

# Regulation of Coronary Blood Flow

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Dirk J. Duncker

# Regulation of Coronary Blood Flow

- Introduction
- Control of Coronary Resistance Vessels
- Autoregulation: Pressure Flow Relation
- Hemodynamic Effects of a Coronary Stenosis

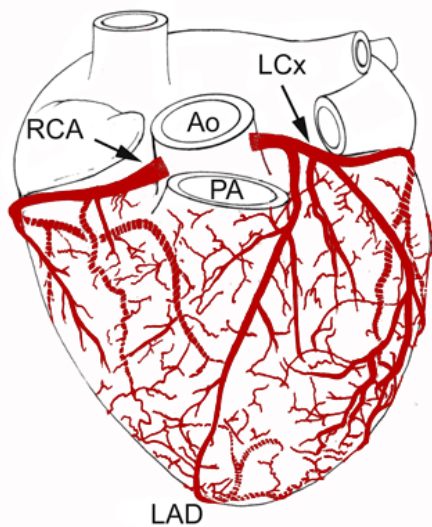
Duncker & Bache *Physiol Rev* 2008

Van de Hoeff et al *J Mol Cell Cardiol* 2012

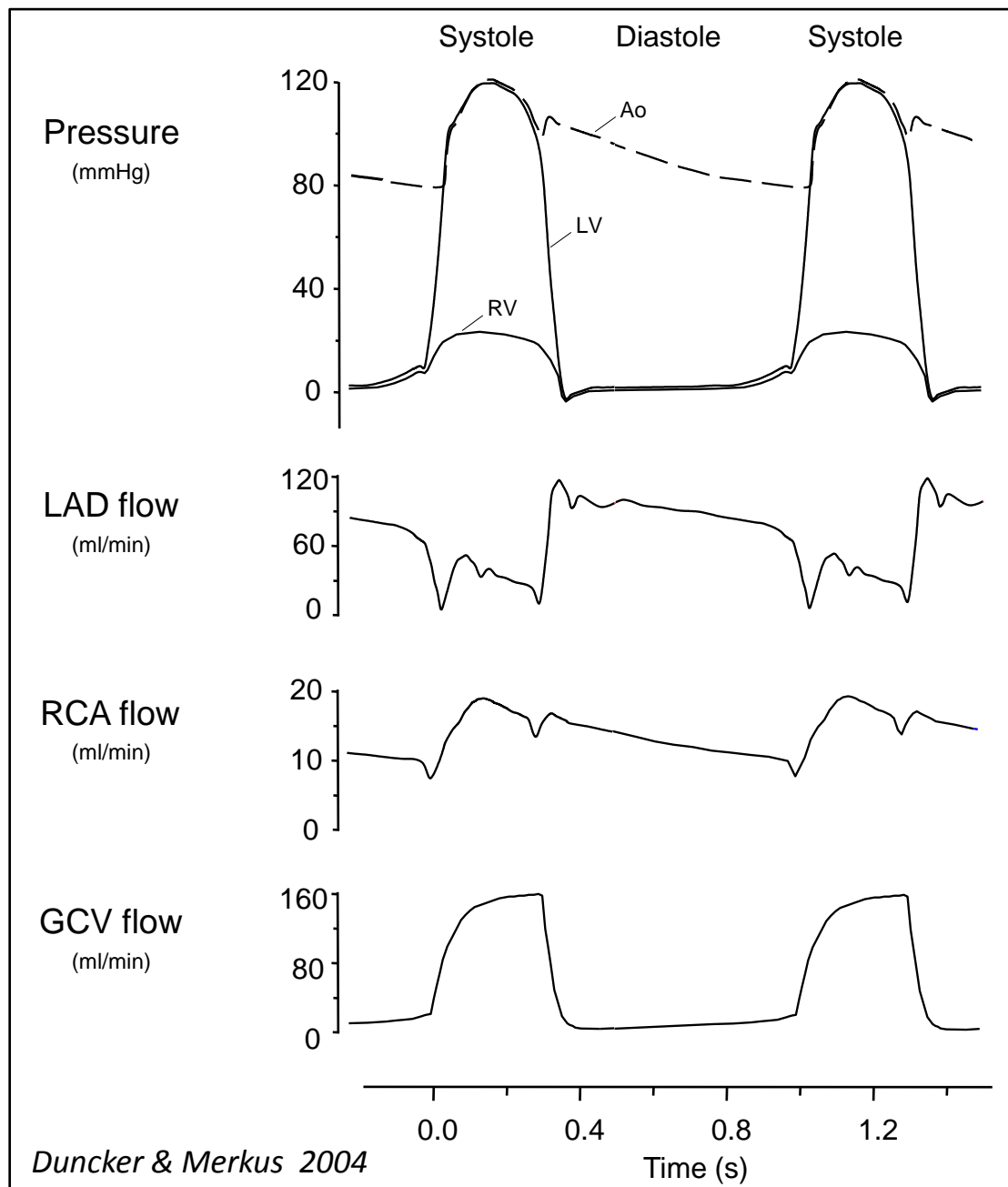
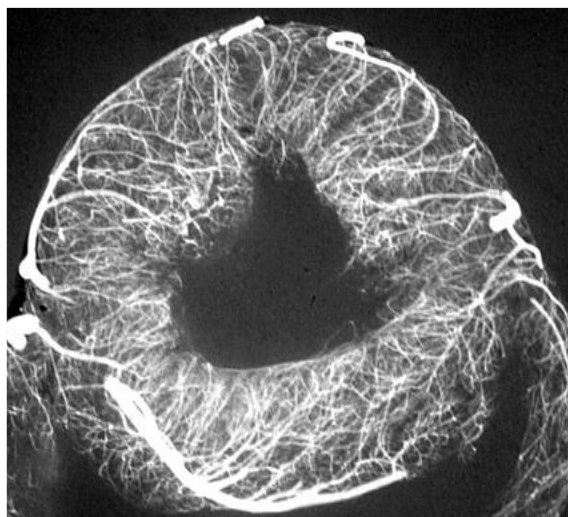
Laughlin, ..., Duncker *Compr Physiol* 2012

