



Sudden Cardiac Death and Malignant Arrhythmias
The Scope of the Problem in ACHD

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Arrhythmia, SCD in ACHD
here's a starting point...

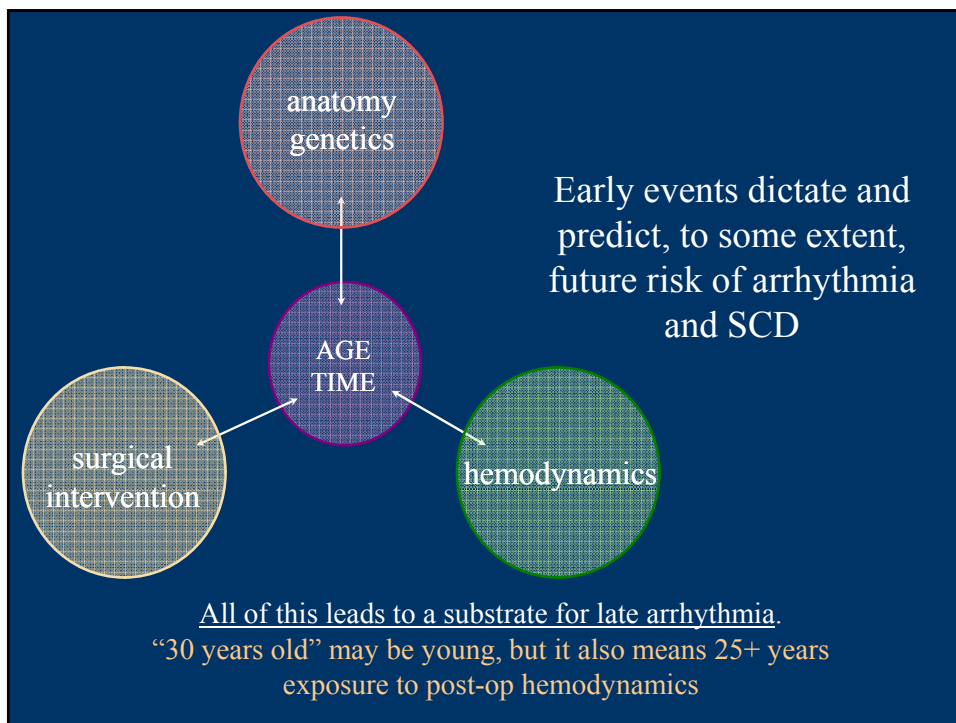
Oechslin et al. *Am J Cardiol* 2000
2609 ACHD pts: 199 deaths (~8%) - **sudden death (26%) and CHF (21%)**
CoA (EF<40%), Ebstein (not WPW), ccTGA (EF<45%), AoV abnl, TOF

We haven't understood this population very well...

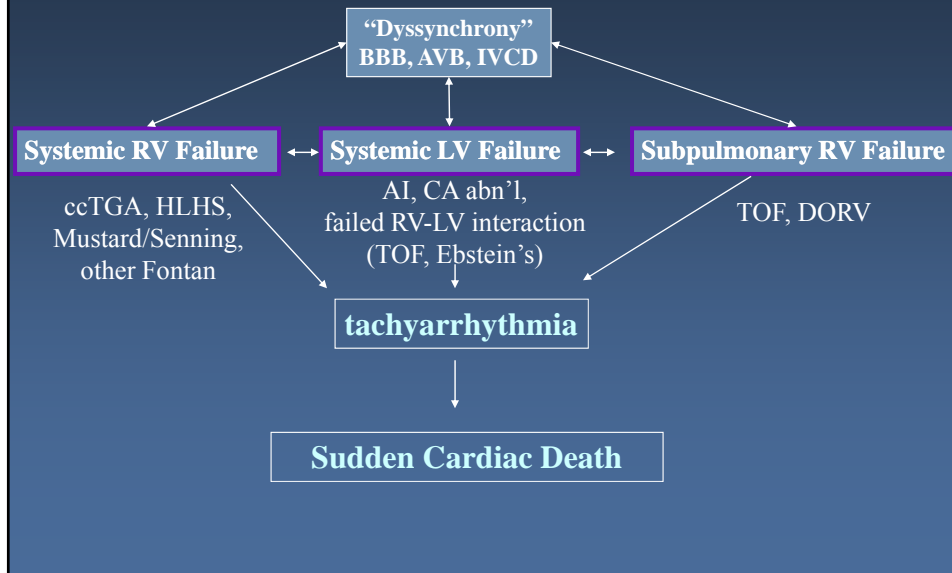
Since late 1990's,
more CHD patients
over age 18 than under
in the U.S.

