

ED Pitfalls Series: *Cardiovascular Problems as Examples*

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2010/8/16

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Preface

- The duty and specialty of emergency physicians are **correct and immediate diagnosis**.
- **Physiological** approach for non-traumatic patients and **Anatomical** approach for traumatic ones
- Logics: comparable with chief complaints.
- To err is human who includes the patients.

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Preface: Sources of Errors

- Atypical presentations
 - Typical is sometimes minor whereas atypical is major.
- Missing the key points
 - What causes him (she) visit the ED? (What is the true chief complaint?)
- Incorrect exclusion
- Finding one abnormality is sometimes not enough. (Tip of the Iceberg)
- The first minute is not the same as the last minute.
- Consultation does not mean resolution.

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Preface: Major Principles

- Revisiting means **Complete Study**.
- Always keep clinical suspicion.
- Keep flexible attitude.
- Always re-evaluate from the very beginning.
- Review carefully the old charts or records.
- Keep what should be maintained.
- Learn from READ triage.

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Case 1

- A 45-year-old female presented with diarrhea for several days. Vital signs were BP 142/98, PR 147 bpm, RR 20 /min, BT 38°C, SaO₂ 97%. Breathing sound was clear. Heart sounds revealed irregular-irregular heart beats. Your colleague told you that this is a case of infectious diarrhea.
- What do you think about her?

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Case 1

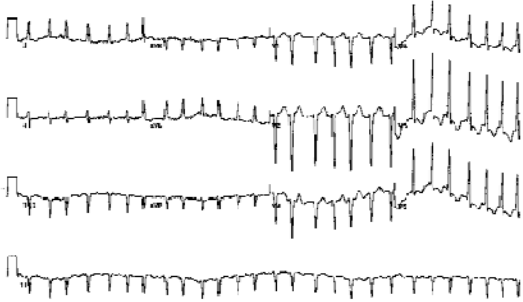
- Irregular Rhythm (Pulse)
 - Regular-irregular
 - Irregular-irregular: TWO Big
 - Atrial fibrillation (AF) → Cardiac problem (CHF)
 - Multifocal Atrial Tachycardia (MAT) → Lung problem (COPD)

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Case 1



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Case 1



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Case 1

- Chronic AF
 - Always cardiomegaly
- Paroxysmal AF
 - Usually small heart
 - Look for underlying causes before idiopathic AF is diagnosed.

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Case 1

- Secondary AF
 - Also in those with no other risks of heart problem
 - Precipitating factors
 - Hyperthyroidism: beta blocker; anti-thyroid
 - Fever
 - Pain
 - Anxiety
 - Sympathomimetic Agents
 - Vagolytic agents
- Treat underlying

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Case 1

- Thyroid function revealed that increased T3 and free T4, and significantly low TSH. Hyperthyroidism was diagnosed.
- Propranolol and PTU were then prescribed.

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Case 1

- Two days later, the patient felt dyspnea. Bilateral rales were noted. Chest film revealed lung edema.
- What is the treatment modality?

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Case 1

- High-Output Heart Failure
 - Profound anemia
 - Thyrotoxicosis
 - Myxedema
 - Paget disease of bone
 - Albright syndrome
 - Multiple myeloma
 - Glomerulonephritis
 - Cor pulmonale
 - Polycythemia vera
 - Obesity
 - Carcinoid syndrome
 - Pregnancy
 - Nutritional deficiencies (eg, thiamine deficiency, beriberi)

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Case 1

- Thyroid storm
 - Precipitating factors
 - Infection
 - Surgery
 - Trauma
 - Radioactive iodine treatment
 - Pregnancy
 - Anticholinergic and adrenergic drugs
 - TH ingestion
 - Diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA)

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Case 1

- Thyroid storm
 - Treatment
 - (1) ameliorating hyperadrenergic effects of TH on peripheral tissues with use of beta-blockers (eg, propranolol, labetalol);
 - (2) decreasing production of TH with antithyroid medications (eg, propylthiouracil [PTU], methimazole), thereby blocking further synthesis of THs;
 - (3) decreasing hormonal secretion from the thyroid, using iodides; and
 - (4) preventing further TH secretion and peripheral conversion of T4 to T3, using glucocorticoids.

