

# Regulation of Coronary Blood Flow

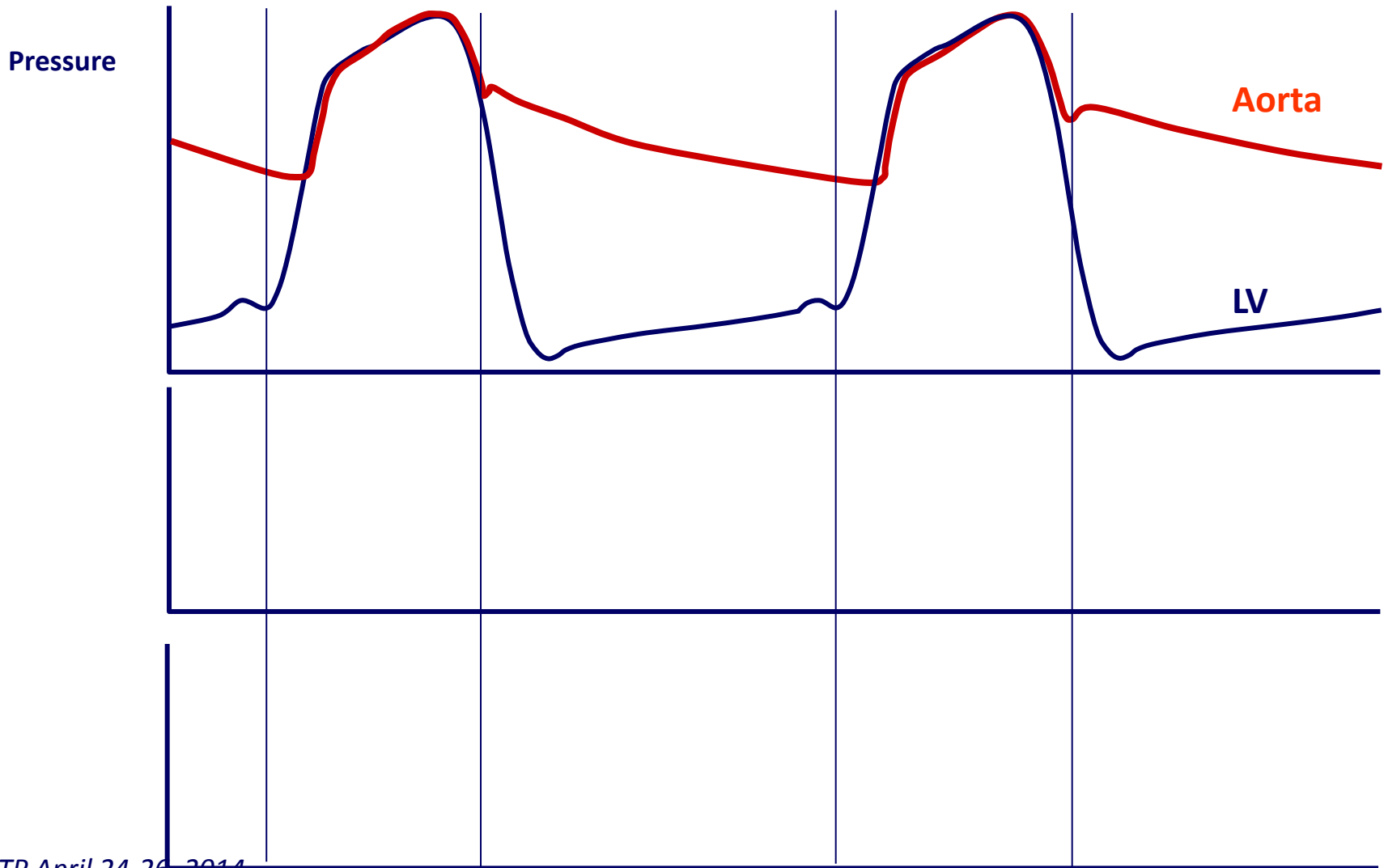
... for the Interventionalists

**Bernard De Bruyne**  
**Cardiovascular Center Aalst**  
**Belgium**

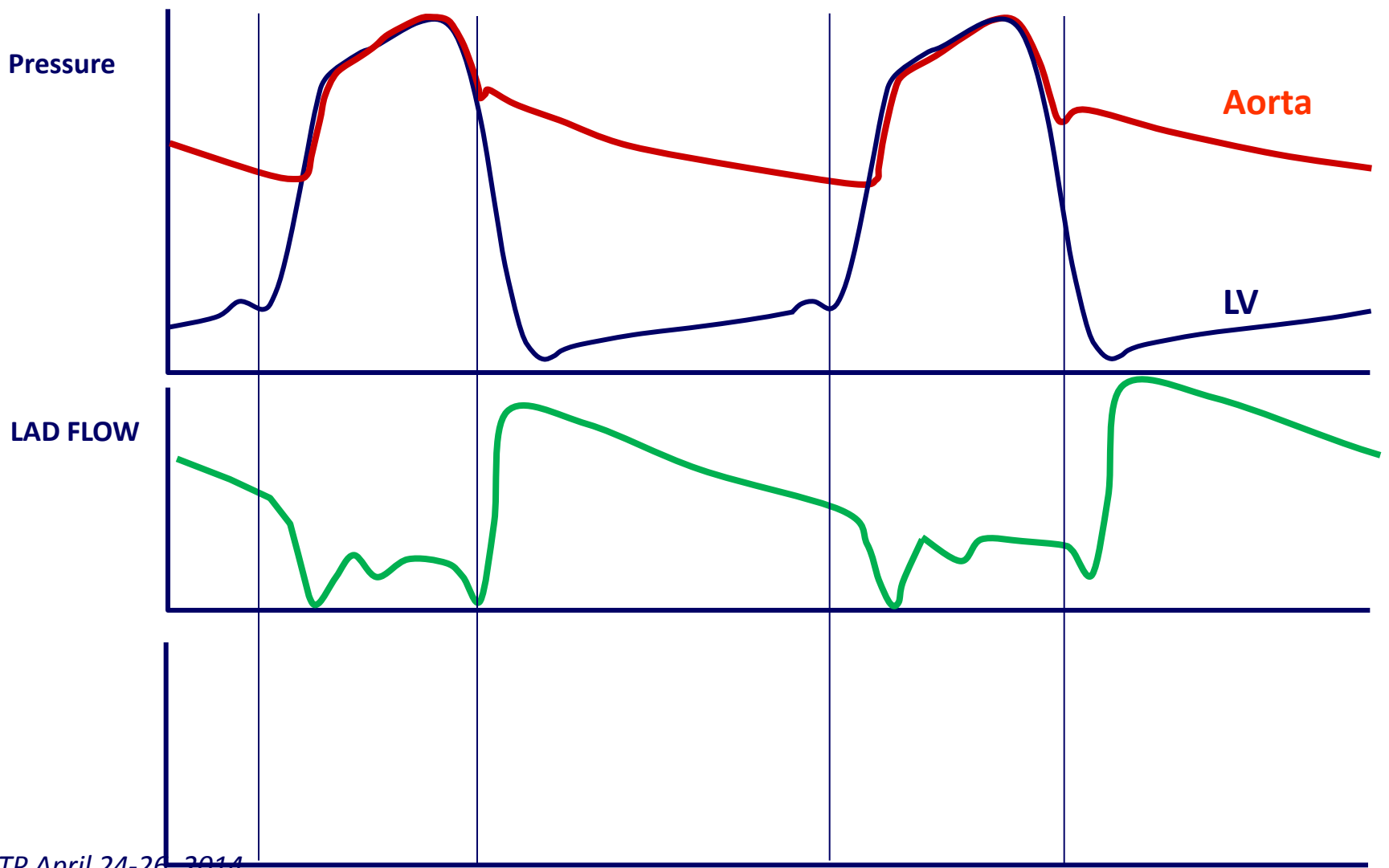
# ***ABC of Coronary Physiology For the Interventionalist***

- 1. About Pressure, flow, mass, resistance, etc, ...**
- 2. Epicardial vs microvascular compartments**
- 3. Flow-function relationship**
- 4. Coronary autoregulation**