Now ~ 1,000,000 ACHD'ers

The SCD Problem in ACHD is a Continuum



Categorizing the many different anatomies of ACHD: Heart Failure leads to VT/SCD



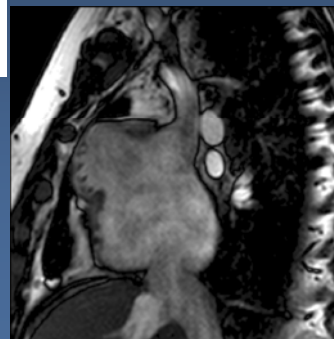
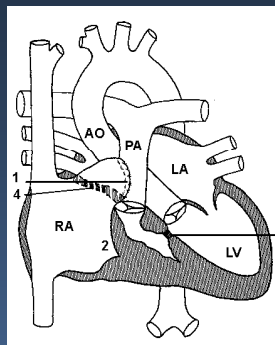
“Old-style Fontan” RA-PA connection

Current surgical management of “single ventricle physiology”

1 - Ao-Pulm shunt: imposes a volume load on the ventricle (“chronic” stretch)

2 - Bidirectional Glenn shunt: reduces volume, persistent low sats for myocardium

3 - Fontan: multiple suture lines in atria, atrial stretch



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Atrial reentry: Fontan

Many/most Fontan patients develop atrial tachyarrhythmias.

Possibly decreasing incidence?

- Weber (AJC, 1989) MIX at 10 yrs = 50%
- Gelatt (JACC, 1994) APC at 4½ yrs = 29%
- TCPC = 14%
- RV-PA = 18%
- Cecchin (AJC, 1995) APC at 7 yrs = 60%
- LAT +/- FEN = 30%
- Nürnberg (ATS, 2004) early ECF/LAT - 11%, 38%
- Bartz (JACC, 2006) heterotaxy, 4 yrs = 50%
- Giannico (JACC, 2006) ECF at 15 yrs = 15%
- Blaufox/PHN (JTCVS, 2008) mixed = 9.6%
- Stephenson/PHN (JACC, 2010) all = 7.3%

Systemic SV Failure

Piran et al. *Circ* 2002;105:1189
long-term f/u of 188 adult CHD

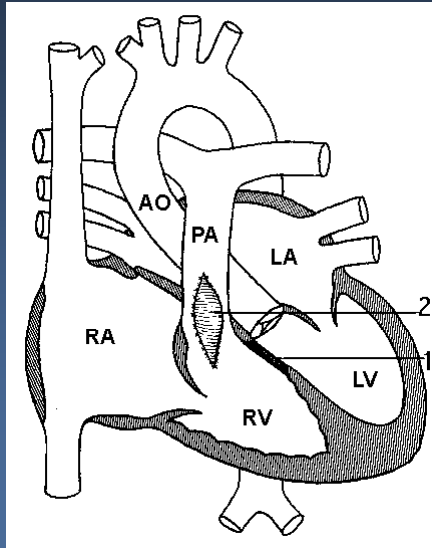
Adult Fontan patients:

- 45% had sx's of tachyarrhythmia or obvious CHF
- 18% died in 16 year follow-up
- 33% died 2° to HF
- ~90% of those dying with CHF had significant arrhythmia, mostly IART, VT

Tetralogy of Fallot Subpulmonary RV Failure

“tetralogy”

1. RV outflow obstruction
2. VSD
3. Aortic override
4. RVH



“monology”

Anterior deviation of the infundibular septum *in utero*

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Reentry ventricular tachycardia

