

Cardiology

Acute Myocardial Infarction

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Program Director and Academic Chairman

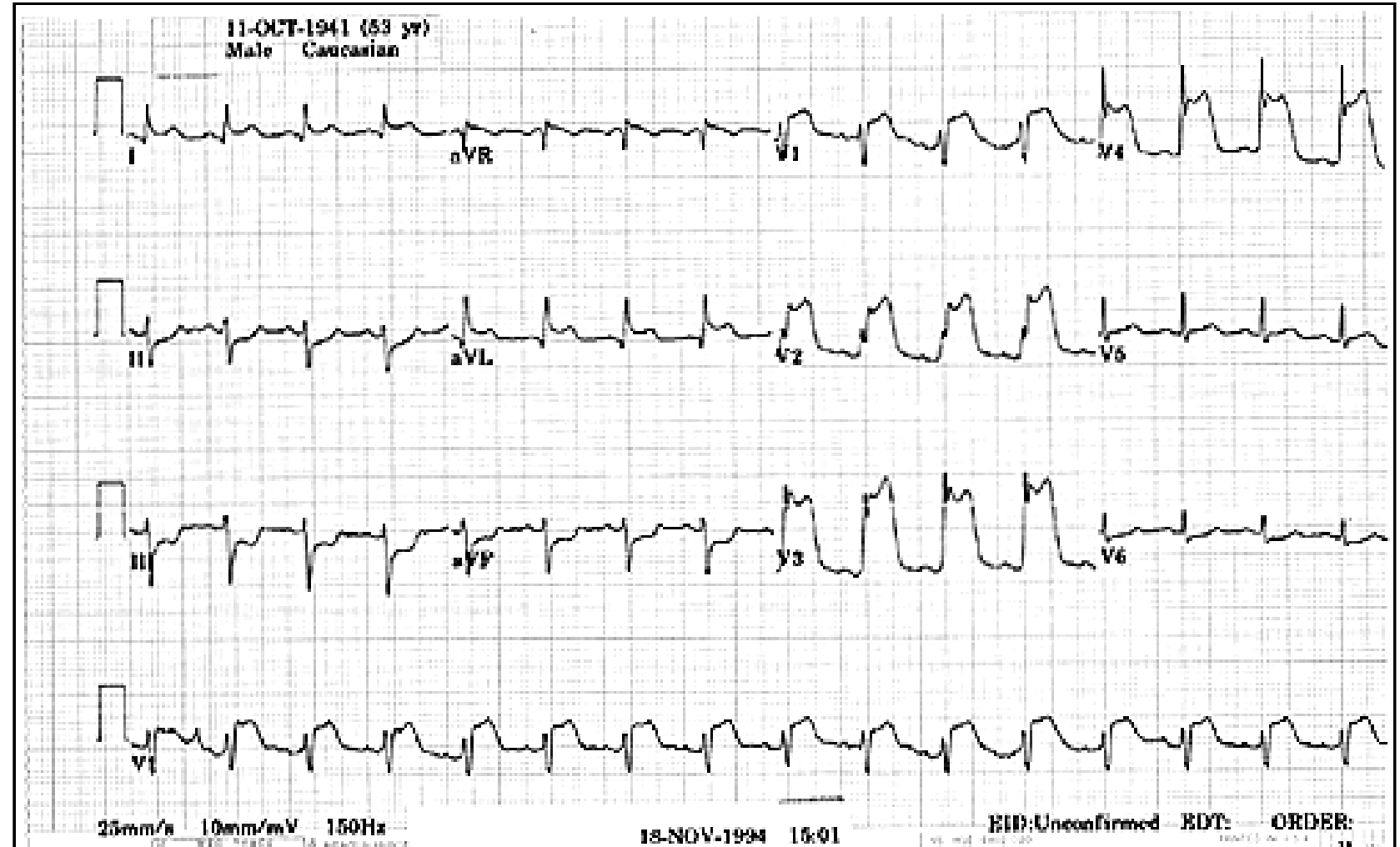
AdventHealth Winter Park

Family Medicine Residency Program

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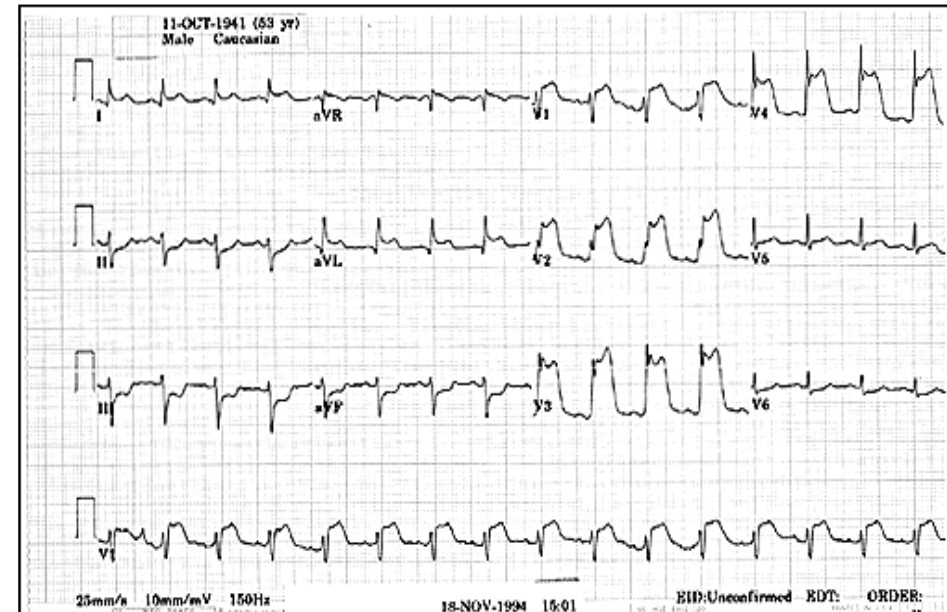
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Question: A 55 yo male presents urgently to the ED with crushing, substernal chest pain. His EKG shows:



Question (*cont'd*): The best treatment for this condition is:

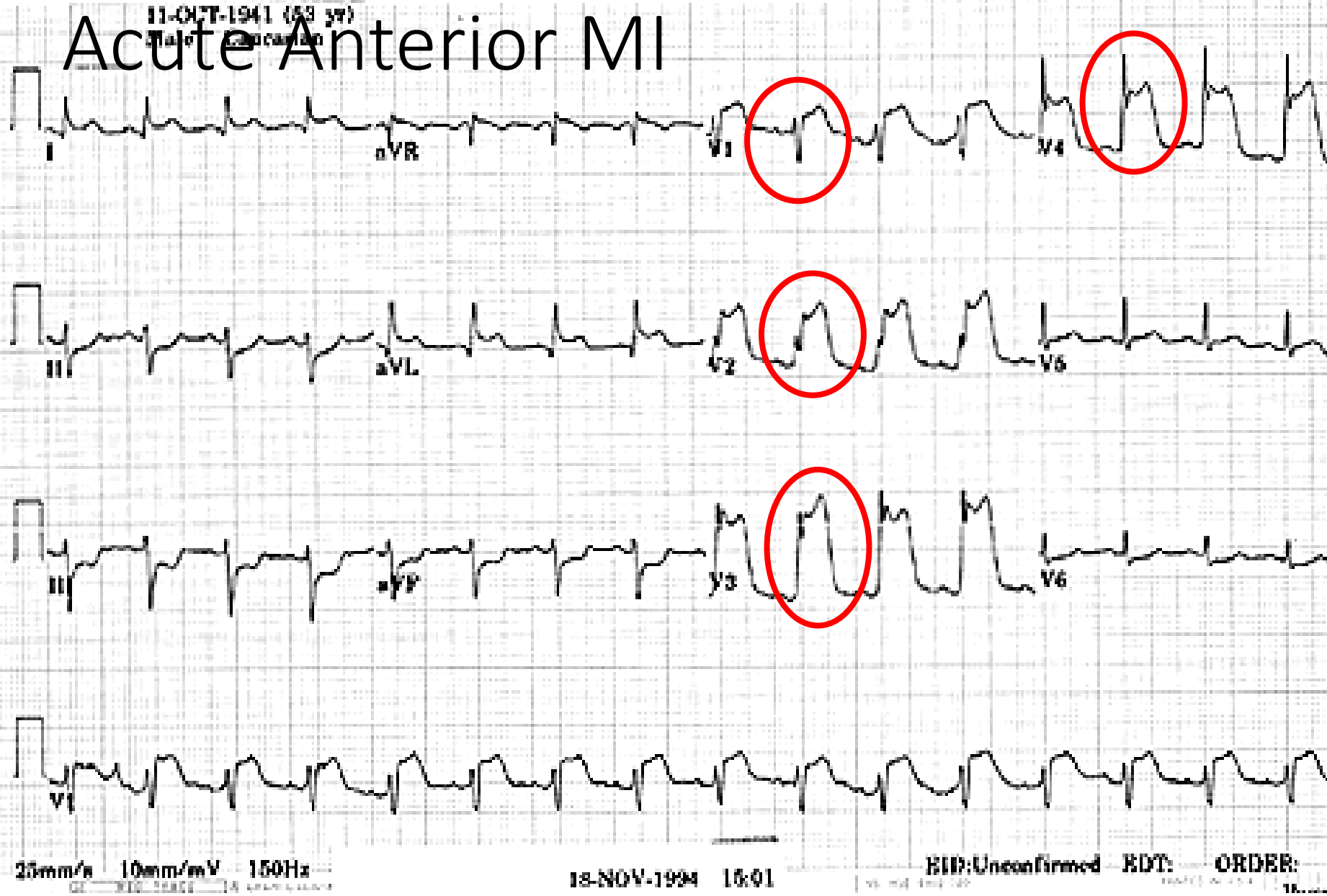
- A. t-PA and hospitalization
- B. IV heparin, IV metoprolol, and Morphine, Oxygen, Nitroglycerin, Aspirin (MONA) and Clopidogrel
- C. Naproxen 500 mg bid for 1-2 weeks with food
- D. Echocardiogram, ACEI, and statin
- E. Emergent PCI



