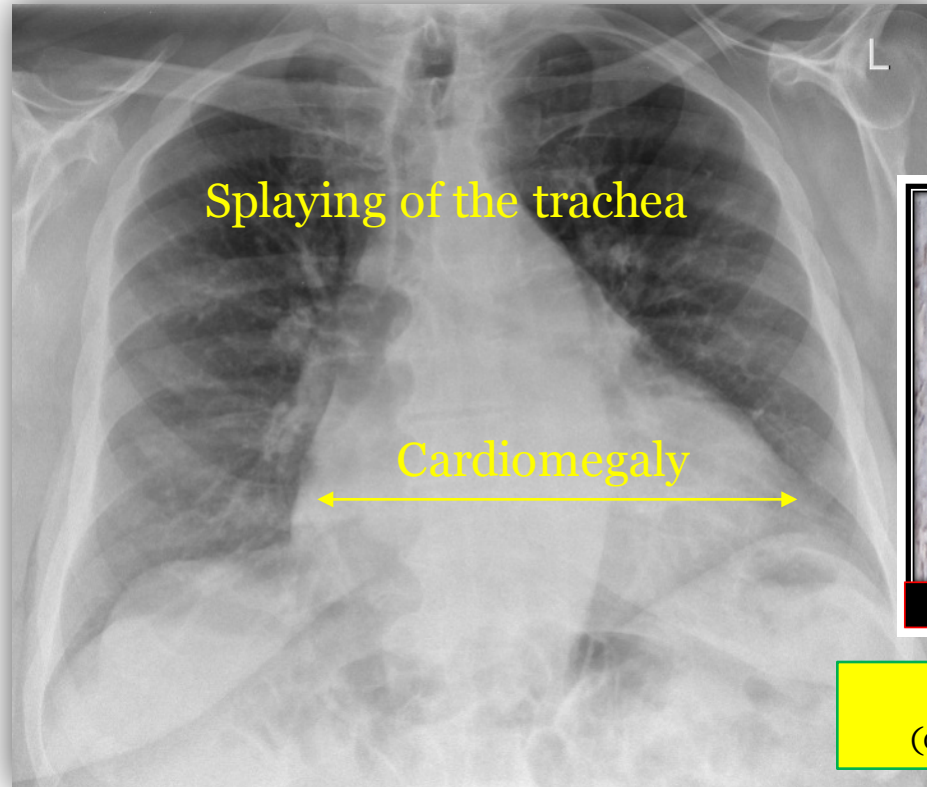


# Heart Failure and the Cardiomyopathies for the USMLE Step One Exam: *Part I: Key Background Information and Test Derivatives*



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(check website for details)

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# Heart Failure for USMLE Step One

- Definitions
- Key principles & language
- Core derivatives & concepts
  - S3
  - Rales
  - PCWP
  - JVP

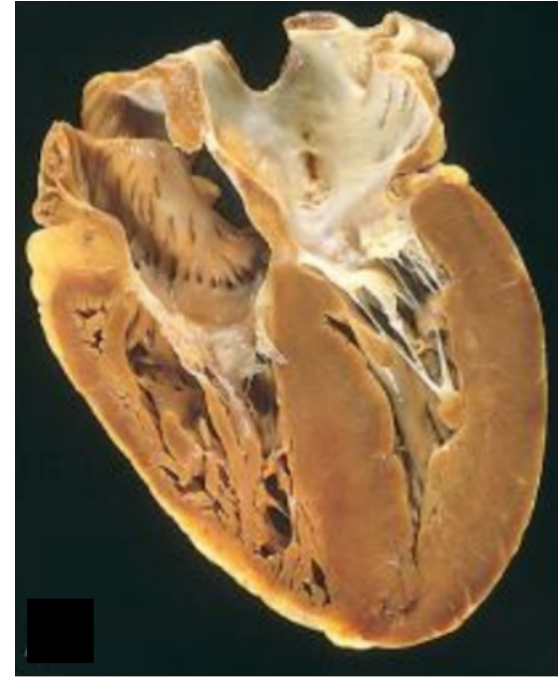


## Definitions

Heart **Failure**:  
Not meeting the perfusion requirements for blood and oxygen



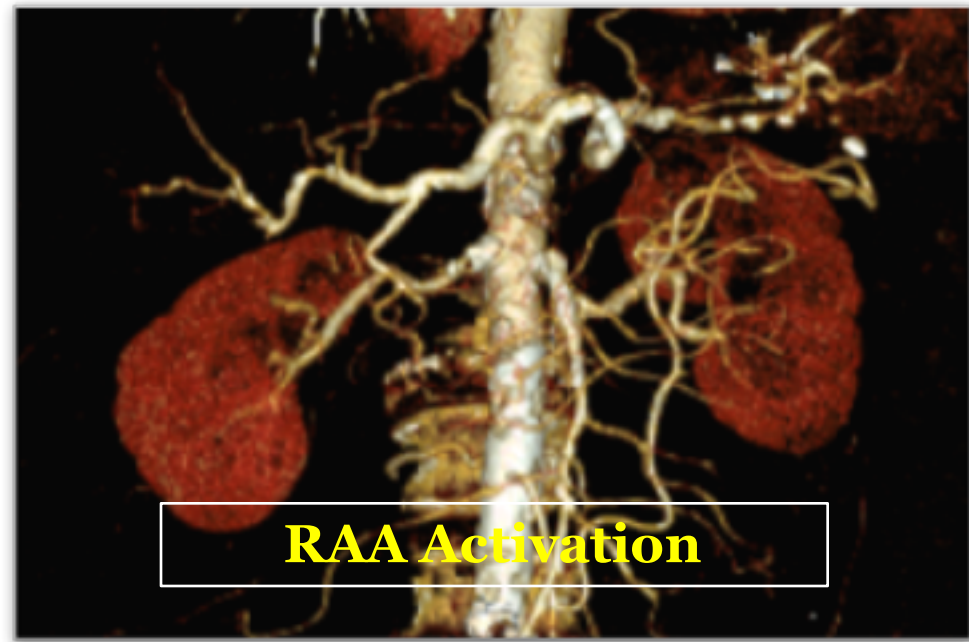
HF<sub>r</sub>EF: ↓ systolic function



HF<sub>p</sub>EF: diastolic dysfunction

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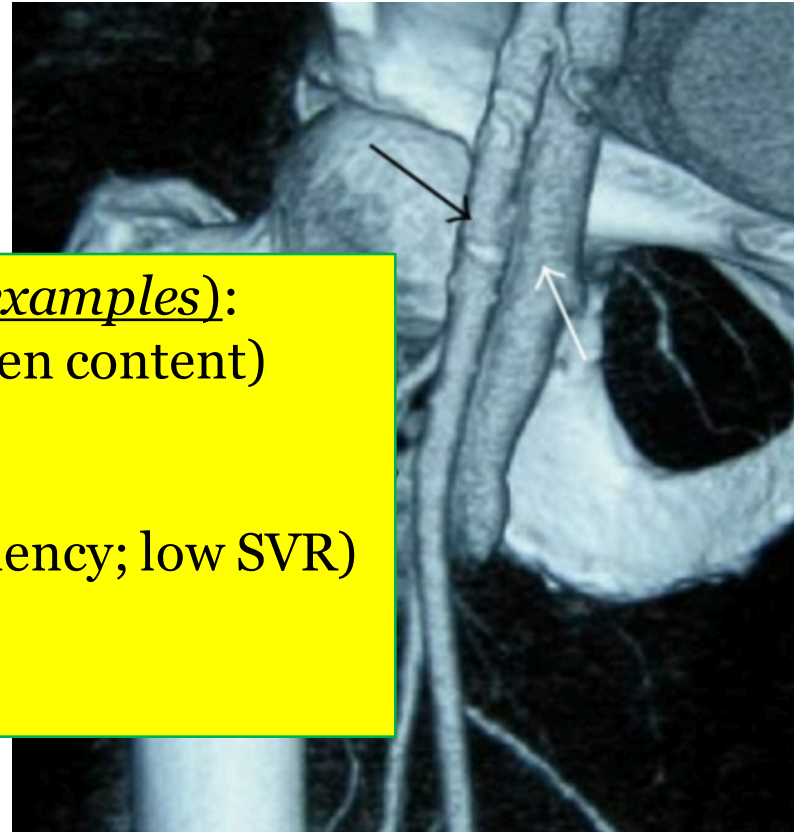
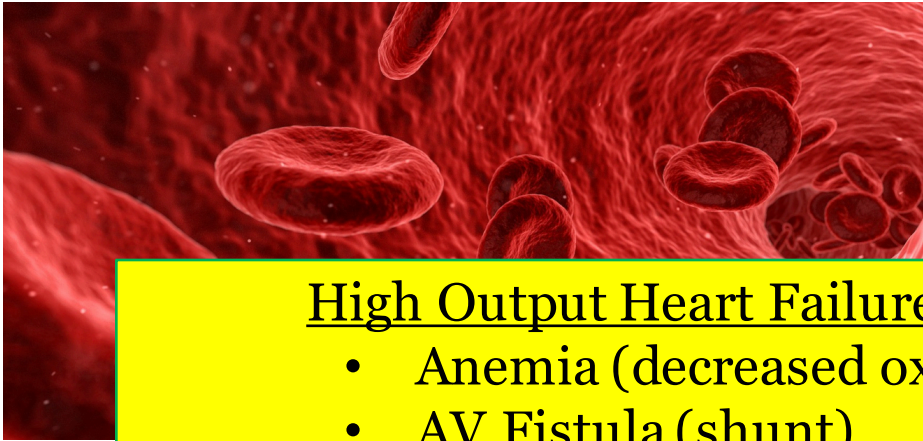


