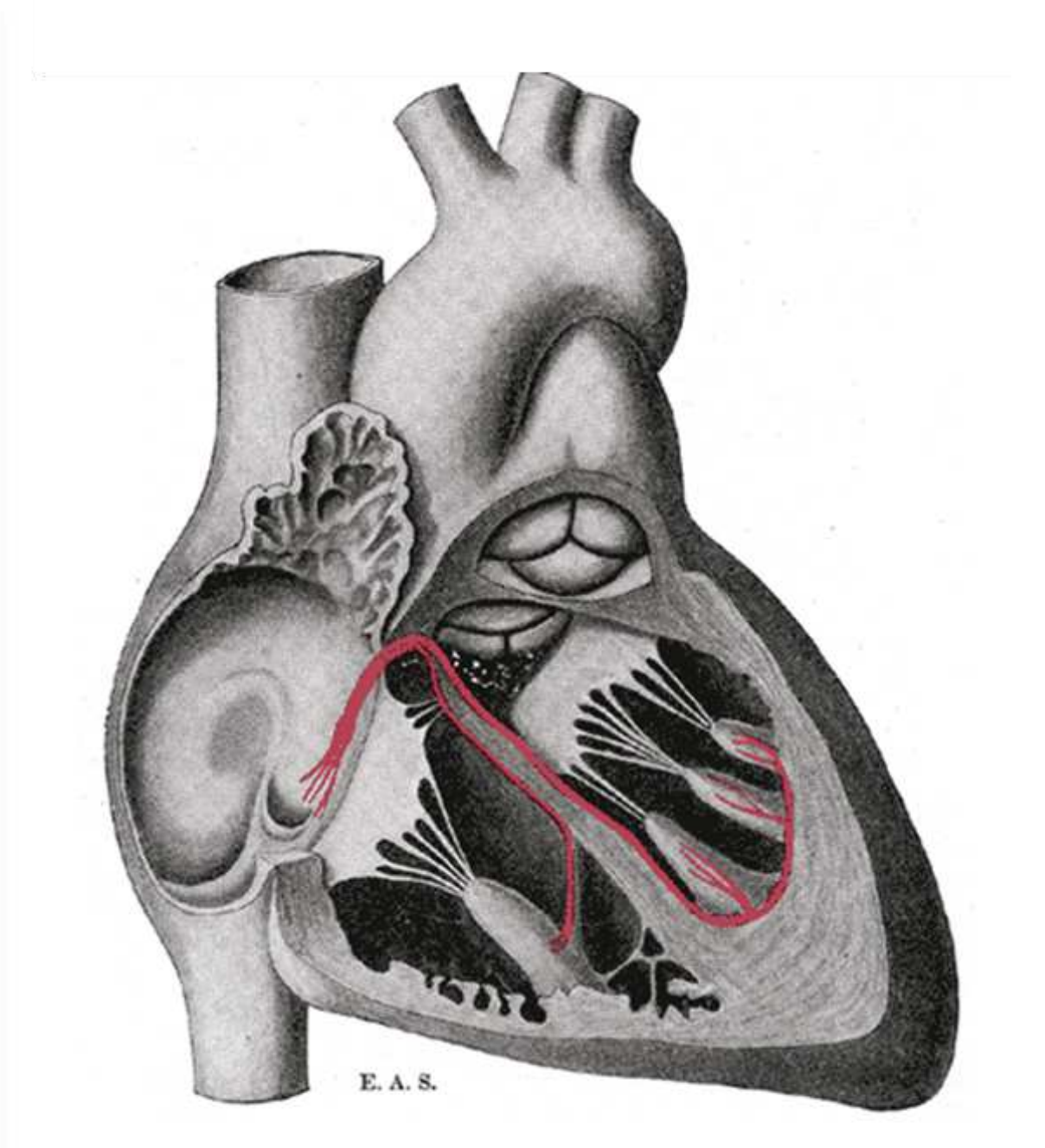
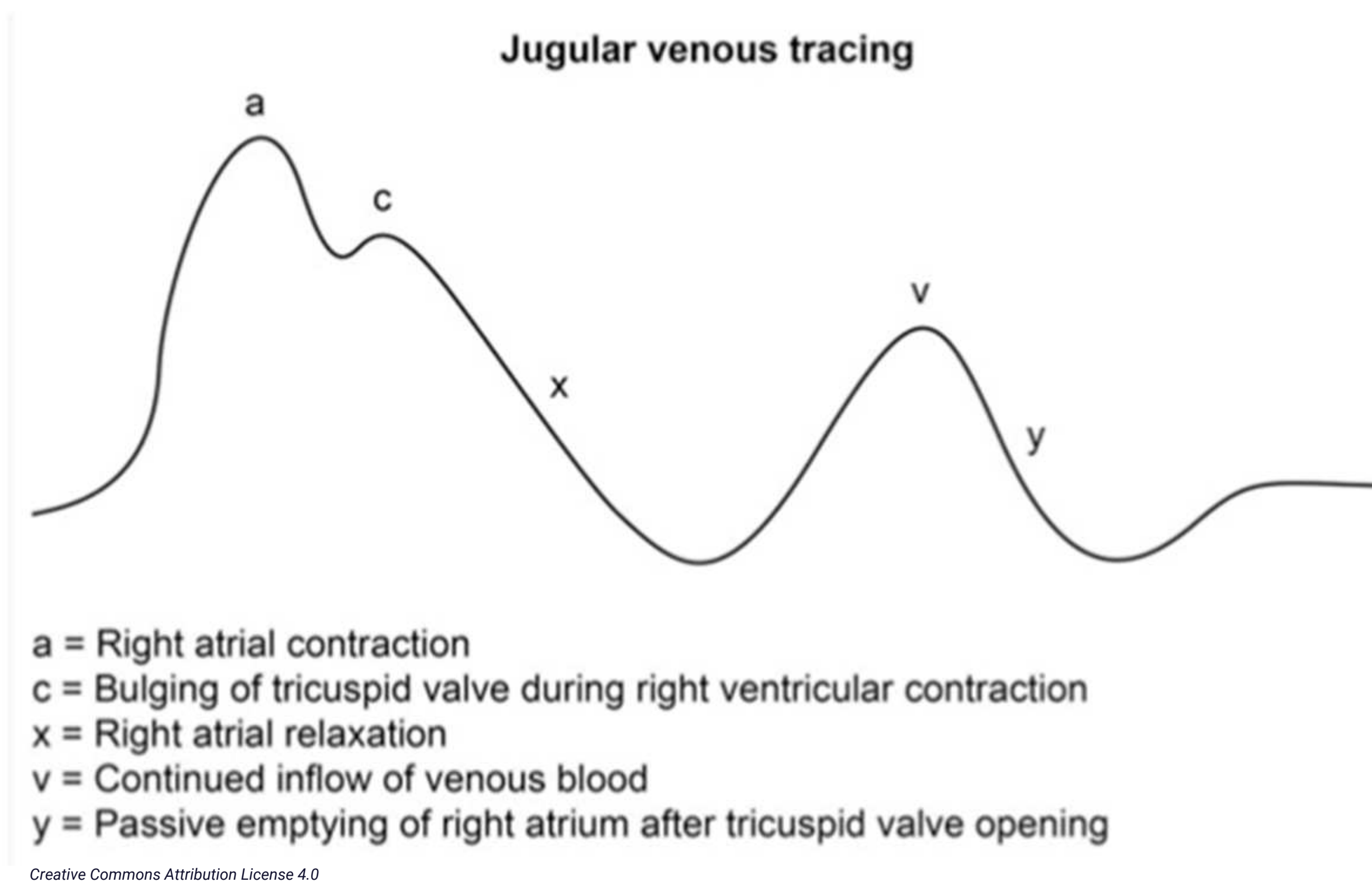


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Review Diastolic Events of the Cardiac Cycle

Phase	Major Events	EKG	Valves	Heart Sounds
Isovolumetric Ventricular Relaxation	Ventricles relaxed P ↓	--	All closed	Second Heart Sound
Rapid Ventricular Filling	Ventricles relaxed P ↓ V ↑	--	Mitral Valve Opens	Third Heart Sound
Reduced Ventricular Filling	Ventricles relaxed	--	Mitral Valve remains open	
Atrial Systole	Atria contract	P wave PR interval	Mitral valve is open	Fourth Heart Sound

Jugular Venous Tracing



NBME Style Question

A 30 year old male is hit in the chest with a baseball bat. He is tachycardic and he has shallow respirations. On palpation of his abdomen, a prominent jugular vein is appreciated. Bedside echo shows a collapsed atria on diastole. What is the most likely vital sign change which may be present in this patient?

- A. Decrease in diastolic blood pressure by 6 mmHg during exhalation.
- B. Increase in diastolic blood pressure by 10 mmHg during inhalation.
- C. Decrease in systolic blood pressure by 10 mmHg during exhalation.
- D. Decrease in systolic blood pressure by 10 mmHg during inhalation.

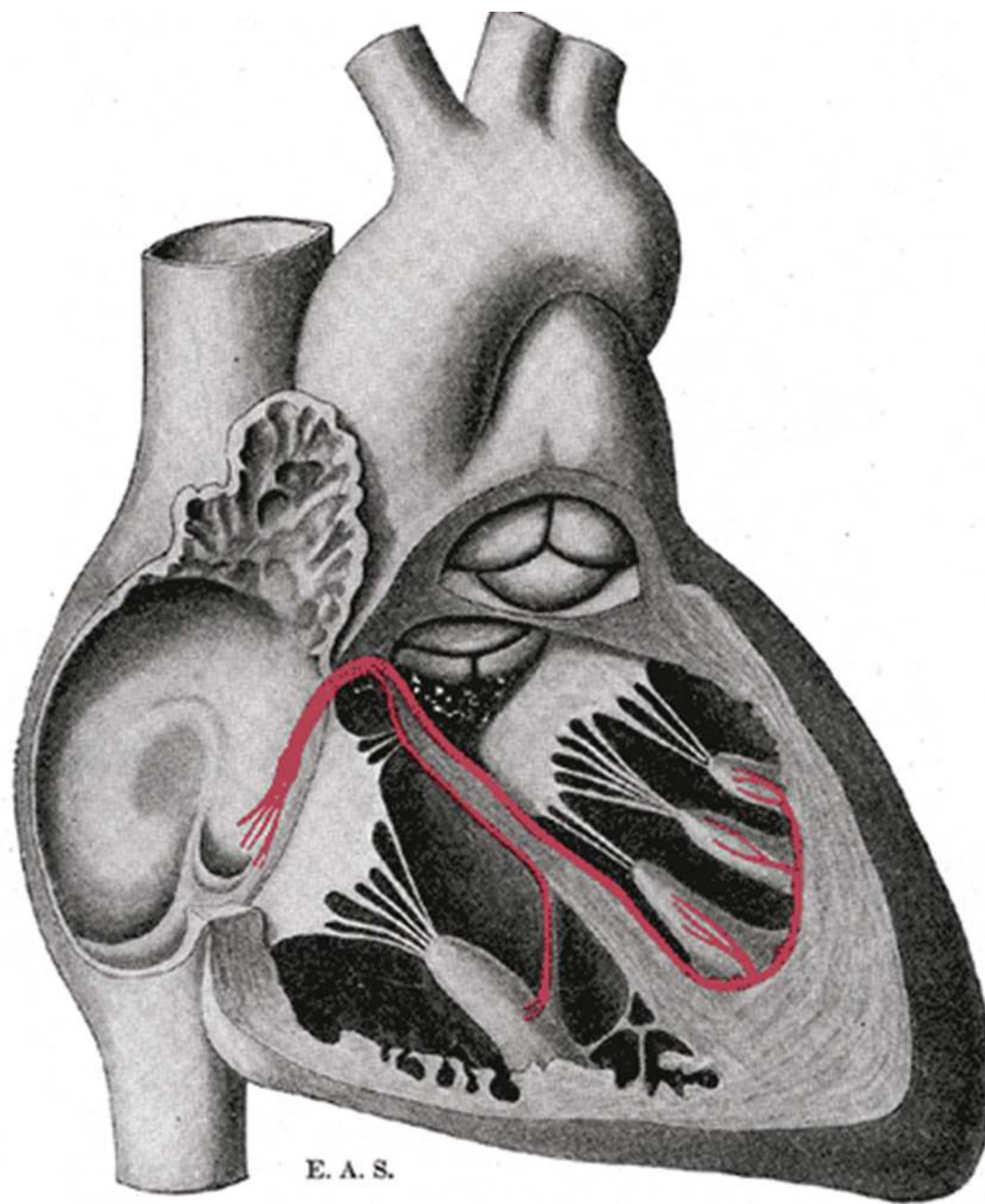
Pulsus Paradoxes

Decrease in SBP by 10 mmHg during Inspiration

Cardiac Tamponade on the USMLE Step 1:

Recognize Triads

- Physical exam shows a prominent jugular vein.
- BP < 90/60
- Heart sounds are in-audible or muffled.