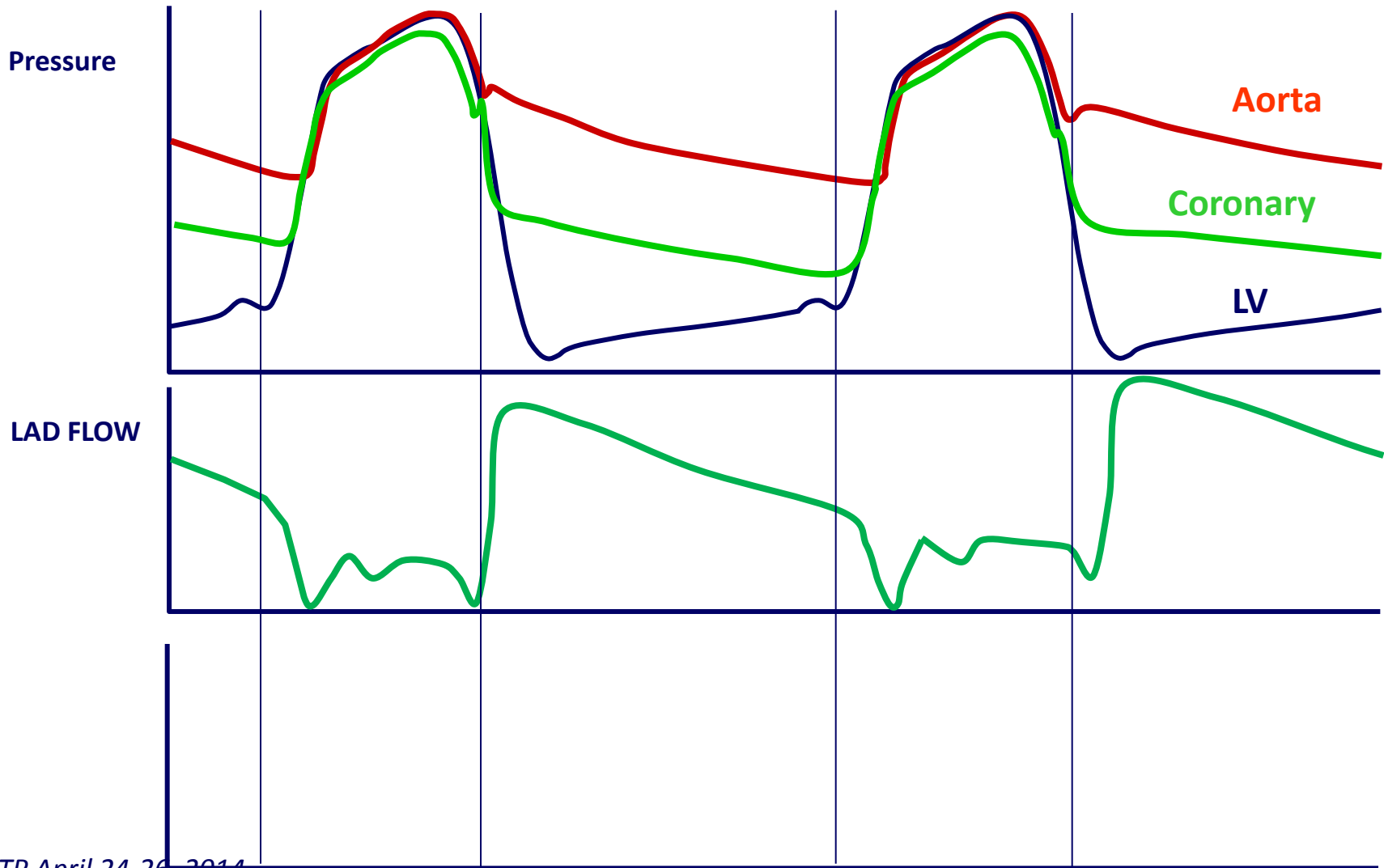
## Extravascular Compressive Forces



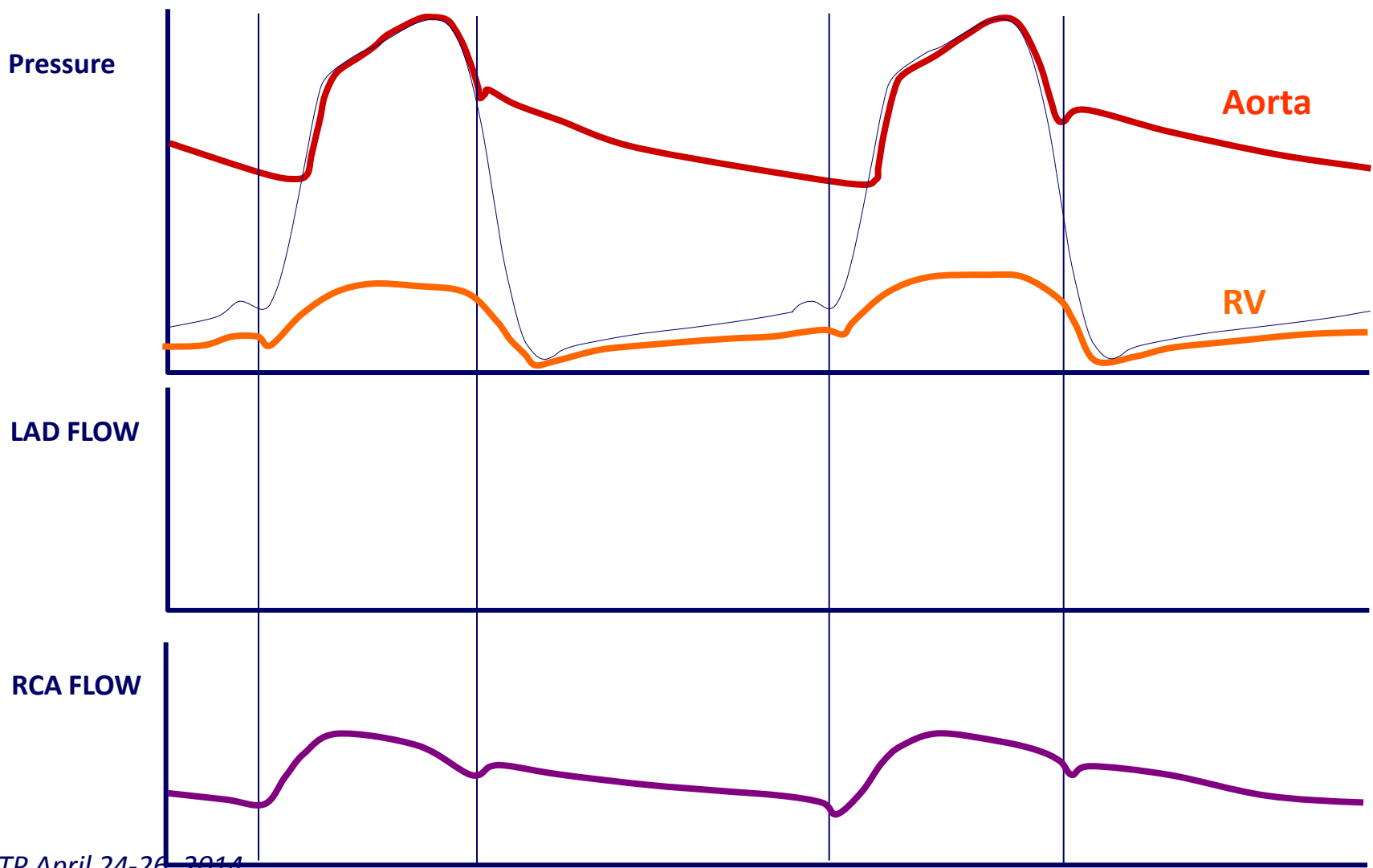
## Extravascular Compressive Forces



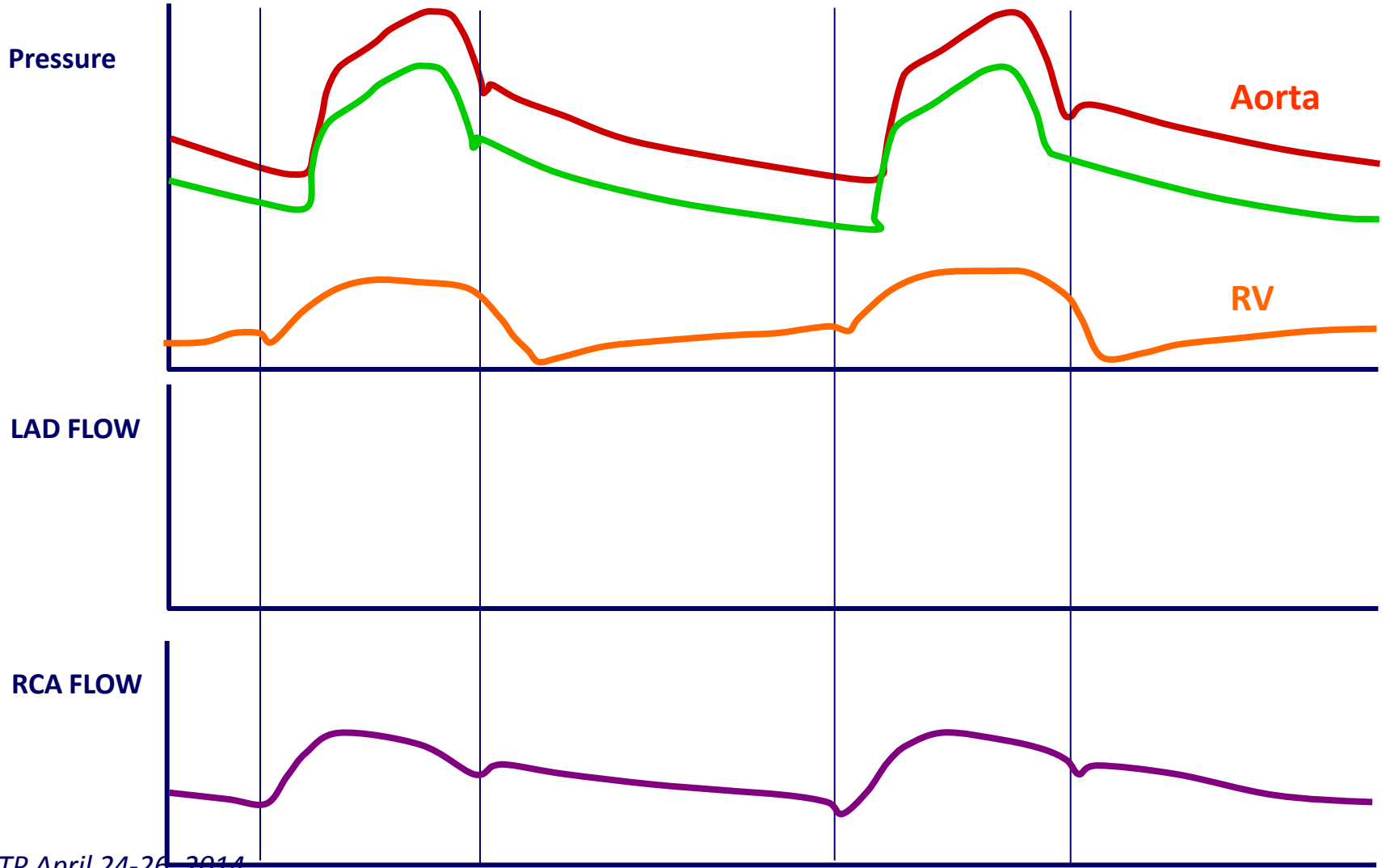
## Extravascular Compressive Forces



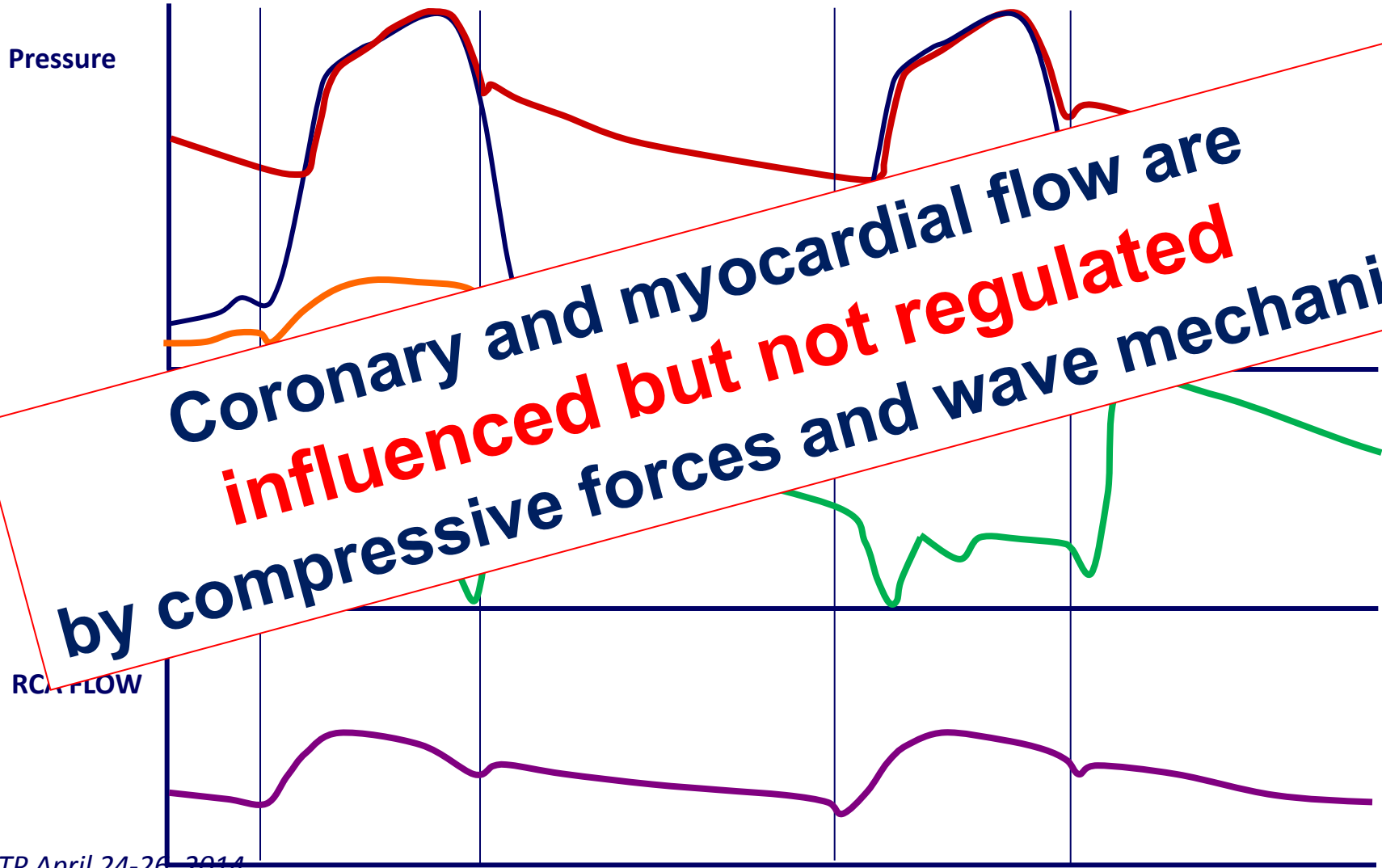
## Extravascular Compressive Forces



# Extravascular Compressive Forces

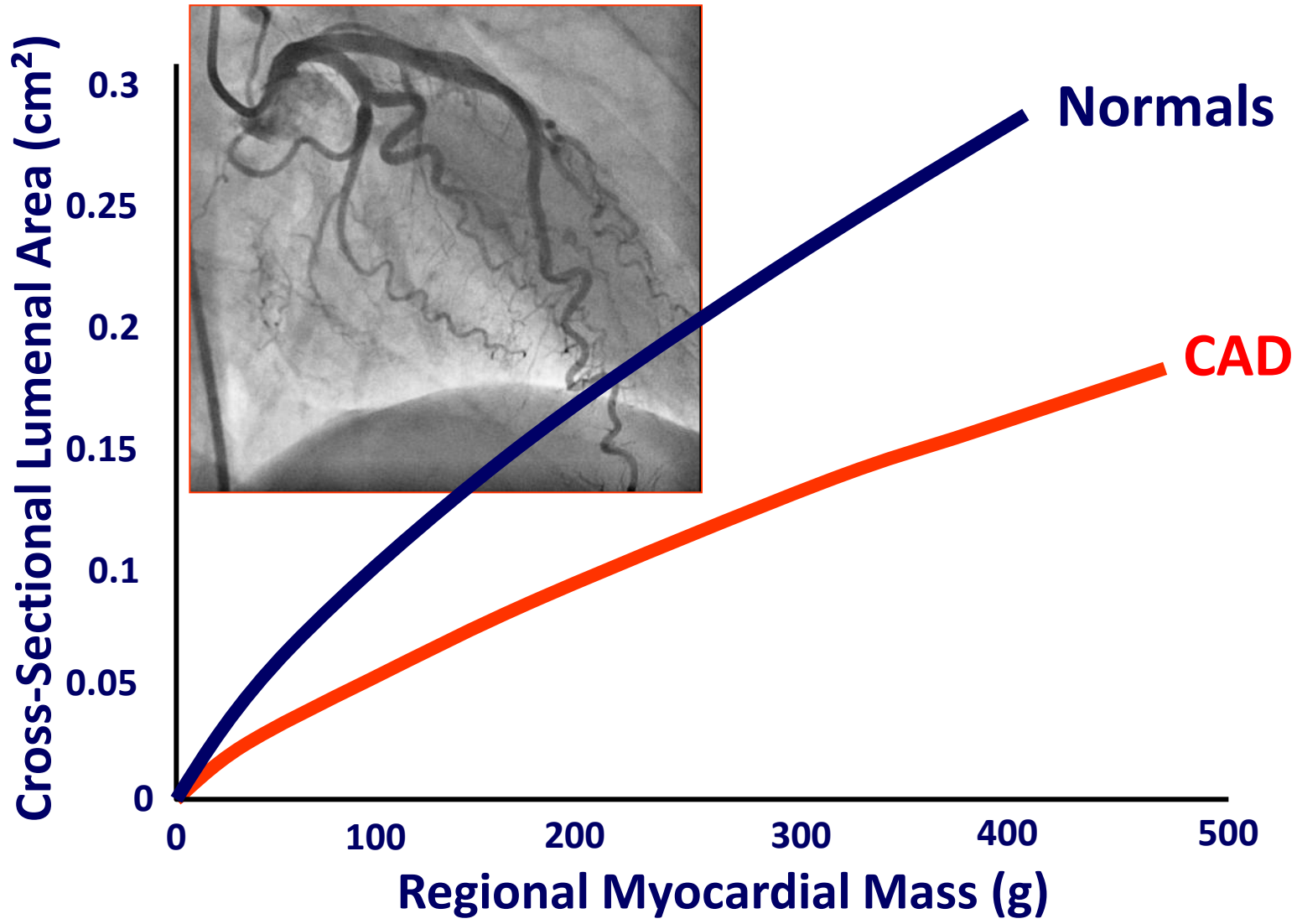


# Extravascular Compressive Forces

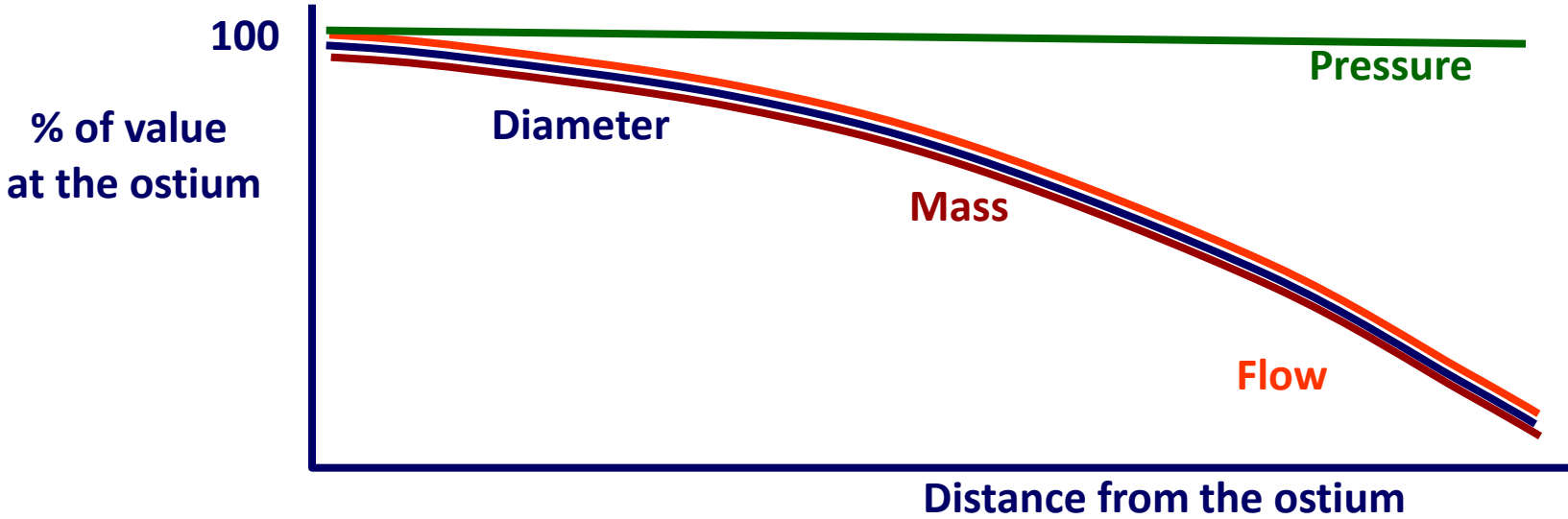
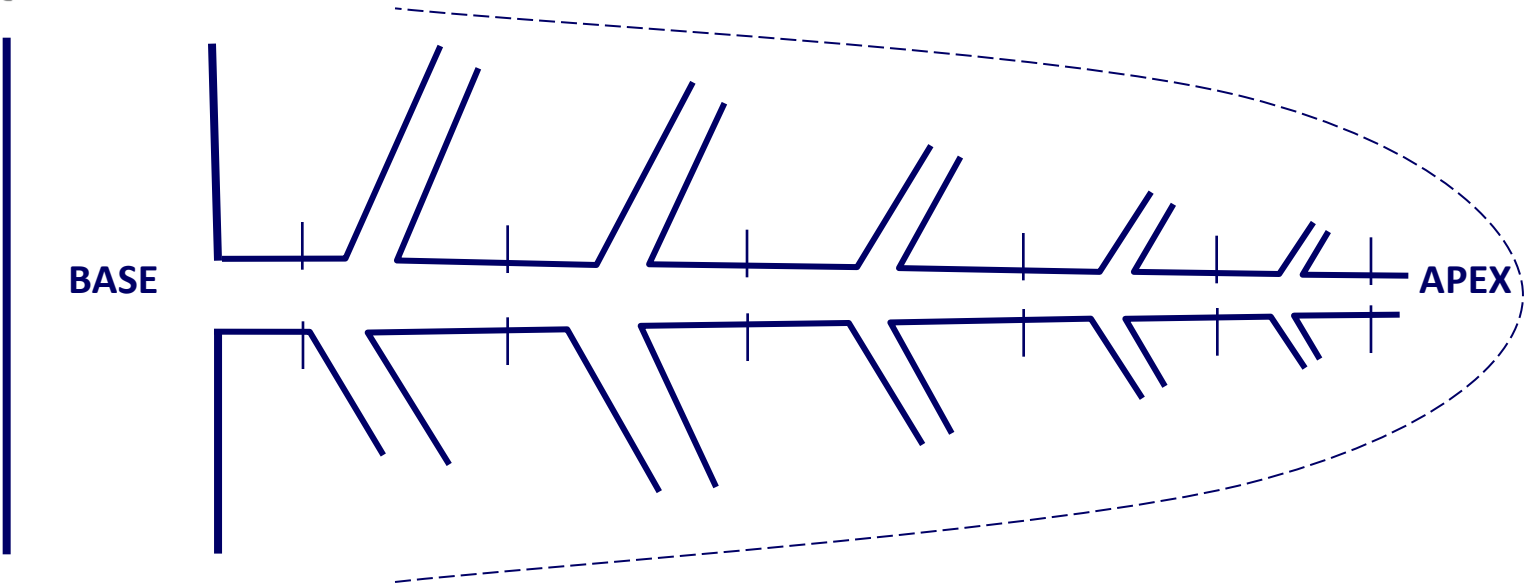




# Relation between Vessel Size and Myocardial Mass



# About Pressure, Flow, Resistance, and Vessel Size

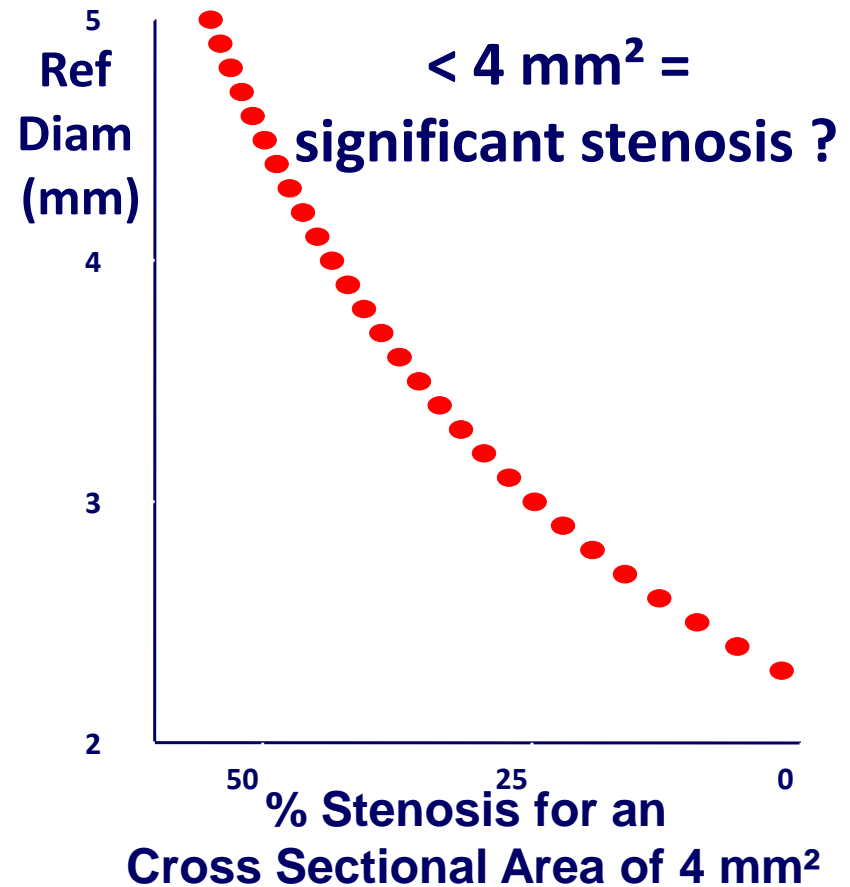
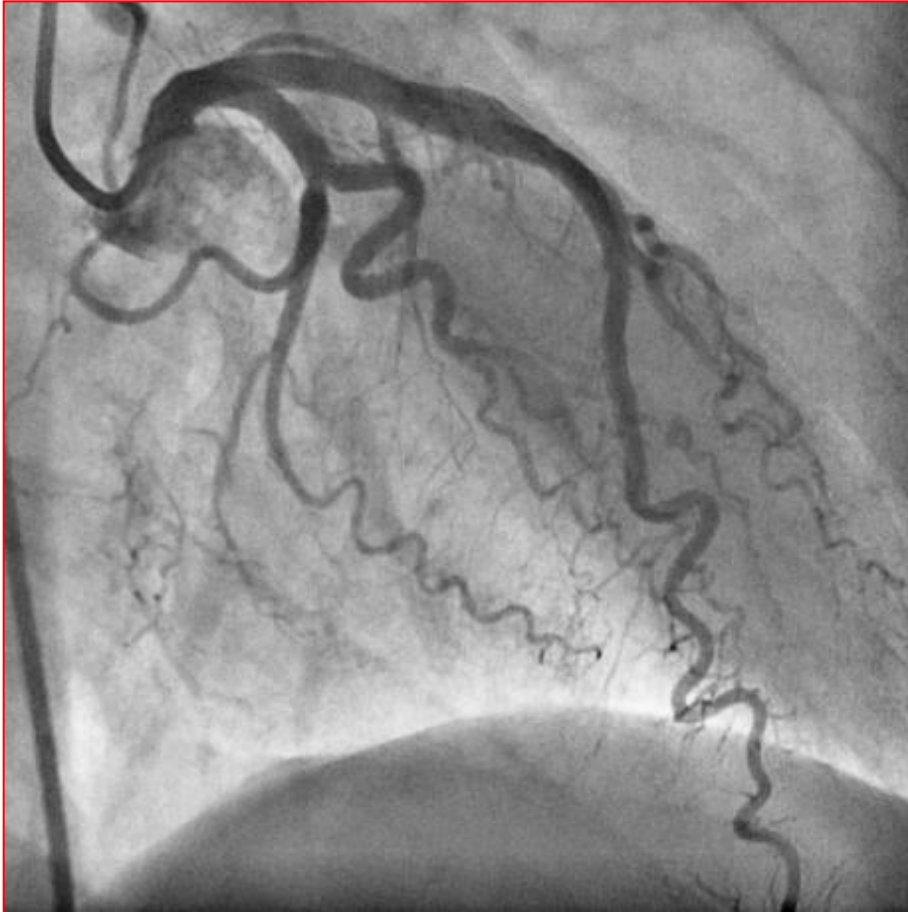


# About Pressure, Flow, Resistance, and Vessel Size

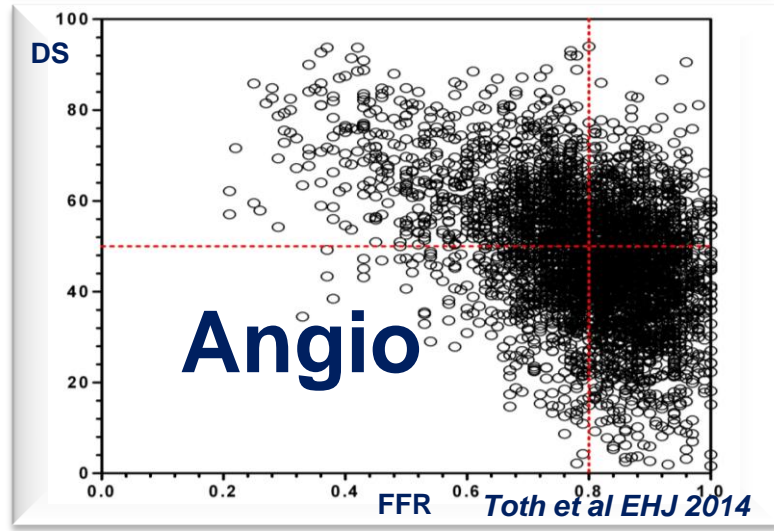
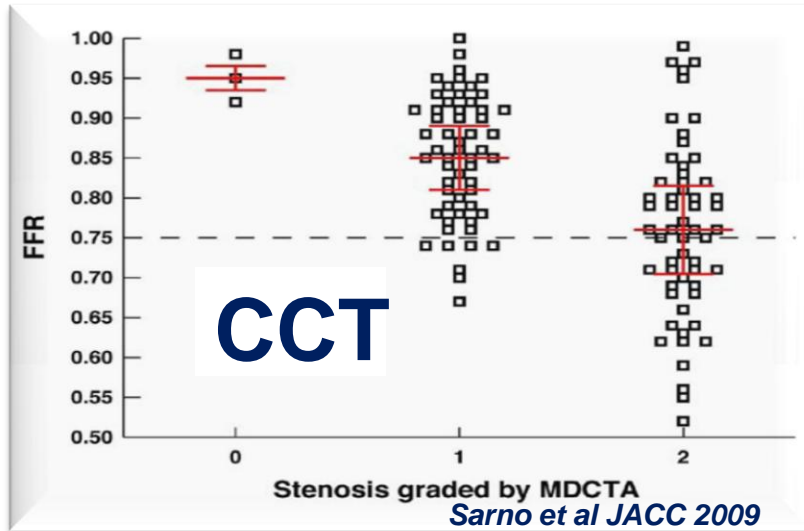
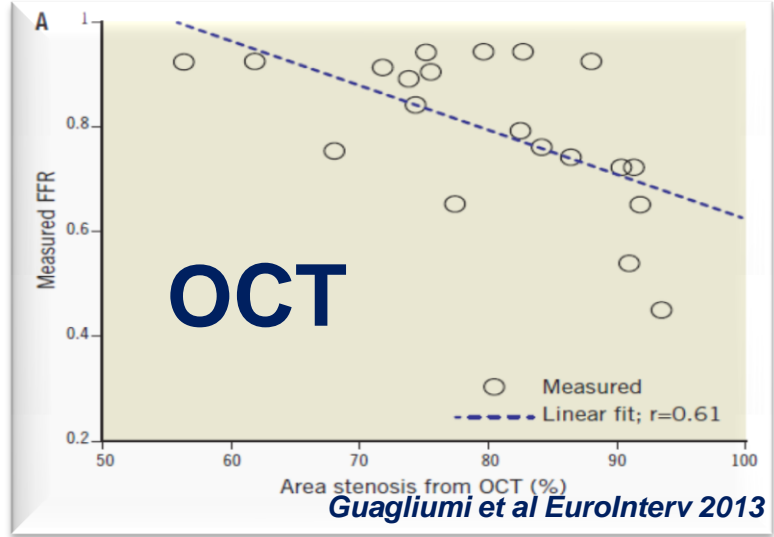
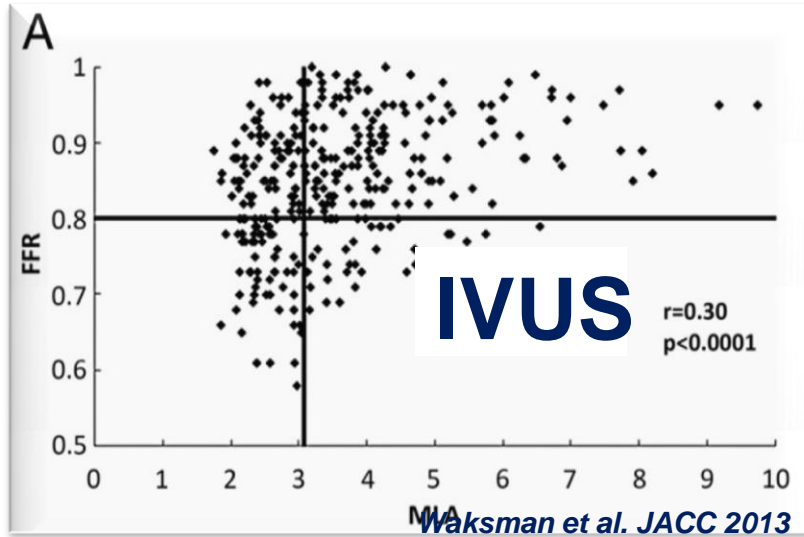


	Tree Shrew	Human	Blue Whale
Body Mass [kg]	0.005	70	100,000
Heart Weight [kg] ( $\sim M^1$ )	$3.3 \times 10^{-5}$	0.46	660
Stroke Volume [ml] ( $\sim M^1$ )	0.0033	46	66,000
Heart Rate [ $s^{-1}$ ] ( $\sim M^{-1/4}$ )	11 (>600 bpm)	1	0.16 (<10 bpm)
Cardiac Output [L/min] ( $\sim M^{3/4}$ )	0.003	5	1000
Radius of Aorta [cm] ( $\sim M^{3/8}$ )	0.02	1	15
Mean Aortic Velocity [cm/sec] ( $\sim M^0$ )	10	10	10
Mean Aortic Pressure [mmHg] ( $\sim M^0$ )	100	100	100
Mean Aortic Reynold's No. ( $\sim M^{3/8}$ )	15	530	8080 (turbulent!)
Mean Aortic Shear Stress [dynes/cm <sup>2</sup> ] ( $\sim M^{-3/8}$ )	180	5	0.3

## About Pressure, Flow, Resistance, and Vessel Size



# Anatomy vs Physiology: the Chimeric Link



**Statistical (mechanistic) relation but little clinical relation**

# ***ABC of Coronary Physiology For the Interventionalist***

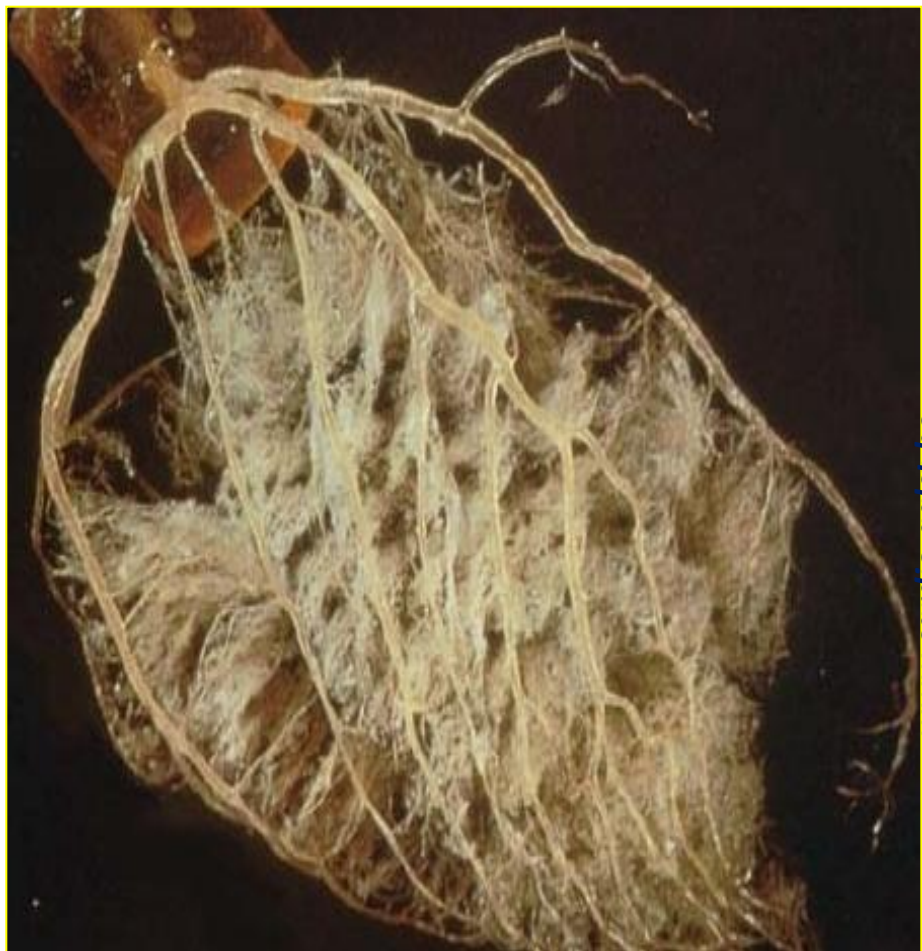
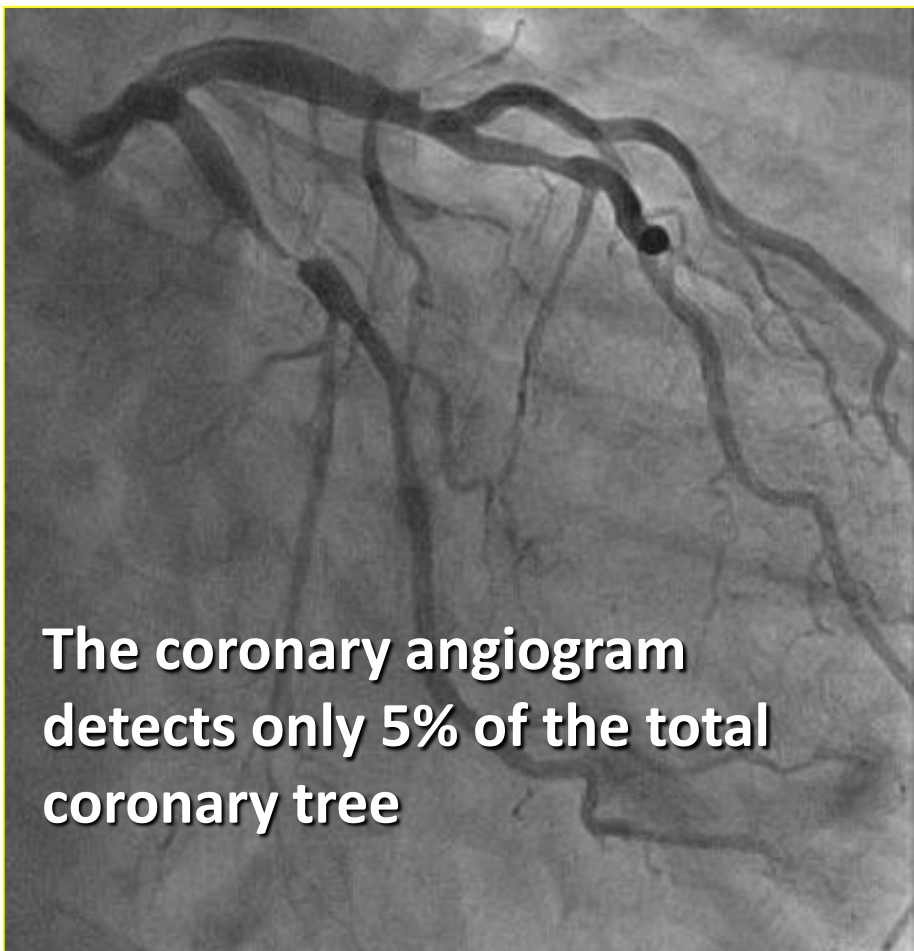
**1. About Pressure, flow, resistance, etc, ...**