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Case 1 (comments)

- Don't believe completely what your colleague tells you because to err is human.
- Re-evaluate every patient and integrate the clinical information again and again.

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Case 2

- A 68-year-old male patient consulted our ED due to fever for 2 days. Vital signs were BP 122/64, PR 57 bpm, RR 22 /min, BT 39°C, SaO2 95%. Breathing sound was coarse with right rhonchi.
- What do you think about him?

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Case 2

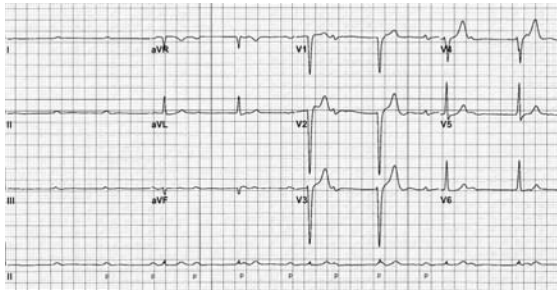
- Laboratory findings were leukocytosis (WBC 18,200, band 5%, seg 81%), Hb 12.3, platelet 68K. In addition, BUN 59, Cre 2.4, Na 138, K 5.8, Cl 94 and ABG revealing metabolic acidosis with partial respiratory compensation. CRP was 4.5. CXR revealed RLL pneumonia.
- What else examination should be ordered?

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Case 2



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Class I (立即處理)

- 意識程度下降
- 生命現象：
 - 收縮壓： $<80\text{mmHg}$ 或 $>220\text{mmHg}$
 - 心跳： $\geq 150\text{bpm}$ 或 $\leq 50\text{bpm}$
 - 呼吸： $\geq 30\text{rpm}$ 或 $\leq 8\text{rpm}$
 - 體溫： $\geq 41^\circ\text{C}$ 或 $\leq 32^\circ\text{C}$
- 內科：異物阻塞；已插氣管內管或胸管者；呼吸窘迫；發紺；心因性胸痛；正在抽搐；內出血併生命現象不穩定者
- 外科：外傷出血無法控制者；大於 5cm 的開放性傷口；疑呼吸道(顏面)灼傷；電灼傷；化學性灼傷；三度TBSA $>10\%$ ；二度TBSA $>15\%$ ；骨盆或股骨骨折；開放性骨折；疑頸椎骨折；頭部嚴重畸形；腦組織外露；內臟外露；皮下氣腫；胸腹開放性傷口；毒蛇；虎頭蜂咬傷；槍傷或穿刺傷
- 婦產科：急產；性侵害
- 精神科：攻擊性行為

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Class II (十分鐘內處理)

- 生命現象：
 - 收縮壓： $180-220\text{mmHg}$
 - 呼吸： $20-30\text{rpm}$
 - 體溫： $39-41^\circ\text{C}$ 或 $32-35^\circ\text{C}$
- 內科：呼吸喘；呼吸困難；胸痛原因不明者；疼痛併嚴重症狀者(劇痛、臉色蒼白)；暈眩(Vertigo)；突發性神經症狀；內出血併HR $>100\text{bpm}$ ；吐血；嘔吐、腹瀉、脫水致HR $>100\text{bpm}$
- 外科：小於 5cm 的開放性傷口；疑有骨折；關節腫脹；疑頭骨骨折；其他昆蟲、動物咬傷；急性尿滯留(≥ 6 小時)
- 精神科：自殺行為或傾向
- 眼科：眼內異物
- 耳鼻喉科：耳鼻喉道內異物

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Class III (三十分鐘內處理)