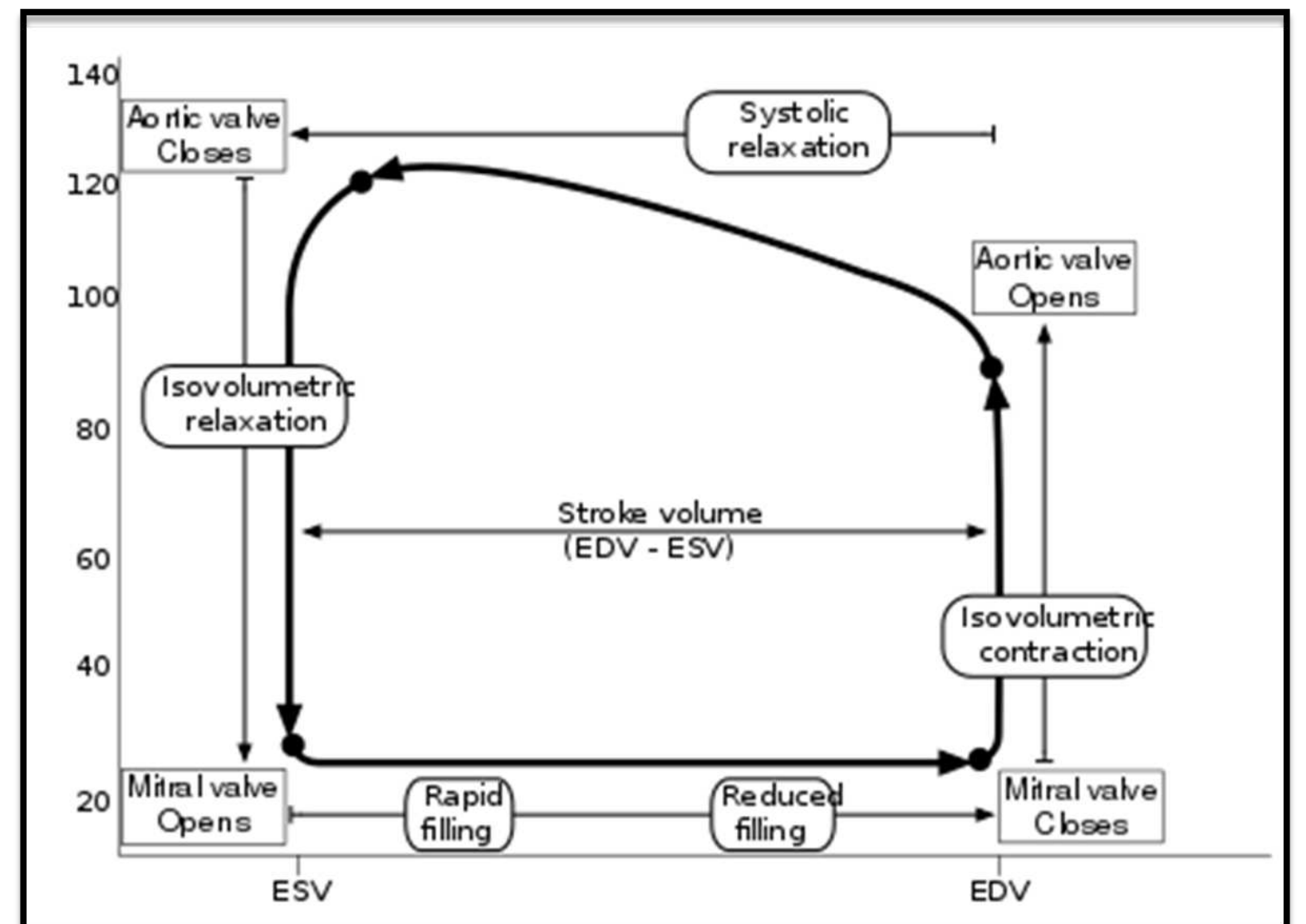


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Pressure Volume Loops

A patient has a rumbling diastolic murmur heard at the apex. The snap of this murmur occurs at which point?

- D. Mitral valve opening.
- Cardiac event:
 - A. Mitral valve closure.
 - B. Aortic valve open.
 - C. Aortic valve close.
 - D. Mitral valve opening.

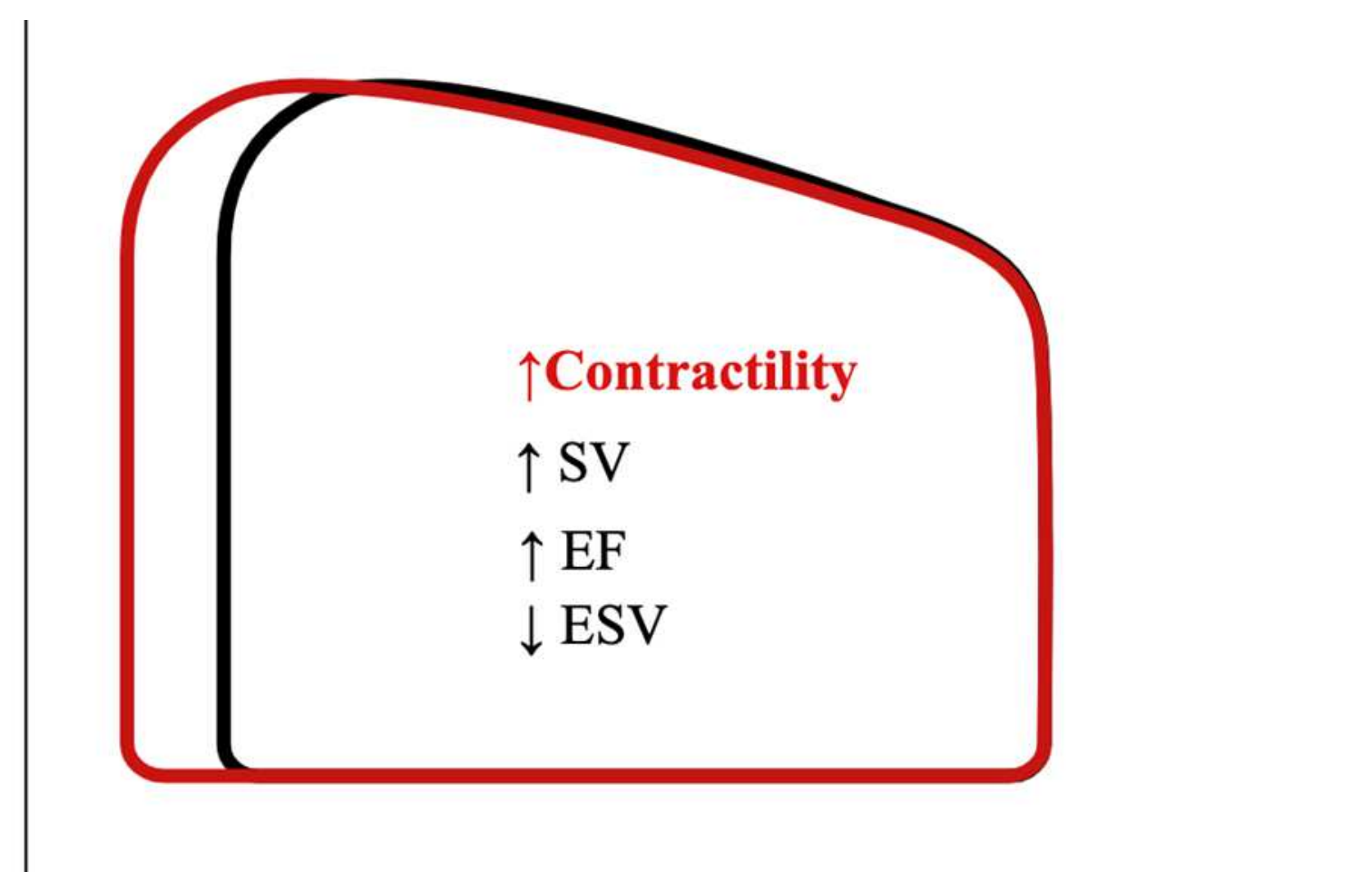


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Pressure Volume Loops for the USMLE

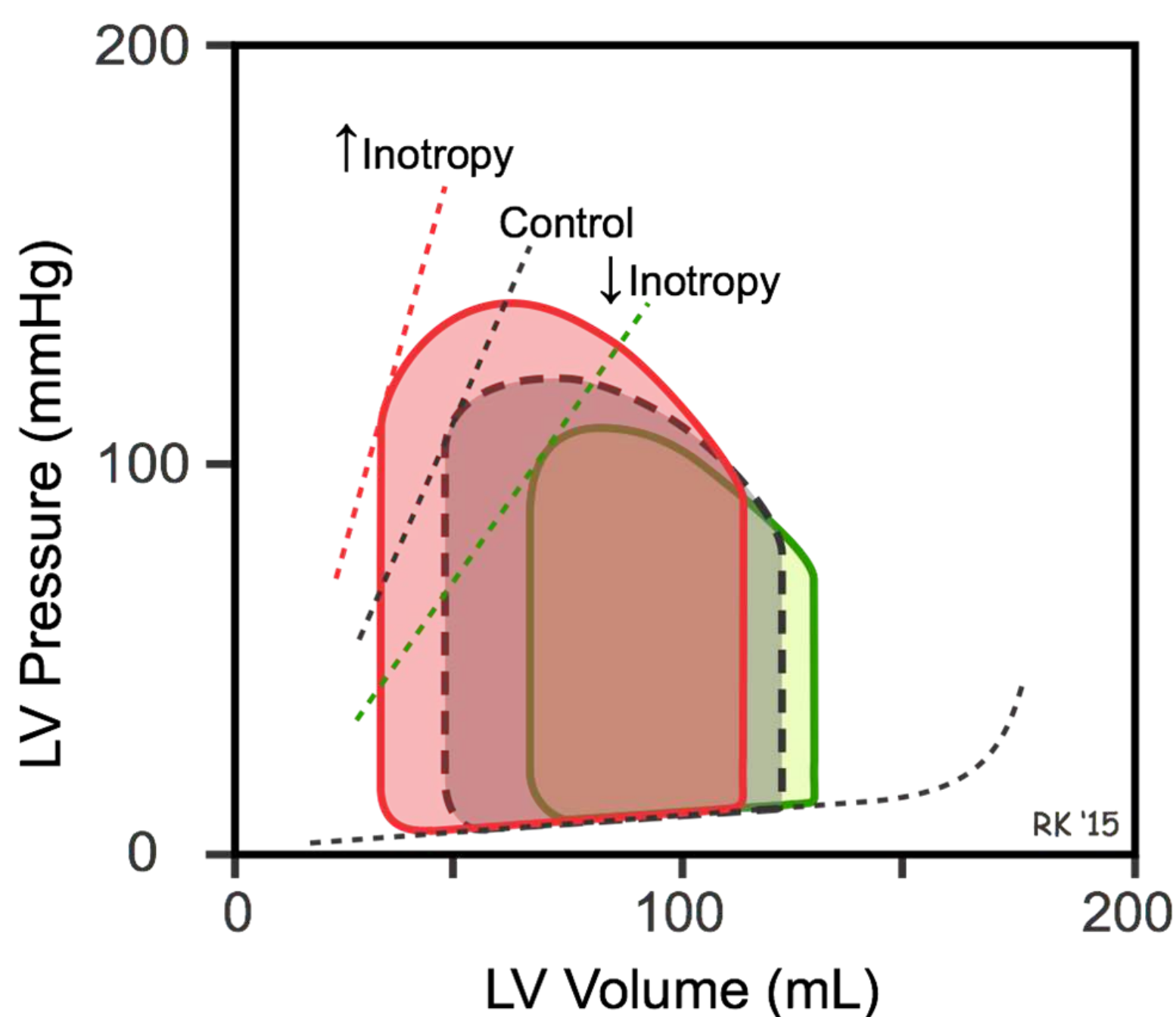
USMLE Vignettes relevant to this change:

- ↑ β1 mediated activity
- ↑ [Ca²⁺]
 - P₀₄ phospholamban
- “A patient started on a medication for heart-failure and suddenly develops vision changes and increased [K]?”
 - Digoxin
 - Inhibits the Na⁺/K⁺ ATPase.
 - Makes Ca²⁺ more difficult to leave myocyte.
 - ↑ contractility.



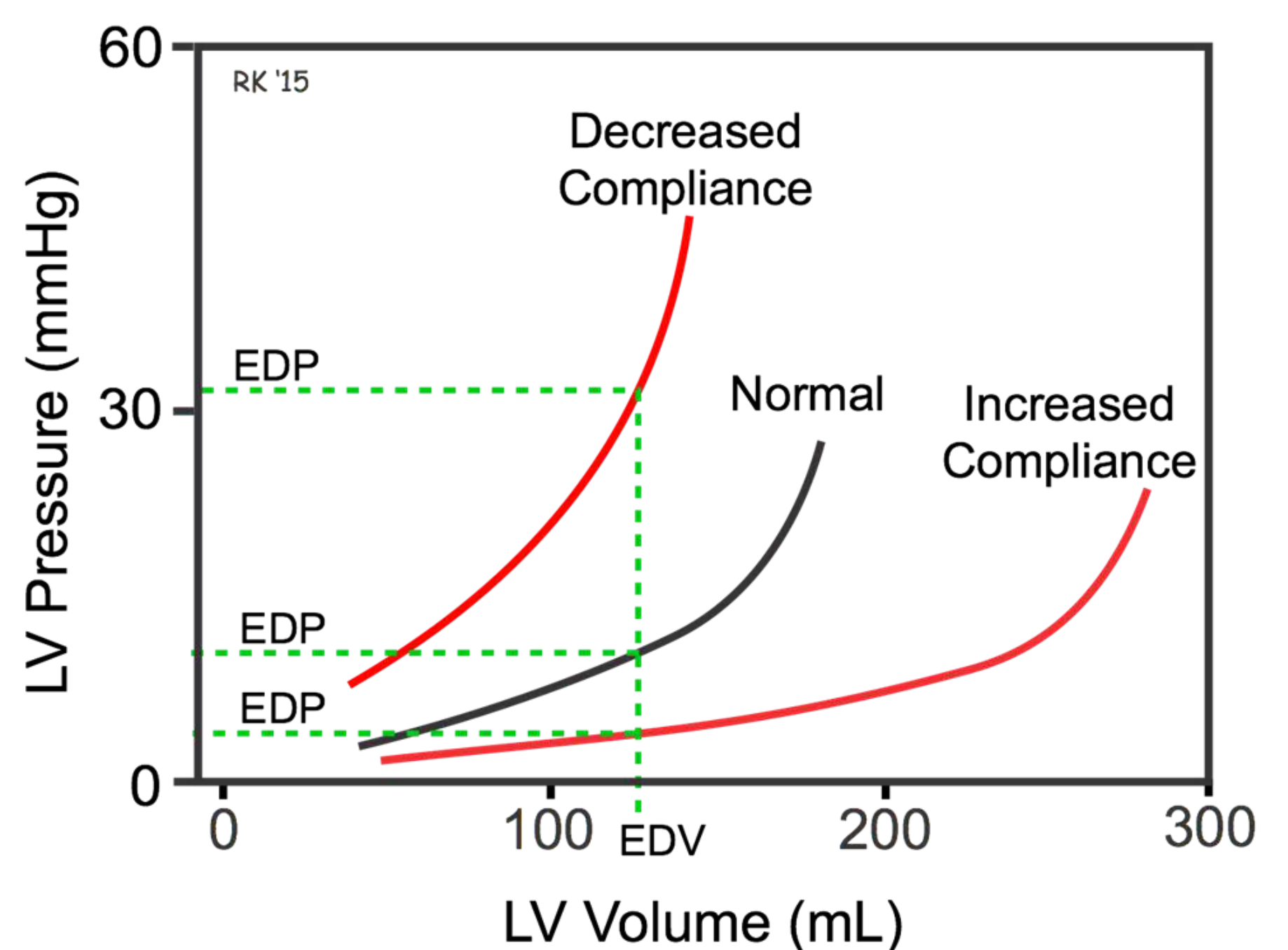
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Changes in the ESPVR



