

# Diastolic Stress Testing

*EAE Teaching Course*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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# Why would we want to assess diastolic function during stress?

1. Find a diagnosis for the breathless patient  
*“to assess exertional breathlessness, you must exert the breathless!”*
2. Assessing disease severity and prognosis
3. To define patients who may benefit from therapy
  - “patient targeted therapy”



# Potential tools

- Volumetric assessments
- $E/e'$
- Torsion/ twist
- Lung comets
- Pulmonary artery pressure
- Biochemical

# Exercise vs. Pharmacological “stress”

## Exercise

- ↑SV and ↑afterload
- ↑preload
- Functional status
- Very safe
- Respiratory/ other movement
- Often in early recovery

## Dobutamine

- ↑↑SV and ↓afterload
- ↓preload
- No functional status
- Arrhythmias (uncommon)
- Good quality images
- Real-time

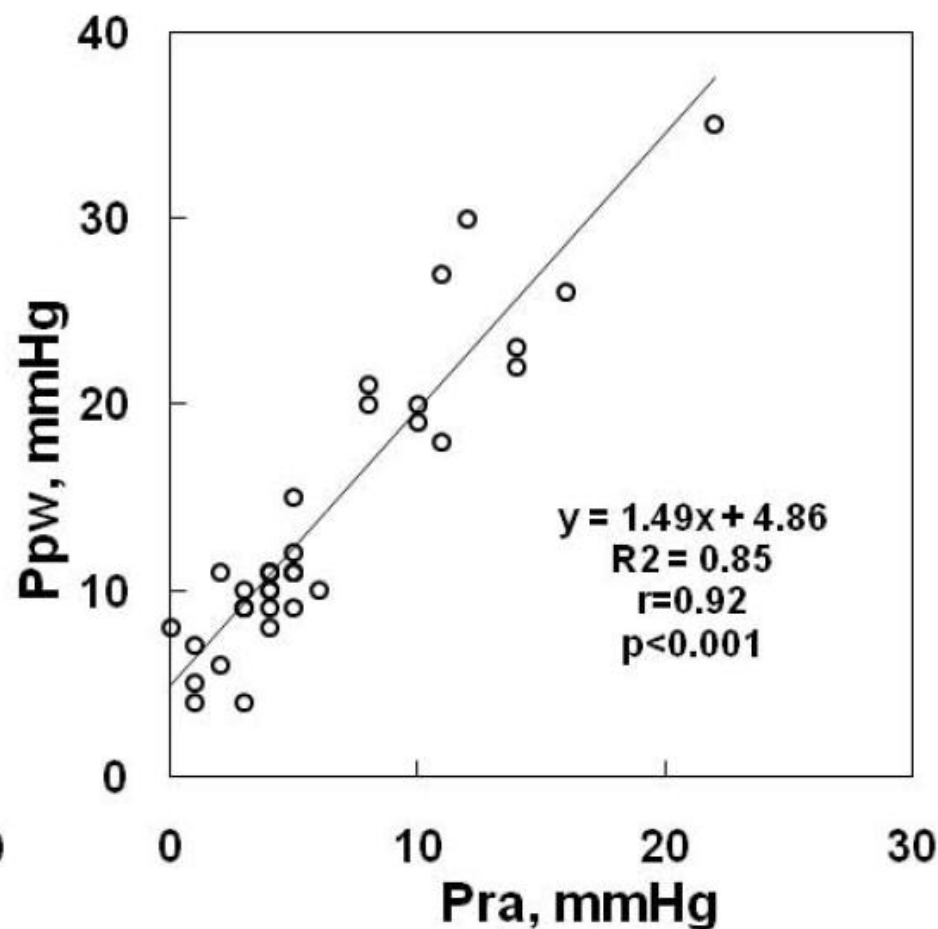
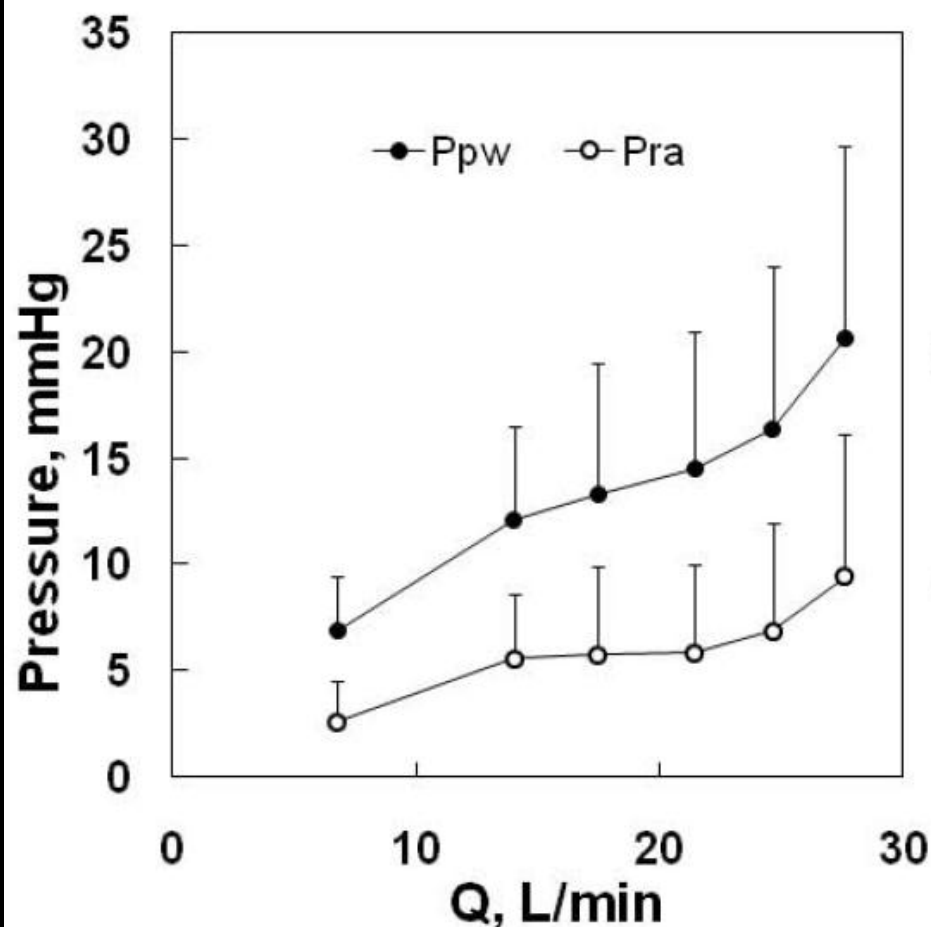
# *Heart failure limits exercise in everyone*



# *Heart failure: cardiac output insufficient to meet O<sub>2</sub> demands*

- In health and disease exercise capacity is closely associated with maximal oxygen consumption
  - O<sub>2</sub> delivered x O<sub>2</sub> metabolized
- Cardiac output explains ~75% of variability in oxygen utilisation
- HFPEF and a world-champ ion athlete:
  - the exercise limitations are similar
  - the workload differs

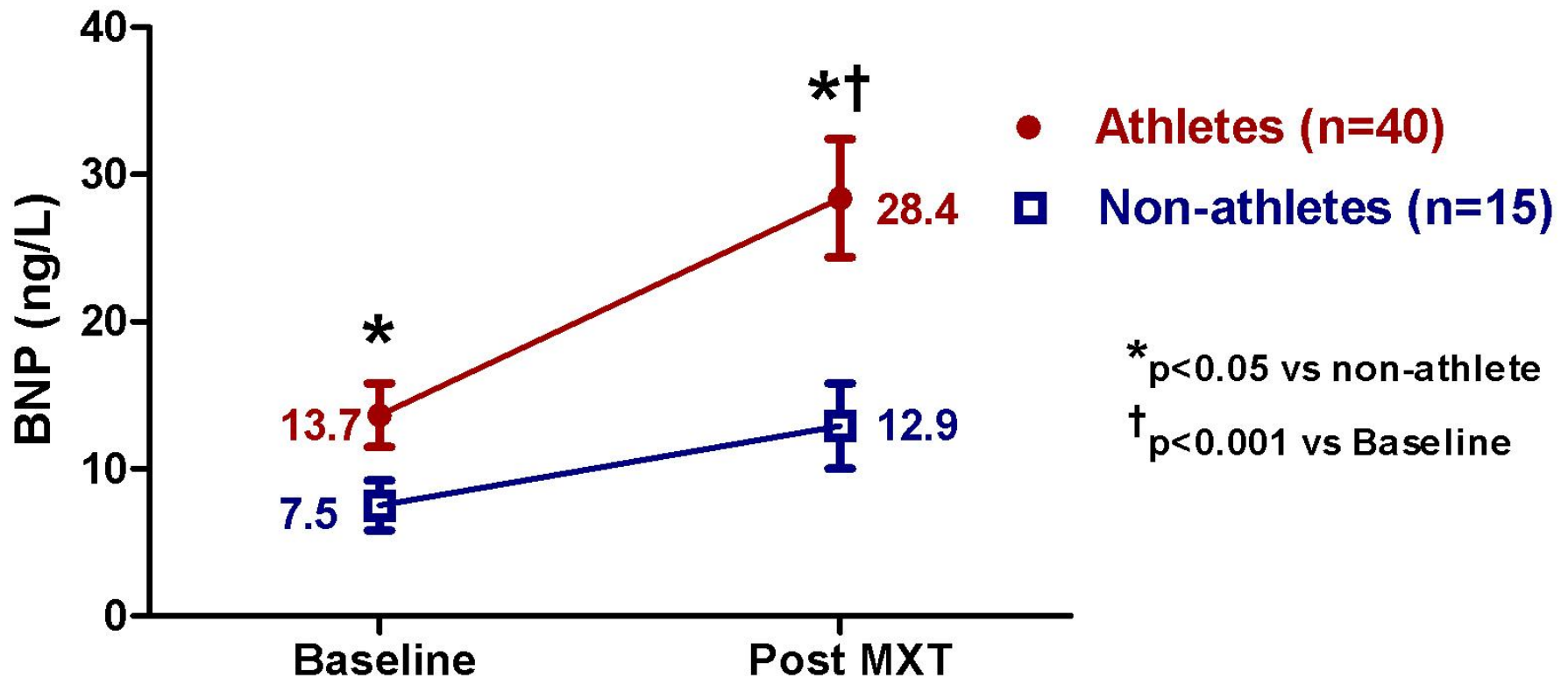
# Atrial pressures during exercise in health



