

# LA DISPNEA

Emanuele Pivetta



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TORINO



Medicina d'urgenza - MECAU  
Università degli studi di Torino  
Città della Salute e della Scienza di Torino



## Disclosures

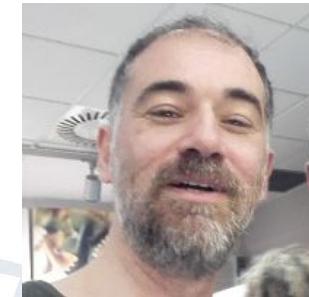
Master in **Epidemiologia**, Università di Torino

R. Fellowship in **emergency ultrasound**, Dept. Of Emergency Medicine,  
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts

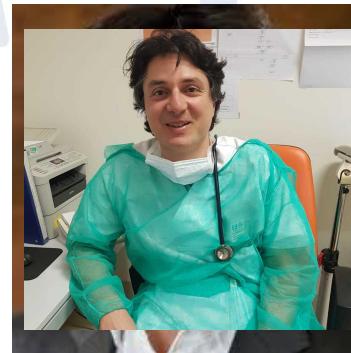
Coordinatore Università di Torino master in **ecografia point-of-care** in  
medicina d'urgenza e degli stati critici

Butterfly Network, prestito a scopo di ricerca e didattica di butterfly iQ e iQ+

ARDS



shock



dispnea



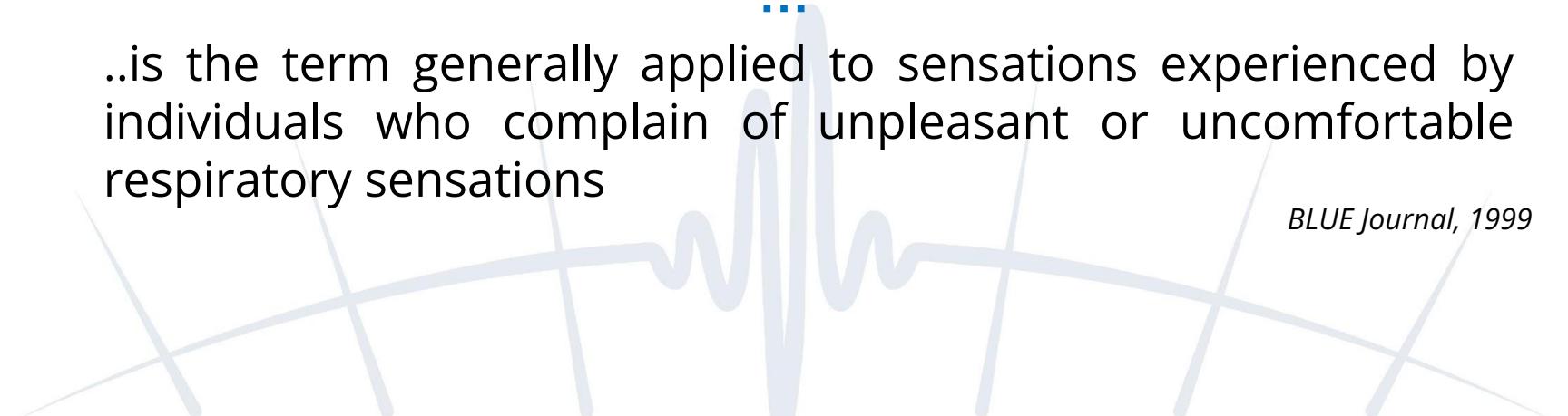


## Dispnea

...

..is the term generally applied to sensations experienced by individuals who complain of unpleasant or uncomfortable respiratory sensations

*BLUE Journal, 1999*



...but we emphasize strongly that dyspnea [...] can only be perceived by the person experiencing it.

*BLUE Journal, 2012*



## Dispnea



**signs typically evidence of respiratory distress, such as tachypnea, use of accessory muscles, and intercostal retractions**

2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022



## Dispnea



#1 Ask an unscripted question.

#2 Don't whine.

**#3 Count something.**

#4 Write something.

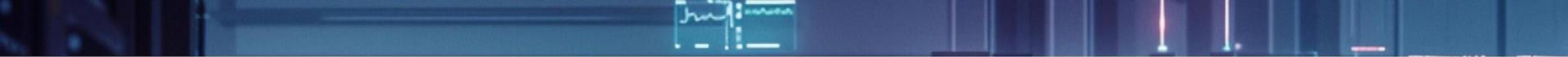
#5 Change.



(Atul Gawande, "Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance ", 2007)

**muscles, and intercostal retractions**

DEUTSCHE  
BUNDES  
SCHULE

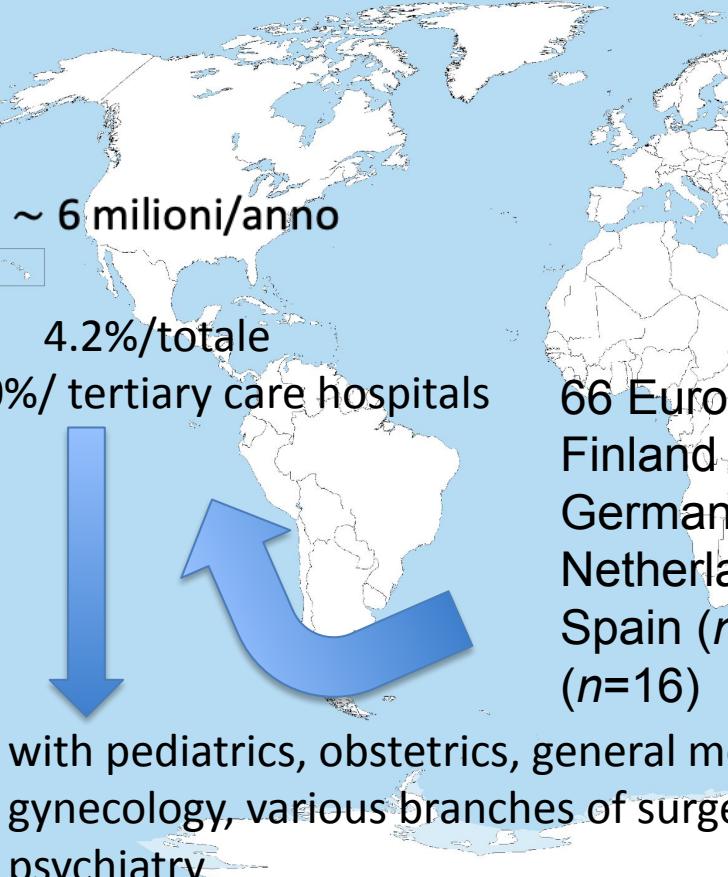


When a patient presents with dyspnea, the **primary task** of the emergency physician is to assess for **and ensure stability of the patient's airway, breathing, and circulation.** In the case of dyspnea, presentations may range from minor symptoms to extremis.

*Emerg Med Clin N Am 34, 2016*



*Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 2021 emergency department*



66 European EDs in Belgium ( $n=3$ ),  
Finland ( $n = 5$ ), France ( $n = 5$ ),  
Germany ( $n = 5$ ), Italy ( $n = 1$ ), the  
Netherlands ( $n=16$ ), Romania ( $n=7$ ),  
Spain ( $n=1$ ), Turkey ( $n=7$ ), and UK  
( $n=16$ )

with pediatrics, obstetrics, general medicine,  
gynecology, various branches of surgery and  
psychiatry

Qual è il peso della dispnea  
nei DEA in Italia?