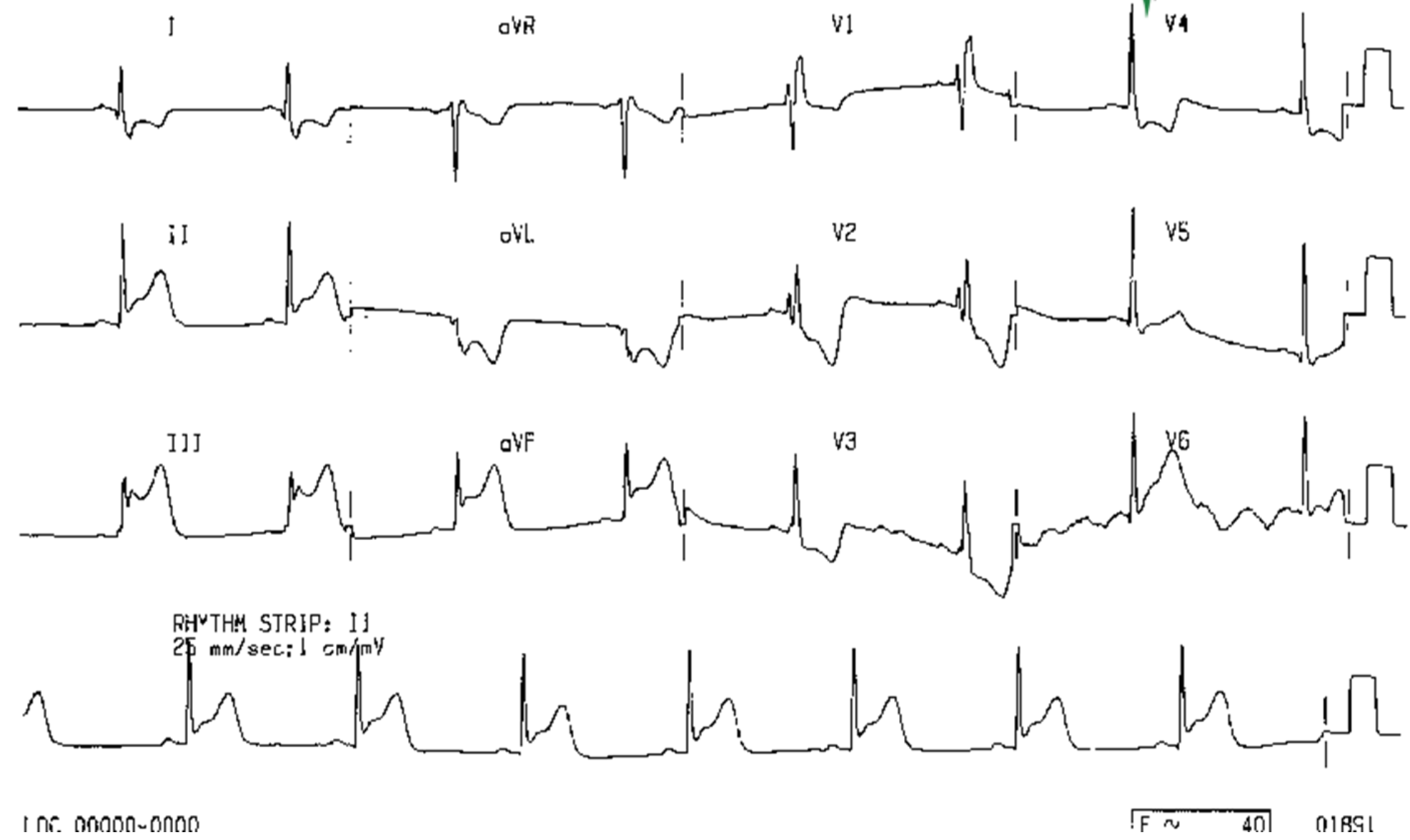
Correct answer is E

- t-PA would only be indicated if PCI was not available.
- IV heparin, metoprolol, and MONA are all good supportive therapies but this patient needs his LAD opened.
- Naproxen is used for pericarditis, but not MI
- Similarly, an echo, ACEI, and statins are all post-MI therapies but do not address the active clot.

Acute Anterior MI



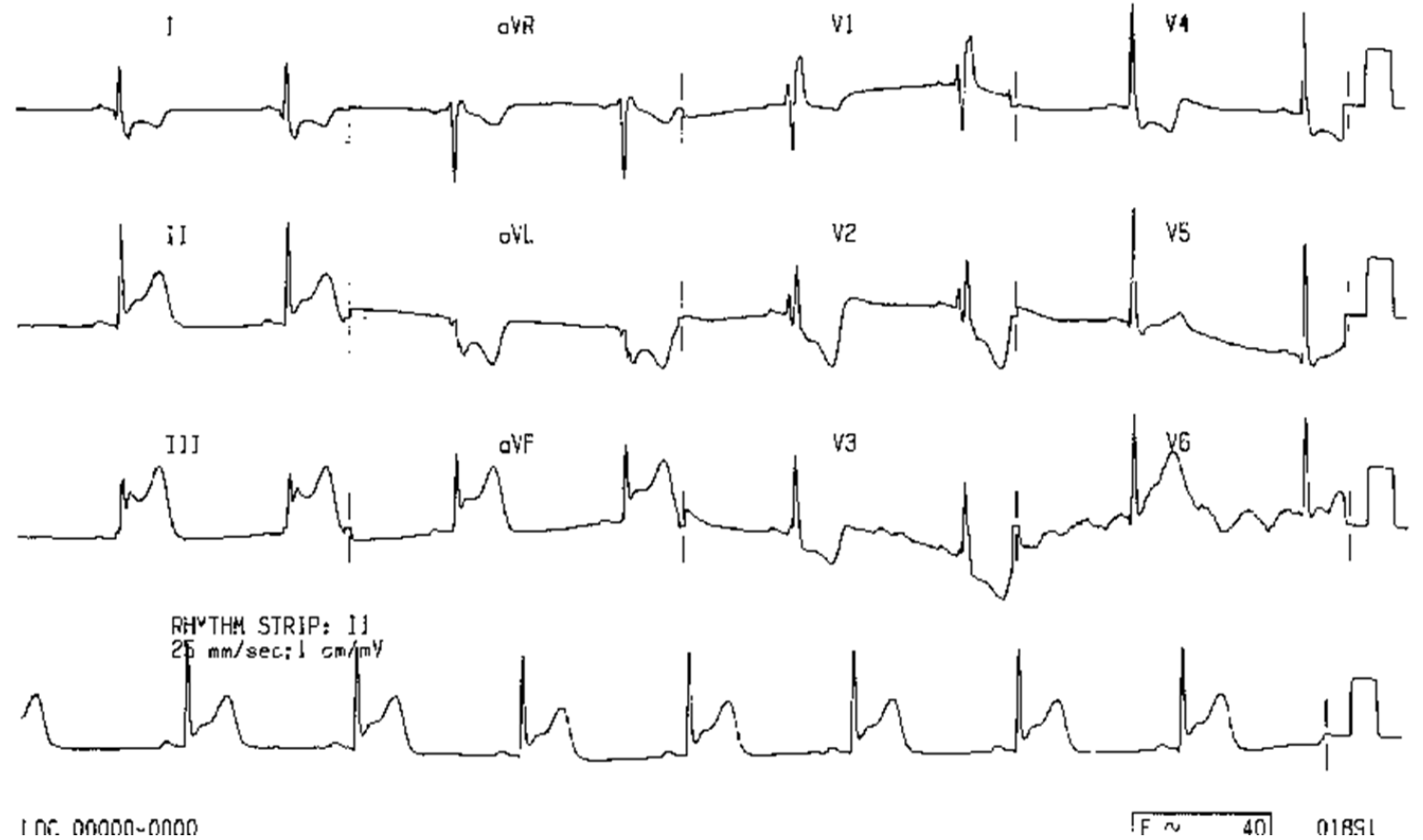
A 62-yo female presents with onset of nausea and vomiting for 1 hour. What is the diagnosis?