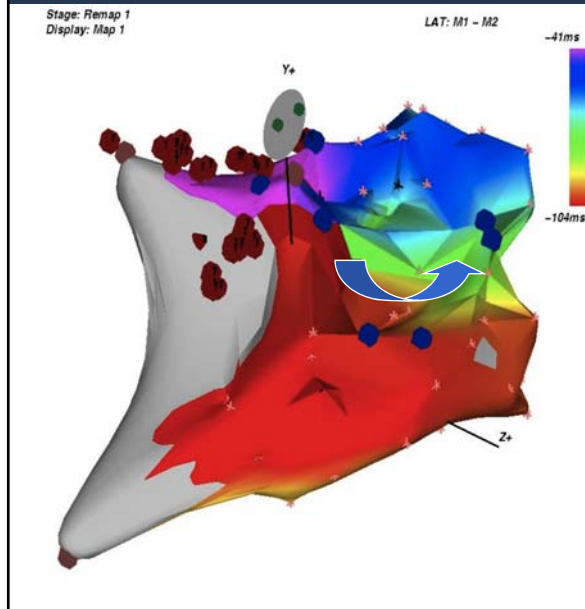
SCD/VT in TOF - avg 27

Year	Age (yrs)
1978	20
1980	22
1982	25
1984	28
1986	20
1988	25
1990	28
1992	25
1994	22
1996	28
1998	25
2000	28
2002	25
2004	28
2006	25
2008	28
2010	25

Subpulmonary RV failure

- Pulmonary regurgitation
 - contributes to RV failure (Frigola 2004)
 - correlates with RV size, QRSd and VTs (Gatzoulis *Lancet* 2000, Abd El Rahman 2002)
- QRS duration
 - may be assoc. with VT (Gatzoulis 1997)
 - improve after PVR (Therrien *Circ* 2002) - RVEDV 180ml/m²
- Infundibular incision
 - creation of isthmus-TA, VSD, PV (ablation data, Brigham, 2006)