Reeves JT, Wagner PD et al. Operation Everest II Respir Physiol  
80:147-154, 1990 and J Appl Physiol 63: 531-539, 1987

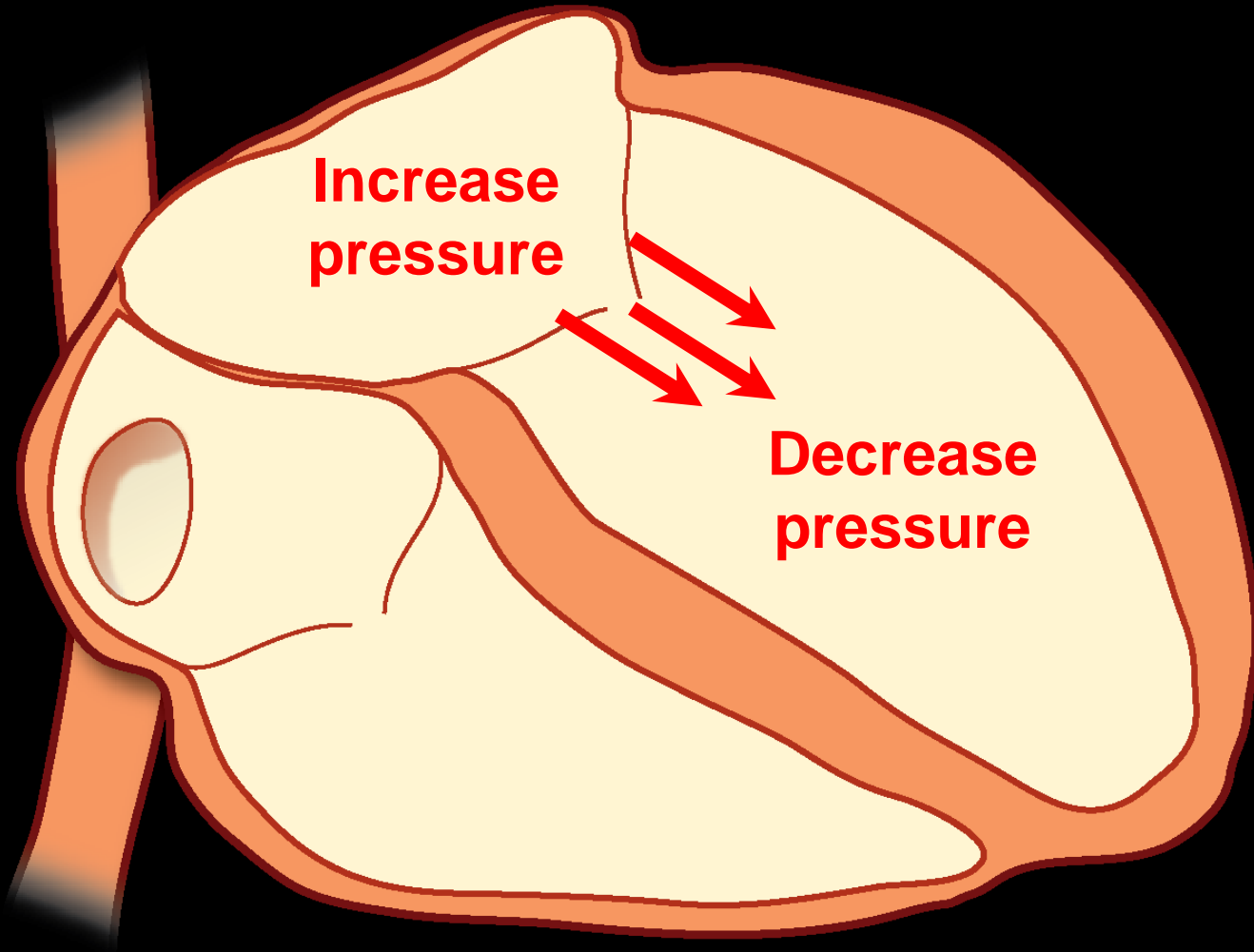
# BNP as a surrogate of acute ventricular stretch