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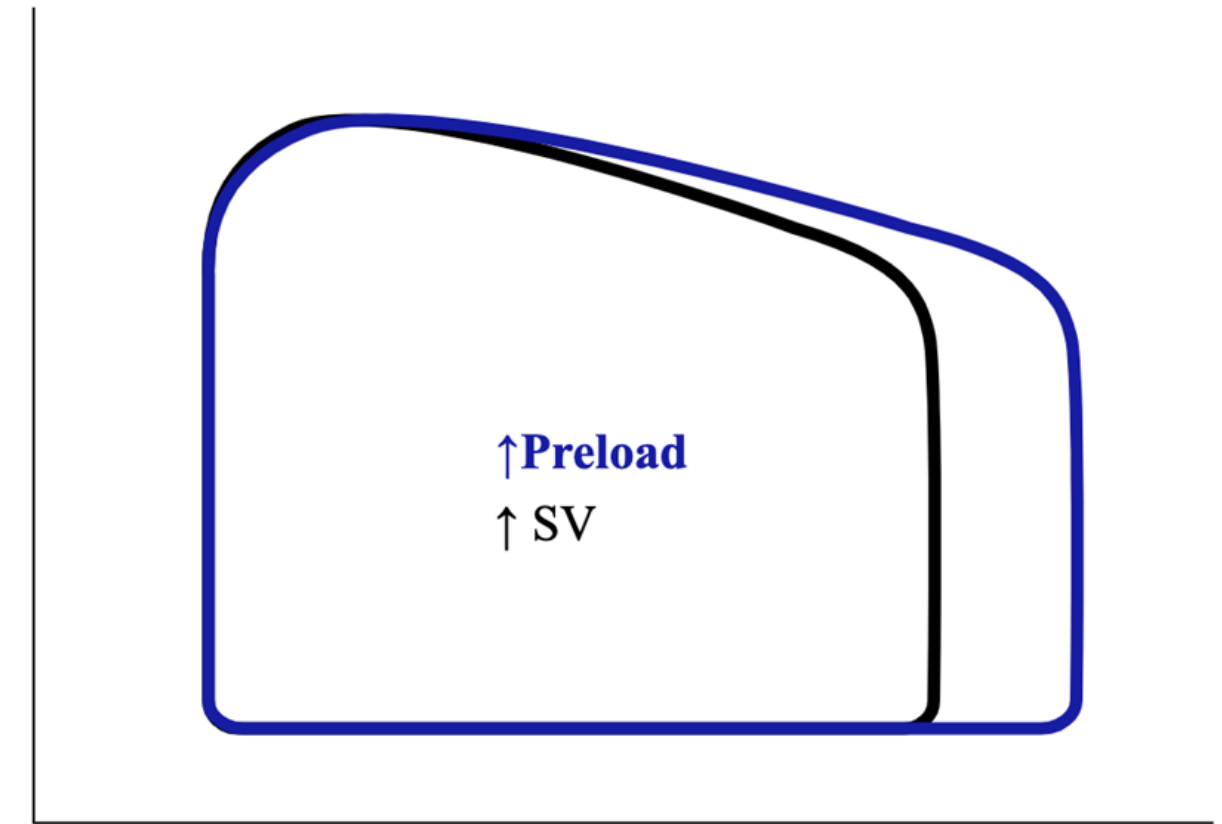
Changes in EDPVR



Pressure Volume Loops for the USMLE

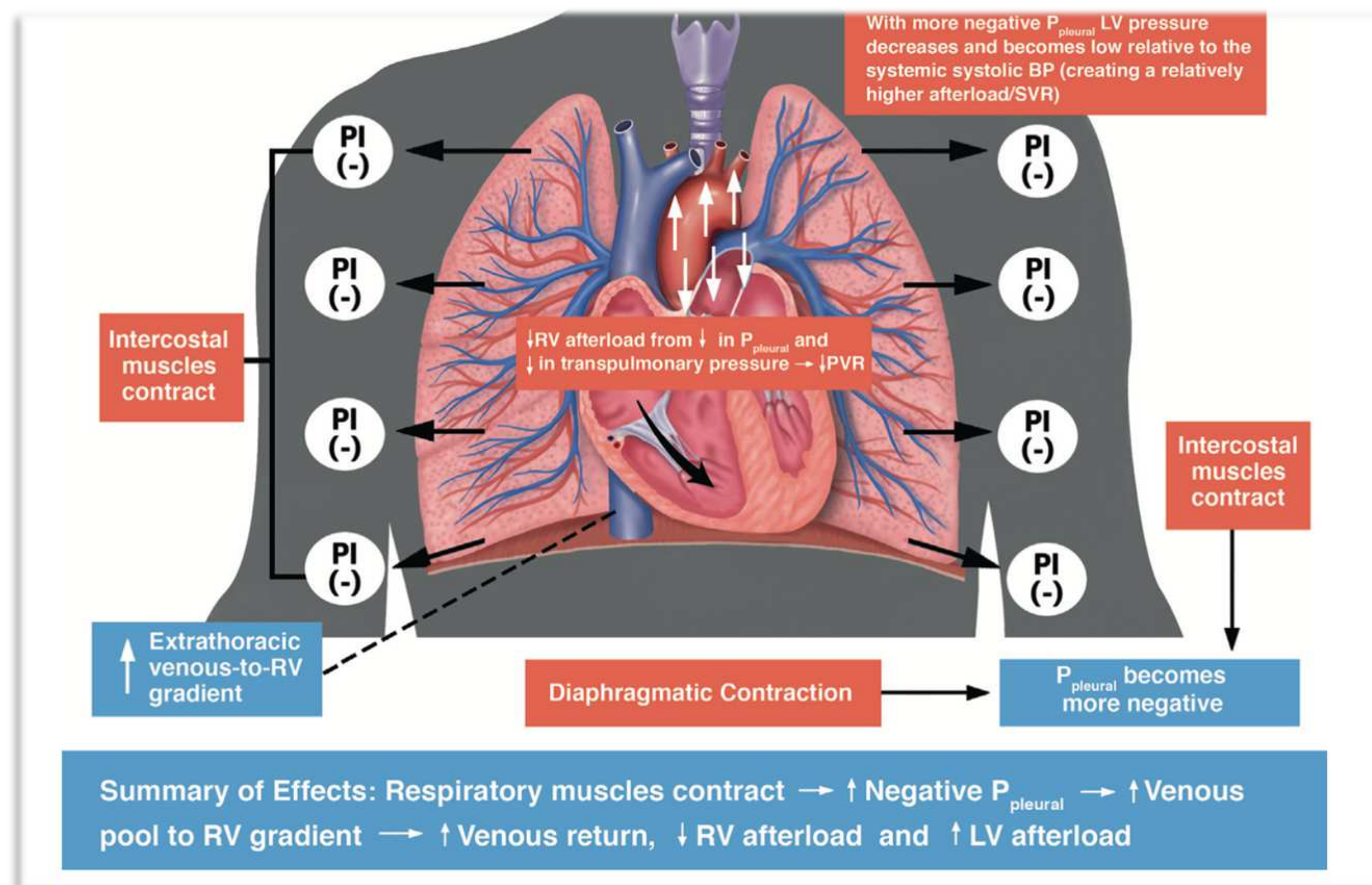
USMLE Vignettes relevant to this change:

- ↑ Endi Diastolic Volume
- ↑ Venous Tone:
 - Exercise
- **USMLE Vignette:**
 - A patient who recently was placed on hemo-dialysis for CKD. The patient is noted to have hyperdynamic precordium. Bounding pulses. Diagnosis?
 - A-V fistula = ↑ preload
- Passive leg raise



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Summary of Effects

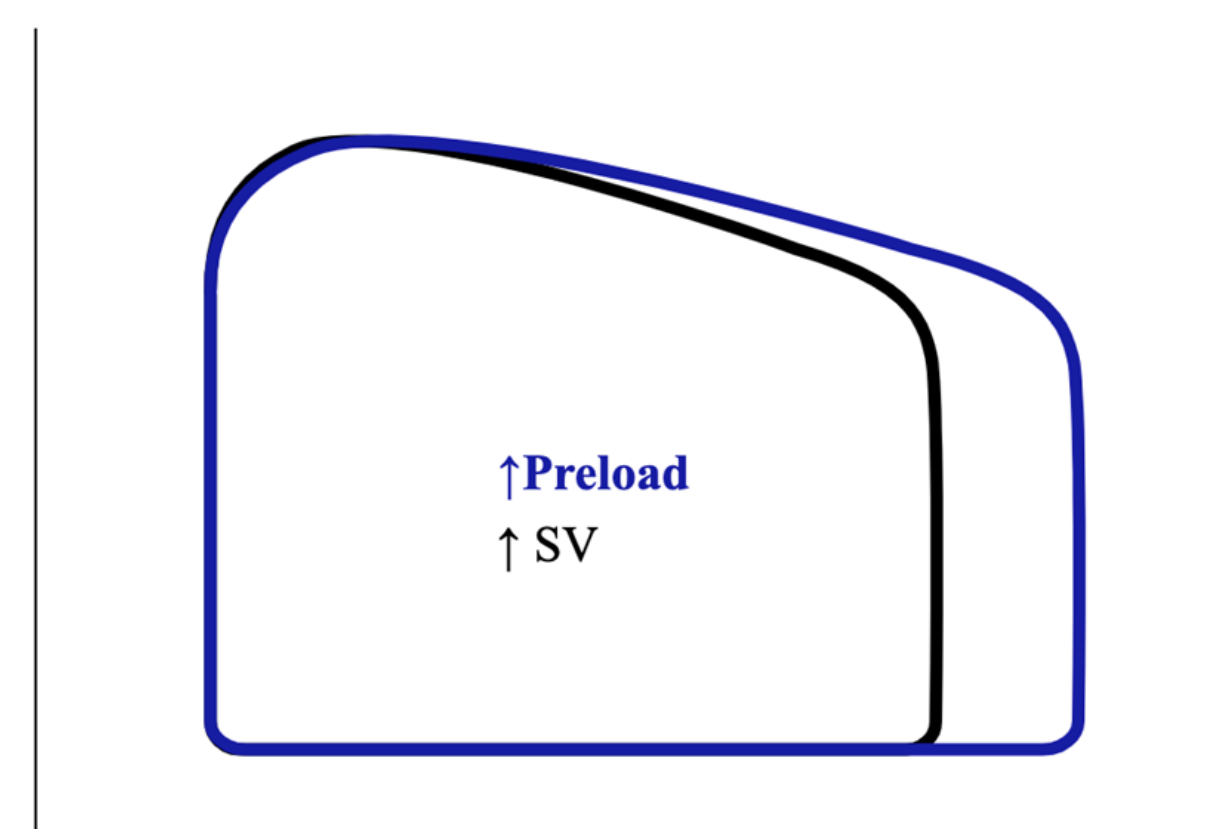


Positive Pressure Ventilation in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2018;72:1532-1553.