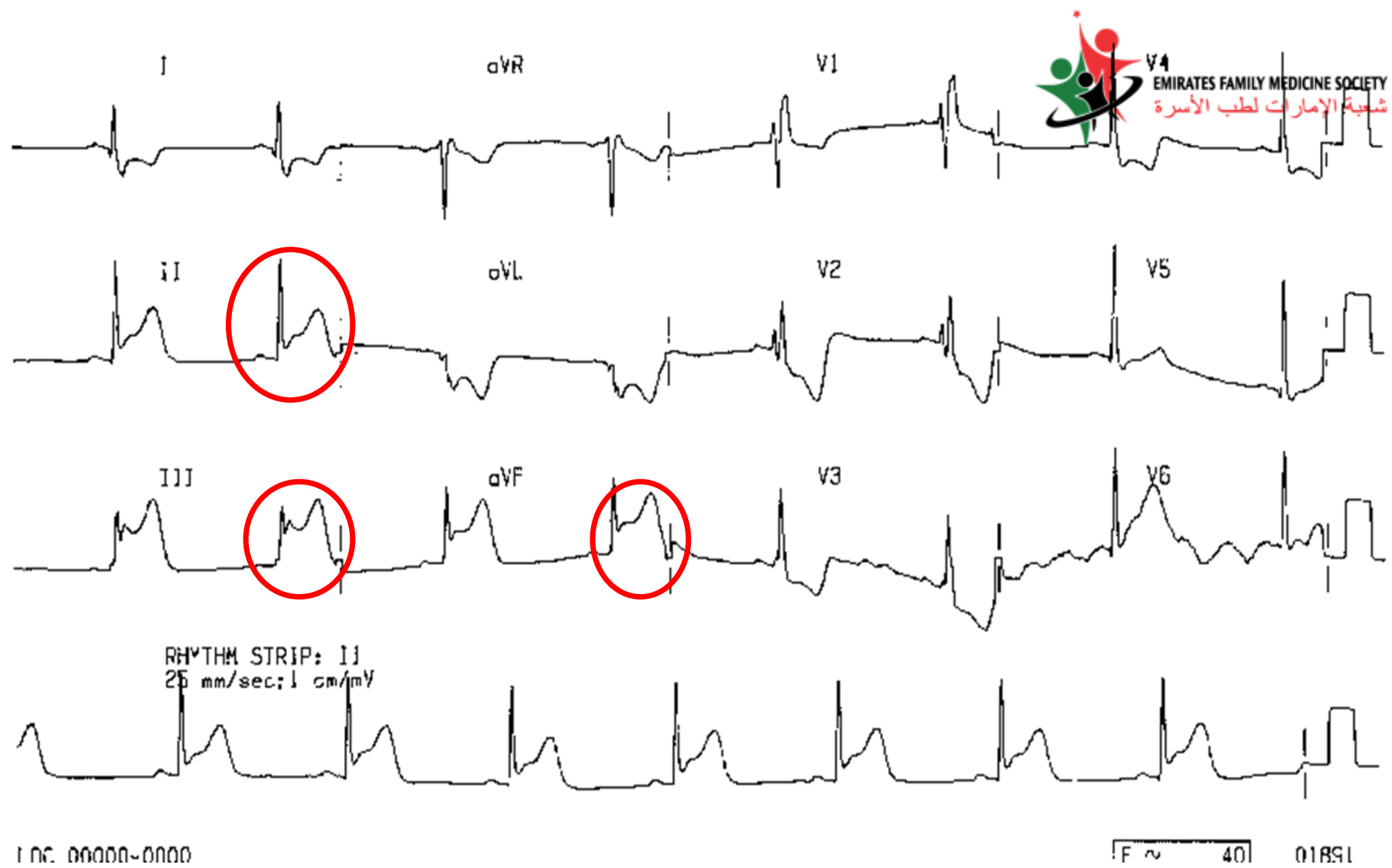
Question 2

What is the diagnosis?

- A. Anterior wall infarction
- B. Pericarditis
- C. Inferior wall infarction
- D. Septal MI



Inferior Wall MI



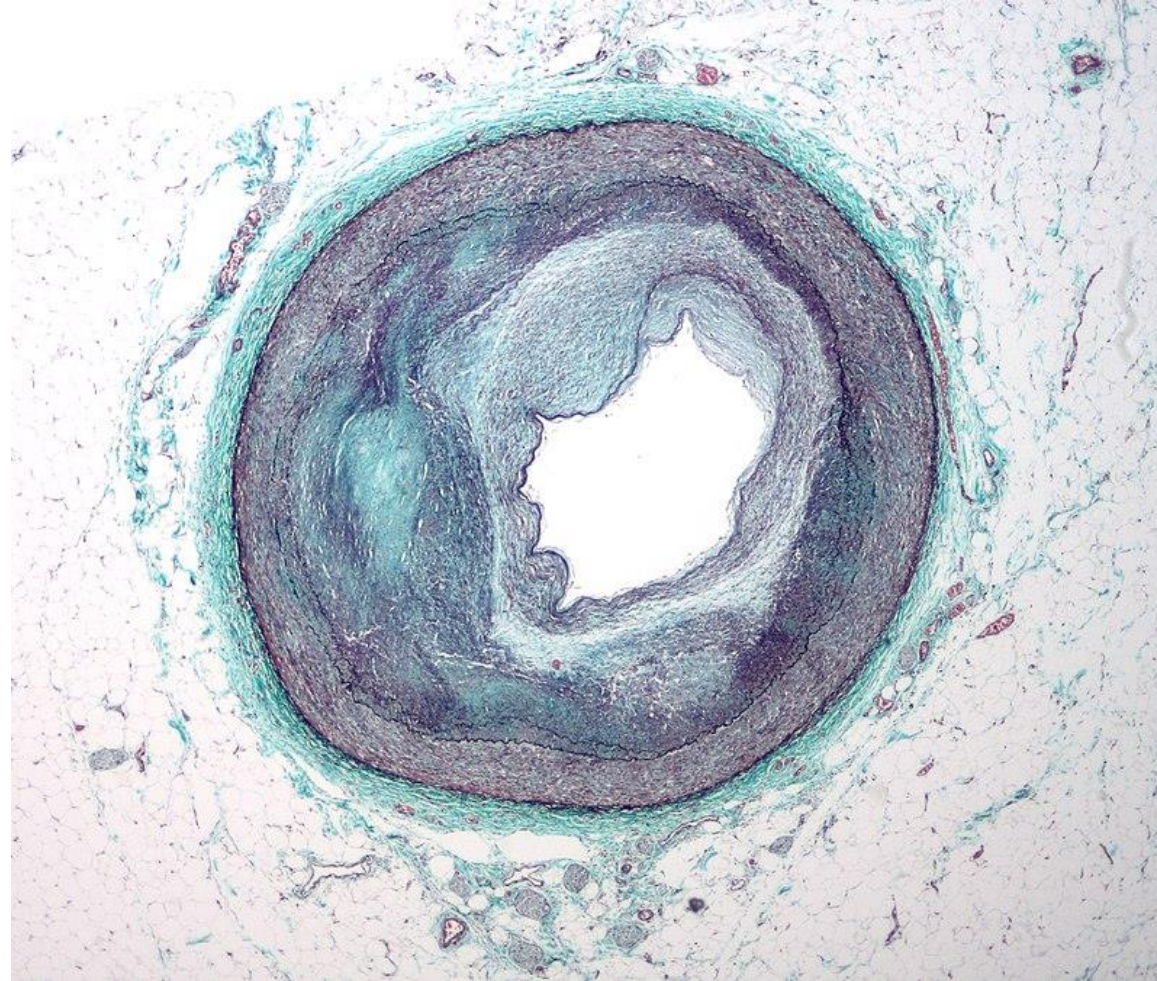
Acute MI: Definition

- Types of MI: STEMI and NSTEMI
- STEMI often requires consideration of immediate recanalization therapy
- Acute coronary syndrome (non–ST segment elevation MI/unstable angina) often does not

Pathophysiology of Acute MI

- Plaque rupture is the most common event leading to coronary thrombotic occlusion (MI)
- Plaque rupture most frequently occurs in lipid-laden plaques

Atherosclerosis



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STEMI vs NSTEMI

- STEMI is usually the result of complete coronary occlusion after plaque rupture
- NSTEMI is usually associated with greater plaque burden without complete occlusion
- This difference contributes to the increased early mortality seen in STEMI and the eventual equalization of mortality between STEMI and NSTEMI after 1 year

Diagnosis

- Traditionally, diagnosis of MI requires:
 - Ischemic-type chest discomfort (Symptoms)
 - ECG abnormalities
 - Elevated serum cardiac markers.
 - Recently, serum cardiac markers (e.g., troponin I [TnI] or troponin T [TnT]) have assumed a dominant role in confirming the diagnosis of acute MI in patients with suggestive clinical and/or ECG features

Which one of the following types of chest pain is most likely to be a myocardial infarction?

- A. Chest discomfort typically lasting 30-60 seconds
- B. Squeezing pain radiating from the sub sternum to the left arm or jaw
- C. Chest pain reliably relieved with one nitroglycerin tablet
- D. Clustered around the evening hours
- E. Associated with bedrest

Correct answer is B

Radiation location

- The most characteristic pattern of radiation is to the left arm
- Can radiate to right arm, both arms, shoulders, neck, jaw, teeth, epigastrium, and interscapular areas
- Discomfort above the jaws or below the umbilicus is not typical of acute MI

Onset and Duration

- The discomfort of acute MI is more severe and lasts longer (typically 20 minutes to several hours) than angina
- Not reliably relieved by rest or nitroglycerin
- Can occur at any time of the day
 - Most appear to be clustered around the early hours of the morning or are associated with demanding physical activity, or both

Additional Considerations

- ~20% of acute MIs are painless (“silent”) or atypical (unrecognized)
- More common in diabetics and elderly
- Women may have more atypical symptoms of MI.

EKG anatomy follows the coronary arteries

- Lateral leads (left circumflex off the left main coronary)
 - I, aVL, V₅, V₆
- Anterior leads (left anterior descending artery)
 - V₁ – V₄
- Septal/posterior leads
 - V₁-V₂
- Inferior leads (right coronary artery is dominant posteriorly 80% of cases)
 - II, III, aVF

Which of the following ECG findings is consistent with an acute or evolving MI:

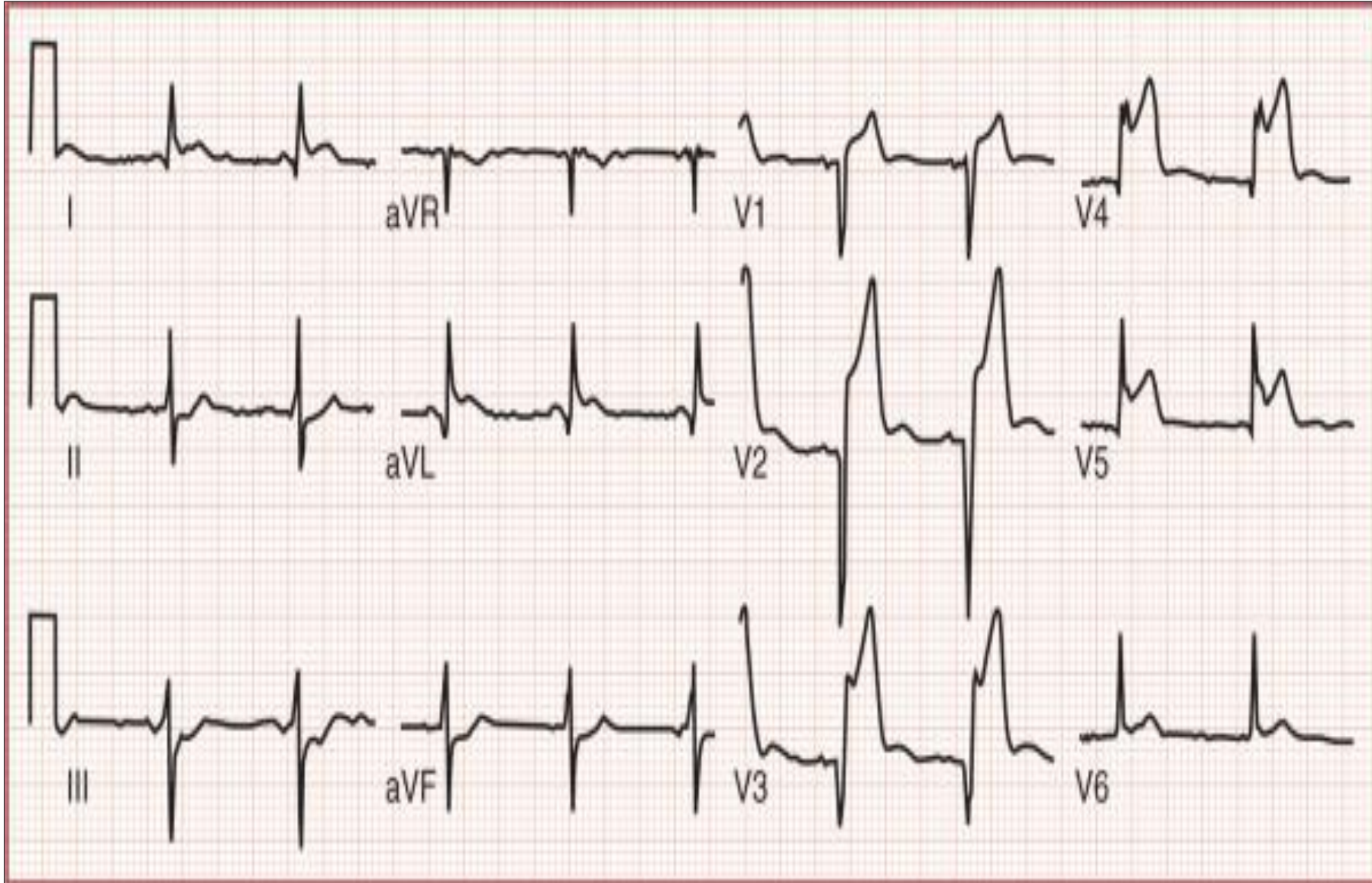
- A. ST segment depression
- B. RBBB pattern
- C. P wave flattening
- D. ST segment elevation
- E. QTc prolongation

Correct answer is D

Acute Phase EKG changes

- This earliest phase begins within minutes, persists, and evolves over hours
- T waves increase in amplitude and widen over the area of injury (hyperacute pattern)
- ST segment elevation in area of ischemia/injury
- ST segment depressions that occur in leads opposite those with ST segment elevation are known as “reciprocal changes”
- Q waves evolve during a transmural MI

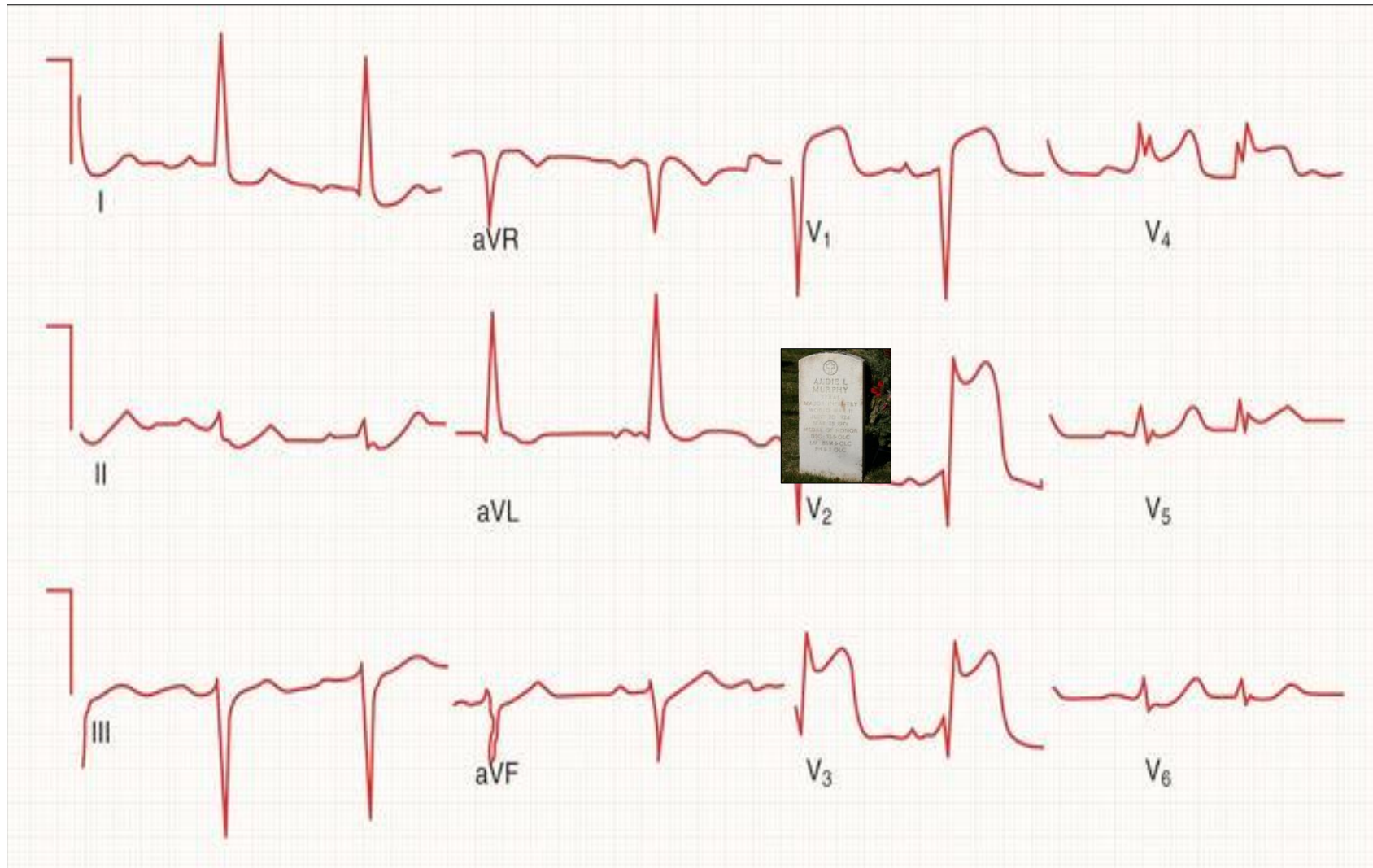
Hyperacute T waves



Tombstones



Tombstone EKGs



Imaging

- EKG
- CXR
- Echocardiogram
- Radionuclide scans (used more for risk stratification)

Treatment

- In patients with ST segment elevation acute MI by clinical and ECG criteria, a recanalization strategy must be selected
 - Primary percutaneous coronary intervention
 - **Door-to-cath < 90 minutes is goal**
 - **PCI is preferred treatment over thrombolytics as TIMI-3 (normal blood flow) is achievable >94%**
 - Fibrinolysis
 - Helpful when PCI not available
 - TIMI-3 ~ 55%

Treatment in ED

- Morphine
- Oxygen
- NTG
- ASA
- These four constitute our MONA treatment

- Beta-blocker
- Heparin
- Thienopyridines/P2Y12 inhibitors (clopidogrel, ticagrelor, prasugrel)

A 63 yo male sustains an MI. PCI with drug-eluting stent is performed and his hospital course is unremarkable. At the time of discharge, which of the following medications should routinely be prescribed?

- A. Metformin 500 mg bid
- B. Esomeprazole 40 mg daily
- C. Fluoxetine 20 mg daily
- D. Aspirin 81 mg + Clopidogrel 75 mg daily
- E. Nifedipine XL 30 mg daily

Correct answer is D

- While dual antiplatelet therapy may increase the risk of GI bleeding, there is no recommendation for routine GI prophylaxis with PPIs.
- All other meds are routine post-MI care, as per next slide.

Discharge Medication Checklist After Myocardial Infarction

Medication	Doses	Reasons Not to Use	Comments
Aspirin	Initial: 162–325 mg	High bleeding risk	Reduces mortality, reinfarction, and stroke
	Maintenance: 75–162 mg qd		
Clopidogrel (or similar medication)	Initial dose: 300 mg	High bleeding risk	Indicated after PCI for 3 mo–1 yr; also reduces vascular events when added to aspirin in non–ST segment elevation acute MI (also useful based on recent clinical trials after ST segment elevation acute MI)
	Maintenance: 75 mg qd		
β-Blocker (e.g., metoprolol, carvedilol)	Metoprolol: 25 to 200 mg qd	Asthma, bradycardia, severe HF	Reduces mortality, reinfarction, sudden death, arrhythmia, hypertension, angina, atherosclerosis progression
	Carvedilol: 6.25 to 25 mg bid		
ACE inhibitor (e.g., ramipril, lisinopril) or ARB (e.g., valsartan, losartan)	Ramipril: 2.5–10 mg qd	Hypotension, allergy, hyperkalemia	Reduces mortality, reinfarction, stroke, heart failure, diabetes, atherosclerosis progression
	Lisinopril: 5–10 mg qd		
	Valsartan: 80–160 mg qd–bid		
	Losartan: 50–100 mg qd		
Lipid-lowering agent (e.g., a statin) (e.g., atorvastatin, simvastatin)	Atorvastatin: 10–80 mg qd	Myopathy, rhabdomyolysis, hepatitis	Goal = LDL <100 and preferably <70 (statins also can benefit patients with lower LDL [†]); consider addition of niacin or fibrate for high non-HDL cholesterol, low HDL
	Simvastatin: 20–40 mg qd		
Nitroglycerin sublingual	0.4 mg SL prn for angina	Aortic stenosis; sildenafil (Viagra) use	Instruct on prn use and appropriate need for medical attention

Acute MI - Key points

- Use the EKG to dx and localize the MI
- PCI within 90 minutes is goal for all pts
- ASA dose is initially 325 mg in the ED then 75-160 (81) mg post-MI
- ED treatment:
 - MONA (morphine, oxygen, nitroglycerin, aspirin)
 - IV heparin to stabilize plaque/clot
 - IV BB to decrease cardiac O₂ utilization

Atrial Fibrillation



Question: A 76 y.o. male presents to clinic with complaint of heart skipping. No chest pain, dyspnea, or edema. No syncope. No prior CAD, MI, HF, or DM. PMHx – HTN and high chol. EKG shows A. fib. with a ventricular rate of 105. Vital signs are stable and patient feels well. Which of the following is not an appropriate therapy to decrease the risk of stroke?