SYSTEM	TYPE OF PROCESS	EXAMPLE OF DISEASE PROCESS	POSSIBLE PRESENTING DYSPNEA SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE PHYSICAL FINDINGS	POSSIBLE MECHANISMS UNDERLYING DYSPNEA	INITIAL DIAGNOSTIC STUDIES (AND POSSIBLE FINDINGS)
Pulmonary	Airways disease	Asthma, COPD, upper airway obstruction	Chest tightness, tachypnea, increased WOB, air hunger, inability to get a deep breath	Wheezing, accessory muscle use, exertional hypoxemia (especially with COPD)	Increased WOB, hypoxemia, hypercapnia, stimulation of pulmonary receptors	Peak flow (reduced); spirometry (OVD); CXR (hyperinflation; loss of lung parenchyma in COPD), chest CT and airway examination for upper airway obstruction
	Parenchymal disease	Interstitial lung disease <sup>a</sup>	Air hunger, inability to get a deep breath	Dry end-inspiratory crackles, clubbing, exertional hypoxemia	Increased WOB, increased respiratory drive, hypoxemia, hypercapnia, stimulation of pulmonary receptors	Spirometry and lung volumes (RVD); CXR and chest CT (interstitial lung disease)
	Chest wall disease	Kyphoscoliosis, neuromuscular (NM) weakness	Increased WOB, inability to get a deep breath	Decreased diaphragm excursion; atelectasis	Increased WOB; stimulation of pulmonary receptors (if atelectasis is present)	Spirometry and lung volumes (RVD); MIP and MEPs (reduced in NM weakness)
Pulmonary and cardiac	Pulmonary vasculature	Pulmonary hypertension	Tachypnea	Elevated right heart pressures, exertional hypoxemia	Increased respiratory drive, hypoxemia, stimulation of vascular receptors	Diffusion capacity (reduced); ECG; ECHO (to evaluate pulmonary artery pressures) <sup>b</sup>
Cardiac	Left heart failure	Coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathy <sup>c</sup>	Chest tightness, air hunger	Elevated left heart pressures; wet crackles on lung examination; pulsus paradoxus (pericardial disease)	Increased WOB and drive, hypoxemia, stimulation of vascular and pulmonary receptors <sup>d</sup>	Consider BNP testing, especially in the acute setting; ECG, ECHO, may need stress testing and/or LHC
	Pericardial disease	Constrictive pericarditis; cardiac tamponade				
Other	Variable	Anemia Deconditioning Psychological Metabolic disturbances Gastrointestinal (e.g., gastroesophageal reflux disease [GERD], aspiration pneumonitis)	Exertional breathlessness Poor fitness Anxiety	Variable	Metaboreceptors (anemia, poor fitness); chemoreceptors (anaerobic metabolism from poor fitness); some subjects may have increased sensitivity to hypercapnia	Hematocrit for anemia; laboratory studies (e.g., metabolic panel, thyroid hormone testing for metabolic disturbances); consider upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and/or esophageal pH probe testing for GERD and concerns for aspiration; exclude other causes



30 MAG - 1 GIU 2024

# Point-of-Care Ultrasonography

## Visually Satisfying Medicine or Evidence-Based Medicine?

Eden Bernstein, MD; Tracy Y. Wang, MD, MHS, MSc

JAMA Int Med 2021

«We recommend making POCUS use more evidence-based» for dyspneic Patients

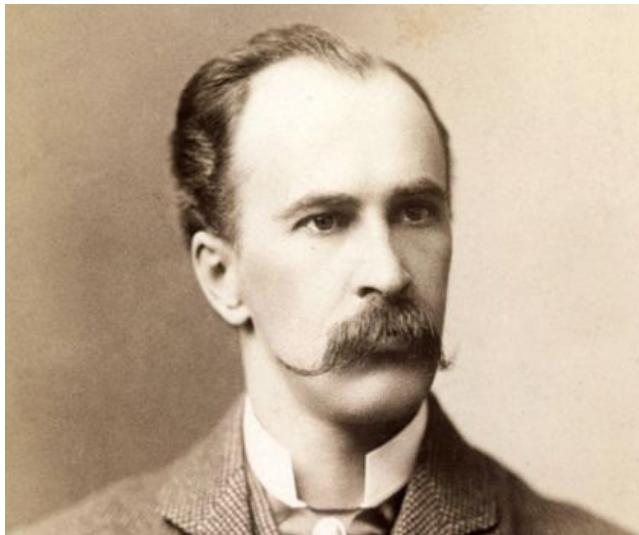




When a patient presents with dyspnea, the **primary task** of the emergency physician is to assess for **and ensure stability of the patient's airway, breathing, and circulation.** In the case of dyspnea, presentations may range from minor symptoms to extremis.

*Emerg Med Clin N Am 34, 2016*





<https://www.mcgill.ca/about/article/>

## William Osler



Da Wikipedia, l'enciclopedia libera.

**William Osler** (Bond Head, 12 luglio 1849 – Oxford, 29 dicembre 1919) è stato un medico canadese, definito come il padre della medicina moderna.

Patologo, educatore, grande bibliofilo, storico e scrittore. Osler è stato anche un rinomato burlone.

Osler è considerato il creatore dei moderni sistemi di formazione delle specializzazioni mediche.<sup>[1]</sup>

Best treatment  
is...

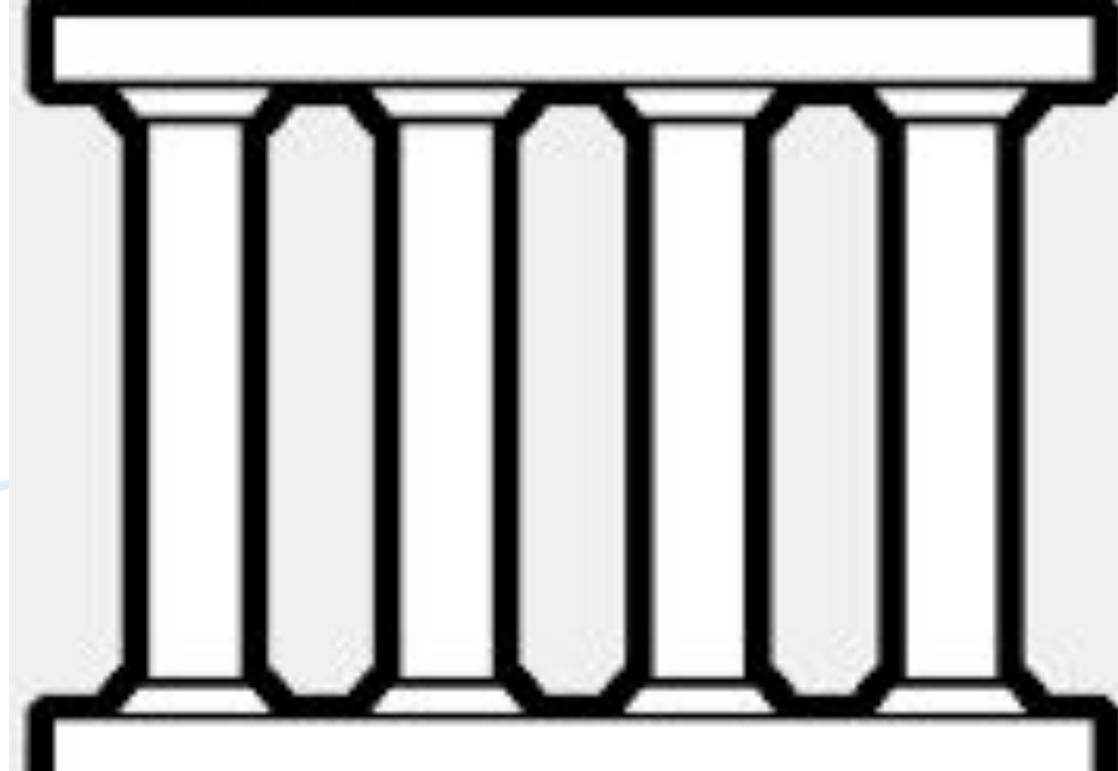
Diagnosis, diagnosis, diagnosis!

“medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability”



**palpazione**

**auscultazione**



**insonare**



ana  
mn  
esi

Part	Description	Manifestations	Examples
Controller	Malfunction presents as abnormal respiratory rate or depth. Often related to abnormal feedback to brain from other parts of the system	Air hunger, need to breathe	Abnormal feedback to brain from other systems. Metabolic acidosis, anxiety
Ventilatory pump	Composed of muscles, nerves that signal the controller, chest wall, and pleura that create negative thoracic pressure, airways and alveoli allowing flow from atmosphere and gas exchange	Increased work of breathing, low tidal volumes	Neuromuscular problems (eg, Guillain-Barré), decreased chest wall compliance, pneumothorax, pneumonia, bronchospasm (COPD, asthma)
Gas exchanger	Oxygen and carbon dioxide cross the pulmonary capillaries in the alveoli. Membrane destruction or interruption of the interface between the gas and capillaries by fluid or inflammatory cells limit gas exchange	Increased respiratory drive, hypoxemia, chronic hypercapnia	Emphysema, pneumonia, pulmonary edema, pleural effusion, hemothorax

ana  
mn  
esi

# Hypercapnia/hypoxia

acute increase of PaCO<sub>2</sub>, potentially contributing to dyspnea

common in ARDS, COPD, asthma, acute

ED diagnoses	HF				
Lower respiratory tract infection	1389 (24.9)				<0.001 0.58 (0.51–0.65)
Heart failure	962 (17.3)				<0.001 0.63 (0.55–0.73)
COPD exacerbation	882 (15.8)				<0.001 0.70 (0.60–0.81)
Asthma	584 (10.5)				<0.001 1.52 (1.27–1.82)
Other	2022 (36.3)	616 (20.2)	773 (30.6)	507 (20.1)	<0.001 1.24 (1.10–1.38)
		455 (14.9)		467 (18.5)	
		415 (13.6)		197 (7.8)	
		387 (12.7)		851 (33.7)	
		1171 (38.5)			