Pressure Volume Loops for the USMLE

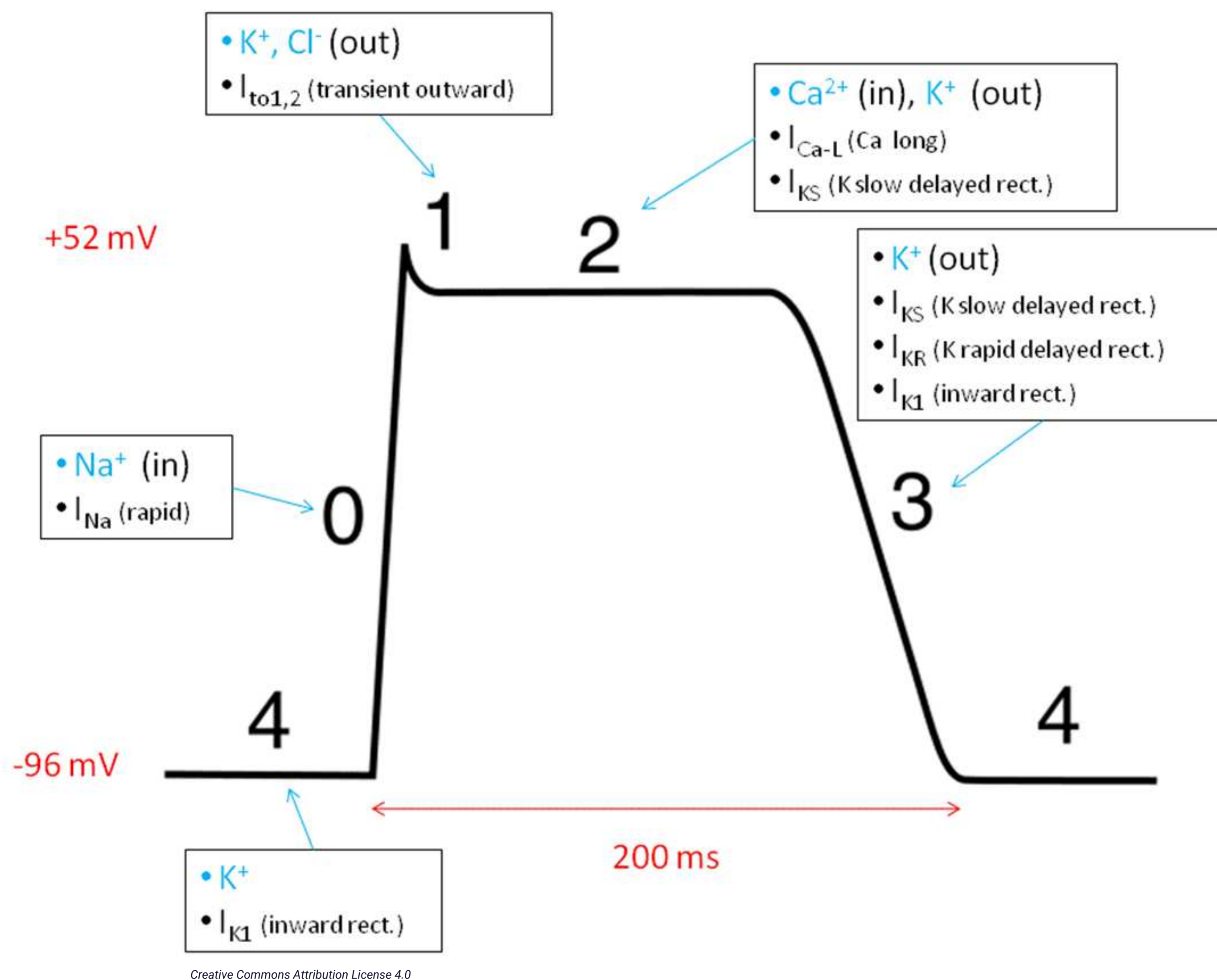
USMLE Vignettes relevant to this change:

- Afterload is largely dependent upon aortic pressure.
- ↑ blood pressure (essential hypertension)
- “A 50-year-old male who presents with passing out. He has CP non-tender to palpation. Walk test notes dyspnea. A murmur at the R-second intercostal space is noted. What is the likely mechanism?
 - Age related calcific stenosis →
 - A-V fistula = ↑ preload



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Compare and Contrast Two Action Potentials



Cardiac Action Potential

In ventricular muscle, what ion determines the phase 4 of the cardiac action potential?

- Potassium permeability
- K equilibrium potential is -84 mV

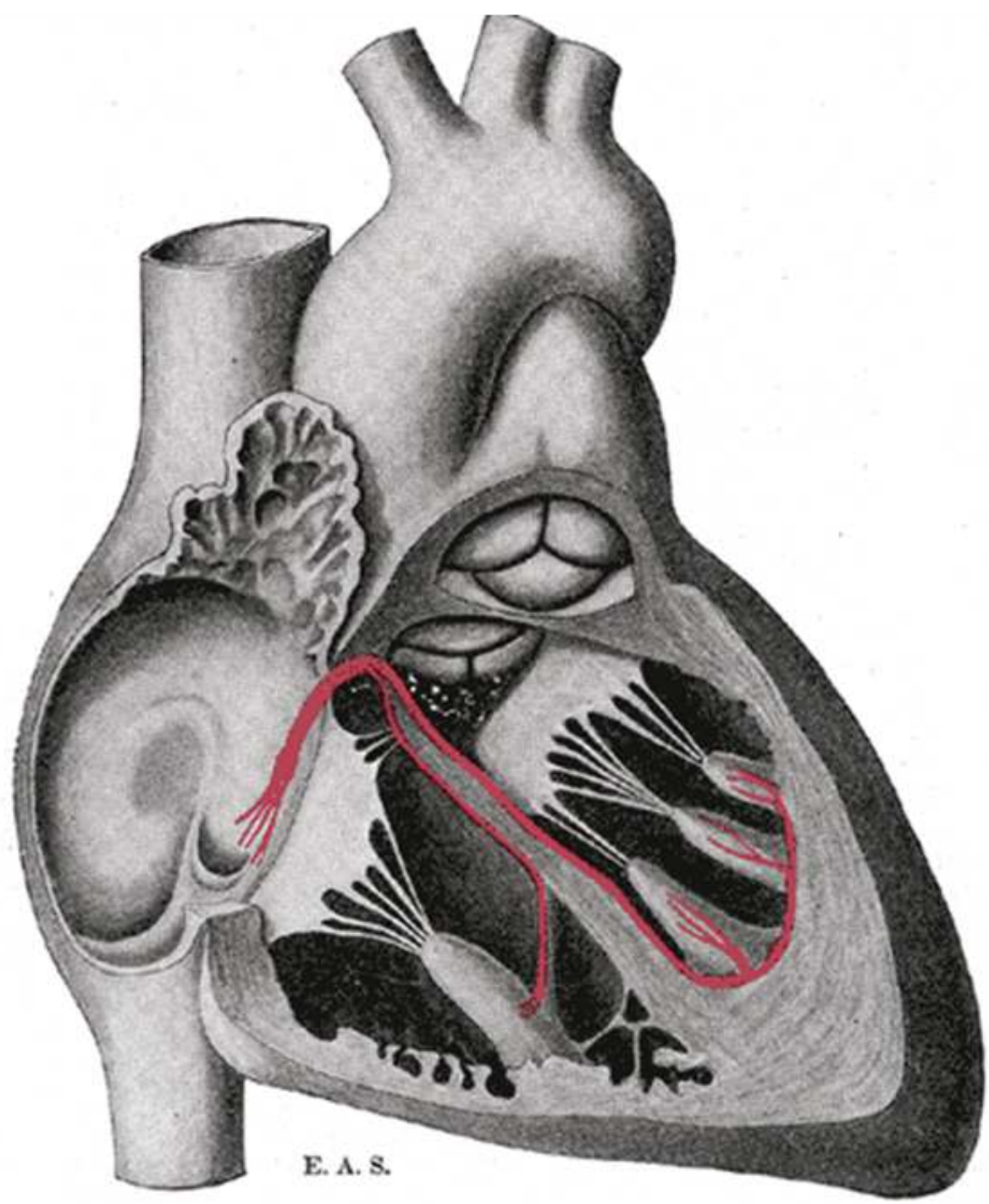
What ion determines phase 0 of the ventricular action potential?

- Na influx

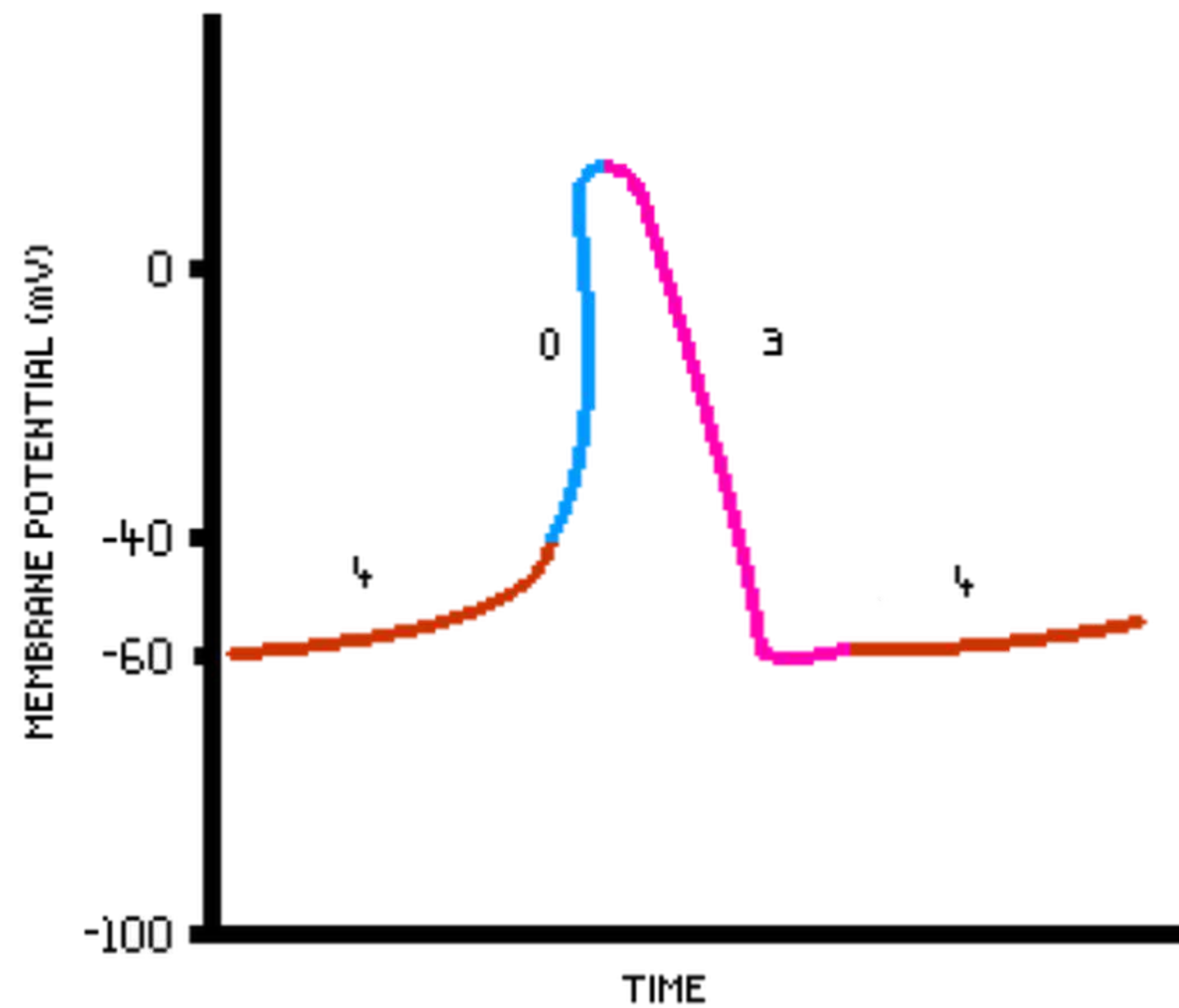
What phase of the ventricular action potential defines the difference between skeletal action potential vs. ventricular action potential?

- Phase 2 → Cardiac action potential has a plateau phase which is due to Ca influx and K efflux.
- Other differences: Ca induced Ca release, and gap-junctions

Compare and Contrast Two Action Potentials



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Cardiac Action Potential

A farmer is working in the field and suddenly experiences lacrimation, rhinorrhea, and diarrhea. He begins to have sweating and bronchospasm. In the ED, his HR is found to be 45.

- An increase in which NT defines his symptoms?
 - Ach (due to inhibition of AchE).
- What phase of the nodal action potential does his bradycardia affect?
 - Phase 4

Regional Circulation for the USMLE

Circulation	What factors increase blood flow to these areas?	USMLE Vignettes
Coronary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypoxia • Adenosine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A patient who presents with myocardial infarction. He goes to cath lab and gets a stent place. What local metabolite mediated flow prior to stent?
Cerebral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CO₂ • H⁺ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A patient who has a history of asthma, has a respiratory acidosis and is somnolent. What is the mechanism? • A patient with impending herniation, what is the mechanism behind hyperventilation?
Skeletal Muscle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lactate • CO₂ • Adenosine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An athlete who feels sore the next day. What mediator contributes to his soreness?
Pulmonary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypoxia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An obese male with daytime sleepiness. Found to have increased RV pressures on echocardiogram. What physiologic principle drives the changes in pulmonary vasculature?
Renal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PGE-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A female with osteoarthritis who has taken Ibuprofen for 5 months, now has elevated creatinine. The medication inhibits what physiologic mechanism?

Ventricular Filling

A middle-aged male presents with shortness of breath while lying flat. He is found to have a 3/6 holosystolic murmur heard best at the apex. Dilated cardiomyopathy is suspected. Which of the following physical exam findings would be less likely to be associated with this presentation?

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 - B. S4 gallop**
 - C. Bibasilar crackles
 - D. Peripheral edema
 - E. Hepatomegaly
-

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A 30-year-old male is hit in the chest with a baseball bat. He is tachycardic and he has shallow respirations. On palpation of his abdomen, a prominent jugular vein is appreciated. Bedside echo shows a collapsed atria on diastole. What is the most likely vital sign change which may be present in this patient?

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- B. Increase in diastolic blood pressure by 10 mmHg during inhalation.
- C. Decrease in systolic blood pressure by 10 mmHg during exhalation.
- D. Decrease in systolic blood pressure by 10 mmHg during inhalation.**

CHAPTER 2

NBME Top Concepts: Cardiology

NBME Style Question

A 2-months-old female presents with seizures. She is lethargic and hypertonic. The patient is also found to have respiratory distress. The exam is notable for a cleft palate, and a murmur is heard on the clinical exam. What is the likely embryological mechanism?

- A. Defective neural crest migration.
- B. Neural crest defect.
- C. Failure of the 3rd and 4th arch to develop.
- D. Failure of 3rd and 4th pouch to develop.
- E. Failure of 3rd and 4th cleft to develop.