Change in BNP with exercise

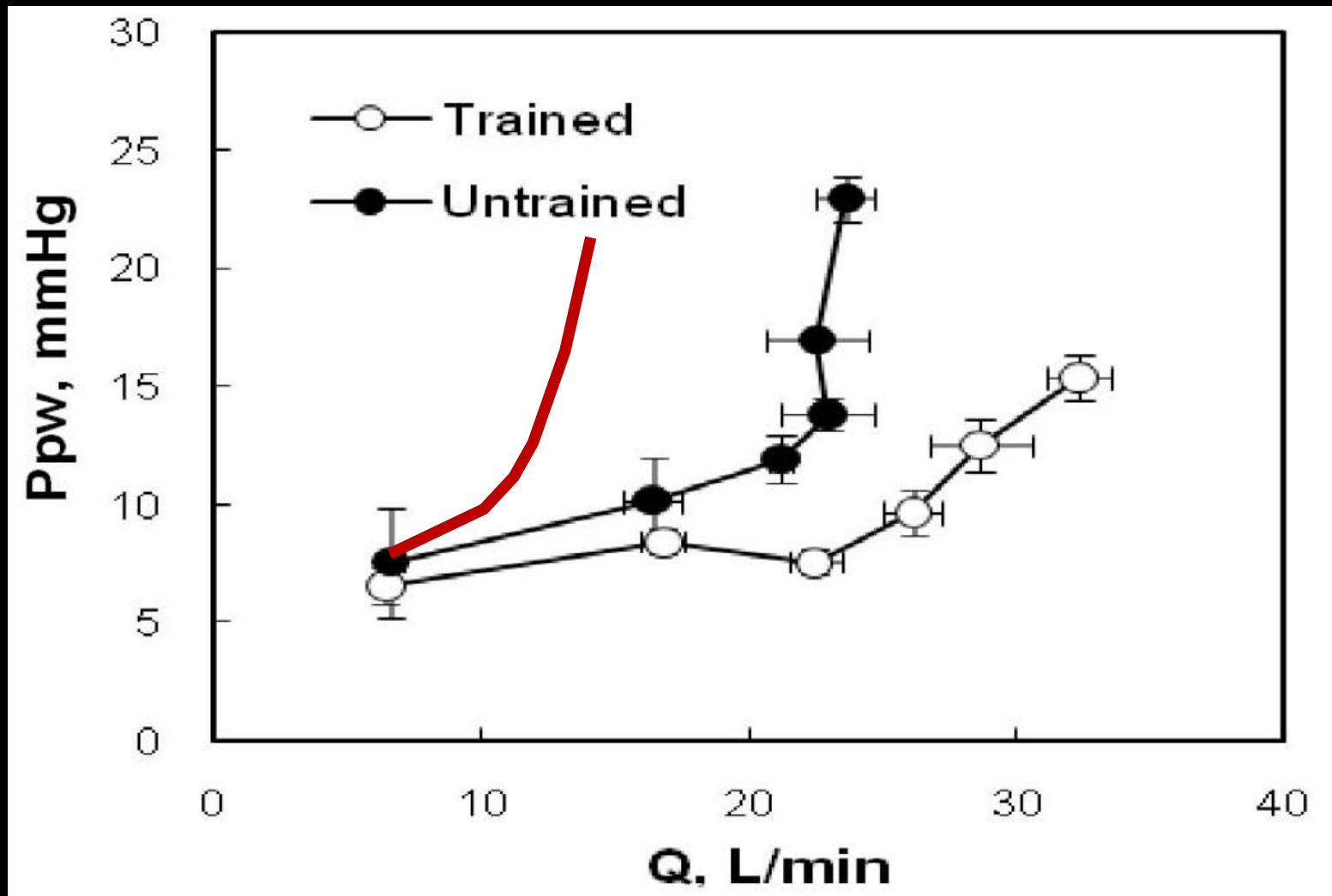




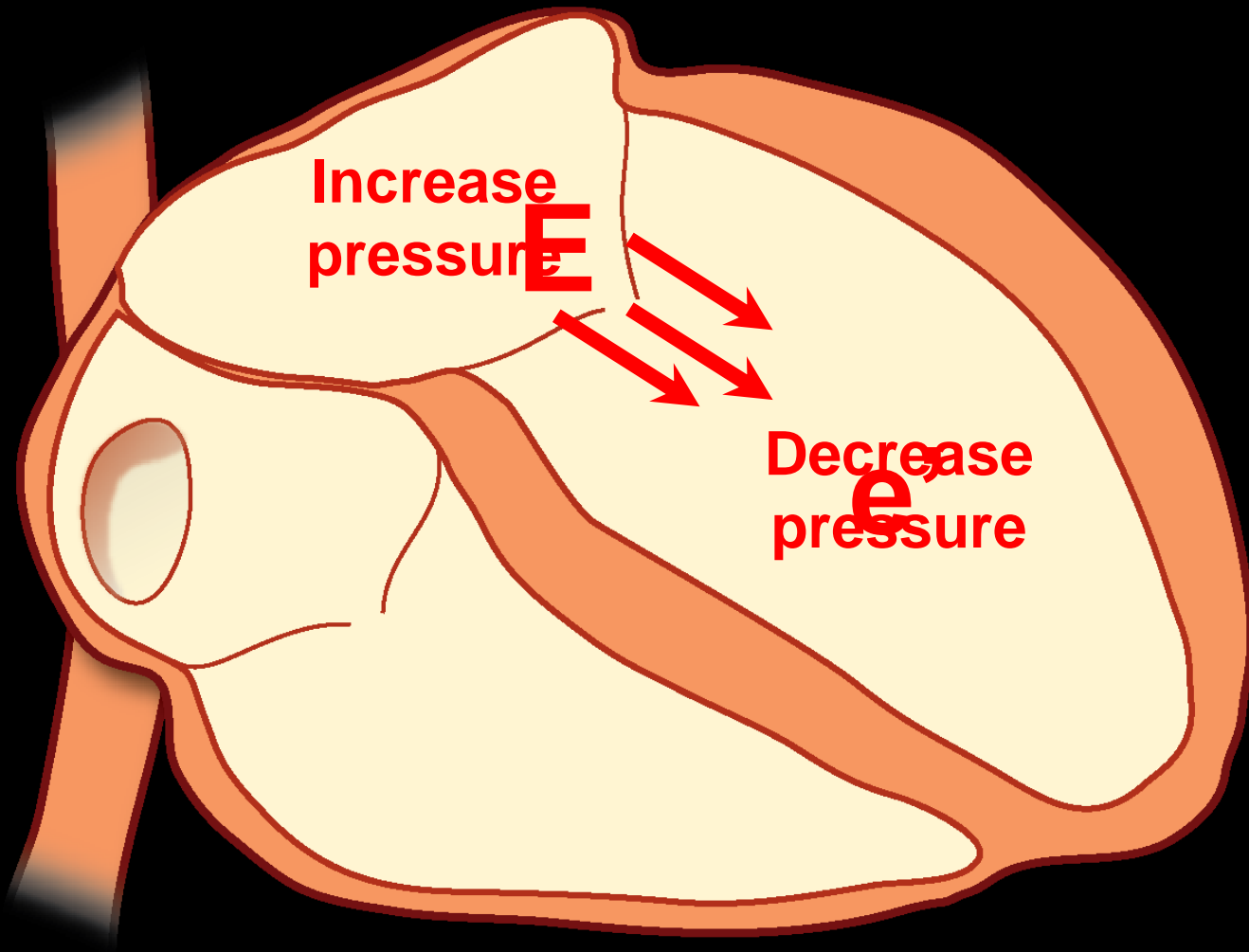
# Flow and pressure with exercise



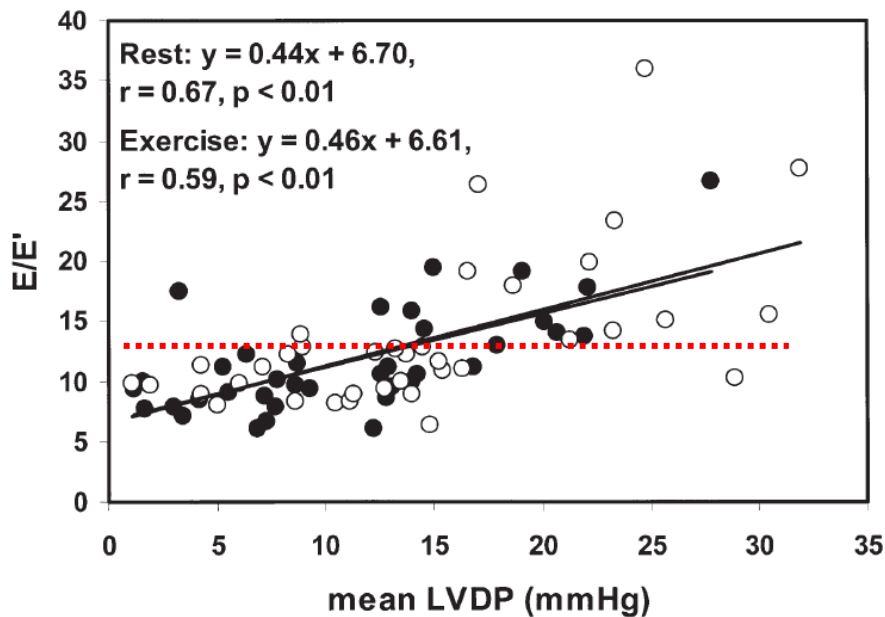
# The difference is in the workload



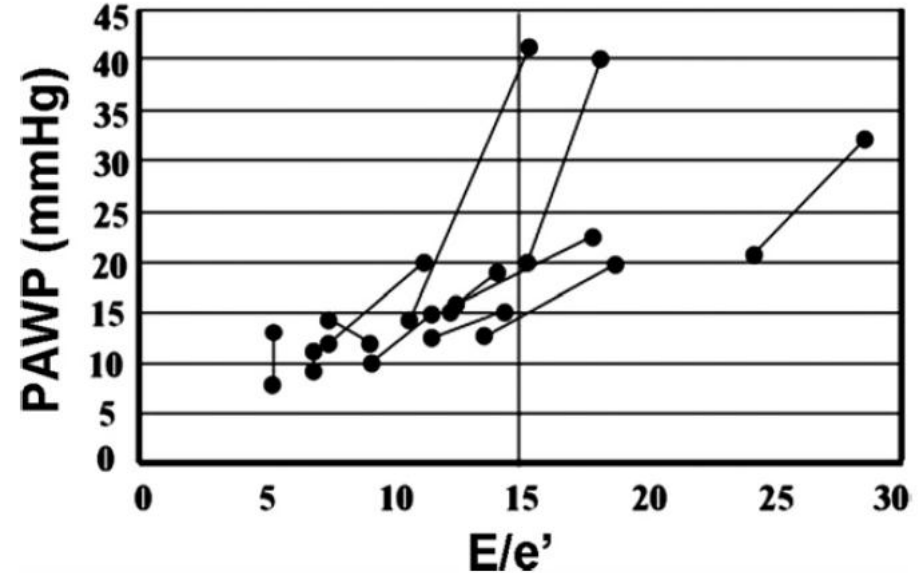
# $E/e'$ as a measure of LA pressure



# $E/e'$ as a measure of diastolic filling pressures

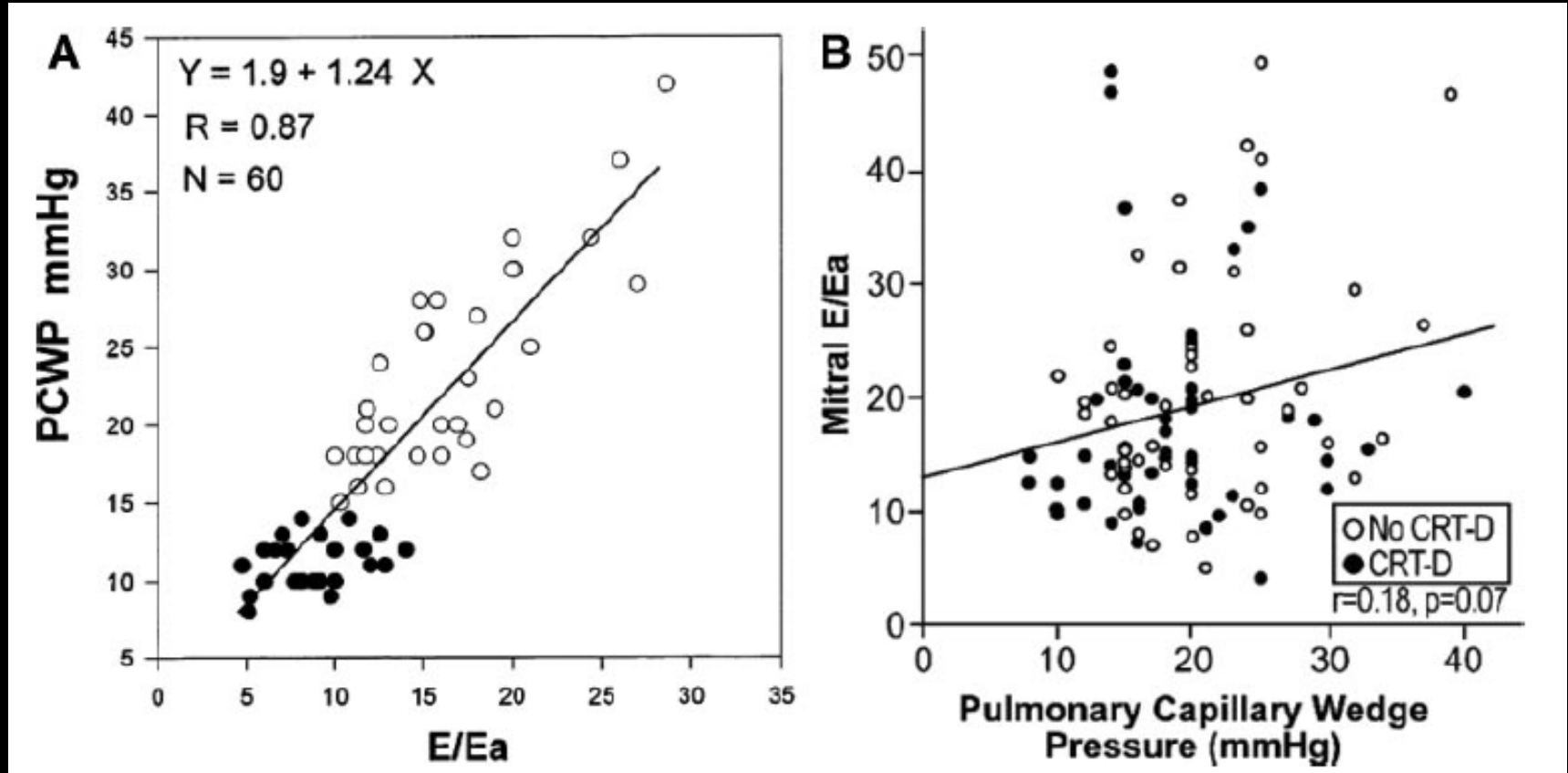


Burgess, Marwick JACC 2006



Talreja, Oh JASE 2007

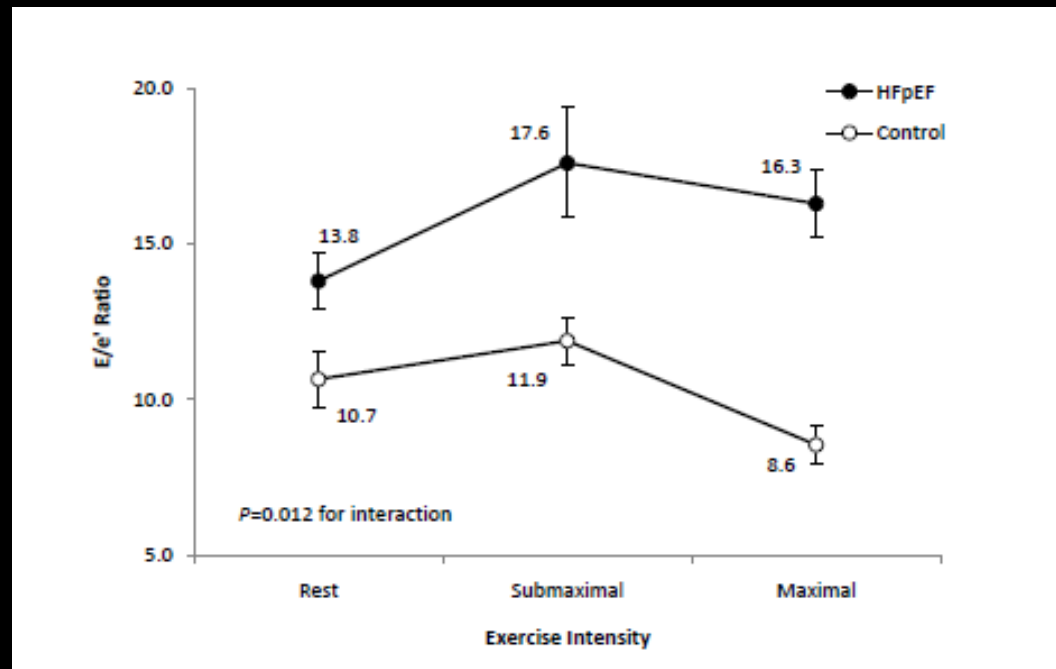
# Caveats I



Nagueh *JACC* 1997      vs.      Mullens *Circulation* 2009

# Caveats II

- Data is acquired during recovery and compared with pressures obtained at peak exercise