- Send the patient to the ED for evaluation
- Warfarin 10 mg a day for 2 days, then decrease to 5 mg and check INR
- Rivaroxaban 20 mg qHS
- Clopidogrel 300 mg load then 75 mg daily
- Apixaban 5mg bid

Correct Answer is D

- Patient has new onset A fib with RVR. He is clinically stable. A trip to the ED, while not optimal, is acceptable
- His CHADS₂-VASC score is 3 due to HTN and age >75, suggesting treatment with anticoagulants
- Clopidogrel is not an acceptable option without combining it with aspirin when a patient cannot take warfarin or another anticoagulant

Risk Factors for atrial fibrillation

- HTN, heart failure, CAD
- Valvular abnormalities, esp. mitral
- Obesity
 - Left atrial size increases with BMI
- Sleep apnea
- Left atrium larger than 4 cm
- Congenital heart disease, esp. ASD

Question: Which of the following is an uncommon cause of atrial fibrillation?

- A. Hyperthyroidism
- B. Cardiac amyloidosis
- C. Holiday heart (Celebration with alcoholic beverages)
- D. COPD exacerbation
- E. Enlarged left atrial size > 4.0 cm

Correct Answer is B

A. Fib. Reversible Causes

- Alcohol (Holiday heart)
- Hyperthyroidism
- Pericarditis, myocarditis
- Surgery
- Myocardial Infarction
- Pulmonary embolus, pulmonary disease

Meds For Prevention of Stroke In Nonvalvular A. Fib

- Warfarin/Coumadin – years of utility
- Clopidogrel/Plavix + aspirin when warfarin not indicated
- Dabigatran/Pradaxa (thrombin inhibitor)
 - 150 mg bid, start when INR <2
 - Renal dosing 75 mg bid with CrCl 15-30 ml/min; <15 ml/min use not defined

Meds For Prevention of Stroke In Nonvalvular A. Fib

- Rivaroxaban/Xarelto (factor Xa inhibitor)
 - 20 mg PO daily with evening meal, start when INR < 3
 - Renal dosing necessary 15 mg when CrCl 15-50 ml/min; <15 ml/min, avoid use
- Apixaban/Eliquis (factor Xa inhibitor)
 - 5 mg bid
 - 2.5 mg twice daily for 2 of the following risk factors
 - Age ≥80 years, weight ≤60 kg, or serum creatinine ≥1.5 ml/dL
- Edoxaban/Savaysa (factor Xa inhibitor)
 - 60 mg daily,
 - Don't use with CrCl >95; not studied therefore FDA not approved

Question: A 65 y.o. female has A. fib and is s/p mechanical aortic valve repair. What is the correct INR range for her Coumadin?

- A. 1.0 – 1.5
- B. 1.5 – 2.0
- C. 1.5 – 2.5
- D. 2.0 – 3.0
- E. 2.5 – 3.5

Correct Answer is E

Warfarin and INR dosing

- For nonvalvular A. fib
 - INR goal 2.0 – 3.0
- For valvular A. fib
 - INR goal is 2.5 – 3.5

CHADS₂-VASC Score for Stroke Risk

- The CHADS₂-VASC risk score is the most popular calculator for stroke risk in non-valvular a. fib. and has been best validated in different patient populations

Recommendations for Use of Antithrombotic Therapy to Prevent Embolization in Nonvalvular A. Fib

- For all patients with nonvalvular AF and a CHADS₂–VASC score = 0 is low risk and may not require AC.
- A score =1, low-moderate risk and antiplatelet (ASA) or AC may be considered
- A score ≥ 2 or greater, moderate-high risk and AC should be considered
- In patients who cannot take anticoagulant therapy, consider ASA 325 mg daily plus clopidogrel 75 mg daily, rather than aspirin alone (consider cost in addition)
- Note: the combination of ASA and clopidogrel produces a similar risk of bleeding to that seen with warfarin

Key Points

- Use the CHADS₂–VASC score to determine need for anticoagulation
- Rate control is as good as rhythm control
- Warfarin still the gold standard for AC with mechanical valves
 - INR 2.0–3.0 for nonvalvular A. Fib
- Rapid ventricular response (RVR) is common and can readily be controlled with an IV diltiazem drip

Cardiology

Valvular heart disease, Heart Failure, and Hypertension

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Valvular Heart Disease

Grading of murmurs

- Grade I/VI Barely discernable
- Grade II/VI Readily discernable
- Grade III/VI Loud and easily heard
- Grade IV/VI Palpable thrill associated with murmur
- Grade V/VI Palpable with edge of stethoscope on precordium
- Grade VI/VI Heard with stethoscope off chest

Question: Which one of the following heart murmurs is best heard over the right precordial area extending into the neck?

- A. Mitral valve insufficiency
- B. Mitral valve prolapse
- C. Aortic stenosis
- D. Aortic insufficiency
- E. Mammary souffle

Correct answer is C

Aortic Stenosis

- Bicuspid and other congenitally abnormal aortic valves
- Tricuspid aortic valve stenosis
- Rheumatic valvular heart disease
- Up to 5% of elders > 75 years old have aortic stenosis
- Mammary Souffle is a flow murmur through the internal mammary artery

Aortic Stenosis – Clinical Findings

- II-III/VI mid systolic murmur at upper right sternal border radiating into the carotids
- Carotid pulse – slow upstroke
 - Pulsus parvus et tardus
- PMI prolonged
 - LVH
- PMI laterally displaced
 - Dilated left ventricle

Diagnostic Testing

- 12 lead ECG – often shows LVH, Left atrial enlargement
- CXR-may show
 - Cardiomegaly
 - Pulmonary congestion
 - Aortic valve calcification
- Echocardiogram – indispensable!

Question: A 73 yo female has stable HTN and T2DM. She has known aortic stenosis on a prior echocardiogram. She has noted several episodes of lightheadedness while walking and recently almost passed out while shopping at Dubai Festival City Mall. She has no h/o CAD nor does she have chest pain or edema. Her exam is notable for a 2-3/6 systolic murmur that radiates up both carotids. Which of the following is the best next step?

- A. Add an ACEI to decrease afterload
- B. Aim for an A1C goal of 7.0 to prevent CAD
- C. Start fludrocortisone (Florinef) to increase preload
- D. Refer to cardiothoracic surgery to consider AV replacement
- E. Add a calcium channel blocker to decrease BP

Correct answer is D

Aortic Stenosis

- When the classic symptoms of angina, syncope, and heart failure develop, survival declines precipitously
 - 50% of symptomatic patients die within 2-5 years unless aortic valve is surgically replaced
- Prompt recognition of symptoms and evaluation for possible severe aortic stenosis are crucial in managing the disease

Aortic Stenosis - AVR

- Choice of valve prosthesis
- Mechanical valve – best choice for patients < 50 yo
 - Risk of thromboembolism
 - Bleeding from anticoagulation
- Biosynthetic valve
 - Limited durability – 10-15 years
 - Excellent choice in the elderly > 65 yo

Aortic Stenosis

- TAVR/TAVI – transcatheter aortic valve replacement/implantation
- Balloon valvotomy
 - Palliative technique in poor surgical candidates for AVR
 - Higher incidence of:
 - Residual/recurrent stenosis
 - Death
 - Stroke
 - Aortic rupture
 - Aortic regurgitation

Aortic Stenosis

Key points

- AS is the most common murmur in family medicine.
- It is a harsh midsystolic murmur heard at the RUSB and radiating into the carotids.
- When a patient with AS becomes symptomatic, they should be referred for valve replacement surgery if they are fit.

Question: A 32-year-old male presents to clinic with a two-day history of pain between his shoulder blades. It feels like a ripping sensation. He denies the use of alcohol. The pain is not worse with breathing, but always there. No history of hypertension. He had a bad sore throat as a child. What is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Partial tear of the levator scapulae and rhomboid muscles
- B. Pancreatitis
- C. Pulmonary embolus
- D. Aortic dissection

Correct answer is D

- This is a classic case of aortic dissection wherein the pain is described as an acute ripping sensation located between the shoulder blades posteriorly. The aorta is a retropleural/-peritoneal structure.
- A muscle strain/tear is due to use/overuse/injury to the affected muscle group. Spontaneous tearing without an antecedent history can usually be ruled out.
- The pain of pancreatitis can also radiate posteriorly, but to the mid back.
- Acute pulmonary embolus can give pleuric chest pain – sharp, localized pain from irritation of the pleural rubbing against the chest pain. It can often be localized with the pointing of a finger.