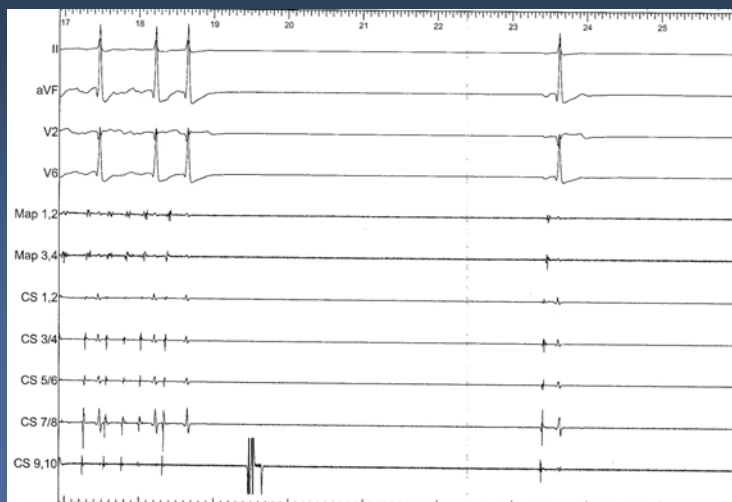
VT in TOF



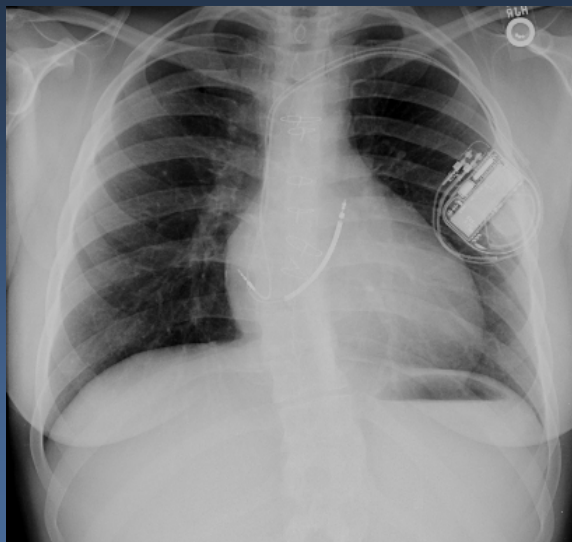
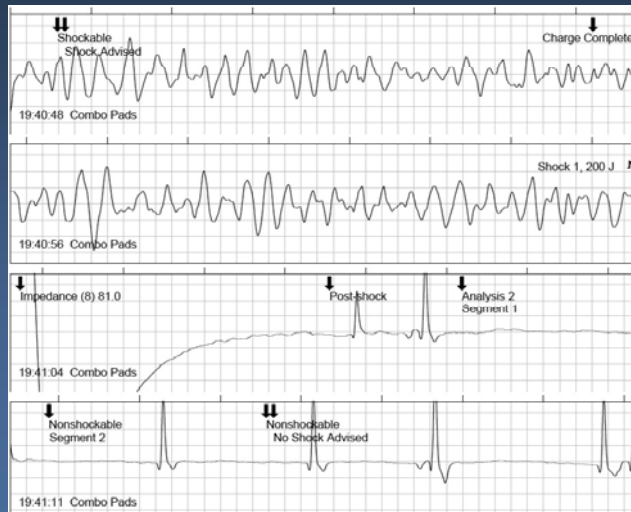
Counterclockwise VT circuit around the anastomosis of the RV and conduit.

Successful RF line created, posterior aspect of anastomosis and the tricuspid annulus.

Extreme bradycardia, sinus arrest on cessation of rapid atrial tachycardia. 25 yo with complex pulm atresia, failed 1 1/2 ventricle approach, atriopulmonary Fontan



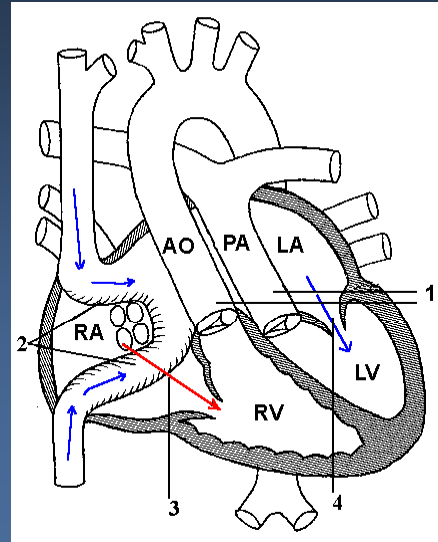
Bradycardia-induced VF converted by AED at a gym



Systemic RV Failure - Atrial Switch (Mustard, Senning) d-transposition of the great arteries

One operation. Good early result.

Long-term:
Long atrial suture lines,
conduction block
Systemic right ventricle



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graph TD
    dTGA((dTGA)) --> Avg25[avg 25+ YEARS]
    Avg25 --> Atriotomy[Atriotomy: baffle]
    Avg25 --> Obstruction[obstruction: TR]
    
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25 + ⇒

Bradycardia/Tachycardias
d-TGA: Mustard, Senning

NSR

AtrTachy

Atrial reentry

- most common tachy; can also 1:1 w/ ischemia, VT
- rare paroxysm of adv AV block
- **uncontrolled IART: higher mortality risk**

1° VT/SCD

- Most ACHD w/ dTGA have fixed or reversible CA perfusion defects (systemic RV/coronary supply)
- worse VT/SCD risk if Mustard with VSD
- 70% have HF symptoms, poorly Rx'd
- **VT/VF documented in ~ all SCD, ~ 80% with exercise**

Bradycardia

- “loss of sinus rhythm”
- 20-60% at 20 yrs
- pacing and HF
- effects of slow HR on vent funct not well-studied
- **dilation due to increased stroke volume contributes to HF, VA's**

30-40

**Systemic RV Failure:
cc-TGA & ventricular tachycardia**

■ **Coronary insuff:** Hornung. *Heart* 1998.
 Pts with isolated cc-TGA
 All w/ fixed perfusion defects, most w/ reversible defects
 Only a 3 yr old had a normal EF

CHF and SCD: (age 45) Graham; Piran

- CHF in 67% with, 25% without assoc lesions
- >25% early sudden death, >1/2 with CHF
- VT/VF common w/ CHF - what's a normal RVEF?

