

THE RIGHT VENTRICLE IN PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

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Why the Right Ventricle?

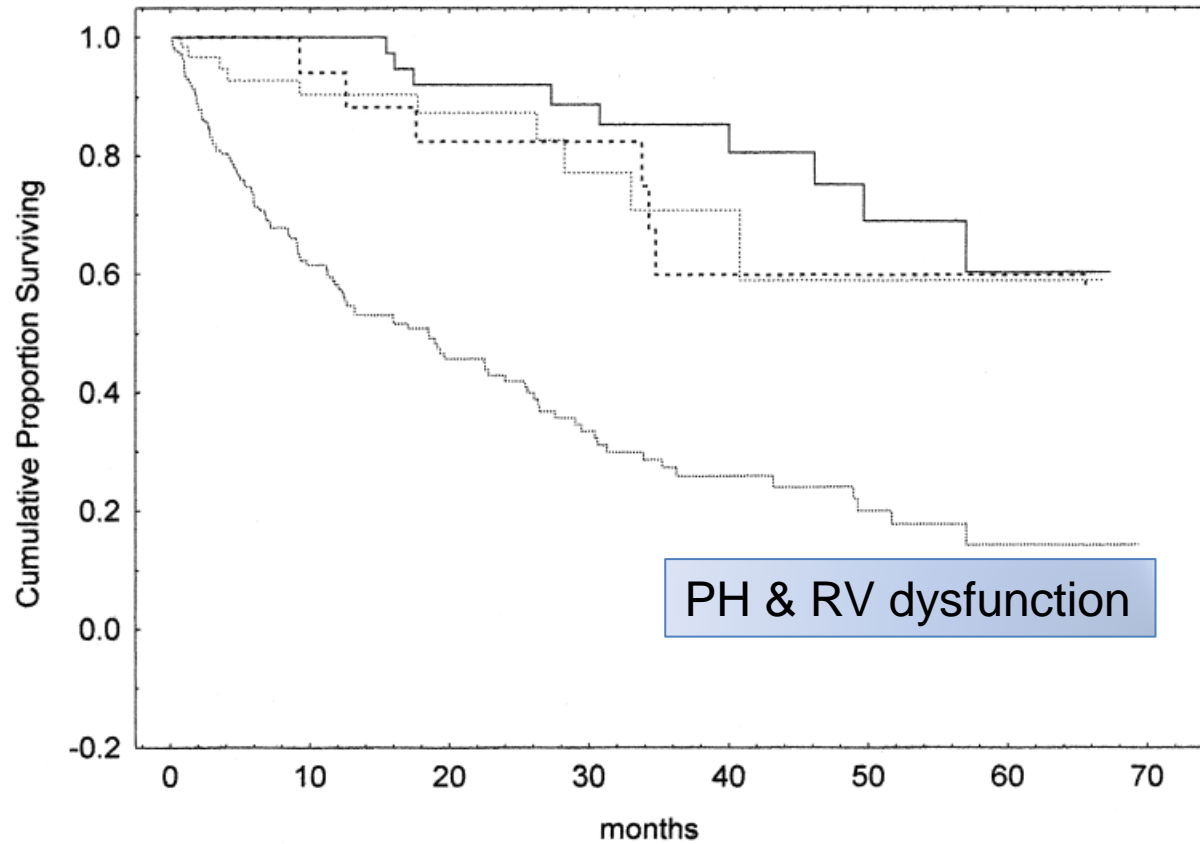
Pulmonary hypertension (PH)

Right ventricle (RV) function

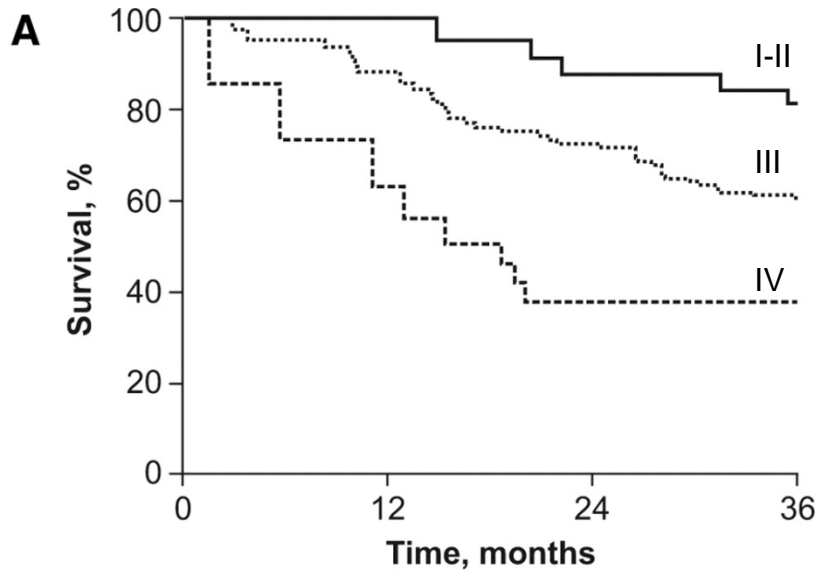


Outcome

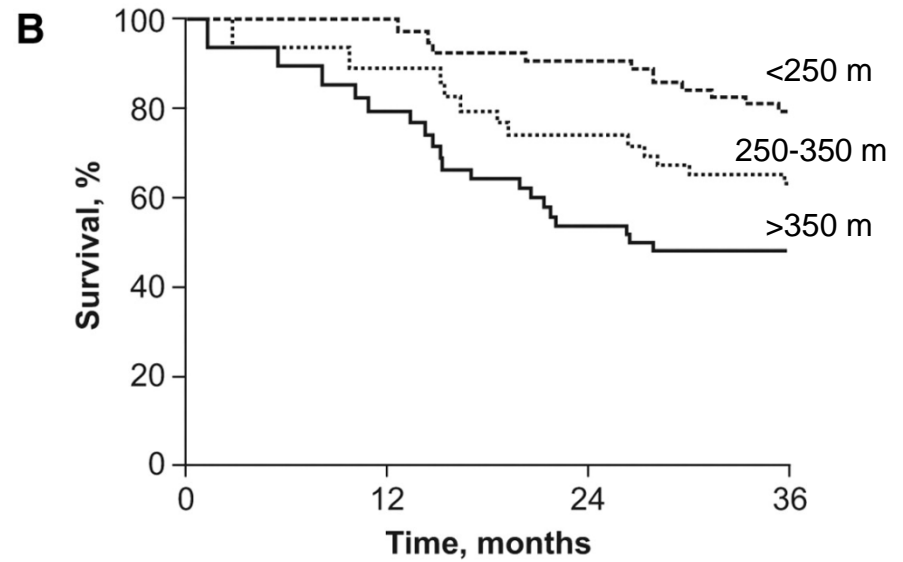
RV dysfunction & outcome



RV dysfunction & outcome



NYHA class



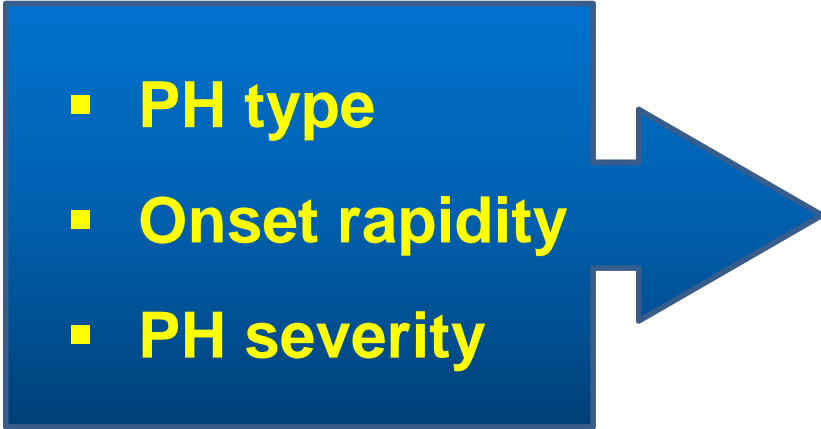
6MWD

RV dysfunction & outcome

Better prognosis	Determinants of prognosis	Worse prognosis
No	Clinical evidence of RV failure	Yes
Slow	Rate of progression of symptoms	Rapid
No	Syncope	Yes
I, II	WHO-FC	IV
Longer (>500 m) ^a	6MWT	Shorter (<300 m)
Peak O ₂ consumption >15 mL/min/kg	Cardio-pulmonary exercise testing	Peak O ₂ consumption <12 mL/min/kg
Normal or near-normal	BNP/NT-proBNP plasma levels	Very elevated and rising
No pericardial effusion TAPSE ^b >2.0 cm	Echocardiographic findings ^b	Pericardial effusion TAPSE ^b <1.5 cm
RAP <8 mmHg and CI ≥2.5 L/min/m ²	Haemodynamics	RAP >15 mmHg or CI ≤2.0 L/min/m ²