- 生命現象：
 - 體溫： $38-39^\circ\text{C}$
- 內科：抽搐已停止者；疼痛但無嚴重症狀者；頭暈(dizziness)；血便、黑便、咳血但生命徵象穩定者；嘔吐、腹瀉但生命徵象穩定者；疑似或輕微中風
- 外科：無傷口之軟組織傷害；動物抓傷；血尿；尿路結石；解尿困難
- 精神科：失眠

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Class IV (可延後處理)

- 不符合急診以上條例，如：
 - 頭痛、喉痛、咳嗽、流鼻水等感冒症狀。
 - 中風後遺症。
 - 中風已數日，在別處已處理過，來本院等住院者。
 - 已知癌症的病患，其主訴顯然與癌症有關者，且生命徵象正常。
 - 自門診轉來做常規檢查的治療者。
 - 自門診轉來等住院者，但生命徵象正常者。
 - 主訴某種症狀已有相當時日，但生命徵象正常者。

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Case 2 (comments)

- Triage should be made by **integration of all available parameters** instead of judgment one by one.
- In this case, relative bradycardia in consideration of the presence of fever may be the most important clue!
- Other examples: **Case A-K**

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5-Tier READ Triage

- TTAS by Triage Nurses
 - Can modify according to clinical judgment
- Re-triage by Emergency Physicians
 - Register in HIS system
 - 1st re-triage should NOT be lower than TTAS
- Dynamic Triage: (color codes as internationally designed)
 - Triage I: **Red**
 - Triage II: **Orange**
 - Triage III: **Yellow**
 - Triage IV: **Green**
 - Triage V: **Blue**
 - Changing Triage should be treated as an Order!

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TTAS檢傷可能衍生問題

- Under-Triage
 - Esp. for Those without Adequate Compensation Mechanisms
 - Difficulties between Triage I and II
- Negative Impact on Efficiency
 - D2B Time
 - Fibrinolytics for New-Onset Ischemic Stroke

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Case A

- A 70 year-old male complains of general weakness for 1 day.
- Vital signs: BP 112/70 mmHg, PR 61 bpm, RR 22/min, BT 39.9°C, SpO2 95%. GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: Hypertension with medications

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Case A

- Different vital signs should be integrated together instead of reading separately!
- Everyone's normal range may not be the individual's "normal range".
- In case 1, TTAS II → Should be modified as **Triage I**

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Case B

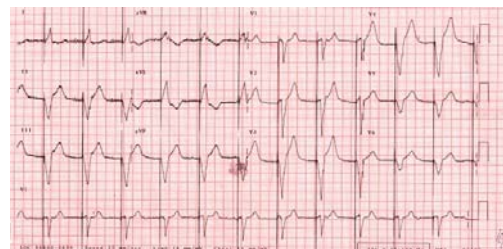
- A 77 year-old female has been noted tarry stool for 1 day.
- Vital signs: BP 106/78 mmHg, PR 69 bpm, RR 24/min, BT 36.2°C, SpO2 96%. GCS E3M6V3-4
- PMH:
 - Dementia for 5 years
 - some kind of heart problem (according to her Indonesia care-giver)

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Case B



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Case B

- Those who lack adequate compensation mechanisms
 - Known sympathovagal imbalance
 - Diabetes: sympathovagal imbalance
 - Drugs: Beta-adrenergic agents
 - Extreme elderly
 - Pacemaker for symptomatic bradycardia
 - Heart transplant recipients

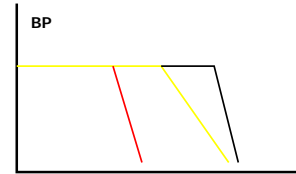
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Case B

- Those who have too good compensation mechanisms
 - Little kids
 - Athlete



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Triage Decision Scheme (Trauma)

- STEP 1: Measure Vital Signs and Level of Consciousness
 - GCS<14
 - SBP<90
 - RR<10 or >29 (<20 for infant less than 1y)
 - RTS<11
 - PTS<9