Canty & Duncker *Braunwald's Heart Disease* 2014

# Cyclic Compression of the Coronary Microvasculature



Courtesy of Harold Laughlin



# Unique aspects of the coronary circulation

- Cyclic compression of the vasculature
- High resting myocardial metabolic rate

Cardiac muscle 1 ml/min/g flow

Skeletal muscle 0.1 ml/min/g flow

- High capillary density

Cardiac muscle 3000-4000/mm<sup>2</sup>

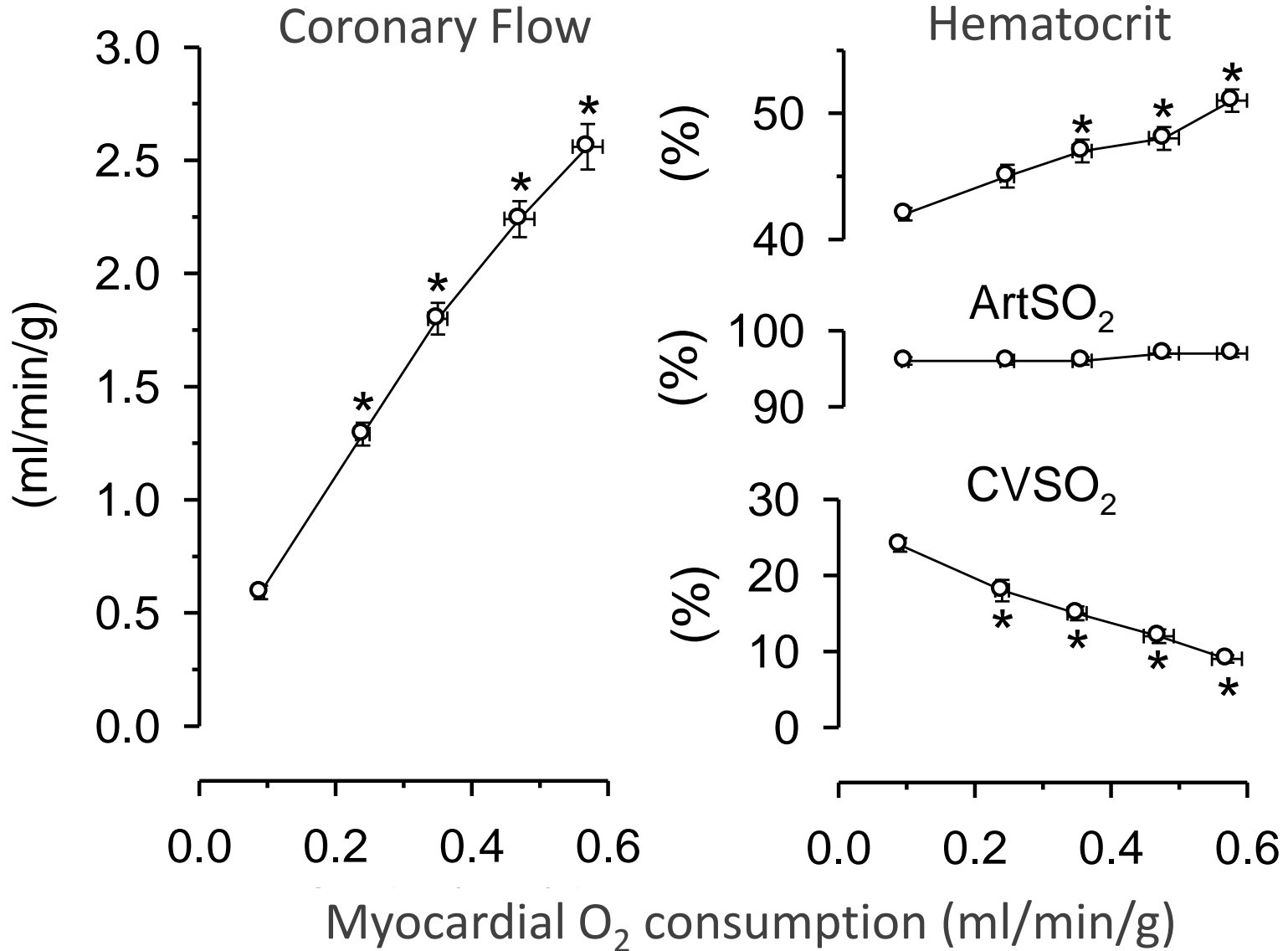
Skeletal muscle 500-1000/mm<sup>2</sup>

- High oxygen extraction

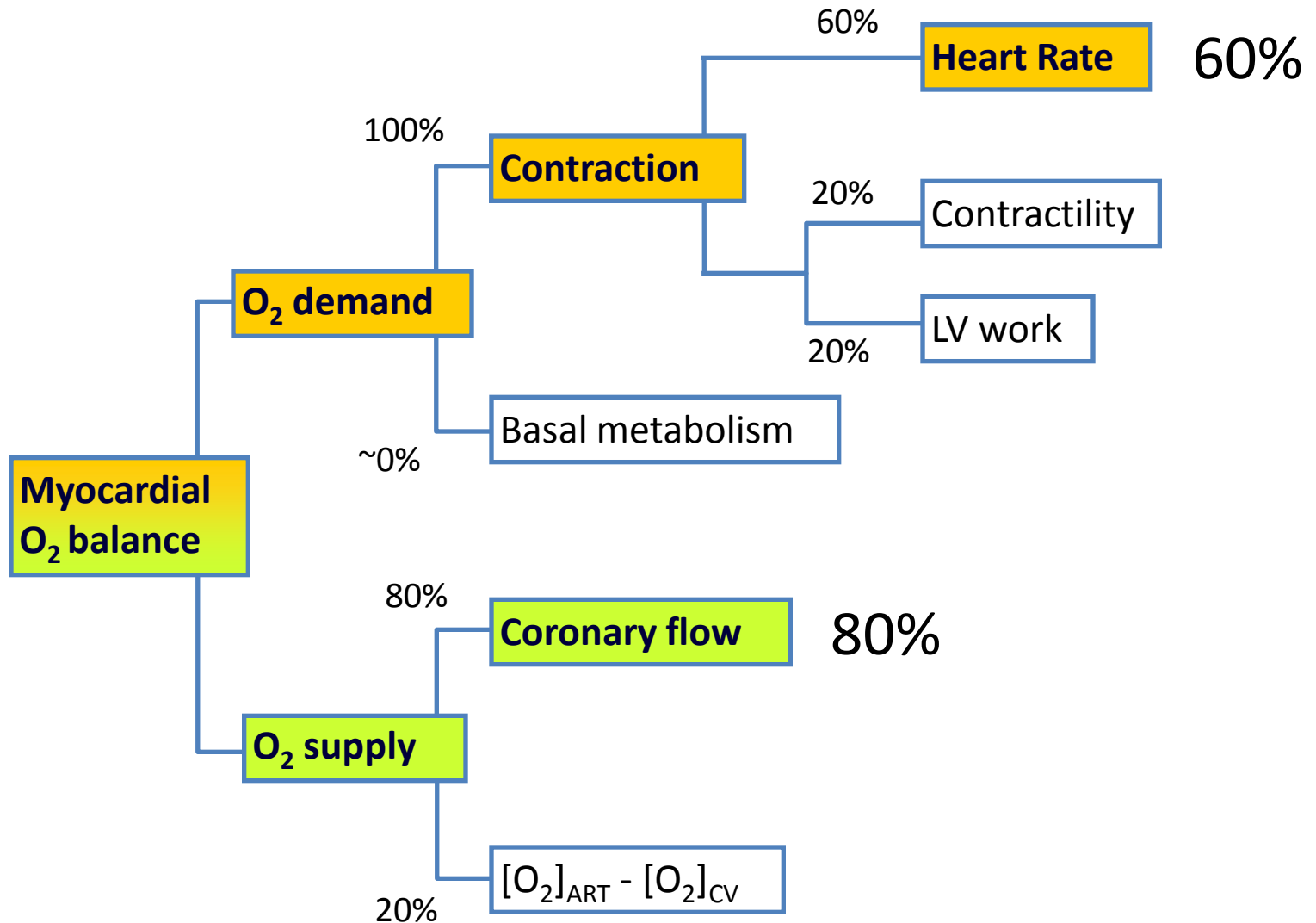
Cardiac muscle 60-80%

Skeletal muscle 20-30%

# Myocardial O<sub>2</sub> balance during exercise

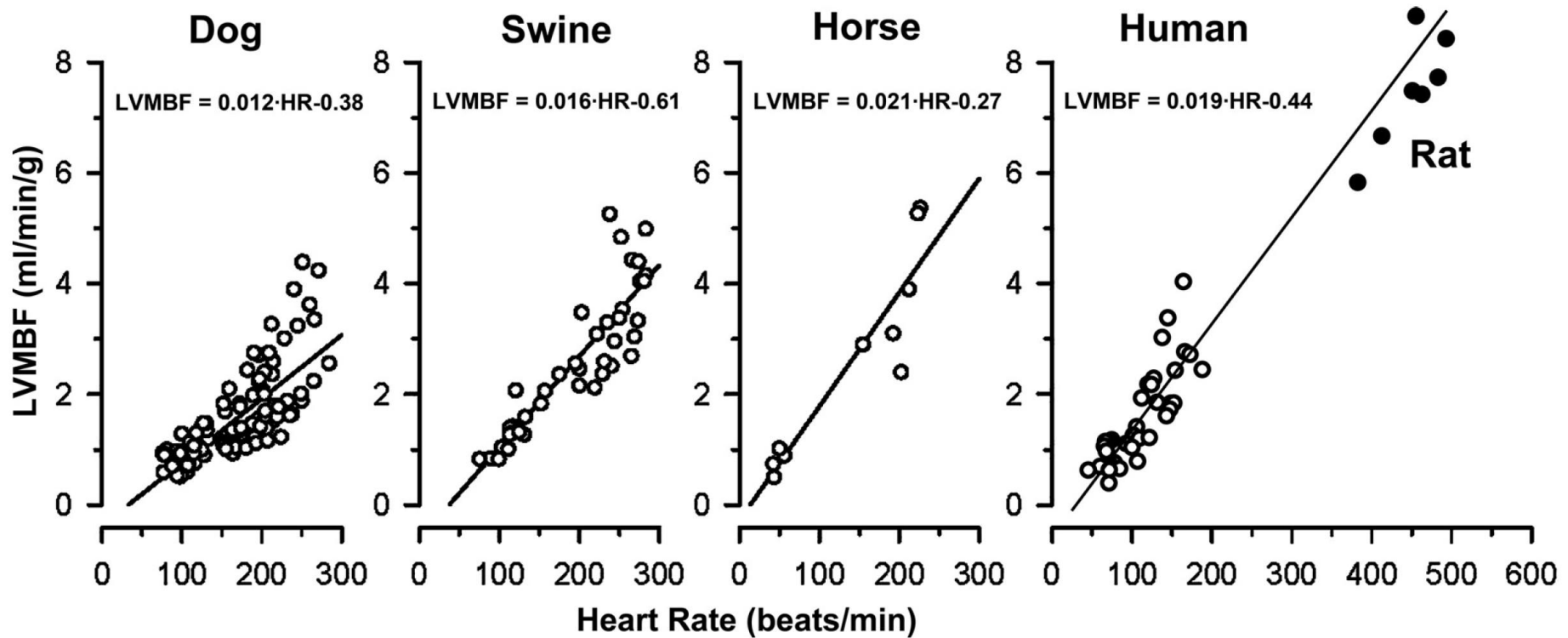


# Myocardial O<sub>2</sub> balance during exercise



# Metabolic Vasodilation

## *Exercise*



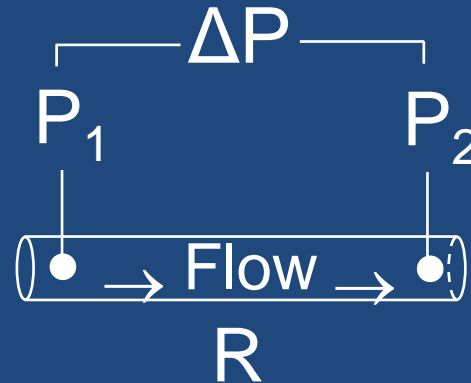
LVMBF = LV Myocardial Blood Flow

# Laws of Hemodynamics

- Darcy's law

$$\Delta P = \text{Flow} \times R$$