**2. Epicardial vs microvascular compartments**

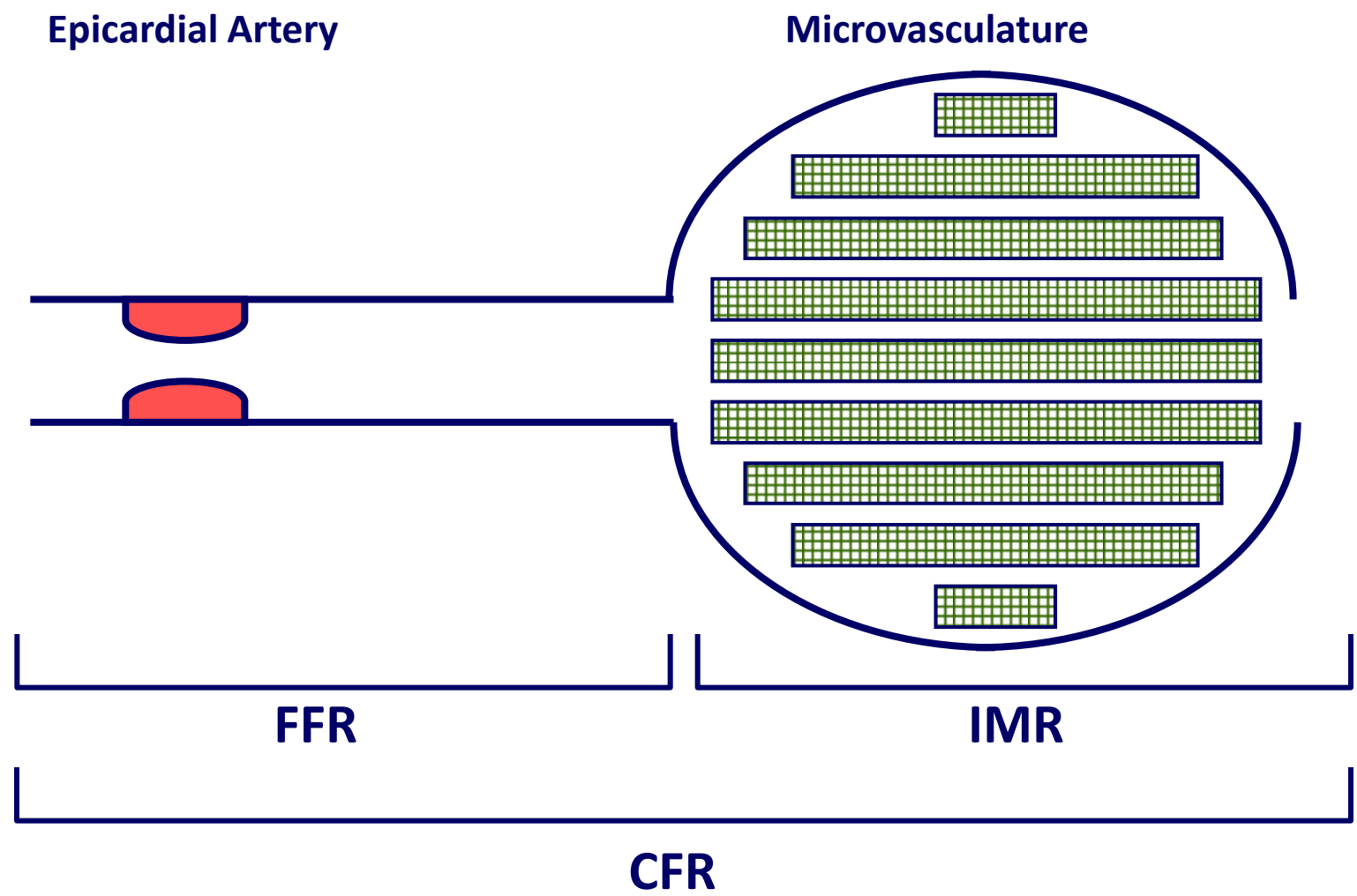
**3. Flow-function relationship**

**4. Coronary autoregulation**

# Two-Compartment Model of the Coronary Circulation



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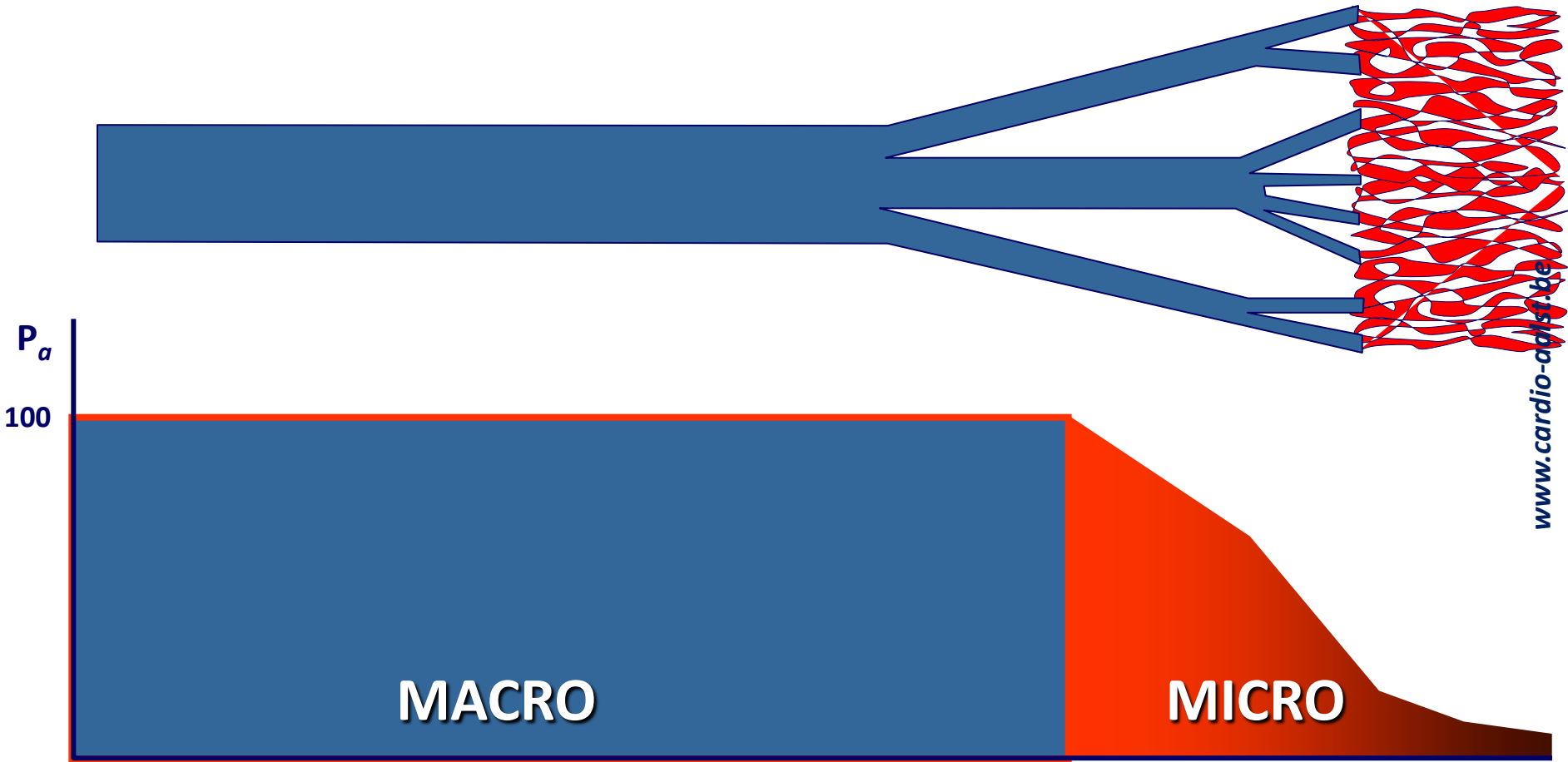
Conductance Arteries

