

# CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM

SUBJECT : physiology

LEC NO. : 15

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SCAN ME!

# **Heart Failure**

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# <sup>w</sup>Lectures Objectives:

1. Define heart failure, and the difference between low output and high output heart failure.
2. Describe etiology and basic pathophysiology of chronic heart failure (CHF).
3. Explain terminology related to CHF.
4. Describe signs and symptoms of CHF.
5. Outline therapeutic goals of treating CHF.

# Heart failure → No treatment so we aim to stop the progress of it instead of curing it

that doesn't mean that CO is small during rest, at the first stages of heart failure the CO during resting is normal & no symptoms during resting → symptoms occur when there is increase in demand for O<sub>2</sub> so it won't be able to increase CO during to heart failure

**Definition:** The inability of the CO to keep pace with the body's demand for supplies and removal of wastes. Heart failure is a **progressive syndrome** due to a variety of disease processes.

Sometimes heart failure is represented as increase in CO at rest for eg. 8 instead of 5 /min so the heart start to fail

**Pathogenesis:** It is mainly due to; after a period of time due to increase of CO at rest also it cannot increase the CO if needed

## 1. Prolonged pumping against a chronically elevated afterload (BP).

→ increase of after load of LV → ↑ resistance → uncontrolled cause heart failure

○ On the left side; ischemic and hypertensive heart disease

increase resistance of blood flow in the lungs

○ On the right side; cor pulmonale that is a complication of chronic lung disease, multiple pulmonary emboli, and primary pulmonary hypertension.

started with the lung then effect the heart → silent killer

→ ↑ pressure in pulmonary artery → ↑ after load in front of RA

after multiple occlusion it will be hard to pump blood from the heart to the lungs cause ↑ in pulmonary pressure

→ No reason causing ↑ pressure in pulmonary artery

## 2. After myocardial infarction load is increased on remaining viable cells.

Large part of one of the ventricles suffer from myocardium infarction causing the death of large number of cells so the rest functioning cells won't be able to compensate → causing "cardiogenic heart failure"

## 3. Variety of other disease processes such as valvular heart disease, congenital heart disease, and cardiomyopathies.

↳ causing murmur → left untreated cause heart failure

eg. valve diseases

→ Tetralogy of Fallot

■ ↑ Afterload → Concentric hypertrophy of myocytes with little hyperplasia & cardiac dilation & failure.

"unknown causes"

eg. aortic valve stenosis → LV can't pump blood effectively to aorta → ↑ after load failure of LV

↳ increase thickness of ventricles but the heart cavity stay the same  
↳ due to increase of after load (explained in next slide)

in case of incompetence

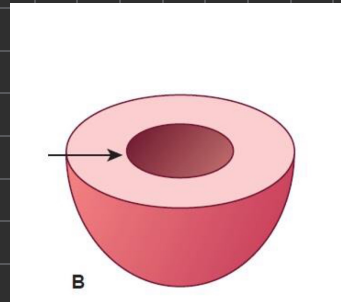
■ ↑ Preload or ↓ afterload → ↑ CO → Eccentric hypertrophy → Heart failure.

explained in next slide

↓  
pump 70 ml to the aorta but part of it 20 ml would be back to the heart  
↑ EDV → causing chronic increase in EDV  
↑ contractility → until it can't

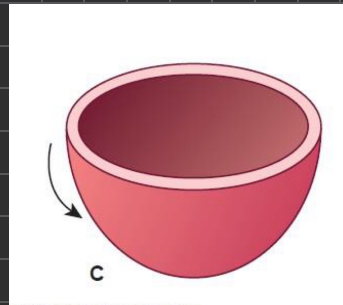
the thickness of the ventricles walls are increased while the cavity volume / EDV is the same with slight decrease in SV, the thickness increased so it could be able to overcome the after load → it's explained by Laplace's Law  
 → tension =  $\frac{P_{in} \times R}{wall\ thickness}$

if the pressure is increased in LV to overcome the increase of after load → ↑ tension the heart try to reduce the increase in tension by increase the wall thickness so the tension would be back to normal by hypertrophy with same radius this is called "concentric hypertrophy" which then end with heart failure with time