20-40

Late AV Block

“Natural” late AVB: ccTGA

- Risk of acquired AV block: 2%/yr, 7%/yr with VSD

Huhta et al. Circ 1983

DILV, l-TGA (post-op Fontan)

- Risk of increasing degrees of AV conduction abnormalities over time

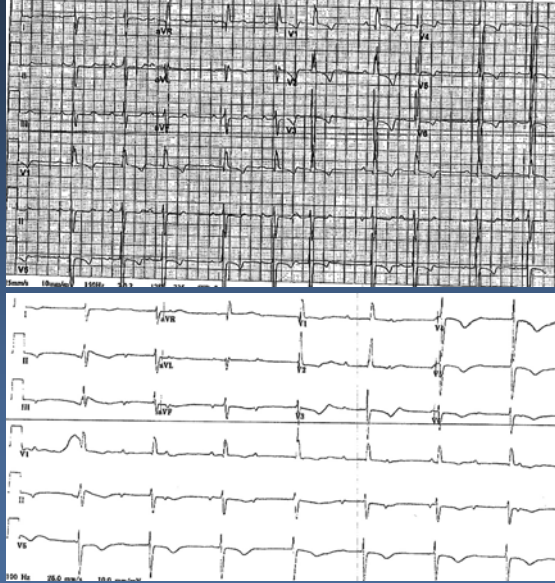
Previous “transient” surgical AVB

- 288 TOF pts, operated 1950-60’s
- 9% late sudden cardiac death
- Avg return of conduction in late SCD was POD 7.3
- Poor hemodynamics, later age at repair
- 7/7 discharged in SCAVB died

Some with return of conduction 3-9 days can have late SCD (AVB)
Hokansen, Moller. Am J Cardiol 2001

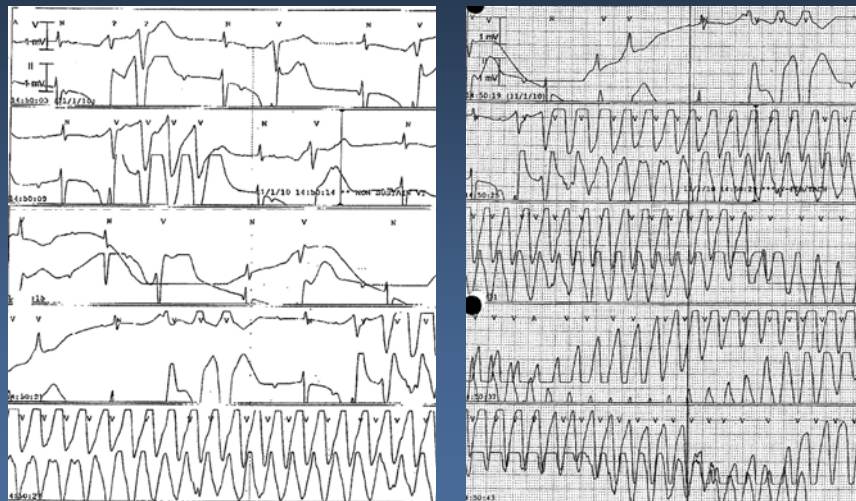
Age Group	NI AVC	1st AVB	2nd AVB	Cong CAVB	Acq CAVB
0-5	16	0	0	0	0
6-10	10	0	0	0	0
11-15	4	0	0	0	0
16-20	2	0	0	0	0
21-25	1	0	0	0	0
>25	1	0	0	0	0