Resistance Arteries

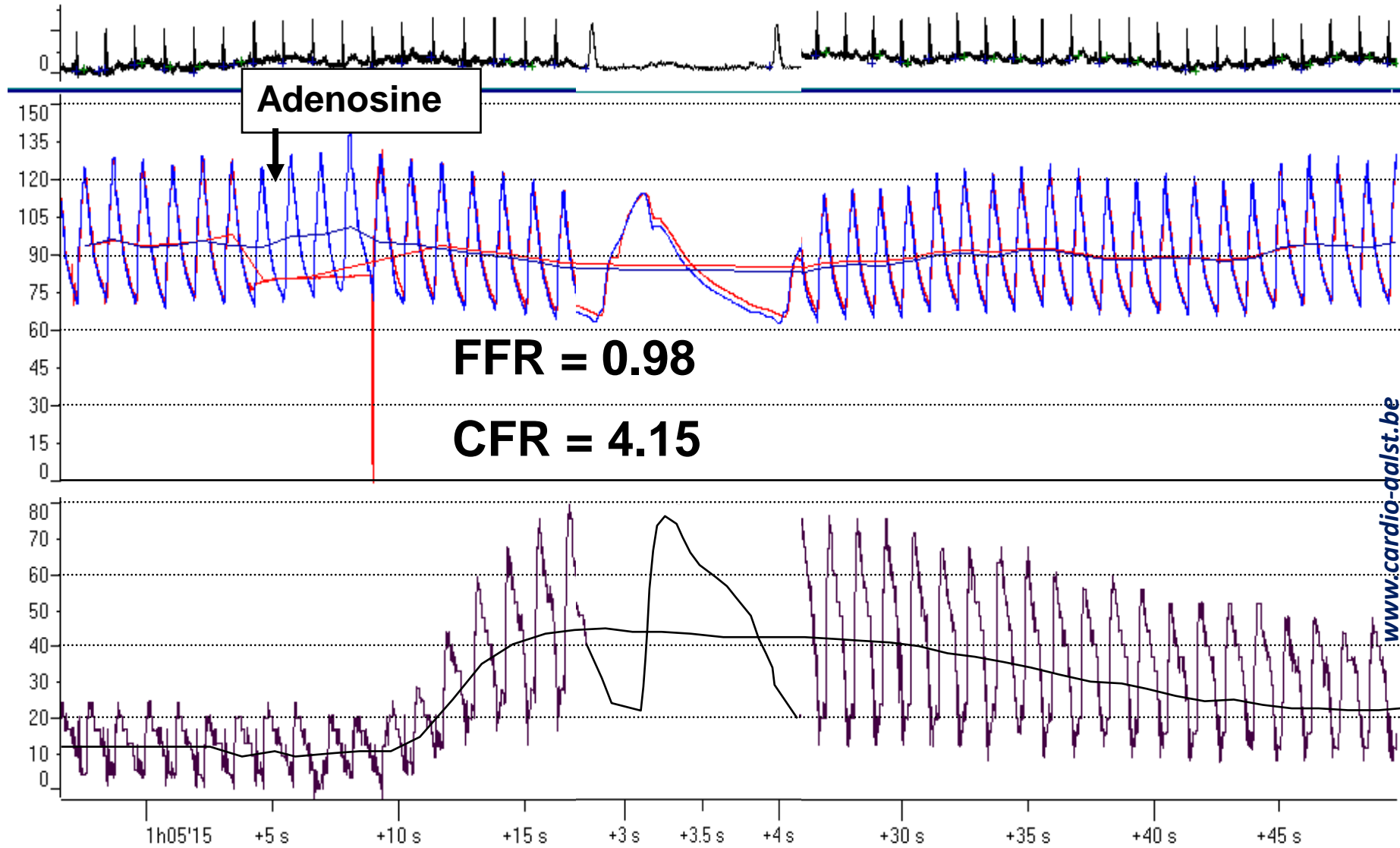
>500  $\mu$

<500  $\mu$

Microvasculature



# Pressure and Flow Velocity in Normal Coronary Arteries



# Conductance Arteries

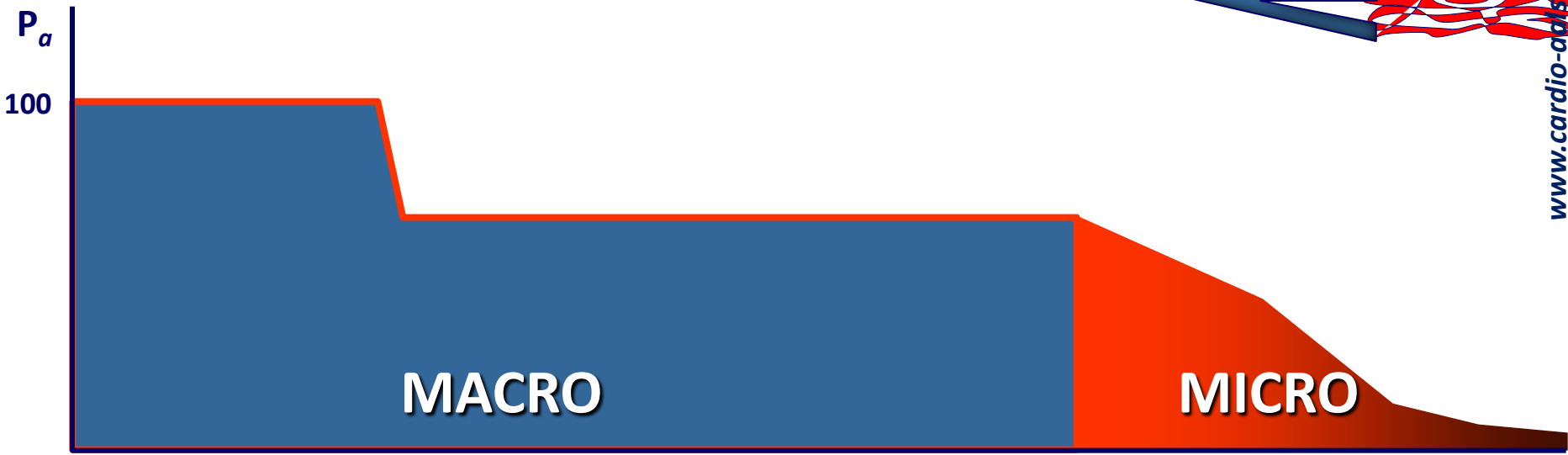
# Resistance Arteries

>500  $\mu$

<500  $\mu$

Focal  
Stenosis

Microvasculature



## Conductance Arteries

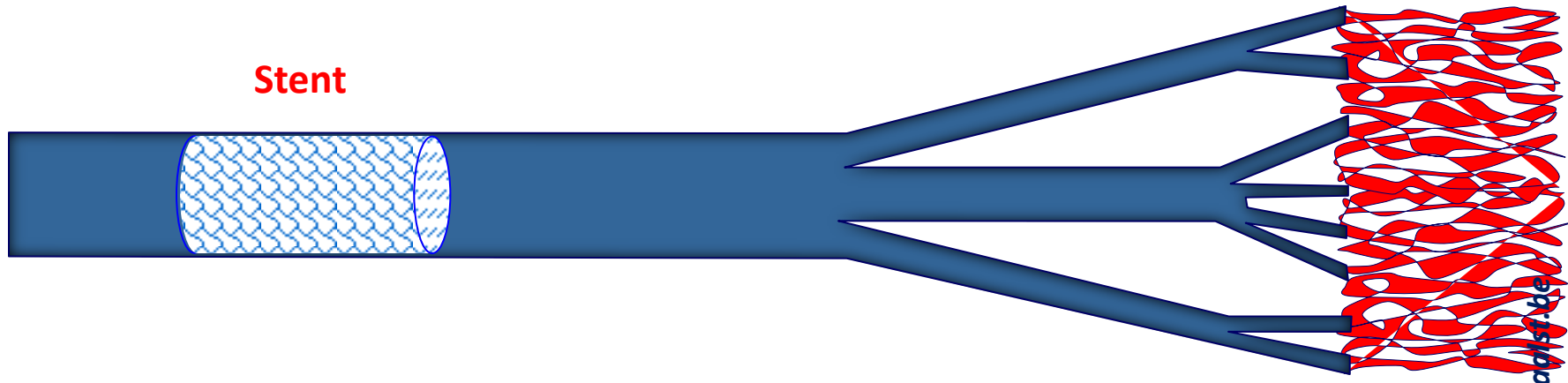
## Resistance Arteries

>500  $\mu$

<500  $\mu$

Microvasculature

Stent



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# Conductance Arteries

# Resistance Arteries

>500  $\mu$

<500  $\mu$

Microvasculature

Focal  
Stenosis

Diffuse  
Atherosclerosis

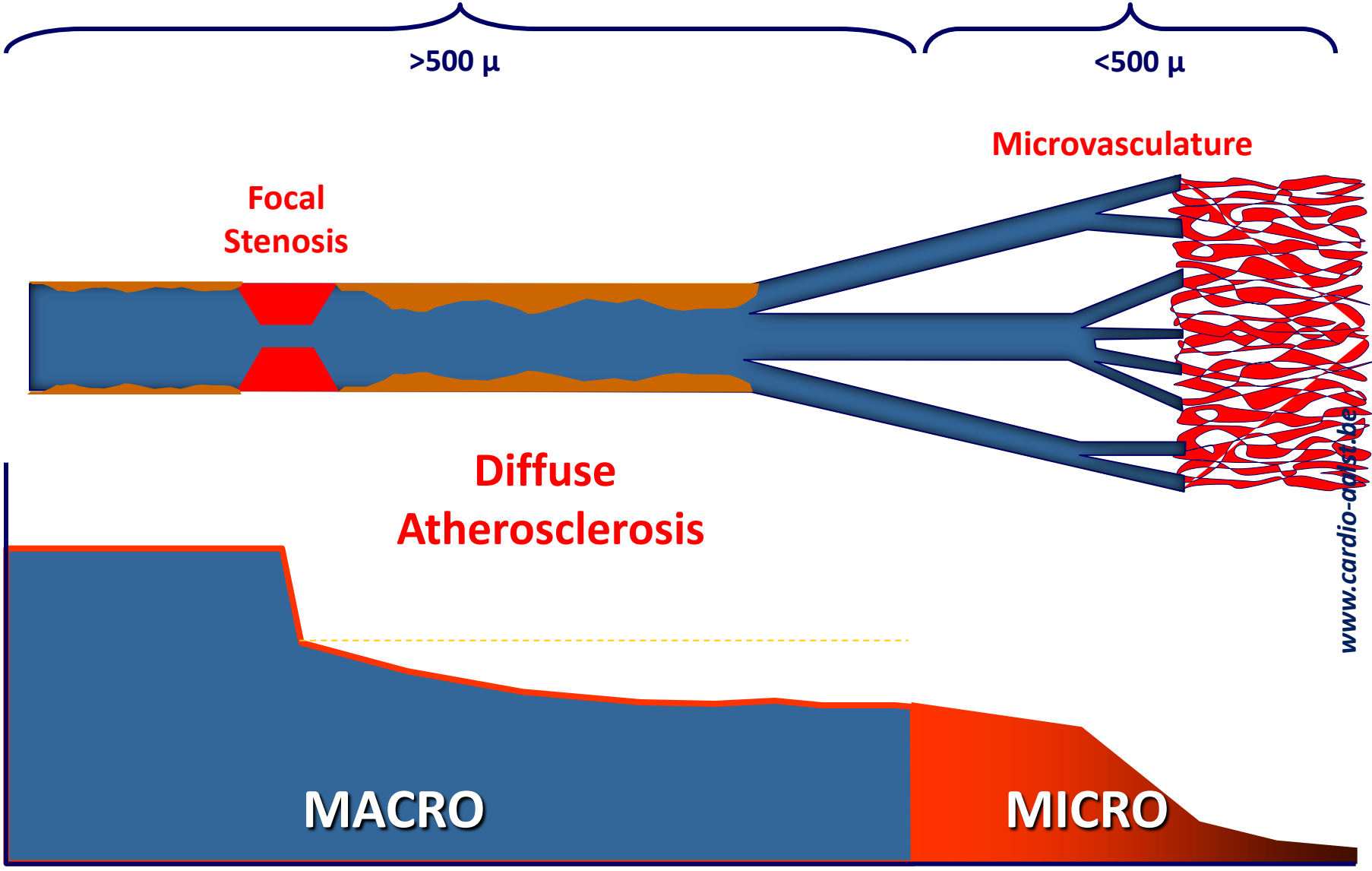
MACRO

MICRO

$P_a$

100

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## Conductance Arteries

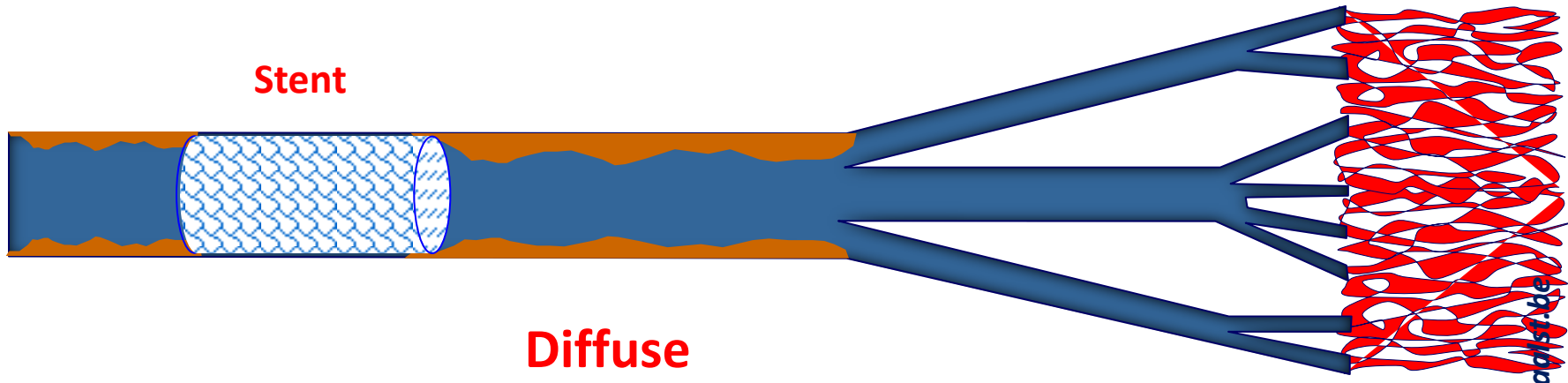
## Resistance Arteries

>500  $\mu$

<500  $\mu$

Microvasculature

Stent



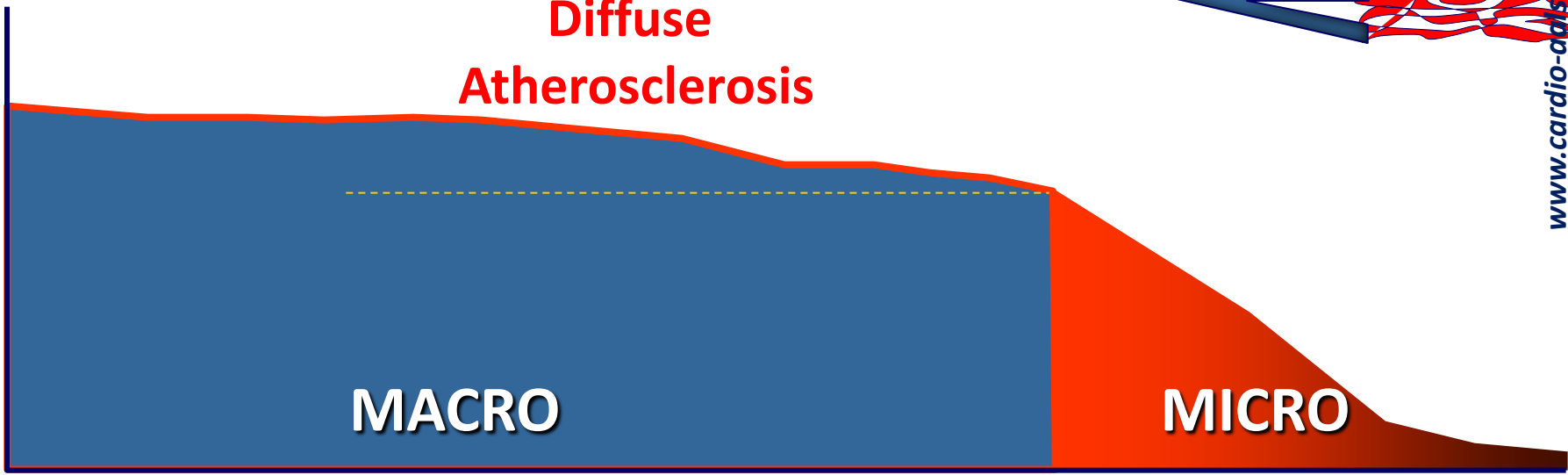
$P_a$

100

Diffuse  
Atherosclerosis

MACRO

MICRO



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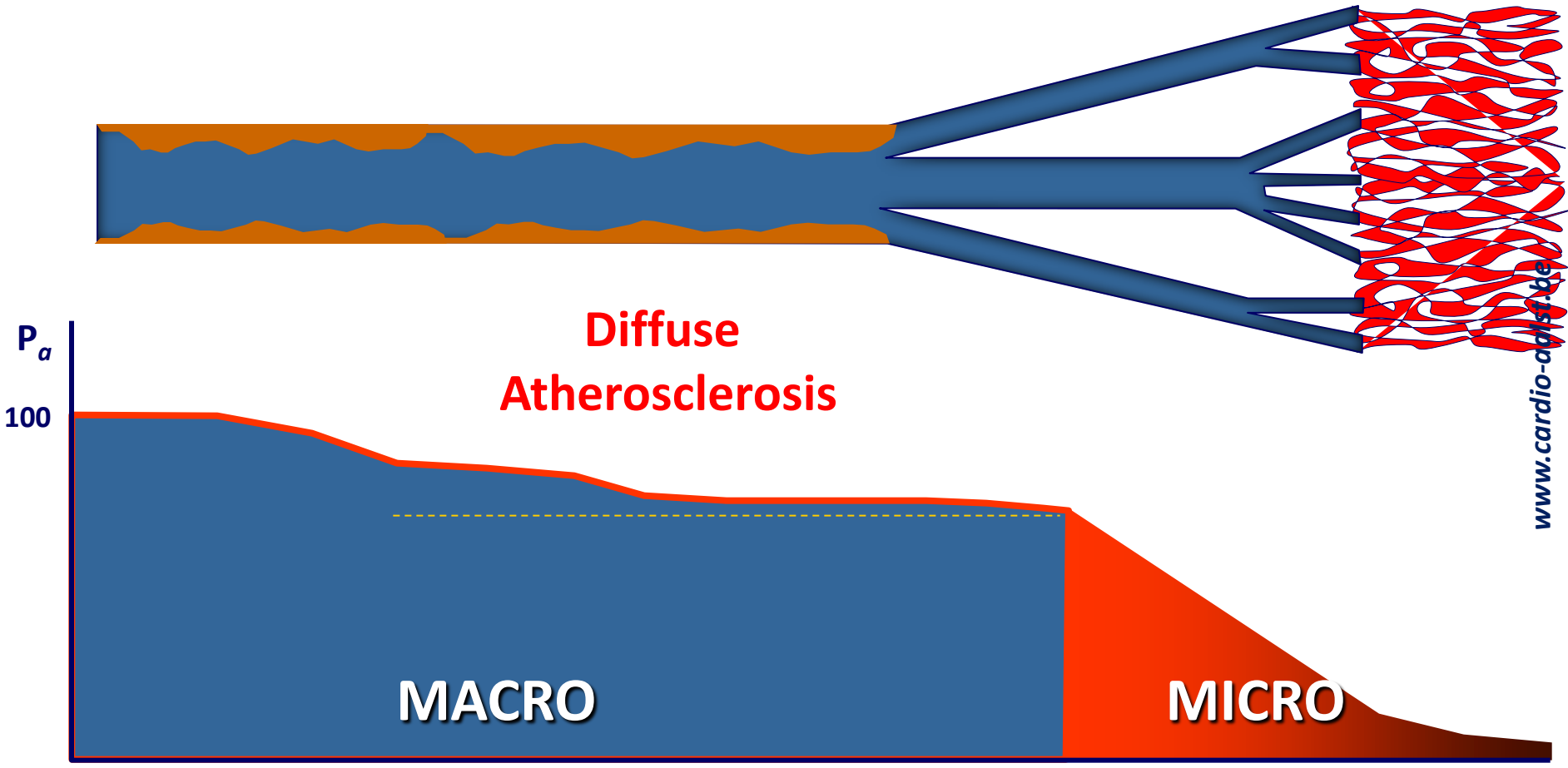
## Conductance Arteries

## Resistance Arteries

>500  $\mu$

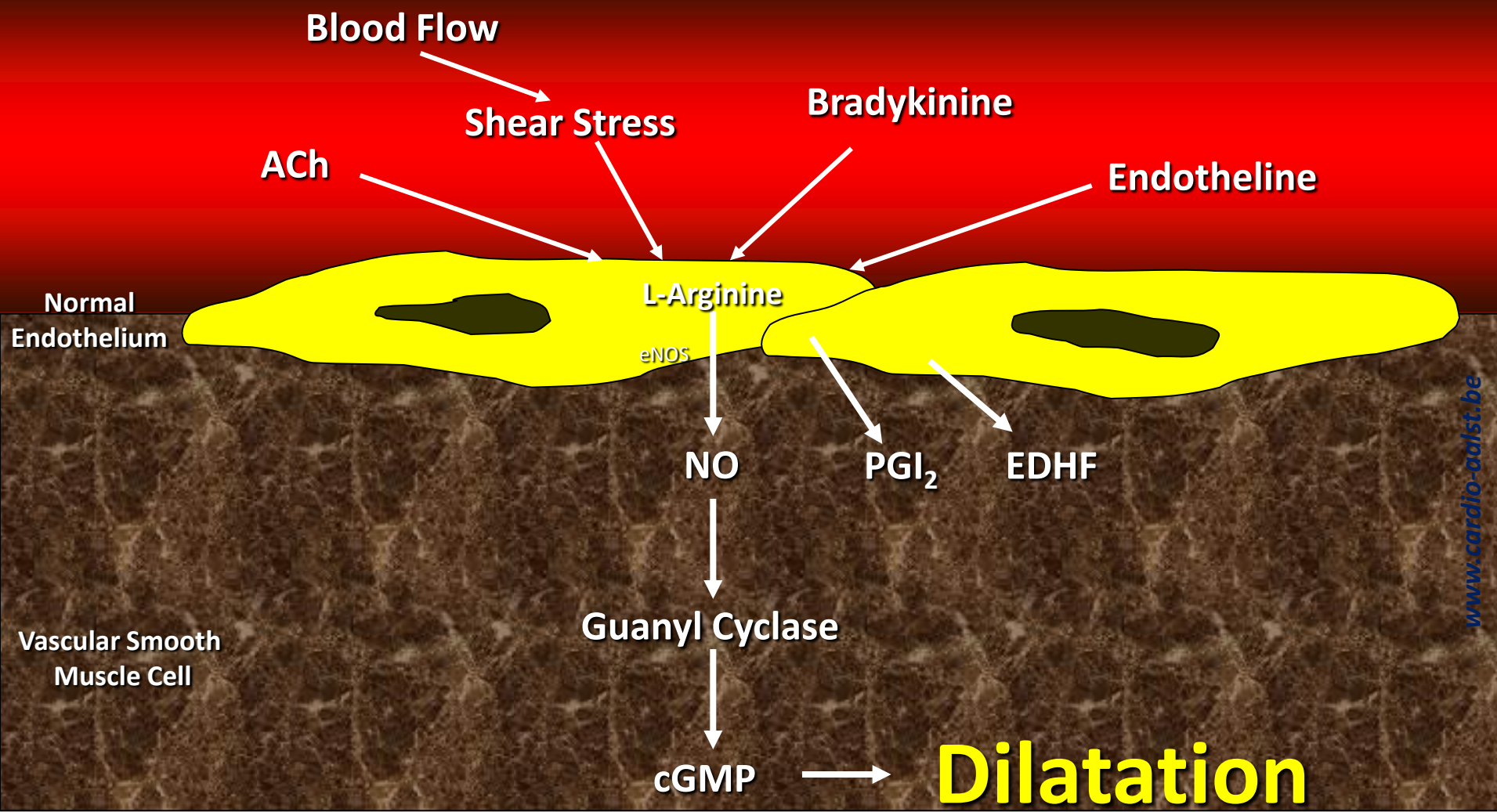
<500  $\mu$

Microvasculature



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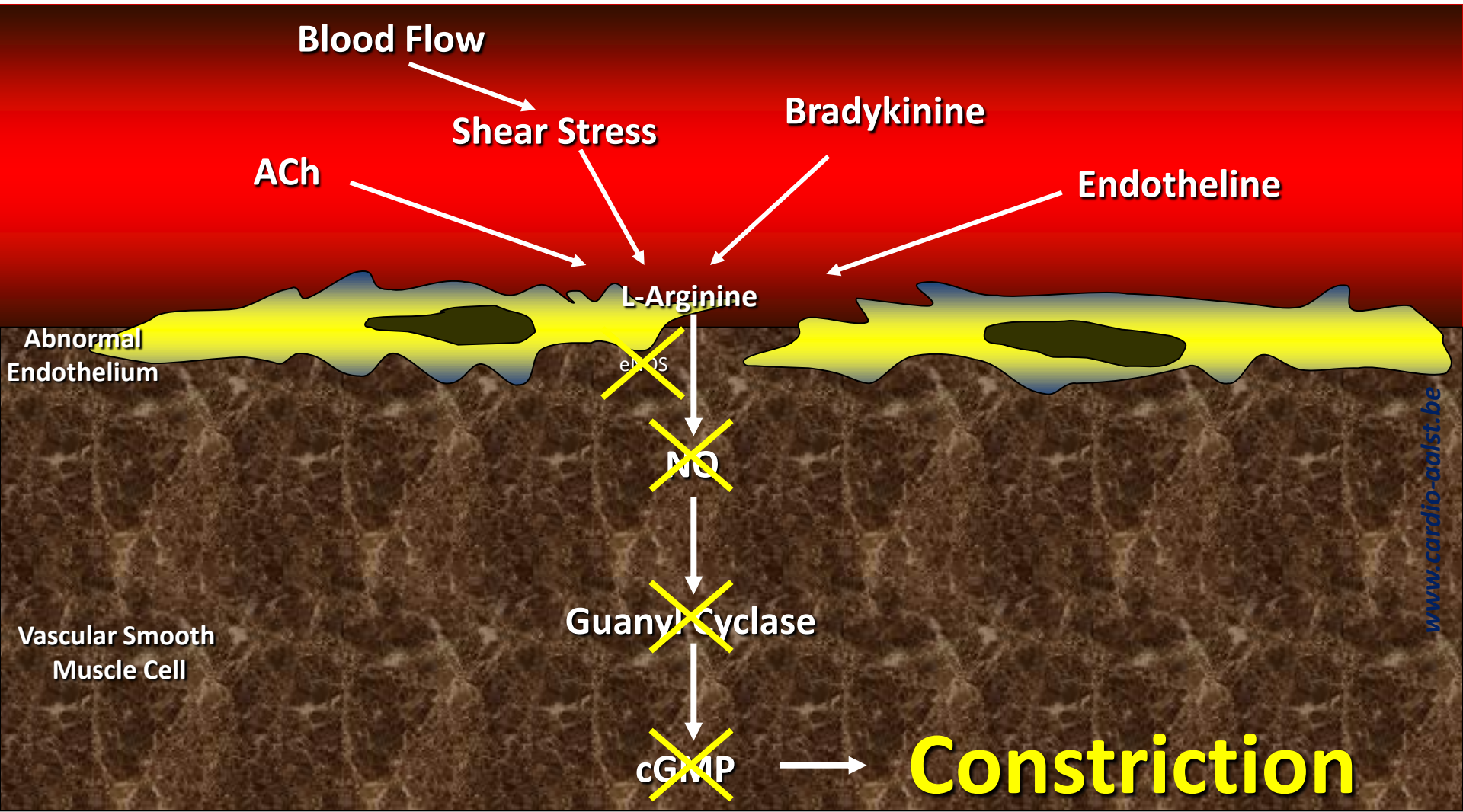
# Endothelial Control of Coronary Blood Flow



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# Endothelial Control of Coronary Blood Flow



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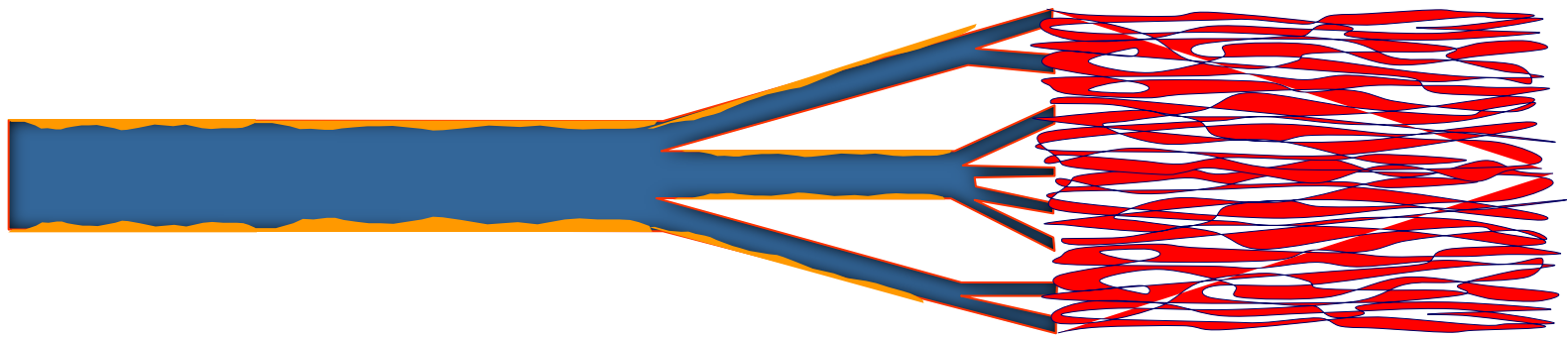
# Importance of Maximal Vasodilation

## Epicardial

= Conductance  
Arteries > 550  $\mu$

## Microvasculature

= Resistance  
Arteries < 550  $\mu$



**Nitrates**



~~Vasospasm~~

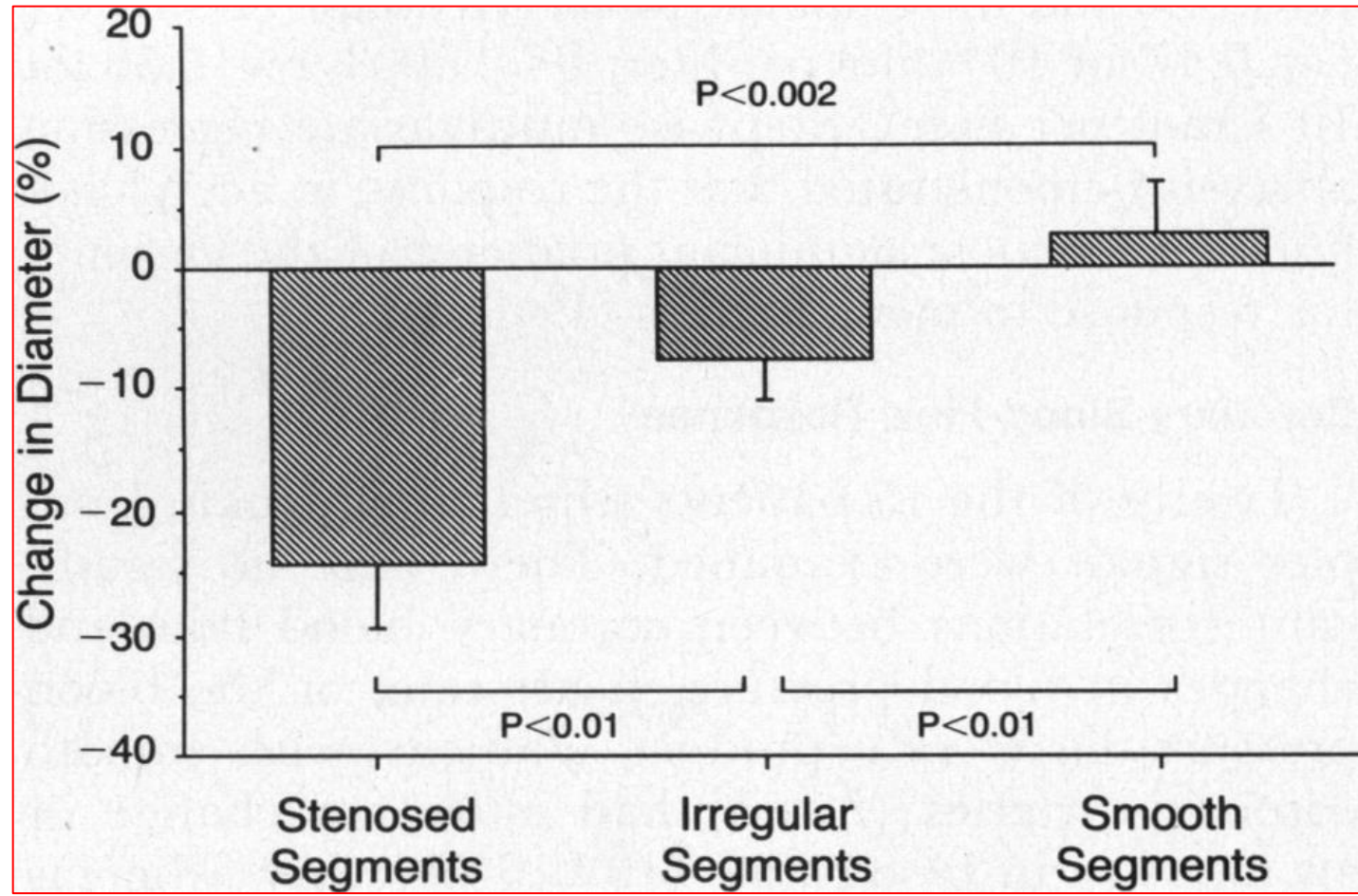
**Adenosine**



~~Autoregulation~~

# Endothelial Control of Coronary Blood Flow

## Effect of Mental Stress on the Diameter of Coronary Arteries



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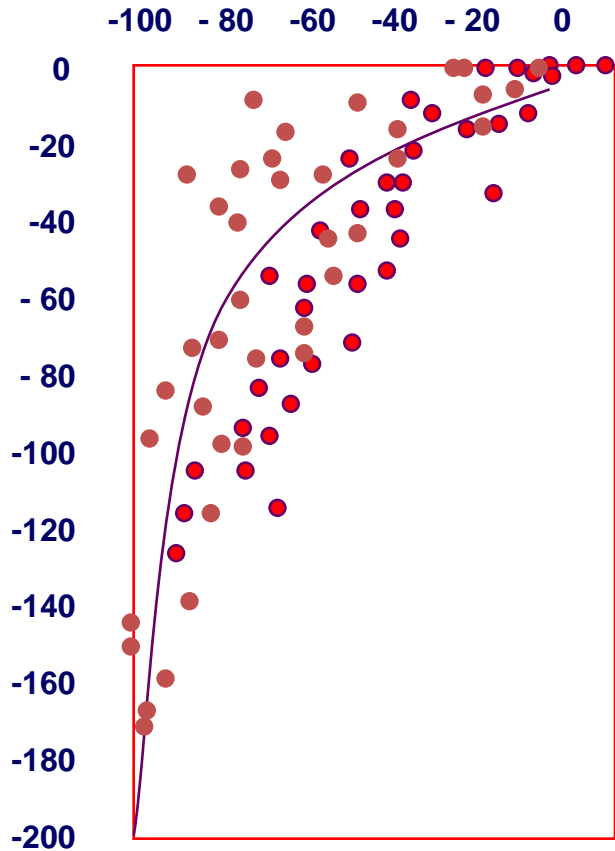
# ***ABC of Coronary Physiology For the Interventionalist***

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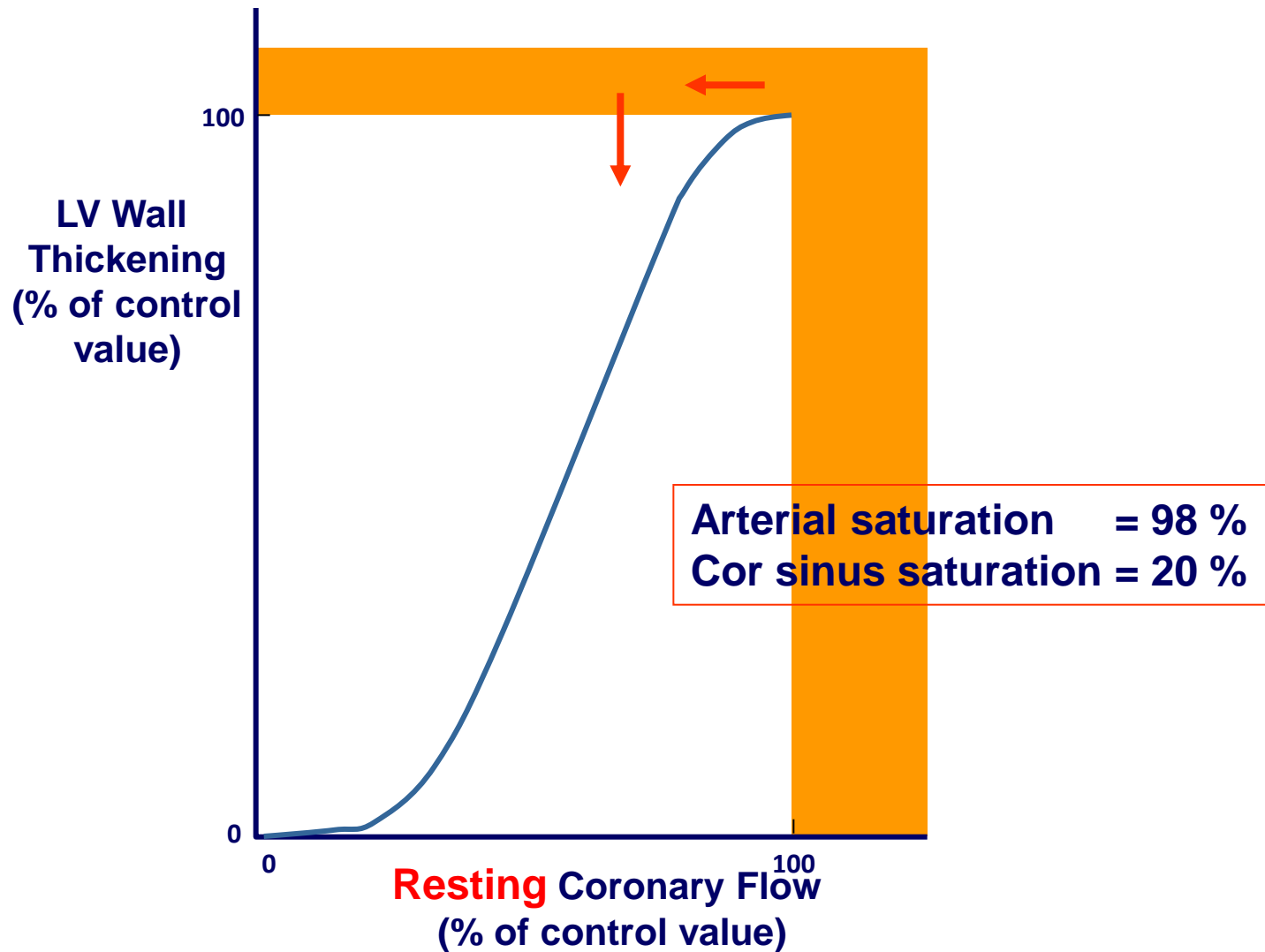
# Flow-Function Relationship

