# Cardiac output and Venous Return

#### Faisal I. Mohammed, MD, PhD

# Objectives

- Define cardiac output and venous return
- Describe the methods of measurement of CO
- Outline the factors that regulate cardiac output
- Follow up the cardiac output curves at different physiological states
- Define venous return and describe venous return curve
- Outline the factors that regulate venous return curve at different physiological states
- Inter-relate Cardiac output and venous return curves

## **Important Concepts About Cardiac Output (CO) Control**

- Cardiac Output is the sum of all tissue flows and is affected by their regulation (CO = 5L/min, cardiac index = 3L/min/m<sup>2</sup>).
- CO is proportional to tissue O<sub>2.</sub> use.
- CO is proportional to 1/TPR when AP is constant.
- *F=∆P/R* (Ohm's law)
- CO = (MAP RAP) / TPR, (RAP=0) then

• CO=MAP/TPR ; MAP=CO\*TPR



**OXYGEN CONSUMPTION (L/min)** 

## Magnitude & Distribution of CO at Rest & During Moderate Exercise



# Variations in Tissue Blood Flow

			ml/min/	
	Per cent	ml/min	100 gm	
Brain	14	700	50	
Heart	4	200	70	
Bronchi	2	100	25	
Kidneys	22	1100	360	
Liver	27	1350	95	
Portal	(21)	(1050)		
Arterial	<b>(6)</b>	(300)		
Muscle (inactive state)	15	<b>750</b>	4	
Bone	5	250	3	
Skin (cool weather)	6	300	3	
Thyroid gland	1	50	160	
Adrenal glands	0.5	25	300	
Other tissues	3.5	175	1.3	
Total	100.0	5000		

## Control of Cardiac Output



### Factors that affect the Cardiac Output



#### **Ventricular Stroke Work Output**





#### **Effect of Sympathetic and Parasympathetic Stimulation on Cardiac Output**



Right Atrial Pressure (mmHg)



## **The Cardiac Output Curve**

- Plateau of CO curve determined by heart strength (contractility + <sup>+</sup>HR)
  - $\uparrow$  Sympathetics  $\Rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  plateau
    - ↓ Parasympathetics (HR<sup>↑</sup>) ⇒ (? plateau)
      ↑ Plateau
    - Heart hypertrophy's  $\Rightarrow \uparrow$  plateau
  - Myocardial infarction  $\Rightarrow$  (? plateau)
    - ↓ Plateau

### The Cardiac Output Curve (cont'd)

- Valvular disease  $\Rightarrow \downarrow$  plateau (stenosis or regurgitation)
- Myocarditis  $\Rightarrow \downarrow$  plateau
- Cardiac tamponade  $\Rightarrow$  (? plateau)
- $\downarrow$  Plateau
- Metabolic damage  $\Rightarrow \downarrow$  plateau

# Factors Affecting Cardiac Output



# Factors Affecting Stroke Volume



# A Summary of the Factors Affecting Cardiac Output





#### REGULATION OF STROKE VOLUME: CONTRACTILITY



# **Cardiac Contractility**

- Best is to measure the C.O. curve, but this is nearly impossible in humans.
- dP/dt is not an accurate measure because this increases with increasing preload and afterload.
- (dP/dt)/P <sub>ventricle</sub> is better. P <sub>ventricle</sub> is instantaneous ventricular pressure.
- Excess K<sup>+</sup> decreases contractility.
- Excess Ca<sup>++</sup> causes spastic contraction, and low Ca<sup>++</sup> causes cardiac dilation.