Neurohumoral Activation  $\rightarrow \uparrow TPR_{\Omega}$



## Definitions

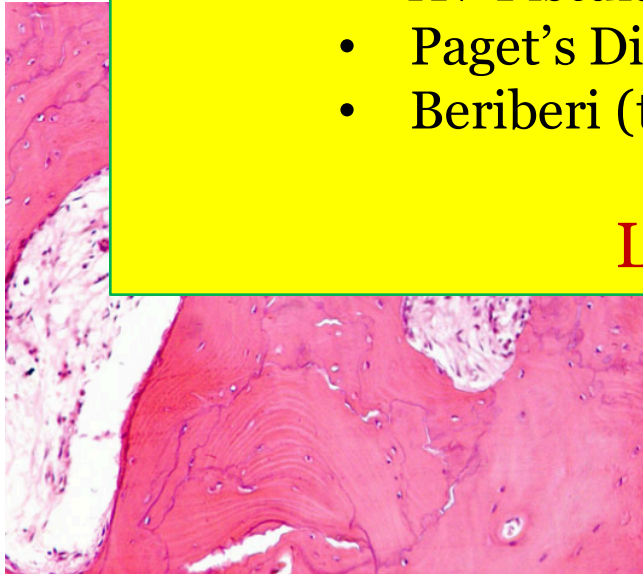
Heart **Failure**:  
*Not meeting perfusion requirements* for blood and oxygen



### High Output Heart Failure (examples):

- Anemia (decreased oxygen content)
- AV Fistula (shunt)
- Paget's Disease (shunt)
- Beriberi (thiamine deficiency; low SVR)

**Low**  $TPR_{\Omega}$



## Definitions

Heart **Failure**:  
*Not meeting perfusion requirements* for blood and oxygen



HFrEF: ↓ systolic function



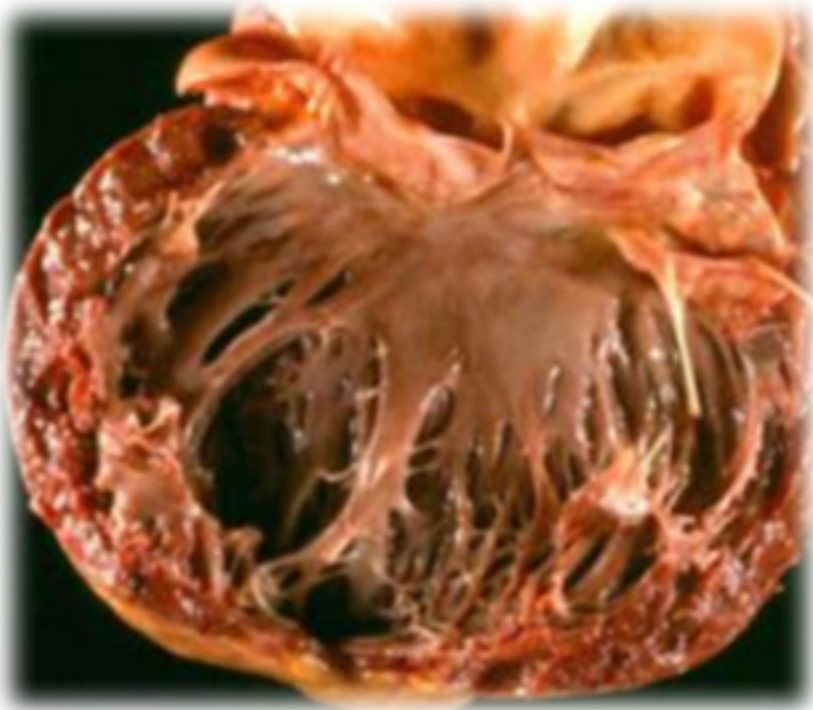
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### High Output Heart Failure (examples):

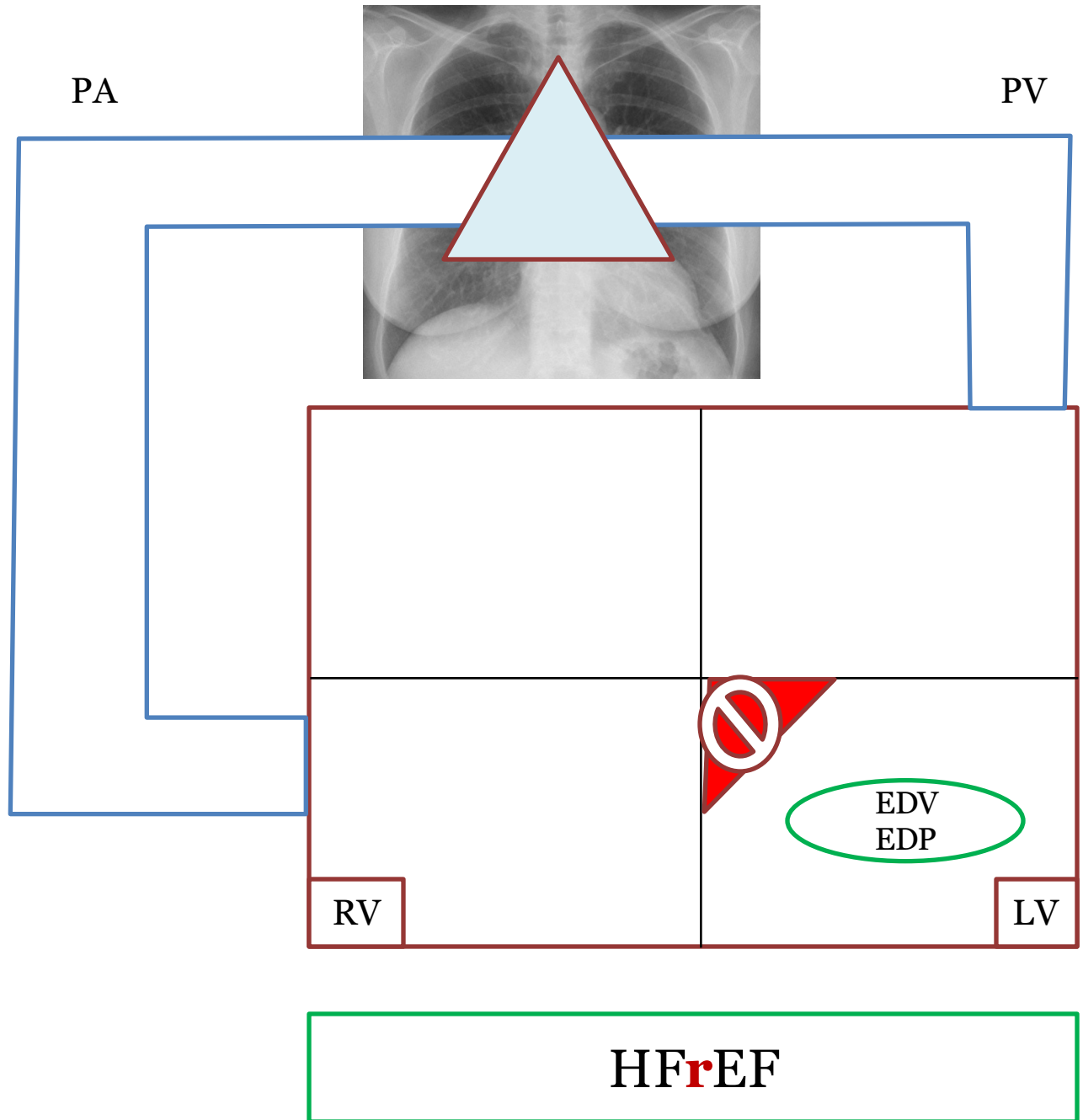
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**Low**  $TPR_{\Omega}$

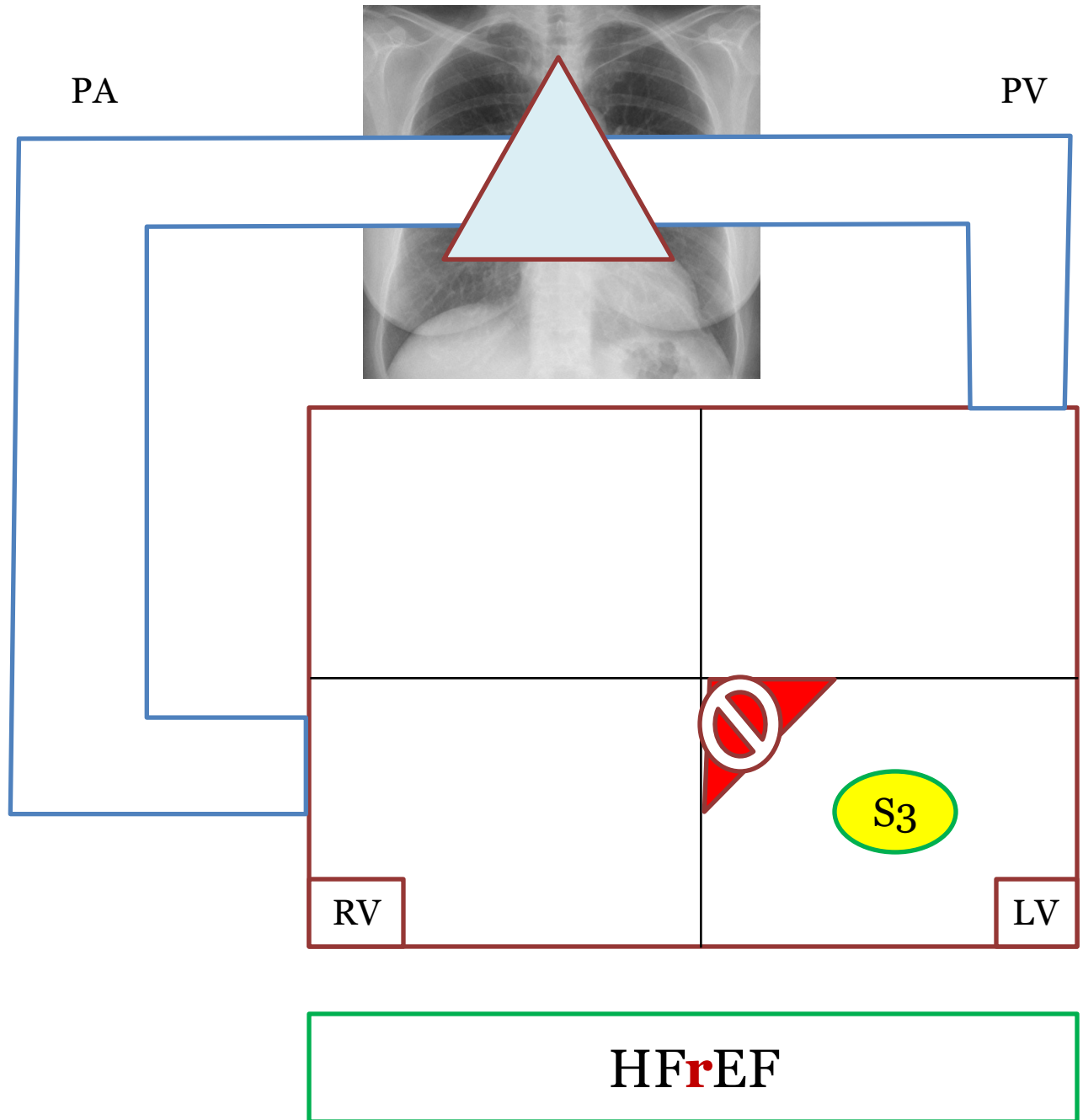
*Congestive* (Left) Heart Failure  
has a unique *Language* with unique *Derivatives*