~ 50%

*J Emerg Med,  
2018*

## Mechanical loading

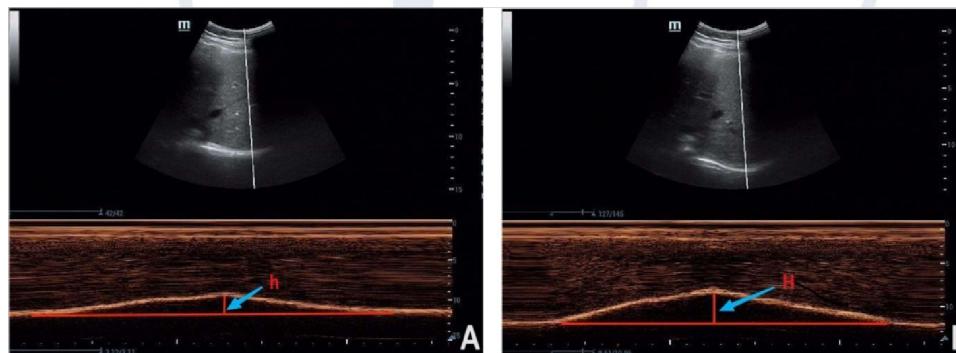
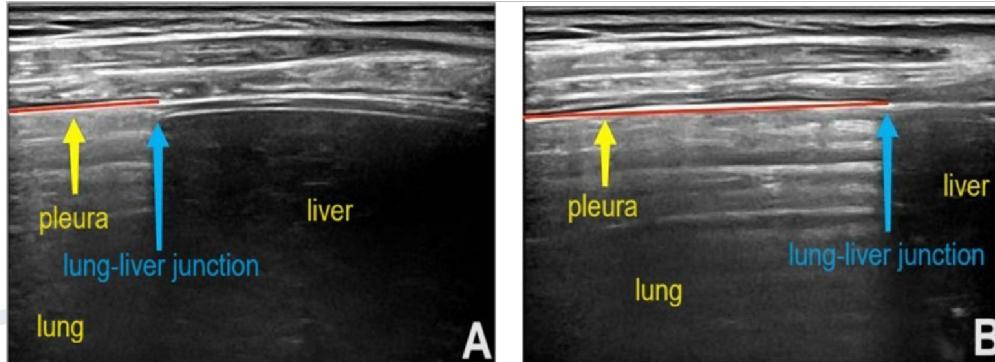
hyperinflation (COPD)



Torinoto  
day  
website

ana  
mn  
esi

## hyperinflation (COPD)





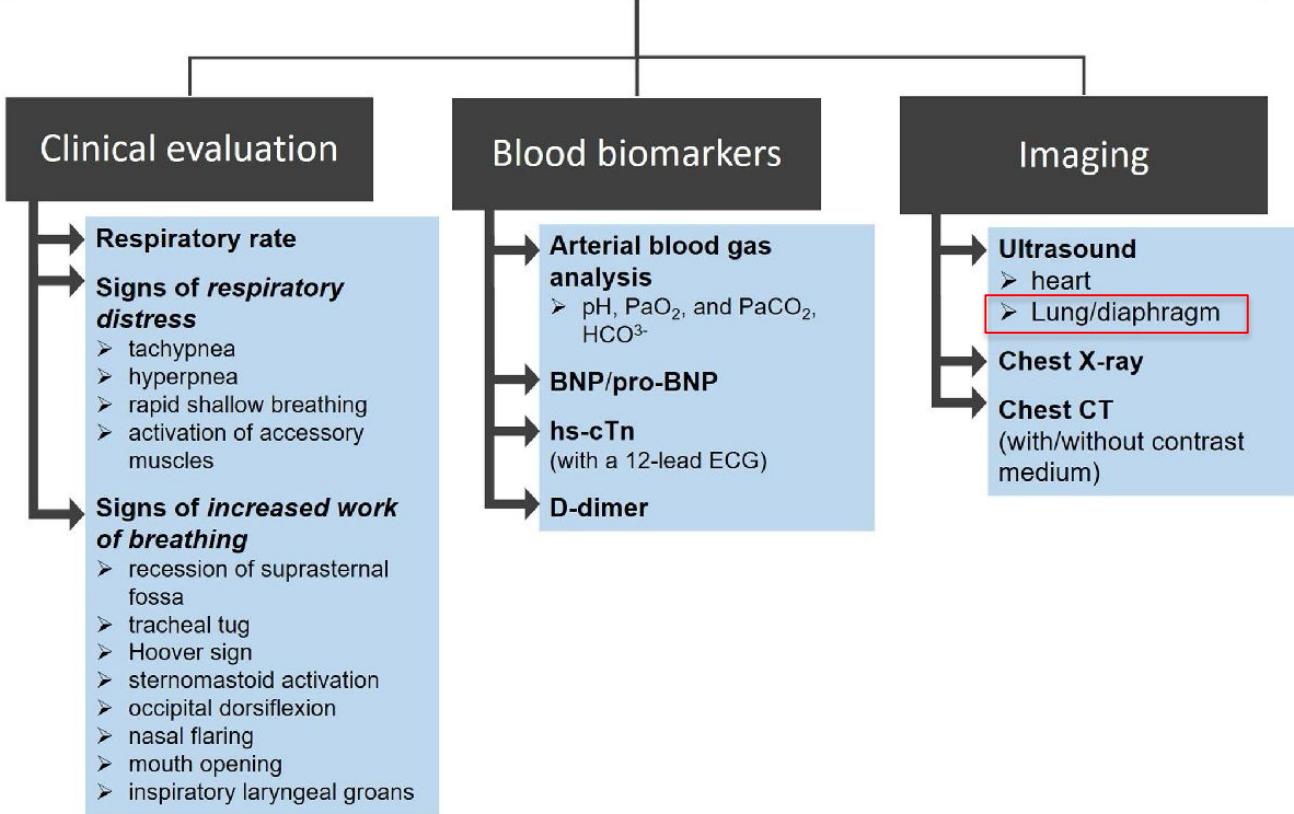
L'utilizzo  
dell'ecografia del  
diaframma in PS?



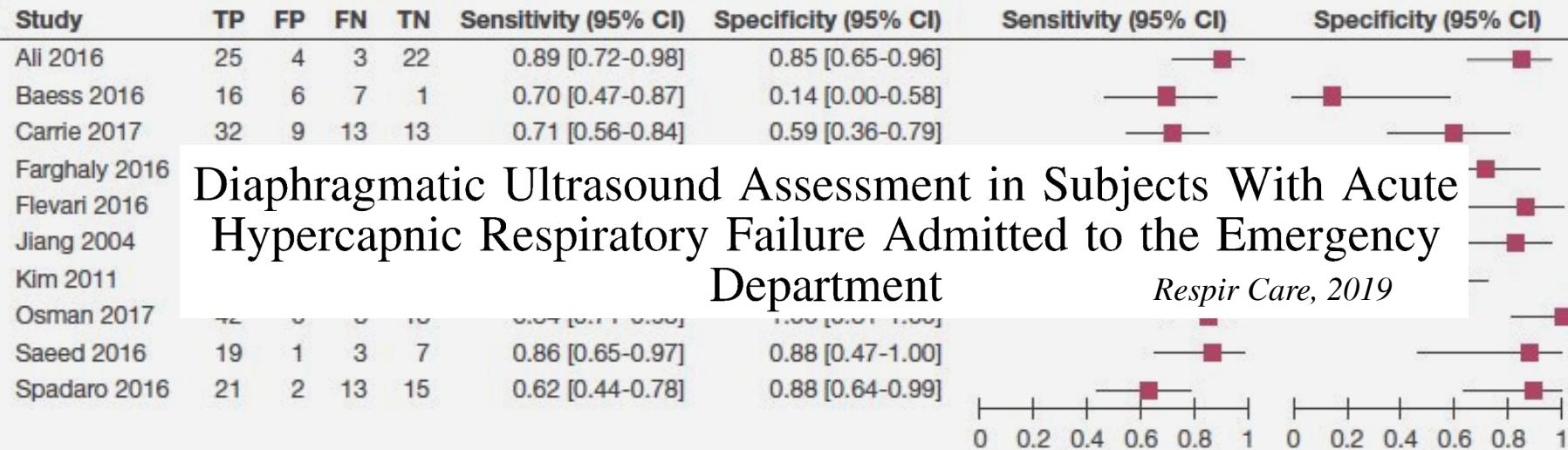
Semplice! Non si  
usa!



