Definition, Classification, and Diagnosis of Pulmonary Hypertension

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mPAP > 20 mmHg

mPAP > 20 mmHg

PAWP ≤ 15 mmHg

PVR > 2 WU

mPAP > 20 mmHg

PAWP > 15 mmHg

PVR ≤ 2 WU

mPAP > 20 mmHg

PAWP > 15 mmHg

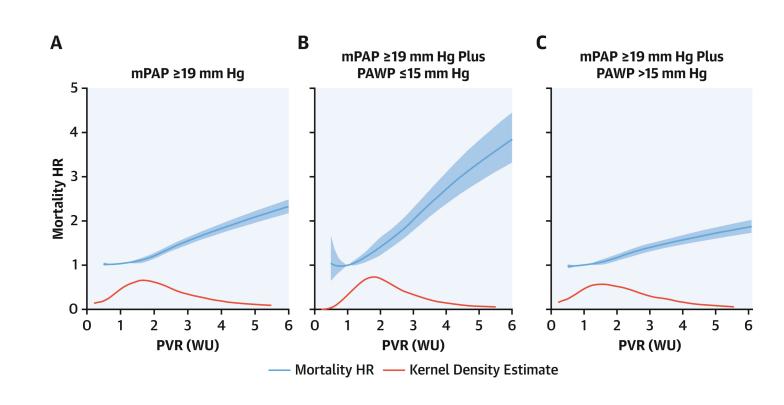
PVR > 2 WU

mPAP/CO slope > 3 mmHg/L/min

between rest and exercise

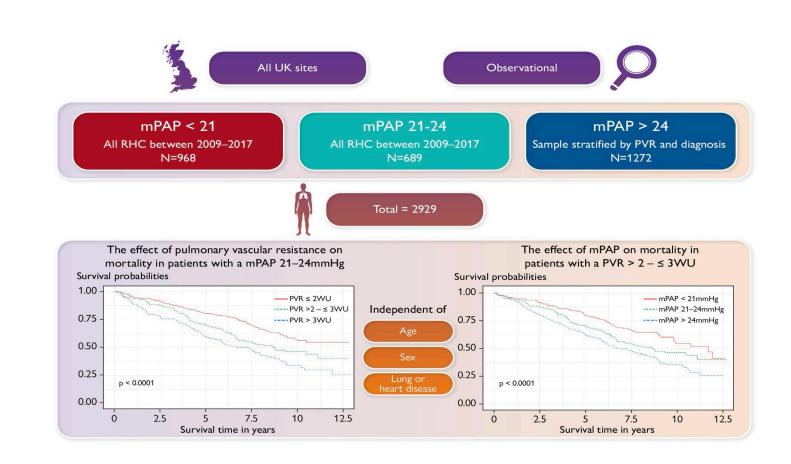
Mild Pulmonary Hypertension and Mortality

- Mild PH confers increased mortality in many well-phenotyped causes of PH (scleroderma, sickle cell, LHD)
- N = >40,000 VA patients, many with prevalent LHD
- PVR >2.1 captured ~55% more at-risk patients than a PVR of 3.0
- HR mortality 1.47
- HR heart failure hospitalization 1.17
- Results validated in a study at Vanderbilt University in a sex-matched cohort
- No data for treatment affecting this risk



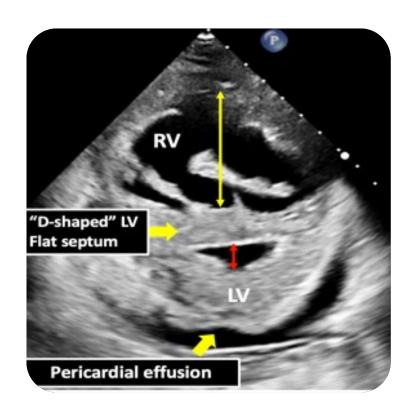
Outcomes in Patients With "Mild PH"

- Survival in patients referred for right heart cath in the UK 2009-2017, stratified by hemodynamics
- Majority of patients with mPAP 21-24 and PVR 2-3 had underlying heart or lung disease (68% and 79%, respectively)
- Mortality is increased in "mild PH"