- Delay varies with pathology
- ? Measuring slow recovery rather than exercise pressures

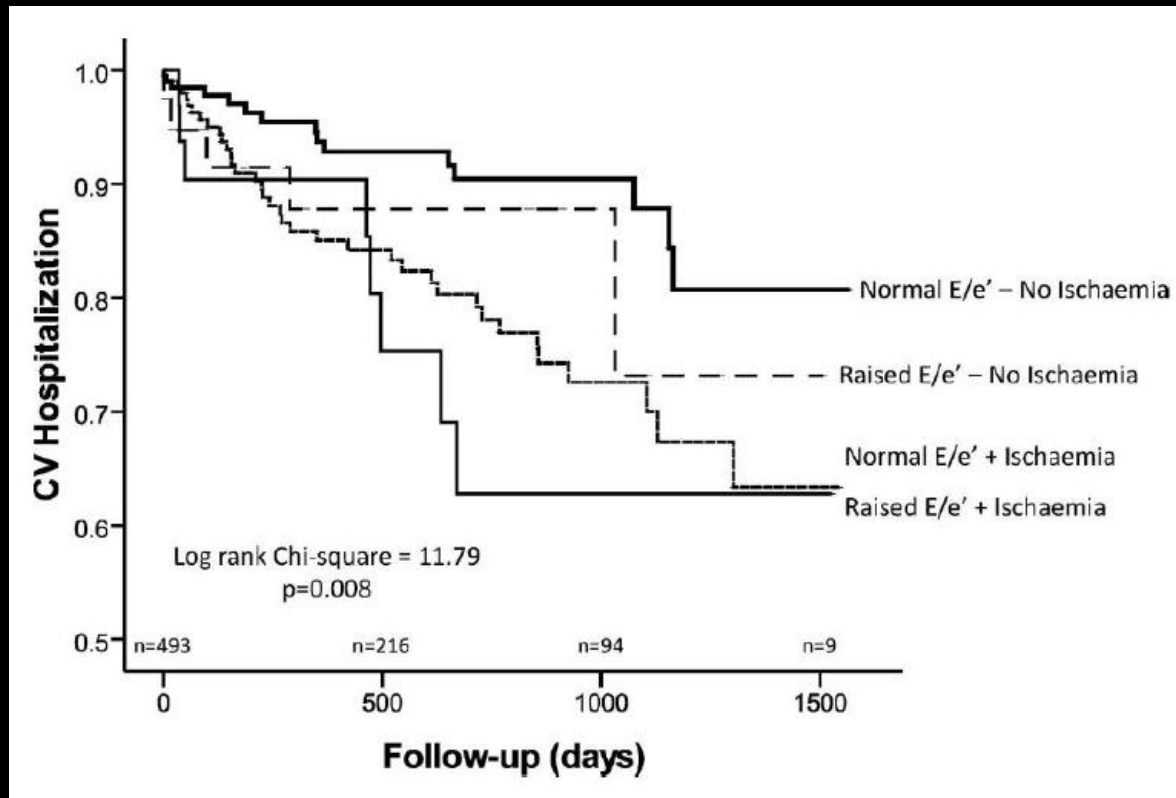


# Can we improve HFPEF diagnosis with exercise E/e' ?

- Holland, Marwick *Heart* 2010
  - Resting criteria for HFPEF
  - Add E/e' with exercise
  - Exclude ischemia testing with exercise
  - Add objective exercise intolerance
- 13/436 breathless patients met all criteria for HFPEF
- Relevant to patient selection for trials

# Exercise E/e' and prognosis

- 538 patients 'clinically indicated stress test'.
- E/e' >2SD from normal (14.5)
- Outcome CVS hospitalisation in 5 years