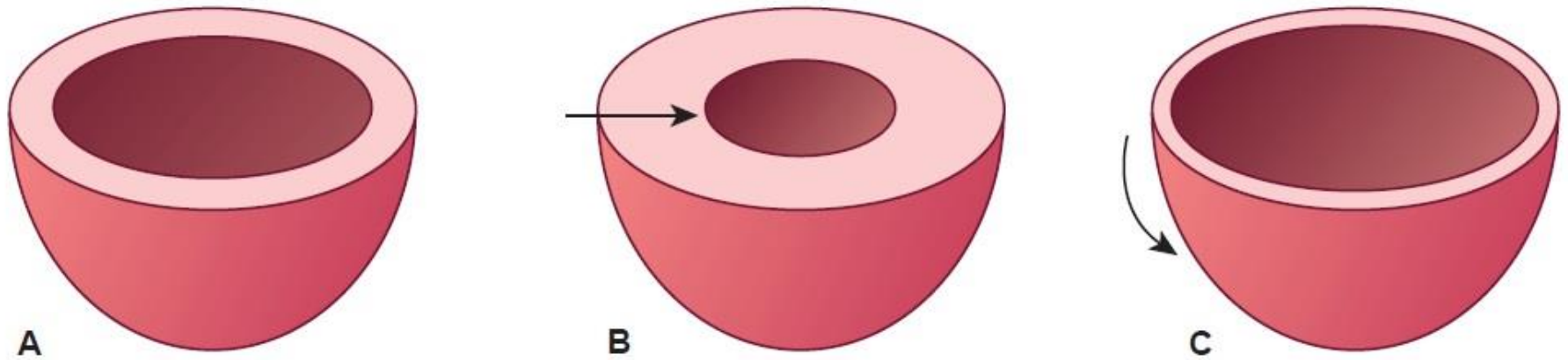
now lets talk about the increase of EDV / pre load

eg. aortic incompetence → ↑ EDV causing chronic decrease in after load due to Frank-Starling law → the heart pump what it receive → so the heart now is pumping 100 but through the valve some come back & to circulate then 70 is re-added by venous return ≈ 100 causing increase in LV volume / EDV & decrease in thickness of the ventricle wall this is called "Eccentric hypertrophy" which then end with heart failure with time



marathon runners have large heart because they pump 100 ml SV  $\rightarrow$  while w  $r_0$   
 it's not pathological because it's balanced with the thickness of the wall  $C_0 = 5$

$70 \text{ ml} \times 70 \text{ heart beat/minute}$   
 $\uparrow$   
 normal  $70 \times 70 = 5000 \text{ ml/minute}$   
 athletes  $50 \times 100 = 5000 \text{ ml/minute}$   $\rightarrow$  same cardiac output



**FIGURE** Different types of myocardial hypertrophy. (A) Normal symmetric hypertrophy with proportionate increases in myocardial wall thickness and length. (B) Concentric hypertrophy with a disproportionate increase in wall thickness. (C) Eccentric hypertrophy with a disproportionate decrease in wall thickness and ventricular dilation.

\* B & C could end up in heart failure if they remain untreated.

# Pathophysiological mechanisms of heart failure:

it might be as result of both which is the worst type

1. **Systolic dysfunction** describes **ejection abnormalities** that slow the rate of pressure rise during isovolumic contraction and the rate and extent of ejection

The systolic dysfunction =  $\downarrow$  vent. contraction and  $\downarrow$  SV and  $\uparrow$  ESV.  $\rightarrow$  which we can conclude that ejection fraction  $\downarrow$

*↳ contractility is reduced  $\rightarrow$  but with normal diastole so the EPV  $\rightarrow$  but can't pump normal SV due to the weak contractility*

*so if we see reduced ejection fraction its Systolic HF*

*$\frac{SV}{EPV}$*

Causes of systolic dysfunction include **left ventricular damage** caused by **myocardial infarction**, **dilated cardiomyopathies**, **viral myocarditis**, and **toxic and metabolic abnormalities**.