% Reduction in Subendocardial Flow

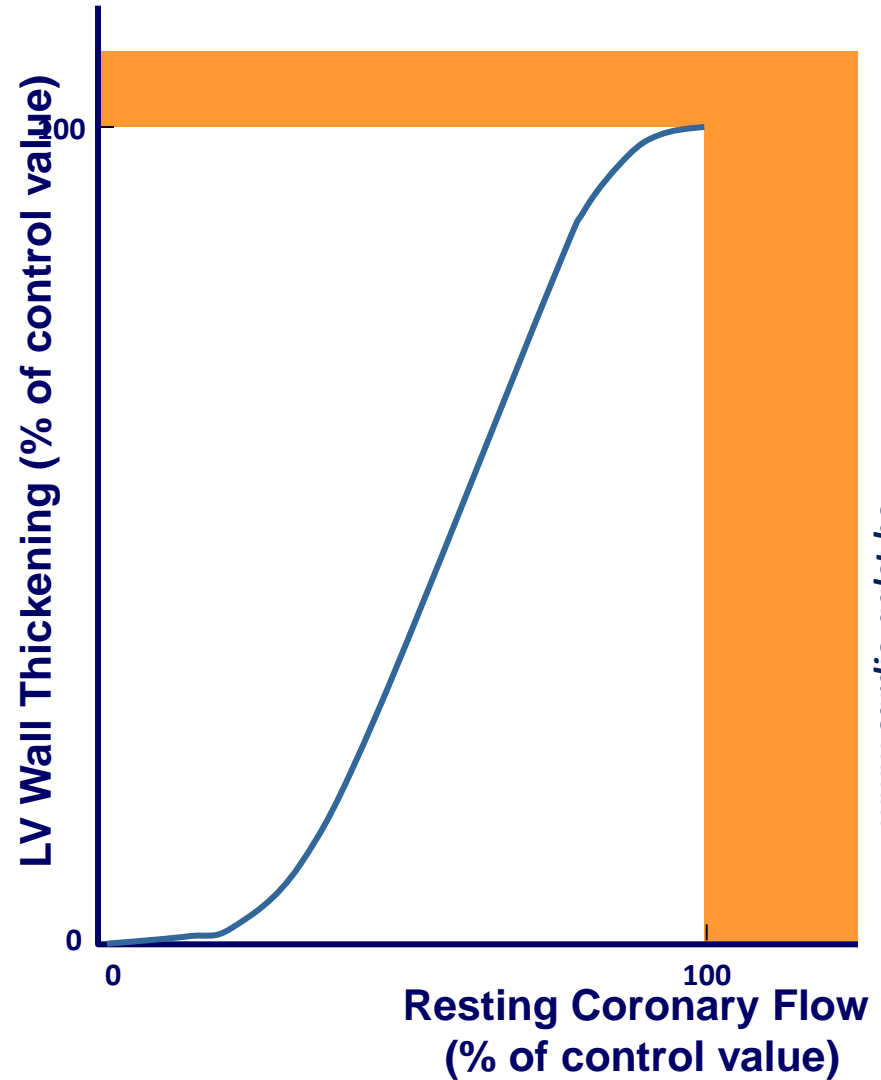
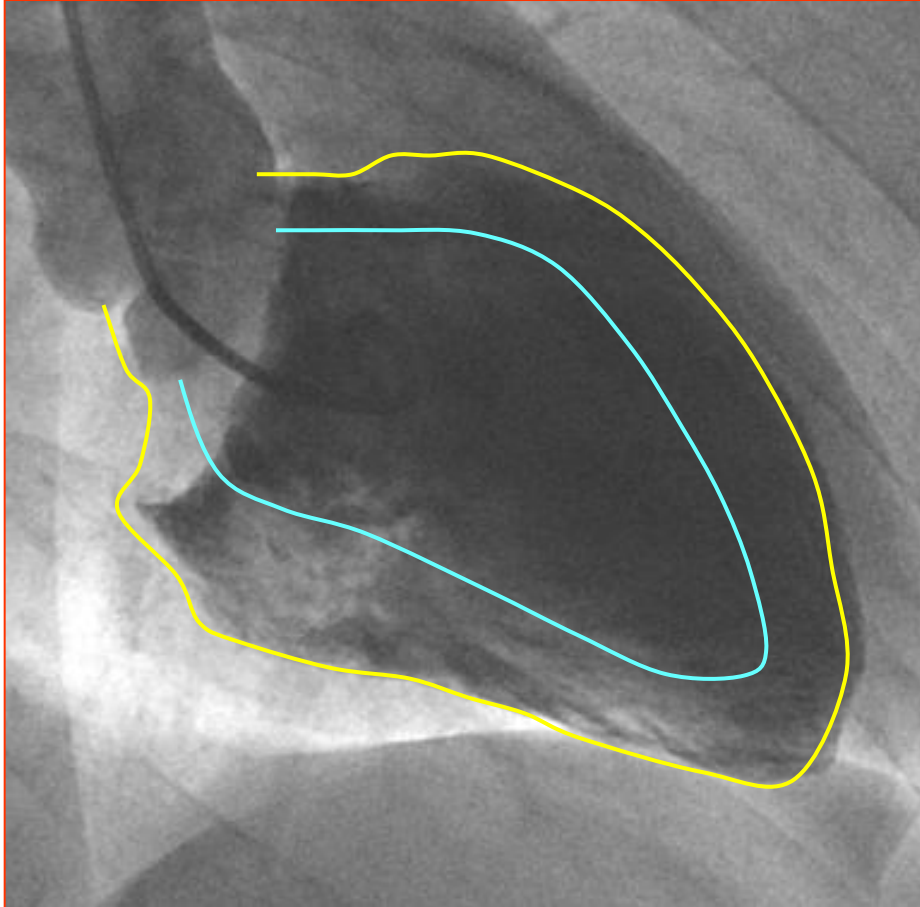
% Reduction in Subendocardial Function



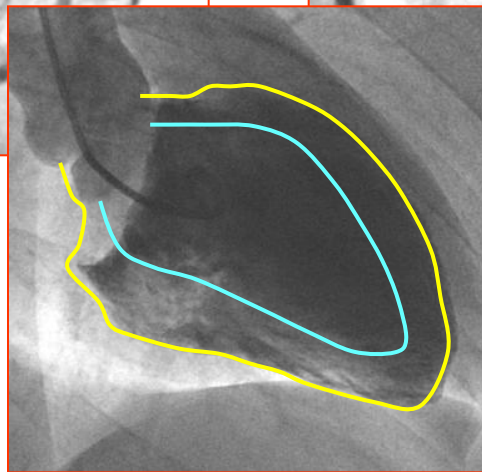
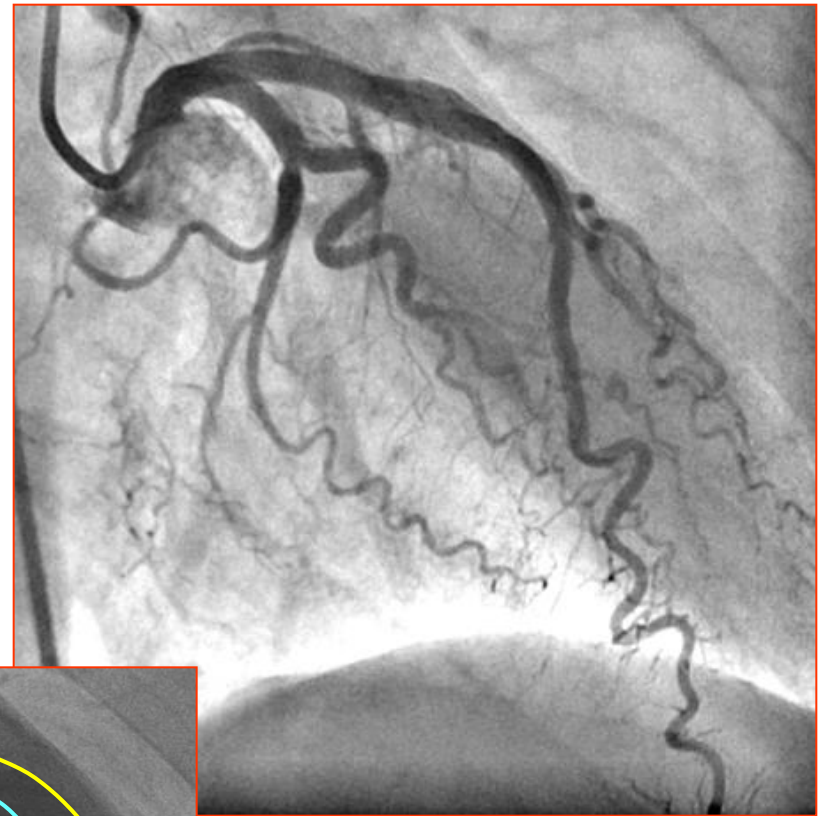
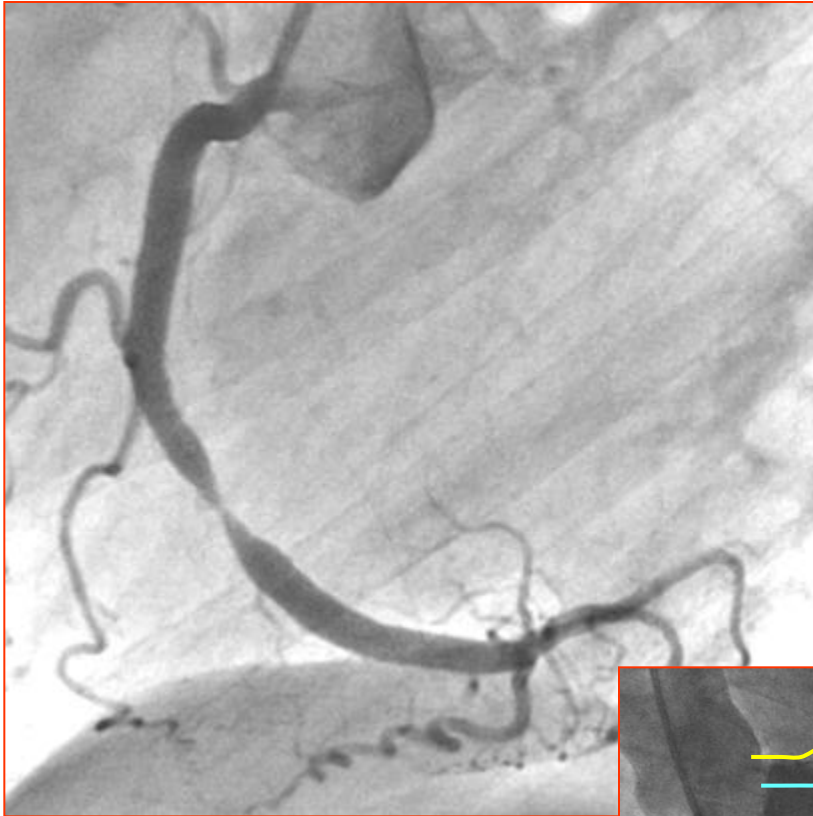
# Flow-Function Relationship



# Flow-Function Relationship



# Flow-Function Relationship

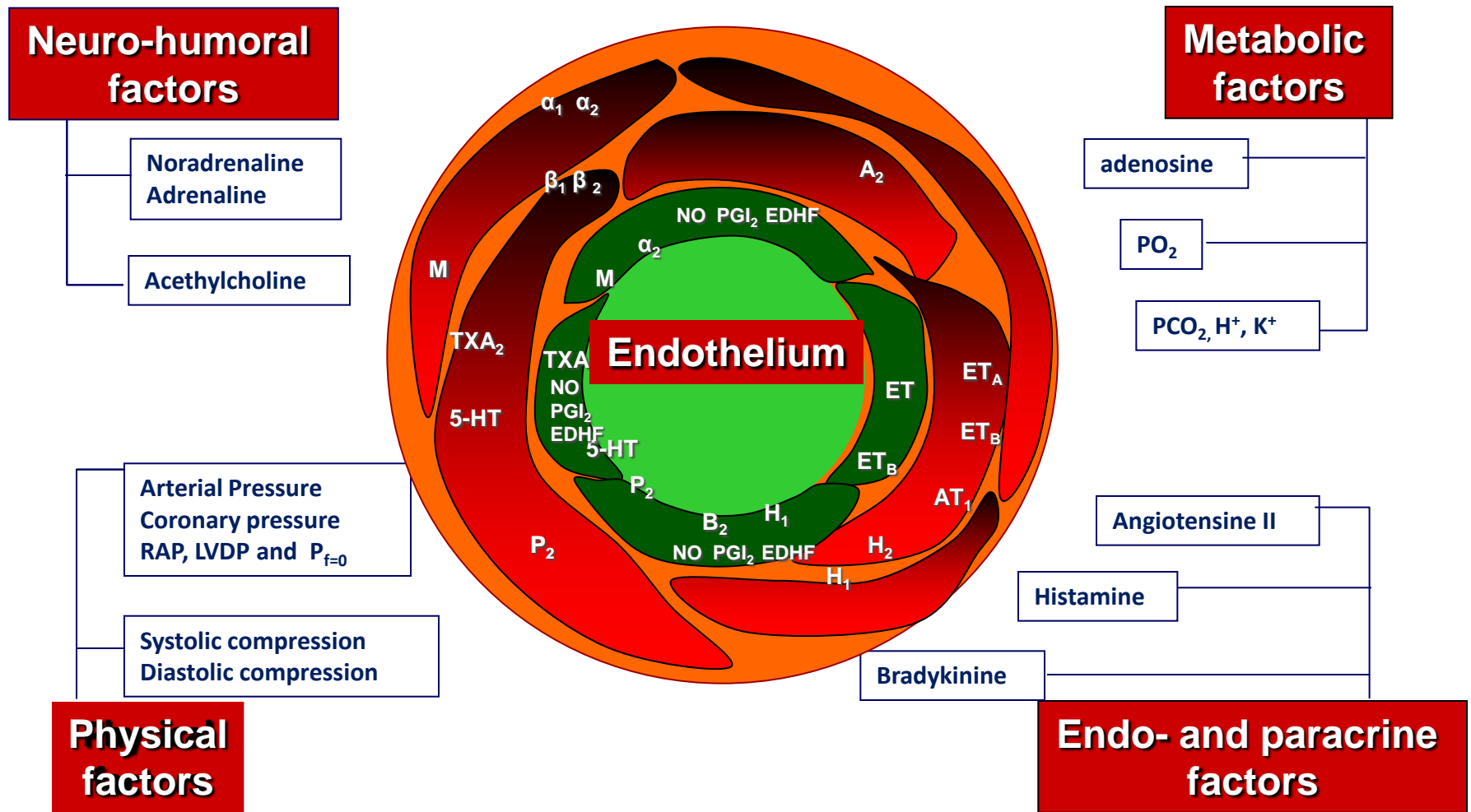




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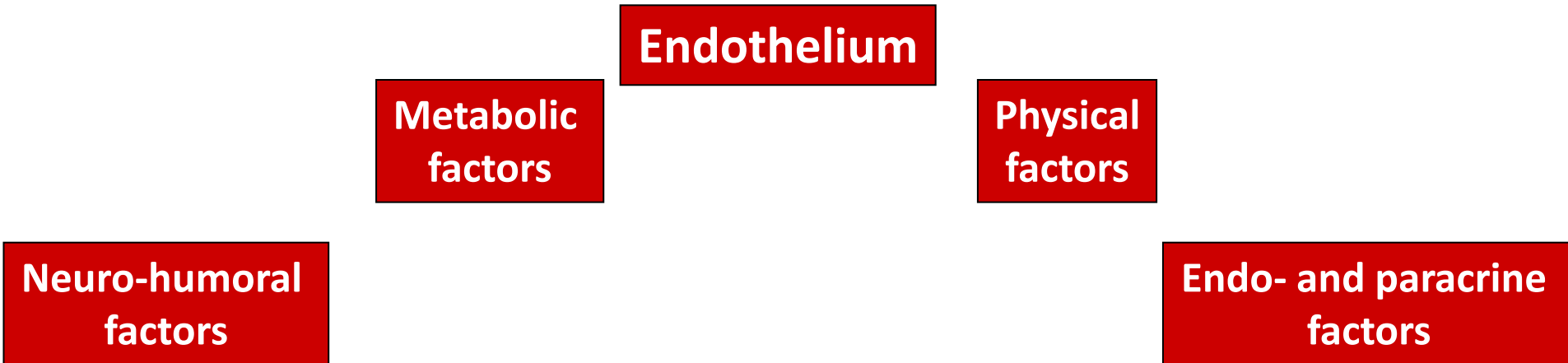
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# The Control of Myocardial Blood Flow



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# The Control of Myocardial Blood Flow



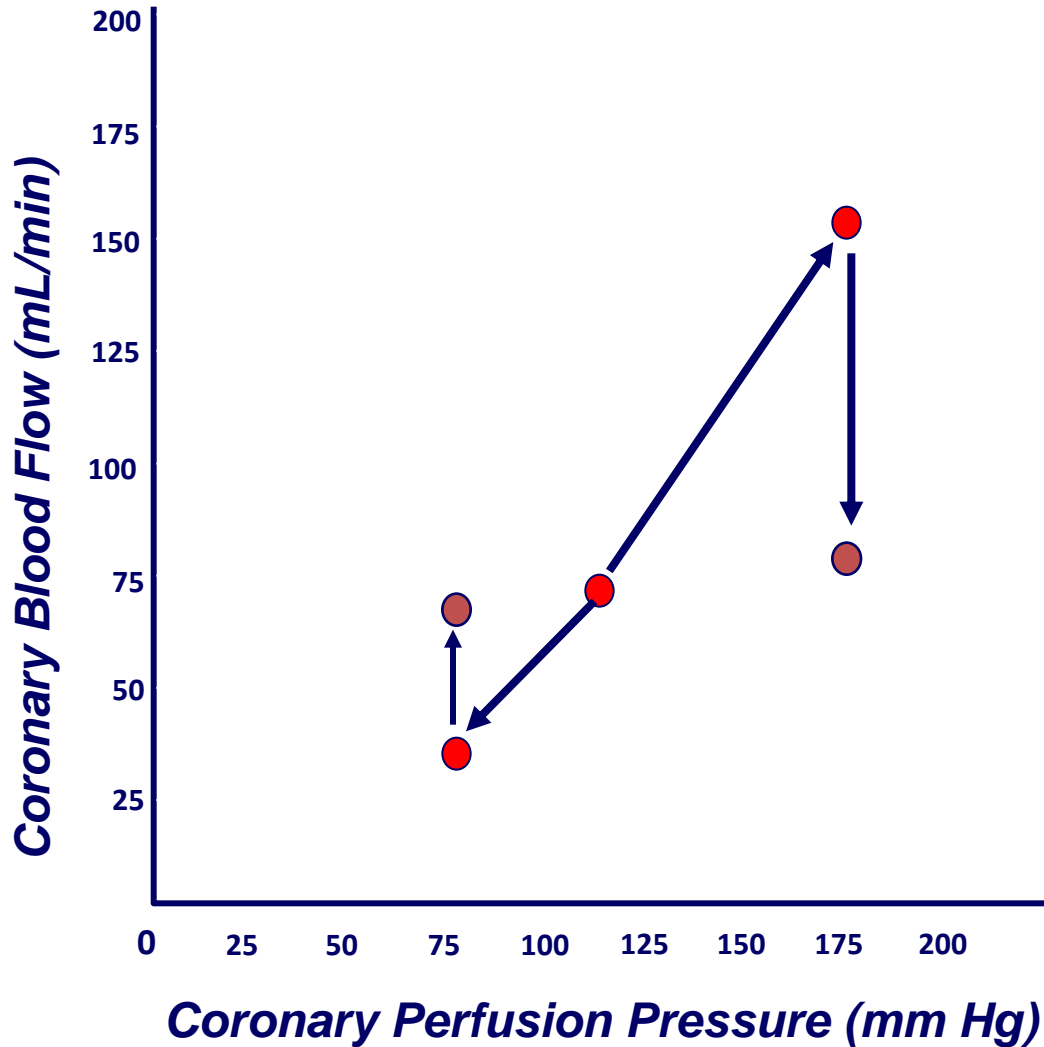
**Multiple, interacting, cumulative, nonlinear mechanisms**

**Coronary Autoregulation**

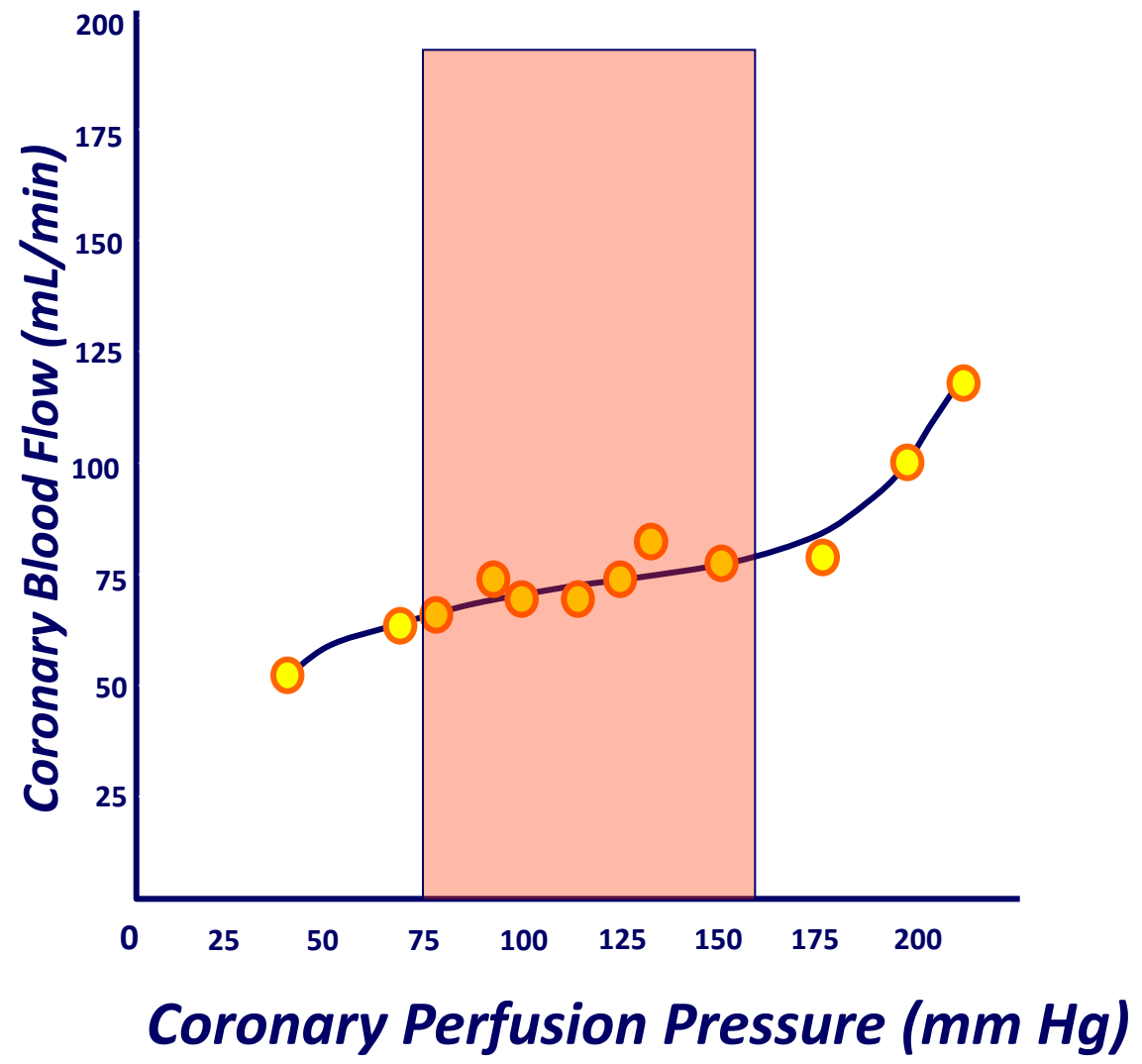
# Autoregulation

**The ability of the heart of maintaining flow constant  
in case of change of perfusion pressure  
without the intervention of any other external mechanism**