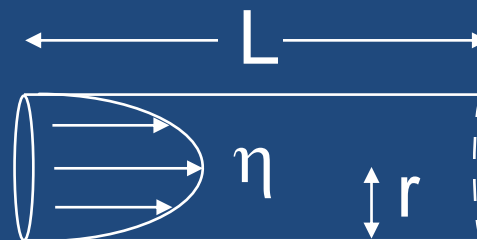
$$\text{Flow} = \frac{\Delta P}{R}$$



P = pressure  
R = resistance

- Poiseuille's law

$$R = \frac{8 \eta L}{\pi r^4}$$



L = length  
r = radius  
η = viscosity  
R = resistance



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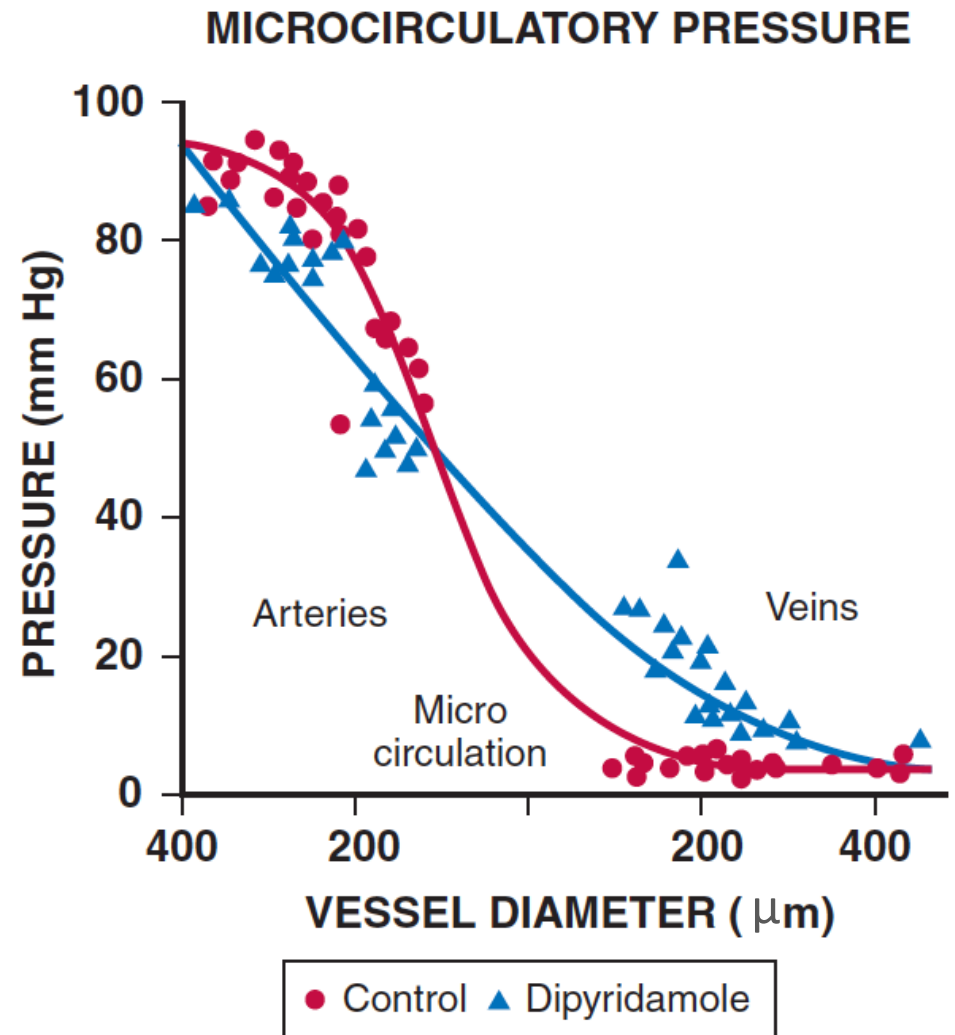
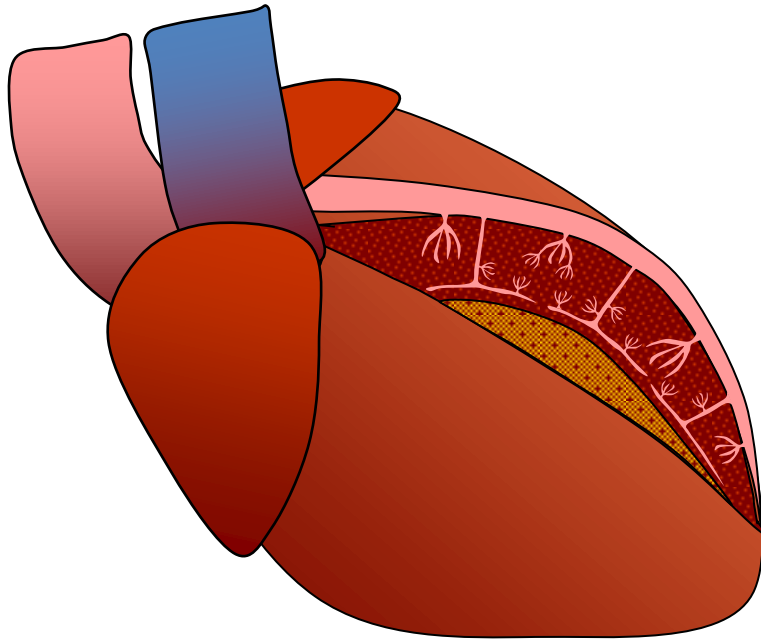
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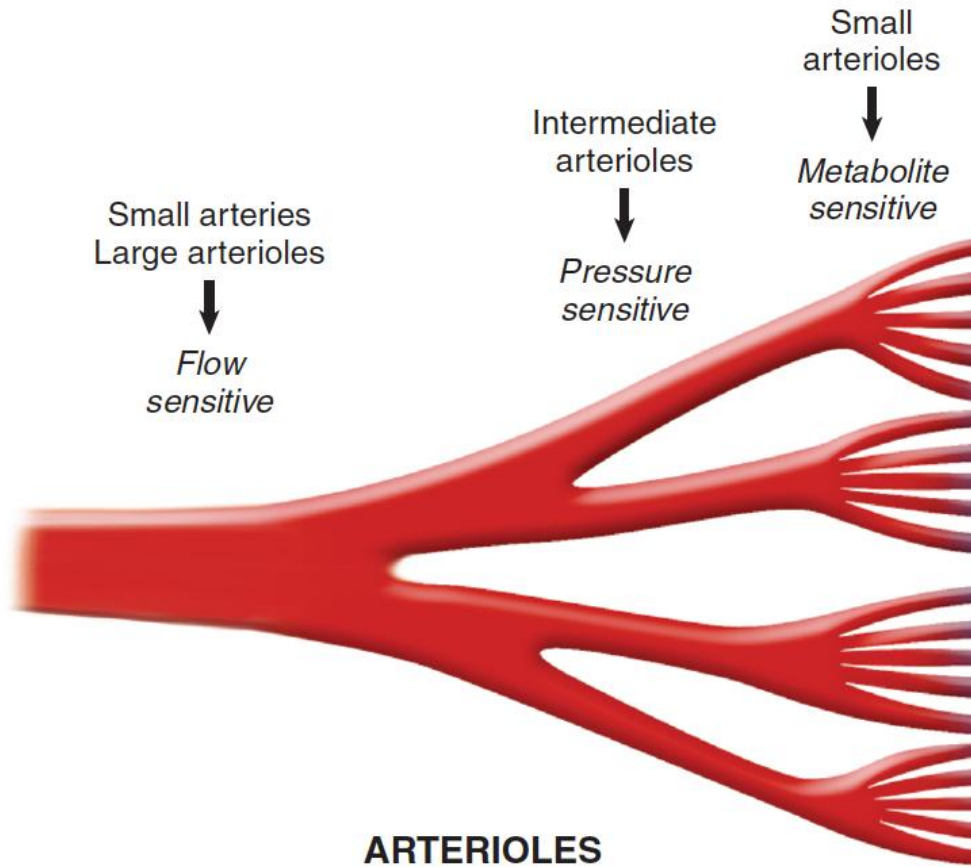
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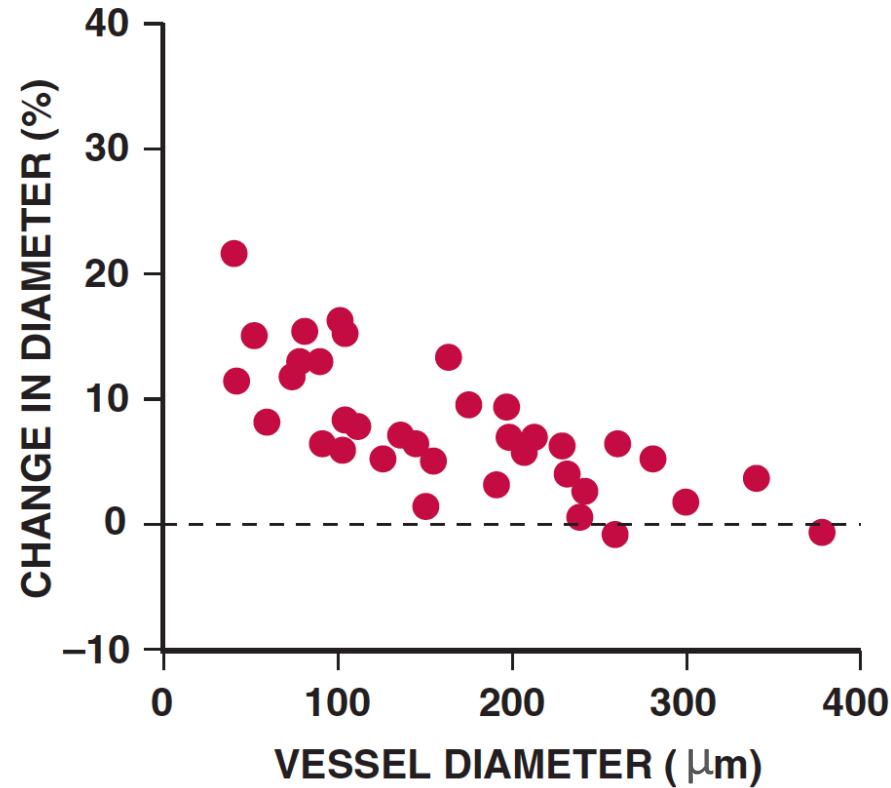
# Distribution of Resistance in Coronary Microcirculation



# ↑ METABOLIC DEMAND OF THE MYOCARDIUM



## METABOLIC VASODILATION



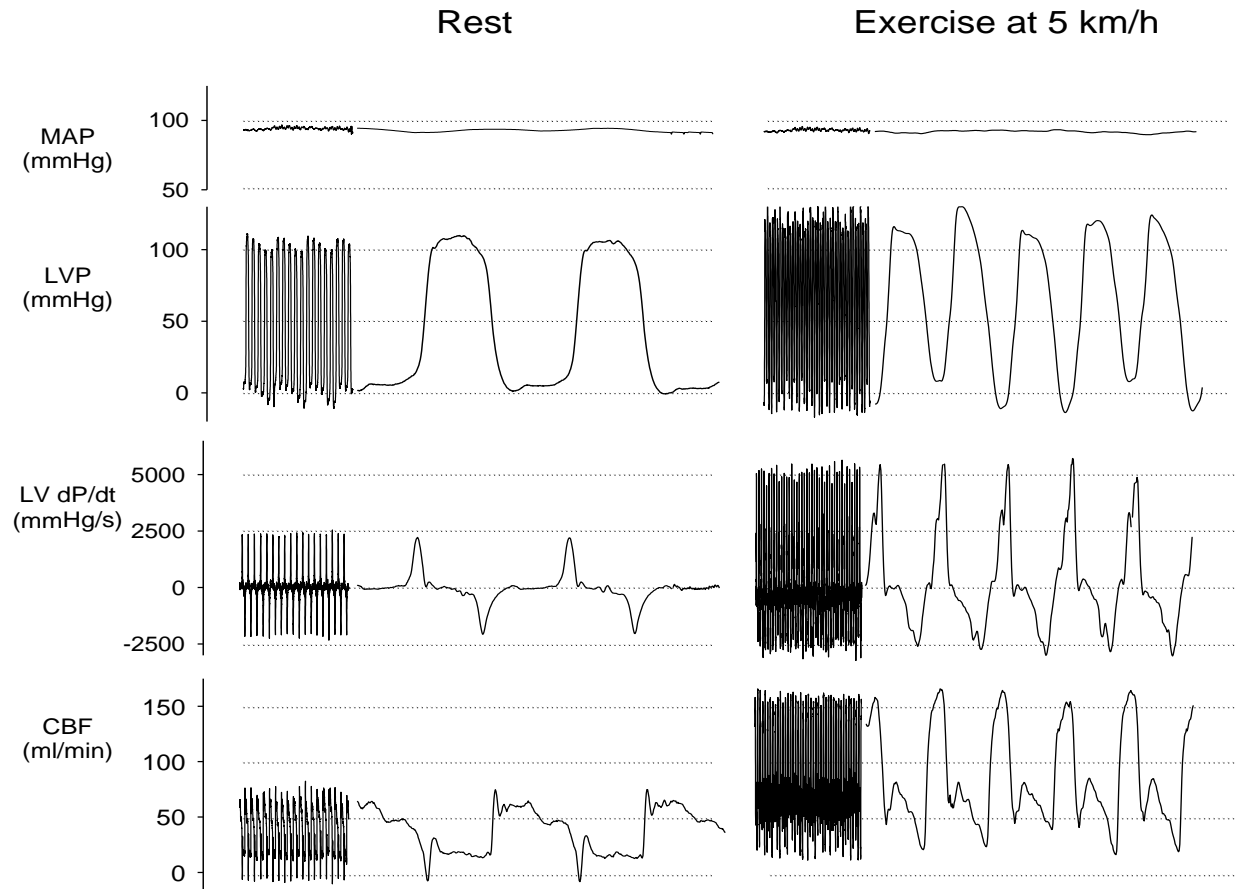
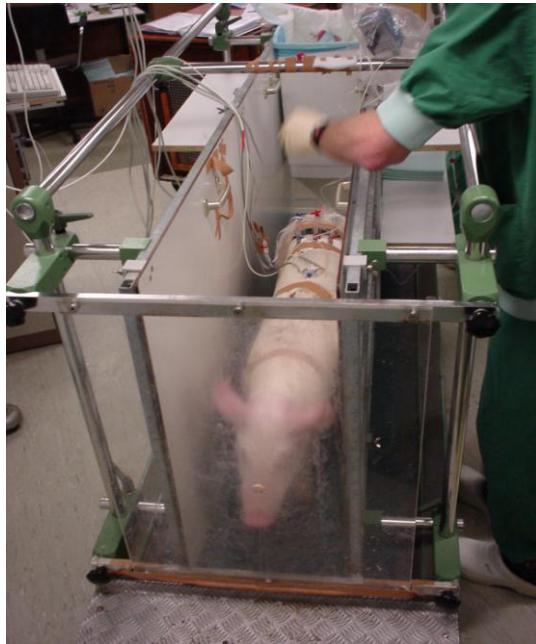
# Control of tissue blood flow

“Blood goes where it is needed”  
*John Hunter 1794*

“He must have wondered how blood  
“knows” where it is needed?”  
*LB Rowell JAP 2004*