**HFrEF**  
(Left-sided Heart Failure with **reduced** Ejection Fraction)

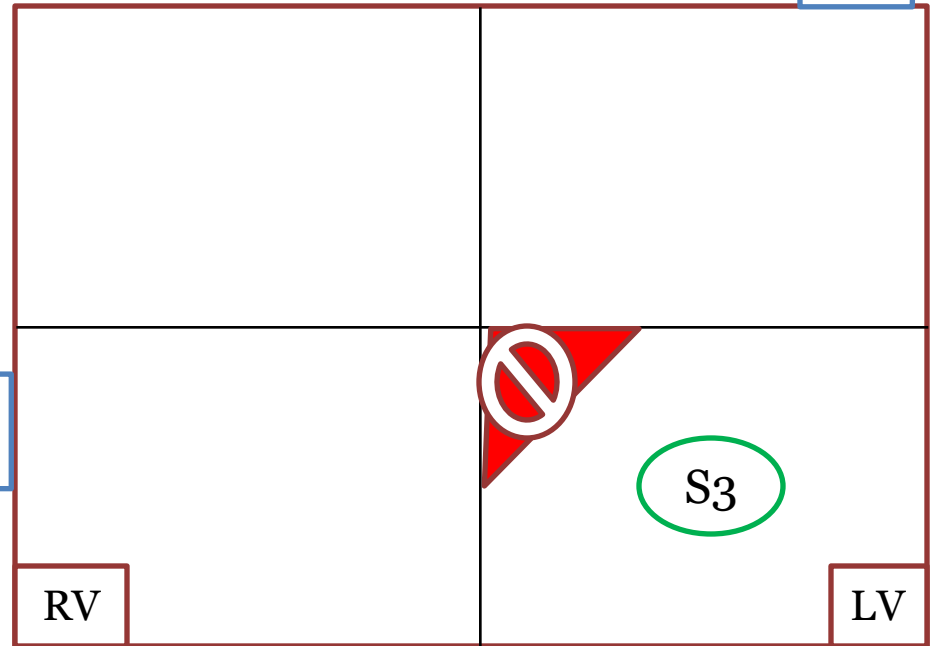
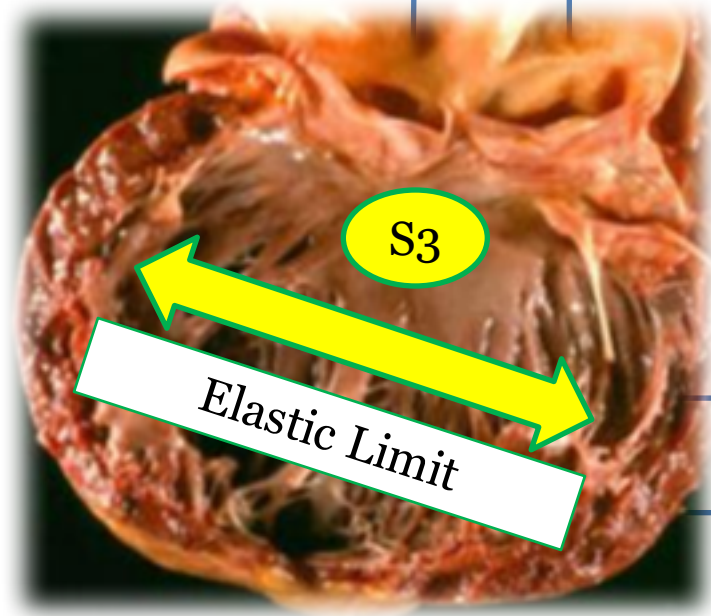






### S3 Heart Sound

- Blood entering a **volume overloaded ventricle**
- 'An extra heard sound is heard at the apex'
- Early diastolic; heard best in left lateral decubitus
- Negative prognosticator, especially in MR/AI



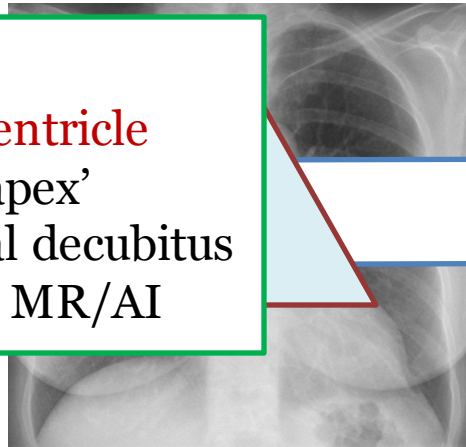
PV

**S3 is Boardspeak for CHF**

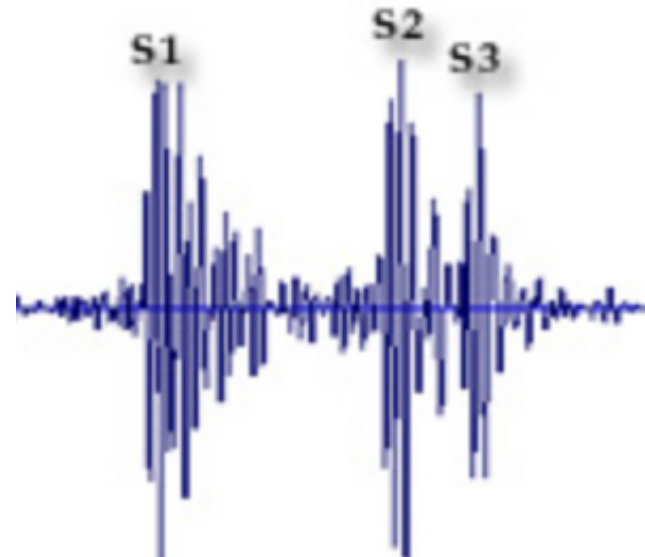
**HF<sub>r</sub>EF**

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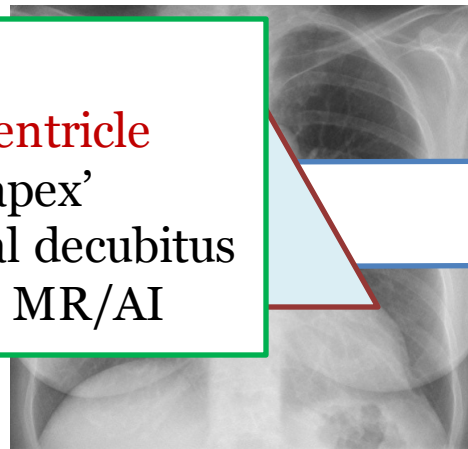


PV



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PV



#### Left Lateral Decubitus, End-expiration:

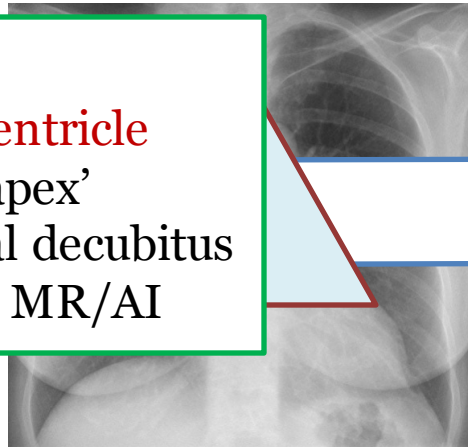
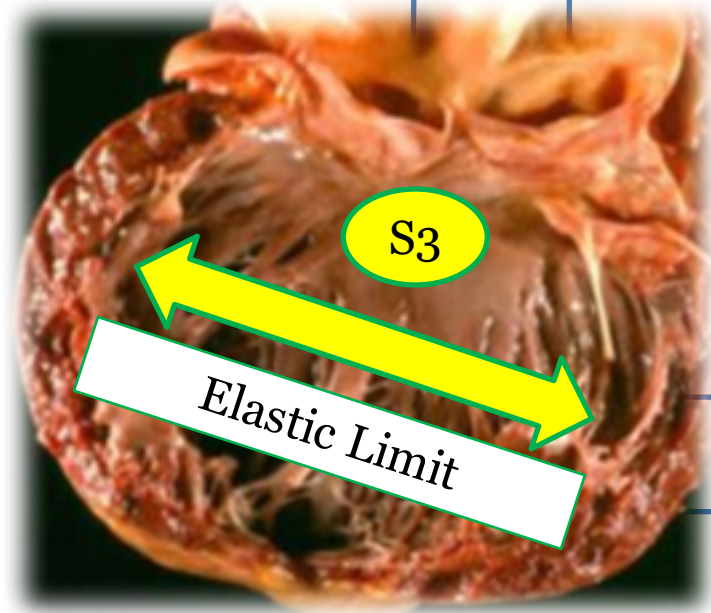
- Brings heart closer to chest wall,
- Reduces amount of air in lungs

These ‘maneuvers’ simply makes it easier to hear!