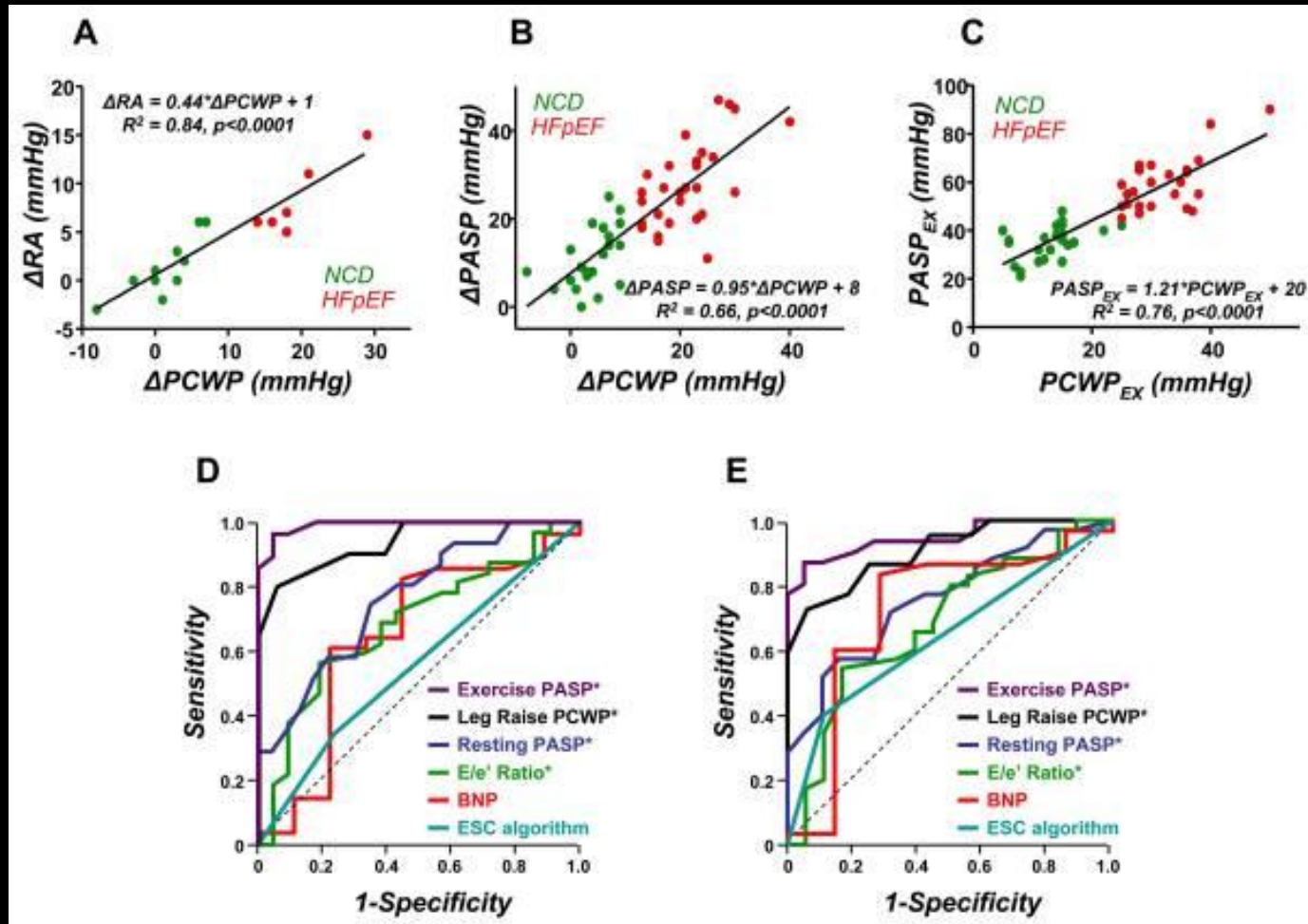


# Summary of exercise E/e'

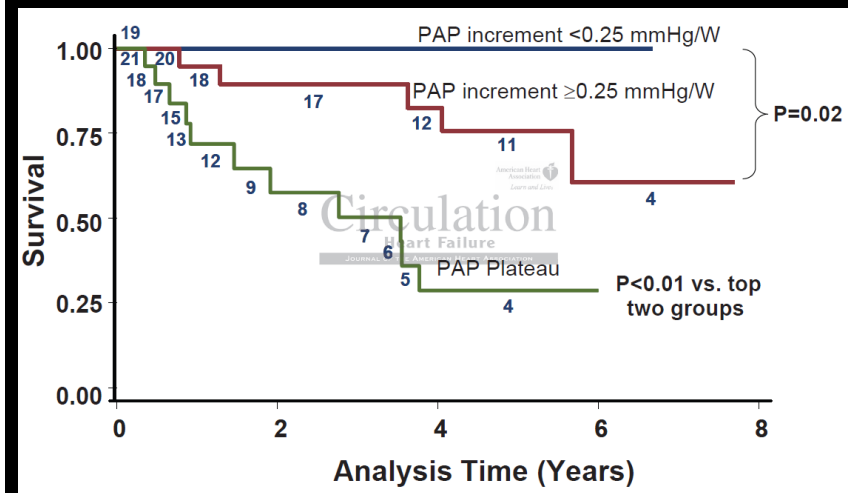
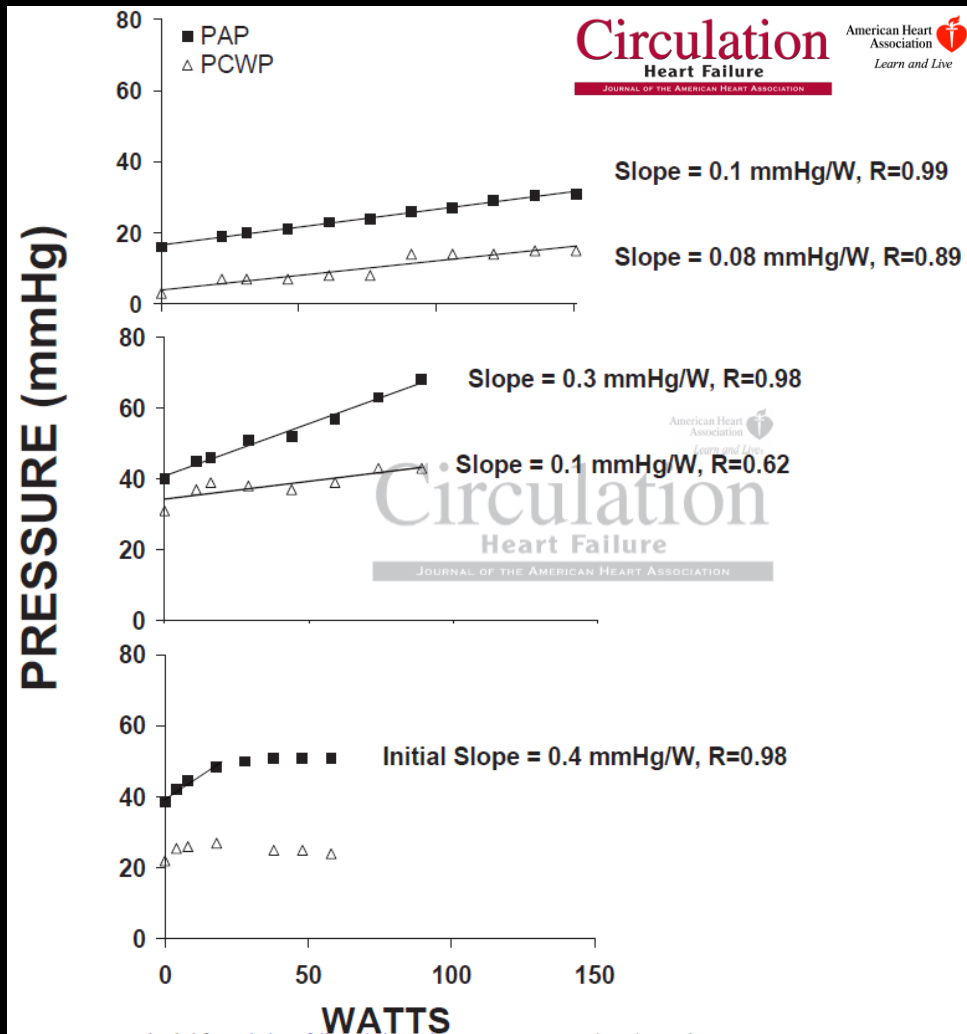
- ???? Measures LV filling pressures
- Probably does measure a sub-optimal cardiac response to exercise
- Need to wait for EA splitting maybe an advantage
- Moderately helpful in predicting prognosis
- Easy to add to standard exercise echo testing

# Pulmonary Artery Pressures

- Invasive hemodynamic studies to diagnose HFPEF (defined as Ex PCWP > 25mmHg) in 55 breathless patients