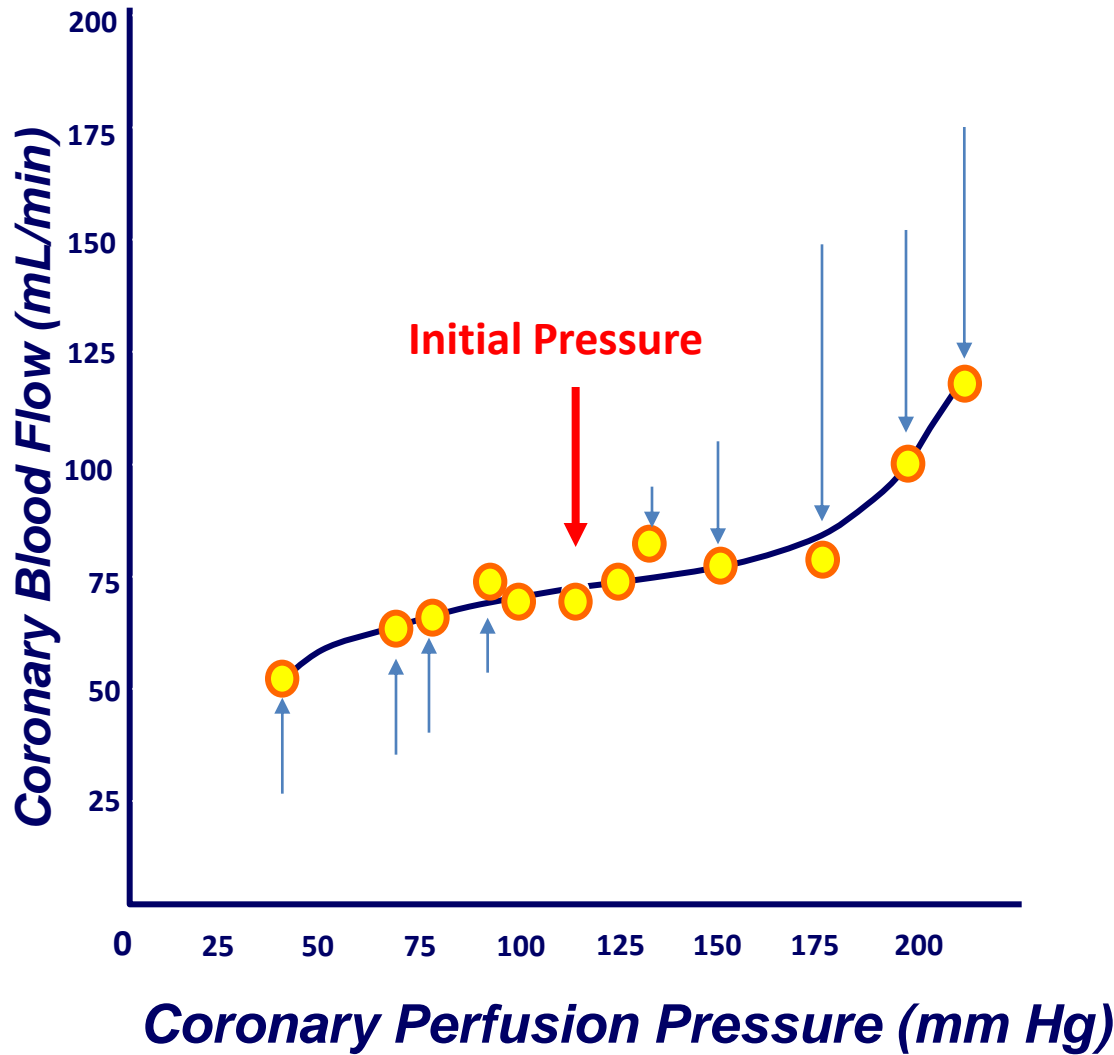
# Coronary Autoregulation



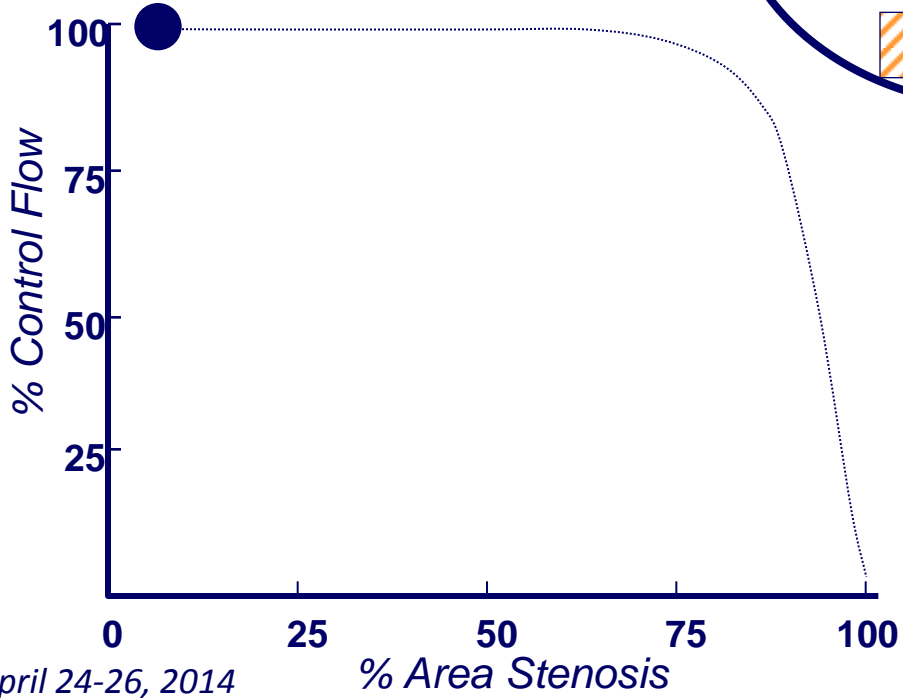
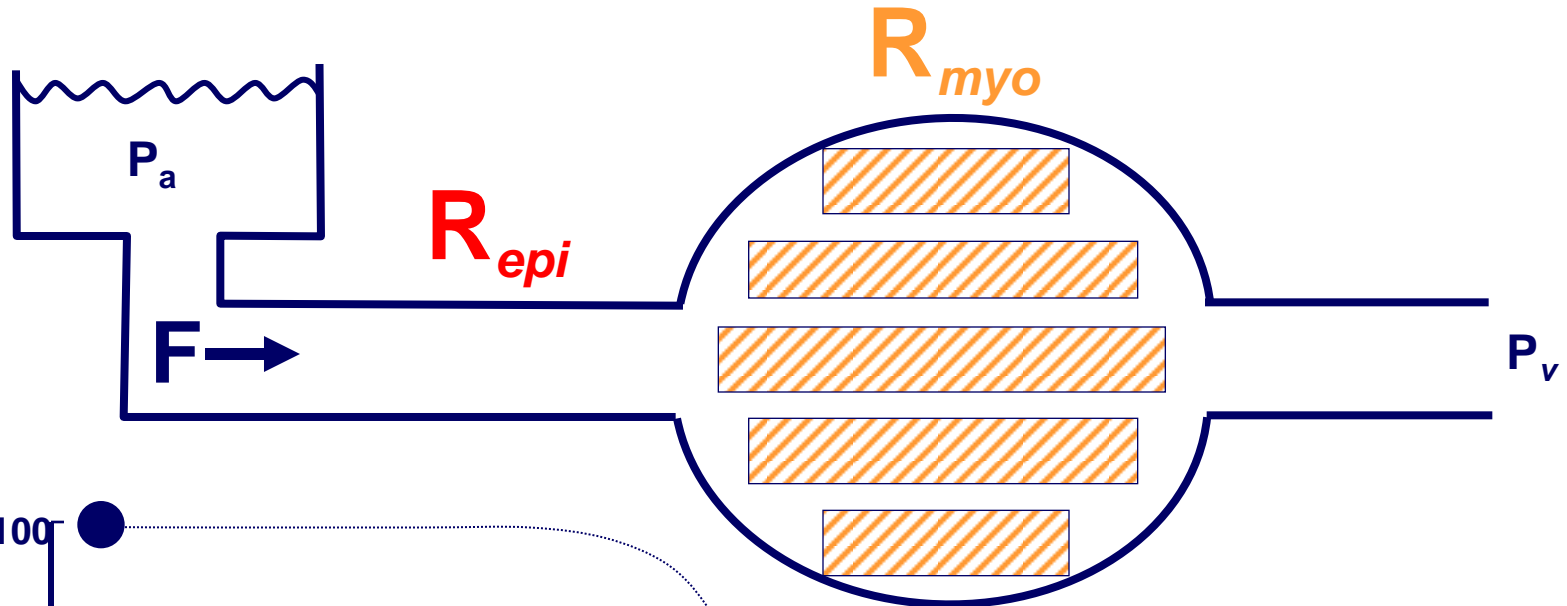
# Autoregulatory Range



# Autoregulatory Range



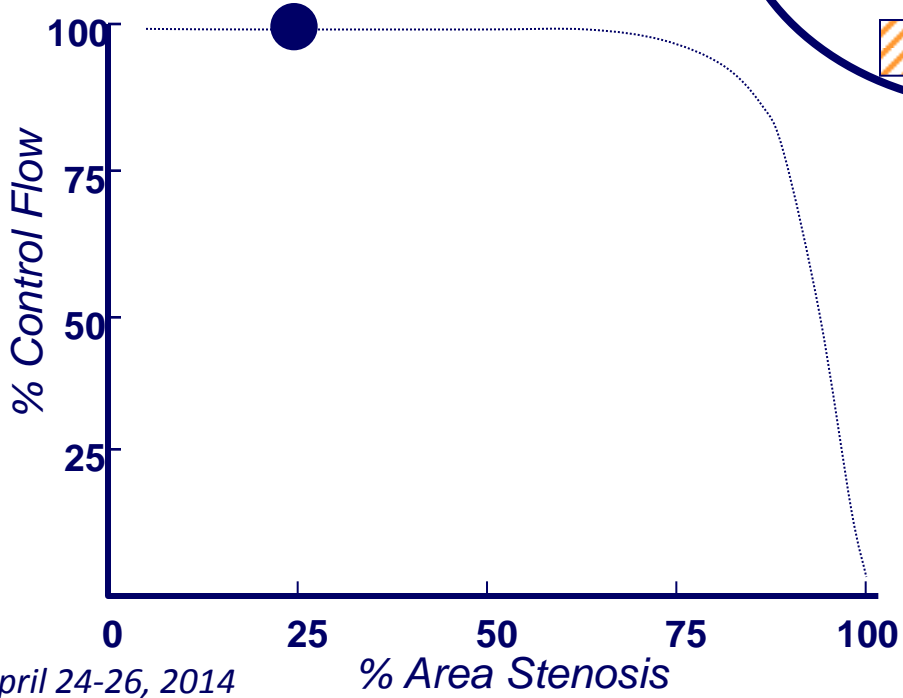
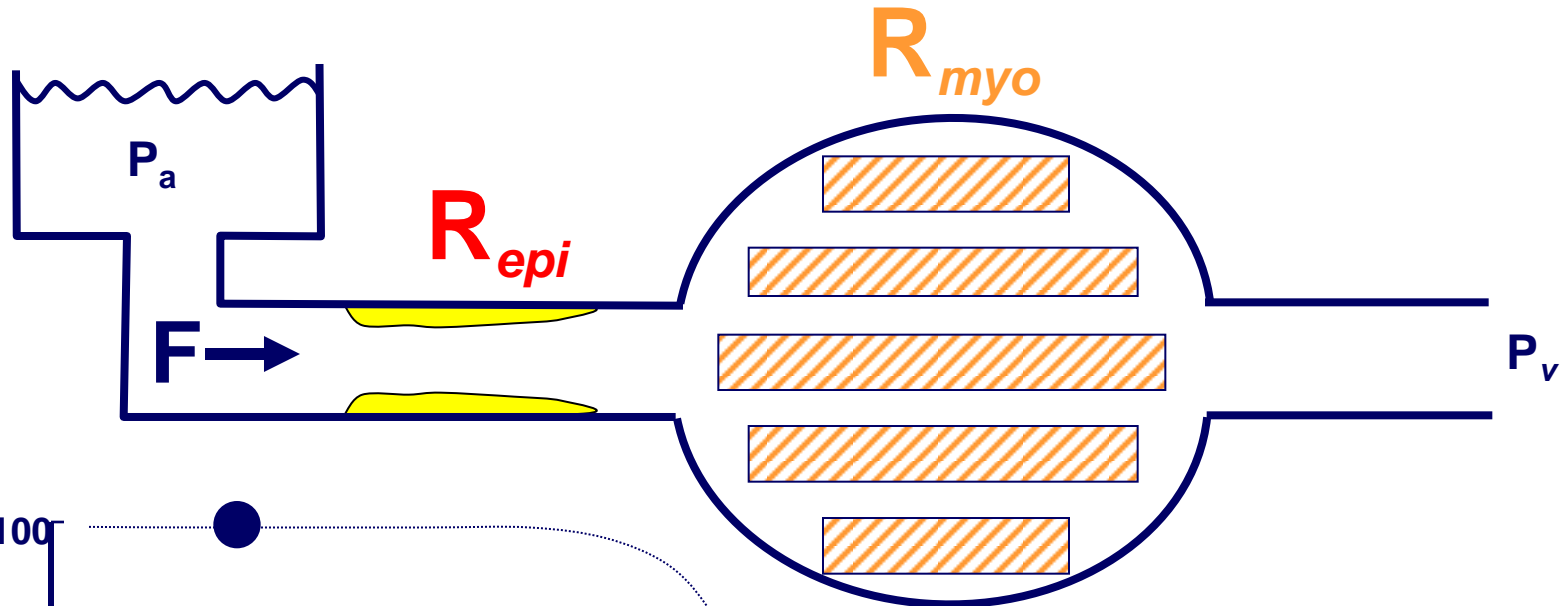
# Flow, Pressure, and Resistance



$$F = \frac{\Delta P}{R_{epi} + R_{myo}}$$

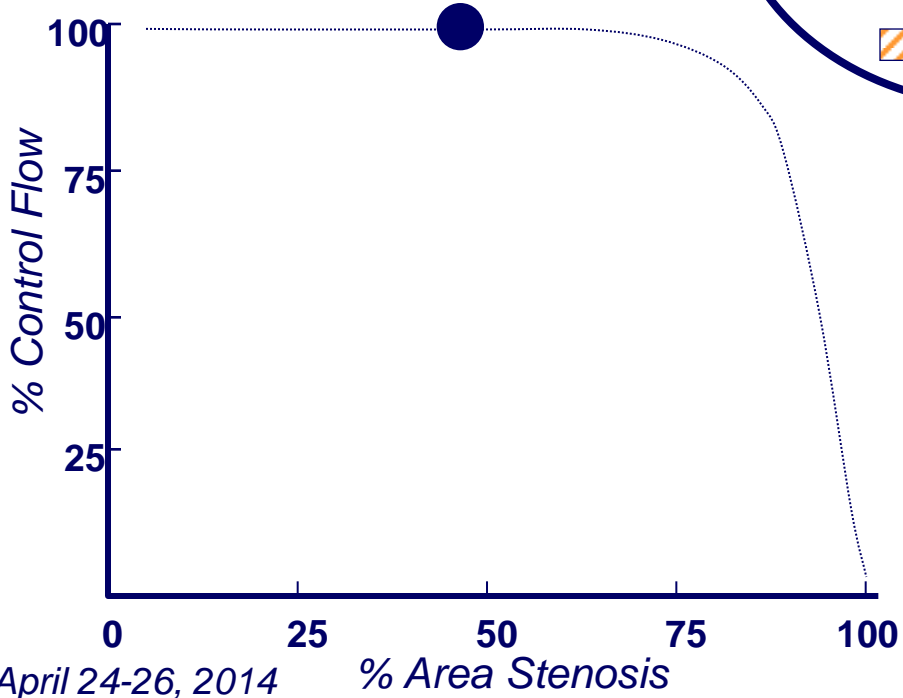
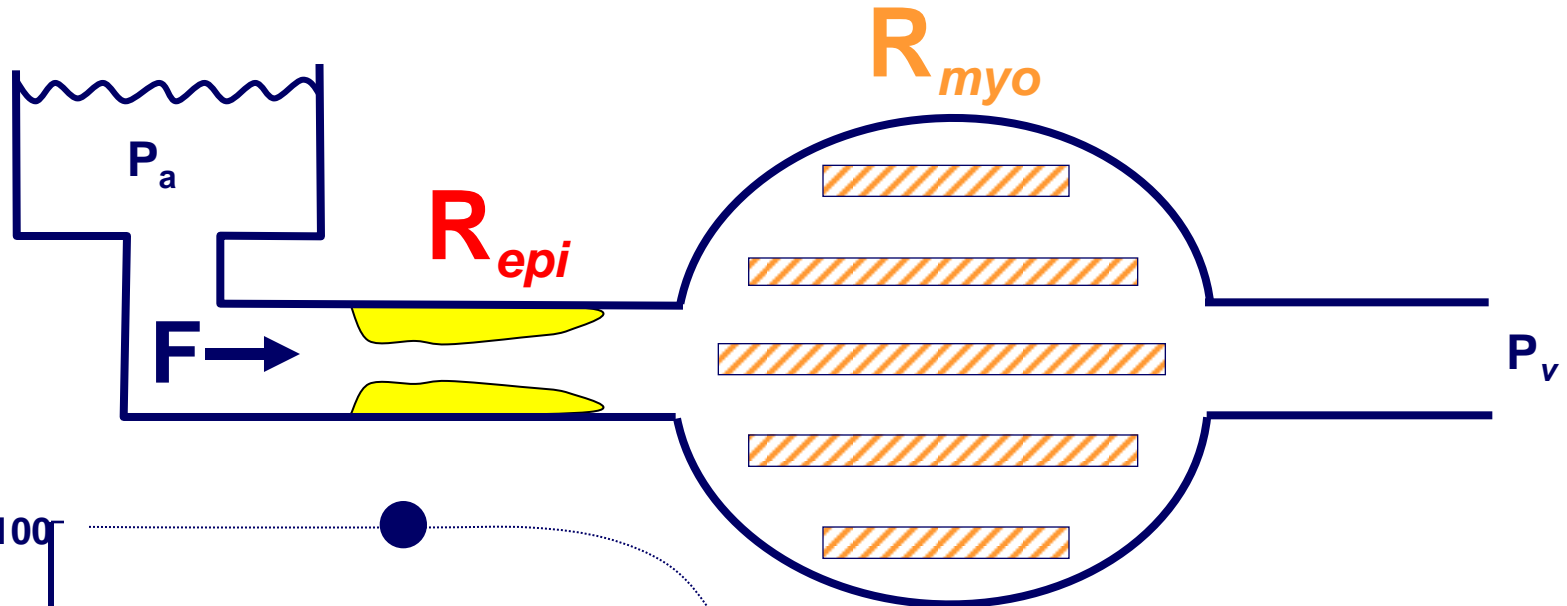


# Flow, Pressure, and Resistance



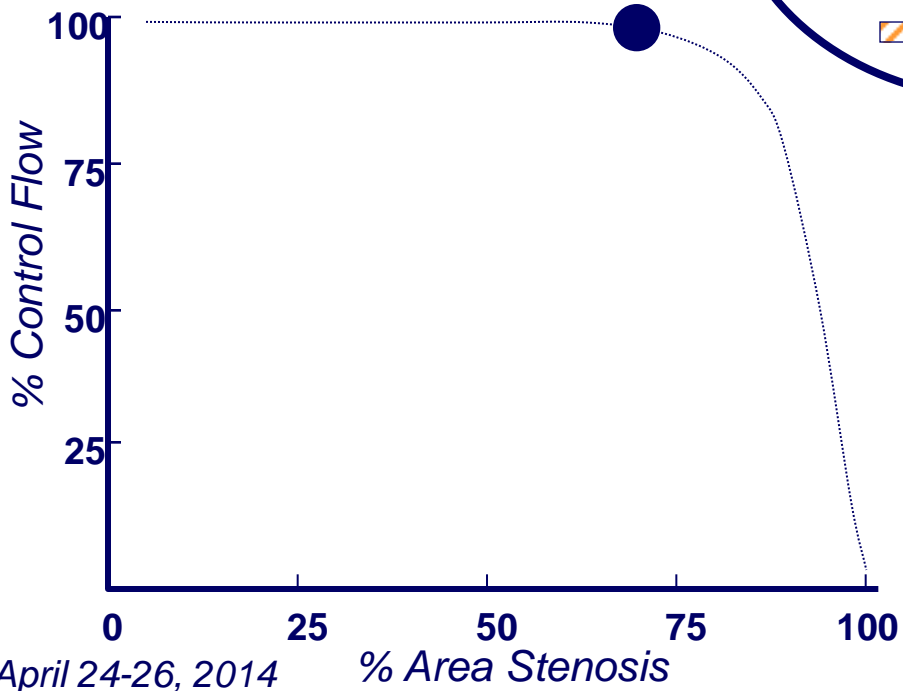
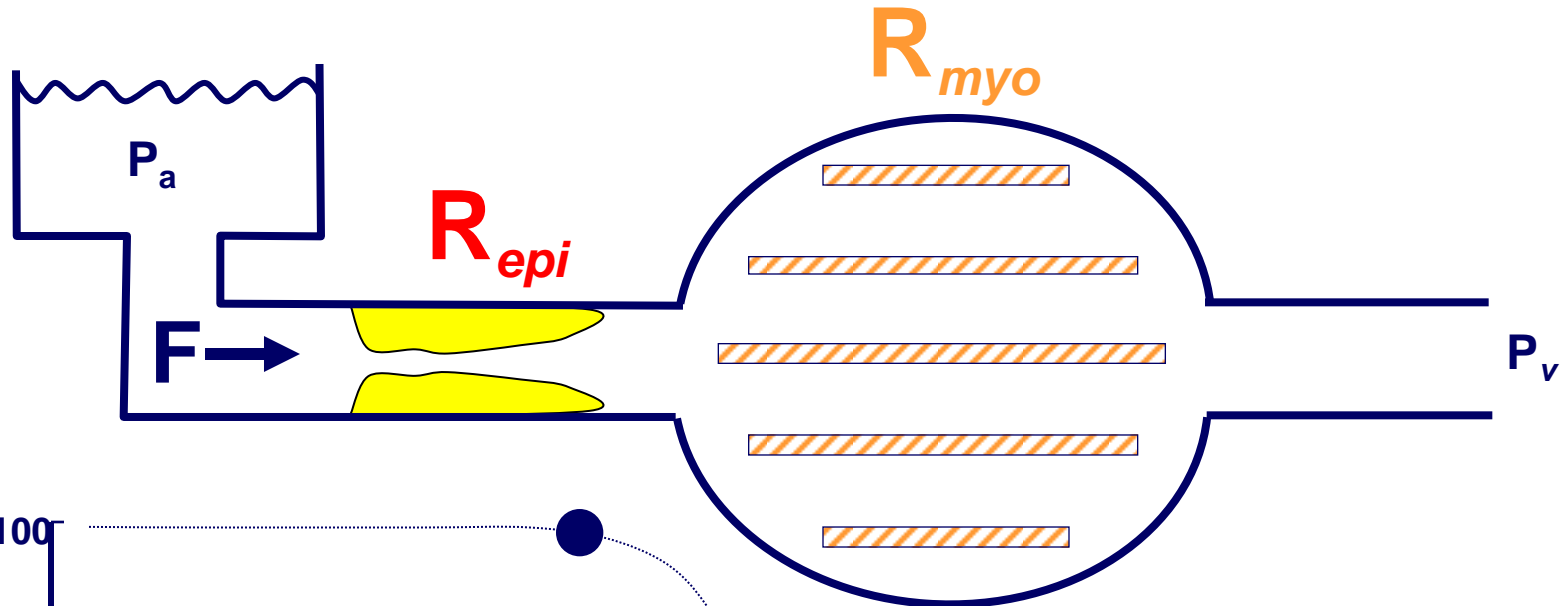
$$F = \frac{\Delta P}{R_{epi} \uparrow + R_{myo} \downarrow}$$