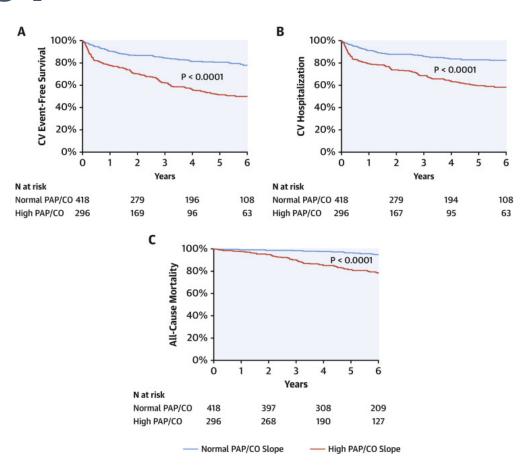
Mild PH and Classification

- Mild PH confers increased mortality in referred patients but often occurs in the setting of underlying heart and lung disease
- RHC must be interpreted in a clinical context to avoid misclassification
- Avoid RHC amidst an acute condition
- Comprehensive, deliberate evaluation remains important



Exercise Pulmonary Hypertension

- mPAP/CO slope > 3 mmHg/L/min is defined as abnormal
- Exercise PH is associated with worse event-free survival in patients with chronic dyspnea
- This finding holds despite comorbidities
- This definition allows future study of this population
- No proven therapeutic options



1. Pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)

- 1.1 Idiopathic
 - 1.1.1 Long-term responders to calcium channel blockers
- 1.2 Heritable a
- 1.3 Associated with drugs and toxins a
- 1.4 Associated with:
 - 1.4.1 Connective tissue disease
 - 1.4.2 HIV infection
 - 1.4.3 Portal hypertension
 - 1.4.4 Congenital heart disease
 - 1.4.5 Schistosomiasis
- 1.5 PAH with features of venous/capillary (PVOD/PCH) involvement
- 1.6 Persistent PH of the newborn

2. PH associated with left heart disease

- 2.1 Heart failure:
 - 2.1.1 with preserved ejection fraction
 - 2.1.2 with reduced or mildly reduced ejection fraction
 - 2.1.3 with specific cardiomyopathies (hypertrophic and amyloid)
- 2.2 Valvular heart disease
 - 2.2.1 aortic valve disease
 - 2.2.2 mitral valve disease
 - 2.2.3 mixed valvular disease
- 2.3 Congenital/acquired cardiovascular conditions leading to postcapillary PH

3. PH associated with lung diseases and/or hypoxia

- 3.1 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and/or emphysema
- 3.2 Interstitial lung disease
- 3.3 Combined pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema
- 3.4 Other parenchymal lung diseases b
- 3.5 Non-parenchymal restrictive diseases
 - 3.5.1 Hypoventilation syndromes
 - 3.5.2 Pneumonectomy
 - 3.5.3 Musculoskeletal disorders
- 3.6 Hypoxia without lung disease (e.g. high altitude)
- 3.7 Developmental parenchymal disorders

4. PH associated with pulmonary artery obstructions

- 4.1 Chronic thrombo-embolic PH
- 4.2 Other pulmonary artery obstructions c

5. PH with unclear and/or multifactorial mechanisms

- 5.1 Haematological disorders d
- 5.2 Systemic disorders: sarcoidosis, pulmonary Langerhans's cell histiocytosis, and neurofibromatosis type 1
- 5.3 Metabolic disorders e
- 5.4 Chronic renal failure with or without haemodialysis
- 5.5 Pulmonary tumour thrombotic microangiopathy
- 5.6 Fibrosing mediastinitis
- 5.7 Complex congenital heart diseases

Long-Term Responders to Calcium Channel Blockers

Acute vasoresponder removed

- A positive response is observed in up to 12% of iPAH or DT-PAH and 5% of heritable
- This group was the only one defined not by pathophysiology but by an initial therapeutic strategy
- This group includes both those who will be long-term responders and those who will progress similarly to PAH

Long-term responders added

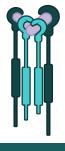
- Separate pathophysiology and prognosis
- This does require long-term follow-up
- Emphasizes the importance of initial vasoreactivity testing

Genetic Abnormalities Associated With Heritable PAH

IPAH, family hx of PH, anorexigen-associated PH, and CHD-PAH

Genetic counseling

Suspected PVOD/PCH



BMP/TGF-β family

ACVRL1 (ALK1)*
BMPR2 (BMPR2)
ENG (endoglin)*
GDF2 (BMP9)
SMAD9 (SMAD8)
CAV1 (caveolin-1)



Channels

ATP13A3 (ATPase 13A3)
KCNK3 (TASK1)
ABCC8 (MRP8)