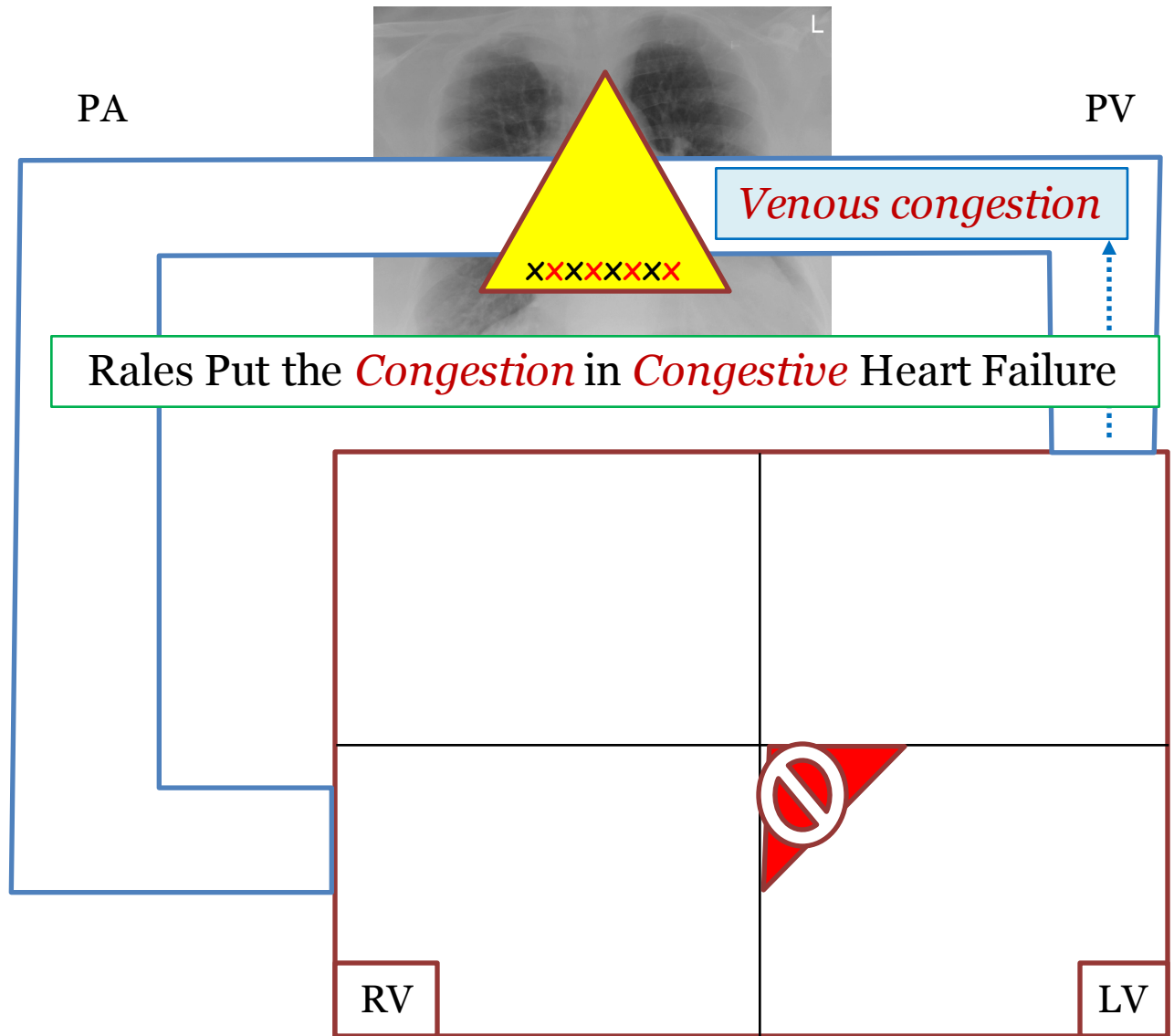
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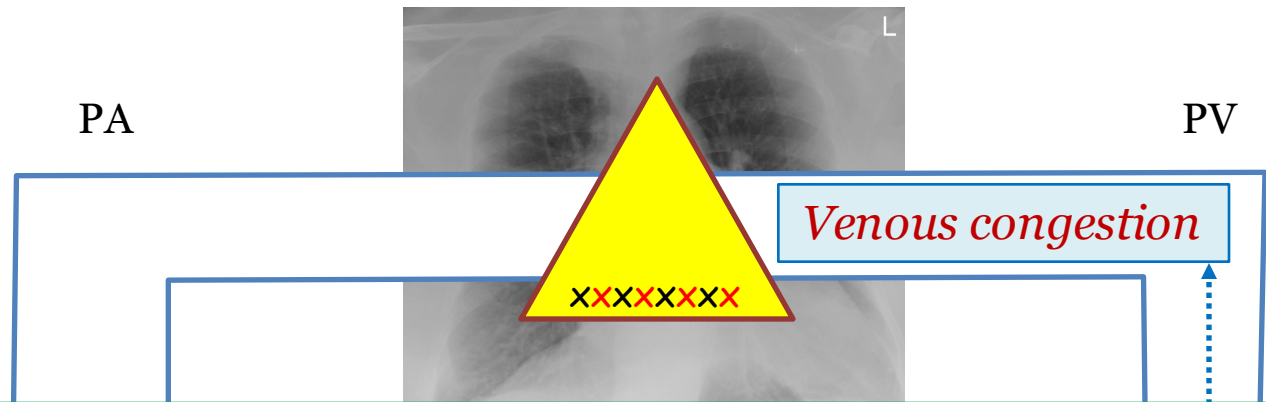


PV

HF<sub>r</sub>EF

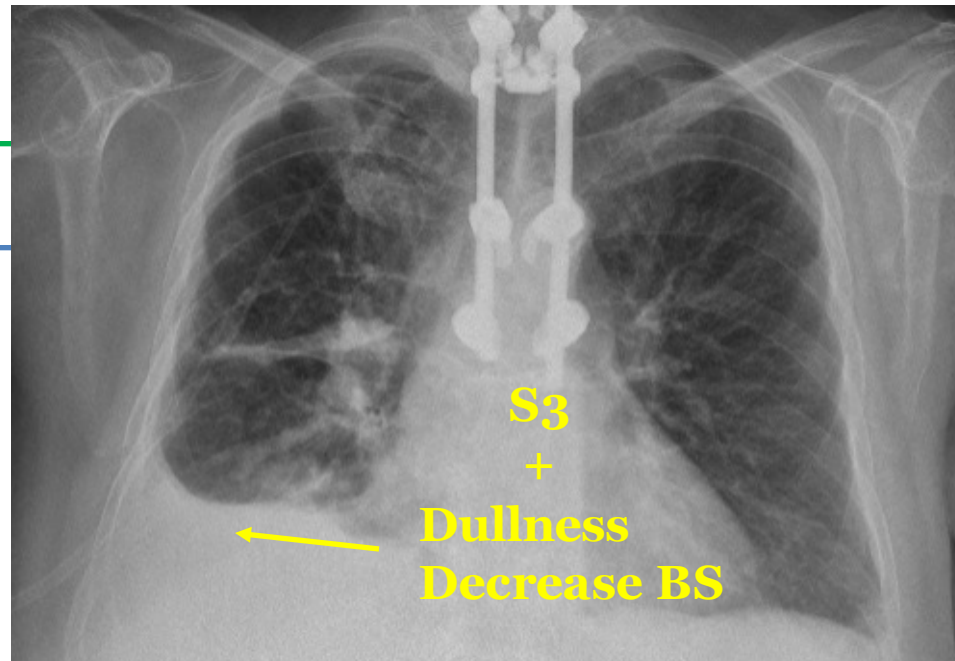


*Left-Sided Congestive Heart Failure*



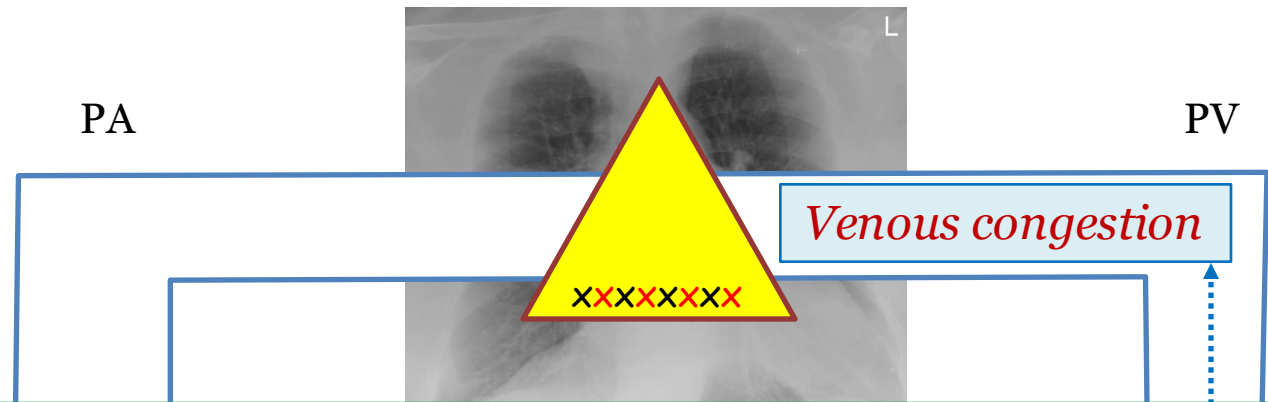
## Rales (or Transudative Effusion) Derivatives:

- Crackles at the lung bases
  - Effusion: *decreased BS, dullness to percussion*



LV

Heart Failure



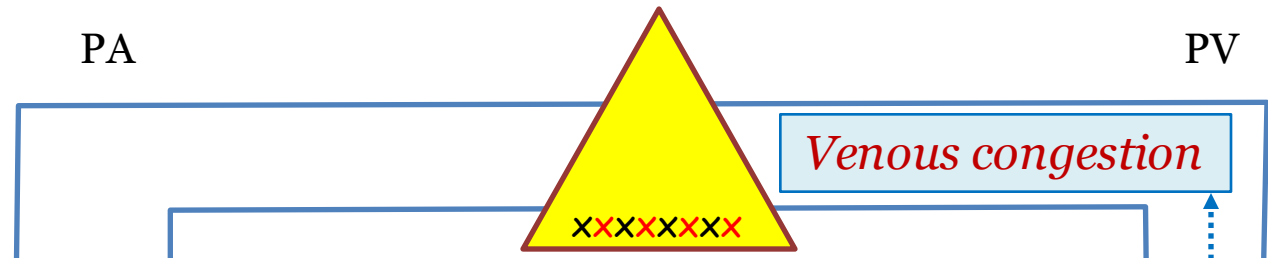
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- Crackles at the lung bases
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- **↑ Hydrostatic mm Hg** (2° to elevated LVEDP)
- Frothy or *Rust-colored* sputum