# Flow, Pressure, and Resistance



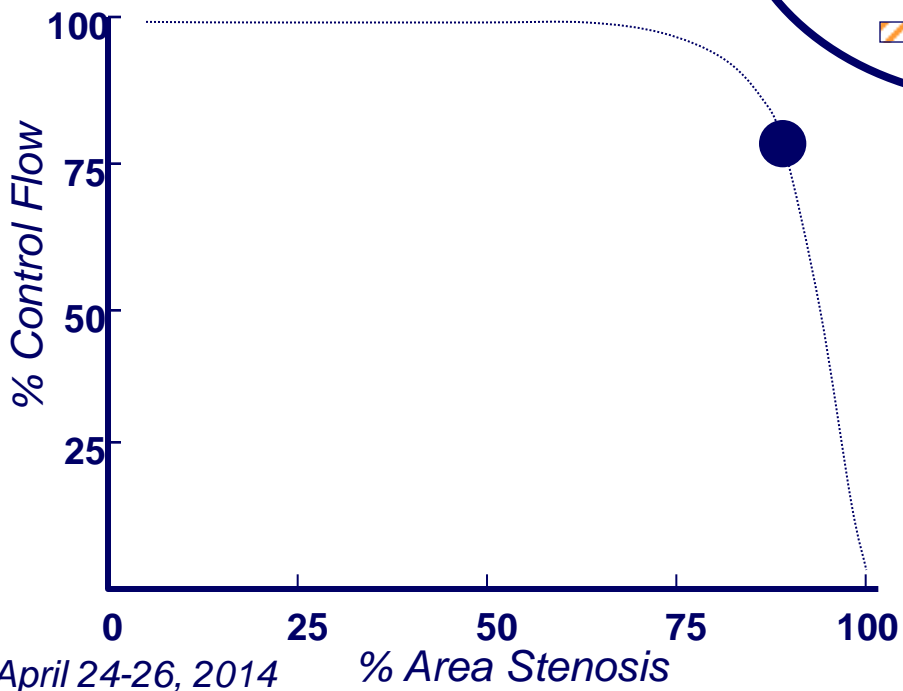
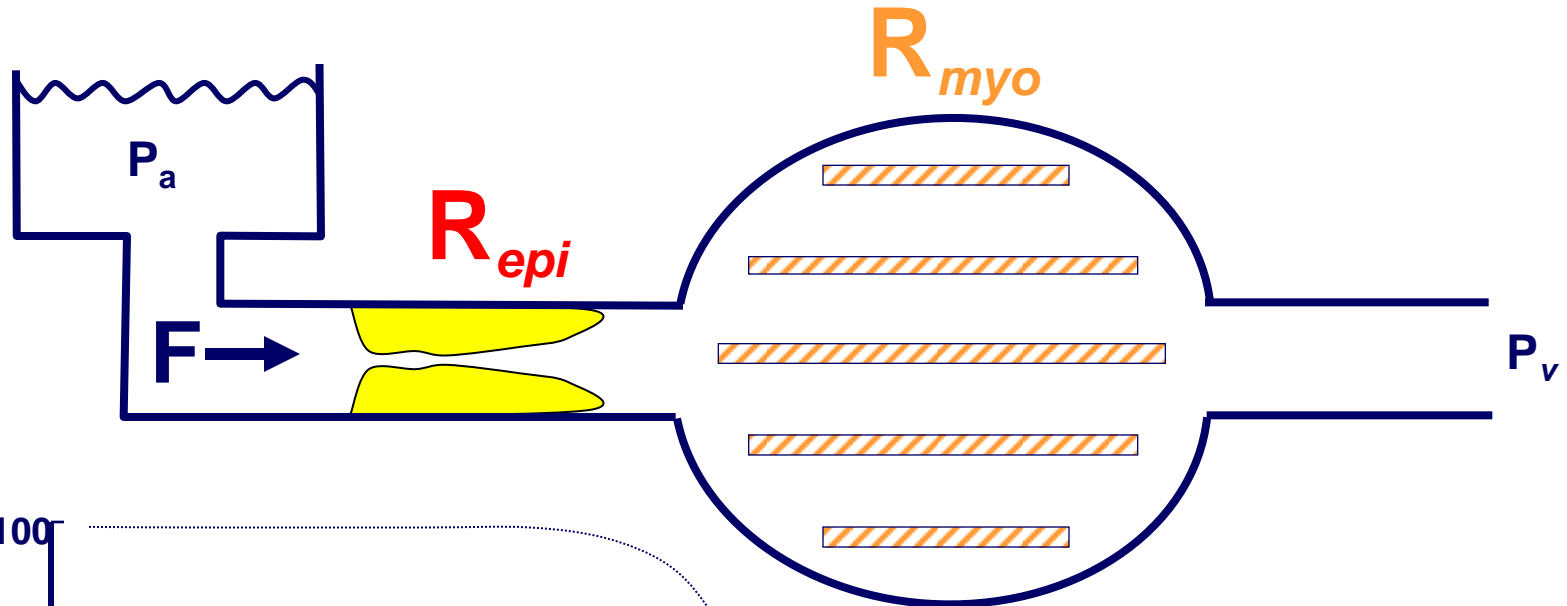
$$F = \frac{\Delta P}{R_{\text{epi}} \uparrow + R_{\text{myo}} \downarrow}$$

# Flow, Pressure, and Resistance



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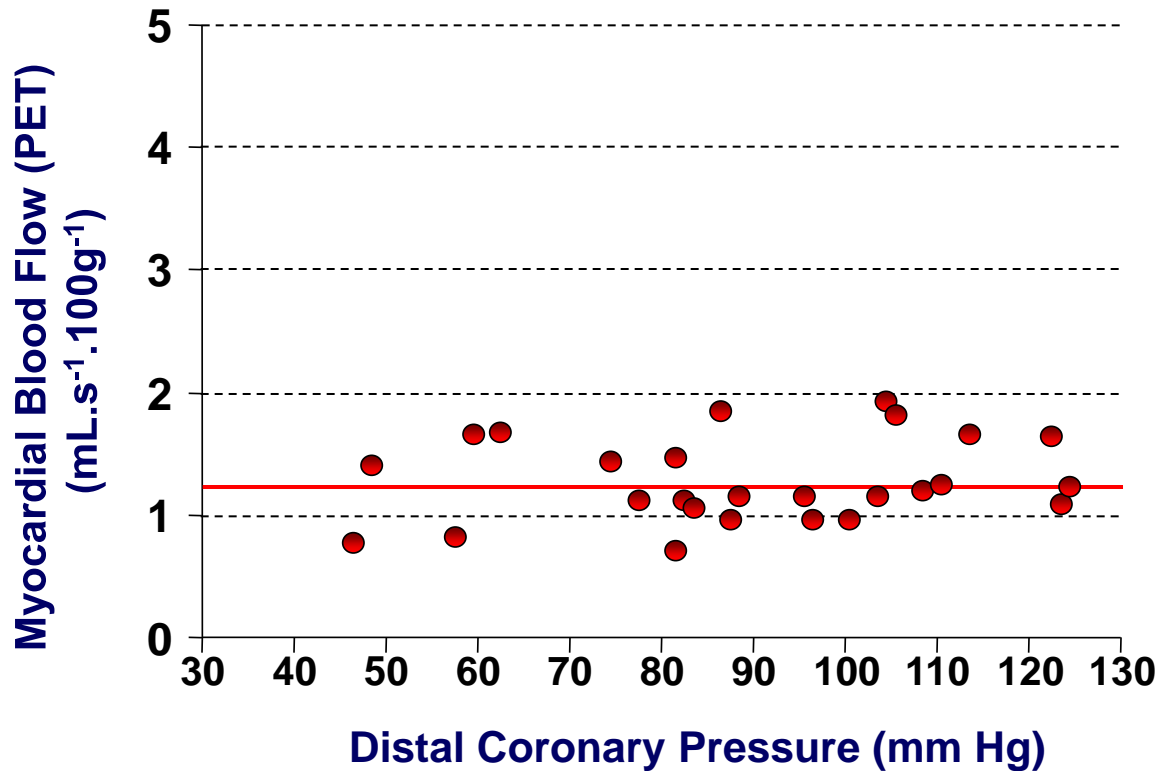
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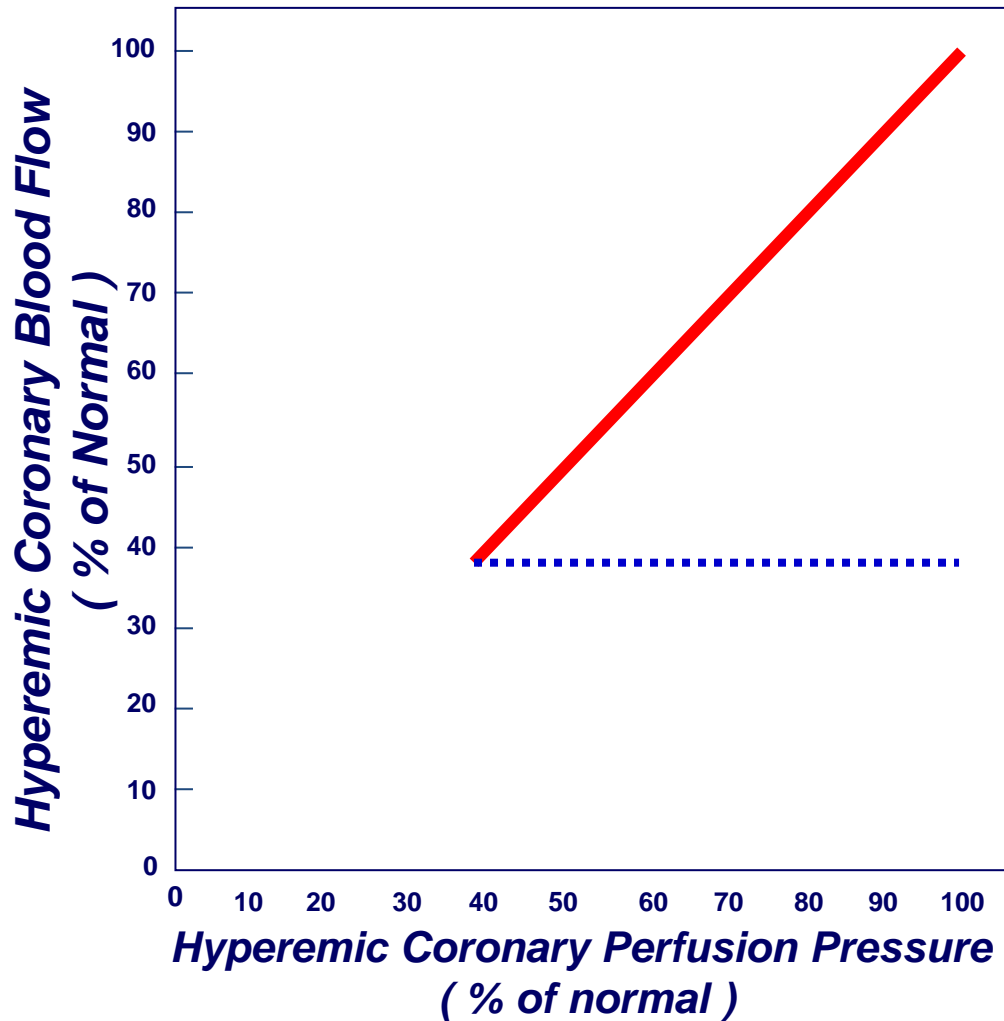
$$F = \frac{\Delta P}{R_{epi} \uparrow + R_{myo} \downarrow}$$

# Autoregulation

- Proximal LAD stenosis (n = 26)
- Normal LV systolic function
- PET flow measurements ( $^{15}\text{O}$ -labeled water) at rest



# Pressure-Flow Relationship During Maximal Vasodilation

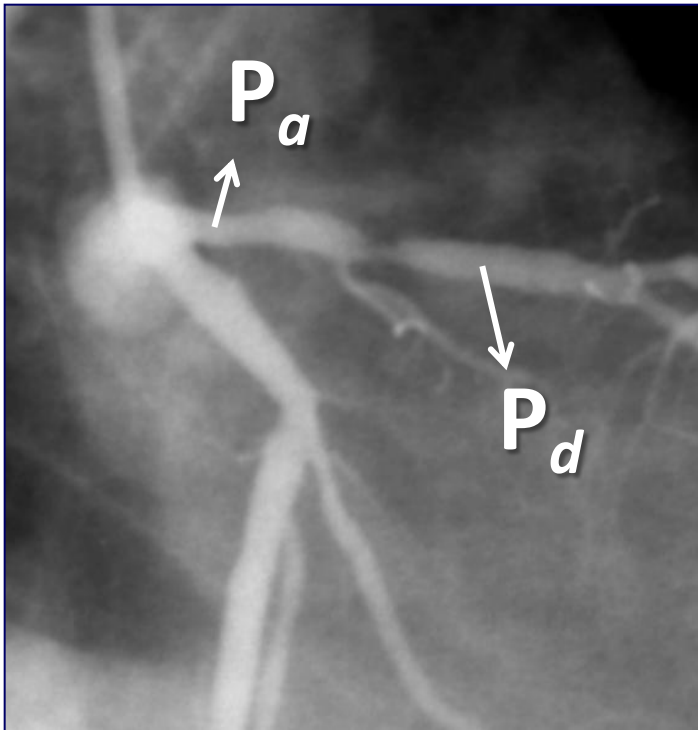


***People who wish to treat patients with CAD  
without coronary physiology must settle for  
a suboptimal treatment***

# Fractional Flow Reserve

*FFR = ratio of hyperemic flow in the stenotic vessel to hyperemic flow in the same vessel but in the absence of the stenosis*

*FFR = extent to which (%) maximal myocardial flow is limited by the epicardial stenosis*



$$FFR = \frac{Q_{max}^S}{Q_{max}^N} = \frac{P_d}{P_a}$$

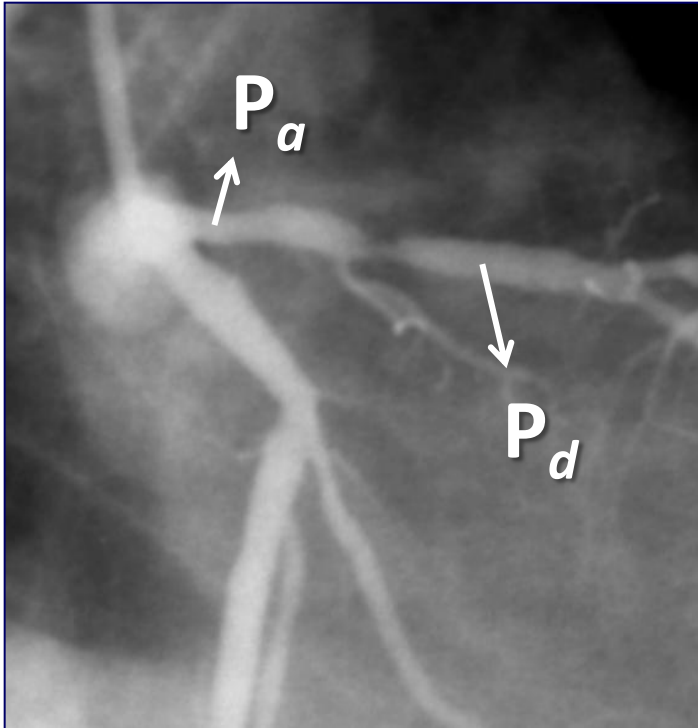
**During maximal hyperemia  
(i.e. during maximal transstenotic flow)**



# Fractional Flow Reserve

*FFR = ratio of hyperemic flow in the stenotic vessel to hyperemic flow in the same vessel but in the absence of the stenosis*

*FFR = extent to which (%) maximal myocardial flow is limited by the epicardial stenosis*



$$FFR = \frac{Q_s^{\max}}{Q_N^{\max}}$$



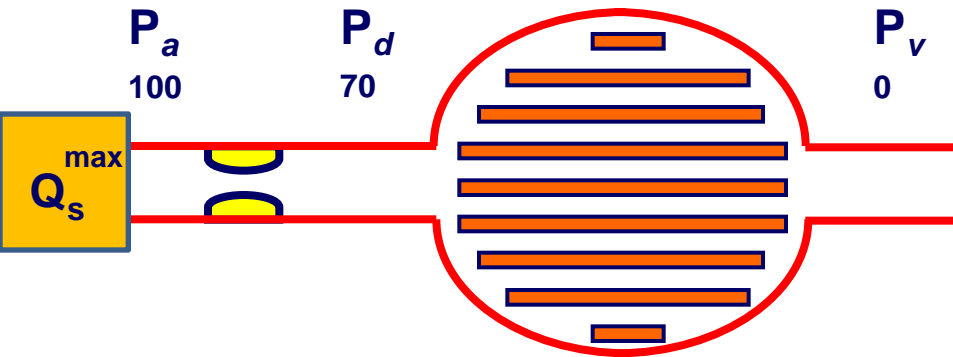
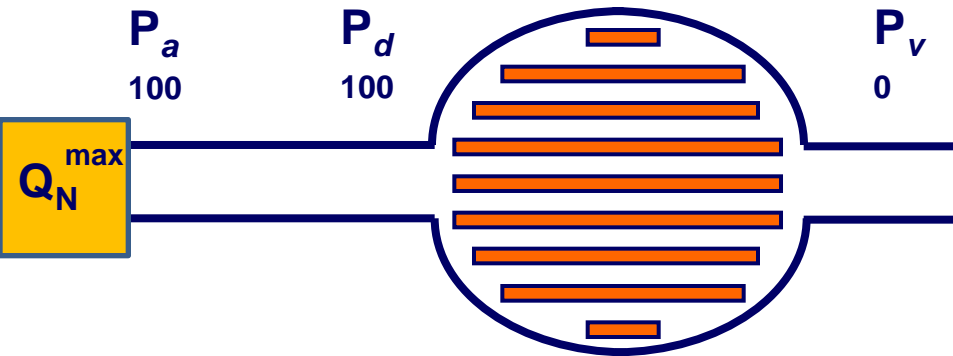
?

$$FFR = \frac{P_d}{P_a}$$

(at hyperemia)

# Definition

Fractional Flow Reserve is the ratio of maximal myocardial flow  
In the stenotic territory to normal maximal myocardial flow



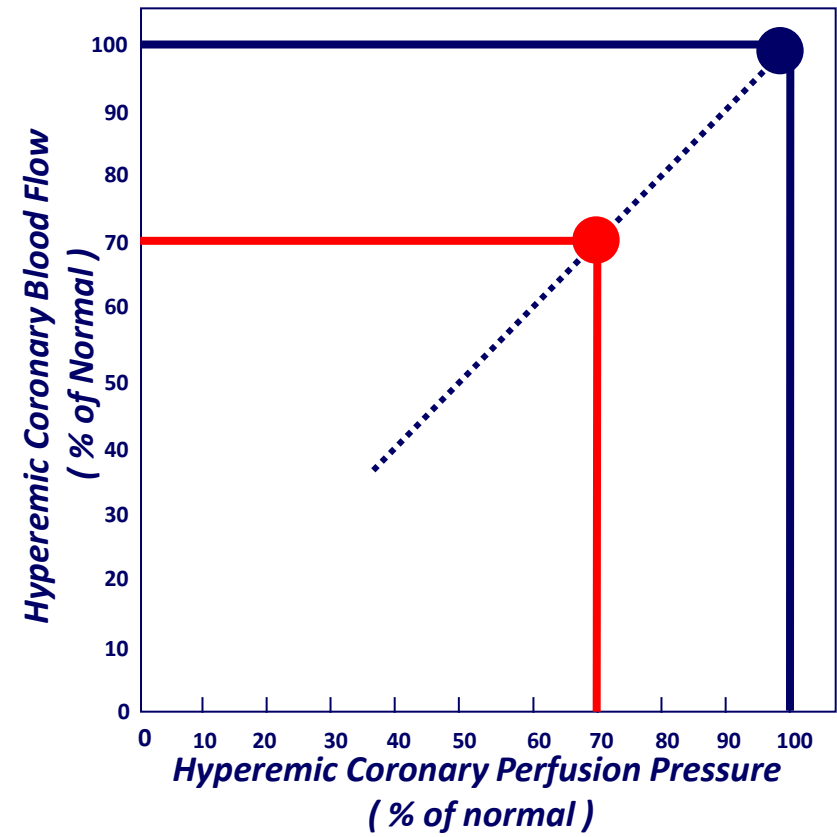
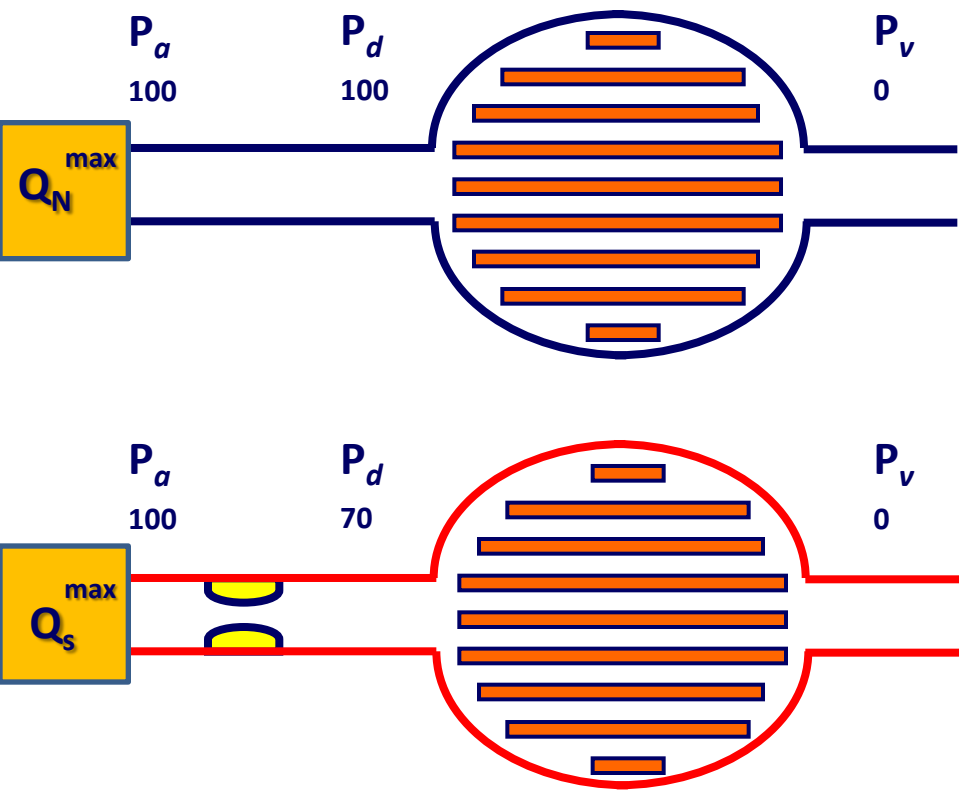
$$FFR = \frac{Q_s^{\max}}{Q_N^{\max}}$$

$$FFR = \frac{(\cancel{P_d - P_v}) / \cancel{R_s}}{(\cancel{P_a - P_d}) / \cancel{R_N}} \quad \text{max}$$