## Diagnostic evaluation of dyspnea in ED



B

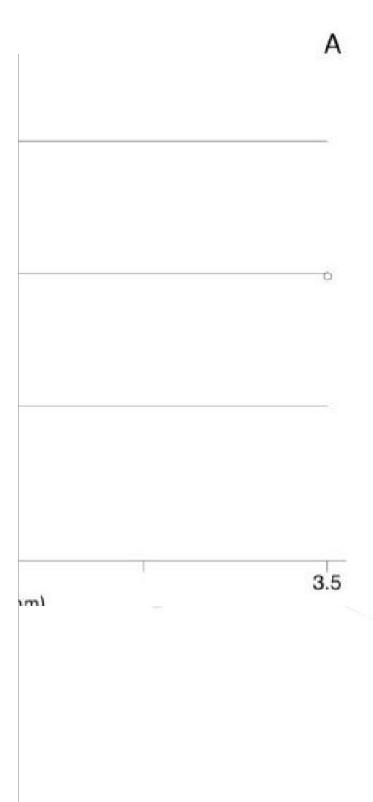
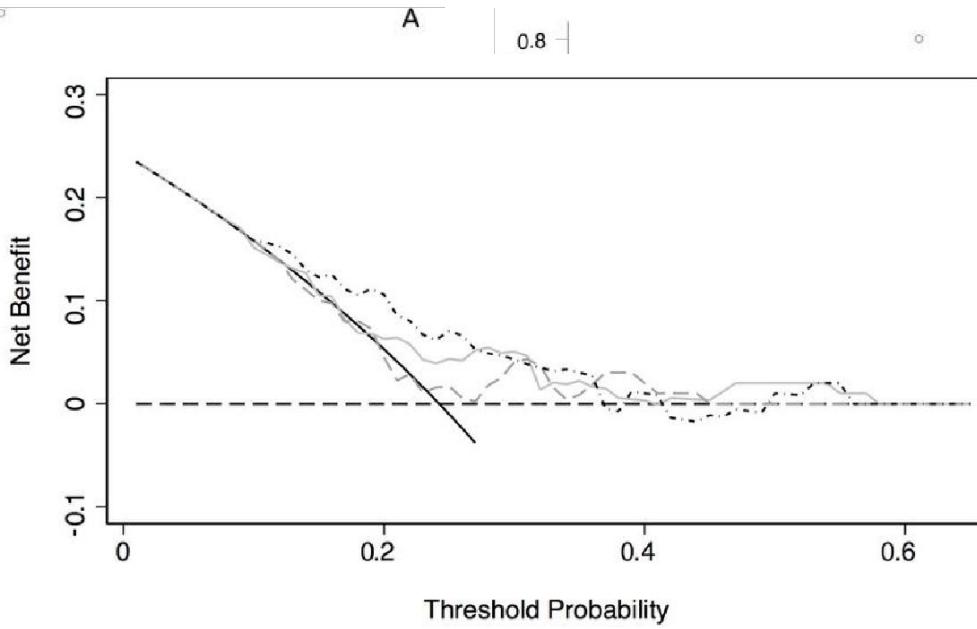
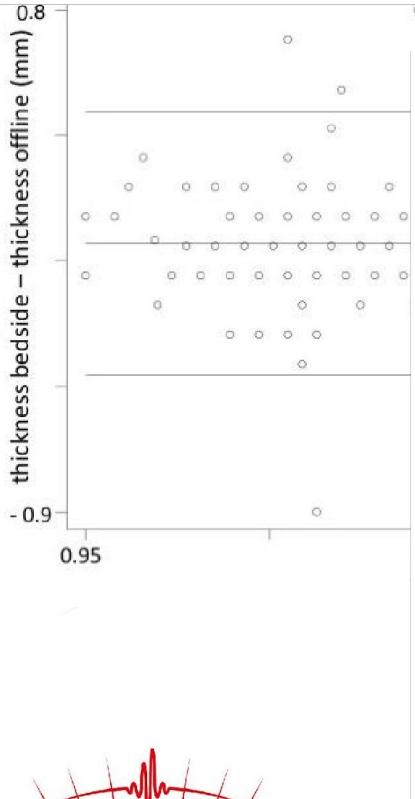


hypercapnic AHRF related to COPD exacerbation or pneumonia and requiring NIV

Motion T0-T1-T2 NIV successes > NIV failures

D-US per la gestione della NIV?

*Chest, 2017*





Potrebbe servire implementare  
D-US in PS nel Pz. Disponoico?

GENOVA 30 MAG - 1 GIU 2024

ana  
mn  
esi

# Hypercapnia/hypoxia

acute increase of PaCO<sub>2</sub>, potentially contributing to dyspnea

common in ARDS, COPD, asthma, acute

ED diagnoses	HF				
Lower respiratory tract infection	1389 (24.9)				<0.001 0.58 (0.51–0.65)
Heart failure	962 (17.3)				<0.001 0.63 (0.55–0.73)
COPD exacerbation	882 (15.8)				<0.001 0.70 (0.60–0.81)
Asthma	584 (10.5)				<0.001 1.52 (1.27–1.82)
Other	2022 (36.3)	616 (20.2)	773 (30.6)	507 (20.1)	<0.001 1.24 (1.10–1.38)
		455 (14.9)		467 (18.5)	
		415 (13.6)		197 (7.8)	
		387 (12.7)		851 (33.7)	
		1171 (38.5)			

~ 50%

*J Emerg Med,  
2018*

## Mechanical loading

hyperinflation (COPD)



Torinoto

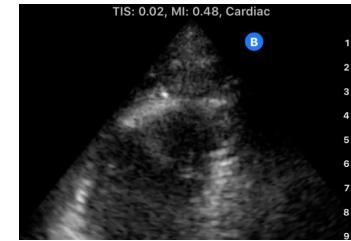
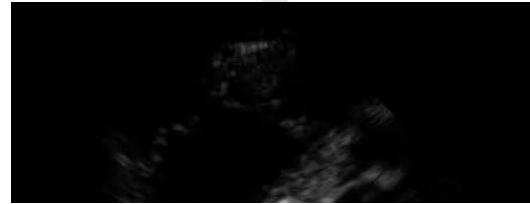
day  
website

## Activation of pulmonary receptors

rapid onset dyspnea of unknown origin, disproportionate to the level of blood gases alteration  
(PE)

ana  
mn  
esi

rapid onset dyspnea of unknown origin, disproportionate to the level of blood gases alteration (PE)



Diagnostic Test Characteristics of FOCUS and Its Components for PE in Subjects With a HR  $\geq$  100 beats/min and/or sBP < 90 mm Hg  
*(n = 136)*

	Sensitivity, % (95% CI)	Specificity, % (95% CI)	Positive Likelihood Ratio (95% CI)	Negative Likelihood Ratio (95% CI)
FOCUS	92 (78–98)	64 (53–73)	2.5 (1.9–3.3)	0.13 (0.04–0.38)
TAPSE threshold (cm)				
2.0	88 (72–97)	73 (63–82)	3.3 (2.3–4.7)	0.17 (0.07–0.42)
1.7	66 (48–82)	85 (76–91)	4.5 (2.6–7.6)	0.39 (0.24–0.64)
RVE	51 (34–68)	86 (77–92)	3.6 (2.0–6.3)	0.57 (0.40–0.80)
Septal flattening*	43 (27–61)	93 (86–97)	5.9 (2.7–13.2)	0.61 (0.46–0.82)
TR	50 (26–74)	75 (62–86)	2.0 (1.1–3.8)	0.67 (0.41–1.08)
McConnell's sign†	35 (20–53)	99 (94–100)	33.7 (4.6–249)	0.66 (0.52–0.83)

## Symptom

## Differential Diagnosis

Variable	qSOFA		SIRS	
	Cut-off	Points	Cut-off	Points
Altered mental status (GCS <15)	Yes	1	—	—
Heart rate (beats/min)	—	—	>90	1
Respiratory rate (breaths/min)	≥22	1	>20	1
Systolic blood pressure (mm Hg)	≤100	1	—	—
Temperature (°C)	—	—	<36 or >38	1
White blood cells count ( $\times 10^9/\mu\text{L}$ )	—	—	<4 or >12 or >10% bands	1
	Maximum score	3	Maximum score	4

fever

Acute heart failure, pulmonary edema

pulmonary edema

Acute and chronic heart failure, epi (sepsis)

Tachypnea alone

pulmonary embolism, acidosis (including aspirin toxicity), anxiety

## MEWS & NEWS

### Modified Early Warning Score

Score	3	2	1	0	1	2	3
Respiratory rate ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ )	≤ 8	9-14	15-20	21-29	> 29		
Heart rate ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ )	≤ 40	41-50	51-100	101-110	111-129	> 129	
Systolic BP (mmHg)	≤ 70	71-80	81-100	101-199		≥ 200	
Urine output (ml/kg/h)	Nil	< 0.5					
Temperature (°C)	≤ 35	35.1-36	36.1-38	38.1-38.5	≥ 38.6		
Neurological			Alert	Reacting to voice	Reacting to pain	Unresponsive	

Chart 1: National Early Warning Score (NEWS)\*

PHYSIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS	3	2	1	0	1	2	3
Respiration Rate	s8		9 - 11	12 - 20		21 - 24	≥25
Oxygen Saturation	≤91	92 - 93	94 - 95	≥96			
Any Supplemental Oxygen		Yes		No			
Temperature	≤35.0		35.1 - 36.0	36.1 - 38.0	38.1 - 39.0	≥39.1	
Systolic BP	≤90	91 - 100	101 - 110	111 - 219			≥220
Heart Rate	≤40		41 - 50	51 - 90	91 - 110	111 - 130	≥131
Level of Consciousness				A			V, P, U

\*The NEWS initiative flowed from the Royal College of Physicians' NEWSDIG, and was jointly developed and funded in collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians, Royal College of Nursing, National Outreach Forum and NHS Training for Innovation.