Transcription factors

EIF2AK4 (GCN2)[†] SOX17 (SOX17)[‡] TBX4 (TBX4)[‡]



Other

KDR (VEGFR2) TET2 (TET2) GGCX (GGCX)

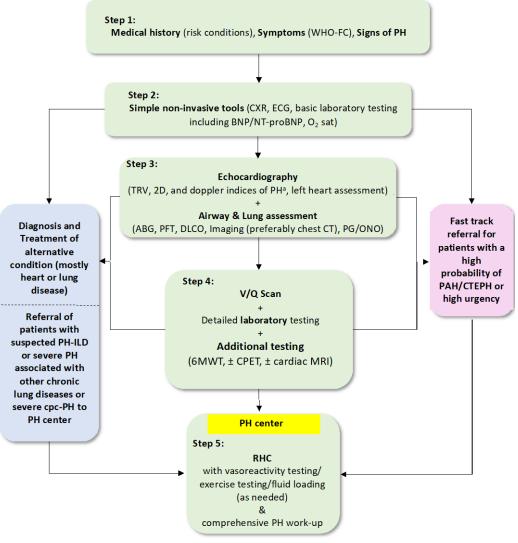
Eichstaedt CA, et al. Eur Respir J. 2023;61(2):2201471.

^{*}Hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia. †Pulmonary veno-occlusive disease/pulmonary capillary hemangiomatosis. ‡Lung development abnormalities.

Diagnosis of Pulmonary Arterial **Hypertension**

- Simplified diagnostic algorithm
- Vasoreactivity testing in IPAH, DPAH, and HPAH
- Emphasize fast-track Referral for high-risk patients

Diagnostic algorithm of patients with suspected PH



Echocardiographic Measurements

The ventricles	RV/LV basal diameter / area ratio > 1.0	
	Flattening of interventricular septum (LVEI > 1.1 in systole and/or diastole)	
	TAPSE / sPAP ratio < 0.55 mm/mmHg	
Pulmonary artery	RVOT AT < 105 ms and/or mid-systolic notching	
	Early diastolic pulmonary regurgitation velocity > 2.2 m/s	
	PA diameter > AR diameter; PA diameter > 25 mm	
Inferior vena cava and right atrium	IVC diameter > 21 mm with decreased inspiratory collapse	
	RA area (end-systole) > 18 cm ²	

Echocardiographic Measurements by Standard View

Parasternal Long Axis



Enlarged RV

Parasternal Short Axis (at level of valves)

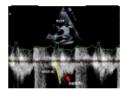


Enlarged RA, RVOT, and PA

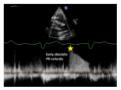
Parasternal Short Axis (at mid-ventricle)



D-Shaped LV; Decreased LV eccentricity index (LVEI, D2/D1) >1; Pericardial effusion



Decreased RVOT/PV acceleration time <105 ms with mid-systolic notch



Increased peak diastolic pulmonic regurgitant velocity >2.2 m/s

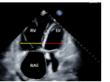


Enlarged PA > 25 mm

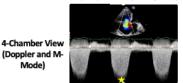
4-Chamber View

Mode)

IVC



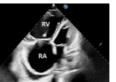
Dilated RV with basal RV/LV ratio > 1.0; Enlarged right atrial area (RAE) >18cm2 (end-systole)



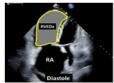
Increased systolic peak tricuspid regurgitant velocity >2.8 m/s by Doppler



Distended IVC >2.1 cm with diminished inspiratory collapsibility (<50% with a sniff or <20% with guiet inspiration)

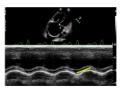


Pericardial effusion

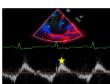




Reduced RV fractional area change (FAC) in systole versus diastole [(RVEDa-RVESa)/RVEDV] <35%

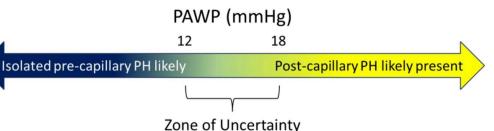


Decreased tricuspid annular plane excursion (TAPSE) <1.8cm by M-mode



Decreased systolic excursion velocity (S') of tricuspid valve annulus <9.5 cm/s by tissue Doppler imaging

Right Heart Catheterization



Ancillary data* particularly important

Swan-Ganz Distal Tip Position and Expected Pressure Waveforms Raper La Rap

Measurements are endexpiratory without breathhold or averaged over 3-4 respiratory cycles