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Triage Decision Scheme

- STEP 2: Anatomic and Physiologic Approach
 - All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow and knee
 - Flail chest
 - Two or more proximal long-bone fractures
 - Crush, degloved, or mangled extremity
 - Amputation proximal wrist/ankle
 - Pelvic fractures
 - Open and depressed skull fractures
 - Limb paralysis
 - Combined with burn

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Triage Decision Scheme

- STEP 3: Trauma Mechanisms
 - Falls
 - Adults: >20 ft (1 story = 10 ft)
 - Children: >10 ft or 2 or 3 times the height of the child
 - High-risk auto crash
 - Intrusion into passenger compartment >12 inches (30cm); occupant site: > 18 in, any site
 - Major auto deformity >20 inches (50cm)
 - Extrication time > 20 minutes
 - Ejection (partial or complete) from auto
 - Death in same passenger compartment
 - Vehicle telemetry data consistent with high risk of injury (Initial speed >40mph (64 kph))
 - Auto vs. Pedestrian / bicyclist thrown, run over, or with significant (>20 mph) impact
 - Auto-pedestrian injury with > 5mph (8kph) impact
 - Motorcycle crash > 20 mph (32 kph) or with separation of rider and bike

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Triage Decision Scheme

- STEP 4: Special Patient or System Considerations
 - Age
 - Older adults: Risk of injury / death increases after age 55
 - Children: Should be triaged preferentially to pediatric-capable trauma centers (<5 y)
 - Anticoagulant and bleeding disorders
 - Time-sensitive extremity injury
 - Pregnancy >20 wks
 - EMS provider judgment
 - End-stage renal disease requiring dialysis
 - Immunosuppressed patients
 - Cardiac disease; respiratory disease
 - Insulin-dependent diabetes; cirrhosis; morbid obesity

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Case C

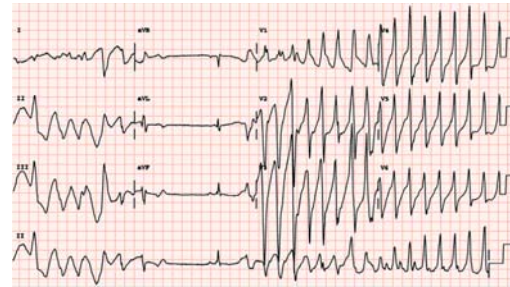
- A 26-year-old female has found falling down 20 minutes ago. She regained consciousness 3 minutes later.
- Vital signs: BP 120/68, PR 62, RR 20, BT 35.8, SpO2 98% GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: PID/leukorrhea under treatment

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Case C



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Case C

- Long QT syndrome (LQTS)

Type of LQTS	Chromosomal Locus	Mutated Gene	Ion Current Affected
LQT1	11p15.5	KVLQT1 or KCNQ1 (heterozygote)	Potassium (I_{Kr})
LQT2	7q35-36	HERG, KCNH2	Potassium (I_{Kr})
LQT3	3p21-24	SCN5A	Sodium (I_{Na})
LQT4	4q35-27	ANKK2, ANKB	Sodium, potassium and Potassium-activated
LQT5	21q22.1-22.2	KCNE1 (heterozygote)	Potassium (I_{Kr})
LQT6	21q22.1-22.2	MRP1, ANKCE2	Potassium (I_{Kr})
LQT7 (Anderson syndrome)	17q25.1-q24.2	KCNJ2	Potassium (I_{Kr})
LQT8 (Timothy syndrome)	12q13.3	CACNA1C	Calcium (I_{CaL})
LQT9	3p25.3	CAV3	Sodium (I_{Na})
LQT10	11q23.3	SCN4B	Sodium (I_{Na})
LQT11	7q31-q22	AKAP9	Potassium (I_{Kr})
LQT12		SNTA1	Sodium (I_{Na})
JLN1	11p15.5	KVLQT1 or KCNQ1 (homozygotes)	Potassium (I_{Kr})
JLN2	21q22.1-22.2	KCNE1 (homozygotes)	Potassium (I_{Kr})