# The ultimate cardiac challenge

## *Exercise*



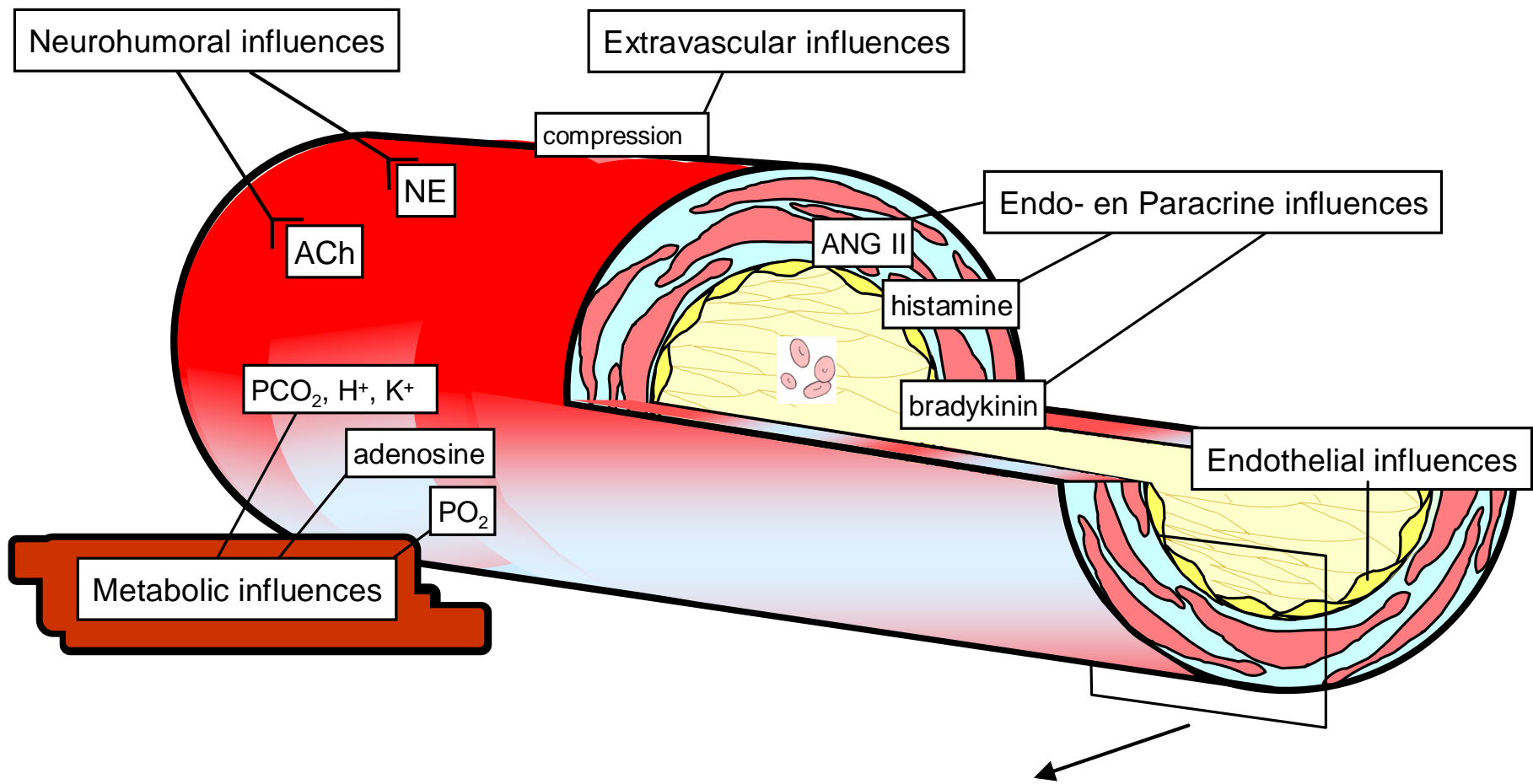
*Duncker et al. Circ Res 1998*

*Duncker & Merkus J Physiol 2007*

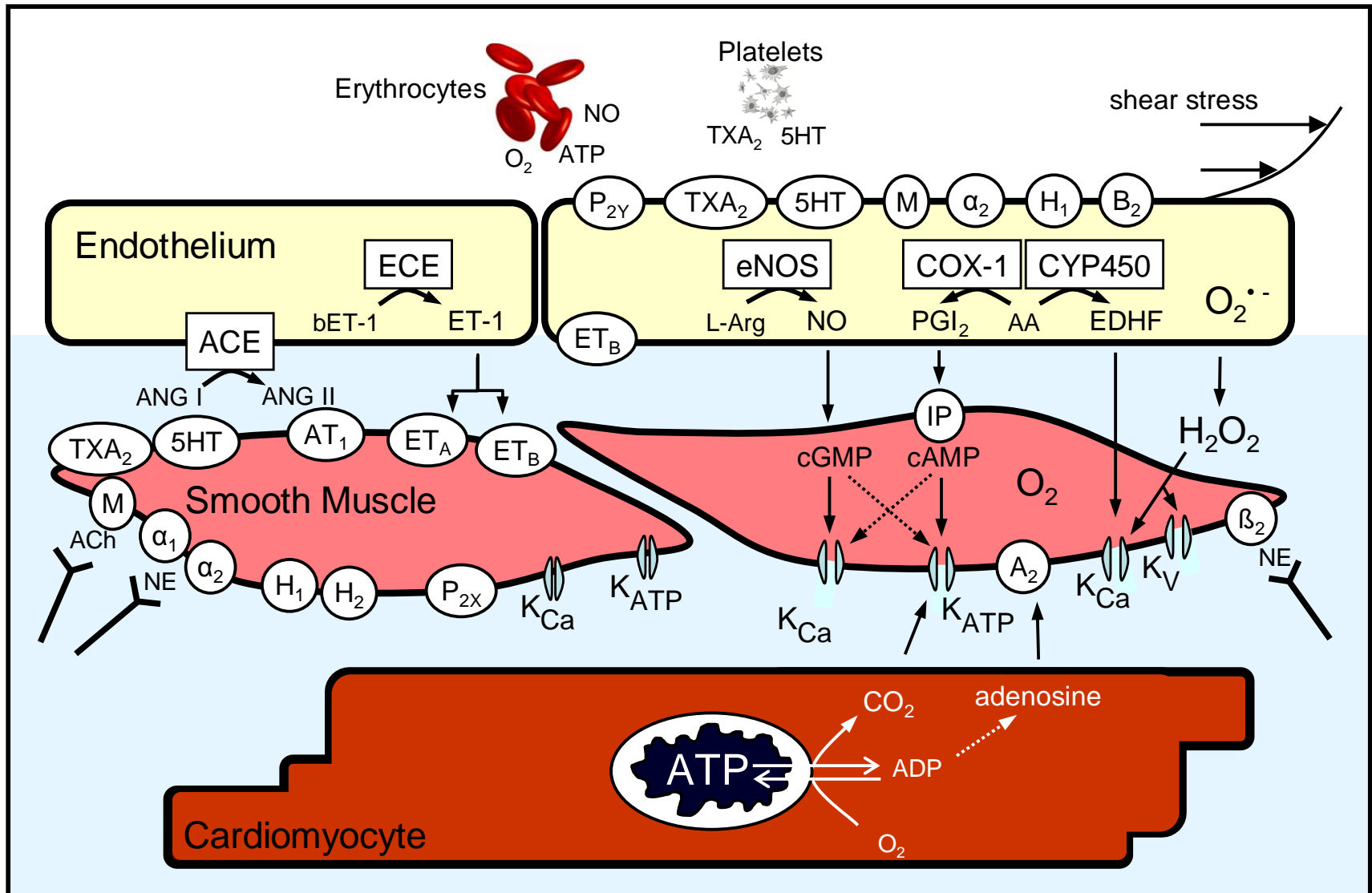
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# Control of Coronary Microvascular Tone



# Control of Coronary Microvascular Tone



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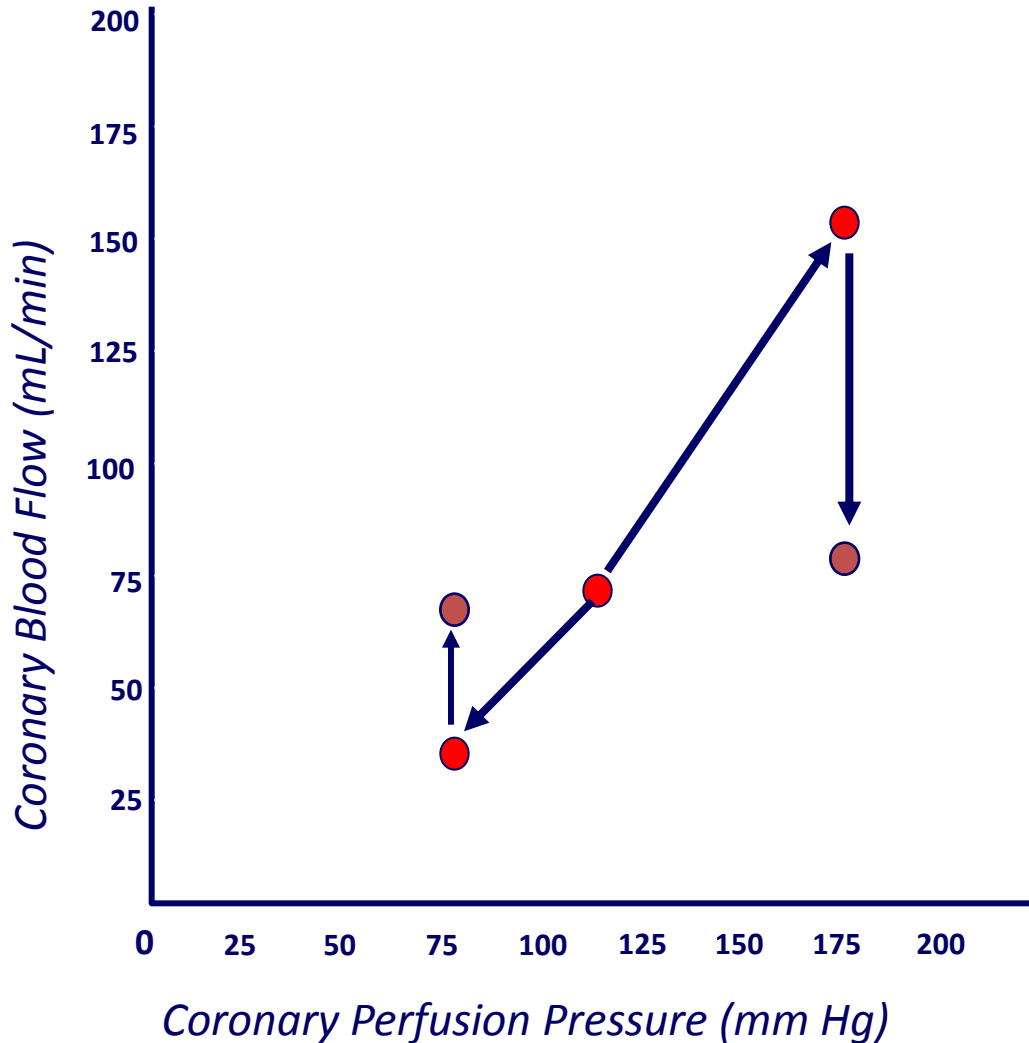
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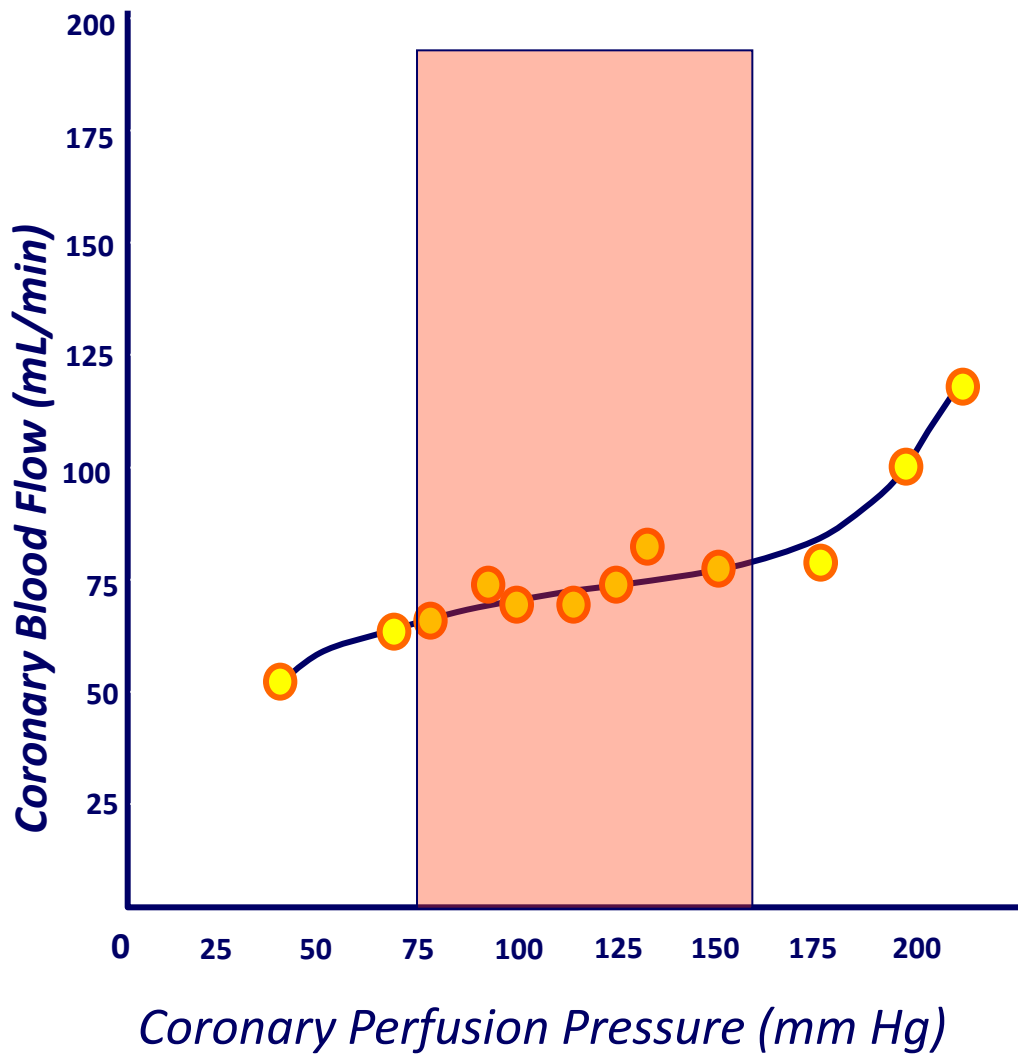
# Autoregulation