***Left-Sided* Congestive Heart Failure**

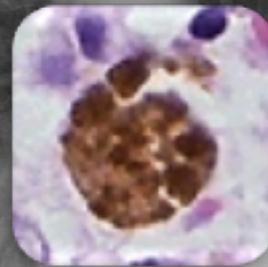




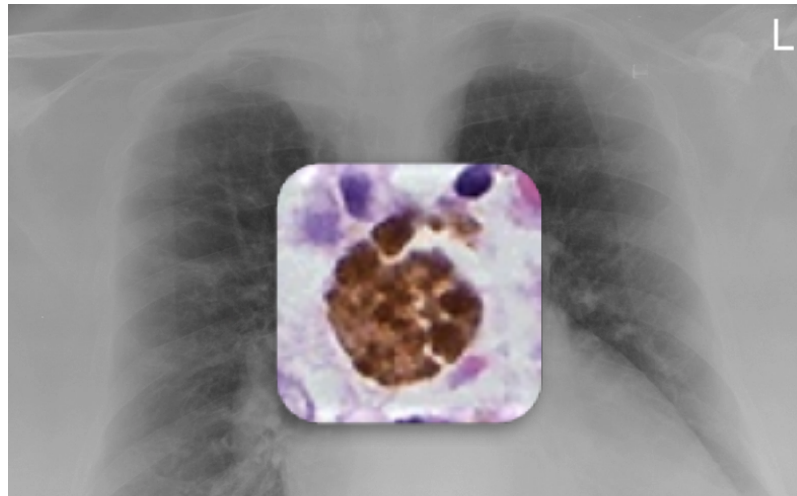
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Capillary rupture → 'heart failure cells'



Hemosiderin-laden MΦ (*Prussian blue stain*):  
 Ferritin (*storage form of iron*) aggregates



Hemosiderin-laden MΦ (*Prussian blue stain*):  
Ferritin (*storage form of iron*) aggregates

Patient noted at autopsy with *hemosiderin-laden* MΦ. Which of the following were present prior to patient's death?

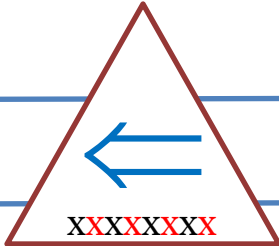
- Elevated hydrostatic mm Hg
- Proximal LAD lesion with occlusive thrombus
- Increased EDV/EDP/Preload
- Reduced CO/SV