Direct Fick > TD > Indirect Fick CO

Vasoreactivity testing in IPAH, DPAH, and HPAH

Normal or moderately increased mPAP and PCWP 13-15 may benefit from provocative testing

Exercise

 Exercise PH defined by the mPAP/CO slope > 3 mmHg/L/min, but may also bring out postcapillary PH

Patient Case

- 15-year-old male patient with dyspnea and chest pain
- Born 3.5 weeks premature and spent 6 days in NICU for "lung problems"
- Struggling with dyspnea and fatigue with exercise since age 9
- Diagnosed with asthma but inhalers did not help; CT with air trapping
- He recently developed chest pain that radiates to left shoulder and a decline in exercise capacity
- TTE with right-to-left shunt through a patent foramen ovale
- He is also having a problem with his knee and is asking to undergo knee surgery

Past medical history

- ADHD on lisdexamfetamine
- Factor V Leiden heterozygote

Social history

 Has smoked marijuana and a few cigarettes in high school; no cocaine or methamphetamine

Family history

 Biological father was a long-distance truck driver who had PE and died at age 33

Patient Case

- HRCT chest
- Mosaic attenuation bilaterally on expiratory phase
- Mild diffuse bronchial wall thickening and bronchiectasis
- Mildly enlarged main pulmonary artery

Pulmonary function tests

• FVC 3.71 (87 %)

• TLC 4.62 (89 %)

• FEV1 3.08 (84 %)

DLCO normal

• Ratio 83%

NT-proBNP

• 58 pg/mL

Cardiac MRI

- RVEDV 219 ml
- RVEF 61 %
- SVI 64 ml/m²



RHC (3/22/19)

- RAP 7 mmHg
- PAP 62/45 (52) mmHg
- PCWP 9 mmHg
- Qp 2.28; Qs 2.28; Qp/Qs 1:1

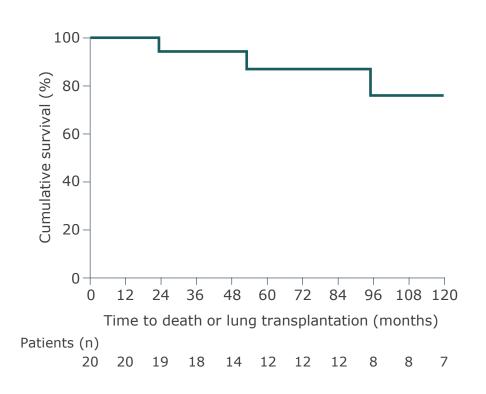
- PVR 18.8 WU
- PA sats 67%
- SVC 65%
- RA 66%

DLCO, diffusing capacity of the lungs for carbon monoxide; FEV1, forced expiratory volume; FVC, forced vital capacity; HRCT, high-resolution computed tomography; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide; PA(P), pulmonary artery (pressure); PCWP, pulmonary capillary wedge pressure; PVR, pulmonary vascular resistance; Qp/Qs, ratio of pulmonary blood flow to systemic blood flow; RA(P), right atrial (pressure); RHC, right heart catheterization; RVEDV, right ventricle end diastolic volume; RVEF, right ventricle ejection fraction; SVC, superior vena cava; SVI, stroke volume index; TLC, total lung capacity; WU, Wood units.

Patient Case: Genetic Testing

- Heterozygous in frameshift mutation in exon 9 of the *TBX4* gene; the new reading frame encodes a STOP codon 14 positions downstream
 - Associated with childhood-onset PAH, small patella syndrome (ischiocoxopodopatellar syndrome), and pulmonary parenchymal abnormalities

Time to death or lung transplantation in patients with PAH with *TBX4* mutation



Risk Stratification in PAH

State of the Art

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59-Year-Old Woman With Mild Dyspnea