**The ability of the heart to maintain flow constant  
in the face of a change in perfusion pressure  
without the intervention of any other external mechanism**

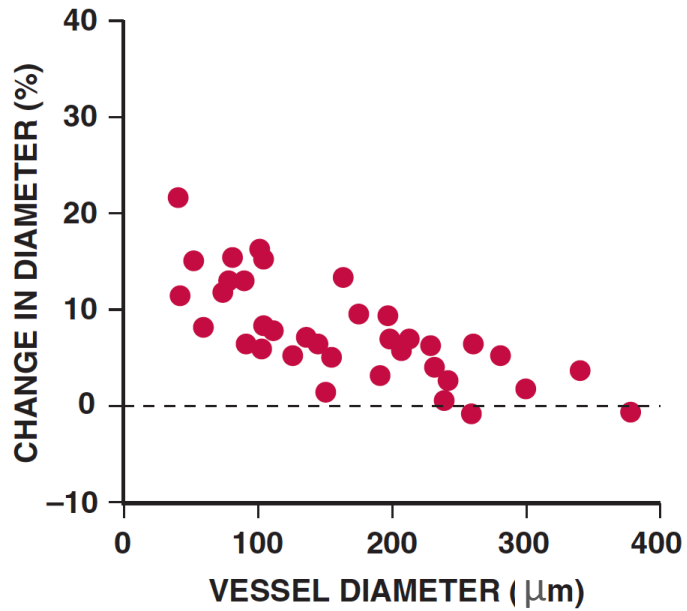
# Coronary Autoregulation



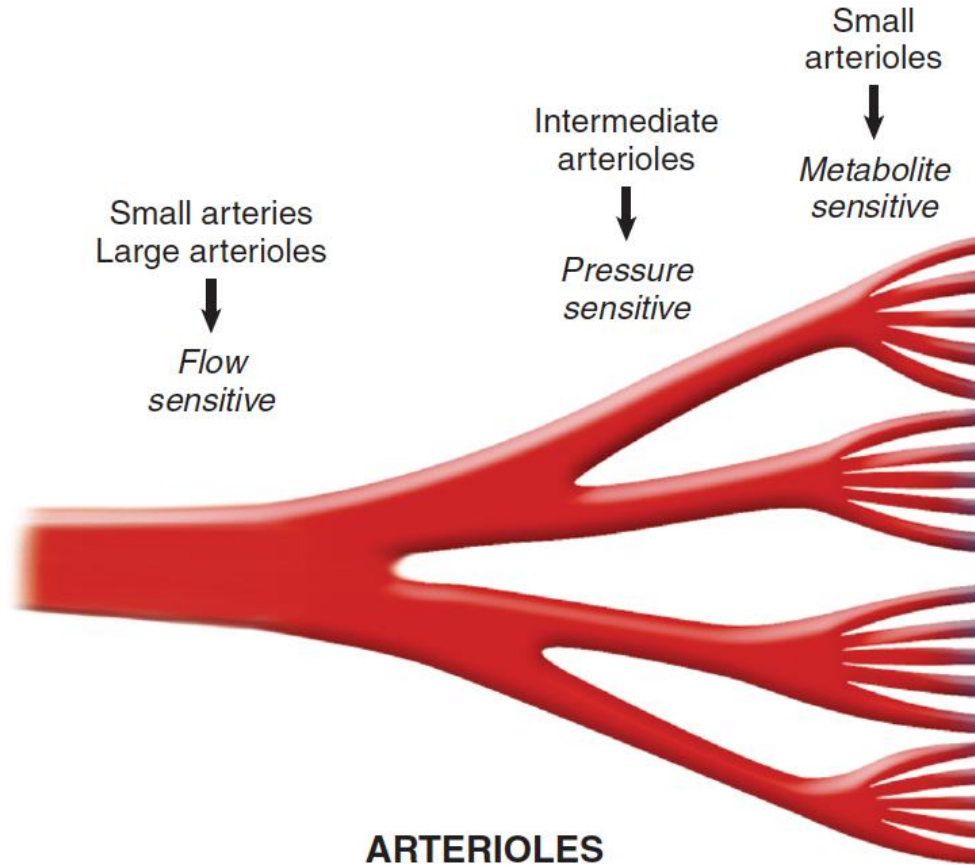
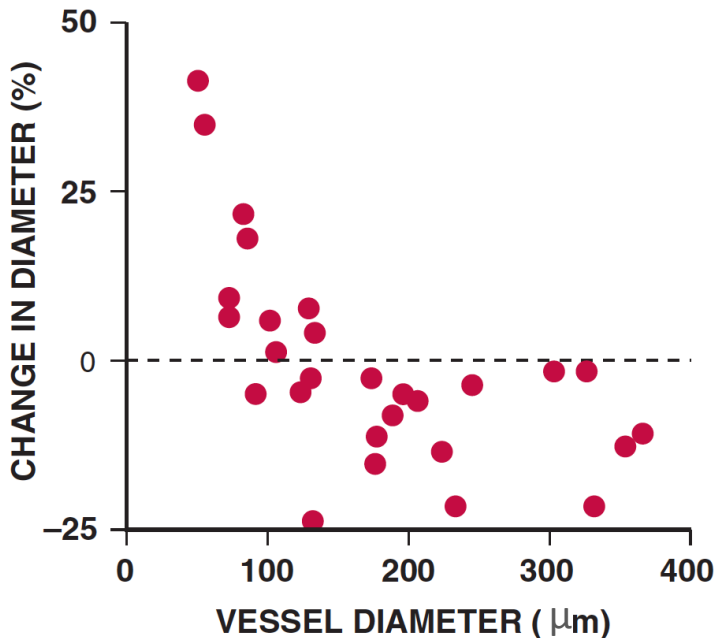
# Autoregulatory Range