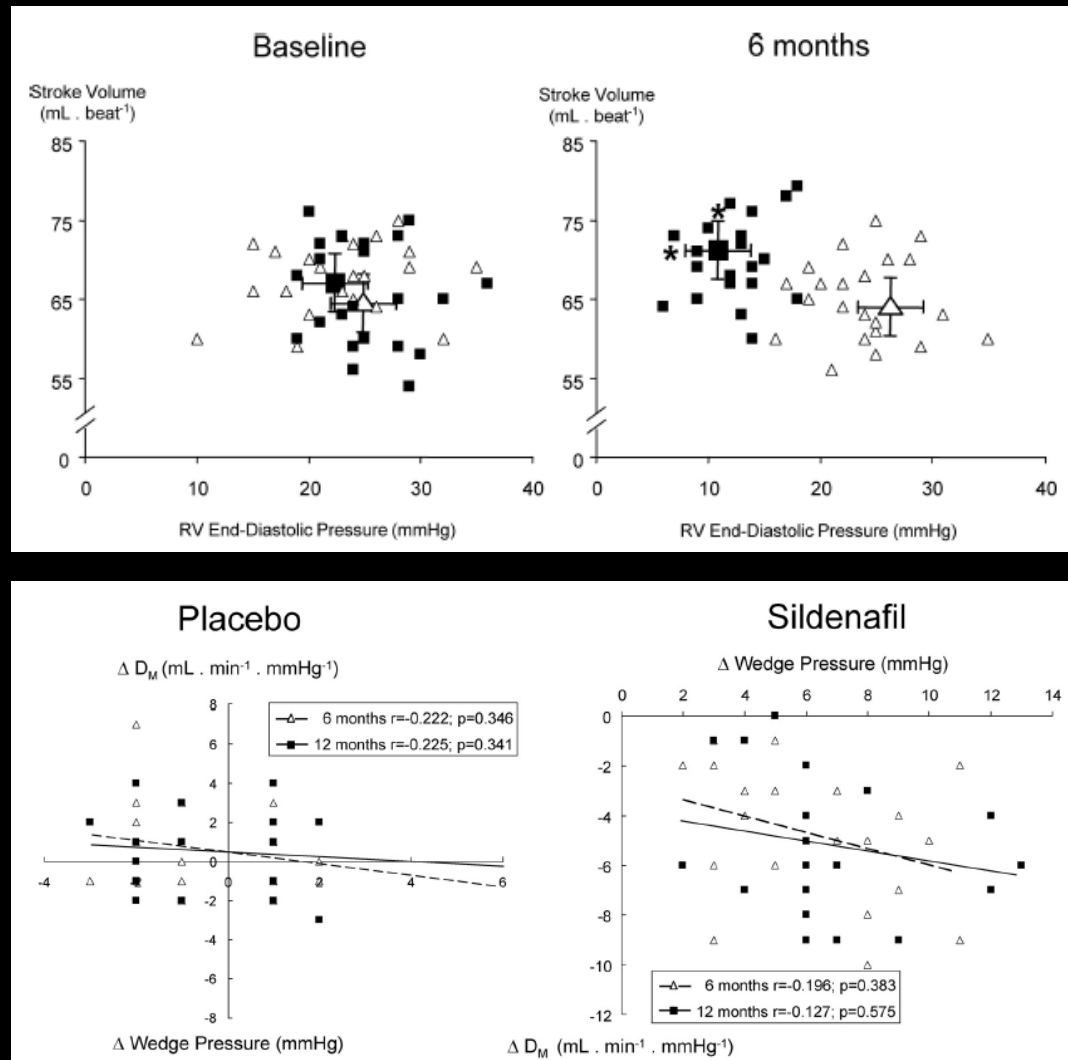


# Failure to increase PAP with exercise is associated with a poor prognosis



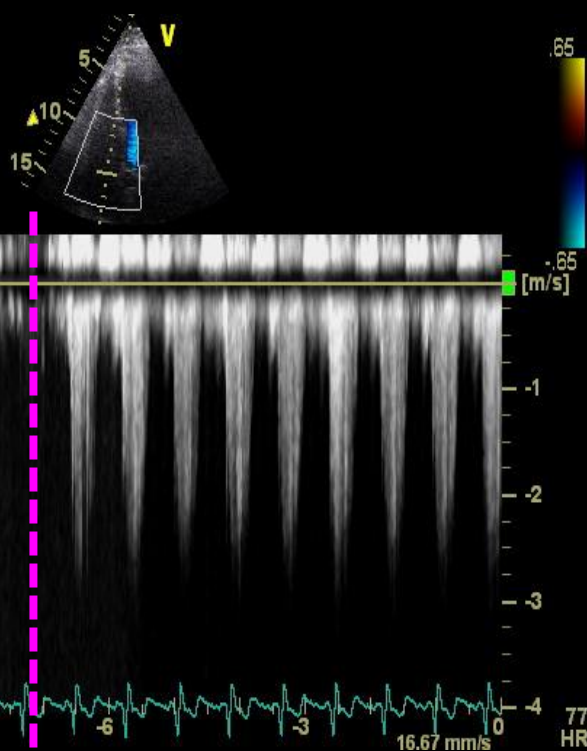
Lewis, Semigran et al.  
*Circ Heart Failure* 2011

# Pulmonary vasodilators as therapy for HFNEF?



# Echo estimates of PASP

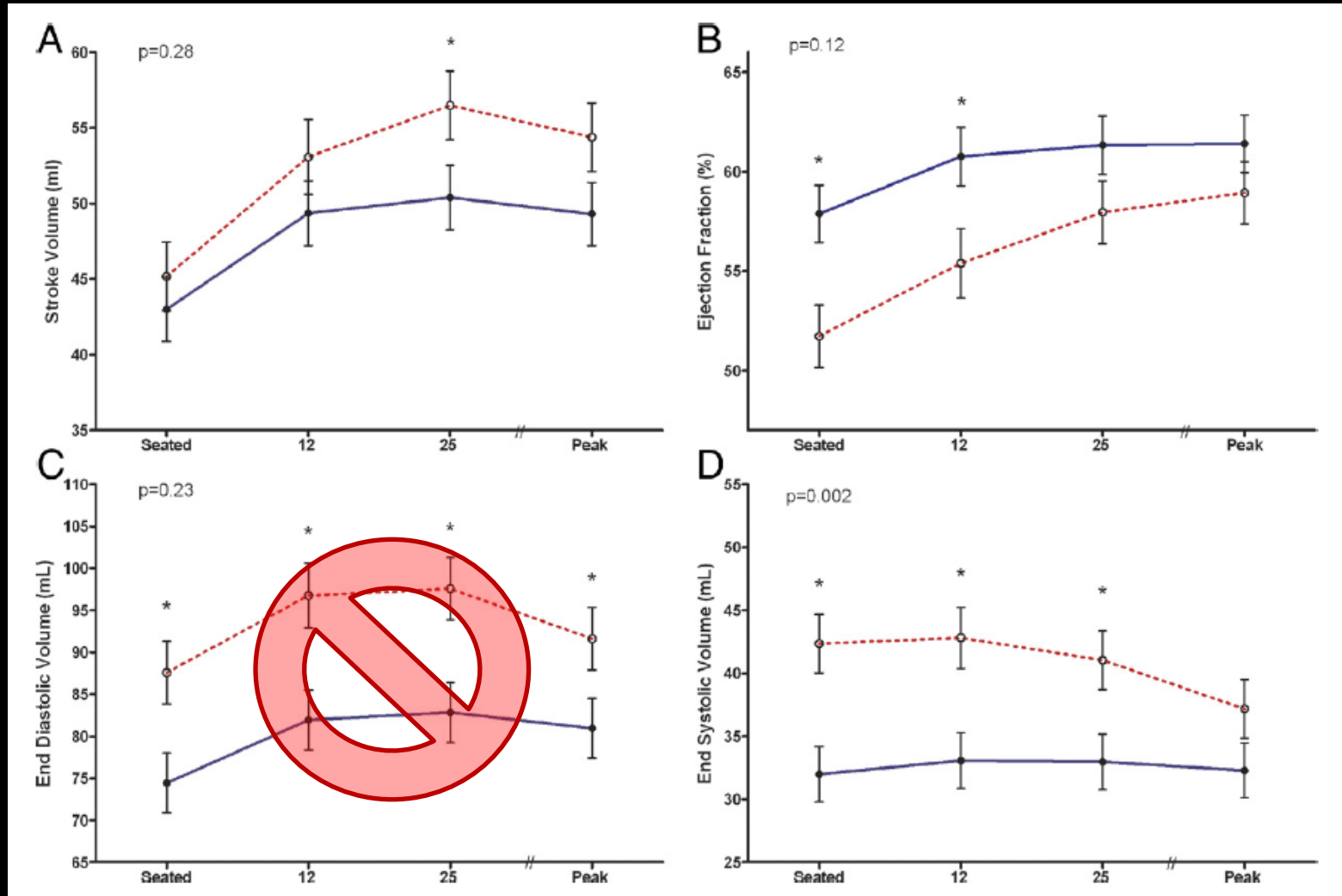
24/08/2007 10:35:45  
T1: 4:14  
Freq.: 1.9 MHz/4.0 MHz  
FPS: 15, 1/30.3  
Freq.: 2.4 MHz



TR Vmax, 9	4.350 m/s
TR maxPG, 9	75.68 mmHg
2 TR Vmax, 9	4.332 m/s
TR maxPG, 9	75.06 mmHg
1 TR Vmax, 9	4.189 m/s
TR maxPG, 9	70.18 mmHg