PA

PV

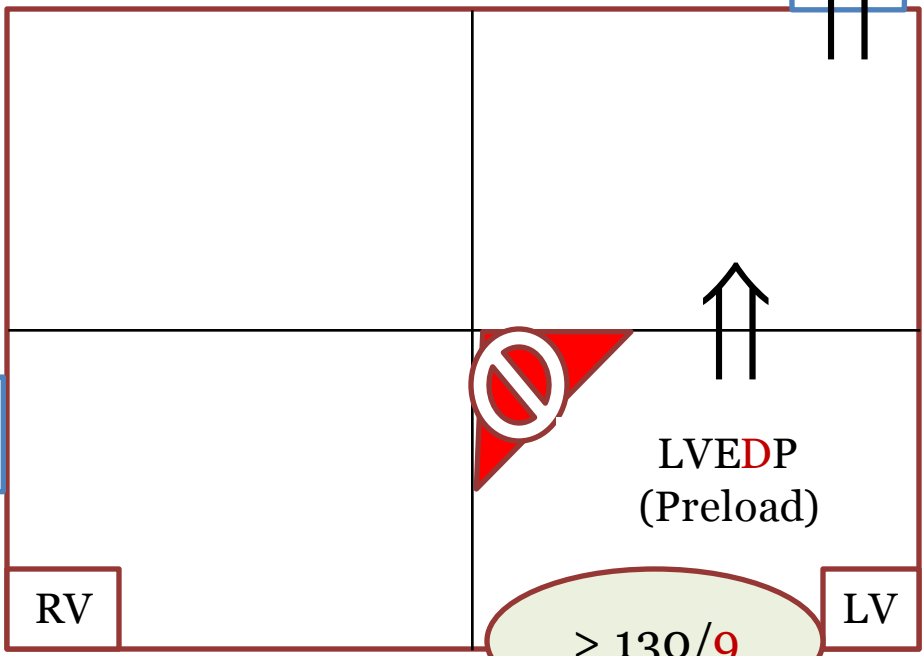


PCWP  
>> 12



*Venous congestion*

*Pulmonary Artery Catheter  
(Swan-Ganz)*

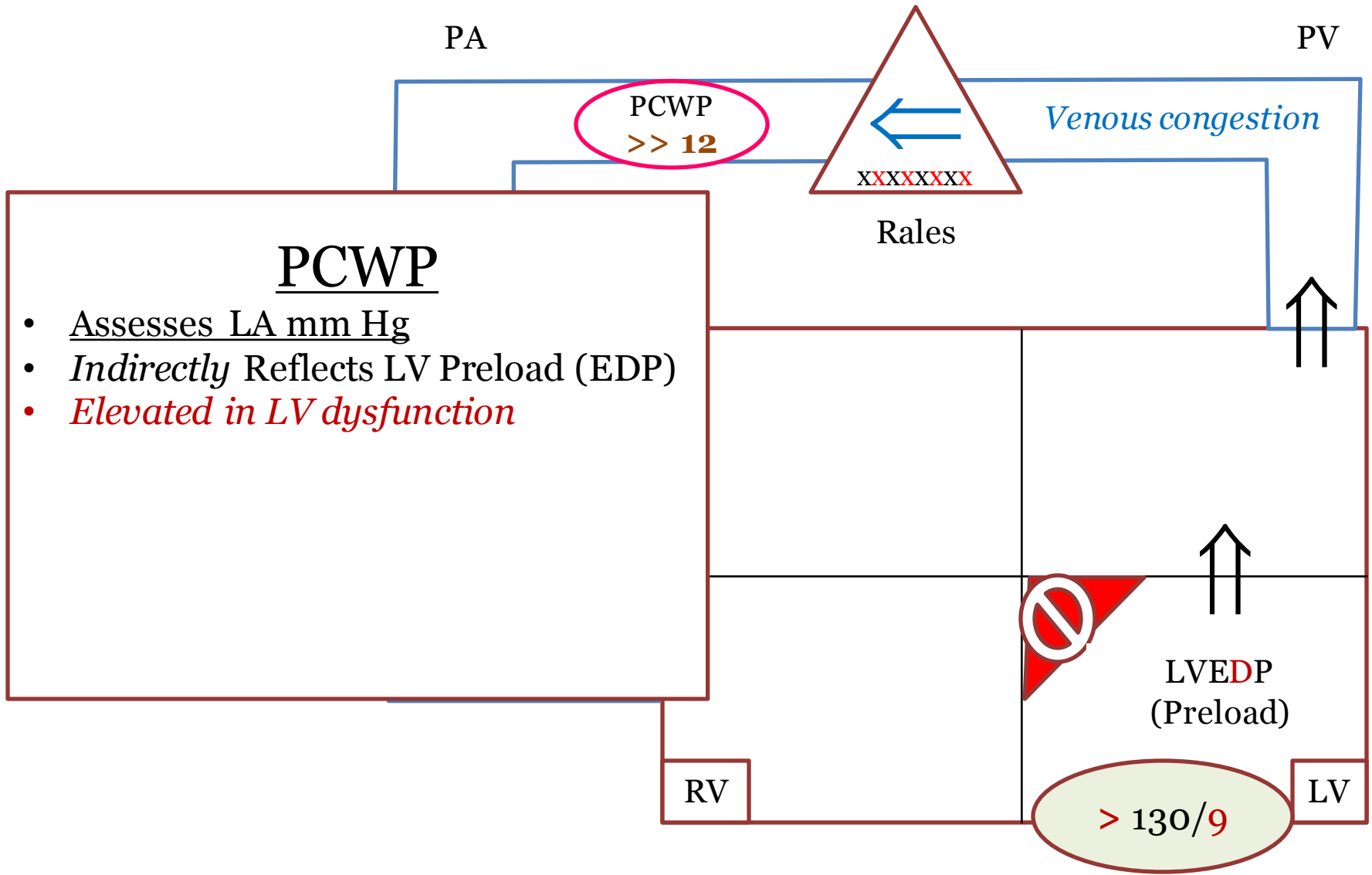


RV

LV

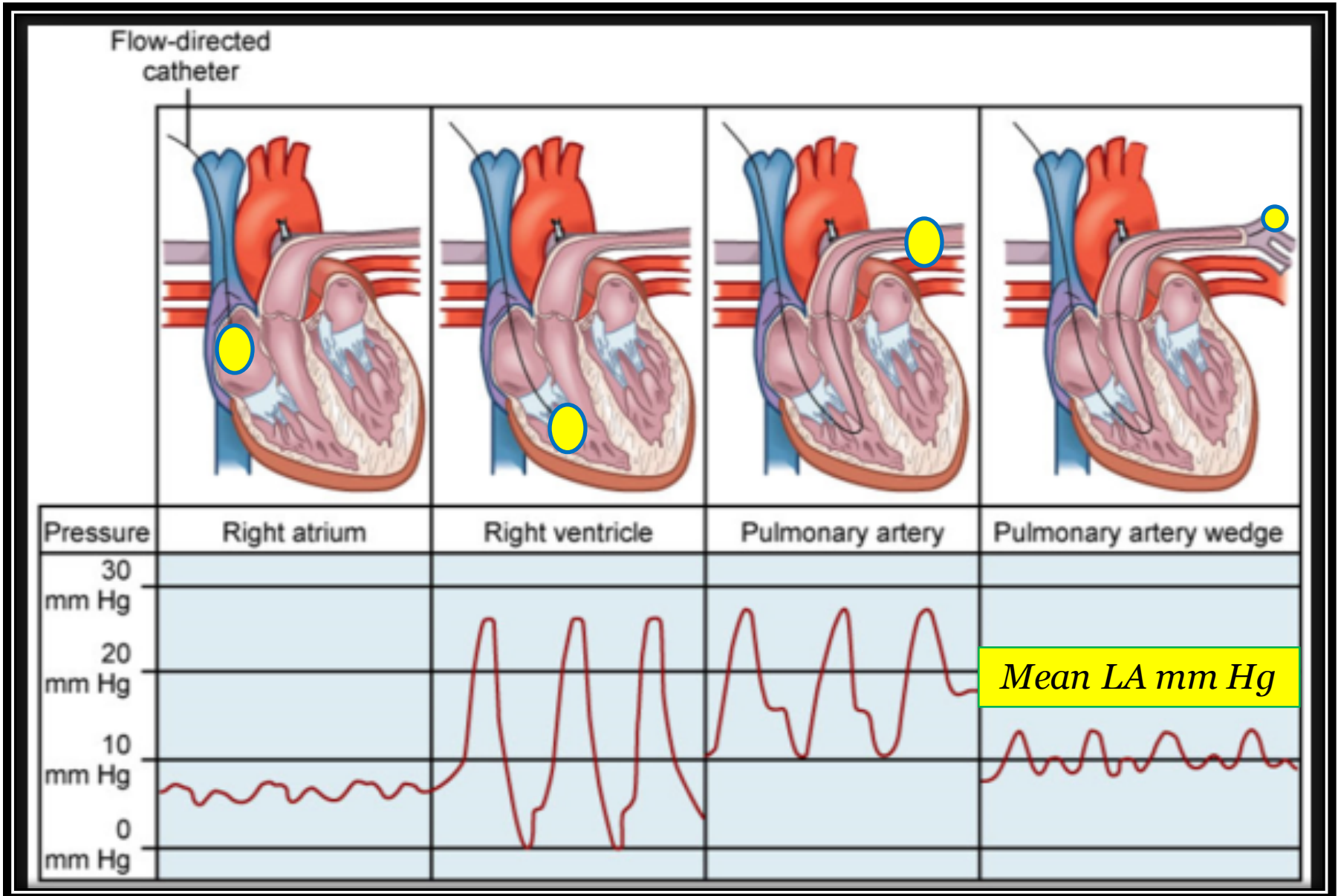
> 130/9

LVEDP  
(Preload)

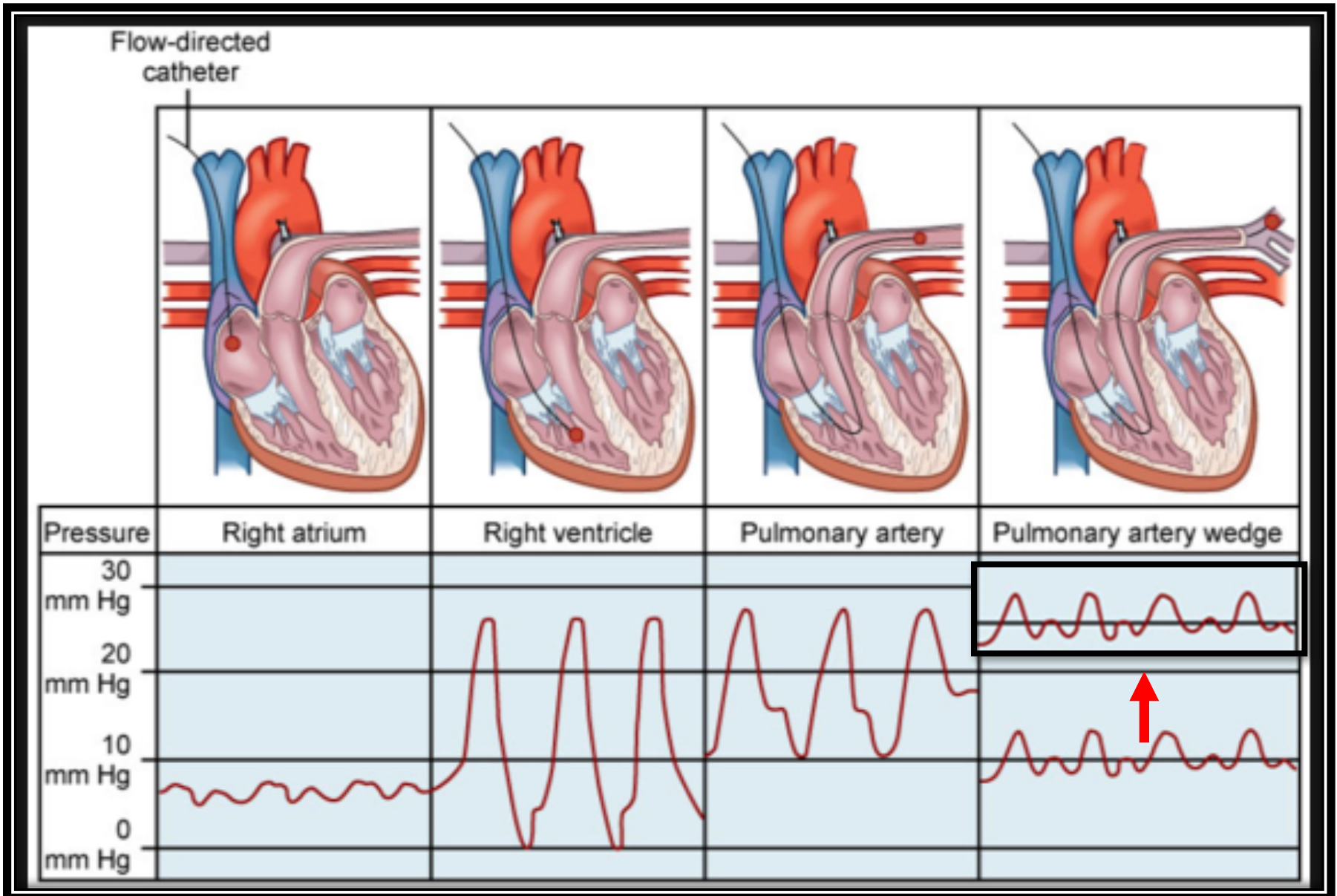


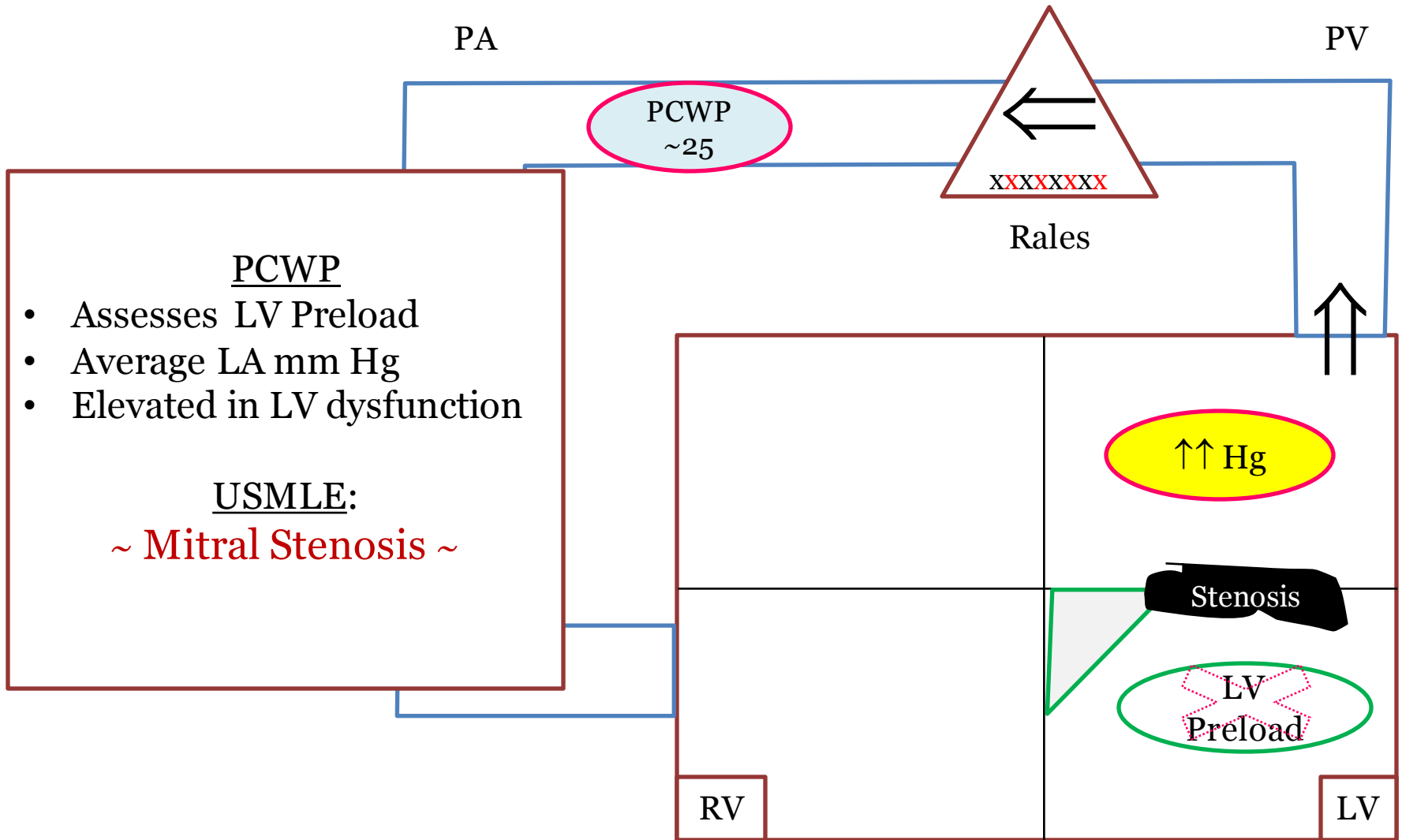


Normal pressures, waveforms. Note the catheter balloon being floated out to the pulmonary artery. When inflated, it gives 'wedge' pressure



In CHF, the PCWP rises *reflecting the elevated LVEDP*



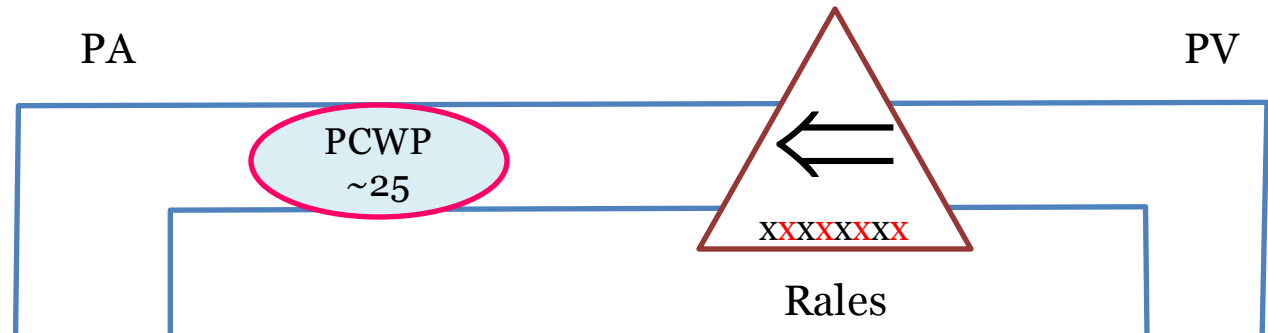


PCWP

- Assesses LV Preload
- Average LA mm Hg
- Elevated in LV dysfunction

USMLE:  
~ Mitral Stenosis ~

**A disconnect between PCWP and LV**



Mitral Stenosis Derivative:

Patient presents with SOB. PE: (+) JVD, lung bibasilar crackles  
Further investigation reveals a **PCWP of 25 mm Hg** and **LV pressure of 130/9**.  
What is the most likely diagnosis/cause/finding?