RV response to PH

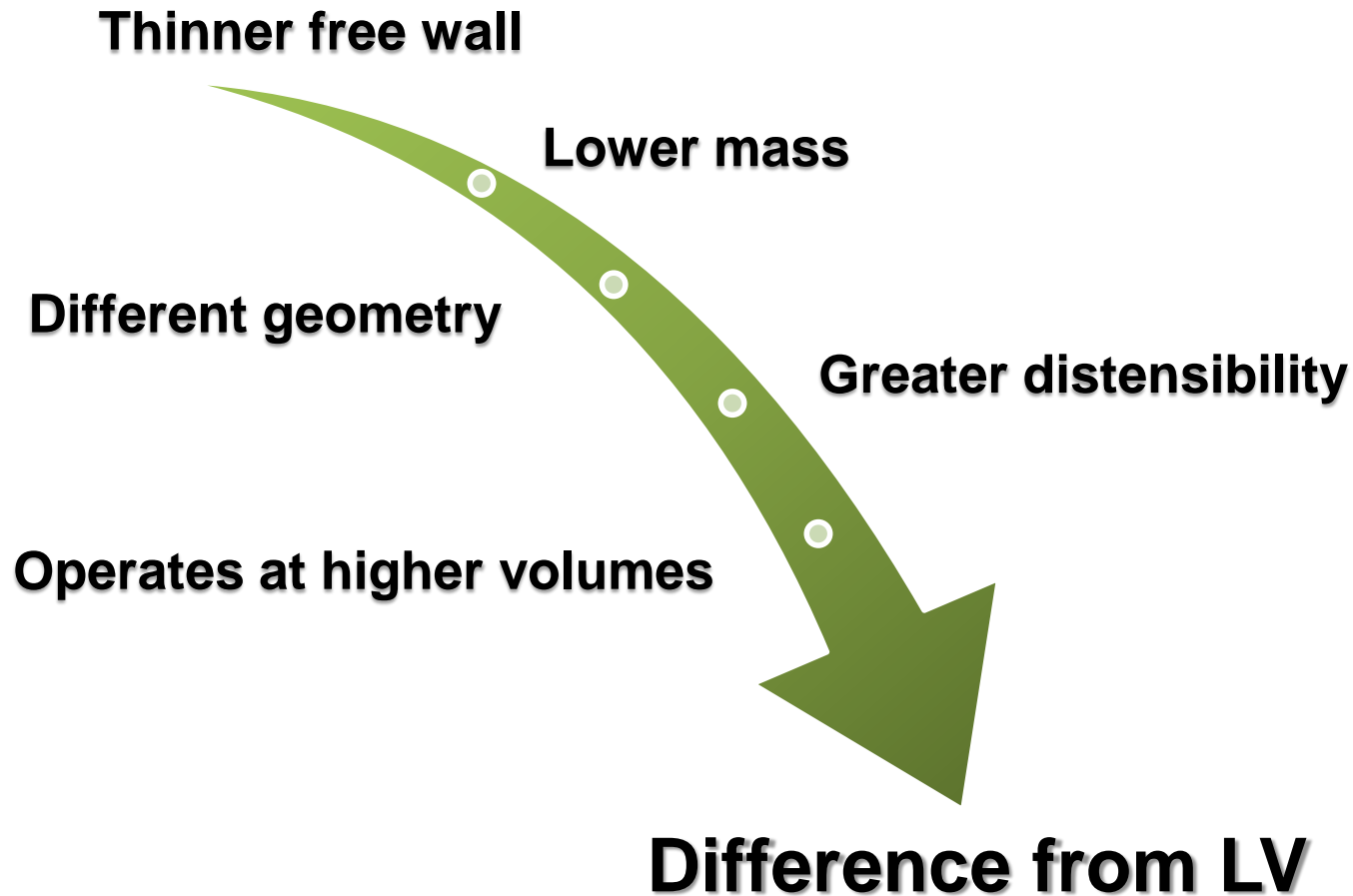
- **Variable**
- **Depends on:**

- 
- **PH type**
 - **Onset rapidity**
 - **PH severity**

Prediction of future dysfunction

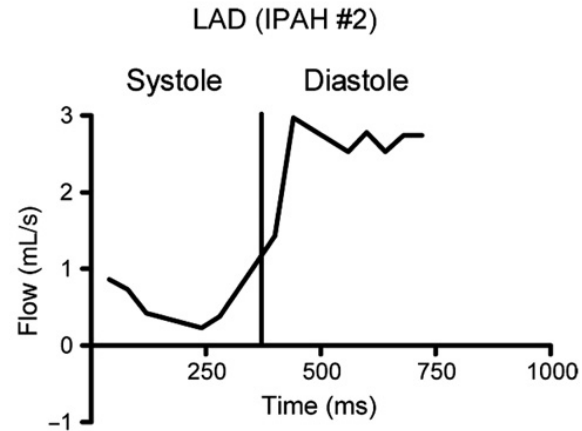
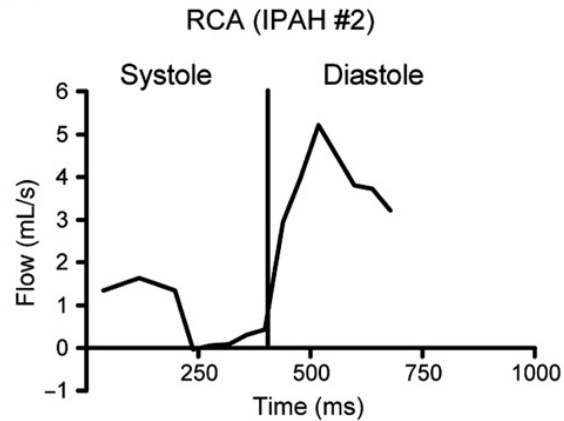
LIMITED

RV Chamber characteristics

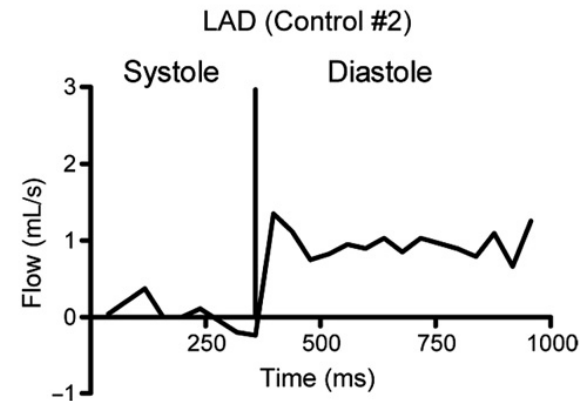
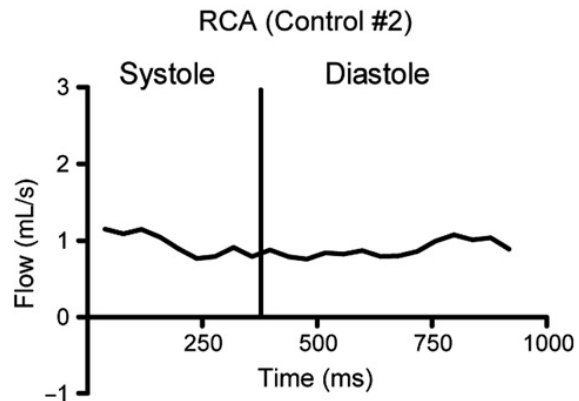


RV response in PH

A



B



RV afterload

- **PVR**

- used in clinical practice as equivalent for afterload
- may not reflect its complex nature

- **Pulmonary arterial system**

- Low impedance / high distensible
 - High compliance
 - Low resistance
 - Low peripheral pulse wave reflection coefficient

Pulmonary circulation

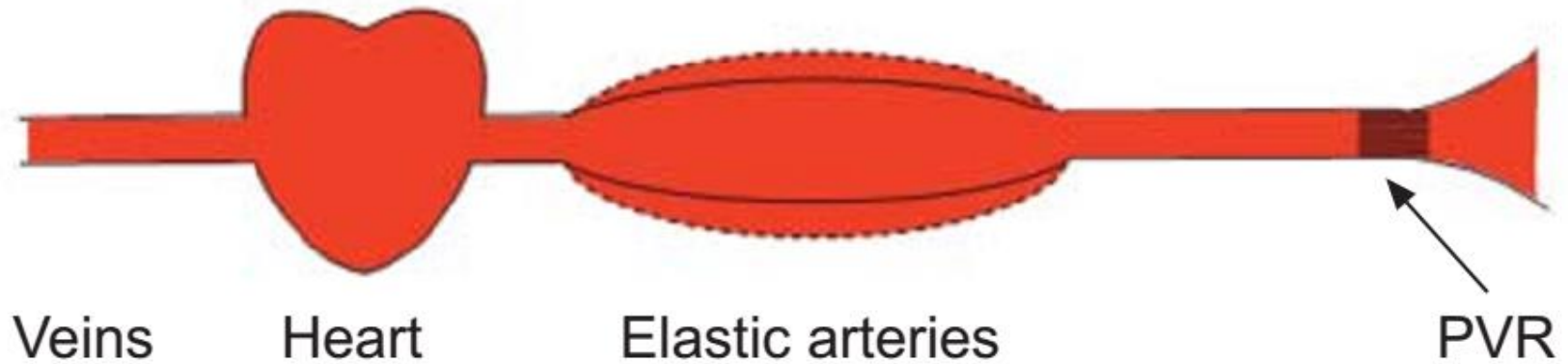
Systemic circulation

- **Resistance**
 - small arteries
 - arterioles
- **Compliance**
 - aorta

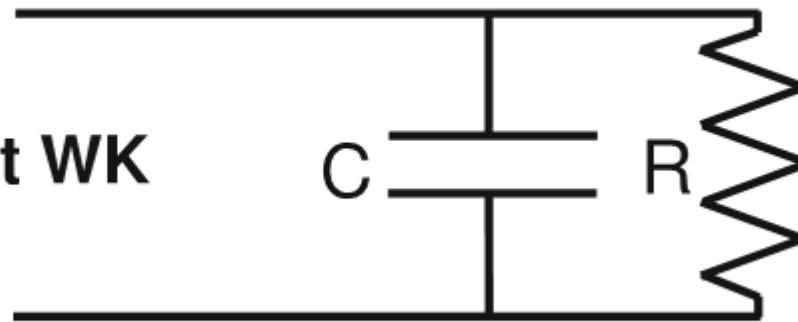
Pulmonary circulation

- **Resistance**
 - small arteries
 - arterioles
- **Compliance**
 - entire pulmonary circulation