*$\rightarrow$  normal ejection fraction so normal ejection fraction doesn't rule out HF*

2. **Diastolic dysfunction** describes **impaired ventricular filling** by **slowing the rate of pressure fall** during **isovolumic relaxation**, **decreasing the rate of filling**, or **increasing stiffness** throughout diastole

Diastolic dysfunction =  $\downarrow$  vent. elasticity +  $\uparrow$  vent. Pr. +  $\downarrow$  vent. Filling  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  venous congestion and edema.

*the heart can no longer expand to receive the full amount of venous return  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  EDV & ESV*

*in LV  $\rightarrow$  pulmonary hyper tension  
RV  $\rightarrow$  edema & hepatomegaly*

*before contraction  $\uparrow$  due to decrease in area (volume)*

*accumulation of fluid in interstitial fluid due to increase blood volume in veins*

# Pathophysiological mechanisms of heart failure (cont.):

- Diastolic dysfunction can be caused by wall thickening and reduced cavity volume in patients with hypertension, myocardial ischemia, or hypertrophic cardiomyopathies. And restrictive diseases like amyloidosis, fibroelastosis, and pericardial disease.
  - 3. In systolic dysfunction ejection fraction % decreases from normal of 65% (range 55%-70%) to as low as 20%. However, ejection fraction could be *normal* in diastolic dysfunction. so again normal ejection fraction doesn't rule out HF
  - 4. CO decreases initially only during exercise, but then it decrease at rest. late stages of HF
- Note: systolic and diastolic dysfunction commonly occur together, which makes it difficult for any hemodynamic measurement to identify which of these mechanisms is responsible for impaired pump function.



→ symptoms at rest occur when this mechanism fail

**Compensatory mechanism:** why at the beginning of HF doesn't effect the patient at rest?  
can succeed initially as there is;

1. ↑ Sympathetic activity to the heart. *explained in the next slide*
2. Kidney retains salt & water to increase EDV to pump back normal CO at a longer cardiac muscle fiber length (heart looks bigger in chest X-ray). *the Sympathetic stimulation will effect the kidney increasing reabsorption of Na<sup>+</sup> & water to ↑ blood volume*  
As the disease progresses, the heart reaches a point at which it is no longer able to pump out a normal SV. The mechanism is as such;

*hypervolumen  
can be detected  
by chest x ray*

The decrease in BP → ↓ baroreceptor reflex → ↑ sympathetic activity + renal vasoconstriction + ↑ renin secretion (and aldosterone secretion) → Na<sup>+</sup> and water retention. *على القلب لازم ما يزيد عن الحد الطبيعي*

**Note:** People with heart failure often use their cardiac reserve at rest. Therefore, just climbing a flight of stairs may cause shortness of breath because they have exceeded their cardiac reserve.

