

## Essential Cardiology for Biomeds

BY : Larry Fennigkoh, Ph.D. Milwaukee School of Engineering

88 H H

22 H H

 . . .

**Topics:** 

- Anatomy: great vessels, chambers, valves
- Cardiac muscle
- Origin & conduction of cardiac action potentials (ECG)
- Electrodes, electrocardiography, arrhythmias
- Pressure volume relationships





Adapted from K. Saladin, *Anatomy & Physiology: The Unity of Form and Function; D. Silverthorn, et al.* 

#### The Reason why an understanding of physiology, anatomy, and pathology is essential . . .



especially when patients become – literally – one with the machines.

The study of physiology is often done on a systems-bysystems level; like the learning of overall equipment function by studying its block diagram, e.g.,



#### The Integration between Systems of the Body



This schematic figure indicates relationships between systems of the human body. The interiors of some hollow organs (shown in white) are part of the external environment.

## **Cardiovascular System & Anatomy**

- Primary functions include transport of:
  - O2 & CO2, nutrients, waste, hormones, heat
  - Defense against pathogens
- Cardiovascular system:
  - heart, arteries, veins and capillaries;
    2 major divisions:



- Pulmonary circuit right side of heart
  - carries venous, deoxygenated blood to lungs for gas exchange
- Systemic circuit left side of heart
  - supplies blood to all organs of the body



#### Major Branches of the Aorta



### **Circulation Schematic**



#### Pulmonary Capillaries Near Alveoli

 Basketlike capillary beds surround the alveoli

 Exchange of gases with air occur within the alveoli





(b) Cells form a diffusion barrier between lung and blood.

### **Heart Chambers**

- 4 chambers
- Right and left <u>atria</u>
  - 2 superior, posterior chambers
  - receive blood returning to heart
- Right and left <u>ventricles</u>
  - 2 inferior chambers
  - pump blood into arteries



Left ventricle is more muscular

## **Heart Valves**

- Ensure one-way blood flow
  - (analogous to a check valve or diode)
- Atrioventricular (AV) valves



Artificial valve

- right AV, or <u>tricuspid</u>, valve has 3 cusps
- left AV, or <u>mitral</u>, bicuspid, valve has 2 cusps
- Semilunar valves control flow into great arteries
  - <u>pulmonary</u>: from right ventricle into pulmonary trunk
  - <u>aortic</u>: from left ventricle into aorta



#### Distribution of blood in the body at rest



The body automatically adjusts blood flow to its various organs based upon their metabolic need. Total blood flow leaving the heart (cardiac output) also increases accordingly.

# Functional Model of the Cardiovascular System



#### **Circulatory system design**

- The arterial system is characterized by successive branching down to the level of the capillaries.
- Capillaries coalesce into larger (and fewer) veins.
- Velocity of flow depends on cardiac output and total crosssectional area of the vessels.



#### Blood flow in capillaries



- Red blood cells moving single file through a capillary
- It is where the exchange of gases, nutrients, fluids, wastes occur

#### Skeletal Muscle Pump

Passively assists in returning venous blood to the heart

Most veins contain a series of 'check valves' that prevent backflow on the blood's return to the right heart.





#### Venous valves of the leg



#### Failure or prolapse of these valves results in varicose veins and hemorrhoids





MAYO FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

### Position of the Heart

(a) The heart lies in the center of the thorax.



#### Anatomy of the Thoracic Cavity

(c) The heart is on the ventral side of the thoracic cavity, sandwiched between the lungs.



Basis for the placement of ECG electrodes and defibrillator paddles.



#### **Structure of the Heart**

The heart is composed mostly of myocardium

#### **Structure of the Heart**

(e) The heart is encased within a membranous fluid-filled sac, the pericardium.