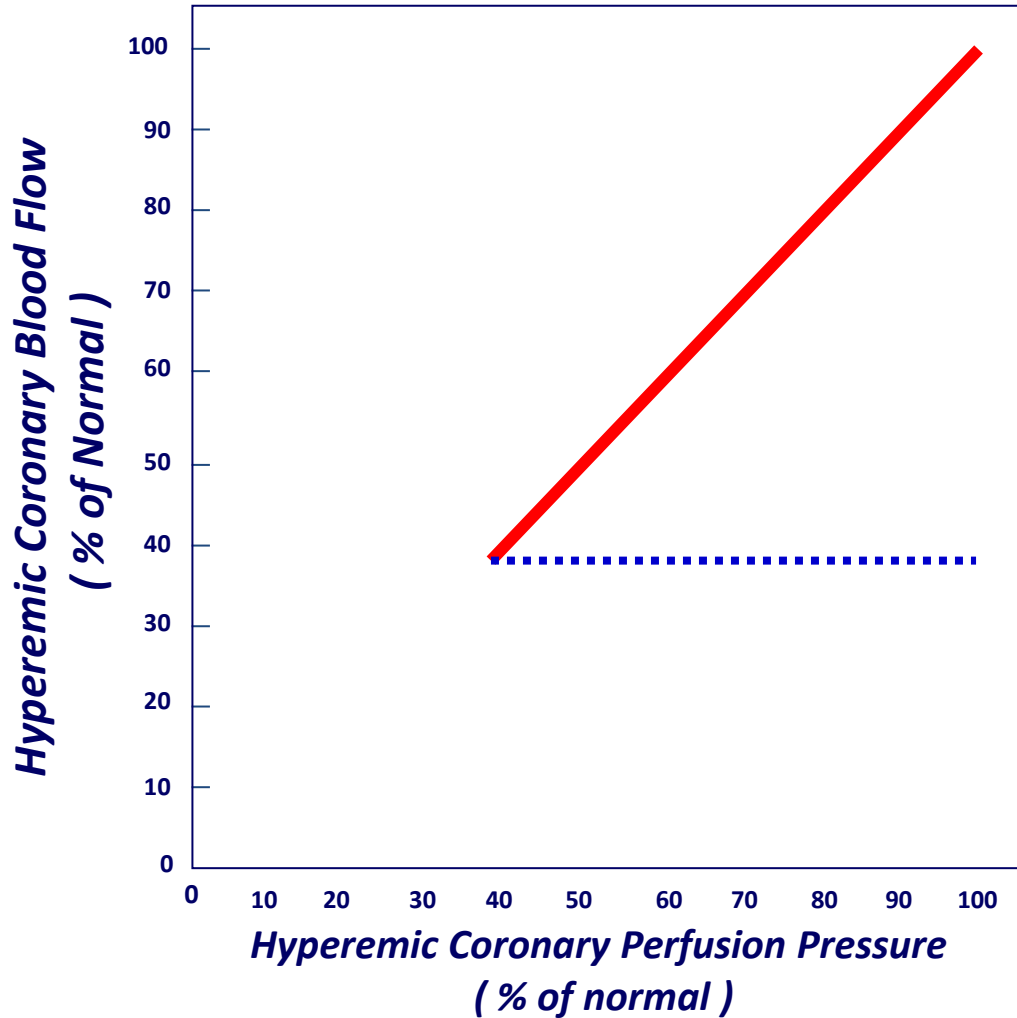
- Hyperemia  $\rightarrow R_s = R_N$
- $P_v \ll P_a$  and  $P_d$

$$FFR = \frac{P_d}{P_a}$$

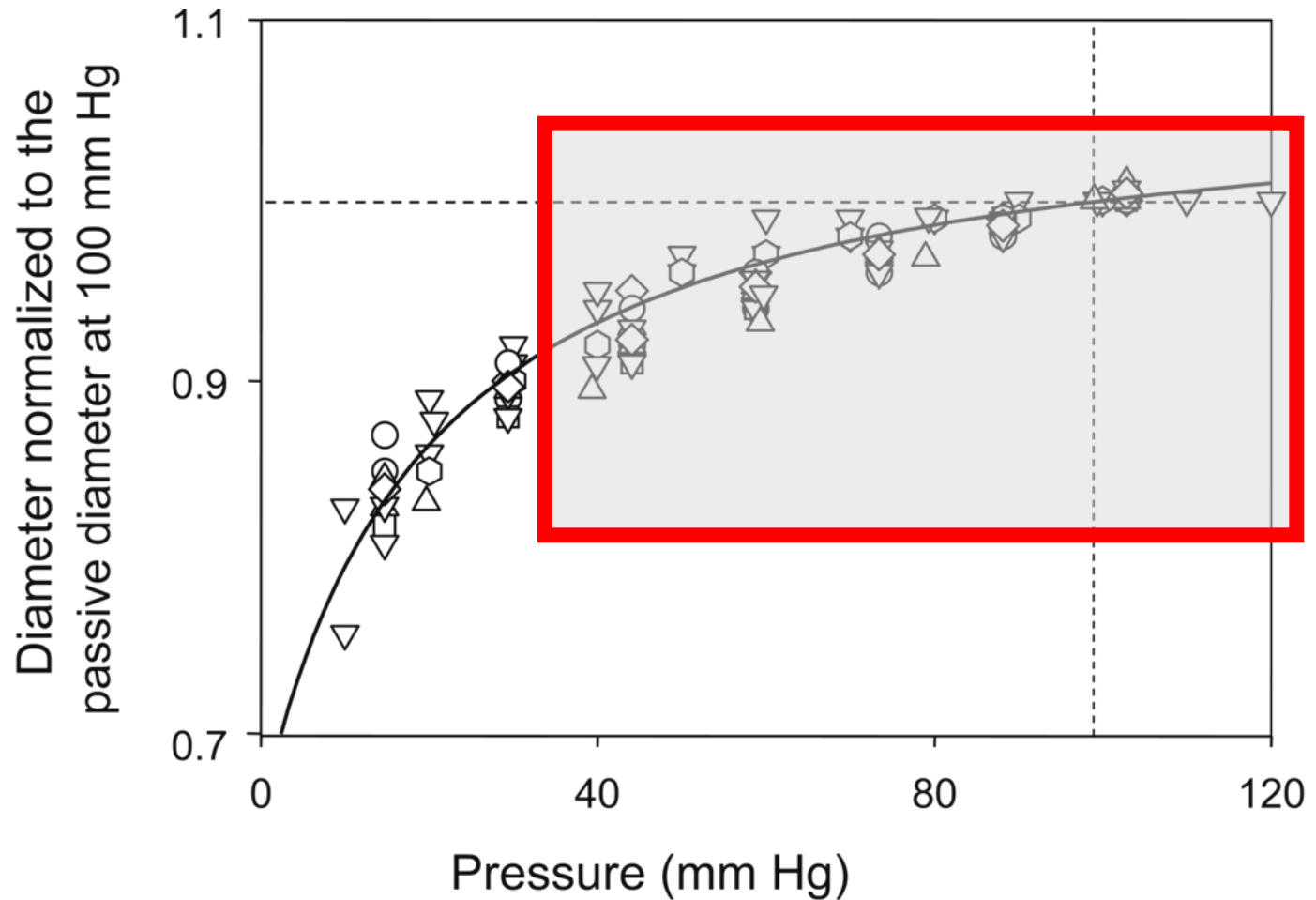
# Pressure-Flow Relationship During Maximal Vasodilation



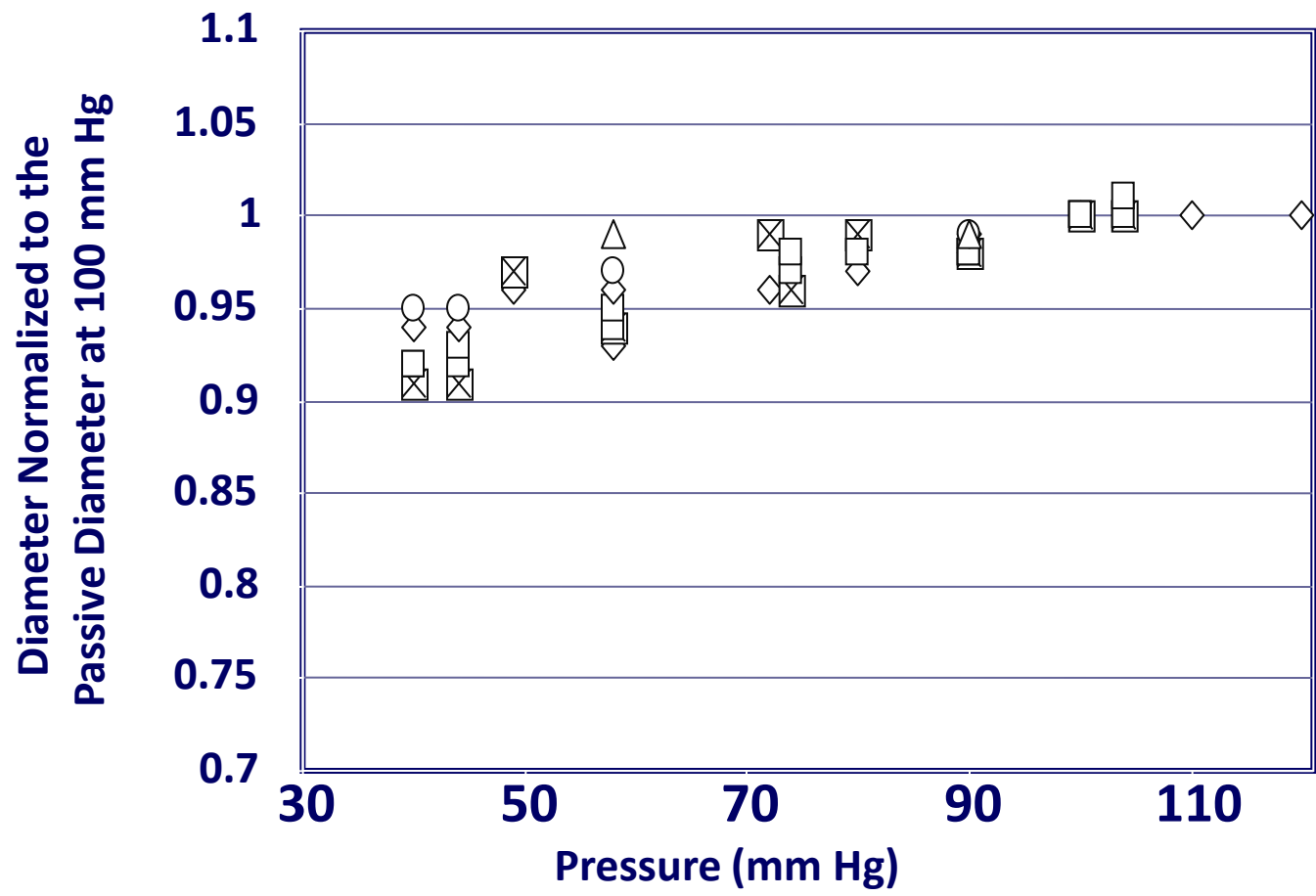
# Pressure-Flow Relationship During Maximal Vasodilation



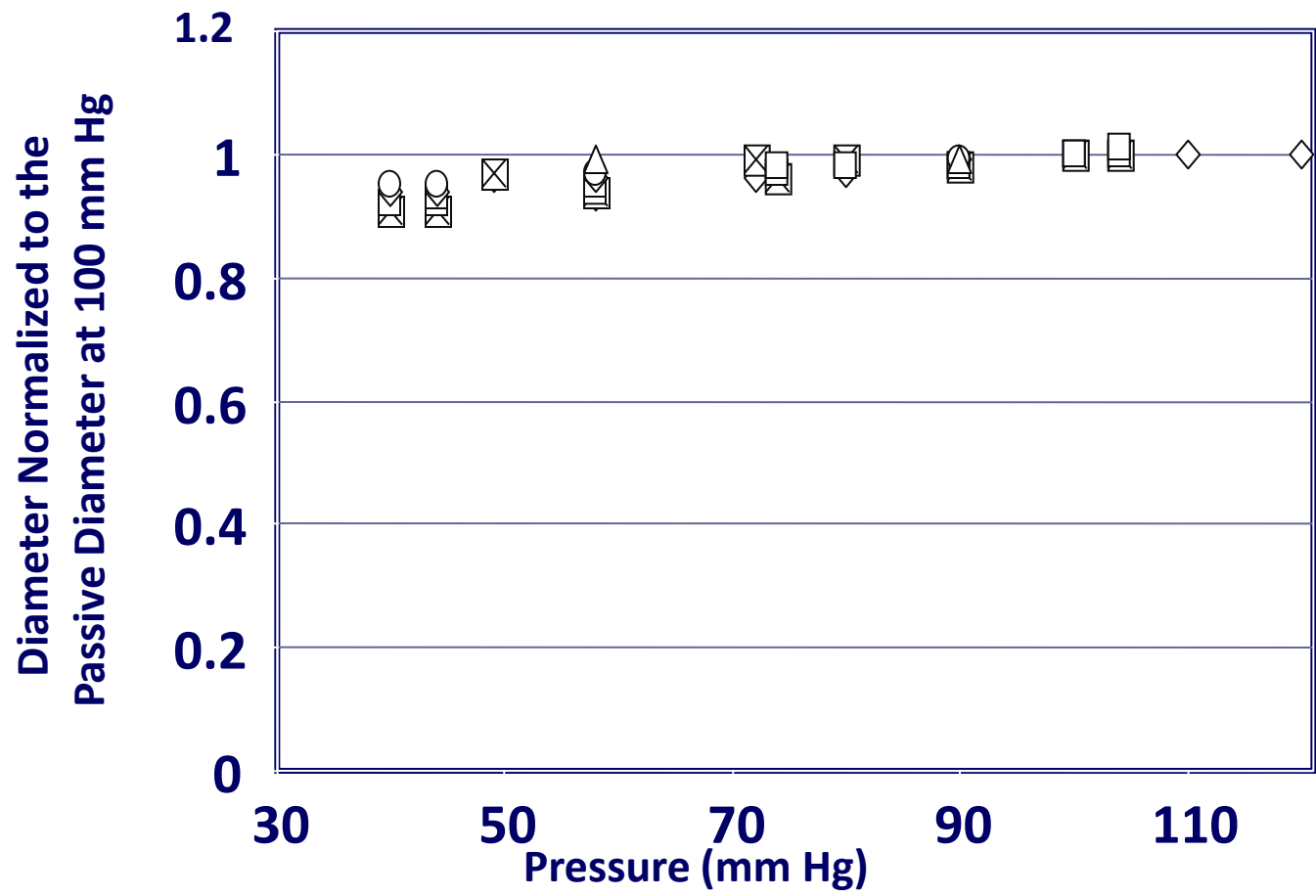
# Non-Linearity of the Pressure-Resistance Relationship ?



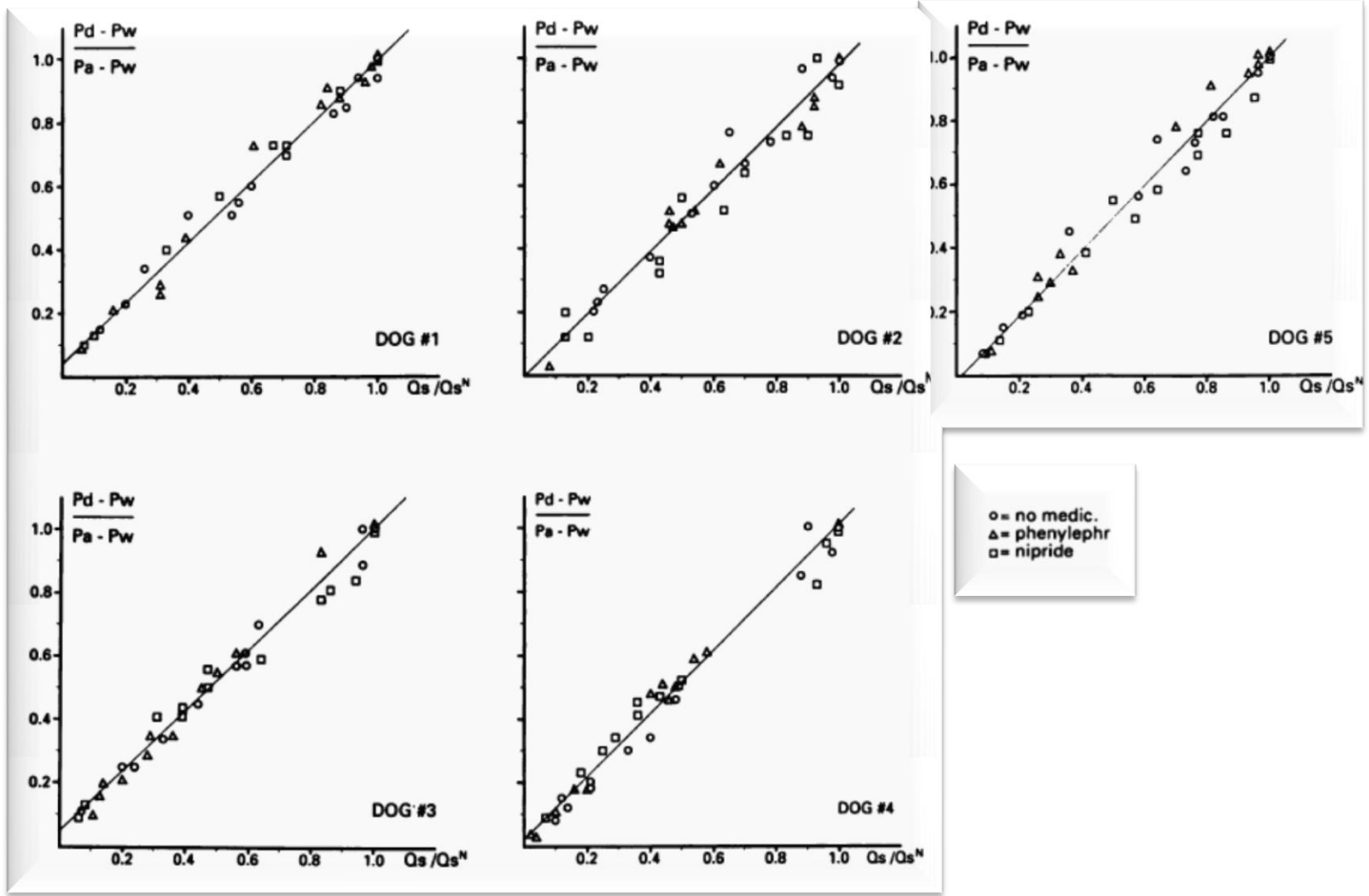
# Non-Linearity of the Pressure-Resistance Relationship ?



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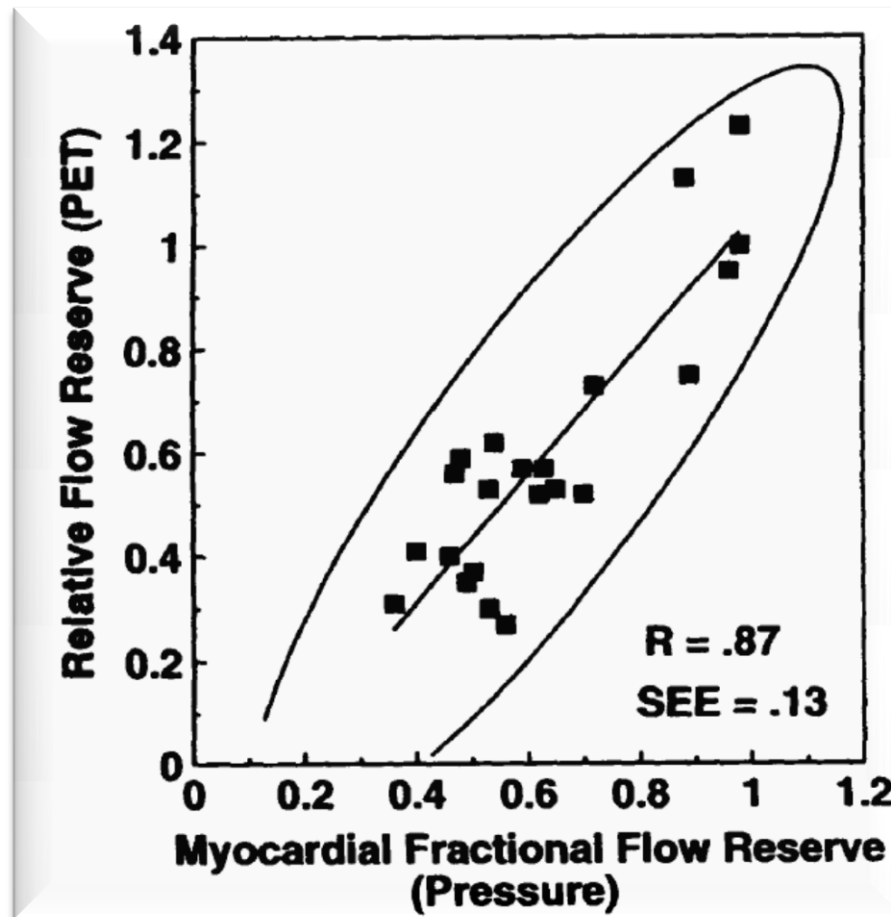
# The relation between $P_d/P_a$ and $Q_s/Q_N$ is **LINEAR** during **HYPEREMIA**





# The relation between $P_d/P_a$ and $Q_S/Q_N$ is **LINEAR** during **HYPERTENSIA**

- 22 Patients with an isolated proximal LAD stenosis
- $H_2^{15}O$  PET maximal flow in LAD vs normal territories
- FFR within 24 hours



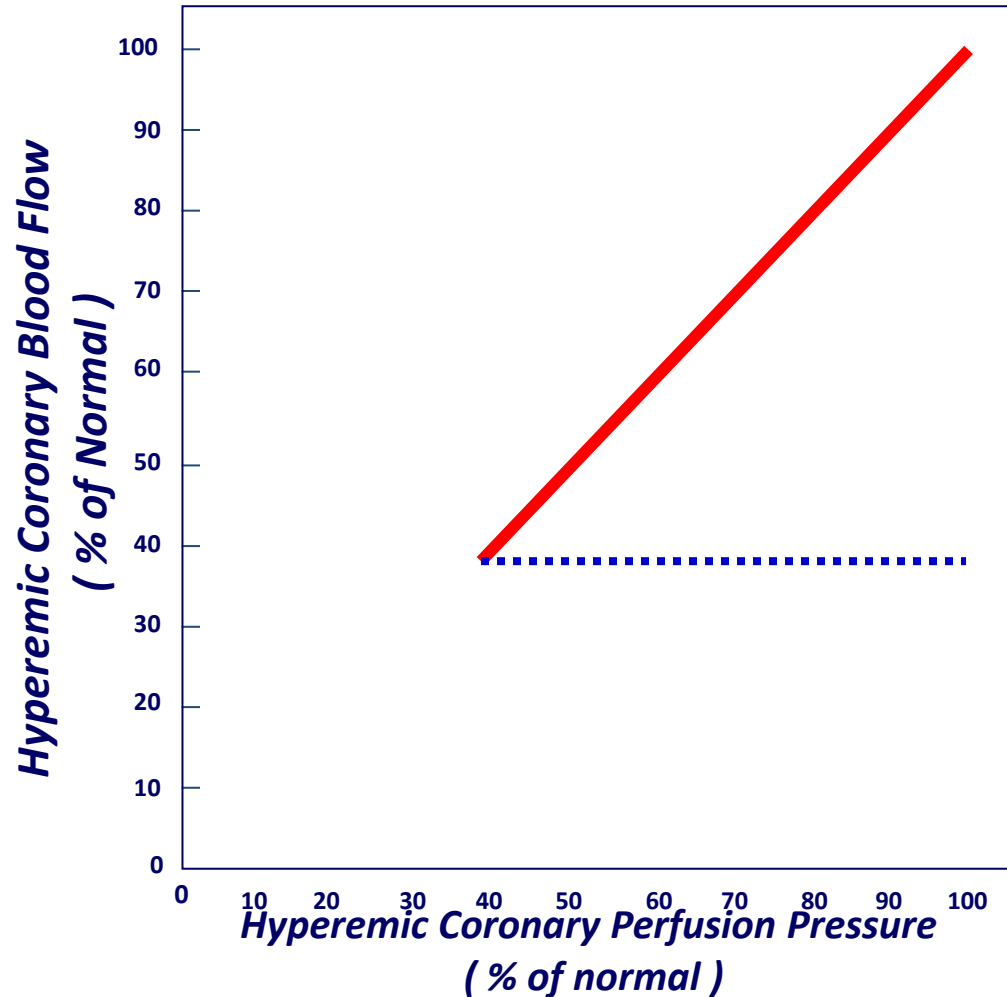
# FFR: Physiologic Meaning

$$\text{FFR} = \frac{Q_{max}^S}{Q_{max}^N} = \frac{P_d}{P_a}$$

**During maximal hyperemia**  
(i.e. during maximal transstenotic flow)

***FFR has a well defined physiologic meaning***  
(in sharp contrast to other indices like the  $\Delta P$ , resting  $P_d/P_a$ , iFR,  $\text{FFR}_{diast}$ )

# Pressure-Flow Relationship During Maximal Vasodilation



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without coronary physiology must settle for  
a suboptimal treatment***