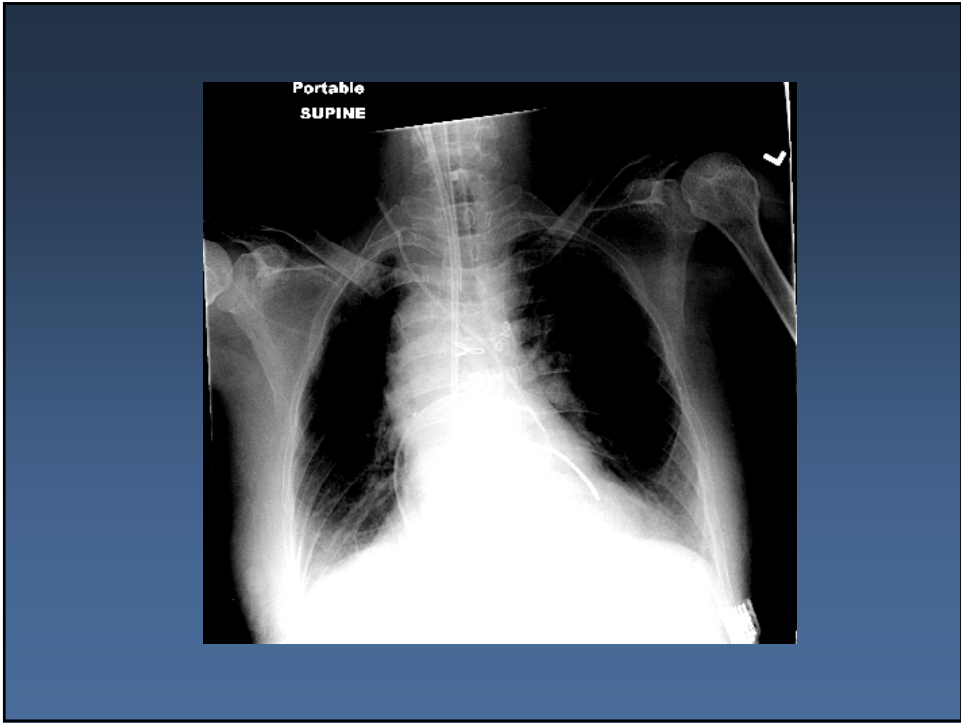
New AV block



- 57 yo Fontan, complex anatomy, AV-VA discordance
- 1st ECG in September
- 2nd ECG in October

Bradycardia and AVB-induced VT/VF





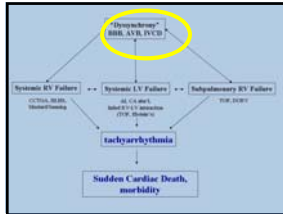
**Ventricular tachycardia:
LV failure**

AI and decr LV function after Ross operation:

- >15% require re-op for AI
- up to 30% may have early and/or late VT
- direct relationship between LVEDD and VA's

RV-LV interaction:

- ***~10-15% of late post-op TOF patients will have reduced LVEF.
- Related to:
 - 1) prior long duration shunt
 - 2) aortic insufficiency
 - 3) RV enlargement, reduced RVEF, RBBB
- Incidence of VA's is higher in those with reduced LVEF



Dyssynchrony

2° to Bundle Branch Block

Adult HF: (CRT) Bradley et al. *JAMA* 2003;289:730

1634 pts, meta-analysis: CONTAK, MUSTIC, MIRACLE, InSync ICD

LBBB 54-87%, LVEFs \leq 30%; Ischemic CM 37-69%;
Age ~ 65 yrs

ACHD: RBBB - operations: TOF, VSD, etc, etc

LBBB - operations: AS, subAS, some DORV, AV canal

2° to Pacing

Adult pts: DAVID Trial (2002); MOde Selection Trial (2003)

Mortality, hosp and atrial fib > with more RV pacing

⇒ Over 1 year+

Ped/ACHD pts (mult studies)