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Case C

- Acquired long QT
 - Antibiotics
 - Antidepressants
 - Antifungals
 - Antihistamines
 - Diuretics
 - Heart medications
 - Lipid-lowering medications
 - Oral hypoglycemics (for diabetes)
 - Psychotropic medications

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Case C

- Medications that triggers TdP in inherited LQTS
 - Appetite suppressants
 - Bronchodilators
 - Catecholamines
 - Certain common antibiotics (e.g., erythromycin)
 - Decongestants
 - Uterine relaxants
 - Vasoconstrictors

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Case C

- Conscious Change
 - GCS 14-15 → TTAS Triage III-V
 - GCS 9-13 → TTAS Triage II
 - GCS 3-8 → TTAS Triage I
- Syncopal right now or just before
 - Always implicates Triage I
 - TTAS Triage III-V (can be modified as Triage I)

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Case E

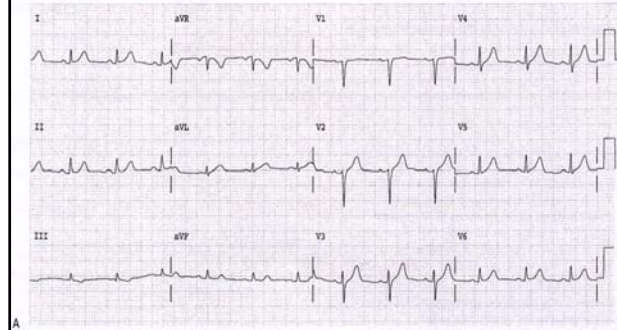
- A 60-year-old female complains sudden onset of epigastralgia 30 minutes ago
- Vital signs: BP 126/74, PR 75, RR 22, BT 36.3, SpO2 95% GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: diabetes under OHA for 7 years

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Case E



Case E

- Unusual presentations
 - Sudden onset
 - Severe symptoms that never experienced
 - Extreme gaps between symptoms and signs
 - Sense of dying (or end of the world)
 - Illusion or hallucination of ghosts / gods
- Esp. in
 - those with atypical presentations
 - Low socio-economic status or special culture background

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Case F

- A 25-year-old female complains gradual onset of headache and general weakness for 1 hour. She found her cat also sick.
- Vital signs: BP 98/54, PR 98, RR 22, BT 36.3, SpO2 98% GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: Nil

CO Intoxication

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Case F

- Limitations for Pulse Oximetry
 - motion artifact
 - abnormal hemoglobins (primarily carboxyhemoglobin [COHb] and met-hemoglobin [metHb])
 - intravascular dyes
 - exposure of measuring probe to ambient light during measurement
 - low perfusion states
 - skin pigmentation
 - nail polish or nail coverings with finger probe
 - inability to detect saturations below 83% with the same degree of accuracy and precision seen at higher saturations
 - inability to quantitate the degree of hyperoxemia present
 - Hyperbilirubinemia has been shown *NOT* to affect the accuracy of SpO2 readings

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Case F

- Hypoxia
 - Hypoxemia (reduced arterial oxygen content)
 - a. Reduced PaO2
 - b. Reduced SaO2
 - c. Reduced hemoglobin content (anemia)
 - Reduced oxygen delivery
 - a. Reduced cardiac output
 - b. Left-to-right systemic shunt (e.g., septic shock)
 - Decreased tissue oxygen uptake
 - a. Mitochondrial poisoning (e.g., cyanide)
 - b. Left-shifted hemoglobin dissociation curve (e.g., abnormal hemoglobin structure)