Mitral Regurgitation and Mitral Valve Prolapse

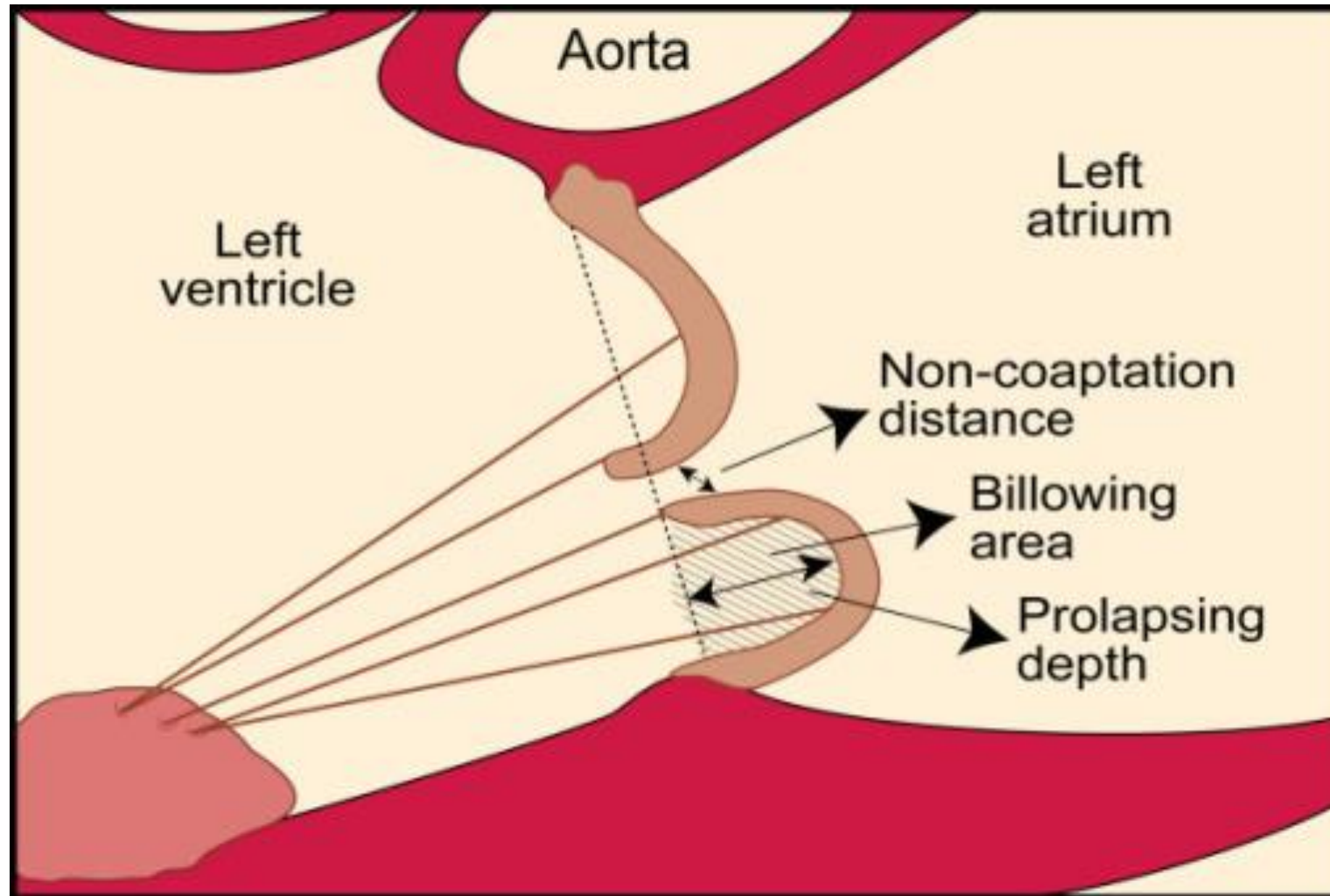
Mitral Regurgitation

- The mitral valve is composed of the mitral annulus, the leaflets, the chordae tendineae, and the papillary muscles
- Abnormalities in any of these structures may lead to mitral regurgitation

Mitral Regurgitation

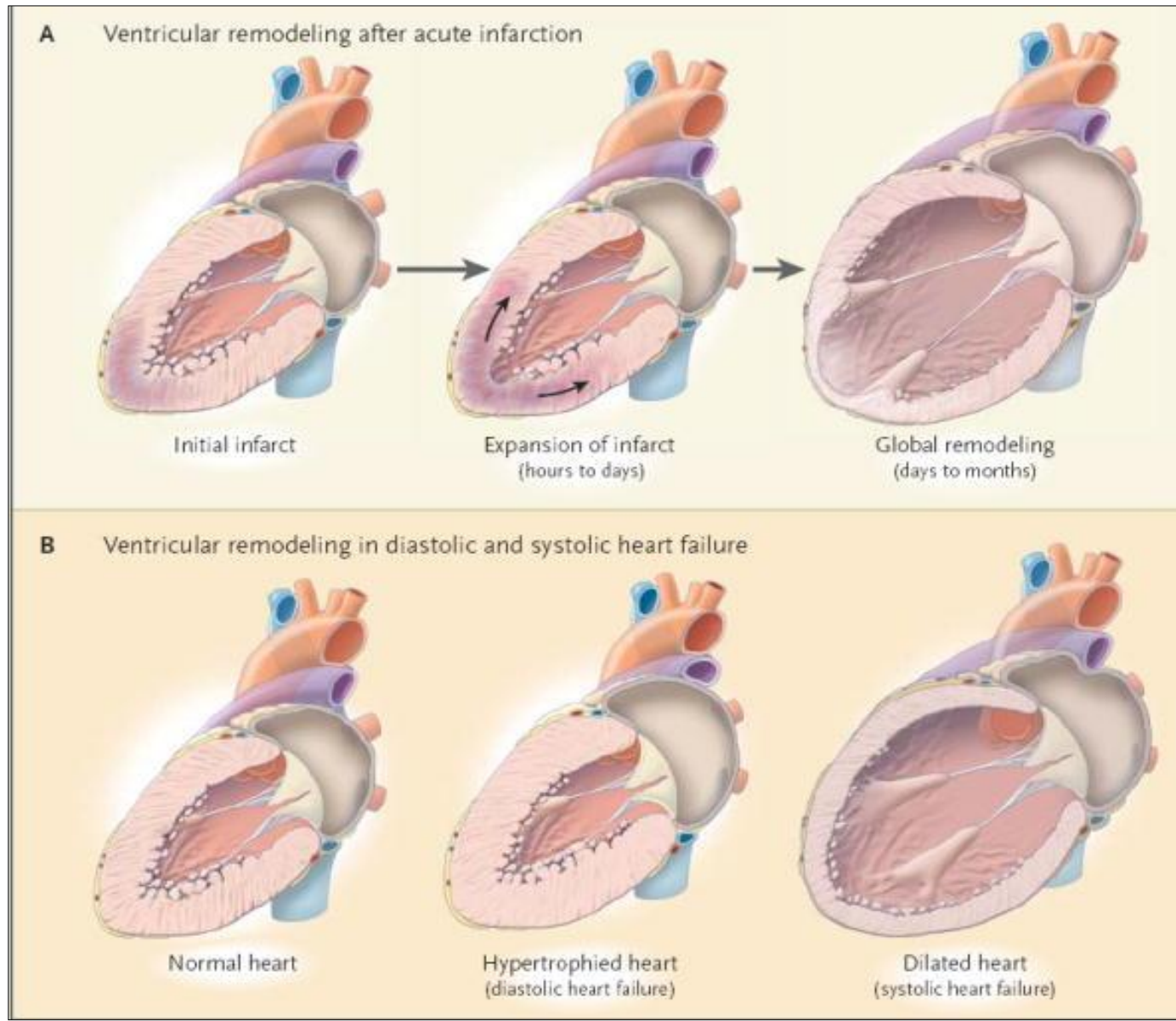
- Causes
 - **Mitral valve prolapse**
 - Myocardial ischemia leading to papillary muscle dysfunction or infarction
 - Annular calcification
 - Endocarditis
 - Collagen vascular disease
 - Rheumatic heart disease

Mitral Valve Prolapse



Slide from NIH in public domain at:

https://openi.nlm.nih.gov/detailedresult.php?img=PMC3296553_1476-7120-10-3-1&query=mitral+valve+prolapse&it=xg&req=4&npos=44



Jessup M, Brozena S, Heart Failure, N Engl J Med 2003;
348:2007-2018, May 15, 2003

Mitral regurgitation and MVP

Key Points

- MR is the second most common murmur in family medicine
- MR most commonly results from MVP
- MVP does not need SBE prophylaxis
- Use the echocardiogram to assess degree of regurgitation, size of left atrium, and time valve surgery.

Heart failure



A patient presents for a routine evaluation for hypertension. She feels well and has no complaints. A 2-3/6 late sys murmur is heard and a subsequent echo shows an EF 33% with 2+ mitral regurgitation. What stage HF does she have?