## Respiratory rate

Emerg Med Clin N Am,  
2016

	No. of Studies	No. of Patients	% AHF (95% CI)	Sensitivity, % (95% CI)	Specificity, % (95% CI)	LR+ (95% CI)	LR (95% CI)
<b>Symptoms</b>							
Orthopnea <sup>7,8,14,16,19,21,36,48,49,53 55,58,60,65</sup>	15	5,430	45.5 (44.2–46.9)	52.1 (50.1–54.0)	70.5 (68.8–72.1)	1.9 (1.4–2.5)	0.74 (0.64–0.85)
PND <sup>7,8,14,35,48,51,53,59,64</sup>	9	2,216	44.8 (42.8–46.9)	46.2 (43.7–48.6)	73.9 (71.9–75.9)	1.6 (1.2–2.1)	0.79 (0.71–0.88)
Dyspnea at rest <sup>20,51,55,61</sup>	4	2,038	37.9 (35.9–40.0)	54.6 (51.2–58.0)	49.6 (46.9–52.3)	1.1 (0.9–1.4)	0.88 (0.74–1.04)
Absence of productive cough <sup>7,8,12,36,49,59,62</sup>	7	2,414	43.0 (41.0–45.0)	82.0 (79.6–84.4)	25.8 (23.5–28.2)	1.13 (1.02–1.26)	0.6 (0.5–0.8)
<b>History</b>							
CRI <sup>25,49,55,57,59,61</sup>	6	3,009	42.8 (41.0–44.6)	32.0 (29.4–34.6)	91.4 (90.0–92.7)	3.4 (2.7–4.5)	0.75 (0.71–0.80)
Arrhythmia <sup>7,12,18,55,62</sup>	5	3,469	40.2 (38.6–41.9)	38.0 (36.1–40.0)	85.1 (83.9–86.2)	2.7 (2.2–3.4)	0.75 (0.68–0.83)
CHF <sup>7,8,14,15,19 21,23,25,36,38,48 50,55,57 61,63,65</sup>	22	8,493	46.0 (44.9–47.0)	55.5 (53.9–57.1)	80.2 (79.0–81.3)	2.7 (2.0–3.7)	0.58 (0.49–0.68)
Renal failure <sup>15,18,36,48,50</sup>	5	2,840	40.9 (39.1–42.7)	15.1 (13.1–17.3)	95.1 (94–96.1)	2.3 (1.3–3.9)	0.9 (0.73–1.11)
MI, history of <sup>7,15,19,48,49,52,54,55,65</sup>	9	4,208	40.5 (39.1–42.0)	31.8 (29.7–33.9)	87.1 (85.8–88.3)	2.1 (1.8–2.5)	0.82 (0.76–0.89)
AFIB <sup>38,49,52 54,65</sup>	6	1,935	51.9 (49.8–54.2)	30.2 (27.4–33.2)	85.3 (82.8–87.5)	2.1 (1.6–2.9)	0.82 (0.71–0.93)
CAD <sup>7,14,18,20,21,25,49,55,57–61,63</sup>	14	4,983	42.9 (41.5–44.3)	46.6 (44.5–48.7)	76.2 (74.6–77.7)	2.0 (1.7–2.4)	0.71 (0.64–0.79)
Hyperlipidemia <sup>8,49,53,55,68</sup>	5	2,923	39.8 (38.1–41.6)	33.8 (31.1–36.6)	75.3 (73.2–77.3)	1.6 (1.3–1.9)	0.85 (0.82–0.90)
DM <sup>8,16,18,19,21,23,25,49,50,52 55,57,59 61,64,65</sup>	19	7,707	47.3 (46.2–48.4)	28.8 (27.4–30.4)	81.7 (80.4–82.8)	1.5 (1.3–1.7)	0.89 (0.84–0.94)
HTN <sup>7,8,12,14–16,18,19,21,23,25,36,48–50,53–55,57,58,60,61,63–65</sup>	25	10,137	45.6 (44.6–46.6)	66.9 (65.5–68.3)	50.7 (49.4–52.1)	1.3 (1.3–1.4)	0.62 (0.53–0.73)
No history of COPD <sup>7,8,15,18,20,21,23,25,36,48,50,53,55,57–59,61,63</sup>	18	8,053	42.8 (41.7–43.9)	78.9 (77.4–80.3)	34.1 (32.6–35.6)	1.22 (1.11–1.36)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)
<b>Examination findings</b>							
S3 <sup>7,8,14,15,20,53–55,57–60,61,65</sup>	14	5,900	45.2 (44.0–46.5)	12.7 (11.5–14.0)	97.7 (97.2–98.2)	4.0 (2.7–5.9)	0.91 (0.88–0.95)
JVD <sup>7,8,12,14–16,18,19,21,25,36,48,51,53–55,57–61,64,65</sup>	23	8,012	47.8 (46.7–48.9)	37.2 (35.7–38.7)	87.0 (85.9–88.0)	2.8 (1.7–4.5)	0.76 (0.69–0.84)
Hepatojugular reflex <sup>56,59,61,65</sup>	4	1,209	60.4 (57.6–63.1)	14.1 (11.9–16.6)	93.4 (91.2–95.2)	2.2 (1.3–3.7)	0.91 (0.88–0.94)
Leg edema <sup>7,8,10,12,14,15,16,18,19 21,23,25,48,49,51,53 55,57–59,62,65</sup>	26	9,626	47.2 (46.2–48.2)	51.9 (50.5–53.4)	75.2 (74.0–76.4)	1.9 (1.6–2.3)	0.68 (0.61–0.75)
Murmur <sup>7,12,51,54,55,58,62,65</sup>	8	4,004	45.3 (43.8–46.8)	27.8 (25.8–29.9)	83.2 (81.6–84.8)	1.9 (0.9–3.9)	0.93 (0.79–1.08)
Rales <sup>7,8,10,12,15,18 21,23,25,36,48,51,53 55,58 61,65</sup>	22	8,775	48.2 (47.1–49.2)	62.3 (60.8–63.7)	68.1 (66.7–69.4)	1.8 (1.5–2.1)	0.60 (0.51–0.69)
Wheezing <sup>7,8,12,15,20,23,36,48,53,55,58,59,65</sup>	13	6,970	44.2 (43.0–45.3)	22.3 (20.9–23.8)	64.0 (62.5–65.4)	0.6 (0.5–0.8)	1.19 (1.10–1.30)
Absent fever <sup>7,23,36,49,59,62,63</sup>	7	3,197	43.6 (41.9–45.3)	92.4 (90.9–93.8)	20.6 (18.8–22.5)	1.14 (1.02–1.27)	0.4 (0.3–0.6)

AFIB = atrial fibrillation; CAD = coronary artery disease; CHF = congestive heart failure; COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; CRI = chronic renal insufficiency; DM = diabetes mellitus; HTN = hypertension; JVD = jugular venous distension; LR+ = positive likelihood ratio; LR- = negative likelihood ratio; MI = myocardial infarction; PND = paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea.