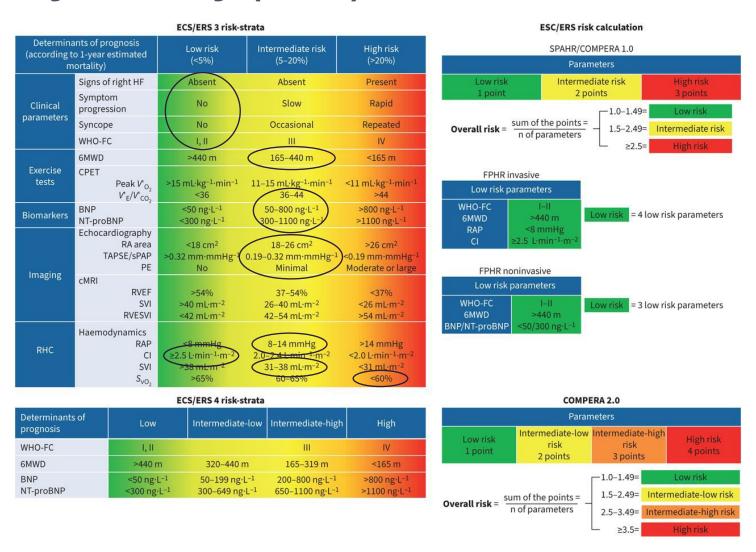
- Family history:
 - Grandmother died in childbirth in the 1930s
 - 7 years ago, her daughter underwent transplant for PAH
- Past medical history:
 - Obstructive sleep apnea
 - Rheumatoid arthritis x 25 years
 - Rx hydroxychloroquine, etanercept, prednisone
- Exam: BP 102/80, P 87, BMI 31, JVP nl, prominent P2
- Echo: eRVSP 65 mmHg, D-shaped LV, mod RV enlarge/dysfn, nl IVC
- Cardiac MRI: RVEF 41%
- PFTs: Normal spirometry, DLCO 74% predicted
- 6-min walk: 317 m, normal sats
- BNP: 280 pg/mL



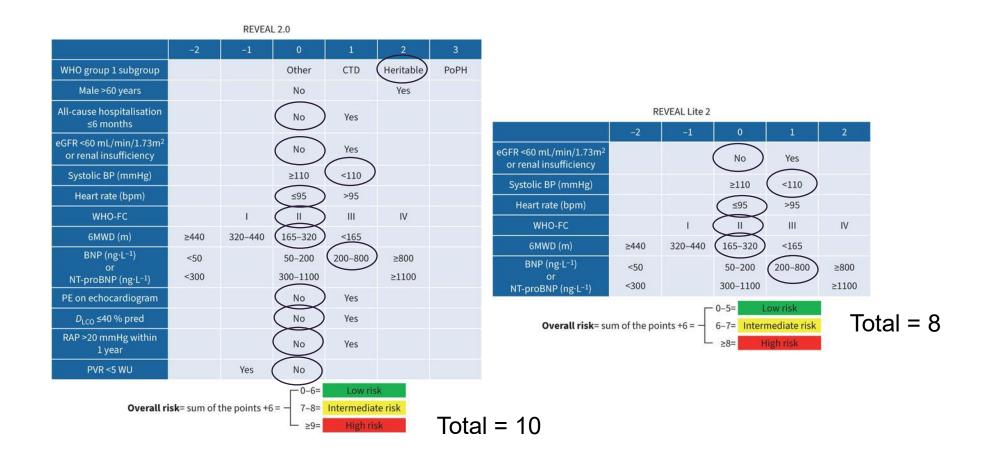
Right Heart Catheterization

- BP 102/80, P 87
- RA 9, PA 72/27/44, PCW 8, CO/CI 4.8/2.9, PVR 9 WU, PA sat 59%, SVI 33
- Nitric oxide:
 - PA 72/27/44, PCW 6, CO/CI 5.0/3.0, PVR 7.6 WU
- Dx: PAH, familial and/or related to rheumatoid arthritis
- Next step: Risk stratification
- Key point: Baseline and serial (3- to 6-month interval) reassessments

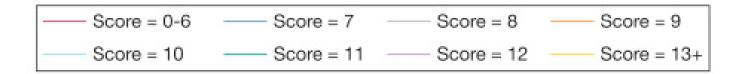
European Society of Cardiology (ESC)/European Respiratory Society (ERS) Risk Tools

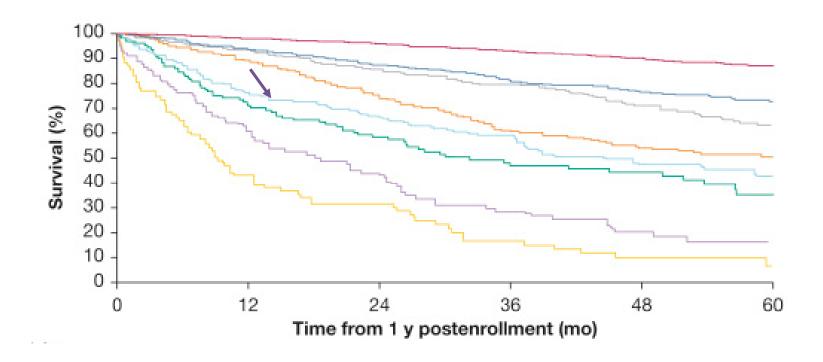


Registry to Evaluate Early and Long-Term Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension Disease Management (REVEAL) Risk Tools