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Case G

- A 68-year-old male was noted to have acute onset of right-sided weakness and speech difficulty 45 minutes ago.
- Vital signs: BP 170/122, PR 64, RR 22, BT 36.0°C, SpO2 96% GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: Nil

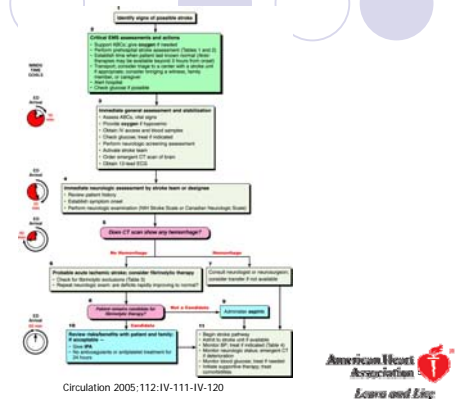
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Case G

Seven D's



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Circulation 2005;112:IV-111-IV-120

American Heart Association
Lown and Lee

Case H

- A 21-year-old female complains sudden onset of severe headache (grade 10/10) for 1 hour.
- Vital signs: BP 140/96, PR 70, RR 24, BT 36.5°C, SpO2 98% GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: Nil

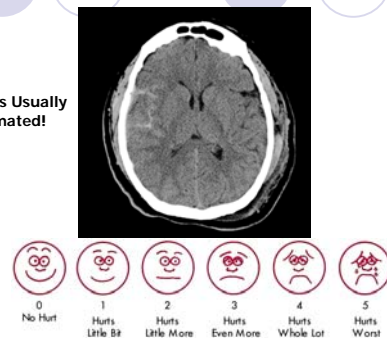
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Case H

Pain Scale is Usually Under-estimated!

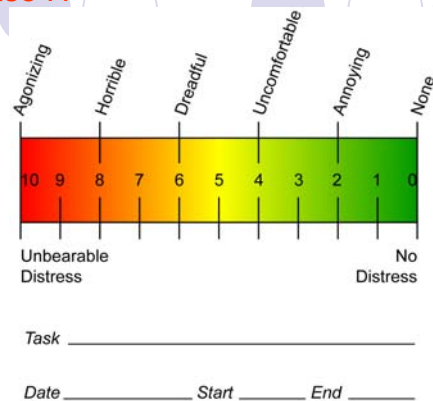


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Case H



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Case H

- Life-Threatening Pain
 - AMI, DAA, PE, Cardiac Tamponade, Tension Pneumothorax, Esophageal Rupture
 - Hollow organ perforation, SMA Occlusion, Internal Hernia
 - Necrotizing Fasciitis
 - SAH
- Organ-Threatening Pain
 - Glaucoma
 - PAOD

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Case I

- A 45-year-old female was injured by her husband 1 hour ago. Multiple bruising over her trunk and left forearm deformity were noted.
- Vital signs: BP 122/68, PR 95, RR 22, BT 35.6°C, SpO2 98% GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: Nil

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Case I

- Social Indication as Triage I
 - Domestic Violence
 - Child Abuse
 - Sexual Assault
 - Attempted Homicide
- Highly Clinical Suspicion
- Usually Under-triaged

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Case I

- Child Abuse
 - Screening
 - More than 3 episodes of trauma from ED recordings
 - Inconsistent medical history
 - Inconsistence between history and physical findings
 - Delayed transportation / consultation
 - Any fracture or head injury for those < 1y

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Case I

- Child Abuse
 - Physical Findings
 - Skin: Blunt Injury, Burn, Bite
 - Face: Raccoon Eye, ENT, Teeth, Lip, Hair
 - Head: Abusive Head Injury, Shaken Baby
 - Abdomen: Liver Laceration, Duodenal Hematoma, Traumatic Pancreatitis, Mesentery Laceration
 - Fracture:
 - Much younger; Multiple; Varying stages; Spiral or Oblique
 - Eg: post. ribs; scapula; sternum; complex skull