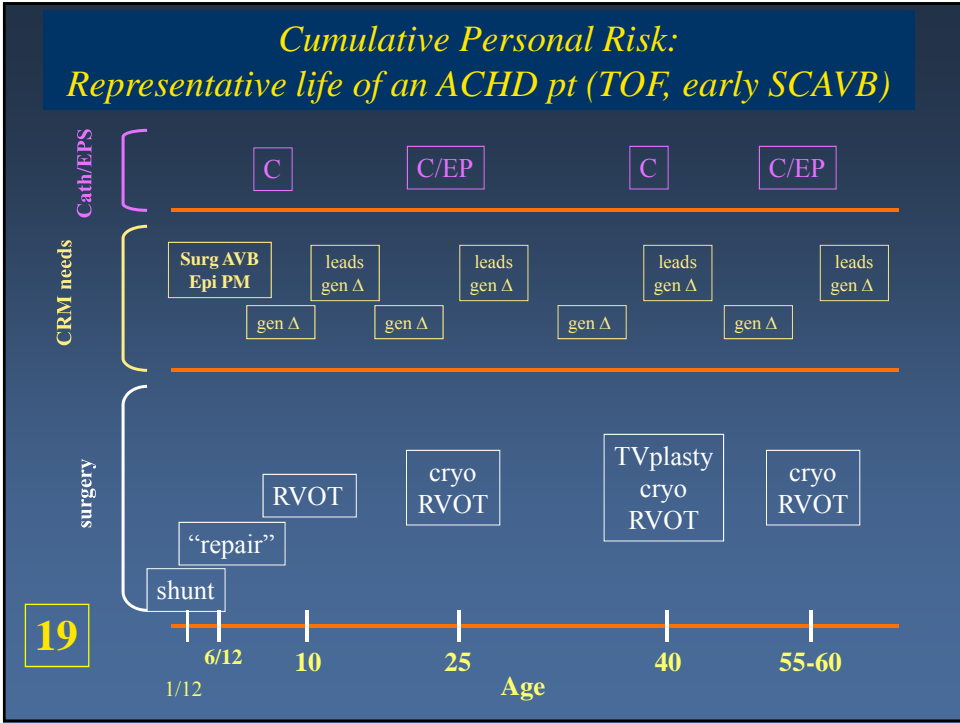
incr. RV paced QRS duration and age = poorer LV function

⇒ Over decades?

Location: septum better than apex - LV dP/dt and LVEDP

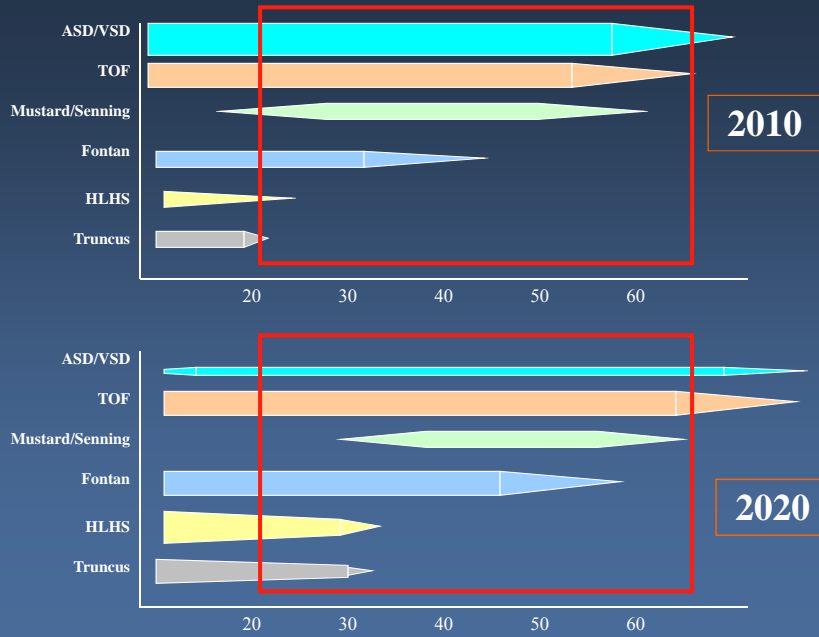
“Upgrade” from to DDDR: Ventricular funct worse

The SCD Problem in ACHD is Personal



The SCD Problem in ACHD is Changing

Changing... increasing complexity of the ACHD population



*The Problem of
Lifetime Arrhythmia Burden
in ACHD needs to be Quantified*

CRM needs by CHD type

DEFECT	Incidence (in CHD Population)
Patent Ductus Arteriosus	7.3%
Pulmonary Stenosis	6.6%
Aortic Coarctation	6.2%
Ventricular Septal Defect	30.7%
Atrial Septal Defect	8.9%
Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return	1.8%
Atrioventricular Canal	4.4%
Aortic Stenosis	4.0%
Truncus Arteriosus	1.9%
Pulmonary Atresia	2.4%
Tetralogy of Fallot	4.9%
Double Outlet Right Ventricle	1.7%
Hypoplastic Left Heart	4.0%
Transposition of the Great Arteries	6.3%
OTHER - Single vent, ccTGA, heterotaxy, Ebstein's	9.0%