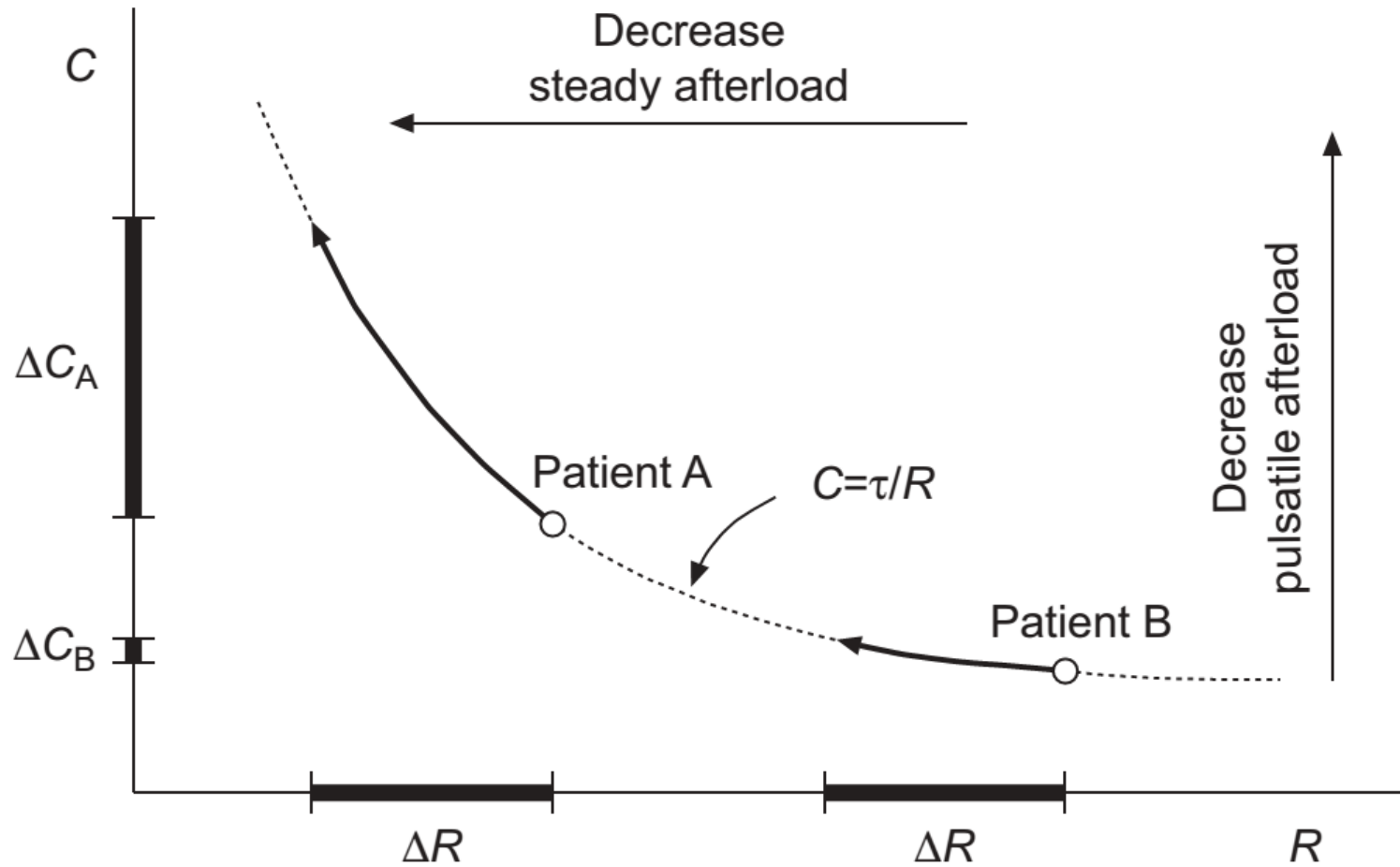
Windkessel model



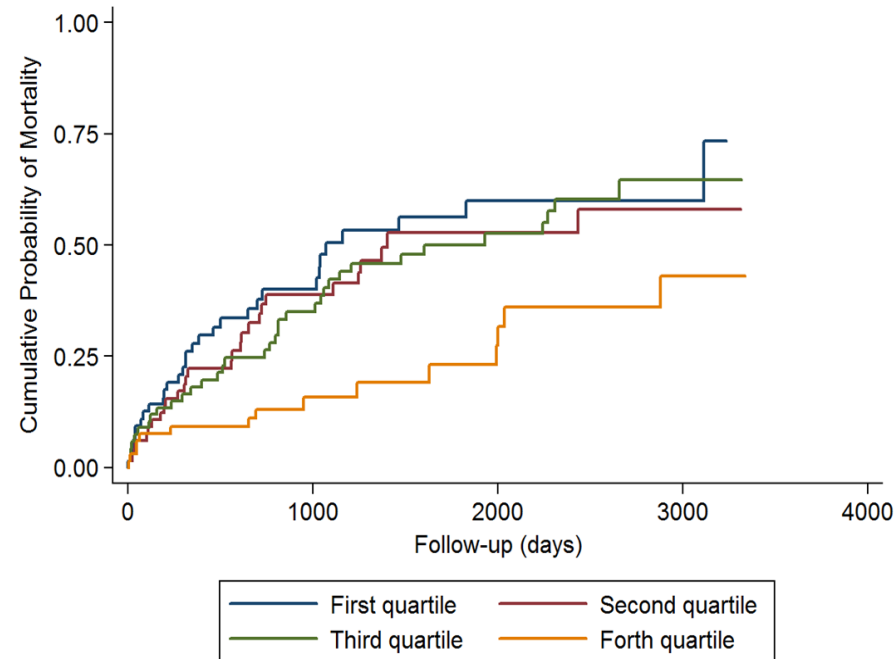
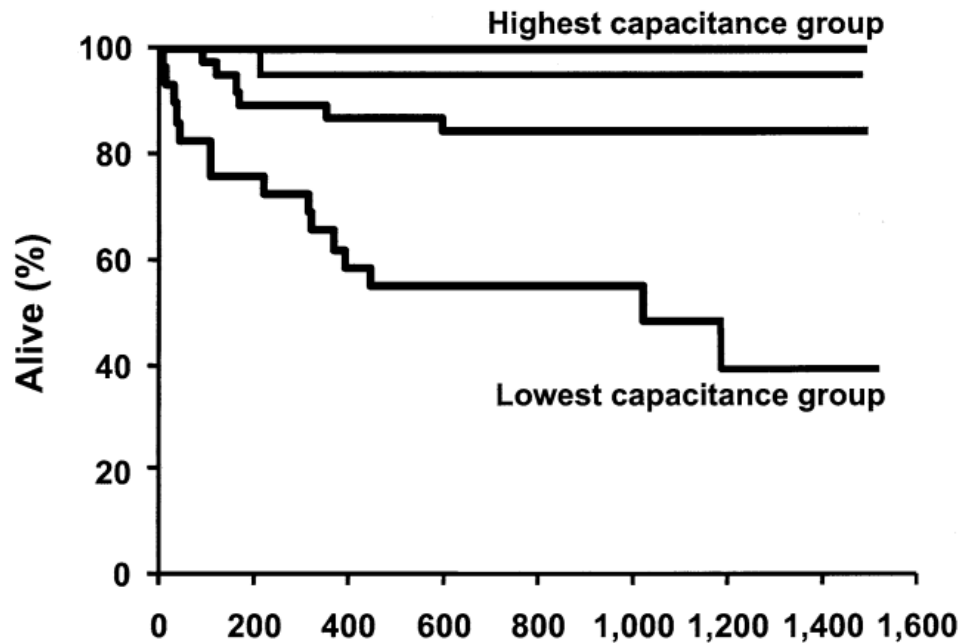
2-element WK



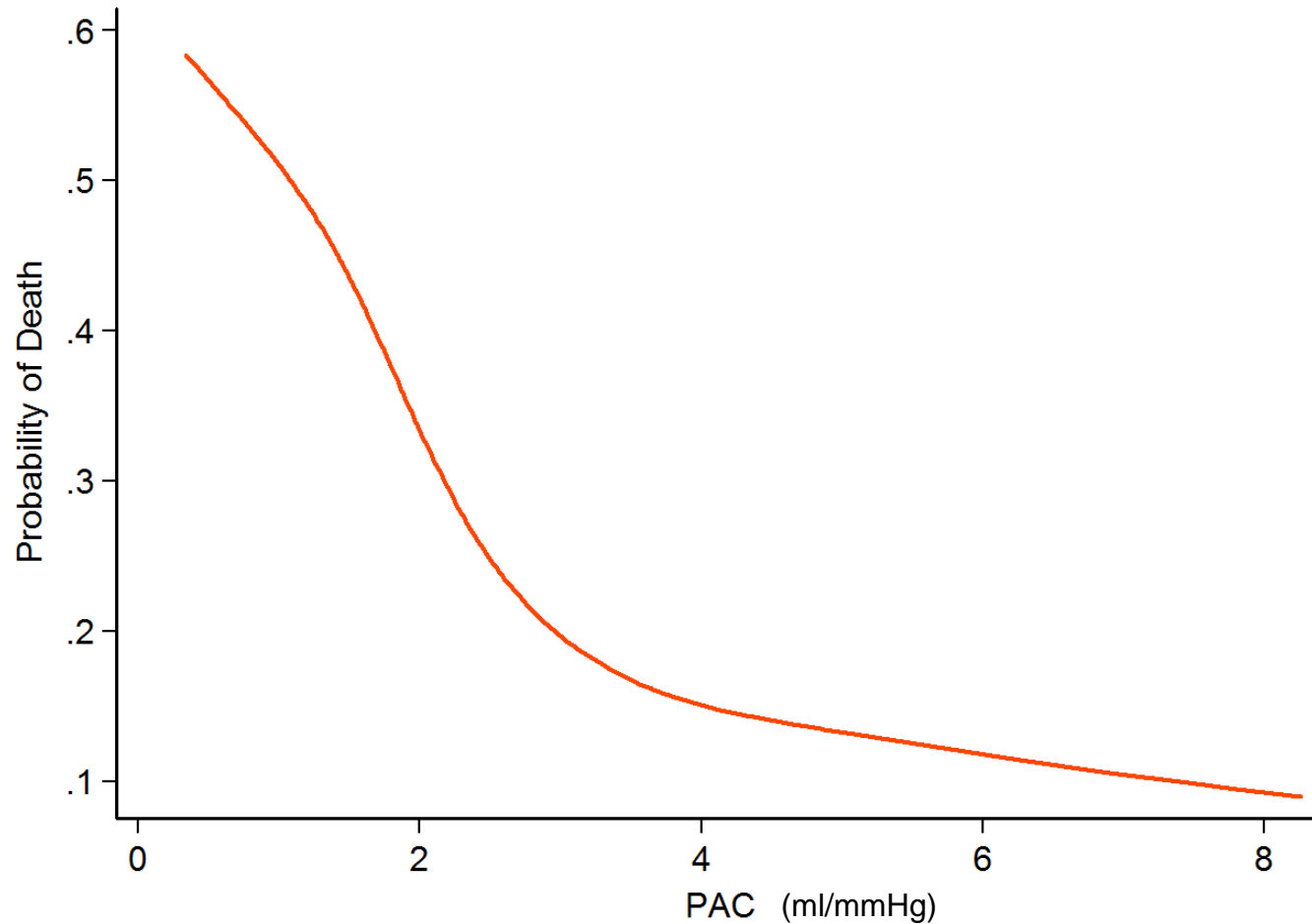
RC constant



Capacitance and outcome



Capacitance and outcome



Assessment of RV function in PH

- 
- Mechanisms of RV failure in PH

- 
- Prognostic implications

- 
- Effect of PH-specific tx on RV

Parameters that reflect RV function

Echocardiography

- RA area¹
- RV Area¹
- TAPSE^{1,2}
- Tei index³
- RV fractional area change²
- Degree of tricuspid regurgitation²
- Pericardial effusion⁴
- Inferior vena cava collapsibility²
- Superior vena cava flow velocity pattern²