# Volumes, HFPEF and exercise



# HFNEF and exercise

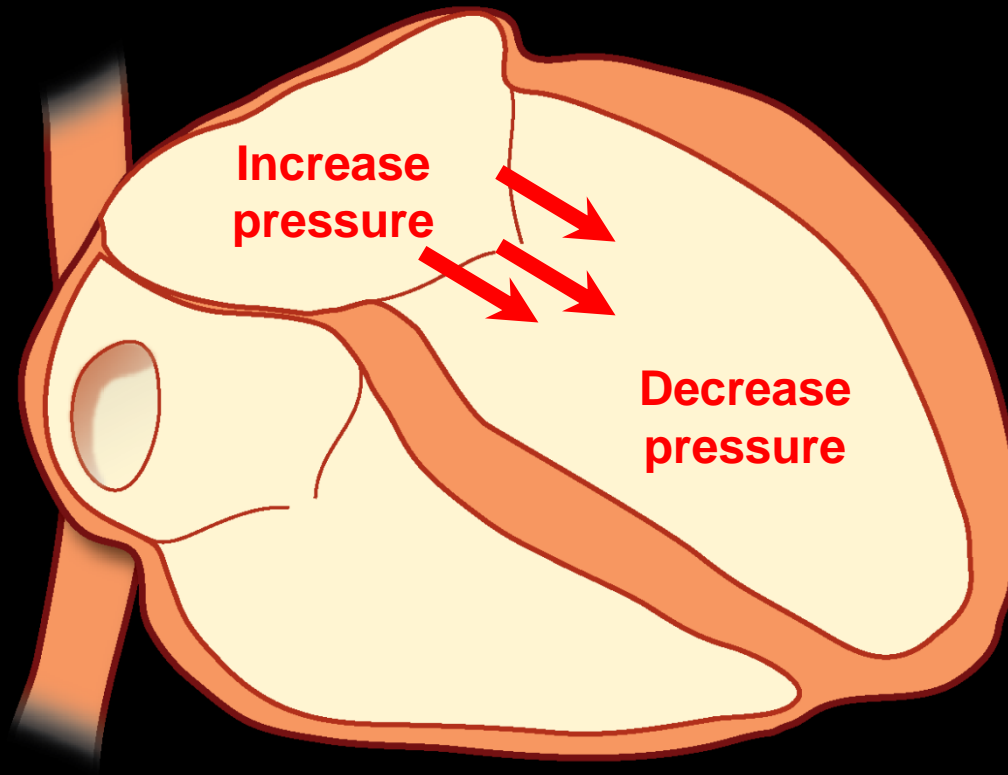
- Consistent finding of reduced contractile reserve rather than filling impairment
- However:  
? chronotropic incompetence = filling impairment

	Kitzman et al. (8) HFPEF vs. AMC	Borlaug et al. (9) HFPEF vs. ASCC	Ennezat et al. (11) HFPEF vs. HYPER	Borlaug et al. (10)		Maeder et al. (37) HFPEF vs. AMC	Current Study HFPEF vs. AMC
				HFPEF vs. AMC	HFPEF vs. HYPER		
Peak $\dot{V}O_2$	↓	↓	NR	↓	↓	↓	↓
$\Delta CO$	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
$\Delta A-V_{O_2}$ Diff	↓	NR	NR	NR	NR	↔	↓
$\Delta HR$	↓	↓	↔	↓	↓	↔ supine, ↓ upright	↓
$\Delta EDV$	↓	↔	↔	↔	↔	NR	↔
$\Delta ESV$	↔	NR	↓	↓	↓	NR	↓
$\Delta SV$	↓	↔	↓	NR	NR	↓	↔
$\Delta EF$	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	NR	↓
$\Delta SVR$	NR	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔

**SYSTOLIC AND DIASTOLIC  
FUNCTION ARE INSEPARABLE**

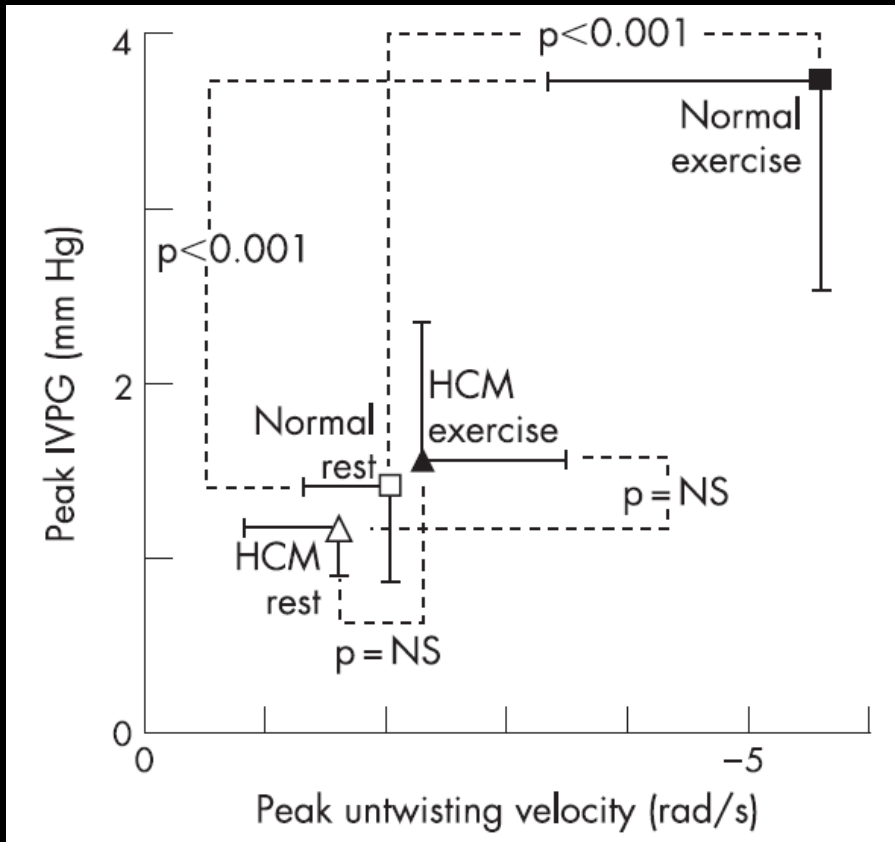


# Flow and pressure with exercise

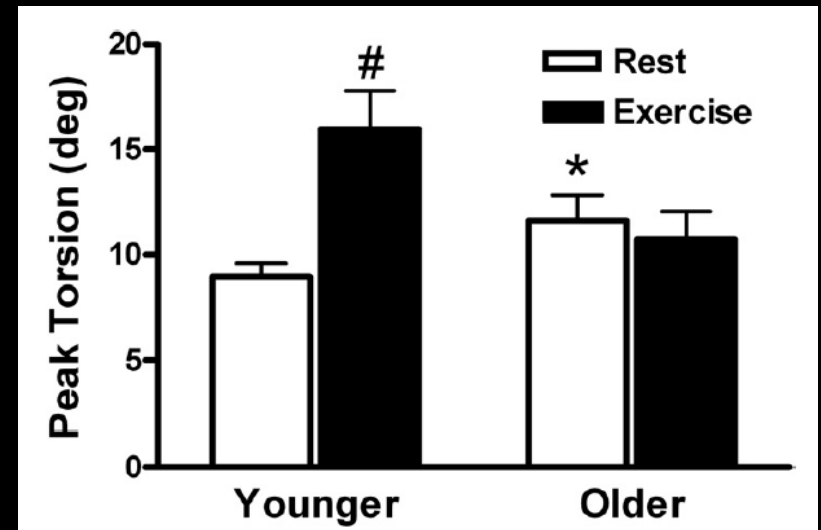


The best way of decreasing early diastolic suction is with effective systolic contraction