Dx: Mitral Stenosis

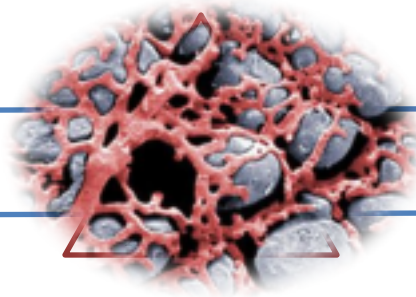
Cause: Repeated bouts of GAS (*S pyogenes*) infection

Finding: Opening Snap/Diastolic rumble at the apex

PA

PV

PCWP  
<12



Rales

PCWP

- Assesses LV Preload
- Average LA mm Hg
- Elevated in LV dysfunction

USMLE:

Mitral Stenosis

**ARDS (normal-low PCWP)**

12/2

130/9

LV

A low PCWP puts the 'noncardiogenic' in the *noncardiogenic pulmonary edema* of ARDS

↑ Capillary Permeability (leak) NOT ↑ Hydrostatic Pressure

PCWP  
<12

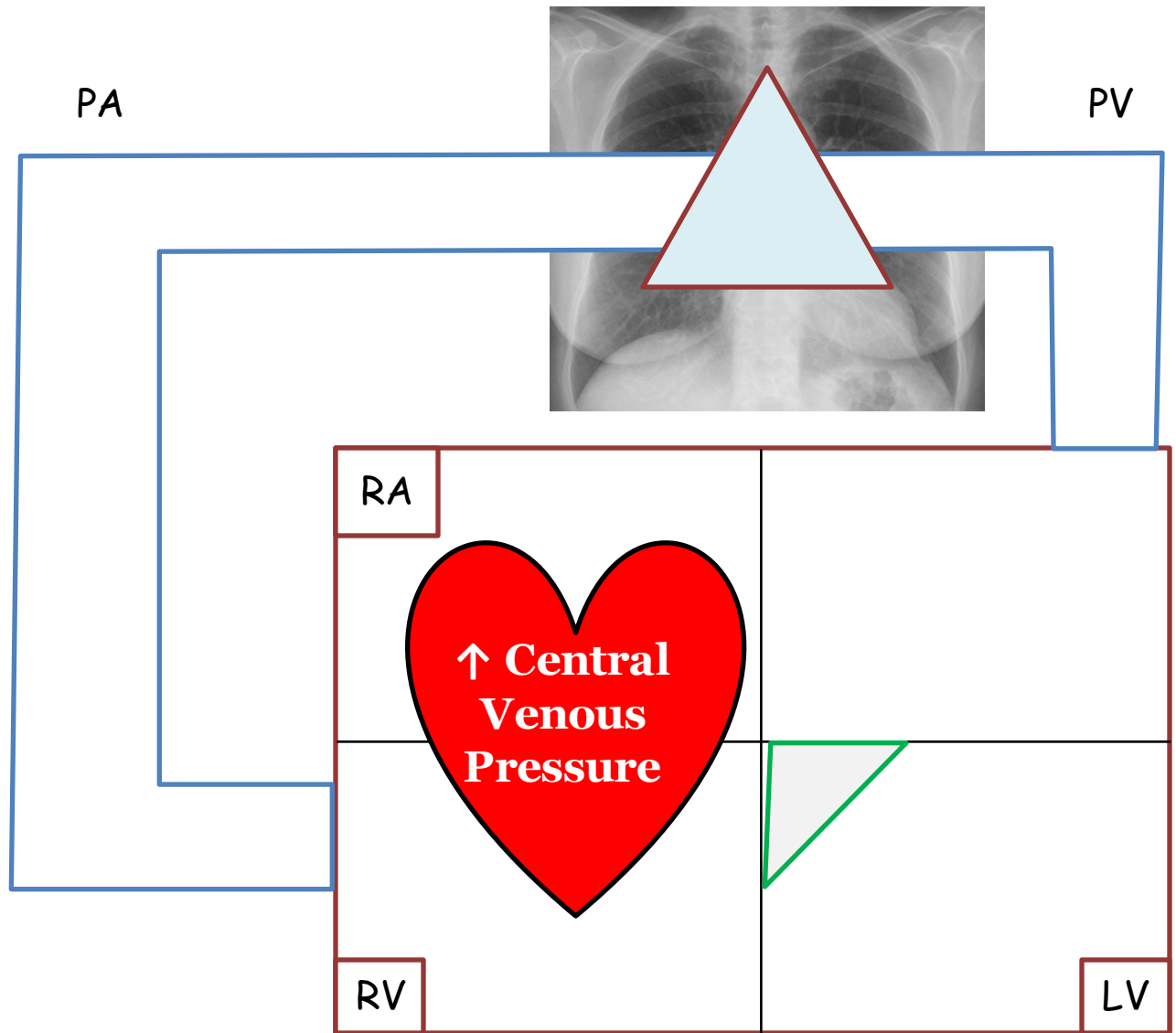
12/2

130/9

RV

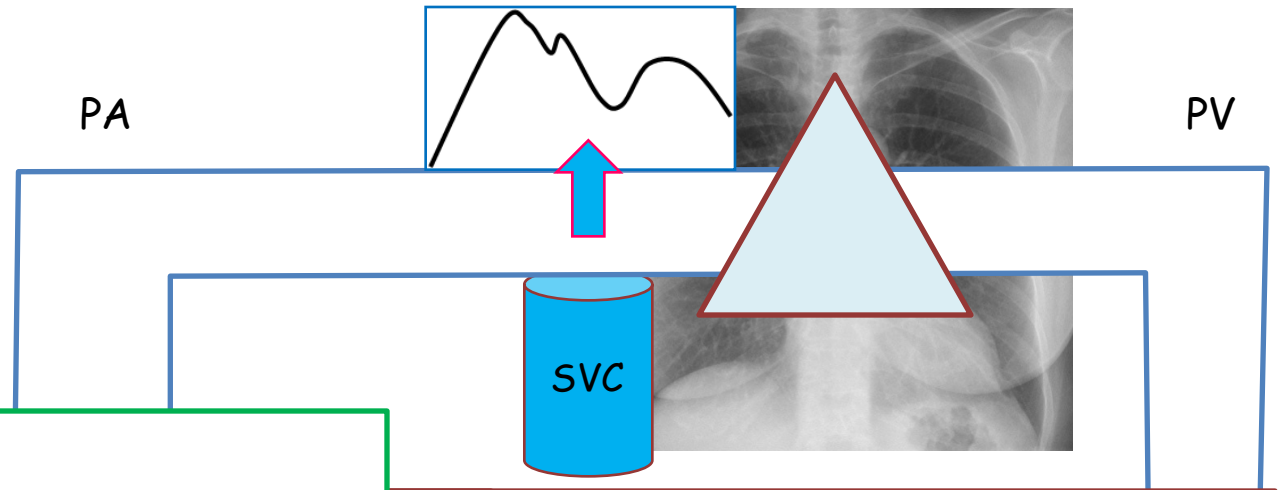
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*Right-sided* Congestive Heart Failure