HyGuru Test-Taking Tip**RECOGNIZING MULTI-SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT**

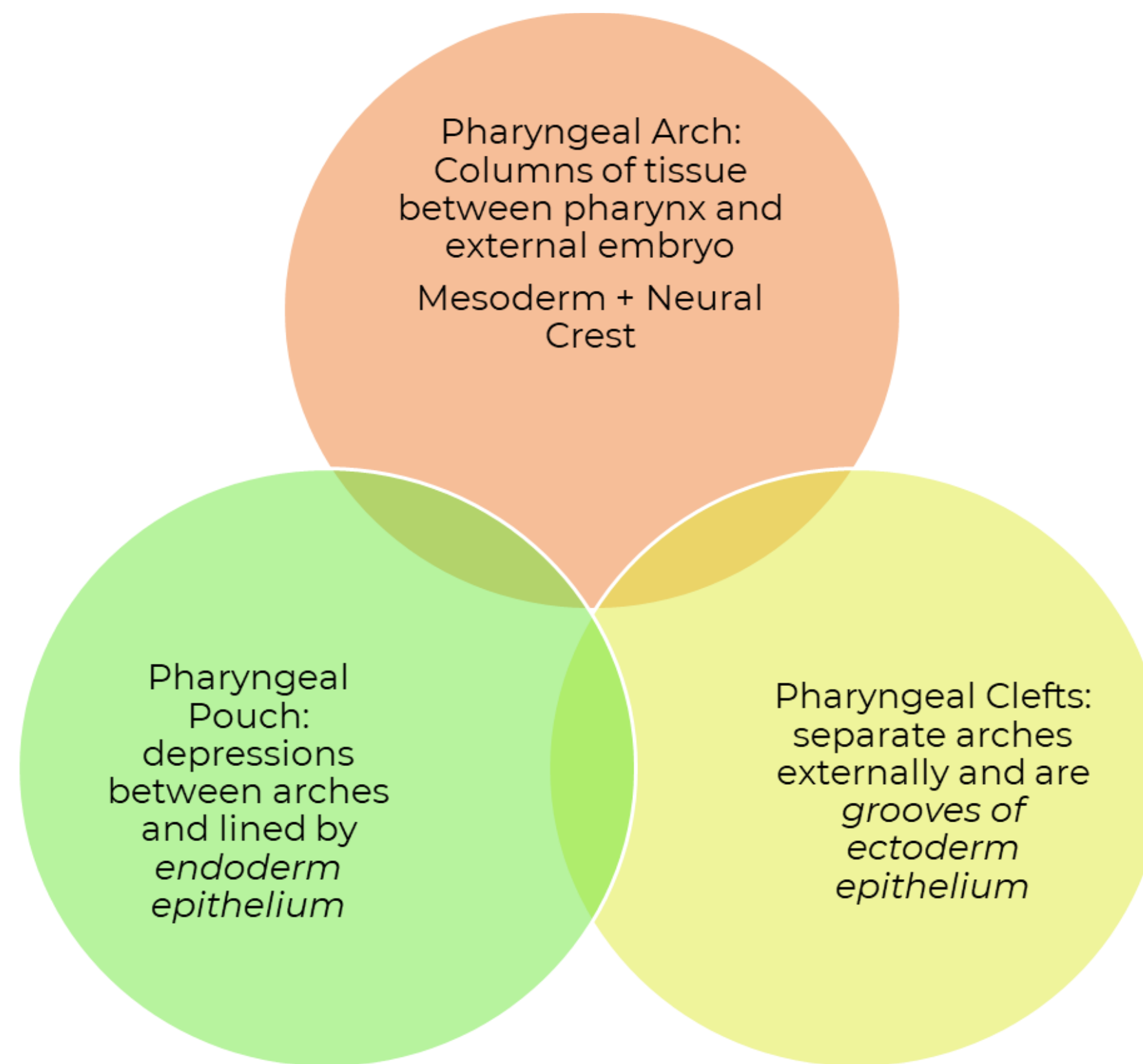
Whenever you see multiple organ systems involved in exam questions, think about a:

- Syndrome
- Systemic Condition

DiGeorge Syndrome:

- Recurrent infections ➔ Infectious Disease
- Hypocalcemia ➔ Endocrine.

Embryology of the Pharyngeal System



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Pharyngeal Pouches

Pouch	Derivation	USMLE points
1st pouch	Middle ear cavity Eustachian tube	"Ear"
2 nd pouch	Palatine tonsils	"2 tonsils"
3 rd pouch	Inferior Parathyroids Thymus	"3 is an inferior number"
4 th pouch	Superior parathyroids Para-follicular C-cells of the thyroid	"4 is a superior number" Calcitonin

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NBME Style Question

A 40-year-old female with a history of Grave's disease is noted to have intermittent chest pain with activity. She has a history of elevated LDL. She takes PTU for hyperthyroidism. She is started on a medication to control her dyslipidemia. Which of the following best explains the mechanism of action of this medication?

- A. Activation of HMG-CoA Synthase.
- B. Upregulation of hepatocyte LDL-receptor.
- C. Downregulation of bile-acid synthesis.
- D. In-activation of reverse transport in cholesterol metabolism.
- E. Upregulation of bile-acid metabolism.

Relevant Drugs

Drug	Mechanism	USMLE Vignettes
Statin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMG-CoA Reductase inhibitor • Upregulates LDL-R on hepatocytes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreases LDL • Increased LFTs • Increased CK levels
Ezetimibe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhibits cholesterol absorption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreases NPC1L1 in enterocyte • Increased LFTs
Bile Acid Sequest (Cholestyramine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents reabsorption of bile-acids in terminal ileum • Up-regulates cholesterol synthesis, thus decreasing total cholesterol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nausea and fat-soluble vitamin malabsorption (fatty stools)
Niacin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreases fatty acid release • Vitamin B₃ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases HDL • Gout • Flushing/pruritis
Fibrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPAR-alpha activation → increases fat metabolism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces TAG levels • Increased CK levels

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PPAR integration

PPAR-alpha:

- Upregulates LPL
 - Increases TG clearance
 - Upregulates HDL synthesis

Pharm correlate: fibrates

- PPAR gamma:
 - Increases insulin sensitivity
 - Increases adiponectin levels
- Pharm correlate: pioglitazone, rosiglitazone

Hepatotoxicity

Which of the anti-hyperlipidemics can be hepatotoxic?

- Statins
- Ezetimibe
- Niacin

What are ways the test maker may ask this on the exam?

- Increases in AST and ALT.

Muscle Myopathy

Which of the anti-hyperlipidemics can cause myopathy?

- Statins
- Fibrates

What are ways the test maker may ask this on the exam?

- Increases in CPK.

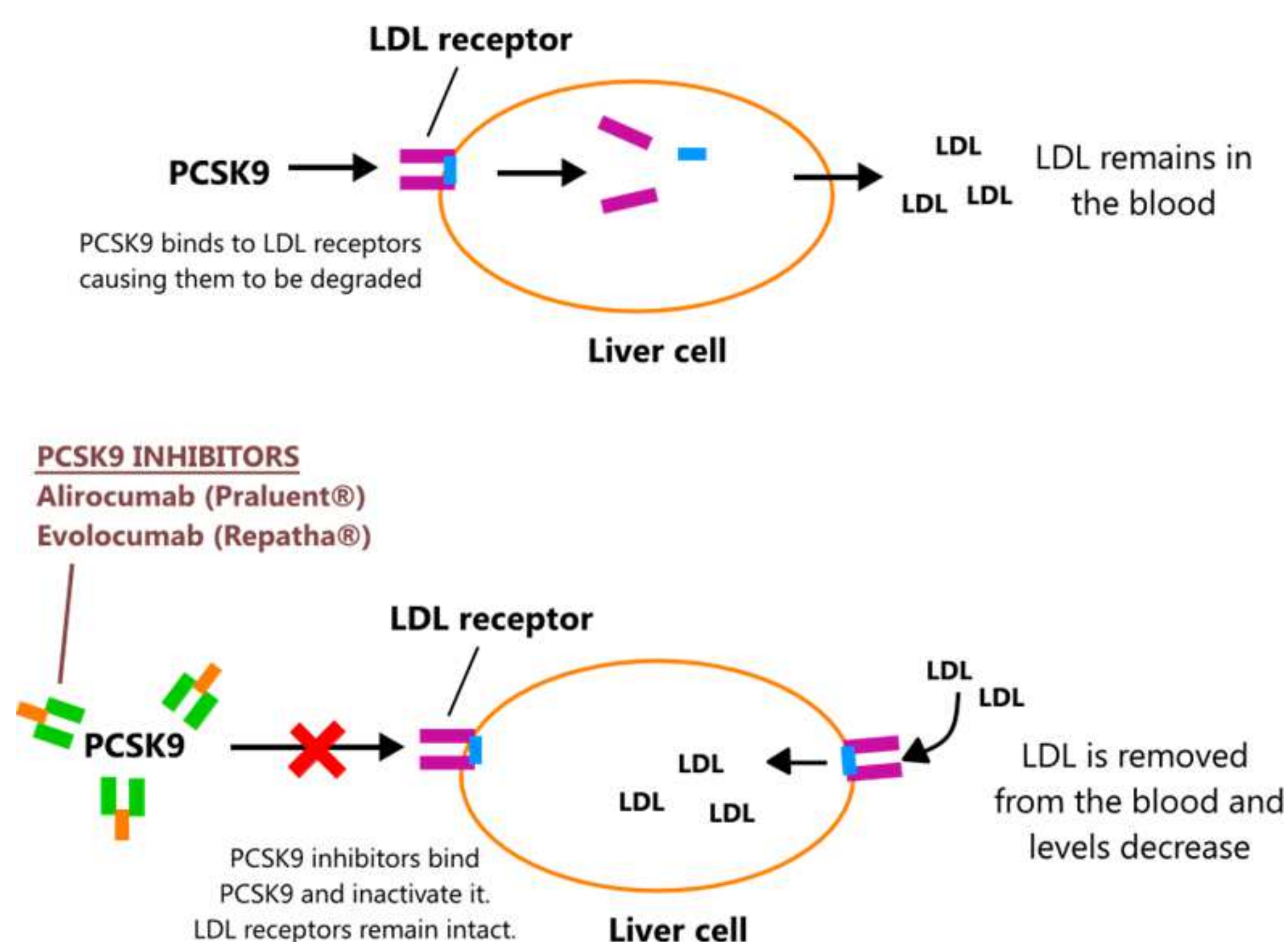
Anti-Hyperlipidemics

An experimental trial is studying the modulation of receptor mediated endocytosis via clathrin coated pits as it relates to lipid metabolism. Inhibition of receptor degradation via inactivation of the endo-lysosomal construct is noted to decrease LDL receptors. What is the likely agent studied?

PCSK9 Inhibitors:

- Alirocumab, Evolocumab.

PCSK9



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USMLE Test Taking Strategy Experimental Questions

Think like the test-maker:

- Test makers want a student to:
 - Organize elements of an experiment.
 - Interpret relevant data.
 - Relate the experiment to the content you have studied.

Strategy:

1. Don't panic
2. Organize cohorts, groups, or data sets:
 - Ex: Treatment group vs. control
 - Ex: Filling out 'givens'
3. Relate to content studied.

NBME Style Question

A 50-year-old male presents with severe chest pain while mowing his lawn. His vital signs: 110/min, 20 breaths/min, 105/70. He is cool and clammy. He is noted to have an elevated PCWP and left-atrial pressure of 20. What are the most likely pressure changes in the pulmonary vasculature seen?

	Pulmonary Capillary Hydrostatic Pressure	Alveolar Interstitial Hydrostatic Pressure	Alveolar Interstitial Oncotic Pressure
A	High	High	High
B	High	High	Low
C	High	Low	High
D	Low	High	High
E	Low	High	Low

Mastering Shock for the USMLE

Isolate the primary etiology of each shock.

Parameters to watch out for:

- Cardiac Output:
Blood coming out of the heart.
- TPR:
Usually at the level of the pre-capillary arteriole.
- PCWP:
Pressure in the pulmonary artery ➔ surrogate for LAP
- SVO₂:
Related to oxygen extraction
 - If tissues are extracting a lot of O₂ ➔ MVO₂ will be low
 - If tissues are extracting less O₂ ➔ MVO₂ will be high.

Understand the monitoring parameters:

CO: blood pumping out of the heart
SV x HR

TPR: resistance of the vessels
Usually at the level of the pre-capillary arteriole

PCWP: pressure in the pulmonary artery
Can be a surrogate for left atrial pressure

LVEDV: blood remaining in LV after filling/diastole

MVO₂: how well are tissues extracting oxygen
Measured at the right atrium:
If tissues are extracting a lot of O₂ -> MVO₂ will be low