- LV eccentricity index²
- RV filling pressure⁵

MRI

- RV EF% and SV⁶
- Mass index⁷ and geometry⁸

RHC

- Right atrial pressure⁹
- Cardiac index¹⁰

Biomarkers

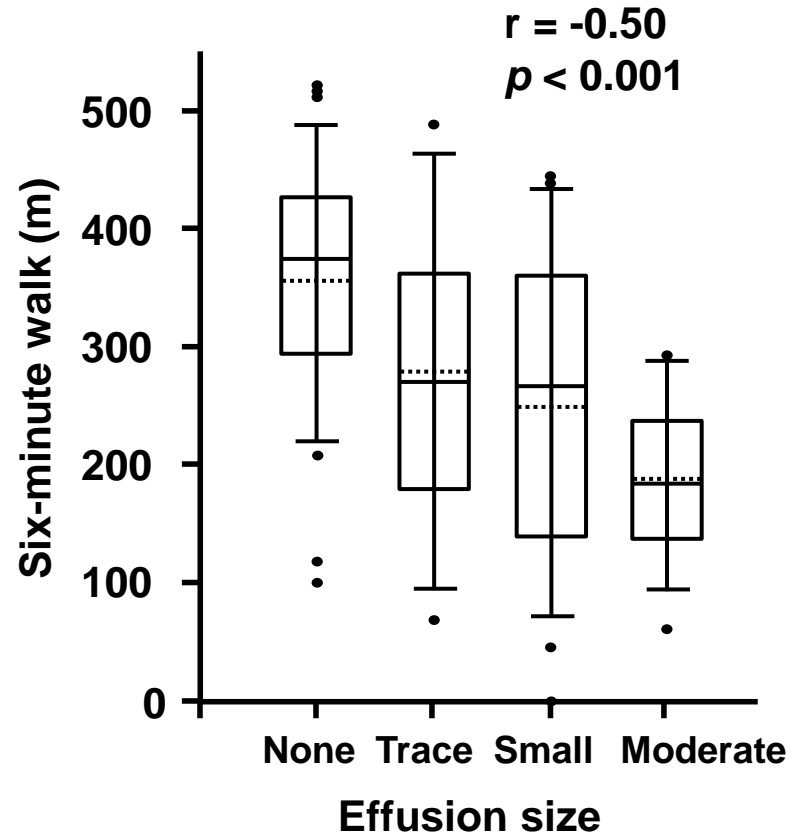
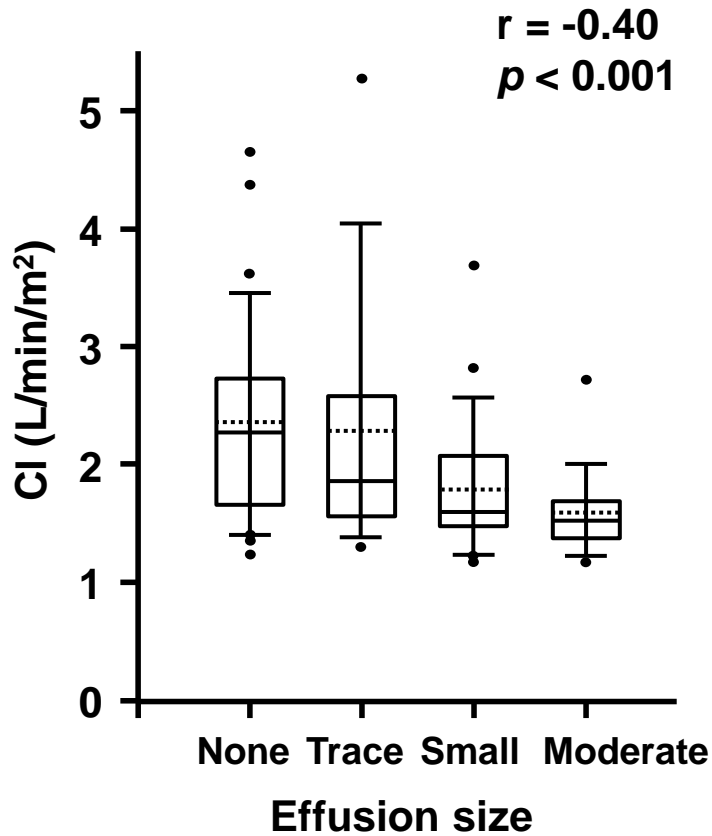
- NT-proBNP¹¹
- Troponin T¹²

1. Grünig, *et al. DMW* 2010. 2. Ghio S, *et al. Int J Cardiol* 2010.
3. Tei C, *et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 1996. 4. Raymond RJ, *et al. JACC* 2002.
5. Utsunomiya H, *et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 2009. 6. van de Veerdonk M, *et al. JACC* 2011.
7. Hagger, *et al. Rheumatology* 2009. 8. Mauritz, *et al. Chest* 2012.
9. McLaughlin VV, *et al. Circulation* 2002. 10. D'Alonzo GE, *et al. Ann Intern Med* 1991.
11. Nagaya N, *et al. JACC* 1998. 12. Torbicki A, *et al. Circulation* 2003.

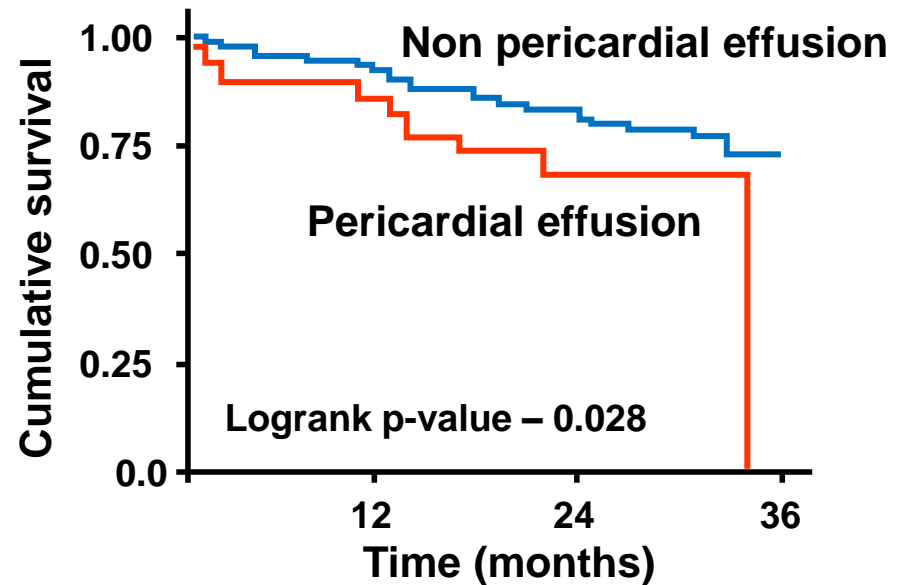
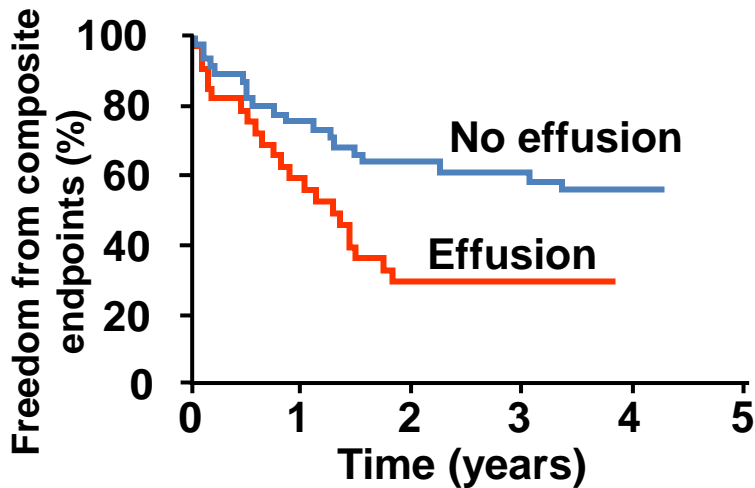
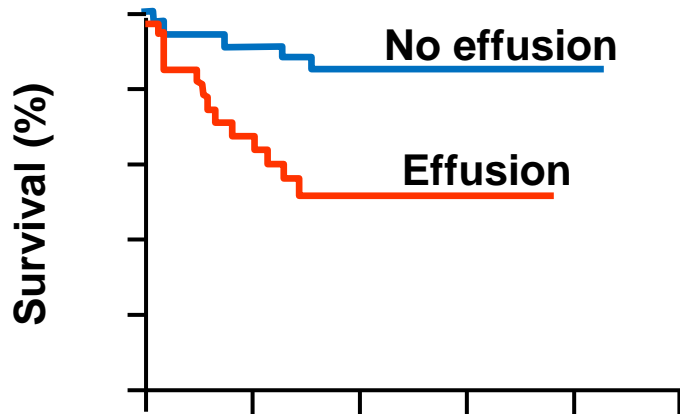
Echo

- **Variables in good correlation with:**
 - Hemodynamics
 - Anatomy
- **Limited visualisation of RV:**
 - Complex geometry
 - Extensive trabeculations
 - Retrosternal position

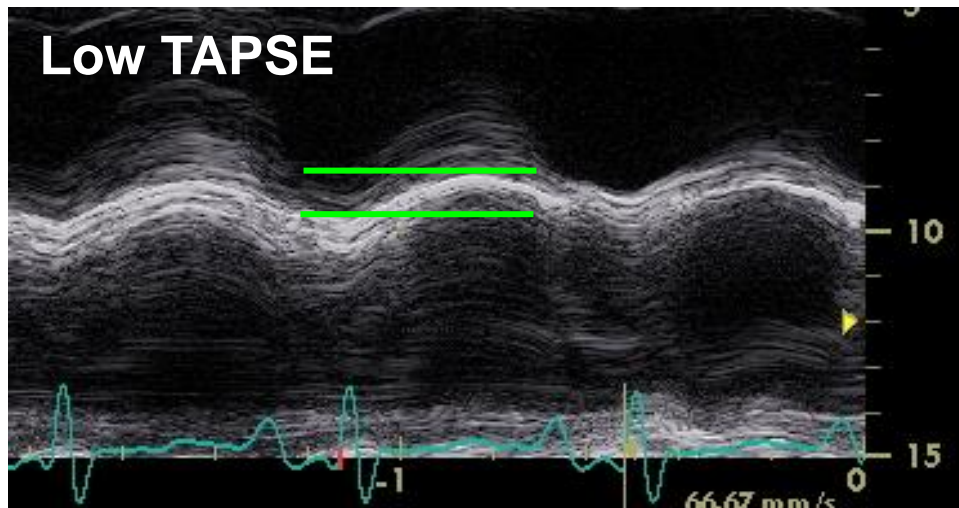
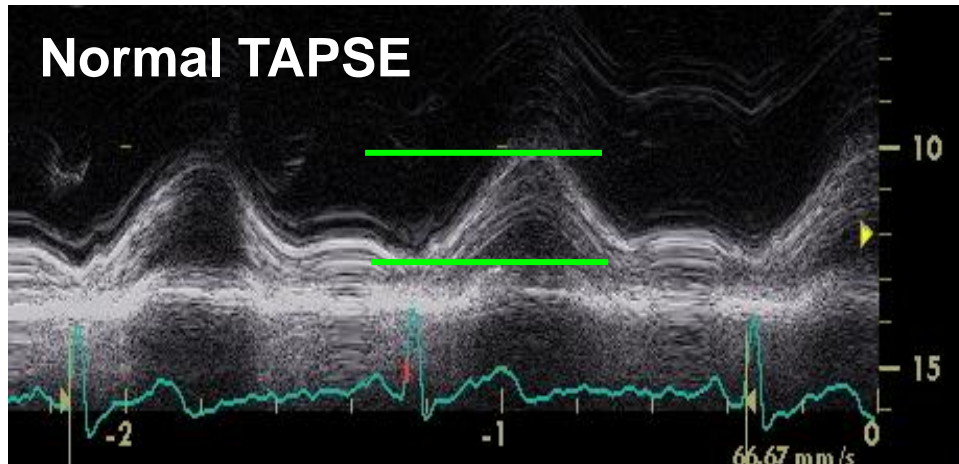
Echo - Pericardial effusion