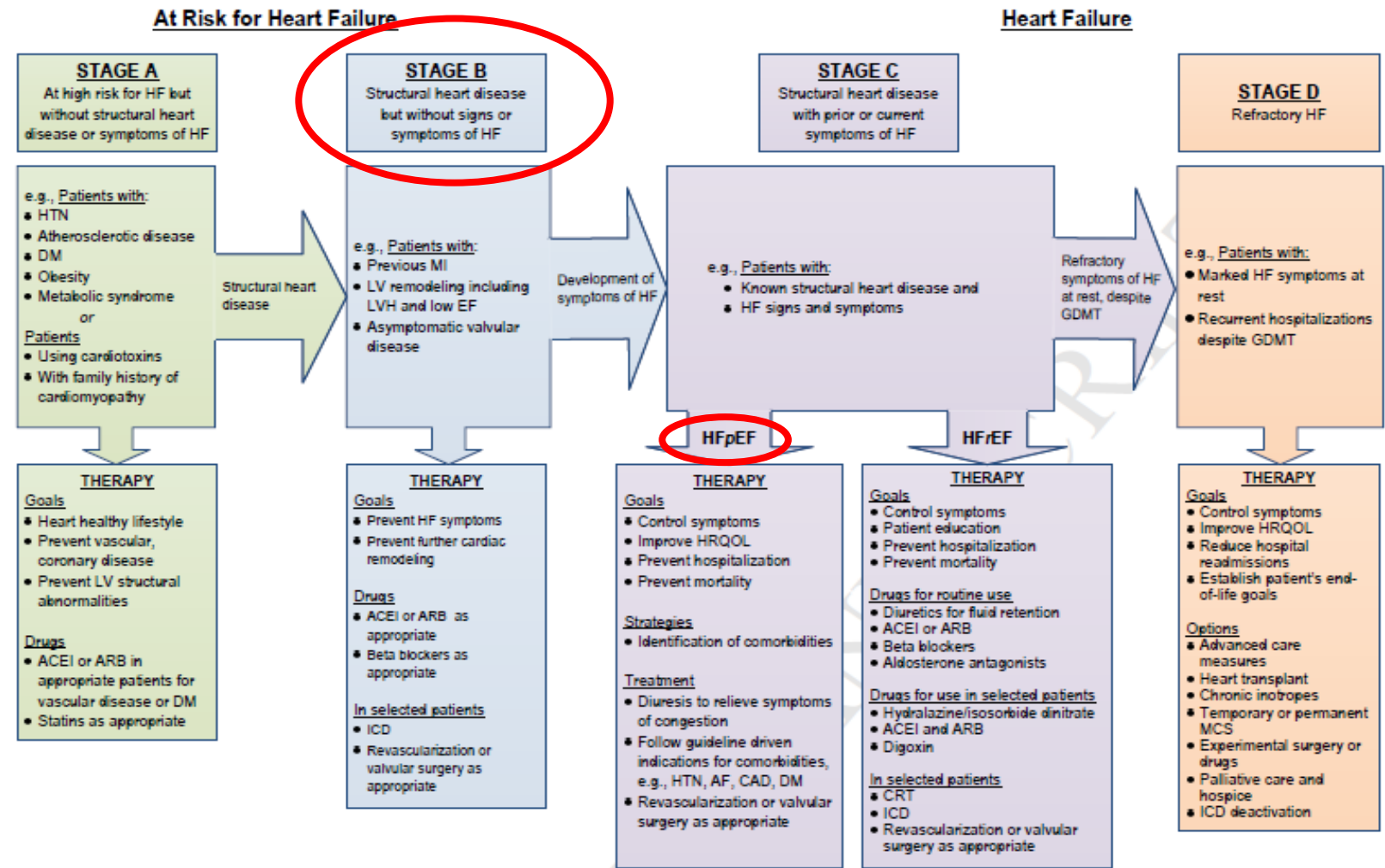
- A. Stage A
- B. Stage B
- C. Stage C
- D. Stage D

Yancy, CW et al.

2013 ACCF/AHA Heart Failure Guideline: Executive Summary

STAGE B
Structural heart disease
but without signs or
symptoms of HF

2013
Update



Stages of HF: ACC/AHA

Stage A High risk for developing heart failure	
Stage B Asymptomatic, LV dysfunction, structural DZ	
Stage C Past or current symptoms of HF	Class I symptoms at activity levels that would limit normal individuals
	Class II symptoms of HF with ordinary exertion
	Class III symptoms of HF with less than ordinary exertion
Stage D End-stage HF	Class IV Symptoms of HF at rest

NYHA Functional Class

A 62 yo female has a history of heart failure with EF = 35%. She is not having chest pain but does have dyspnea walking more than 5 minutes. She is currently on lisinopril 40 mg daily and furosemide 20 mg bid. Which medication should be added to her regimen?

- A. Carvedilol titrated to 25 mg bid
- B. Metoprolol tartrate 50 mg bid
- C. Atenolol 50 mg daily
- D. Losartan 50 mg daily

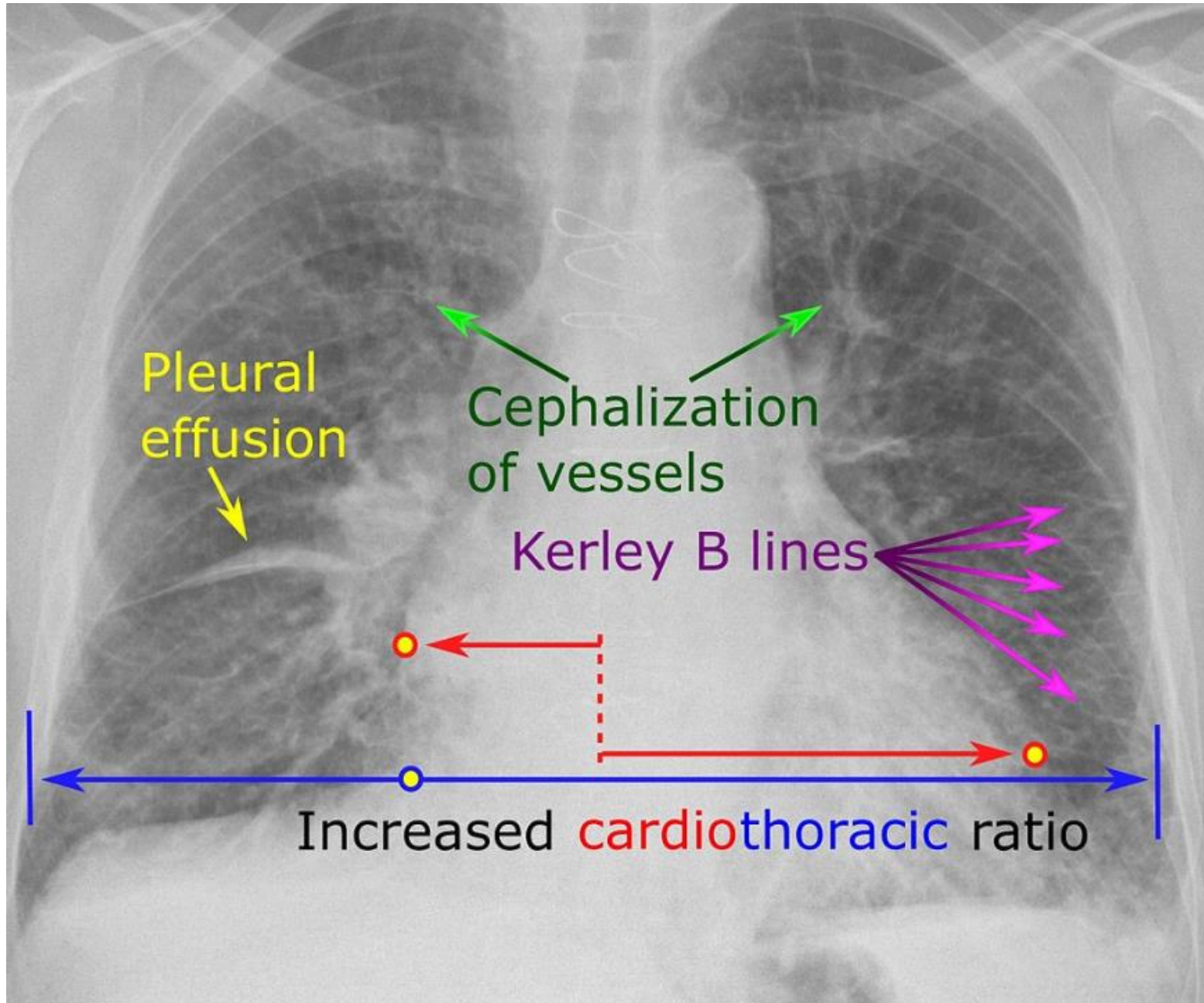
Correct answer is A

- Guideline-directed medical therapy (GDMT) for HFrEF is ACEI or ARB (not both) + BB for all patients. Loop diuretics can be added to help control edema.
- Additional medications can be considered after GDMT above is implemented.
- Losartan is not a good choice as an ARB should not be given with and ACEI without first adding a BB. (CHARM trials)
- The three BB that show benefit in treating HFrEF are:
 - Carvedilol, metoprolol succinate (once daily), and bisoprolol

Heart failure GDMT

- HFrEF: EF < 40%
 - ACEI/ARB + BB, +/- SGLT2(Empa- and Dapagliflozin)
 - Diuretics to help control fluid
 - Add spironolactone if sx not controlled
 - Add isosorbide dinitrate/hydralazine for self-identified Black patients
- HFpEF: EF > 50%
 - GDMT for all other conditions
 - Diuretics for fluid overload
 - Empagliflozin (EMPEROR-preserved trial) – 2021 data
- Device therapy for EF < 35%:
 - Implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD)
 - Cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) with LBBB and QRS > 150