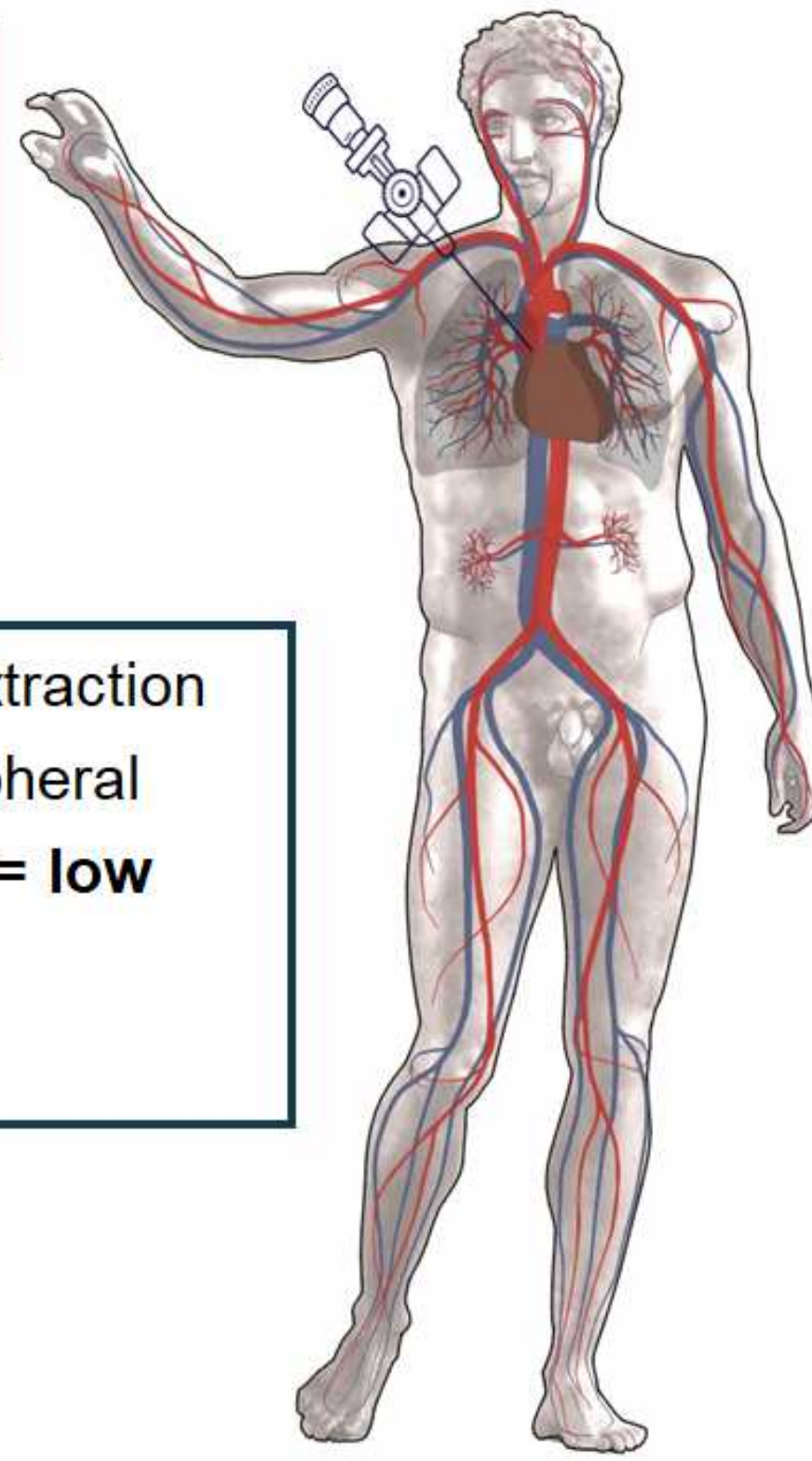
If tissues are extracting less O₂ -> MVO₂ will be high

What is the primary etiology of each shock and extrapolate

Mixed Venous Oxygen Saturation

• Measured at internal jugular or subclavian vein

• High O₂ extraction in the peripheral circulation = **low** SVO₂



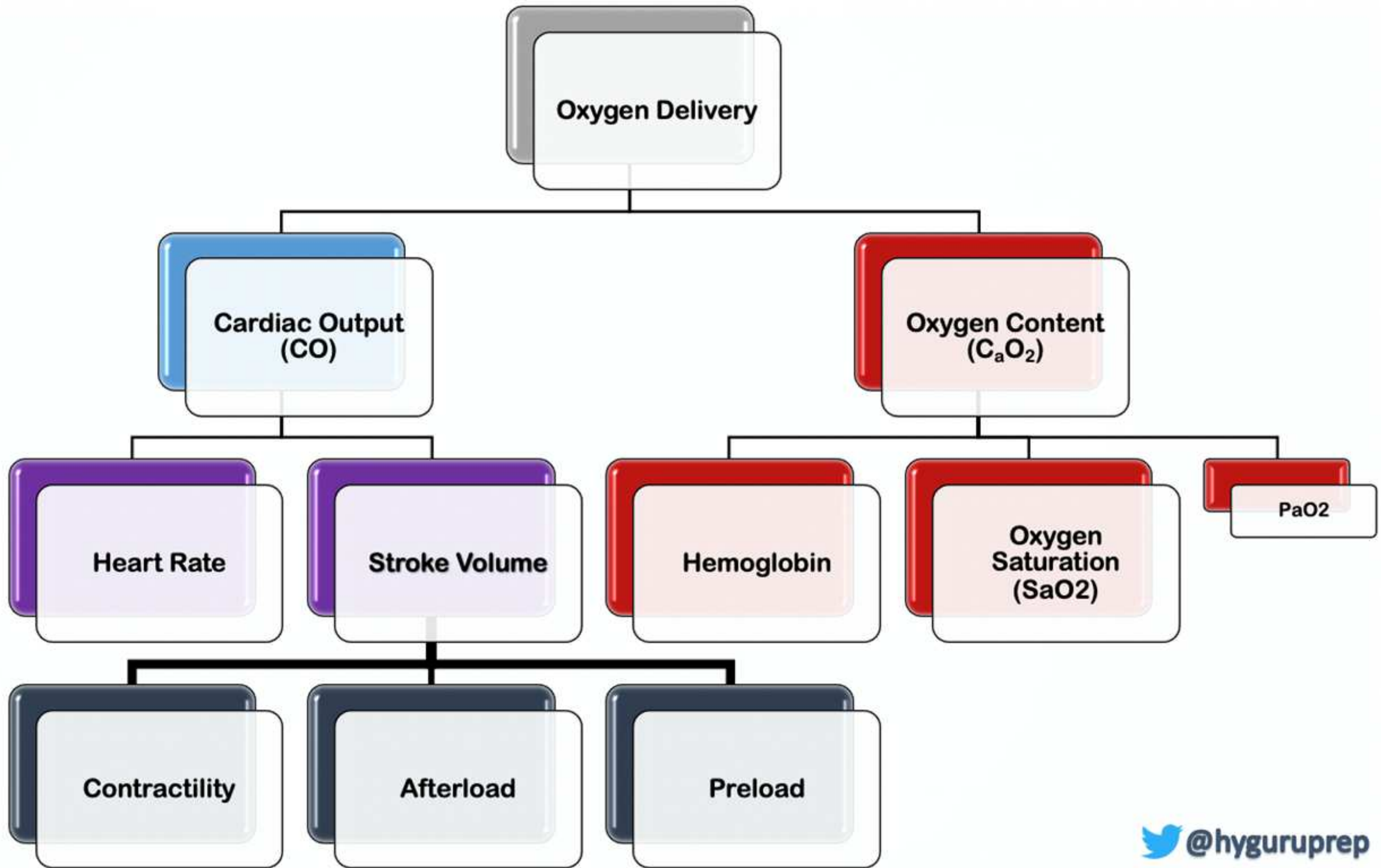
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Shock for the USMLE

Shock	CO	SVR	PCWP/LVEDV	SVO ₂
Cardiogenic 'pump failure'	Low	High	High	Low
Hypovolemic 'bleeding/losses'	Low	High	Low	Low
Septic 'Cytokine vasodilation'	High	Low	No change	High
Anaphylactic 'swelling + vasodilation'	High	Low	No change	High Due to vasodilation & edema
Dissociative 'cannot dissociate O ₂ from Hb' CO poisoning	High	High	No change	High

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Cardiac Output for the USMLE



[@hyguruprep](https://twitter.com/hyguruprep)

Shivering

Response to Shivering

An athlete is submerged in an ice-bath ➡

- What is the likely physiologic response?
 - Shivering ➡ posterior hypothalamus regulates this.
 - α -motor neurons & gamma-motor are activated ➡ skeleton muscle contraction and heat production.
 - Thyroid hormone ➡ increases metabolic rate by increasing Na/K-ATPase
 - Brown fat ➡ via beta-3 (Gs) mediated activity.
-

Heat Stroke

A football player presents in summer after fainting. He is noted to have temp 104F, tachypnea, and rigid muscles. CPK is elevated. The patient is also noted to have increased Cr. What is the likely mechanism?

- Abnormal hypothalamic thermoregulatory response.
-

Heat Dissipation

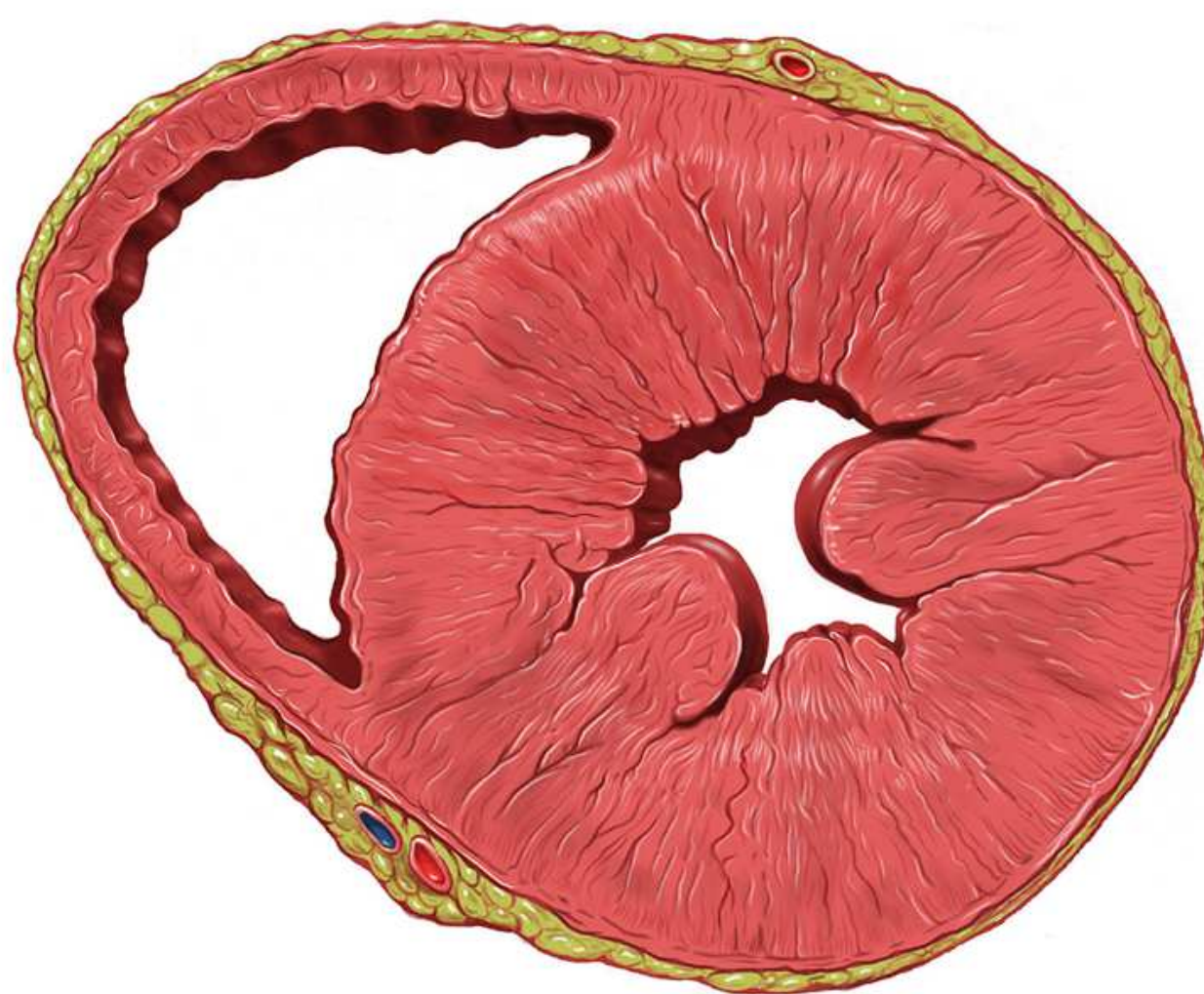
- Vasodilation. Mechanism?
 - Hypothalamus mediated peripheral vasodilation
 - Exposes blood to cooler air
- Sweating. Mechanism?
 - Dissipation of heat ➡ usually patients in exam questions will have an absence of sweating
- Pathophysiology:
 - High body temp ➡ proteins denature ➡ cell membranes damage ➡ multi-organ failure.

NBME Style Question

A 62-year-old man dies while playing tennis. At autopsy, examination shows cardiac valve defect and concentric left ventricular hypertrophy. Which of the following valve abnormalities is involved in his sudden death?

- A. Aortic Insufficiency
- B. Aortic Stenosis
- C. Mitral insufficiency
- D. Mitral stenosis
- E. Pulmonic insufficiency
- F. Pulmonic stenosis