### METABOLIC VASODILATION

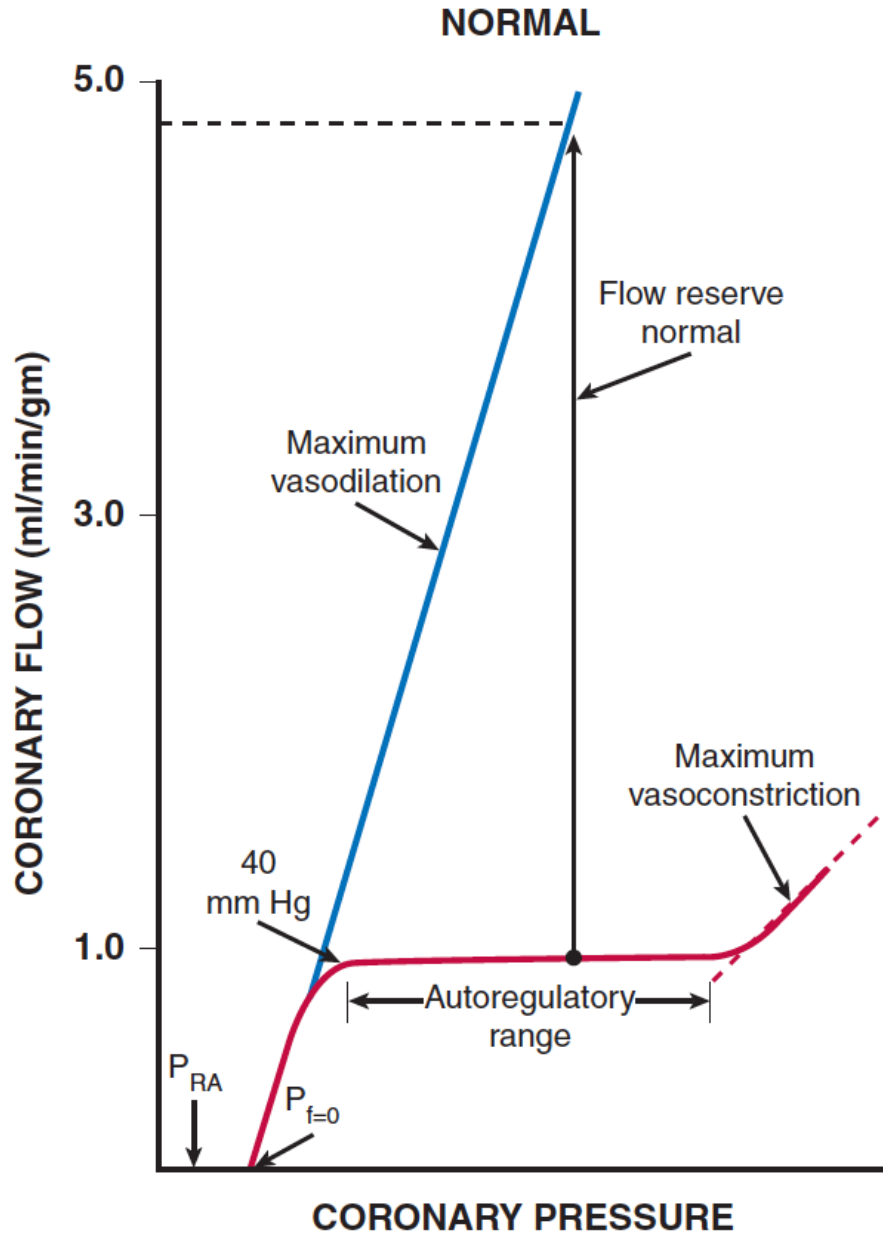


### AUTOREGULATION



*Davis et al APS Handbook of Physiology 2008*

# Coronary Pressure-Flow Relation



$$\Delta P = \text{Flow} \times R$$

$$R_{\min} = \Delta P / \text{Flow}_{\max}$$

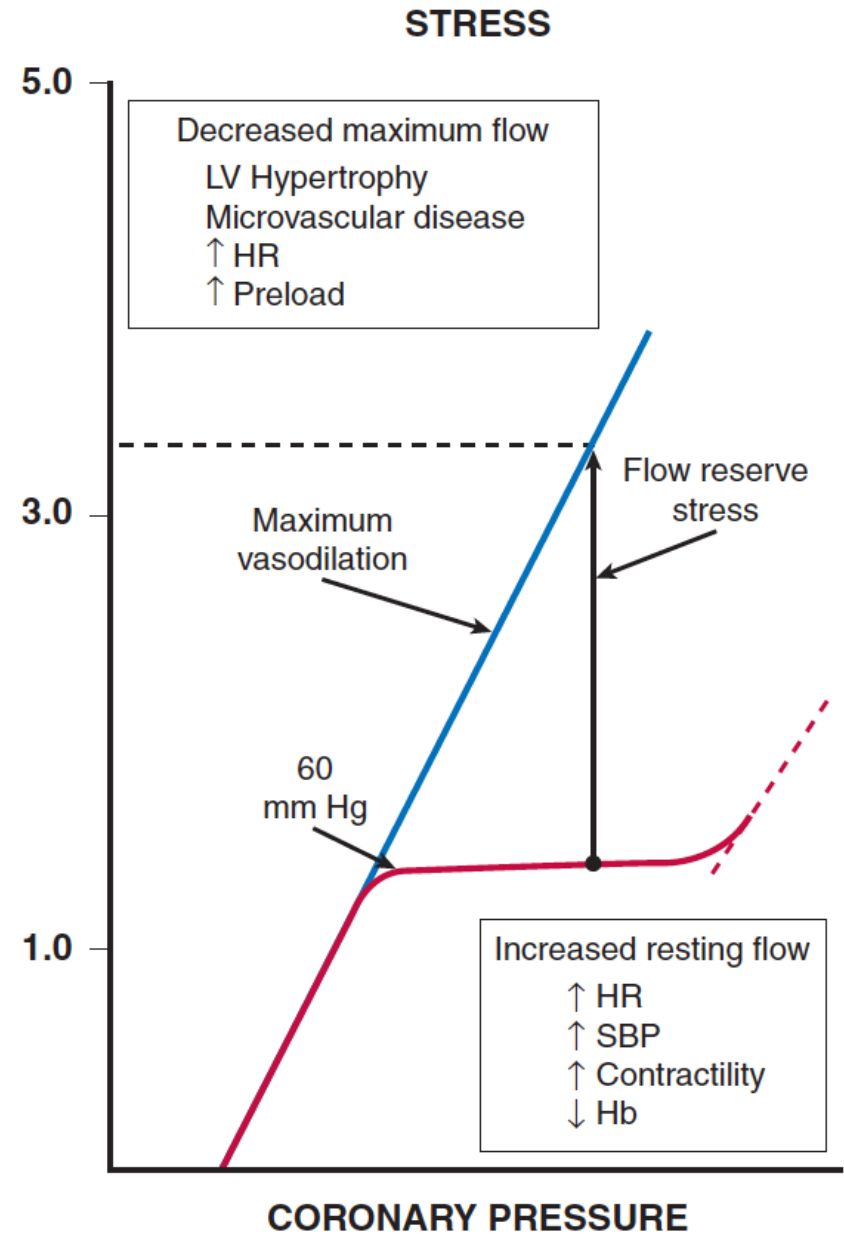
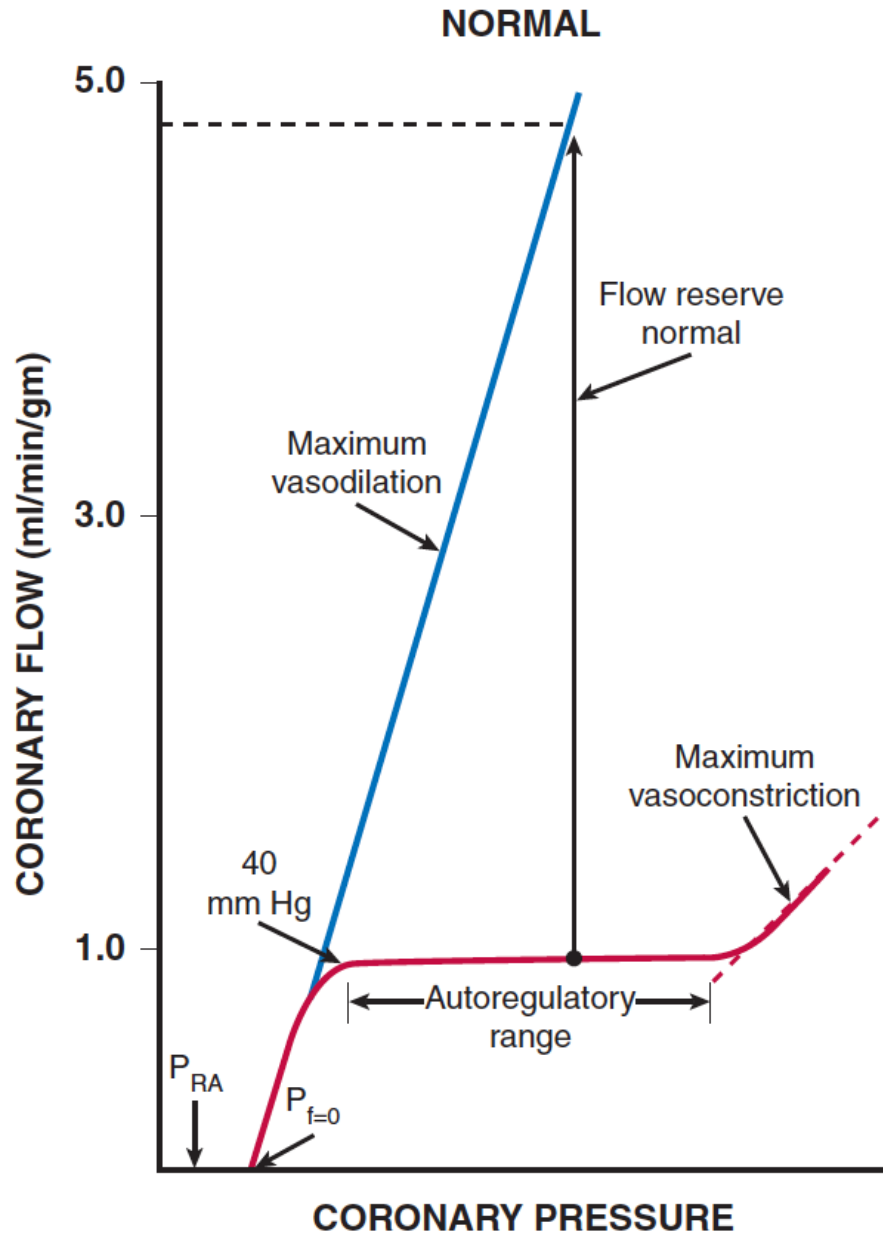
$$C_{\max} = 1/R_{\min} = \text{Flow}_{\max} / \Delta P$$