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Case I

- Child Abuse
 - High Specificity (for example)
 - Metaphyseal fractures
 - Rib fractures
 - Scapular fractures
 - Fractures of the outer end of the clavicle
 - Fractures of differing ages
 - Vertebral fractures or subluxation
 - Digital injuries in non-mobile children
 - Bilateral skull fractures
 - Complex skull fractures

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Case J

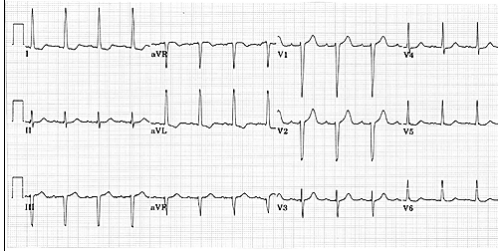
- A 70-year-old patient was transferred to our ED under the diagnosis of ACS. His present chief complaint is SOB for more than 2 days (R1 recorded). He consulted another ED and has gotten the treatment of Clexane for 2 days.
- BP 136/72, PR 100/min, RR 18/min, SpO2 97%, GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: Hypertension

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Case J



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Case J

- MONA
- ECG Monitoring
- Continue Bokey, Clexane

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Case J

- Review his history, sudden-onset unexperienced chest pain that radiated from anterior chest to middle back with cold sweating was noted initially 3 days ago.

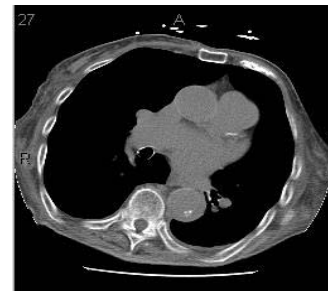
TASUDD → I

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Case J

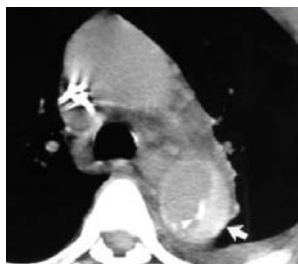


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Case J



Crescent Sign

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Case J

- Inter-Hospital Transfer
 - Usually treated as Triage I
 - Over-triage rather than Under-triage
- Complete history taking
 - From the very beginning
 - Chief complaint at the 1st visit
 - Complete exclusion or NOT
 - Life-threatening chest pain
 - ACS
 - DAA
 - PE
 - Tension pneumothorax
 - Cardiac tamponade
 - Esophageal rupture

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Case K

- A 63-year-old male suffered from sudden onset of left eye blindness.
- BP 158/92, PR 84/min, RR 20/min, SpO2 96%, GCS E4M6V5
- PMH: DM and Hypertension for 10 years

TRASH

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Case K

- Amaurosis Fugax
 - Embolic and hemodynamic origin
 - Atherosclerotic carotid artery
 - Atherosclerotic ophthalmic artery
 - Cardiac emboli due to (1) atrial fibrillation, (2) valvular abnormalities including post-rheumatic valvular disease, mitral valve prolapse, and a bicuspid aortic valve, and (3) atrial myxomas.
 - Temporary vasospasm
 - Giant cell arteritis
 - Systemic lupus erythematosus
 - Periarthritis nodosa
 - Eosinophilic vasculitis
 - Hyperviscosity syndrome
 - Polycythemia
 - Hypercoagulability
 - Protein C deficiency
 - Antiphospholipid antibodies
 - Anticardiolipin antibodies
 - Lupus anticoagulant
 - Thrombocytosis
 - Subclavian steal syndrome
 - Malignant hypertension
 - Drug abuse-related intravascular emboli
 - Iatrogenic