Echo - Pericardial effusion

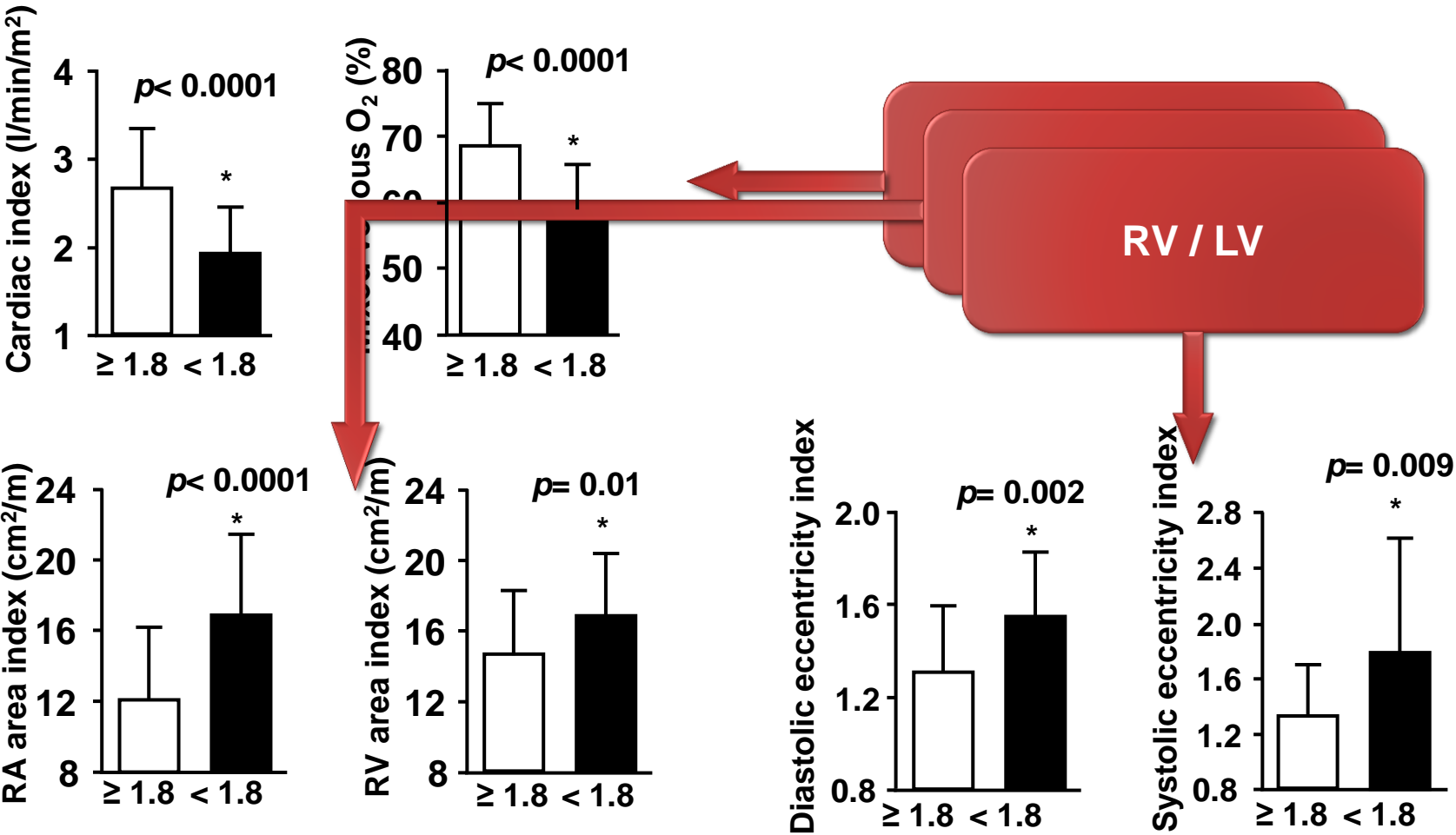


Echo - TAPSE



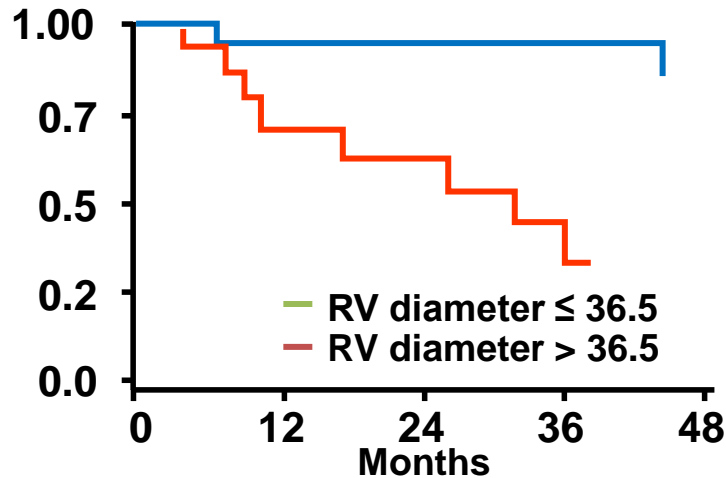
- Longitudinal movement of lateral tricuspid annulus towards apex at peak systole
- Abundant longitudinal fibres
- Correlates with RV systolic function

Echo - TAPSE



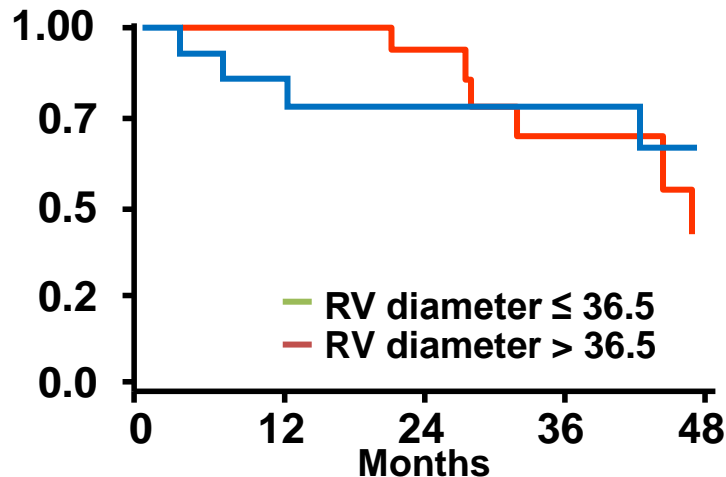
Echo - RV morphology

Survival curves in patients with RV wall thickness ≤ 6.6 mm

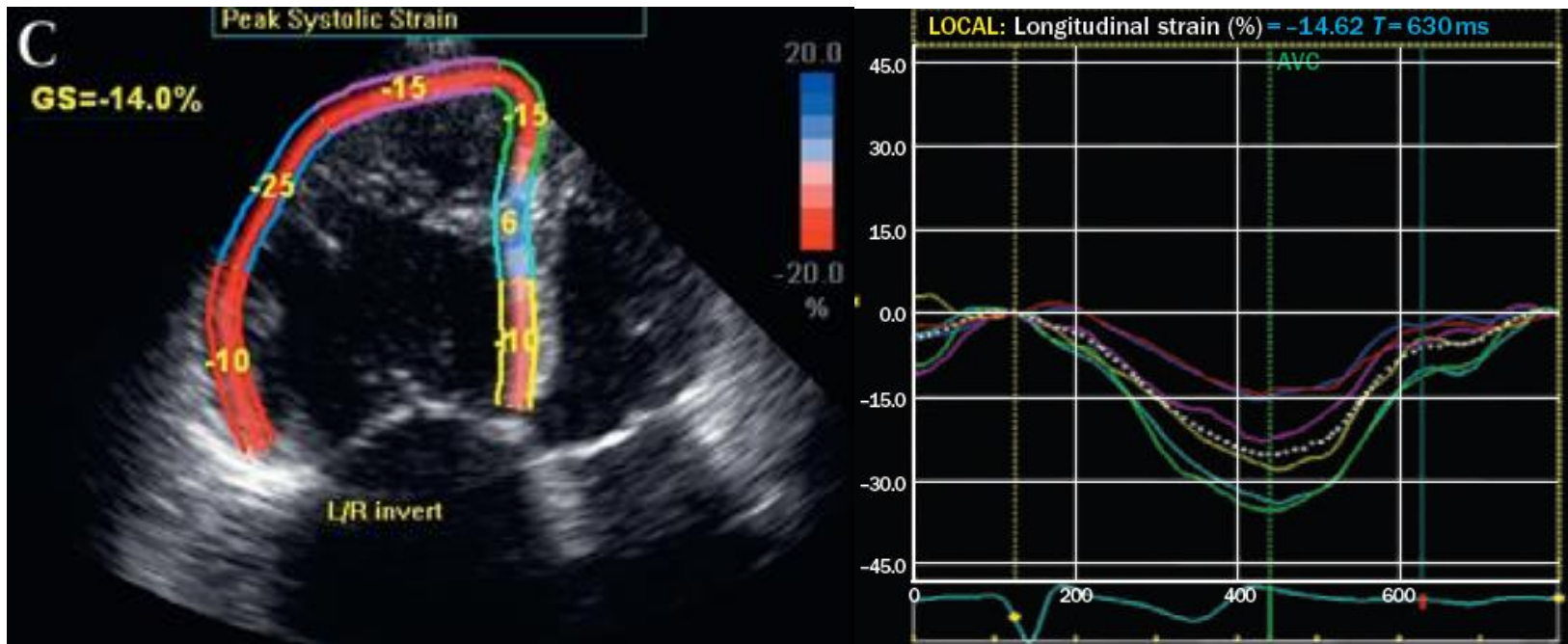


- Death rate per 100 patient-year:
 - RV diameter < 36.5 mm
 - 6.6 (95%CI 3.3-13.2)
 - RV diameter > 36.5 mm
 - 15.9 (95%CI 9.4-26.8)