Pericardial fluid dramatically reduces the friction of the beating heart. (Cardiac muscle)



## **Coronary Circulation**

- Blood vessels of heart wall nourish cardiac muscle
- Left coronary artery under left auricle, 2 branches
  - anterior interventricular artery
    - supplies interventricular septum + anterior walls of ventricles
  - circumflex artery
    - passes around left side of heart in coronary sulcus, supplies left atrium and posterior wall of left ventricle
- Right coronary artery supplies right atrium
  - passes under right auricle in coronary sulcus, divides:
  - marginal artery and posterior interventricular artery
    - supplies posterior walls of ventricles

## **Myocardial Infarction**

 Sudden death of heart tissue caused by interruption of blood flow from vessel narrowing or occlusion

#### Myocardial infarction



 Anastomoses defend against interruption by providing alternate blood pathways



## **Balloon Angioplasty and Stents**



#### Coronary angiogram



Contrast injector





### **AV Valve Mechanics**

- Ventricles relax, pressure drops, semilunar valves close, AV valves open, blood flows from atria to ventricles
- Ventricles contract, pressure rises, AV valves close, (papillary m. contracts and pulls on chordae tendineae to prevent prolapse) pressure rises and semilunar valves open, blood flows into arteries

Heart valves open and close due to pressure drops and changes during the cardiac cycle.

## **Operation of Atrioventricular Valves**



valves open

closed

## **Operation of Semilunar Valves**



Semilunar valves open

Semilunar valves closed

#### Pressure – volume relationships (left ventricle)



#### **Ejection fraction:**

- Is the ratio of the stroke volume to end diastolic volume
- Is a measure of heart health
- Normally ranges from 55-70%

#### Pressure – volume relationships (left ventricle)



Systole = contractile, working phase of cardiac cycle.

Diastole = relaxation, filling phase. The heart spends about 2/3 of its time in diastole. This is when the heart is being perfused.

## Cardiac Output (CO)

- Volume of blood ejected by each ventricle in 1 minute
- Cardiac Output = Heart Rate x Stroke Volume
- Resting values, CO = 75 beats/min x70 ml/beat = 5,250 ml/min, usually about 4 to 6L/min
- Vigorous exercise 1 CO to 21 L/min for fit person and up to 35 L/min for world class athlete
- Cardiac reserve: difference between maximum and resting CO

#### Measurement of cardiac output



### Afterload

- Pressure in arteries above semilunar valves which opposes opening of valves
- $\uparrow$  afterload,  $\downarrow$  SV
  - any impedance in arterial circulation ↑ afterload
- Continuous 1 in afterload (lung disease, atherosclerosis, etc.) causes hypertrophy of myocardium, may lead it to weaken and fail

## Intra-aortic Balloon Pump

A therapeutic ventricular assist device that improves blood flow to the coronary arteries and reduces afterload.





Rapid inflation of heliumfilled balloon during diastole increases blood flow to coronary arteries

Rapid deflation at the onset of systole reduces afterload making it easier for heart to eject blood

## **Cardiac Conduction System**

- Myogenic heartbeat originates within heart
- Autorhythmic depolarize spontaneously regularly
- Conduction system
  - Sinoatrial (SA) node: pacemaker, initiates heartbeat, sets heart rate
  - fibrous skeleton insulates atria from ventricles
  - Atriventricular (AV) node: electrical gateway to ventricles
  - AV bundle: pathway for signals from AV node
  - Right and left bundle branches: divisions of AV bundle that enter interventricular septum and descend to apex
  - Purkinje fibers: upward from apex spread throughout ventricular myocardium

### **SA Node Potentials**



Spontaneously depolarize or 'fire' which triggers a heartbeat; electrically analogous to the output of a relaxation oscillator.

- SA node has no stable resting membrane potential
- Action potential:
  - at threshold -40 mV, fast Ca<sup>+2</sup> channels open, (Ca<sup>+2</sup> in)
  - depolarizing phase to 0 mV, K<sup>+</sup> channels open, (K<sup>+</sup> out)
  - repolarizing phase back to -60 mV, K<sup>+</sup> channels close
- Each depolarization creates one heartbeat
  - SA node at rest fires at about 90 bpm but is reduced to about 75 bpm by autonomic nervous system





**Cardiac action** potential originates in SA node and then spreads throughout the heart in a (normally) very repeatable manner.



### **Cardiac Conduction System**



The temporal and spatial movement of cardiac action potentials throughout the heart is what produces the ECG.


# **Origin of the Electrocardiogram**



A single cardiac action potential as it moves in both time and space through the heart becomes the characteristic ECG recorded at the surface of the body.



Cardiac action potentials and the ECG travel throughout the body



Surface Electrodes

The cardiac action potentials continues to travel through the heart and surrounding tissues until they arrive at the surface of the skin. 38

# ECG's can be recorded from a variety of places on the body ...



# Early electrocardiograph

Figure 4.1— Electrocardiographic connections to a patient in 1912.