Heart Failure CXR

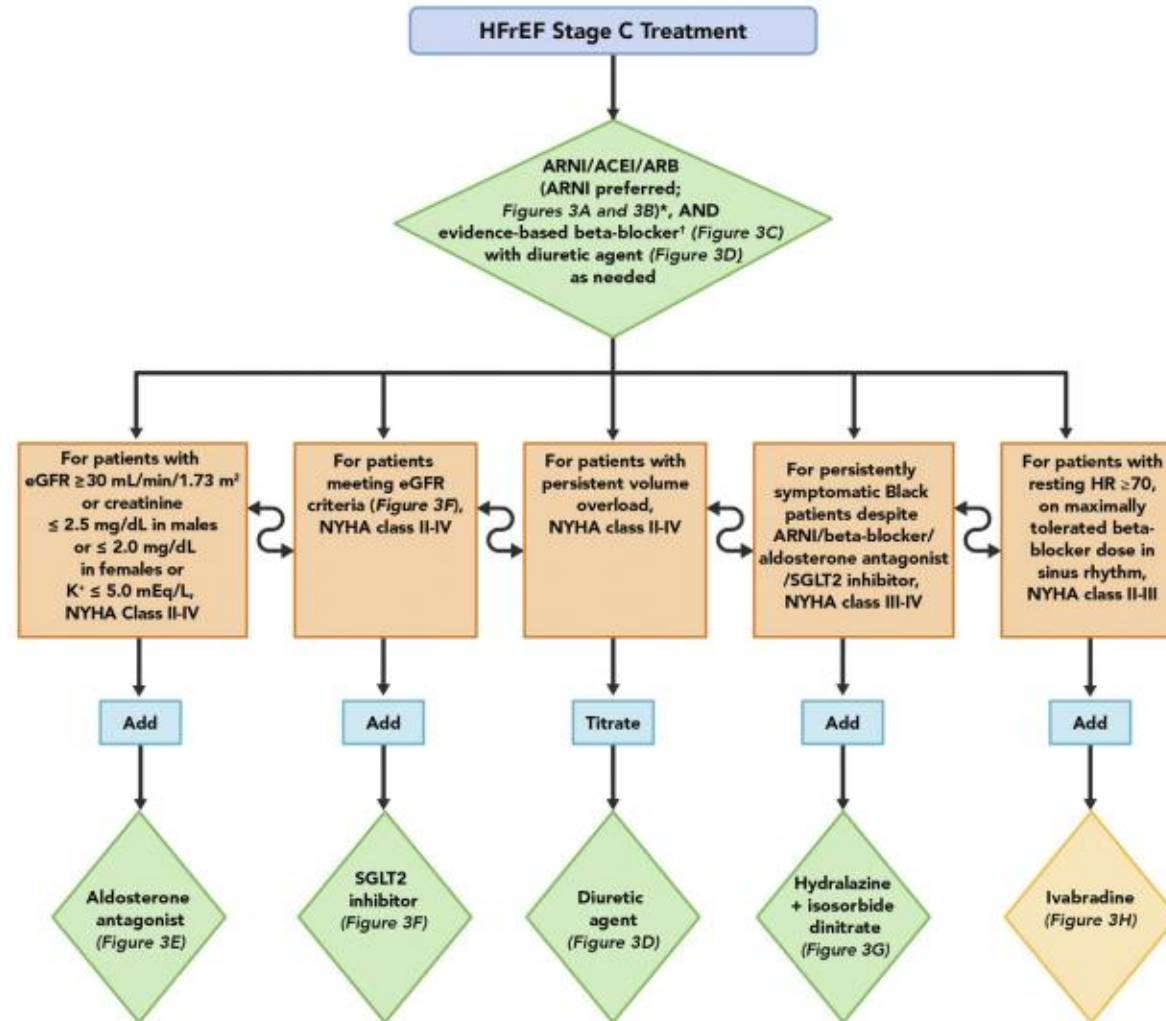


Heart failure new meds to consider

- Sacubitril/valsartan instead of ACEI/ARB
 - Neprilysin inhibitor
- Ivabradine/Corlanor
 - Patients on optimum GDM with a pulse > 70
- Dapagliflozin and empagliflozin
 - Not yet on ACC guidelines
 - In patients on optimum therapy with HF symptoms → consider adding
 - Diabetics with HF

According to the April 2022 Heart Failure guidelines (ACC), in addition to a beta blocker and prn diuretic, what is the preferred initial medication to treat HFrEF stage C?

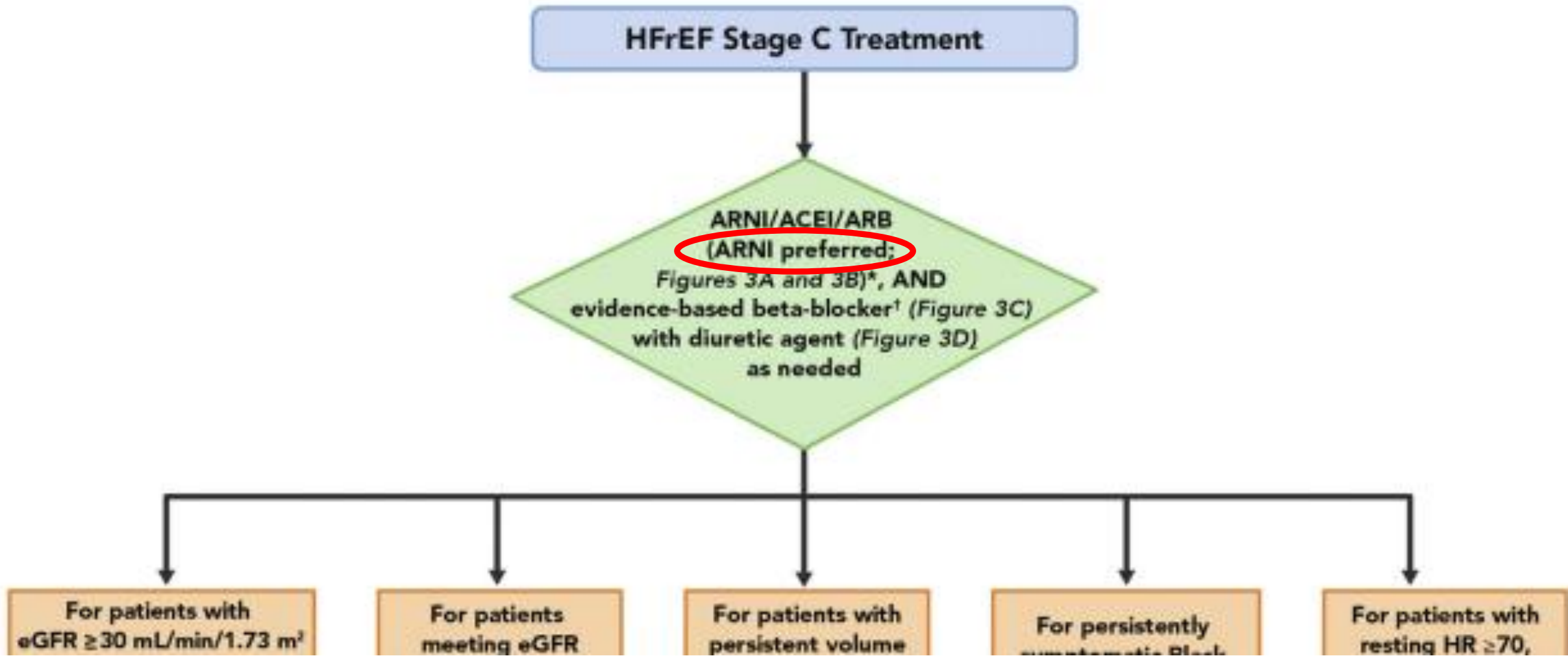
- A. Spironolactone
- B. Lisinopril, ramipril or another ACEI titrated as tolerated
- C. Valsartan/sacubitril (ARNI) titrated as tolerated
- D. Losartan, valsartan or other ARB titrated as tolerated



*ACEI/ARB should only be considered in patients with contraindications, intolerance or inaccessibility to ARNI. In those instances, please consult Figure 3 and text for guidance on initiation.

[†]Carvedilol, metoprolol succinate, or bisoprolol.

ACEI = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARNI = angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitors; ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; HR = heart rate; K⁺ = potassium; NYHA = New York Heart Association; SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.



Nomenclature update

Ejection fraction in initial Echo in patient with HF

- Heart failure = HF (Not CHF...since 2005)
- $EF < 40\%$ → HFrEF (Heart failure with reduced ejection fraction)
- $EF 41-59\%$ → **HFmrEF (Heart failure with mildly reduced EF)**
- $EF \geq 50\%$ → HFpEF (Heart failure with preserved EF)

Cardiomyopathies

- Hypertrophic CM
 - Young patient (teens – 30's) with syncope playing sports.
 - 2-3/6 systolic murmur
- Postpartum patient with persistent edema and dyspnea
 - Peripartum cardiomyopathy (not just postpartum)
- 65 yo female whose husband died 2 weeks previous now with acute signs/sx of heart failure. ST segment elevations in EKG.
 - Takotsubo's CM. Normal coronary arteries, most patients resolve
- COVID and other viral causes of CM
- Amyloidosis – restrictive CM, large tongue and eyelids
- 35 yo patient from Central/South America with HFrEF
 - Chagas' disease – Trypanosoma cruzi

Hypertension

A 55 yo male presents with three BP readings averaging 154/94. His lab tests and other evaluations are all normal. He does not smoke. Which of the following medications is a preferred initial therapy?

- A. Furosemide 20 mg bid
- B. Metoprolol tartrate 50 mg bid
- C. Metoprolol succinate 50 mg daily
- D. Amlodipine 10 mg daily

Correct answer is D

- Initial selection of medications for the treatment of hypertension include ACEI/ARB (preferring ACEI first), CCB (dihydropyridine), and thiazide diuretics.
- Furosemide is a loop diuretic and is not used to treat HTN – only removal of excess fluid (HF, venous insufficiency, lymphedema)
- Beta blockers, short or long acting, are no longer initial medications for isolated hypertension.

A 63 yo female is treated with lisinopril 40 mg, nifedipine 90 mg and HCTZ 25 mg daily. Her BP continues to be high at 162/94. Assuming she is otherwise stable, which medication is best to add for resistant HTN?

- A. Spironolactone 25-50 mg daily
- B. Clonidine 0.2 mg bid
- C. Minoxidil 10 mg bid
- D. Atenolol 50 mg daily

Correct answer is A

- Spironolactone has been shown to be the best add on medication for resistant hypertension.
- Clonidine has the potential for rebound hypertension
- Minoxidil is a vasodilator and should be combined with a BB and diuretic to help balance the reflex tachycardia and potential edema that may ensue.
- Atenolol is a BB and no longer indicated as first line treatment for HTN. If adding a BB, both carvedilol and metoprolol would be better choices.

Friendly Florida,
Shake hands with a
manatee