Survival curves in patients with RV wall thickness > 6.6 mm

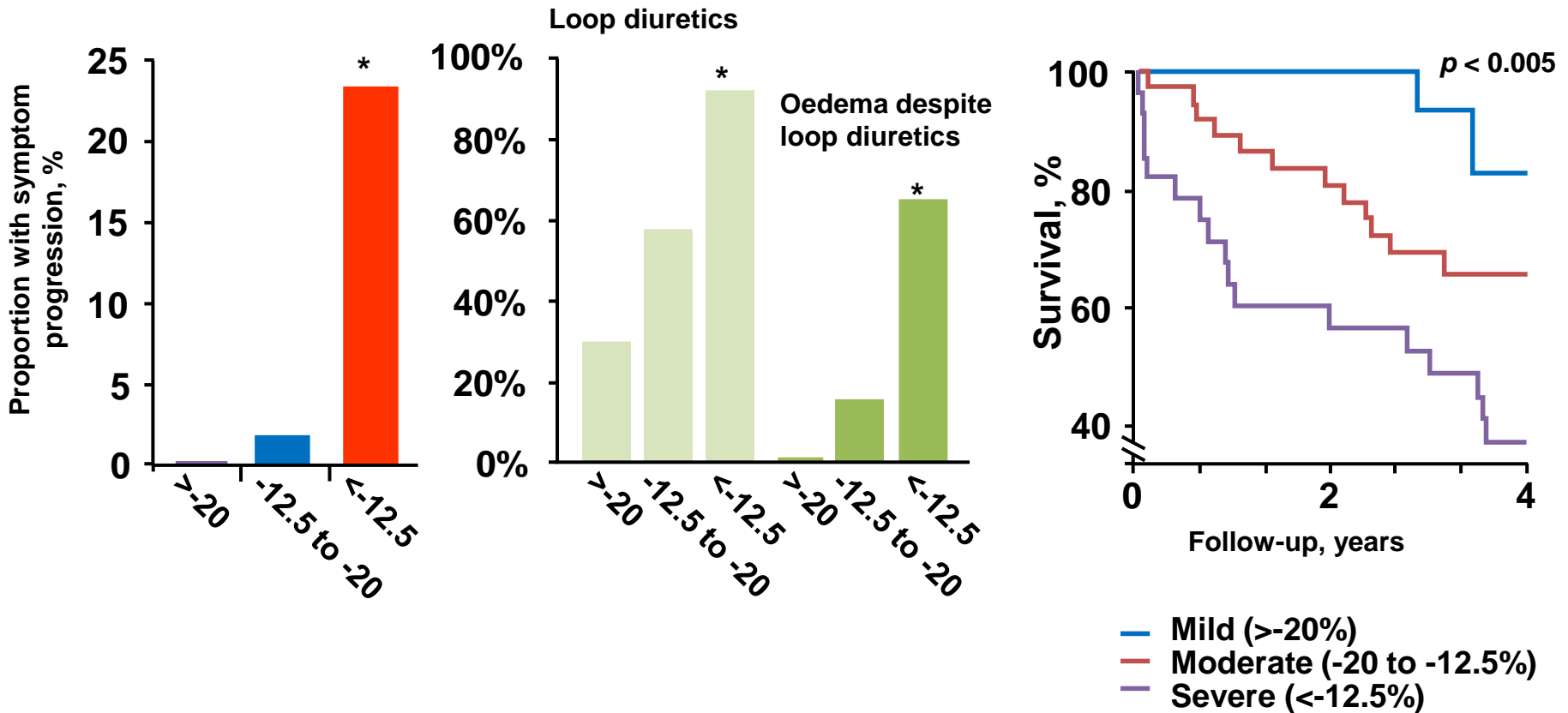


Echo - 2D longitudinal strain



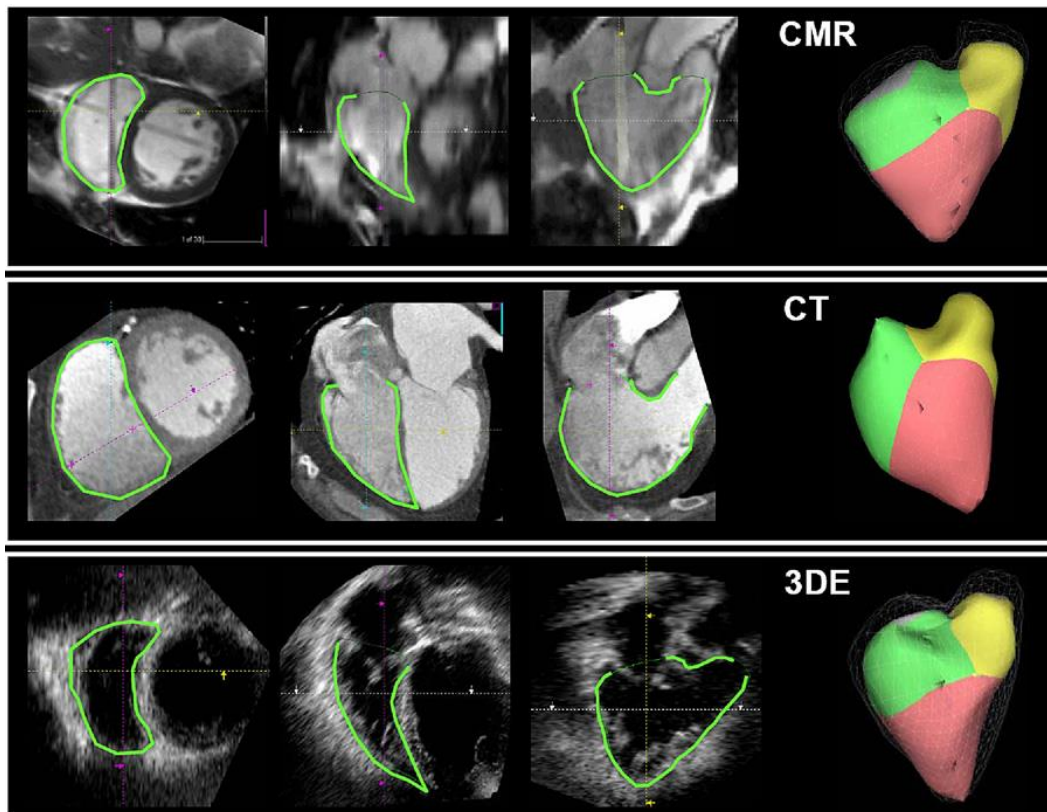
- Percentage change in myocardial deformation
- Doppler or speckles
- More negative = better contractility
- Unlike TAPSE it takes whole RV into account
- Load dependent










Echo - 2D longitudinal strain



Echo - 3D

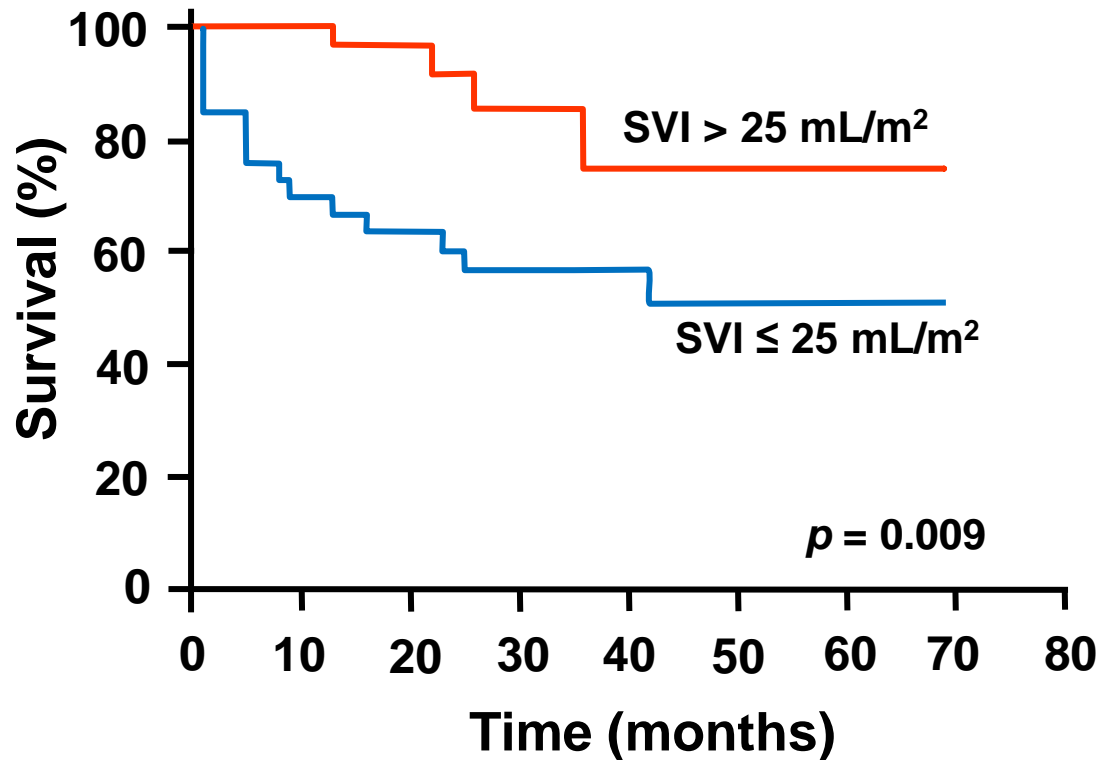
- Rapid acquisition of full volume 3D data
- Accurate & reproducible measures of RV