Estimate candidates:

Pacing:
AV block,
SND/AT

ICD:
primary,
secondary

CRT for HF

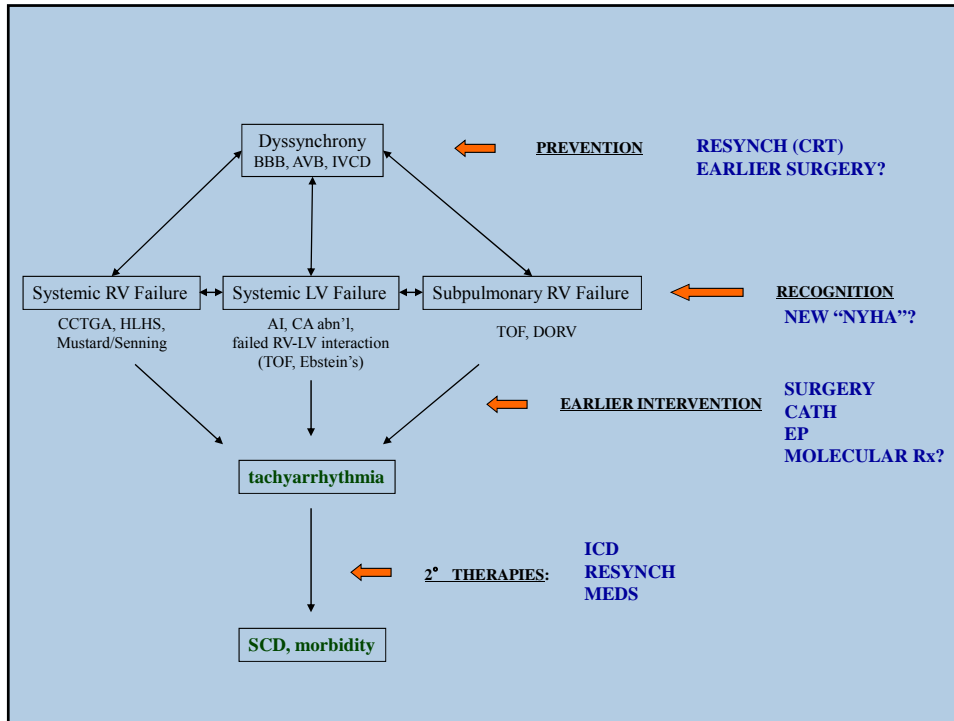
DEFECT	CRM needs pediatric	CRM needs ACHD
Patent Ductus Arteriosus	0.0%	0.0%
Pulmonary Stenosis	0.0%	0.0%
Aortic Coarctation	0.0%	6.0%
Ventricular Septal Defect	2.5%	2.5%
Atrial Septal Defect	6.0%	25.0%
Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return	2.0%	5.0%
Atrioventricular Canal	5.0%	8.0%
Aortic Stenosis	5.5%	38.0%
Truncus Arteriosus	34.0%	26.0%
Pulmonary Atresia	8.0%	29.0%
Tetralogy of Fallot	28.0%	42.0%
Double Outlet Right Ventricle	14.0%	42.0%
Hypoplastic Left Heart	14.5%	49.0%
Transposition of the Great Arteries	34.0%	100.0%
OTHER - Single vent, ccTGA, heterotaxy, Ebstein's	32.0%	75.0%

Pediatric CHD: overall 9%
Adult CHD: overall 20%

< 10% are getting CRM Rx

The SCD Problem in ACHD needs a Plan





Take home messages

Heart Failure and Arrhythmia in ACHD: ACHD is an *electroanatomic* defect

- Important component of antiarrhythmic therapy in ACHD patients with HF is *heart failure therapy*.
- Anticipate EP needs by each CHD defect, physiology
- Use all available opportunities, don't burn bridges
- Give the pediatric CHD patient a realistic appraisal of life as an adult CHD patient.