Be  
dsi  
de  
tes  
t

Provides additional information about ventilation ( $\text{Paco}_2$ ) to patients with reliable pulse oximetry and bicarbonate level available on BMP

May be faster than general laboratory tests. Useful in assessing anxiety-induced hyperventilation<sup>36</sup>

*Emerg Med Clin N Am,*  
2016

Limited evidence for routine use in undifferentiated dyspnea

ALT	51	TCO <sub>2</sub>	12.0	mmol/L	76
CK	111	BEef	-15.4	mmol/L	SL
AMILASI P.		IHB(c)	9.2	g/dL	2877
GGT		Ca <sup>++</sup> (7.4)	1.00	mmol/L	82
ALP		AG	29	mmol/L	20
LDH	30	P/F Ratio	396	mmHg	32
A LATTICO		PaO <sub>2</sub>	150	mmHg	261
PCR/PCT	651	CaO <sub>2</sub>	14.0	mL/dL	
		O <sub>2</sub> cap	13.7	mL/dL	
		O <sub>2</sub> ct	14.0	mL/dL	
		sO <sub>2</sub> (c)	96.8	%	80.84
		HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> (c)	11.3	mmol/L	
		HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> std	14	mmol/L	
				mL/dL	

«From a diagnostic point of view, [...], should be always performed in patients with acute dyspnea in the ED» *Int Emerg Med*, 2023

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>	
BNP/NT-proBNP <sup>c</sup>	I	B	= N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide
12-lead ECG	I	C	Normal findings
Transthoracic echocardiography	I	C	% (95)
Chest radiography (X-ray)	I	C	
Routine blood tests for comorbidities, including full blood count, urea and electrolytes, thyroid function, fasting glucose and HbA1c, lipids, iron status (TSAT and ferritin)	I	C	42.6 (3 69.4 (6 55.8 (5 60.8 (5 39.6 (3 61.2 (5 46.8 (4 2,001 48.3 (4 1,338 54.0 (5 2,001 48.3 (4 15 4,393 46.6 (4 5 1,326 55.1 (5 12 3,515 51.7 (4
Interstitial edema <sup>15,66,72</sup>			
Cephalization <sup>8,57,64,66,72</sup>			
Alveolar edema <sup>16,66,72</sup>			
Pulmonary edema <sup>*7,8,12,14,16,18-21,23,36,54,57,58,64</sup>			
Pleural effusion <sup>12,20,58,60,72</sup>			
Enlarged cardiac silhouette <sup>8,12,15,18,20,21,54,58,60,64-66</sup>			

€ 15,40

EHF, 2021

LR+ – positive likelihood ratio; LR- – negative likelihood ratio.

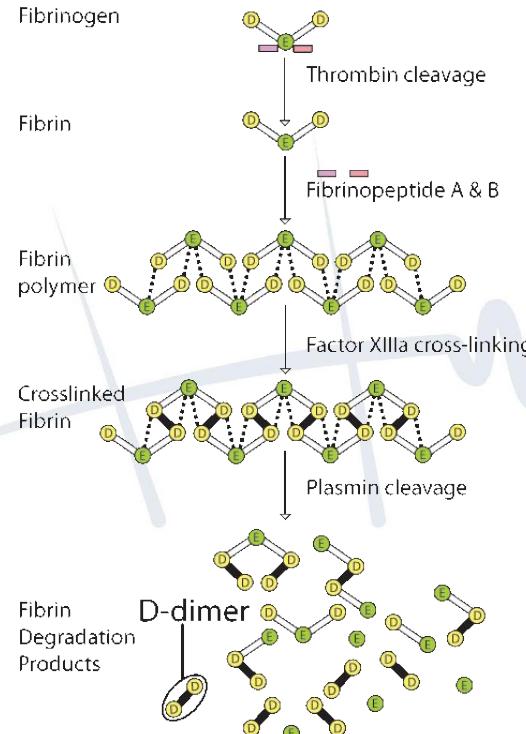
\*Refers to generalized pulmonary edema in studies that did not report specifically on both "alveolar edema" and "interstitial edema."

Heart failure  
ACS  
Pulmonary embolism  
Myocarditis  
Left ventricular hypertrophy  
Hypertrophic or restrictive cardiomyopathy  
Valvular heart disease  
Congenital heart disease  
Atrial and ventricular tachyarrhythmias  
Heart contusion  
Cardioversion, ICD shock  
Surgical procedures involving the heart  
Pulmonary hypertension  
Advanced age  
Ischaemic stroke  
Subarachnoid haemorrhage  
Renal dysfunction  
Liver dysfunction (mainly liver cirrhosis with ascites)  
Paraneoplastic syndrome  
COPD  
Severe infections (including pneumonia and sepsis)  
Severe burns  
Anaemia  
Severe metabolic and hormone abnormalities (e.g. thyrotoxicosis, diabetic ketosis)

### Cardiac

### Non-cardiac

## Generation of D-dimer from cross-linked fibrin



Requires risk assessment and clear clinical question. Also increased in consumptive coagulopathy, infection, malignancy, trauma, dissection, preeclampsia, and other cardiovascular disorders

*Emerg Med Clin N Am,*  
2016

Sensitivity ≥95%

*EJH,*  
2019

## Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction

**A 73-year-old woman with a history of dyspnea on exertion presents for a follow-up visit after hospitalization for acute worsening of dyspnea and orthopnea.**