Concentric Hypertrophy

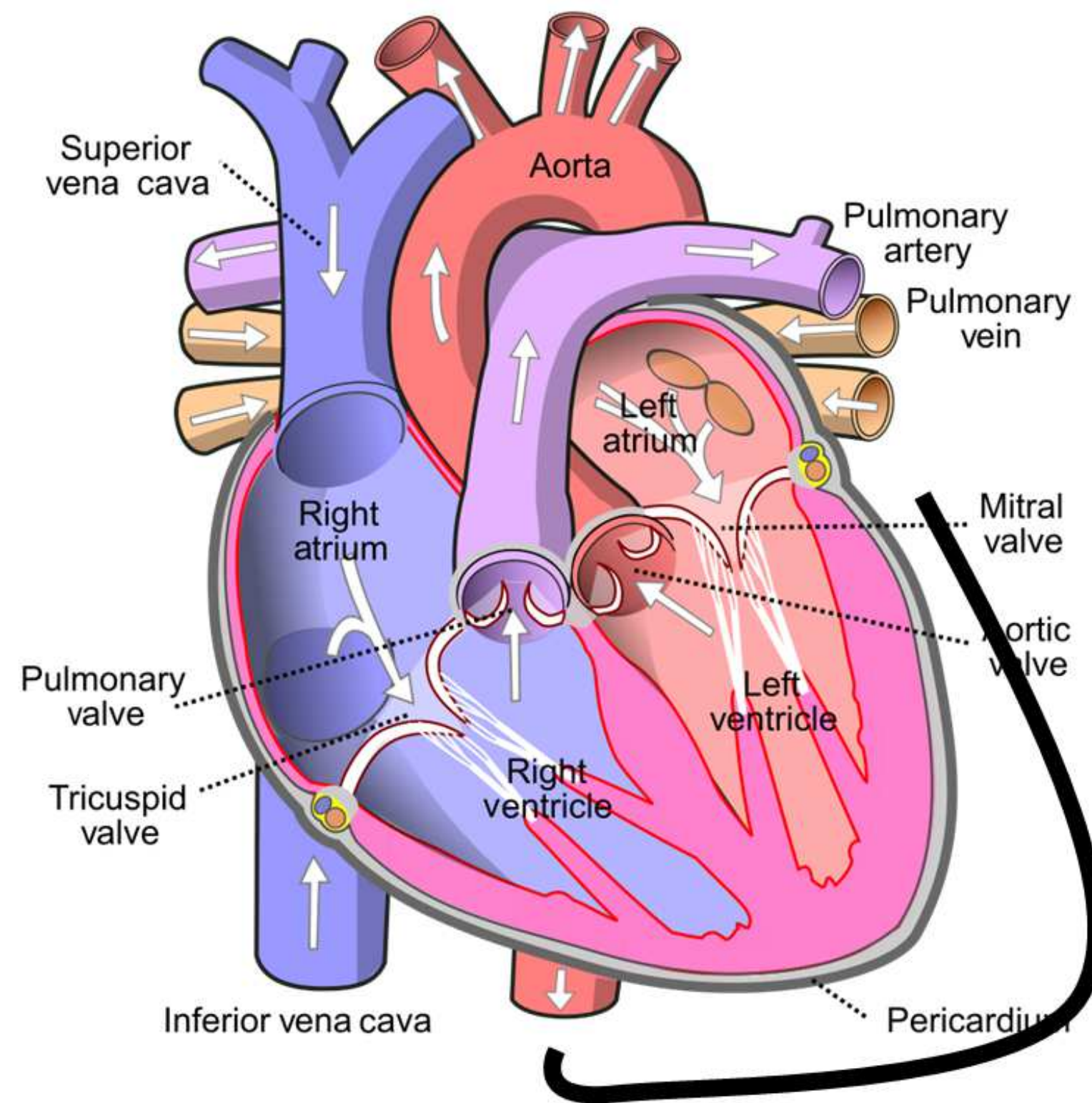


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S3-Gallop

- During what phase of the cardiac cycle will you hear this sound?
 - Early diastolic sound ➔ rapid filling of the left ventricle
- On USMLE multi-media questions where will be the most likely position to hear this sound?
 - Apex especially in the left-lateral
- USMLE Vignettes:
 - Mitral regurgitation (the best indicator of MR severity)
 - Dilated Cardiomyopathy.

Atria rapidly filling into a dilated left-ventricle.



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S4

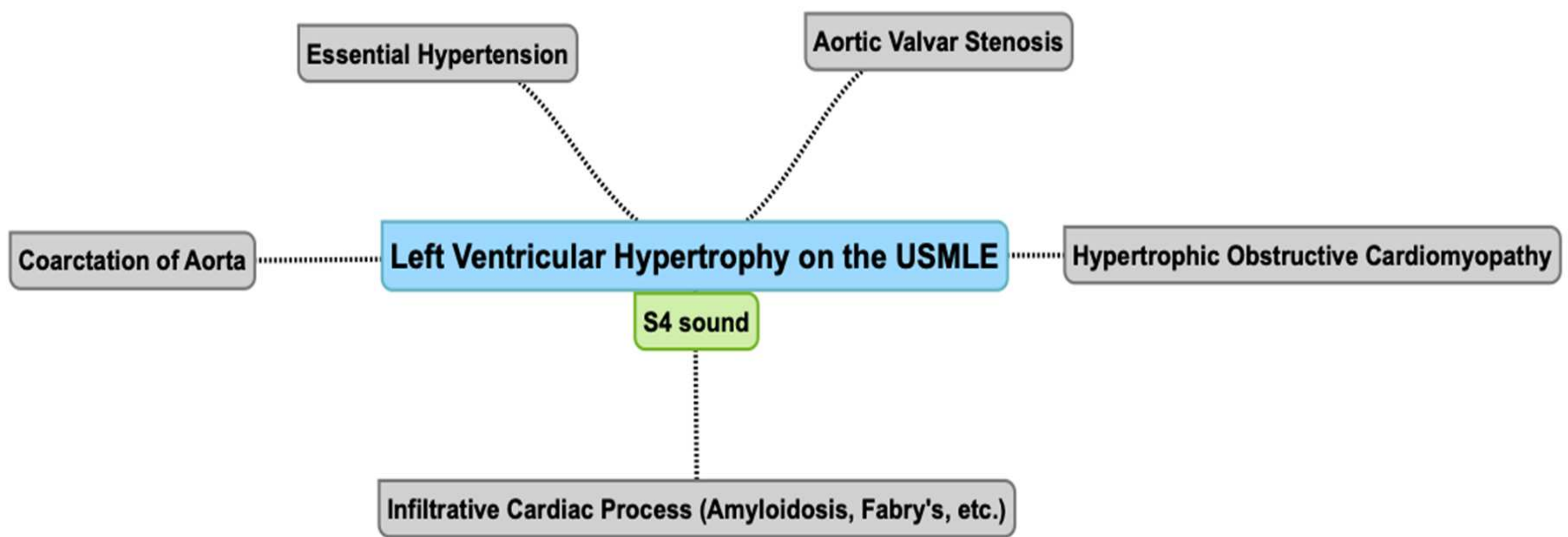
During what phase of the cardiac cycle will you hear this sound?

- late diastolic sound → atrial contraction

USMLE Vignettes:

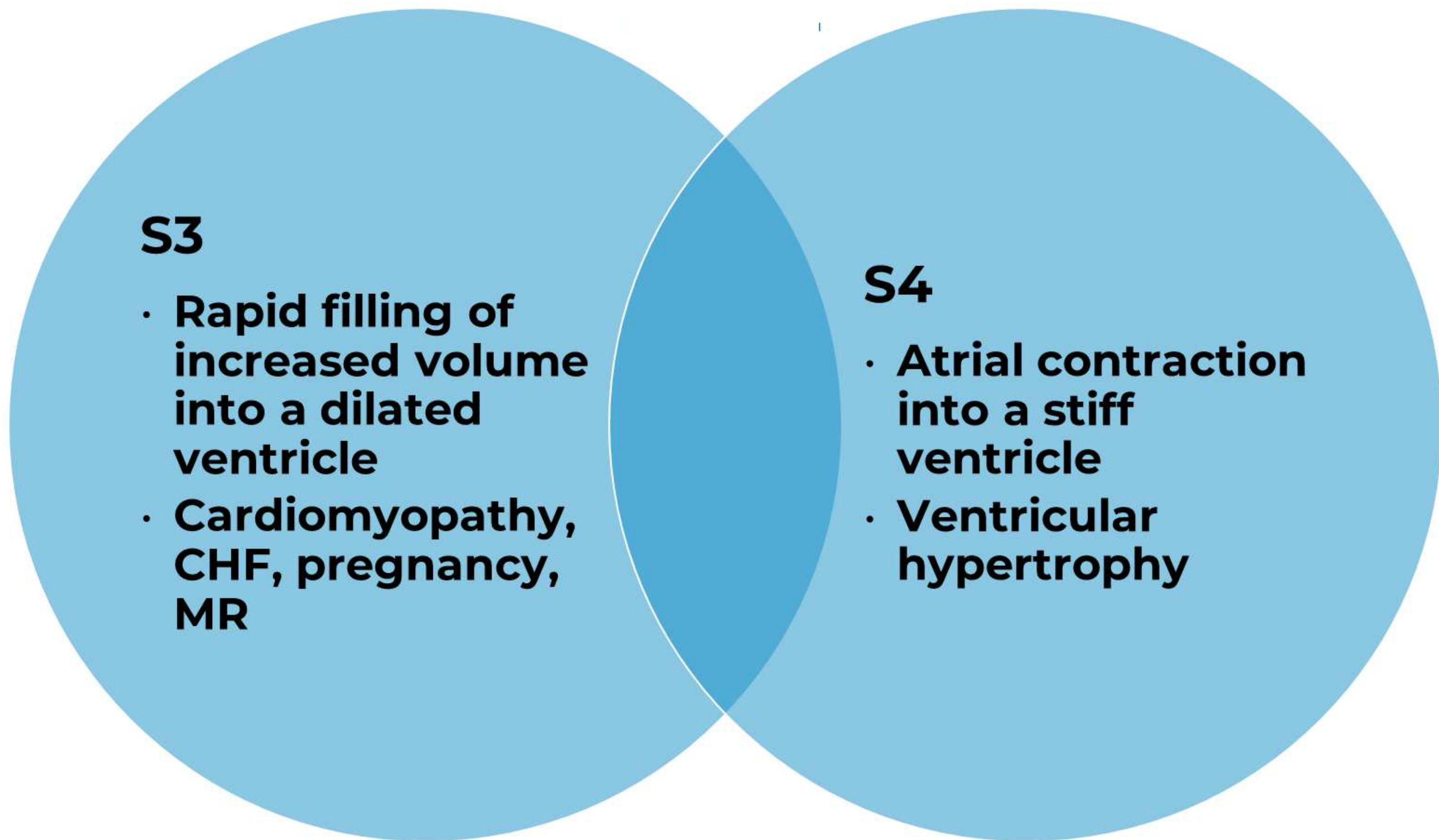
- “Reduced ventricular compliance”
- Hypertrophy.

Left Ventricular Hypertrophy Questions on the USMLE



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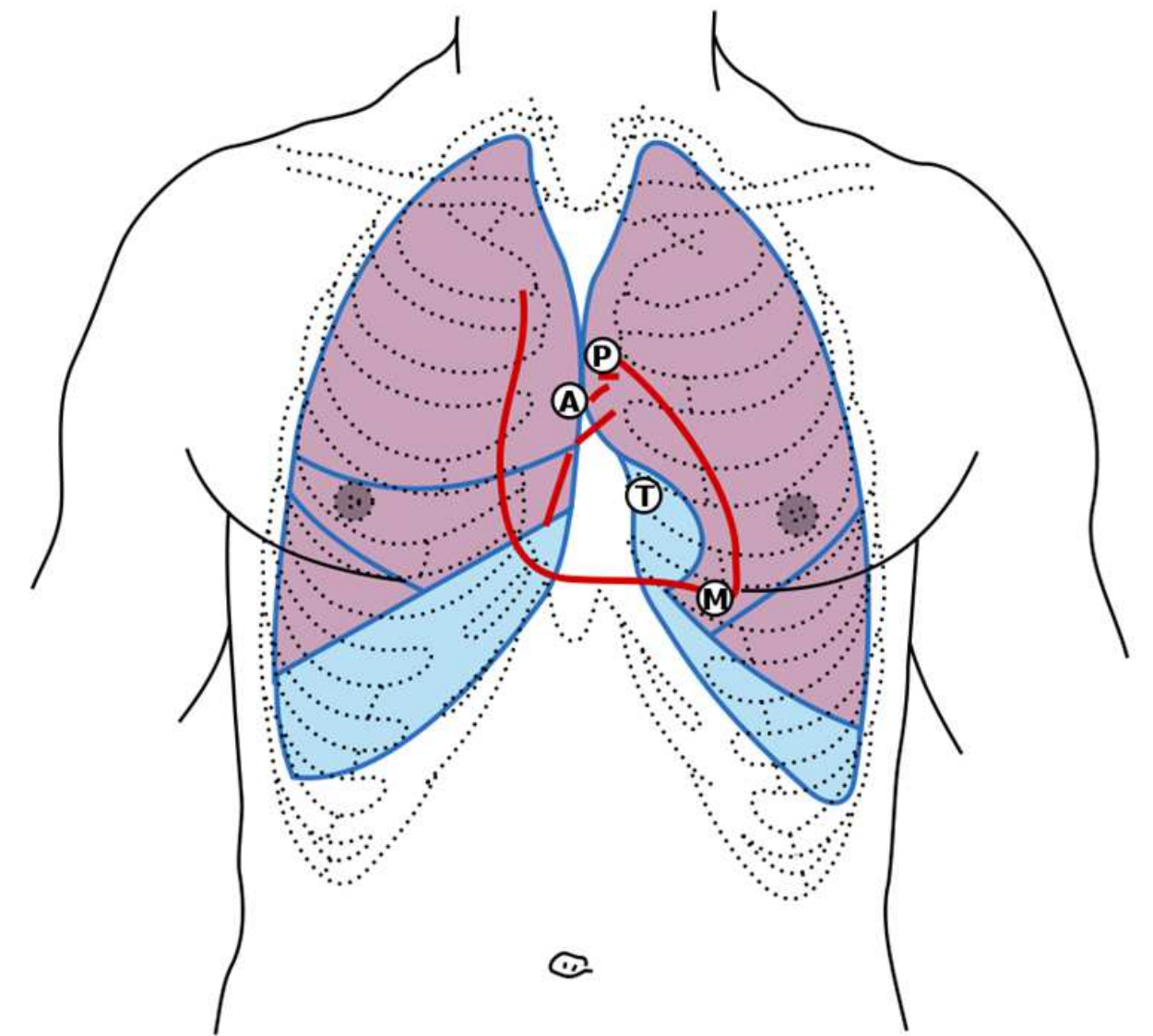
S3 vs. S4



Murmurs

A 15-year-old female has a grade 2/6 holosystolic murmur is heard best over the left fifth intercostal space adjacent to the sternum. It increases with inspiration, this murmur is most consistent with an abnormality of which of following valves?

- A. Aortic
- B. Mitral
- C. Pulmonary
- D. Tricuspid



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Murmurs for the USMLE

- Locate the Area of Auscultation
- Characterize Systolic VS. Diastolic
 - Systolic:
 - Aortic Stenosis
 - Mitral Regurgitation
 - VSD
 - HOCOM
 - MVP
 - Diastolic:
 - Mitral stenosis
 - Aortic Regurgitation

Summary of Maneuvers

- Less Blood in the Heart:
 - MVP louder (click is earlier)
 - HOCOM
- Afterload (high):
 - Regurgitant murmurs louder

How to Recognize Vasculitis on the USMLE

Histology warm-up: what are the three normal layers of an arterial blood vessel?

- Intima
- Media
- Adventitia

USMLE presentations:

- Fever, fatigue, weight loss, and myalgias → non-specific systems full of multi-system involvement.