*need more CO can't be achieved by compensatory mechanism → symptoms appear*

## 1) increase sympathetic activity of the heart

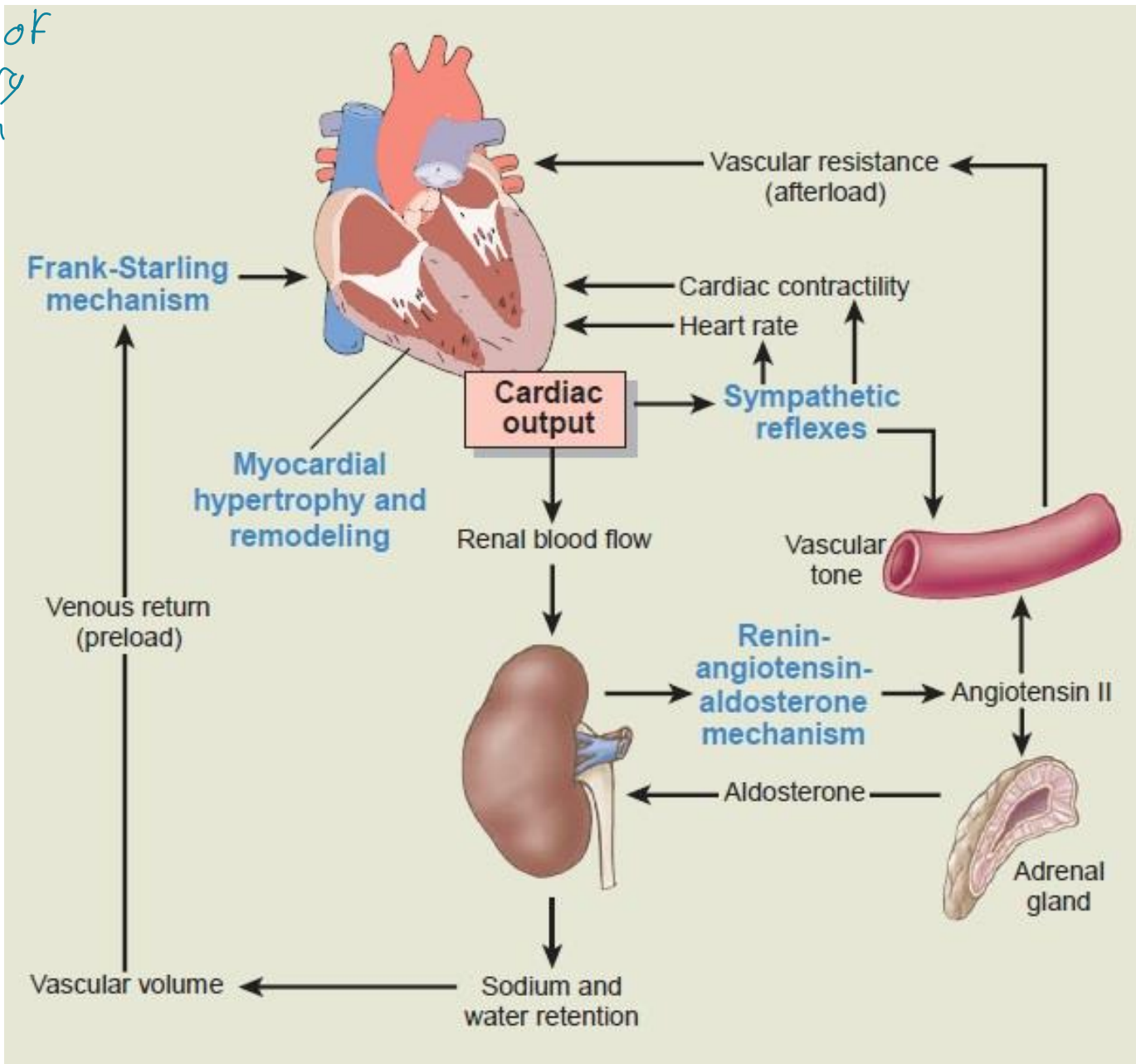
at the beginning of HF BP is reduced (still in the normal range) but baroreceptor detect that small decrease in BP cause reflex sympathetic stimulation  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  noreadrenaline reaching to the heart  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$   $\beta_1$  receptors stimulation  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  contractility + sympathetic stimulation will effect the kidney so renin will cause increase in angiotensin I production  $\rightarrow$  angiotensin II  $\rightarrow$  causing aldosterone production which increase water-salt retention these mechanism  $\uparrow$  venous return  $\uparrow$  CO