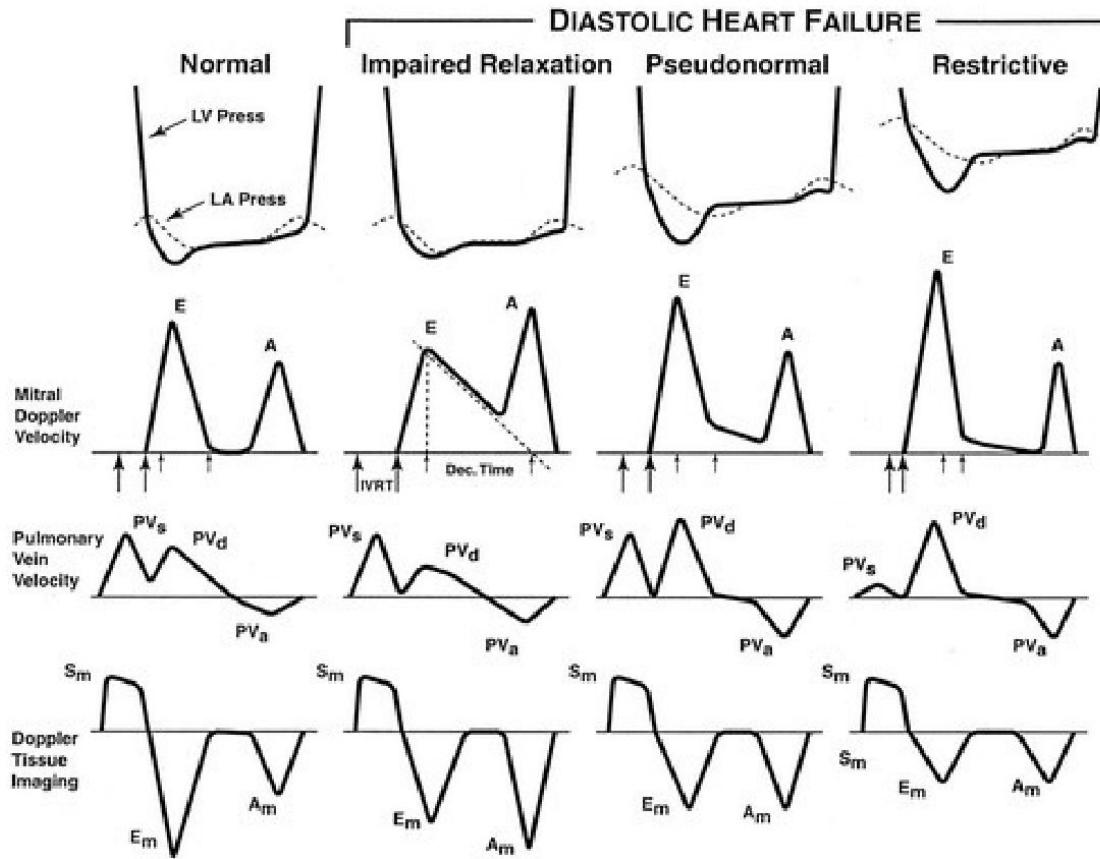
HF with normal natriuretic peptides

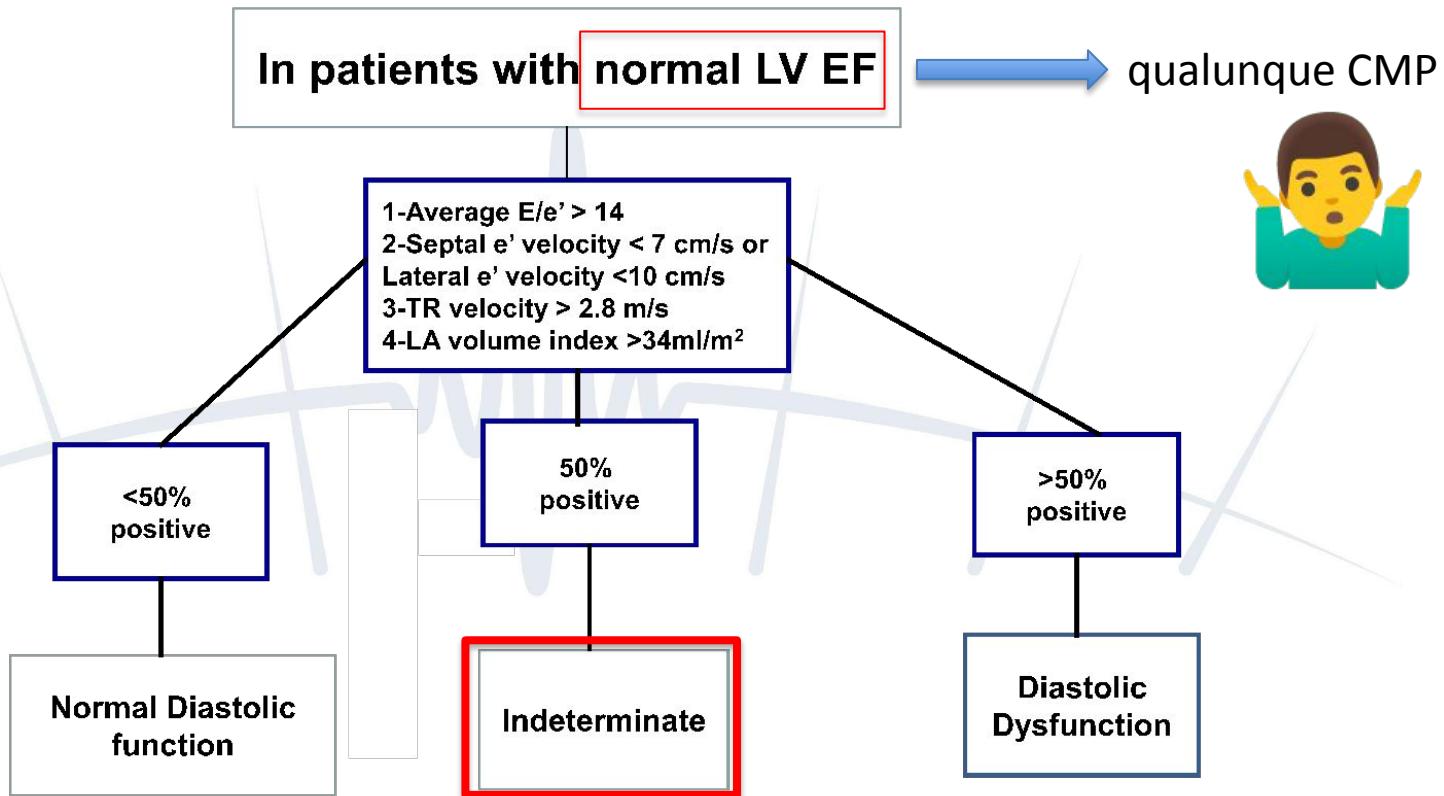
Up to 50% of patients with HF have preserved EF

Diastolic dysfunction

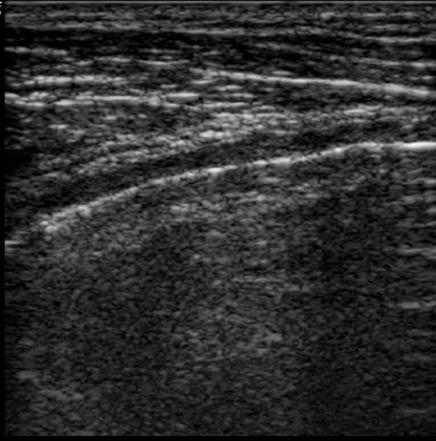
Valutare la disfunzione diastolica  
ci può servire in PS?

NEJM, 2016

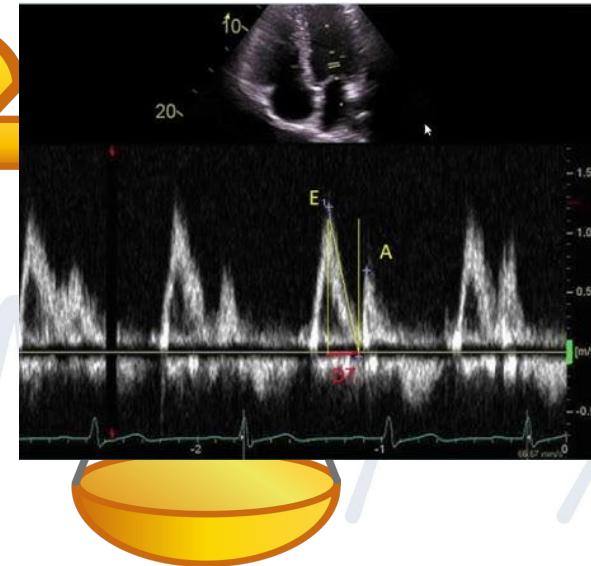
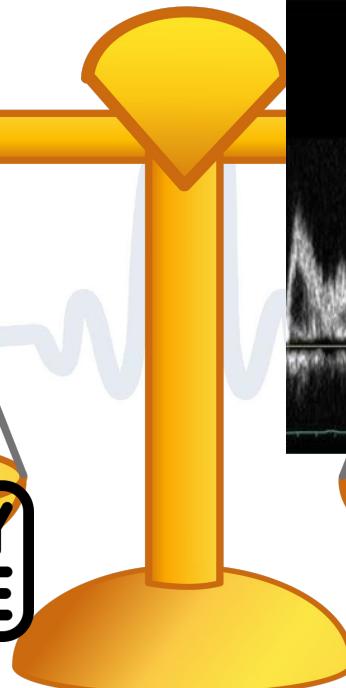




GE



1  
2  
3  
4



Easy?  
Fast?

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Open Access



# Quantifying systemic congestion with Point-Of-Care ultrasound: development of the venous excess ultrasound grading system

William Beaubien-Souigny<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Philippe Rola<sup>3</sup>, Korbin Haycock<sup>4</sup>, Josée Bouchard<sup>5</sup>, Yoan Lamarche<sup>6</sup>,  
 Rory Spiegel<sup>7</sup> and André Y. Denault<sup>1,8</sup>

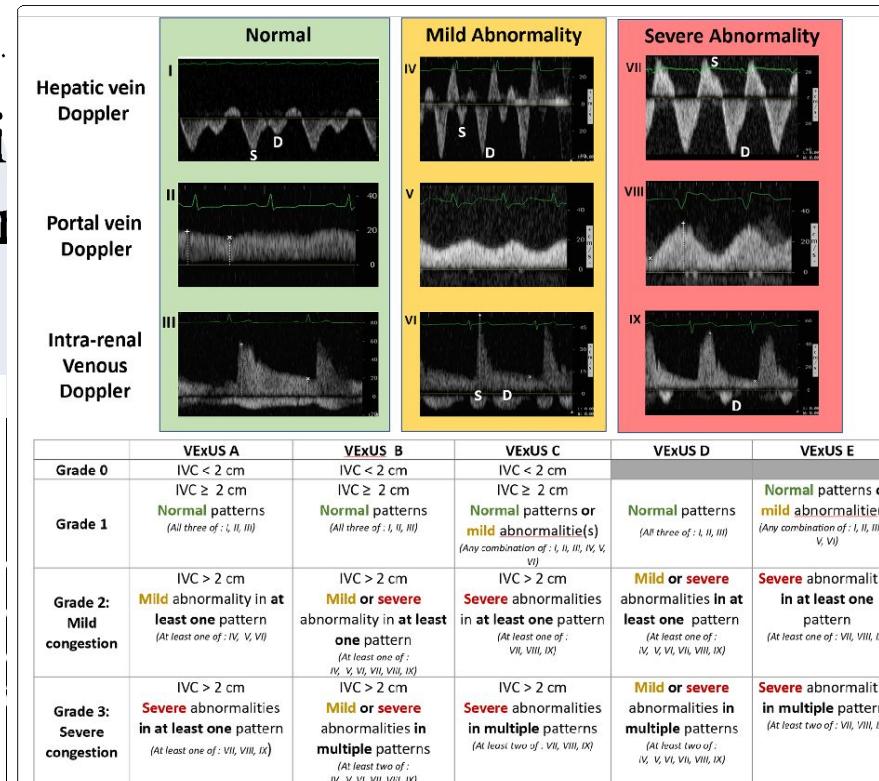
**Table 2** Multivariable proportional hazards models to predict acute kidney injury in 145 patients after cardiac surgery using the Venous EXcess UltraSound (VExUS) C grading system