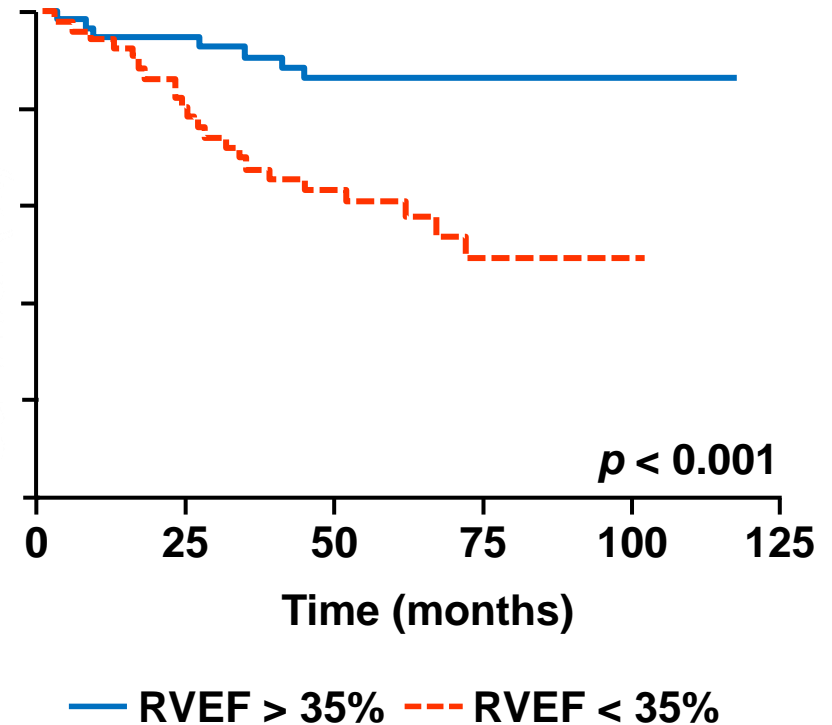
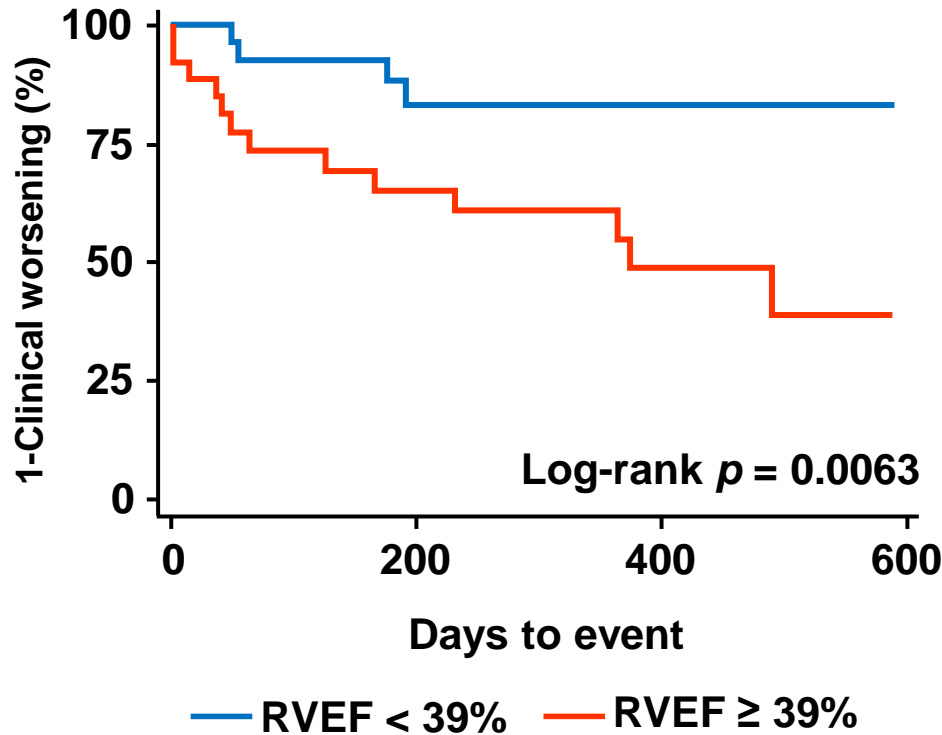
ESV (ml)	EDV (ml)	EF (%)
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">    </div> <div style="text-align: center;">    </div> <div style="text-align: center;">    </div> </div>		
0.89	0.87	0.87
(-9ml)	(-14ml)	(-2%)

CMRI - Stroke volume

- 64 IPAH prevalent patients
- Measured at baseline by MRI
- Mean follow-up: 32 months



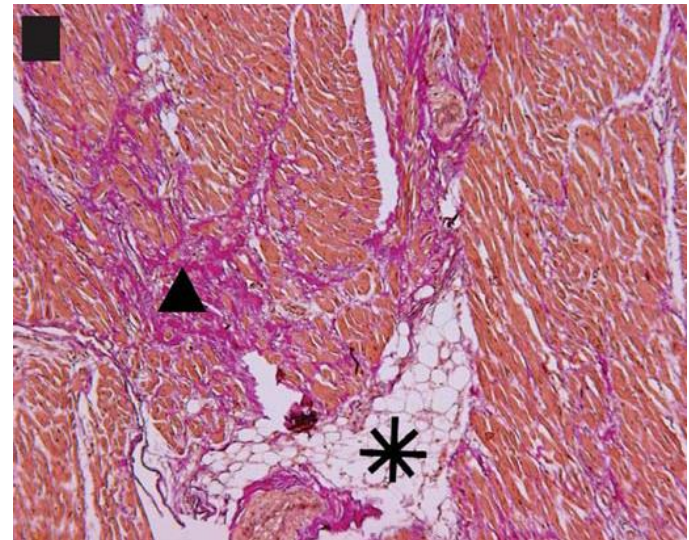
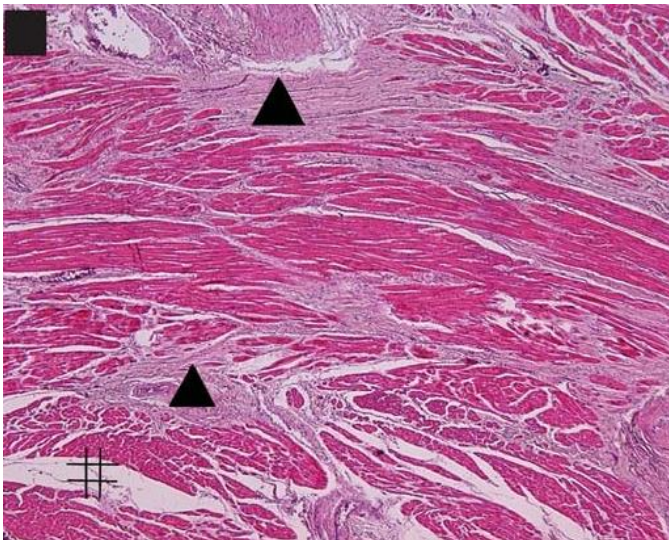
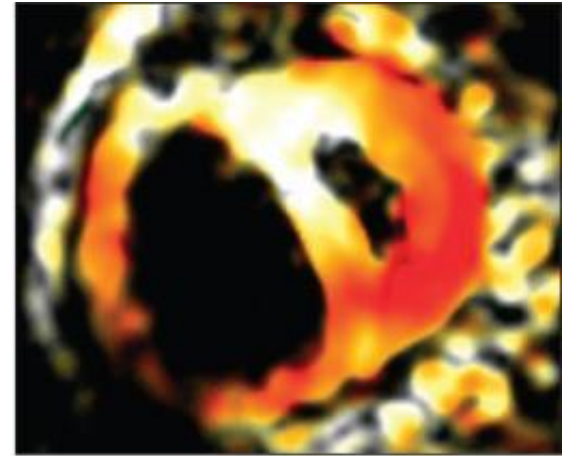
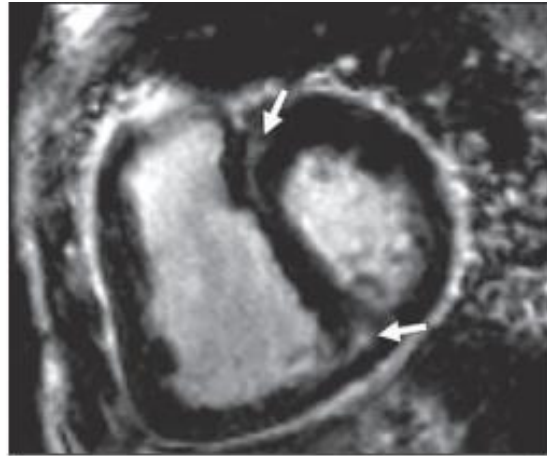
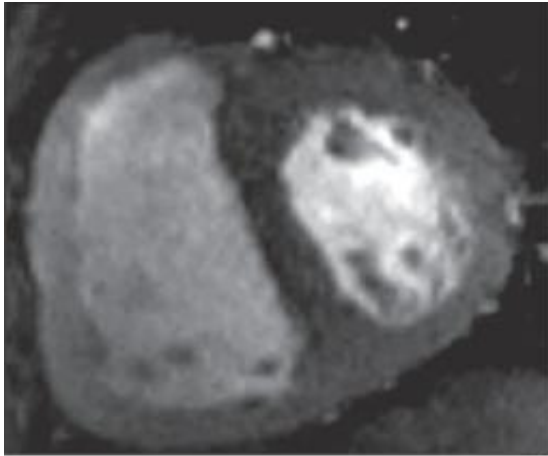
CMRI - RV ejection fraction



Freed *et al.* *JCMR* 2012; 14:11.