P = pressure

R = resistance

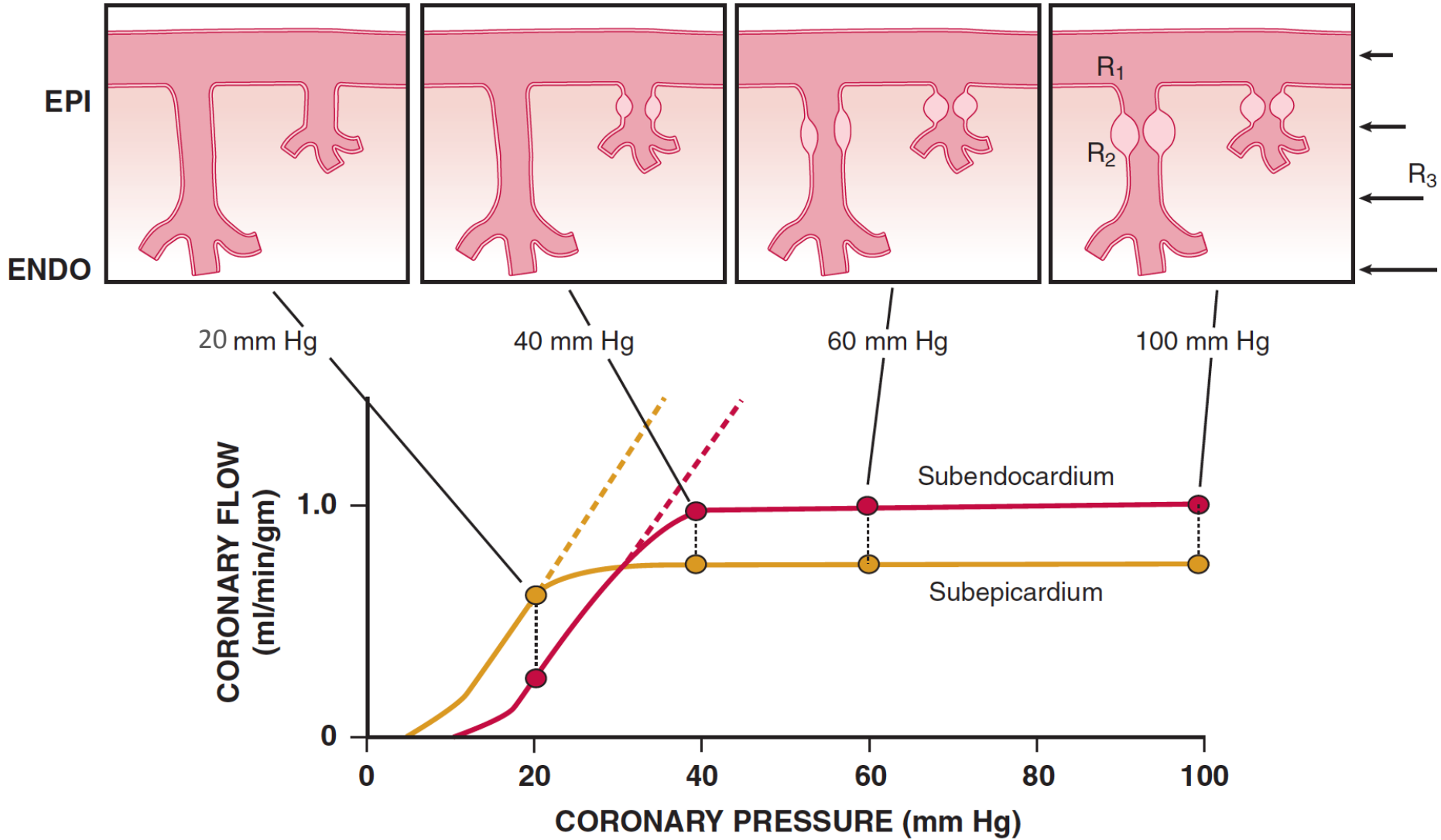
C = conductance

# Coronary Pressure-Flow Relation



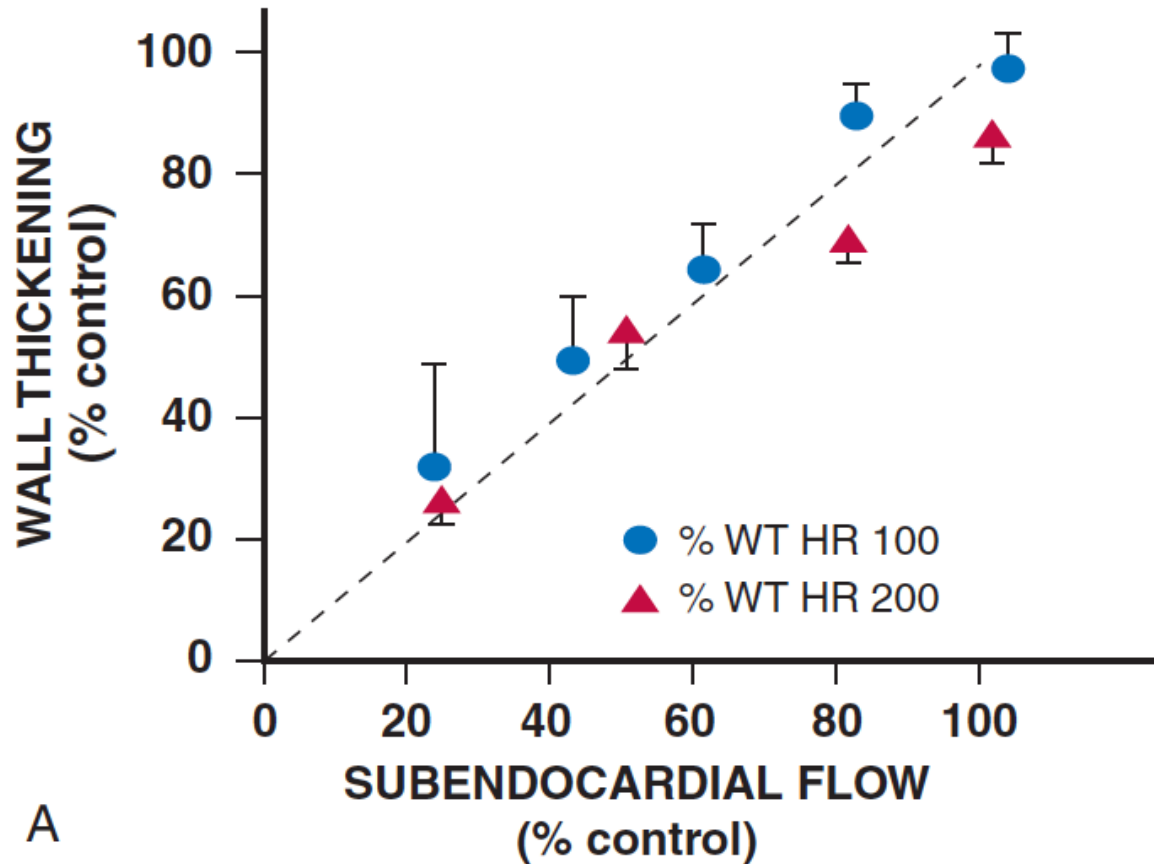
# Coronary Pressure-Flow Relation

## *Subendocardial Vulnerability*



# Coronary Flow-Function Relation

## *Subendocardial vulnerability*





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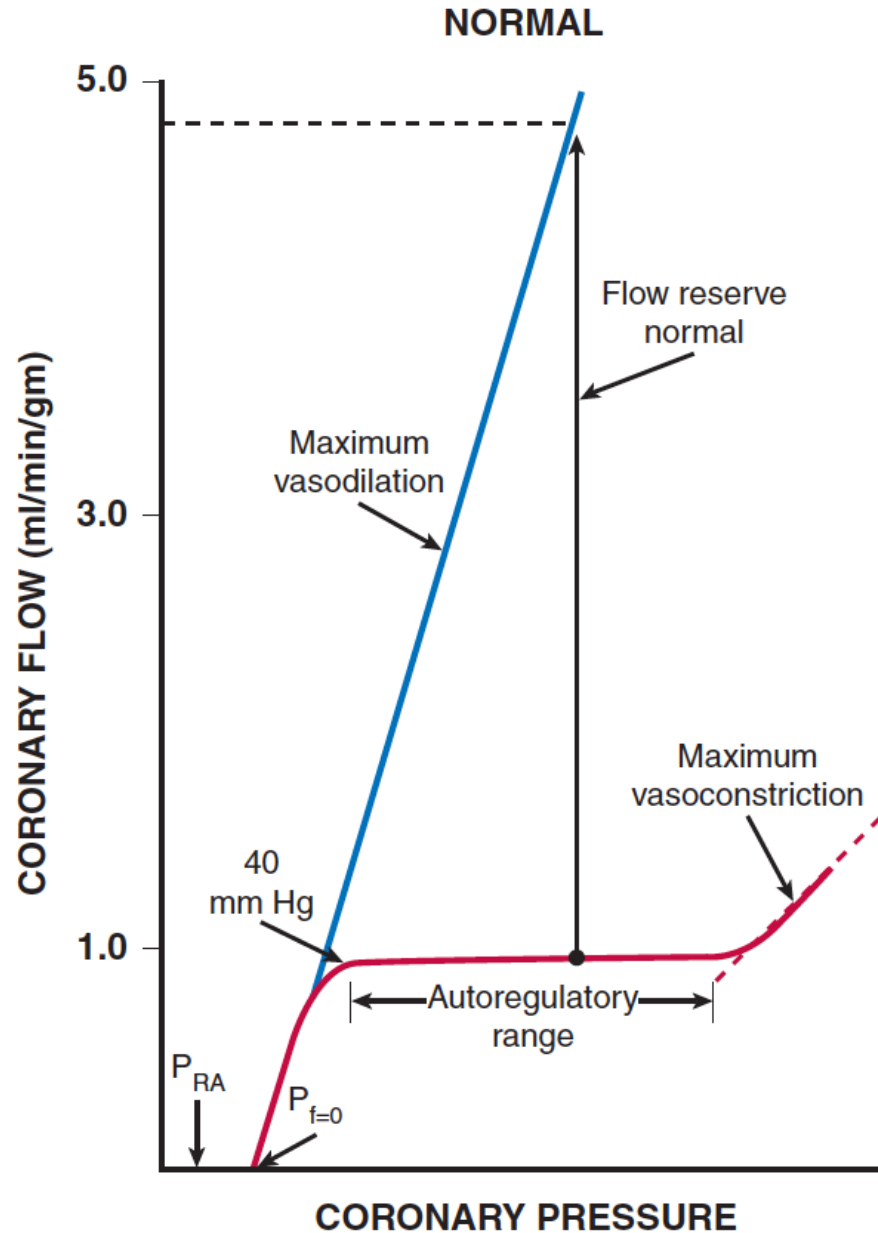
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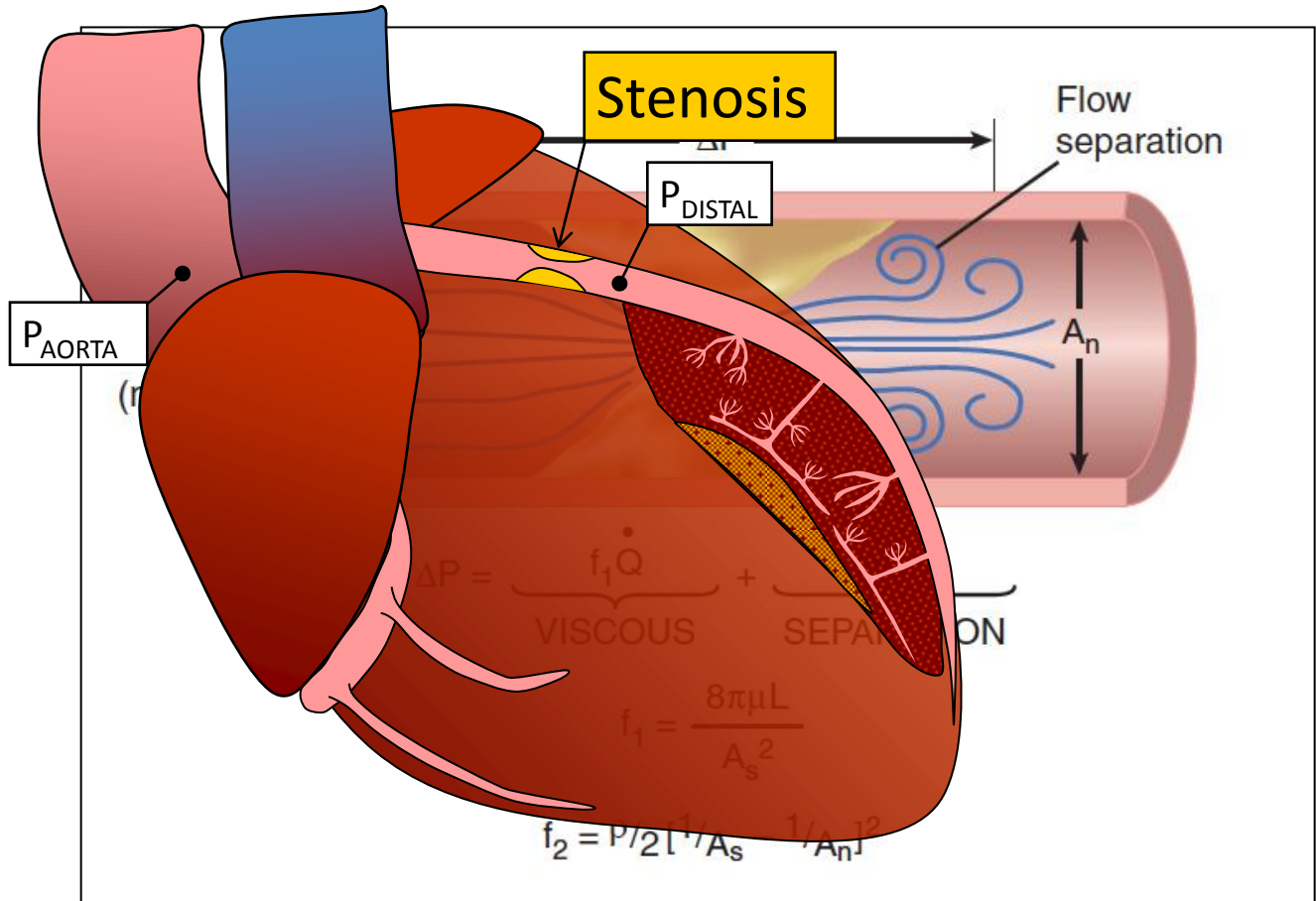
Van de Hoeff et al *J Mol Cell Cardiol* 2012