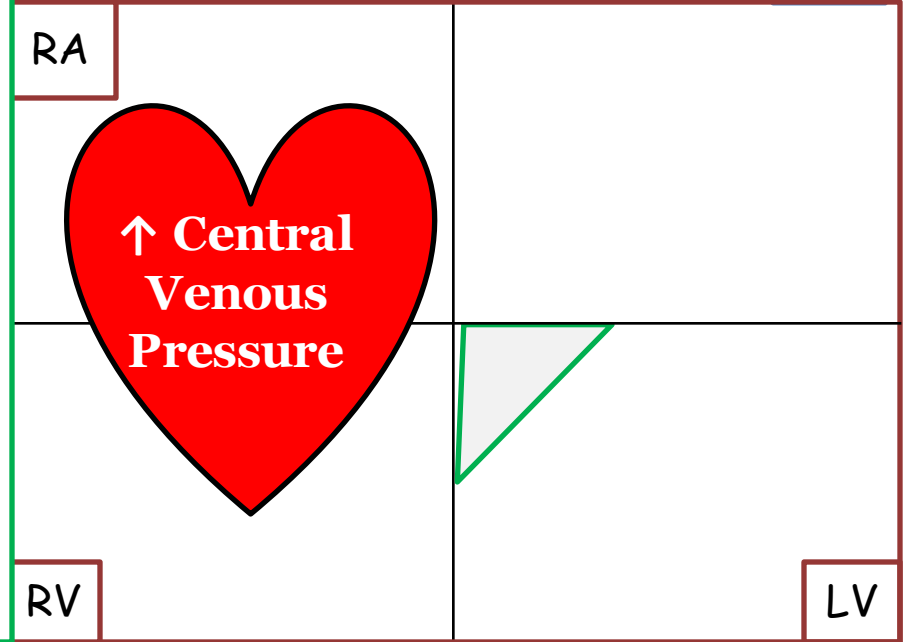


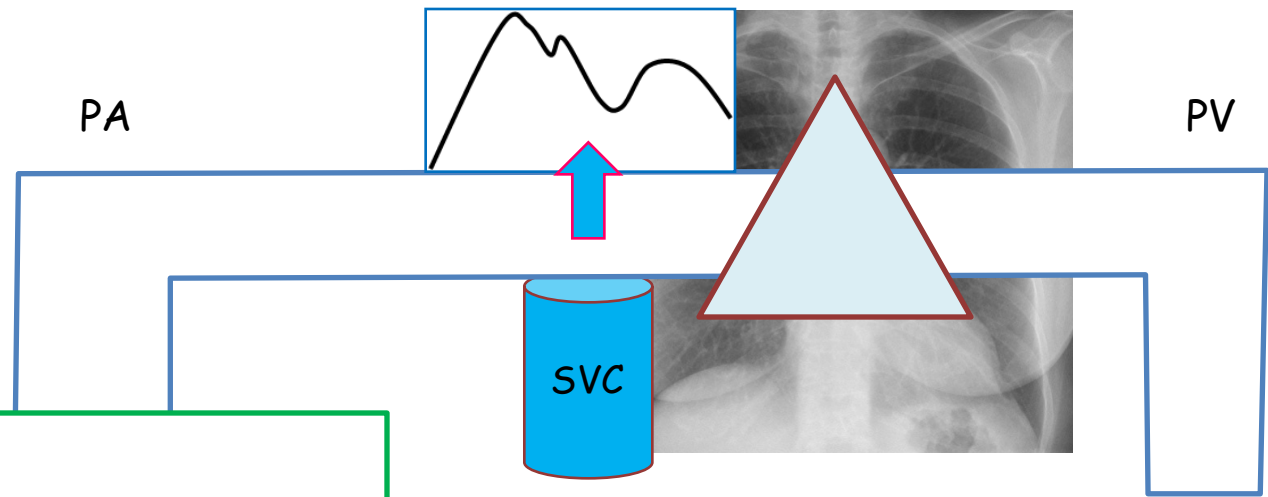


## JVP

- Reflects central venous pressure
- Influenced by left-sided pressure determinates (e.g. SV, CO) **BUT is a measure of CVP**

A – Atrial contraction  
 C – RV contraction with bowing of TV  
 V – Venous return





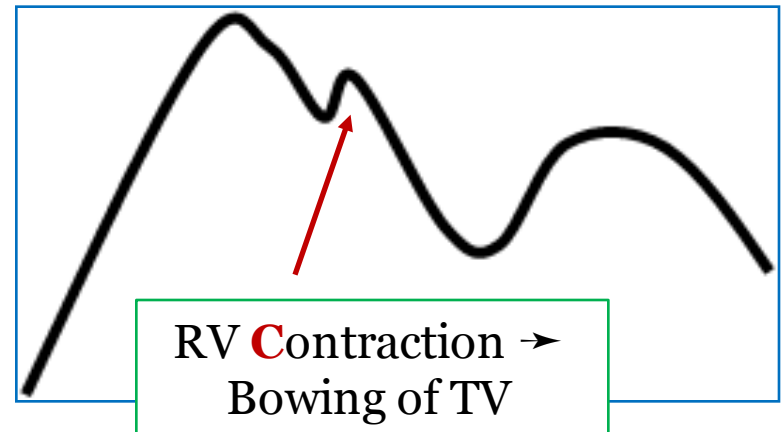
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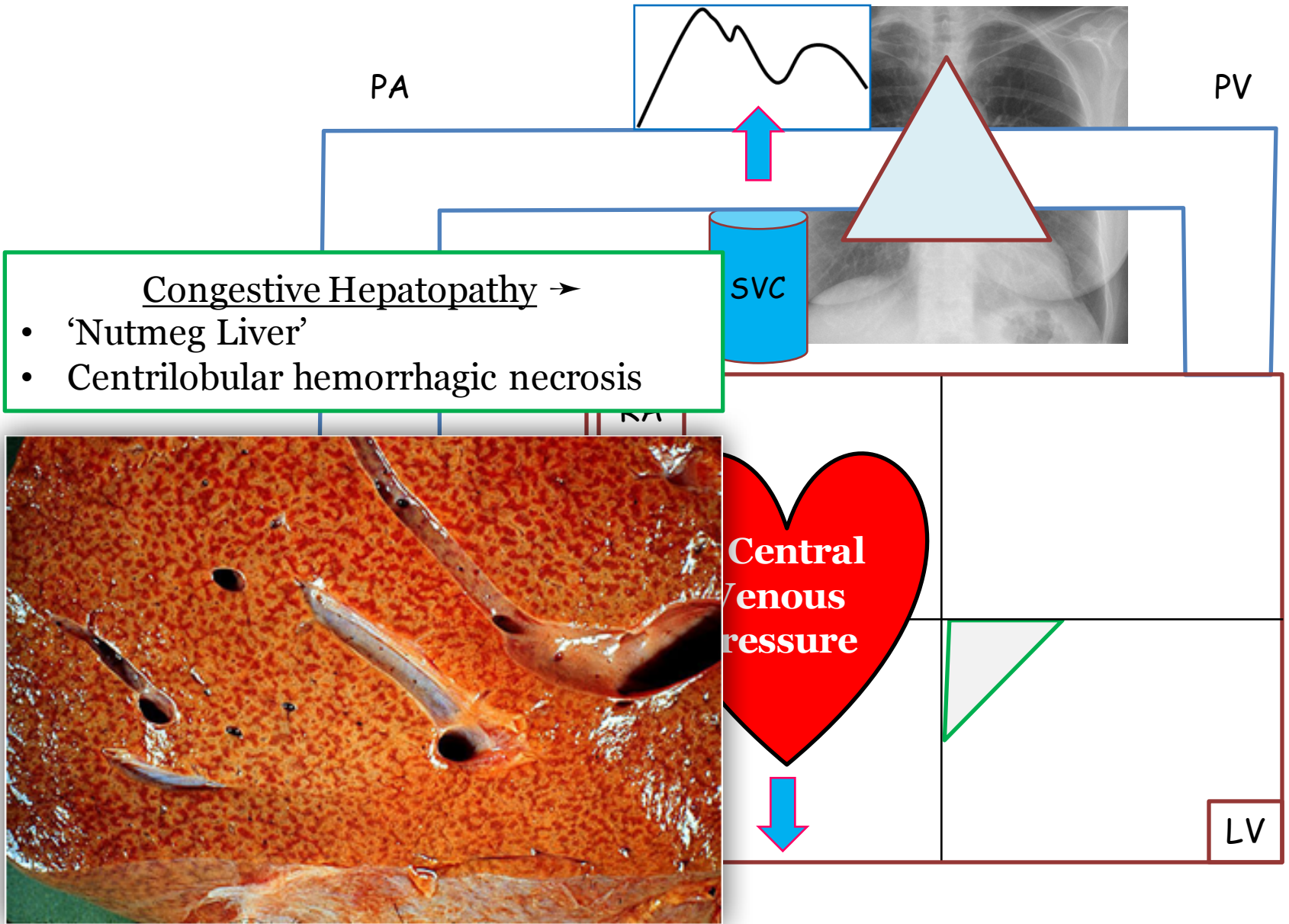
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**A**trial  
 Contraction

**V**enous  
 Return





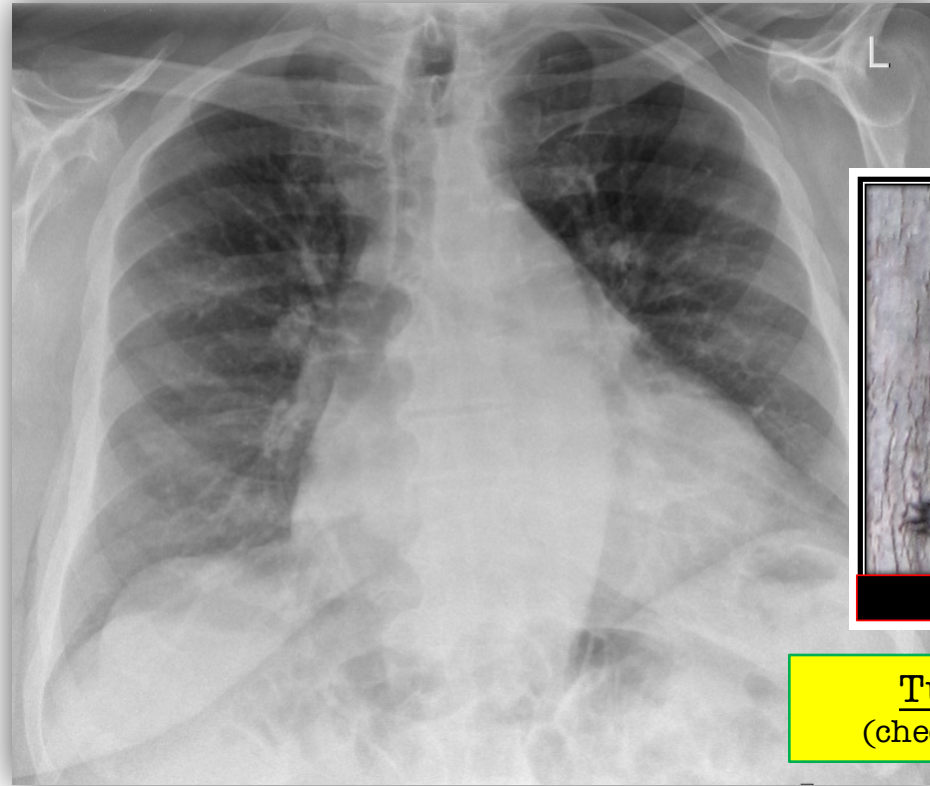


# Heart Failure and the Cardiomyopathies for the USMLE Step One Exam: *Part I: Key Background Information and Test Derivatives*

- Definition: inadequate perfusion, oxygenation of visceral organs
  - HF<sub>r</sub>EF
  - HF<sub>p</sub>EF
  - High output heart failure
- Key principles & language
- Core derivatives & concepts
  - *S<sub>3</sub>*
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