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Case K

- Amaurosis Fugax
 - Ocular origin
 - Iritis
 - Keratitis
 - Blepharitis
 - Optic disc drusen
 - Posterior vitreous detachment
 - Closed-angle glaucoma
 - Transient elevation of intraocular pressure
 - Intraocular hemorrhage
 - Coloboma
 - Myopia
 - Orbital hemangioma
 - Orbital osteoma
 - Keratoconjunctivitis sicca
 - Neurological origin
 - Optic neuritis
 - Compressive optic neuropathies
 - Papilledema
 - Multiple Sclerosis
 - Migraine
 - Pseudotumor cerebri
 - Intracranial tumor
 - Psychogenic

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Case K

- A 12-year-old boy was sent to ED due to progressive dyspnea for several hours. He was just discharged 1 week ago after successful extubation.
- BP 110/66, PR 120/min, RR 28/min, SpO2 92%, GCS E4M6V5. No wheezing
- PMH: Asthma

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Case 3

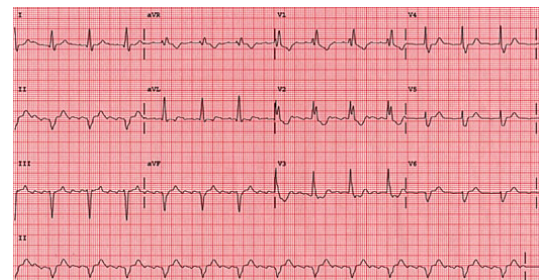
- A 68 y/o female patient was brought to our ED due to persistent chest oppression and diaphoresis for more than 2 hours. BP was 96/48, PR 98, RR 20, SpO2 95%, and minimal bilateral basal crackles were audible. PMH included renal insufficiency and diabetes mellitus.
- What is your impression and initial management?

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Case 3



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Case 3

- ECG: RBBB; susp. Atrial Flutter with 4:1 AVB
- O2 and aspirin were given.
- Cardiac enzymes revealed CK 452, CKMB 38, Tnl 8.92. AMI with Killip II was diagnosed.
- Is fluid resuscitation indicated for her deteriorating hemodynamics? Should she be treated as RV infarct with hypotension?

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Case 3

• RBBB in AMI

- Incidence: 3-29%
- 37.8% new RBBB, 34.1% old RBBB, and 28.1% with an indeterminate time of origin
- New-onset RBBB → 50% permanent RBBB
- More high incidence of heart failure, pacemaker due to AVB, and 1-year mortality
- Early mortality:
 - New RBBB(43%-76%) > Intermediate RBBB
 - New RBBB > New LBBB

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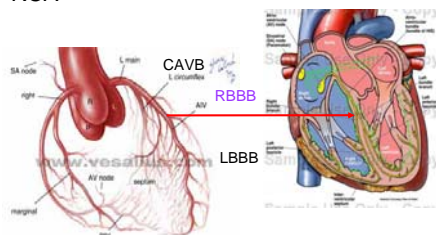
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Case 3

• RBBB in AMI

- Always means LAD proximal lesions instead of RCA



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Case 3

• Narrow QRS

- Wide QRS: "BBB" in widest definition
 - Always associated with discordant repolarization abnormalities (ST-T changes)
 - Examples:
 - RBBB / LBBB
 - Ventricular Pacing
 - VT
 - WPW

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Case 3

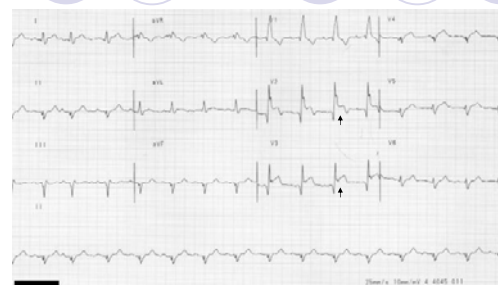
- New-onset LBBB → Treat as AMI
- Any "BBB" that obscures ST elevation with clinically high suspicion of MI → Treat as AMI
- Undetermined LBBB/RBBB
 - Discordant ST-T changes → Undetermined
 - Exceptions: ST elevation above 5 mV
 - Concordant ST-T changes → Consider AMI

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Case 3



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