40

Our current electrode designations, e.g., LA, RA, RL, etc., come from these early studies.

## What we use today -Silver- Silver Chloride Electrode:

#### **Conductive gel**

#### **Ag-AgCl coating**

#### Hypoallergenic tape

#### Lead wire connection

### **Biopotential Electrodes:**

- Provide the interface between the body and measurement instrumentation.
- Transduce, or convert ionic current from the body into electric current detectable by bioinstrumentation.
- Behavior is dictated by electrochemical reactions that occur anytime a metal electrode is placed in an electrolyte.





## **Electrode Equivalent Circuit**



Some half cell potentials

reduction reaction	$E^{o}(V)$
$Al^{3+} + 3e^- \rightarrow Al$	- 1.662
$Zn^{2+} + 2e^- \rightarrow Zn$	-0.762
$Cr^{3+} + 3e^- \rightarrow Cr$	-0.744
$Fe^{2+} + 2e^- \rightarrow Fe$	-0.447
$Cd^{2+} + 2e^- \rightarrow Cd$	-0.403
$Ni^{2+} + 2e^- \rightarrow Ni$	-0.257
$Pb^{2+} + 2e^- \rightarrow Pb$	-0.126
$2H^+ + 2e^- \rightarrow H_2$	0.000
$AgCl + e^- \rightarrow Ag + Cl^-$	+ 0.222
$Hg_2Cl_2 + 2e^- \rightarrow 2Hg + 2Cl^-$	+0.268
$Cu^{2+} + 2e^- \rightarrow Cu$	+0.342
$Cu^+ + e^- \rightarrow Cu$	+0.521
$Ag^+ + e^- \rightarrow Ag$	+0.780
$Au^{3+} + 3e^- \rightarrow Au$	+1.498
$Au^+ + e^- \rightarrow Au$	+1.692

- C<sub>d</sub> : capacitance of electrode-electrolyte interface
- *R<sub>d</sub>* : resistance of electrode-electrolyte interface
- $R_s$  : resistance of electrode lead wire
- *E<sub>cel</sub>* : electrode half-cell potential



Frequency Response<sup>43</sup>

#### Complexity of 'simple' ECG electrodes ...



Adapted from: J. Carr, J. Brown. Introduction to Biomedical Equipment Technology, Prentice-Hall, 4th ed., 2001, p. 98.

# **Motion Artifact**

When the electrode moves with respect to the electrolyte, the distribution of the double layer of charge on polarizable electrode interface changes. This changes the half-cell potential temporarily.

If a pair of electrodes is in an electrolyte and one moves with respect to the other, a potential difference appears across the electrodes known as *motion artifact*. This is one source of noise and interference in biopotential measurements.

(motion artifact may also result from the skeletal muscle EMG)



### Electrode offset voltage recovery after defibrillation

Voltage transients are introduced during defibrillation – temporarily disrupting the balance of charge at the electrodeelectrolyte interface.



**Figure 6.11** Effect of a voltage transient on an ECG recorded on an electrocardiograph in which the transient causes the amplifier to saturate, and a finite period of time is required for the charge to bleed off enough to bring the ECG back into the amplifier's active region of operation. (a) initiation of the transient. (b) Continuation of (a), showing recovery. (c) Similar transient at reduced gain to illustrate first-order recovery of the system.

# 60 Hz and EMG interference with an ECG



(**b**)

**Figure 6.12** (a) 60-Hz power-line interference. (b) Electromyographic interference on the ECG. Severe 60-Hz interference is also shown on the bottom tracing in Figure 4.14.

#### P wave

- SA node fires, atrial depolarization
- atrial systole
- QRS complex
  - atrial repolarization and diastole (signal obscured)
  - AV node fires, ventricular depolarization
  - ventricular systole
- T wave
  - ventricular repolarization
- U wave
  - Not always seen





# **Electrocardiogram (ECG)**

 Composite of all action potentials of nodal and myocardial cells detected, amplified and recorded by electrodes on arms, legs and chest





Impulse passes to heart apex; ventricular excitation begins



Ventricular excitation complete







# **The Normal ECG**





### **Determining heart rate from a strip...**

Heart rate, in bpm = (25 mm/sec)(60 sec/min) / (mm/beat), or and for example:

1500 / R-R interval in mm = 1500/10 =150 bpm



(when recorded at 25 mm/sec)

# **Cardiac Axis**

The electrical activity of the heart can be modeled as a vector quantity: an electric dipole, M, whose magnitude and direction changes in time. Also called the cardiac vector or cardiac axis.