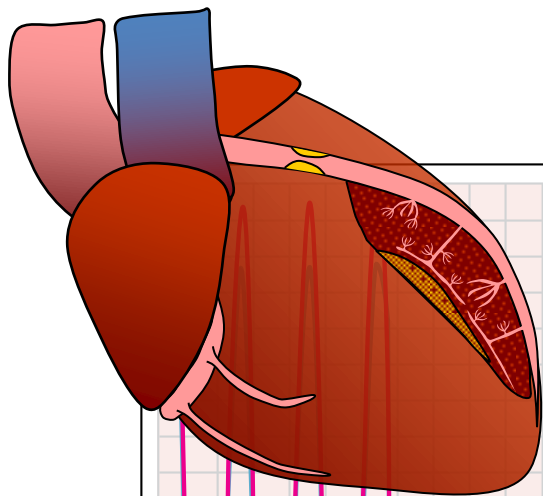
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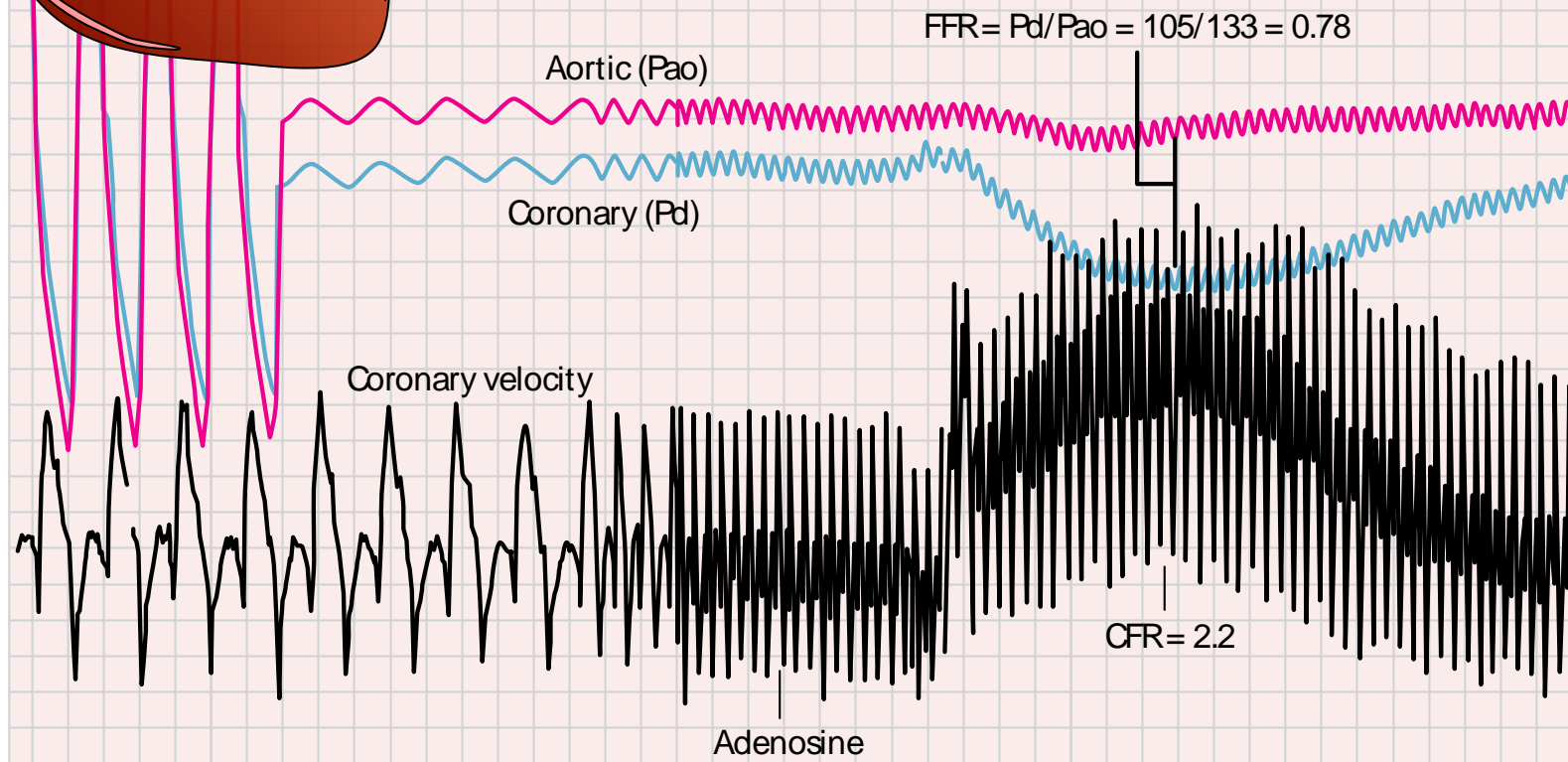
# Coronary Pressure-Flow Relation



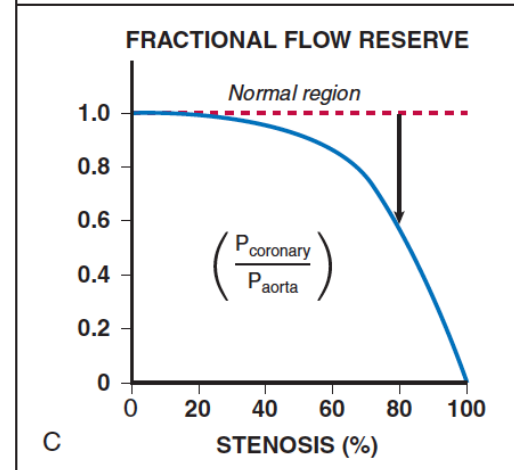
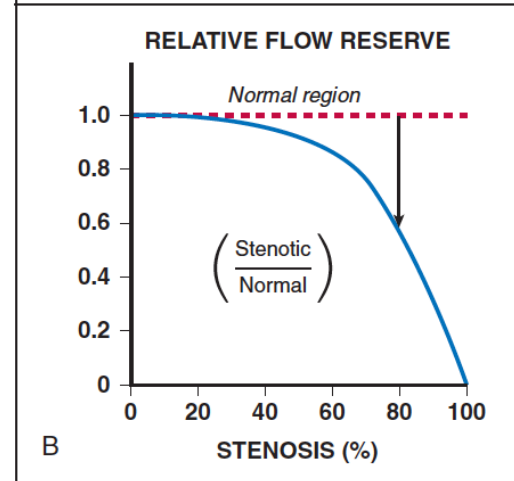
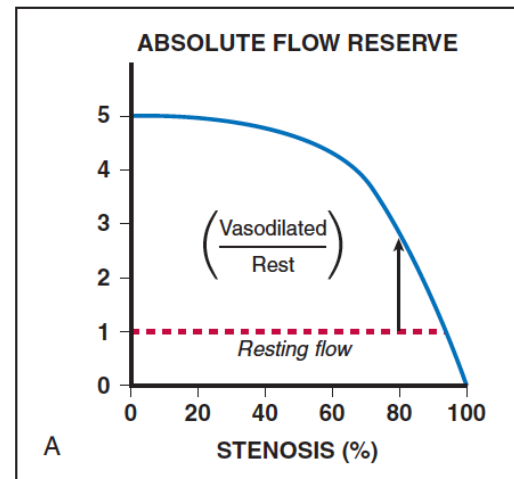
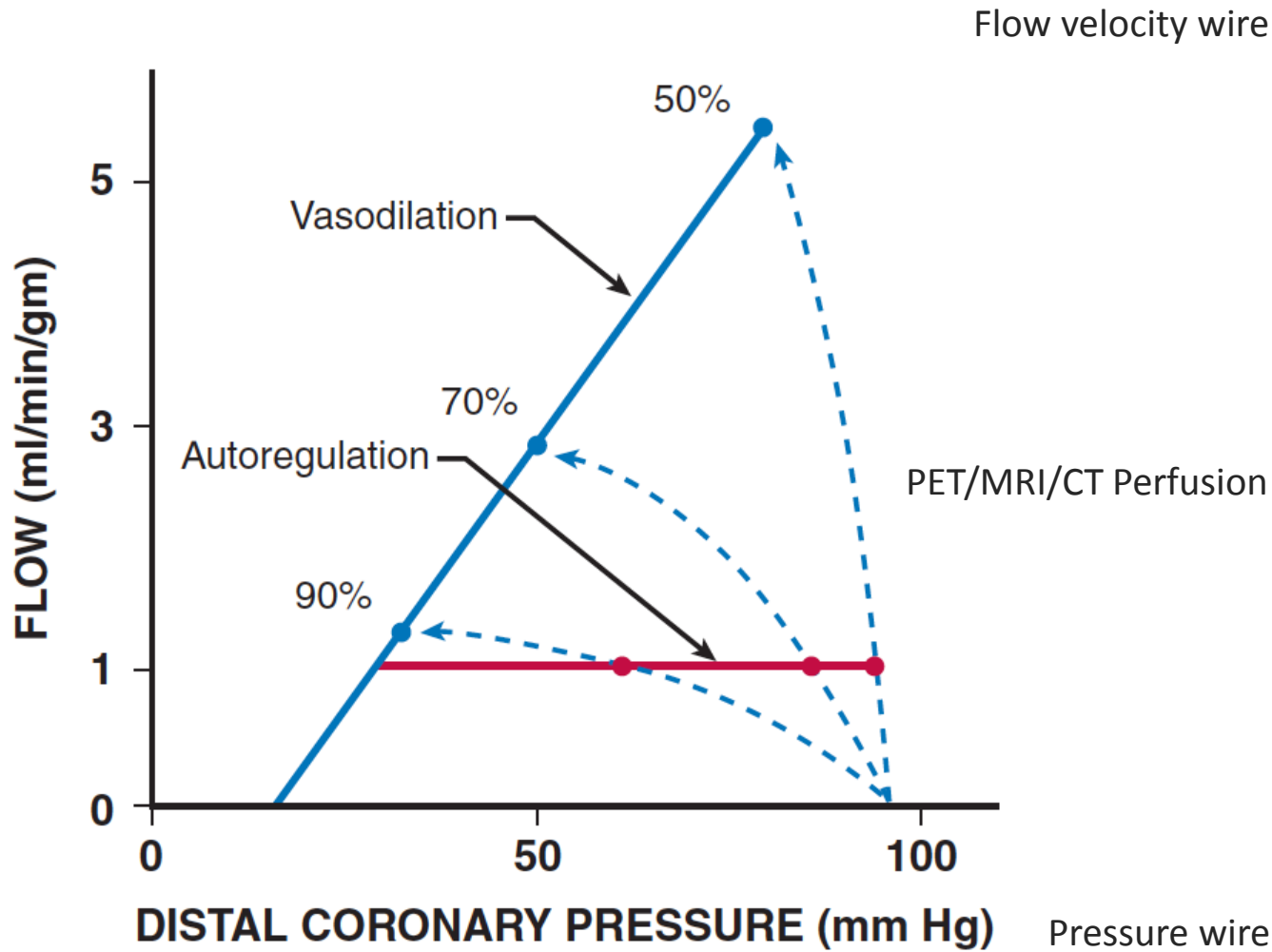




### Pressure Derived Fractional Flow Reserve, FFR



# Assessment of Coronary Reserve



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# Coronary Pressure-Flow Relation

## *Influence of Coronary Microvascular Disease*