Giant Cell Temporal Arteritis

An elderly female presents with muscle pain and difficulty chewing. She states that she had a transient loss of vision during driving. Her ESR is elevated. What is the next best step in management?

- Corticosteroids → Giant Cell Temporal Arteritis
 - Granulomas that affect the branches of the carotid (temporal, ophthalmic)

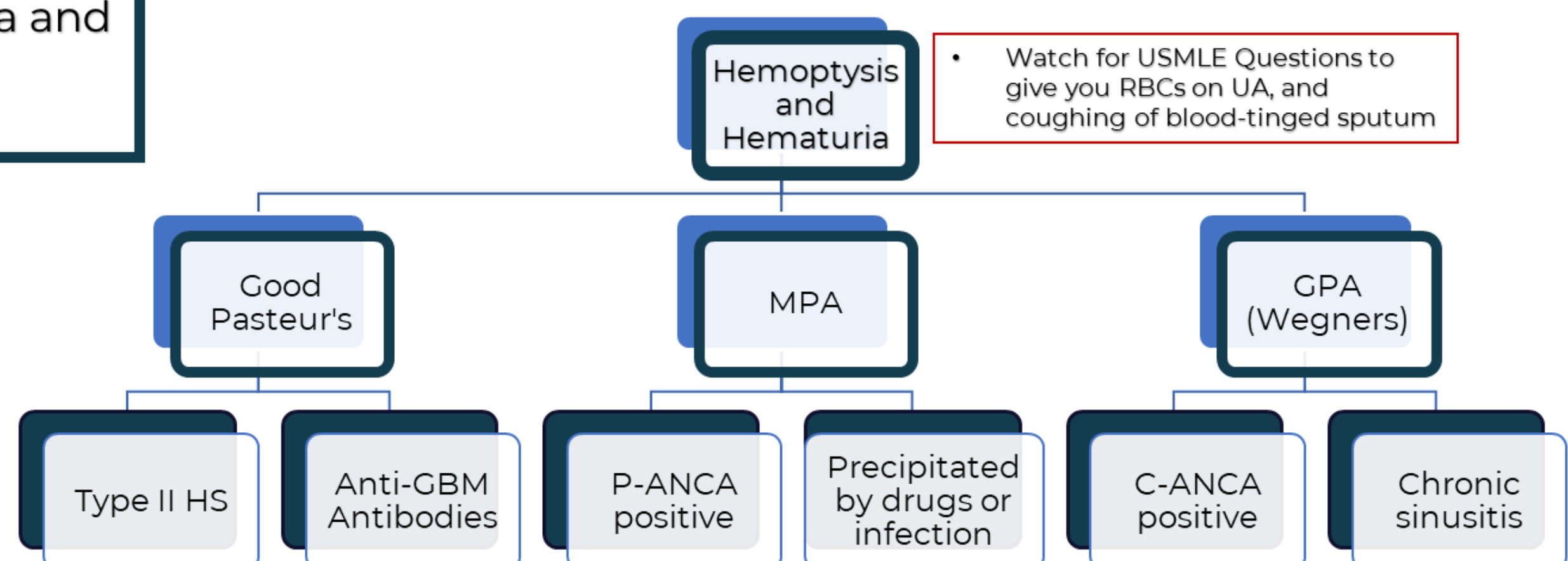
This vasculitis is associated with this USMLE vignette/disease:

A 70-year-old patient with joint pain. She has a fever and weight loss. Has difficulty climbing stairs and combing hair. Exam shows pain and stiffness in the shoulders and hip. ESR is elevated, and CK is normal. What is the most likely diagnosis?

- Polymyalgia rheumatica → associate with Temporal Giant Cell arteritis.

Hemoptysis and Hematuria

- How do you tell MPA from eoGPA?
 - P-ANCA positive for both.
 - eoGPA has asthma and eosinophilia, and granuloma.



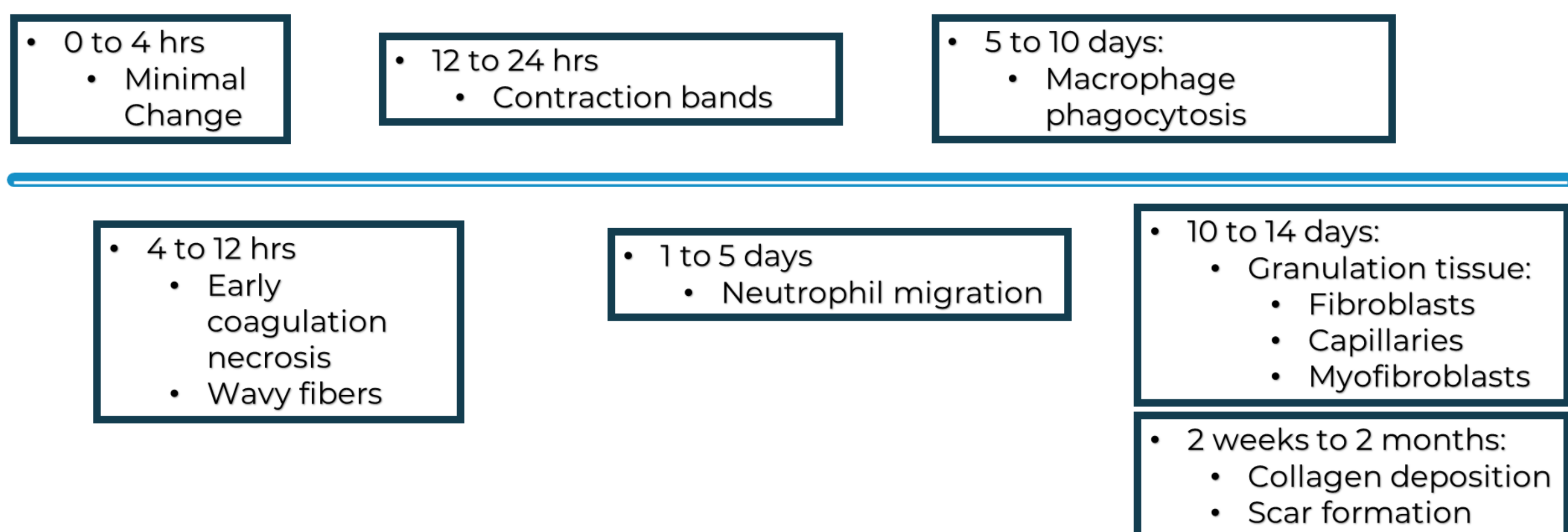
Myocardial Infarction

- A patient presents with substernal chest pain which he noticed after a hike with his grandchildren. He said that the pain stopped after he rested on a bench. He is a smoker, and his exam is normal. What is the likely diagnosis?
 - Stable angina:
 - Deep poorly localized pain that relieves with rest or nitroglycerin brought on by activity
 - Treatment: Vasodilate by increase NO in vascular smooth muscle
- What would you see on pathology:
 - Atherosclerosis of the coronary artery lumen > 75% however less than 100%
- Plaques can rupture and then usually have super imposed thrombi. If after they rupture and almost occlude the whole lumen of the coronary vessel, what pathology does this refer to:
 - Unstable angina (negative troponins)
 - Subendocardial infarction (positive troponins) ➔ NSTEMI
- Plaques that occlude the whole lumen: transmural infarction.
- What is the most common cause of death after myocardial ischemia caused by coronary artery disease?
 - Arrhythmia ➔ VF
- A patient presents dead to the ER, autopsy shows complete occlusion of the LAD. What is the likely cause of death?
 - VF ➔ most common prehospital cause of death in MI patients
- What is the most common in-hospital death following MI?
 - Ventricular failure (LV failure/cardiogenic shock)
 - Remember it takes time (3-7 days) to get structural issues:
 - Ventricular rupture, mural thrombus, tamponade.
- A patient's heart is studied on autopsy after he myocardial suffered a myocardial infarction. He presented to the hospital within four hours of the acute attack. What would light-microscopy immediately after the event yield?
 - No visible changes.
 - First changes occur 4-12 hour range:
 - Wavy fibers with elongated myocytes
- Cell death ensues:
 - The nucleus shrivels and darkens until there is no more euchromatin (pyknosis) ➔ fragments (karyorrhexis) ➔ then vanishes (karyolysis)
 - Mitochondrial vacuolization is a sign of irreversible cell injury

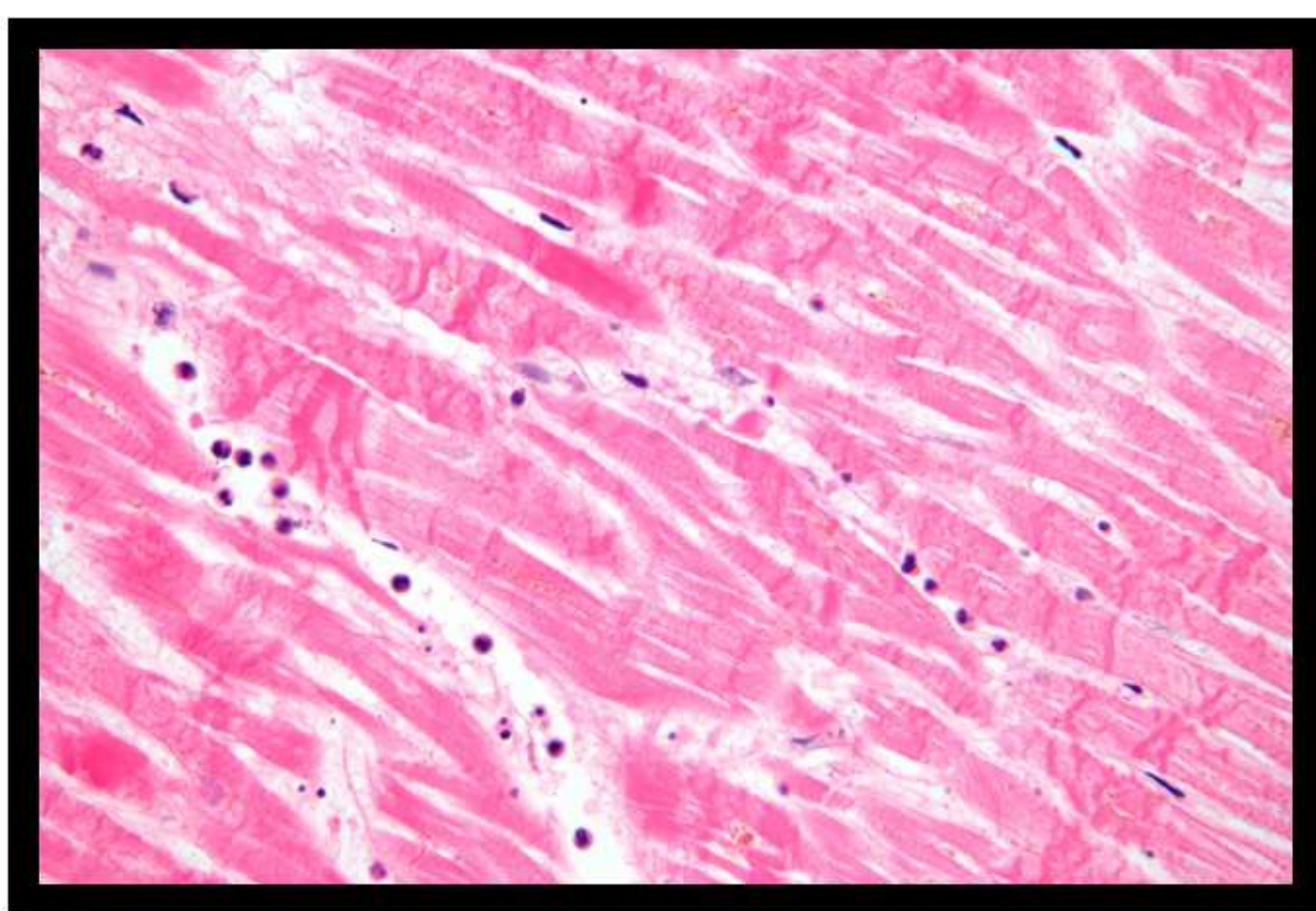
Myocardial Infarction

- Inflammation ensues and what pathological change occurs one day?
 - Neutrophilic infiltration and coagulation necrosis
- At one week macrophages become the prominent cell and at two weeks granulation tissue becomes neovascularized
 - Structural complications like free wall rupture, septum rupture, or pap muscle rupture occur approx. 1 week after MI
- At a month's time, a patient will have scar formation
- What antiarrhythmic is best after MI?
 - Lidocaine, Mexiletine.
"I'd Buy Liddy's Mexican Tacos."
 - Class IB Na channel blockers.

Timeline of Myocardial Infarction



Contraction Bands



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Contraction Bands

- **A Calcium-Dependent mechanism** – activation of contractile cellular machinery
- **A Calcium Independent mechanism** – persistent activation of the contractile machinery in the setting of low ATP

DiGeorge Syndrome

A 2-months-old female presents with seizures. She is lethargic and hypertonic. The patient is also found to have respiratory distress. The exam is notable for a cleft palate, and a murmur is heard on the clinical exam. What is the likely embryological mechanism?

- A. Defective neural crest migration.
- B. Neural crest defect.
- C. Failure of the 3rd and 4th arch to develop.
- D. Failure of 3rd and 4th pouch to develop.**
- E. Failure of 3rd and 4th cleft to develop.

Lipid Lowering Drugs

A 40-year-old female with a history of Grave's disease is noted to have intermittent chest pain with activity. She has a history of elevated LDL. She takes PTU for hyperthyroidism. She is started on a medication to control her dyslipidemia. Which of the following best explains the mechanism of action of this medication?

- A. Activation of HMG-CoA Synthase.
- B. Upregulation of hepatocyte LDL-receptor.**
- C. Downregulation of bile-acid synthesis.
- D. In-activation of reverse transport in cholesterol metabolism.
- E. Upregulation of bile-acid metabolism.

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