	Crude hazard ratio			Model 1			Model 2		
				Adjusted hazard ratio <sup>a</sup>			Adjusted hazard ratio <sup>b</sup>		
	HR	CI	p	HR	CI	p	HR	CI	p
VExUS C Grade 0	Reference category			Reference category			Reference category		
VExUS C Grade 1	1.25	0.58–2.66	0.57	1.13	0.52–2.13	0.76	1.13	0.52–2.13	0.76
VExUS C Grade 2	2.65	1.07–6.60	0.036	2.31	0.92–5.80	0.074	2.32	0.92–5.83	0.073
VExUS C Grade 3	3.69	1.65–8.24	0.001	2.83	1.22–6.55	0.015	2.82	1.21–6.55	0.016
Pre-operative AKI risk score [30]	1.02	1.01–1.04	0.001	1.02	1.003–1.03	0.019	1.02	1.003–1.033	0.02
Vasopressor-inotrope score	1.01	0.99–1.03	0.51				1.001	0.98–1.03	0.93

Multivariable proportional hazard regression model (Cox) with the VExUS grade considered as a time-varying covariate (i.e., VExUS grade at day 0 is used to predict AKI at day 1, VExUS grade at day 1 is used for AKI at day 2 and so on). HR hazard ratio, CI 95% confidence intervals

<sup>a</sup> Variables included in the multivariate model were the VExUS C grade (segmented time-dependant) and pre-operative AKI risk score [30]

<sup>b</sup> Variables included in the multivariate model were the VExUS C grade (segmented time-dependant), vasopressor-inotrope score (segmented time-dependant) and pre-operative AKI risk score [30]



**Fig. 1** The Venous Excess UltraSound (VExUS) grading system prototypes combining inferior vena cava (IVC) diameter and venous Doppler waveform of the portal, hepatic and inter-ocular renal veins. Hepatic Doppler is considered mildly abnormal when the systolic (S) component is lower in magnitude than the diastolic (D) component, cut still toward the liver while it is considered severely abnormal when the S component is reversed (toward the Farn). Portal Doppler is considered mildly abnormal when a variation of  $\geq 50\%$  is seen. Portal Doppler is considered severely abnormal when a variation of  $\geq 50\%$  is seen. Intra-renal venous Doppler is considered mildly abnormal when it is discontinuous with a systolic (S) and diastolic (D) phase, while it is considered severely abnormal when it is discontinuous with a systolic (S) and diastolic (D) phase seen during the cardiac cycle

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Open Access



Quantifying systemic congestion with Point-Of-Care ultrasound: development of the venous excess ultrasound grading system

William Beaubien-Souligny<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Philippe Rola<sup>3</sup>, Korbin Hawcock<sup>4</sup>, Isabelle Rouichard<sup>5</sup>, Yvan Lamarche<sup>6</sup>,  
 Rory Spiegel<sup>7</sup> and André Y. Denault<sup>1,8</sup>

## Operatori neoformati (ma esperti in POCUS)

**Table 2** Multivariable proportional hazards models to predict acute kidney injury in 145 patients after cardiac surgery using the Venous EXcess UltraSound (VExUS) C grading system

Crude hazard ratio						
	HR	CI	p	....	....	....
VExUS C Grade 0	Reference category			Reference category		Reference category
VExUS C Grade 1	1.25	0.58–2.66	0.57	1.12	0.76	1.12
VExUS C Grade 2	2.65	1.07–6.60	0.01			
VExUS C Grade 3	3.69	1.65–8.24	0.00			
Pre-operative AKI risk score [30]	1.02	1.01–1.04	0.00			
Vasopressor-inotrope score	1.01	0.99–1.03	0.5			

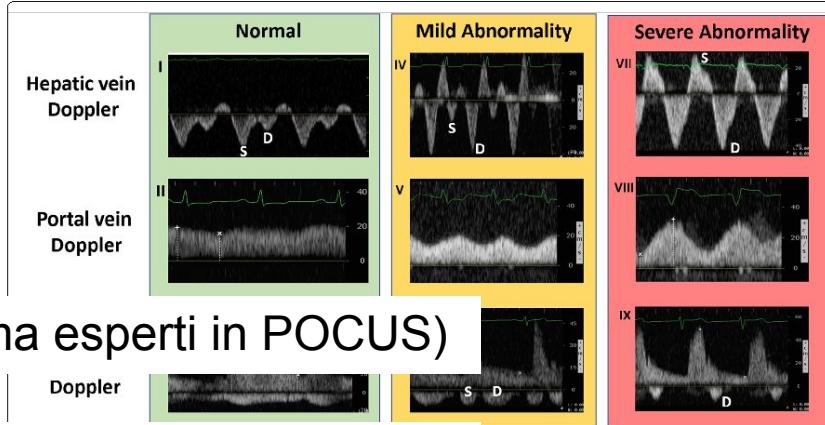
Multivariable proportional hazard regression model (Cox) with the VExUS g at day 1, VExUS grade at day 1 is used for AKI at day 2 and so on). HR hazard

\* Variables included in the multivariate model were the VExUS C grade (see

<sup>a</sup> Variables included in the multivariate model were the VExUS C grade (see pre-operative AKI risk score [30])

1, M.D.

Wi-Fi



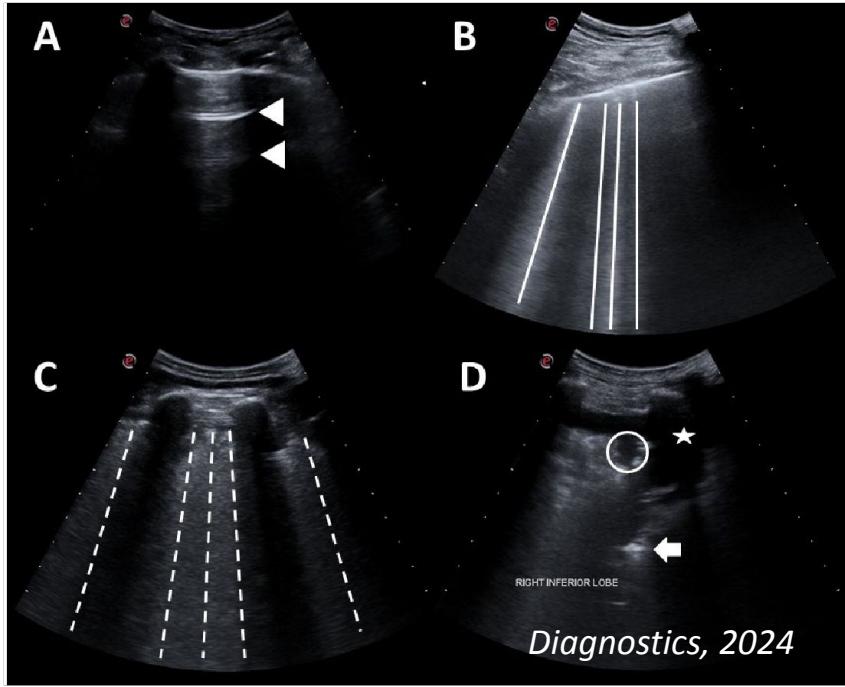
Doppler

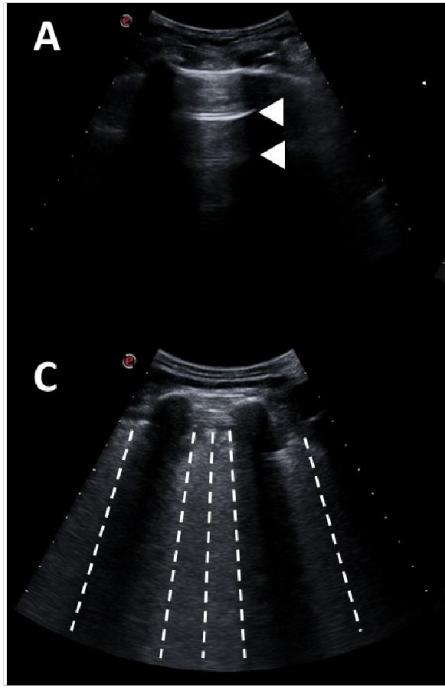
30 Pazienti

mediana del tempo di durata dell'esame:  
**34 minuti (IQR 18)**

are observed, while is considered when it is discontinuous with a systolic (S) and diastolic (D) phase, while is it considered a systolic phase seen during the cardiac cycle

La VExUs è la panacea per tutti (o quasi) i dubbi nella dispnea?





  
XIII congresso nazionale  
**SIMEU**  
GENOVA 30 MAG - 1 GIU 2024



EM  
ITALIANA MEDICINA D'EMERGENZA  
L'EDOF • SIMEU •



78 aa.

Dispnea acuta

...e dolore epigastrico.

Inviata da servizio di emergenza territoriale  
per sospetta SCA