#### REGULATION OF STROKE VOLUME: AFTERLOAD



#### **Measurement of Cardiac Output**

- Electromagnetic flowmeter
- Indicator dilution (dye such as cardiogreen)
- Thermal dilution
- Oxygen Fick Method
- $CO = (O_2 consumption / (A-VO_2 difference))$

# Electromagnetic flowmeter



 $\begin{array}{l} q_1 = CQ^*C_{VO2} \\ q_2 = amount \ of \ Oxygen \ uptake \ by \ the \ lungs \\ q_3 = CO_-^* \ C_{AO2} \ and \ equals = CQ^*C_{VO2} + O_2 \ uptake \\ Oxygen \ uptake = CQ\{C_{AO2} - C_{VO2}\} \\ CO = Oxygen \ uptake / \{C_{AO2} - C_{VO2}\} \end{array}$ 



# Spirometer



## Swan-Ganz catheter



# O<sub>2</sub> Fick Problem

- If pulmonary vein  $O_2$  content = 200 ml  $O_{2/}L$  blood
- Pulmonary artery  $O_2$  content = 160 ml  $O_2$  /L blood
- Lungs add 400 ml O<sub>2</sub> /min
- What is cardiac output?
- Answer: 400/(200-160) =10 L/min

#### THE INDICATOR DILUTION PRINCIPLE

Indicator concentration



# **Thermodilution Method Curve**



# **VENOUS RETURN**

- Definition: Volume of blood returns to either the left side or right side of the heart per minute
- VR = CO = $\Delta$  P/R
- VR = (Venous pressure –Rt. Atrial pressure)/ resistance to venous return

## Effect of Venous Valves



## Effect of Venous Valves



## Venous Valves



#### Effect Of Gravity on Venous Pressure



# **Vessel Structure and Function**





Dilated and twisted appearance of varicose veins in the leg

# Venous Pressure in the Body



- Compressional factors tend to cause resistance to flow in large peripheral veins.
- Increases in right atrial pressure causes blood to back up into the venous system thereby increasing venous pressures.
- Abdominal pressures tend to increase venous pressures in the legs.

# **Central Venous Pressure**

- Pressure in the right atrium is called *central venous* pressure.
- Right atrial pressure is determined by the balance of the heart pumping blood out of the right atrium and flow of blood from the large veins into the right atrium.
- Central venous pressure is normally 0 mmHg, but can be as high as 20-30 mmHg.

#### Factors affecting Central Venous Pressure

- Right atrial pressure (RAP) is regulated by a balance between the ability of the heart to pump blood out of the atrium and the rate of blood flowing into the atrium from peripheral veins.
- Factors that increase RAP:
   -increased blood volume
   -increased venous tone
   dilation of arterioles
   -decreased cardiac function



#### Factors that Facilitate Venous Return



#### The Venous Return Curve



**RIGHT ATRIAL PRESSURE (mmHg)** 



**RIGHT ATRIAL PRESSURE (mmHg)** 

**VENOUS RETURN (L/min/m)** 

# Venous Return (VR)

- Beriberi thiamine deficiency  $\Rightarrow$ arteriolar dilatation  $\Rightarrow \downarrow RVR$
- (RVR= resistance to venous return) because VR = (MSFP - RAP) /RVR (good for positive RAP's)
- A-V fistula  $\Rightarrow$  (? RVR)
- $\downarrow$  RVR
  - C. Hyperthyroidism  $\Rightarrow$  (? RVR)  $\downarrow$  RVR

# Venous Return (VR) (cont'd)

- Anemia  $\Rightarrow \downarrow \text{RVR} \text{ (why?)}$ 
  - $\uparrow$  Sympathetics  $\Rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  MSFP
  - ↑ Blood volume  $\Rightarrow$  ↑ MSFP + small ↓ in RVR
    - ↓ Venous compliance (muscle contraction or venous constriction)  $\Rightarrow$  (? MSFP)
      - ↑ MSFP

# **Factors Causing** Venous Return

- $\downarrow$  Blood volume  $\Rightarrow \downarrow$  MSFP
- $\downarrow$  Sympathetics  $\Rightarrow$  (? v. comp. and MSFP)
  - $\uparrow$  Venous compliance and  $\downarrow$ MSFP
- Obstruction of veins  $\Rightarrow$  (? RVR) •  $\uparrow$  RVR



**RIGHT ATRIAL PRESSURE (mmHg)** 

**CARDIAC OUTPUT AND VENOUS RETURN (L/min/m)** 

# **Thank You**