# Torsional reserve

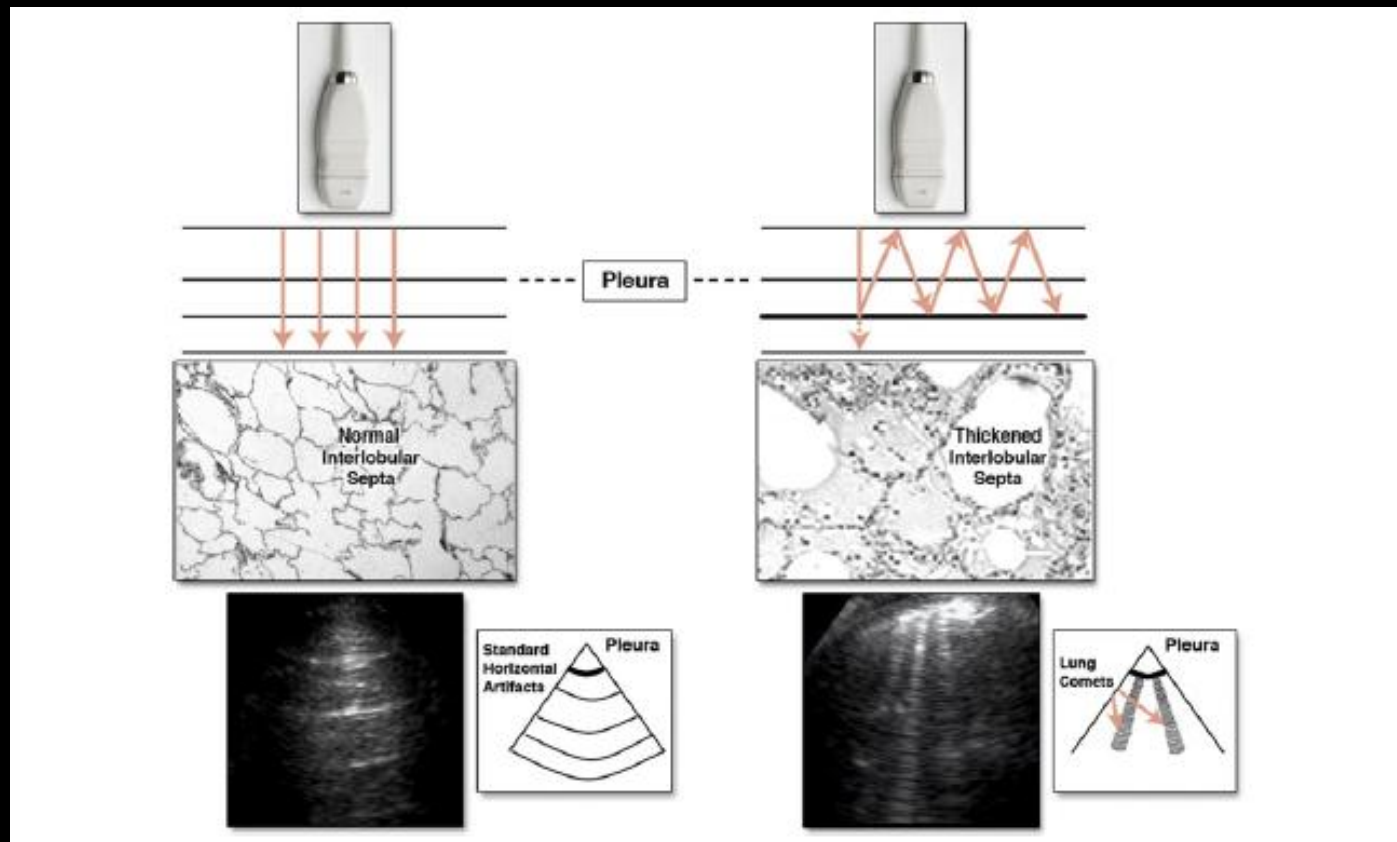


Notomi et al. *Circ* 2006



Burns et al. *JASE* 2008

# Direct assessment of exercise-induced heart failure



Sicari et al. *JASE* 2006

# Conclusions

- Exercise intolerance (not resting symptoms) is the most frequent complaint of our patients

***To assess exertional breathlessness we must exert the breathless***

# Conclusions

- ‘Diastolic stress testing’ is possibly an artificial premise
- Measures of systolic function at least as important
- Potential diagnostic and prognostic benefits in incorporating stress  $E/e'$
- PASP estimates may be at least as instructive and should be attempted in all stress studies



# a CMR approach



N = 18 healthy subjects

15 ♂, 3 ♀

Age:  $32 \pm 8$  years

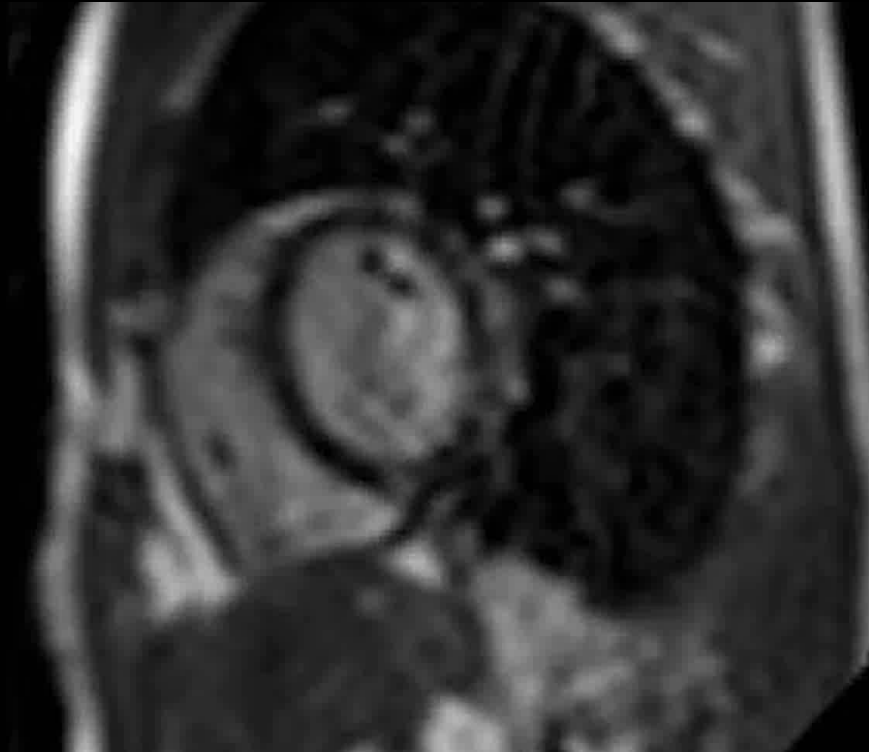
Rest:  $65 \pm 11$  bpm

Moderate exercise:  $114 \pm 16$  bpm

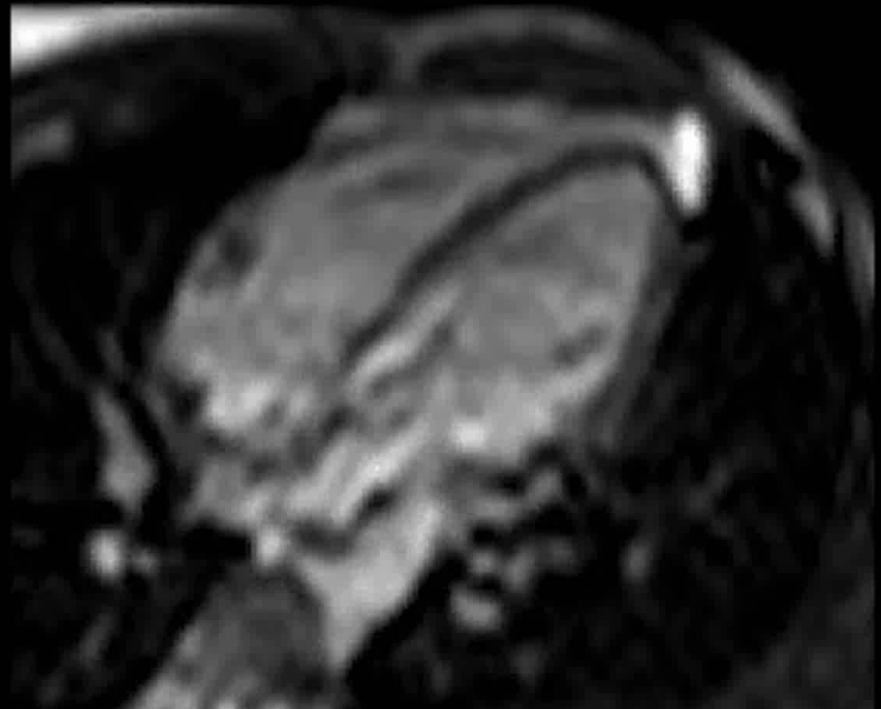
Strenuous exercise:  $153 \pm 11$  bpm

# CMR imaging @ 168 bpm (215W)

**Short axis**



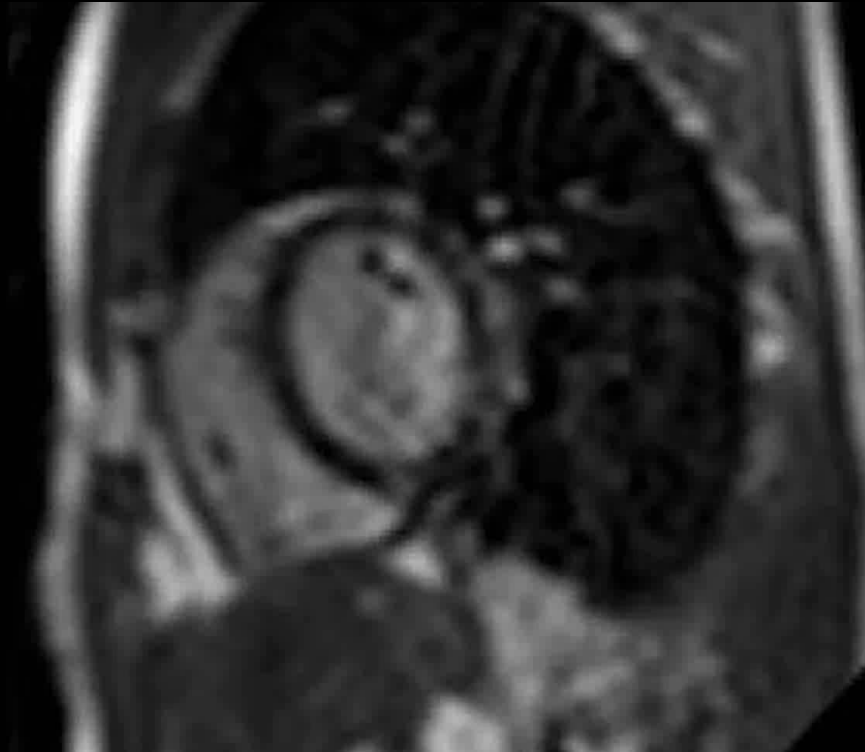
**Horizontal long axis**





# CMR imaging @ 168 bpm (215W)

**Short axis**



**Horizontal long axis**