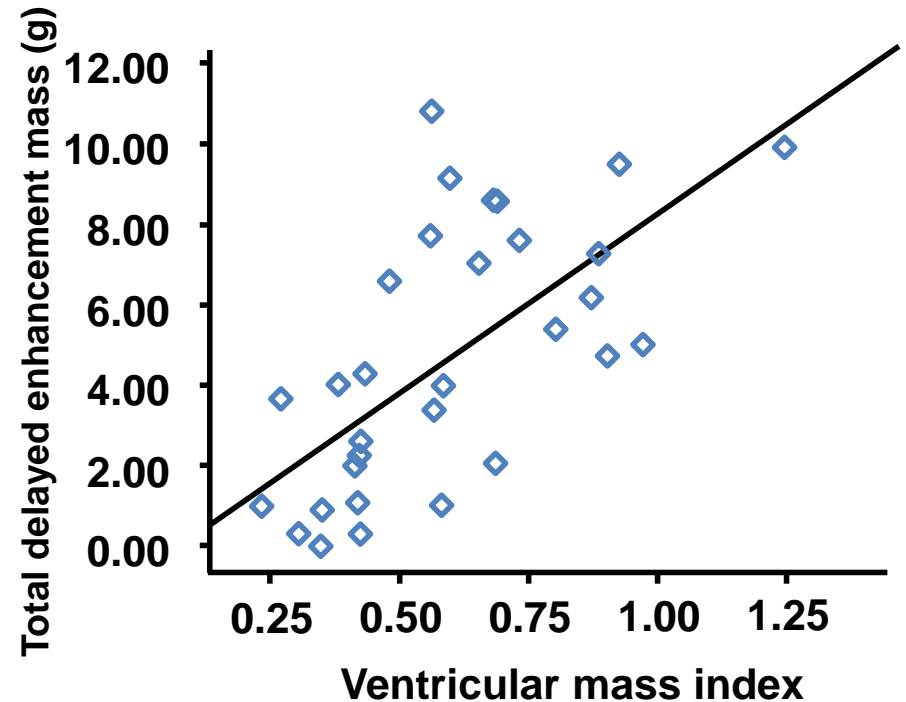
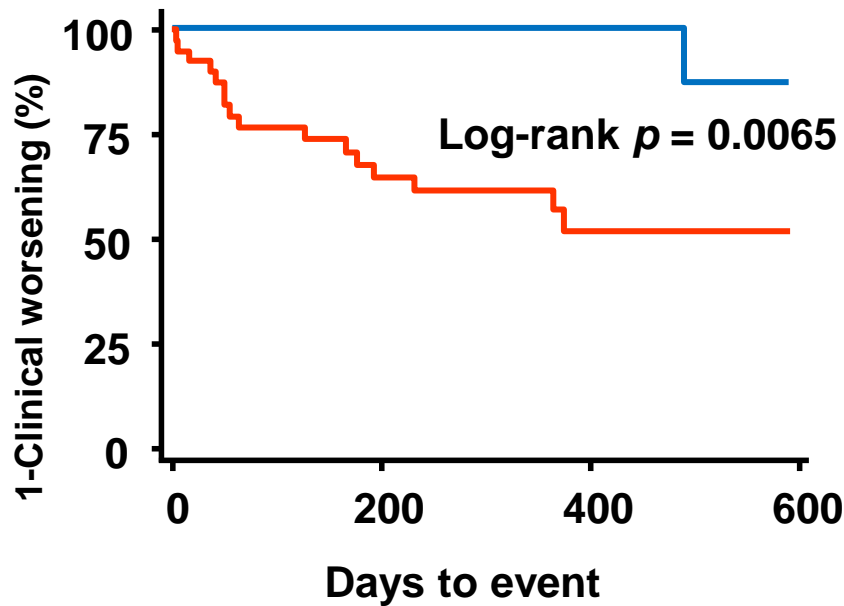
van de Veerdonk *et al.* *JACC* 2011; 58:2511-9.

CMRI - Myocardial delayed enhancement

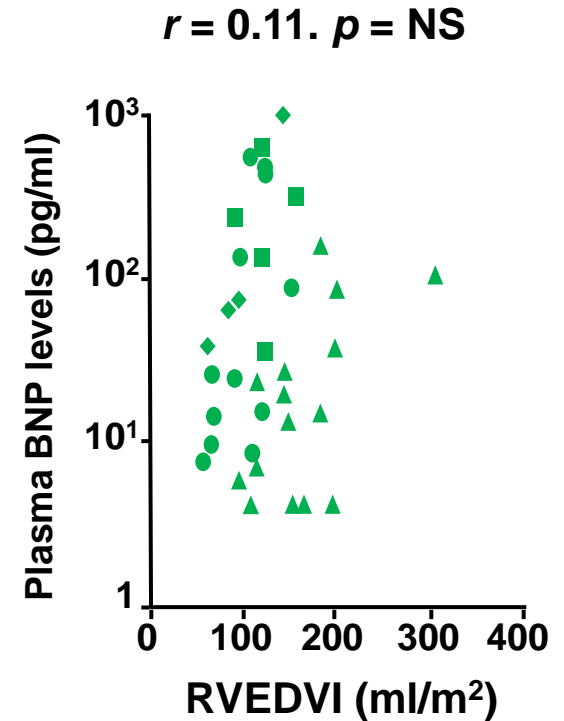
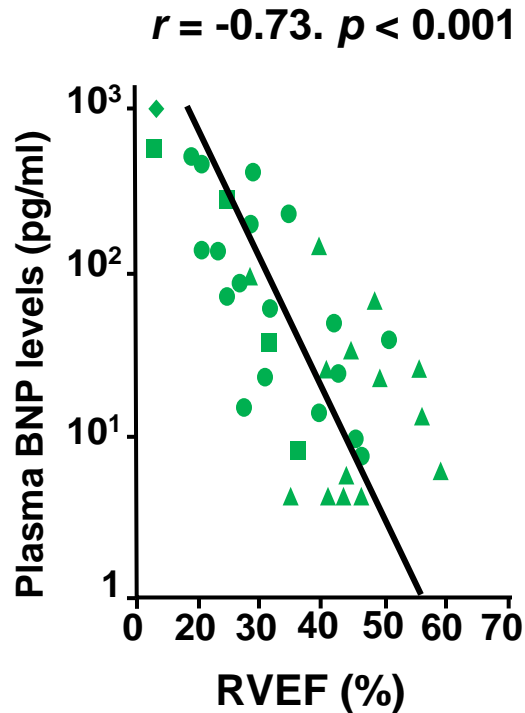
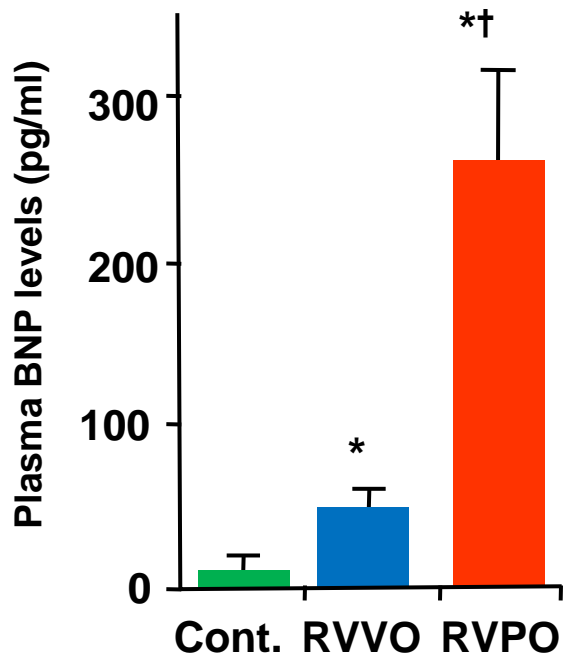


CMRI - Myocardial delayed enhancement

Right ventricular insertion point-late gadolinium enhancement (RVIP-LGE)



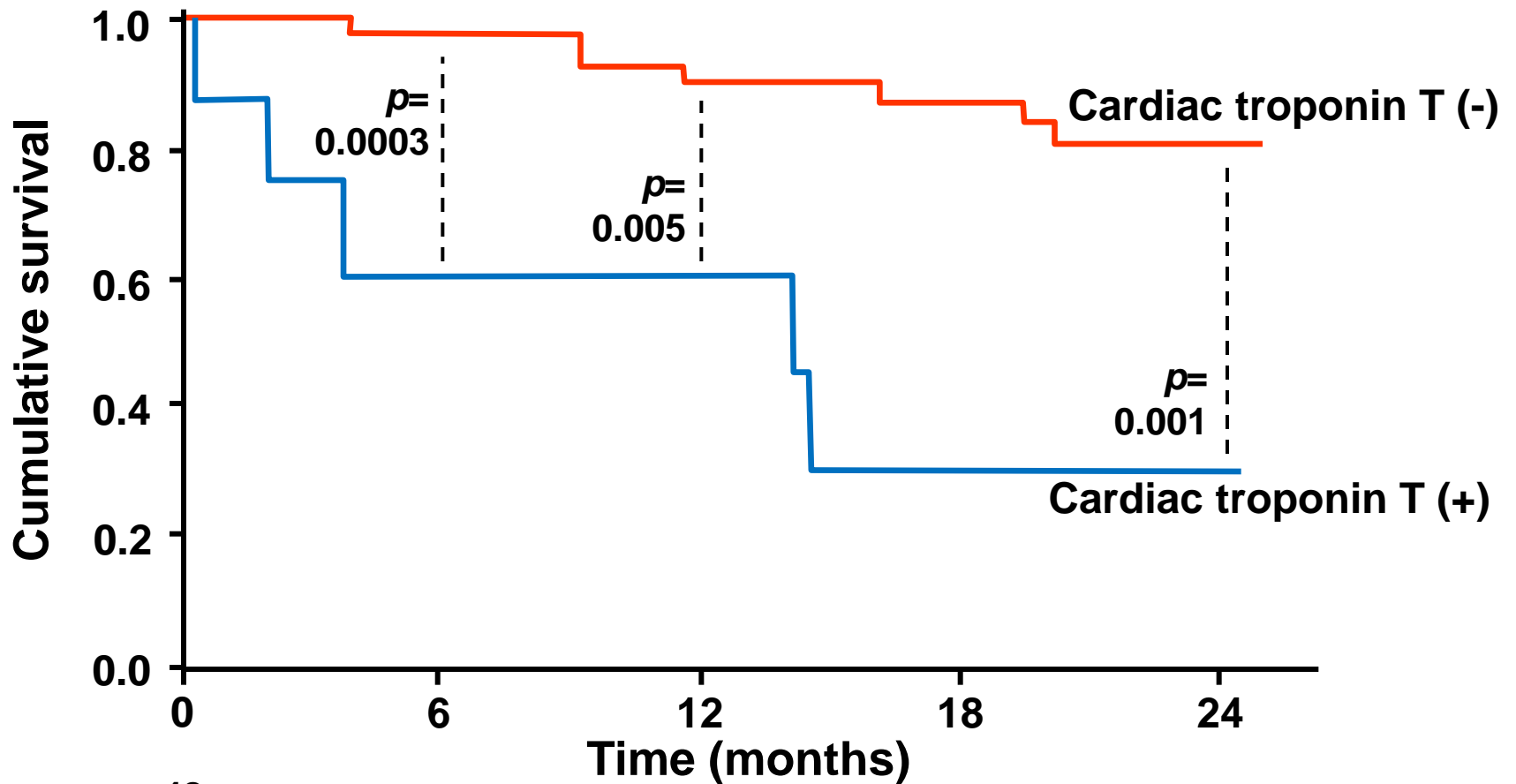
BNP as surrogate of RV function



* $p < 0.05$ vs control
† $p < 0.05$ vs RVVO

44 patients
18 - ASD (RVVO)
16 - CTEPH (RVPO)

Prognostic value of cardiac troponin T in PAH and CTEPH patients



Numbers at risk, *n*

Conclusion

- Sir William Harvey 1616 – “De Motu Cardis”
“Thus the right ventricle may be said to be made for the sake of transmitting blood through the lungs, not for nourishing them.”
- Paucity of knowledge regarding RV
- Understanding of RV adaptation to PH crucial for Tx.