### Angiotensin II functions:

#### 1) vasoconstriction

$\rightarrow$  stimulate to produce aldosterone

summary of compensatory mechanism



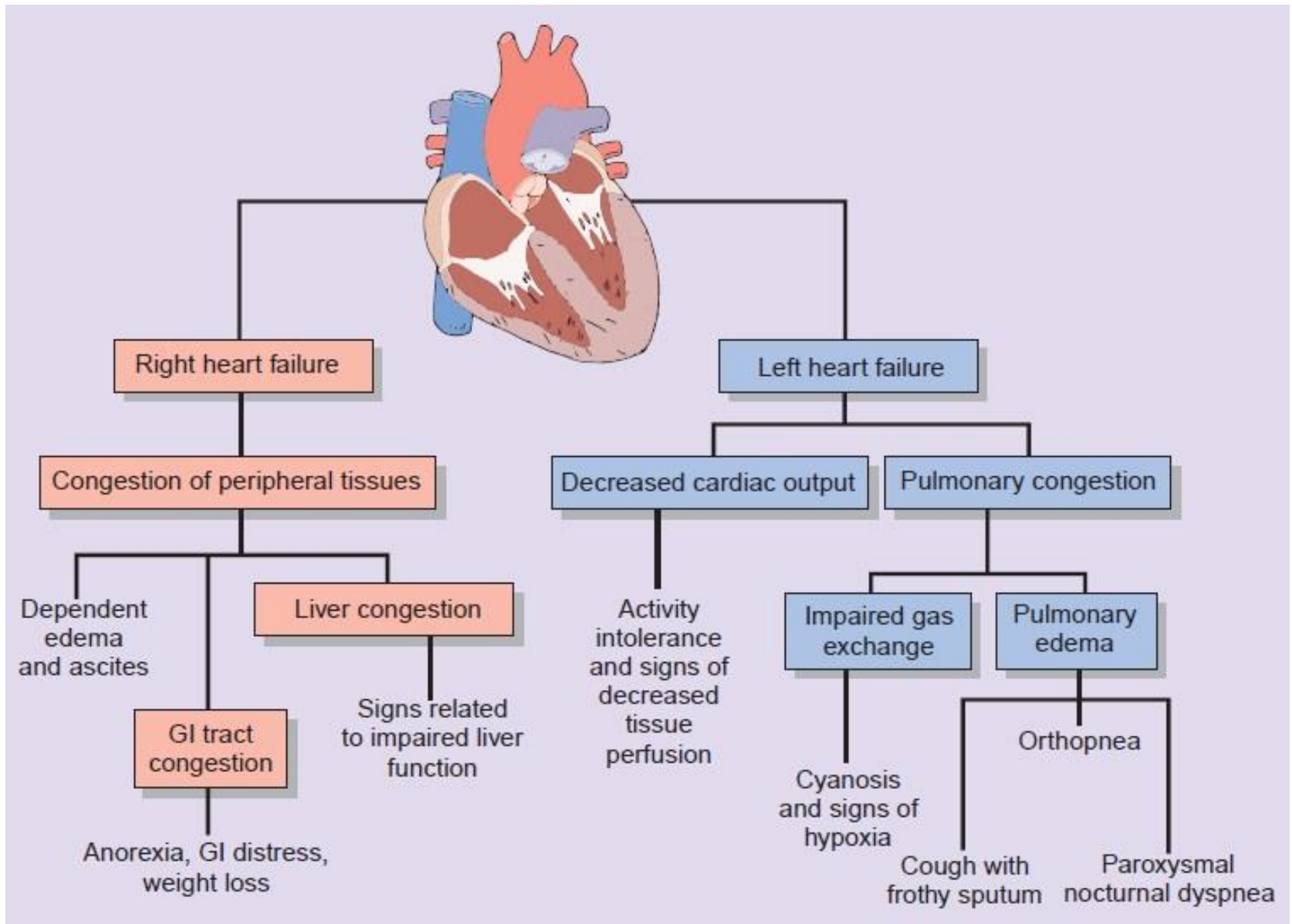
Compensatory mechanisms in heart failure