For a 'normally' positioned heart, the angle associated with this axis is approximately 60°.



Willem Einthoven (1860 – 1927) (b) Einthoven's triangle. ECG electrodes attached to both arms and the leg form a triangle. Each two-electrode pair constitutes one lead (pronounced "leed"), with one positive and one negative electrode. An ECG is recorded from one lead at a time.



### ECG Limb Leads (bipolar limb leads)



#### **Forms Einthoven's Triangle**

# Lead



Lead I is the first of three standard limb leads (I, II, III). Limb leads measure cardiac depolarization in the frontal (coronal) plane.

The negative electrode is connected to the RIGHT ARM. The positive electrode is connected to the LEFT ARM.

The axis is 0 degrees.

When an action potential starts on the right and proceeds toward the left side of the heart, a positive inflection will be seen in lead one. This holds true for all leads. Whenever a current proceeds toward a positive electrode, an upright inflection is seen on the ECG tracing.

### Lead I



Lead II is used alone quite frequently. Normal rhythms present with a prominent P wave and a tall QRS.

The negative electrode is connected to the RIGHT ARM. The positive electrode is connected to the LEFT LEG.

The axis is +60 degrees.

In all the limb leads, the electrodes may be positioned close to the torso. For convenience, they are often placed at the shoulders and hips.



Lead III is the last of the three standard limb leads.

The negative electrode is connected to the LEFT ARM.

The positive electrode is connected to the LEFT LEG.

The axis is 120 degrees.

# The ECG Lead Color Code

- The standard American Heart Association (AHA) color code associated with each of the bipolar limb leads is:
  - RA = white
  - LA = black
  - RL = green
  - LL = red



Chest, or V lead, = brown

### **Electrode position defines ECG Leads**

- 3 standard limb leads (bipolar)
  - Einthoven's Triangle
    - Lead I: RA (-) and LA (+)
    - Lead II: RA (-) and LL (+)
    - Lead III: LA (-) and LL (+)
- 3 augmented limb leads (unipolar)
  - left arm (aV<sub>L</sub>)
  - right arm (<mark>aV<sub>R</sub></mark>)
  - left leg (<mark>aV<sub>F</sub></mark>)
- 6 chest leads (unipolar)
  V<sub>1</sub> V<sub>6</sub>

**Right Leg electrode is common to all leads** 



# Wilson's Central Terminal



# **ECG Augmented Limb Leads**



### The Limb Leads . . .



Each of the limb leads (I, II, III, AVR, AVL, AVF) can be assigned an angle of clockwise or counterclockwise rotation to describe its position in the frontal plane.

### **ECG Precordial Leads** (V, chest, or transverse plane leads)



When current flows toward arrowheads (axes), upward deflection occurs in ECG When current flows away from arrowheads (axes), downward deflection occurs in ECG When current flows perpendicular to arrows (axes), no deflection occurs

# "Seeing" the heart in the Transverse plane: The Chest Leads



### **12-Lead ECG: Electrode Placement**

### • RA / LA:

 On Shoulders at distal ends of clavicles: (Not over large muscle masses or directly over bone)

### • RL / LL:

 Base of Torso: Just medial to the iliac crests



- Chest Leads: V1-V6
  - Traditional pre-cordial positioning

### **Chest Leads**

 Additional set of six leads, placed on the chest, also known as the precordial leads. These too are unipolar, that is they measure the potential with respect to WCT.