**Types:** *↳ in other words → normal metabolic activity*

1. **Low-output failure** = **normal metabolism** + **↓ CO** *most common*
2. **High-output failure** = **↑ metabolism** or **↓ afterload** + **↑ CO** but **less than demand** (e.g. **thyrotoxicosis; severe anemia; arterio-venous fistula; vit. Thiamine deficiency or Beriberi**)  
*↳ most common cause of high-output HF*  
*eg. thyrotoxicosis increase thyroxine concentration which is an hormone cause an increase in metabolic activity so now all body tissues need more blood now blood flow must increase due to arterioles dilatation → ↓ after load (resistance) → ↑ venous return → the heart need to pump 6L/min but because it's a chronic disease after time the heart cannot keep increase the CO causing High-output failure*  
*↳ Hb ↓ → O<sub>2</sub> ↓ → generalized hypoxia → blood vessel dilatation → ↑ venous return → ↑ CO → until it stop*

## **Manifestation of congestive H. failure:**

- Symptoms*
1. Overt heart failure may be precipitated by conditions such as infection, emotional stress, uncontrolled hypertension, or fluid overload.
  2. Sign and symptoms of fatigue + Dyspnea on exertion, and in severe cases orthopnea (= dyspnea precipitated by lying flat)
  3. Cardiac enlargement
  4. Edema of the dependent portions of the body, ascites, and pleural effusions in right heart failure
  5. Case progresses to pulmonary edema (left heart failure)
  6. Prolonged circulation time
  7. Hepatomegaly + distention of neck veins



Manifestation of left and right-sided heart failure

# Treatment:

\* increase HR doesn't work because it's already done by the compensatory mechanism  
\* increase contractility by increasing the stimulation of  $P_1$  receptors in the heart doesn't work either same reason  
\* increase blood volume to increase venous return to increase CO No → kidney already done it !!

The aim is directed to reverse fluid retention by the kidneys, which is the major cause of edema, and reduce peripheral arteriolar vasoconstriction, which lowers cardiac output and decreases cardiac efficiency; *the only solution is to decrease the heart after load by decreasing angiotensin effect because*

1. Increase contractility (by digitalis) to treat systolic dysfunction. *inhibit  $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$  pump ↑ intracellular  $\text{Na}^+$  ↑  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ↑ contractility but cause cellular edema*

2. Decrease the load on the heart by decreasing the production of angiotensin II by ACE inhibitors (or by blocking the effect of angiotensin II on AT1 receptors).

Such measurement reduces circulating aldosterone level and ↓ blood pressure. Recently aldosterone receptor blockers seem promising.

The load on the heart can also be reduced by drugs that decrease venous tone; such as nitrates, hydralazine, and diuretics. These drugs ultimately lower the preload.

↓ angiotensin cause vasoconstriction & increase water salt retention by ↑ aldosterone so be decreasing it we will cause vasodilation & ↓ blood volume which will decrease after load

best solution

## Note:

1. ATP and phosphocreatine levels are significantly reduced in overloaded and failing hearts. This is because energy production in failing hearts is usually decreased.
2. The use of  $\beta$  blockers was found recently to reduce mortality and morbidity in heart failure as they are energy-sparing. *help the heart to increase ATP consumption in effective way*
3. Digitalis is especially useful in heart failure that is associated with atrial fibrillation as it slows the ventricular rate. Digitalis is of little benefit in patients who are in sinus rhythm.

# Test Question:

# مش متأكد

Q. Which of the following has the greatest impact on mortality with regards to chronic therapy of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction?

*systolic HF weak contractility*

A. Beta blockers *→ no already weak contractility*

B. Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists

C. Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors

*↳ cause vasodilation which will cause ↑ venous return → progress the problem the heart can't pump so we need to reduce blood volume not increase it*

D. Angiotensin II receptor blockers

E. Hydralazine (a potent arteriolar dilator)