V1-V2: 4<sup>th</sup> intercostal space –R/L of sternum V4: 5<sup>th</sup> intercostal space – midclavicular line V3: Between V2 and V4 V5: At horizontal level of V4, anterior to axilla V6: Midaxillary at horizontal level of V4



# **Cardiac Arrhythmias**

- Abnormal heart rhythm where the heart may beat too quickly = tachycardia; too slowly
  bradycardia; or with irregular patterns.
- Common arrhythmias include:
  - Atrial fibrillation
  - Atrial flutter
  - Ventricular tachycardia
  - Ventricular fibrillation

#### Symptoms:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Decreased level of consciousness
- Low blood pressure
- Slow or fast heart rate varying greatly from baseline
- Pulmonary edema
- Congestive heart failure
- Acute MI, or shock

# **Atrial Fibrillation**



# Ventricular Tachycardia

![](_page_70_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **ECTOPIC BEATS**

![](_page_71_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_71_Figure_2.jpeg)

**PVC = Premature Ventricular Contraction**
# **ECTOPIC BEATS**

#### **Triplet PVC's: occur in groups of three**



#### **Course Ventricular Fibrillation**

Uncoordinated beating of heart cells, resulting in no blood pressure or cardiac output. Needs an electrical shock urgently... brain damage in ~ 4+ minutes.











#### **Ventricular asystole**

# Blood Pressure

#### **Blood pressure creates blood flow or cardiac output**



Think: Ohm's Law:  $V = I \times R$ 

# **Blood pressure:**

The pressure that blood exerts across the blood vessel wall

Pressure, P, is defined as force, F, per unit area, A: P = F / A

Pressure can also be stated in terms of the force exerted by a column of fluid.

#### **Example:**

100 mmHg = 53.53 in  $H_2$ 0 = 1.934 psi = 13.33 kPa





#### **Valve Events**



Time

### **ECG, Heart Sounds, and Pressures**



#### The Arterial Pressure Wave



#### Systemic Circulation Pressures

- Pressure waves created by ventricular contraction travel into the blood vessels
- Pulsatile pressures in the arterial tree
- Pressure pulsations diminish and disappear altogether by the capillaries (due to elasticity of the vessels)



© 2016 Pearson Education, Inc.

## Principles of Sphygmomanometry

# 1. Cuff inflated until brachial artery compressed and blood flow stopped



## Principles of Sphygmomanometry

#### 2. Cuff pressure is slowly released



Flow through partially constricted artery creates turbulence; which creates vibrations that are heard as <u>Korotkoff</u> sounds.

#### Principles of Sphygmomanometry

3. Pressure at which . . .

first sound heard = systolic pressure sound disappears = diastolic pressure



## Blood Pressure Measurement



# Blood Pressure Measurement

Blood pressure as obtained through auscultation is an <u>indirect measure</u> (or estimate) of the actual arterial pressure. <u>And, is</u> <u>why it may not</u> <u>agree with that</u> obtained invasively.





# **Sources of Error in BP Measurement**

#### **Equipment Factors**

- Aged mercury devices
- •Non-calibrated aneroid devices
- Non-validated automated devices
- Improper cuff size

#### **Observer Factors**

- Poor measurement technique
- Digit preference
- Expectation bias
- Background noise
- Distractions
- •Hearing acuity

#### **Patient Factors**

- Conversation with observers
- No rest period before measurement
- White coat effect
- Alcohol
- Caffeine
- Smoking
- •Full bowel/bladder

# Blood Pressure Measurement

The oscillometric method of blood pressure measurement (estimation) is also an indirect measure that does not require use of a stethoscope. Systolic, diastolic, and mean pressures are derived from cuff pressure oscillations transmitted from the artery during cuff deflation.





Oscillations in cuff pressure

# Arterial pressure monitoring



Disposable blood pressure transducer

Figure 5-10 A, Normal arterial waveform depicting sharp upstroke and clear dicrotic notch. (From Jackle, M., & Halligan, M. [1980] Cardiovascular problems: A critical care nursing focus. Bowie, MD: Robert J. Brady.)

Copyright @ 2001 by W. B. Saunders Company

#### Normal Arterial Waveform





#### **Errors in invasive BP measurements**

BP monitor will display higher than actual systolic pressures and lower than actual diastolic pressures.



BP monitor will display lower than actual systolic pressures and higher than actual diastolic pressures.





Wigger's diagram summarizes the electrical and mechanical events during the cardiac cycle:

- Electrical events (ECG) causes cardiac muscle contraction, which
- Causes cardiac muscle contractions, which
- Creates pressure changes in the atria and ventricles, which
- Open and close heart valves, which
- Controls the filling and ejection of blood from the ventricles.



# **Questions**?

Feel free to contact me following this session or anytime in the future fennigko@msoe.edu



Thanks for attending!





#### We value your feedback!

Please scan the QR code to submit a survey for this session.

#### **Thank You!**