REVEAL 2.0 5-Year Survival Curves

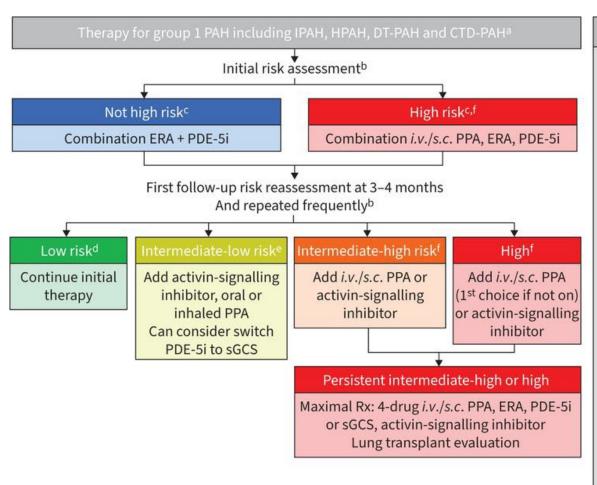




Attributes/Limitations of Risk Calculators

- Greater number of variables in REVEAL 2.0, REVEAL 2.0 Lite improves performance, but does not prove that using them results in better patient outcome than using the other tools
- Accounting for patient-specific factors, such as diagnosis, age, sex, DLCO, renal function, provides more precise prognostication
- Some components of the calculators may be impacted by factors other than the severity of the PAH, so may not be modified by more therapy
- Noninvasive calculators are easier to obtain than those that include invasive parameters, but hemodynamics are a critical aspect of PAH
- Calculators have mostly been built using databases with little imaging data, restricting their ability to incorporate that additional information

Treatment Algorithm



Treatment algorithm key points

- a. The treatment algorithm is intended for patients with confirmed group 1 PAH (phenotypically clear-cut, including mPAP ≥25 mmHg and PVR >3 Wood Units and no significant response on acute vasoreactivity testing). See text for treatment in PAH with complex phenotypes.
- b. Risk assessment should be performed at baseline, within 3–4 months and periodically thereafter, and using FC, 6MWD and natriuretic peptides as a part of a validated risk calculator. Haemodynamics, RV imaging and other measures should be used to supplement risk assessment.
- c. Initial triple therapy with an i.v./s.c. PPA is recommended in high-risk patients and may be considered in non-high risk with severe haemodynamics and/or poor RV function.
- d. Most *low-risk patients* at follow-up should continue initial therapy.
- e. Clinical trials with oral and inhaled treprostinil included only patients on monotherapy, while studies of selexipag and sotarcept included patients on combination therapy.
- f. **Transplant referral** should be considered for select high-risk patients at diagnosis, and for intermediate-high and high-risk patients at first or subsequent follow-up.

Comprehensive Treatment Goals in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH)

Domain	Treatment goals	Comments	Limitations	
Exercise tolerance	6MWD >440 m WHO-FC I or II	Not disease-specific, potentially affected by conditions other than PAH	Goals may not be achievable in patients with other conditions limiting exercise capacity	
RV function and strain	BNP <50 ng·L ⁻¹ NT-proBNP <300 ng·L ⁻¹	Not disease-specific, potentially affected by conditions other than PAH	Goals may not be achievable in patients with interfering conditions	
P	Need for research prioritisation: RA area <18 cm ² TR, none or trace TAPSE/sPAP >0.32 mm·mmHg ⁻¹	Other imaging parameters from echocardiography and MRI are emerging	TAPSE/sPAP threshold requires further validation	
Haemodynamics Cardiac catheter Pulmonary artery	RAP <8 mmHg CI ≥2.5 L·min ⁻¹ ·m ⁻² SVI >37 mL·m ⁻² S _{vO₂} >65% PVR <5 WU	Uncertain added value in low-risk patients according to ESC/ERS 4 strata model PVR <5 WU treatment goal may not apply to patients with congenital heart disease	Established prognostic value; however, not necessarily independent of noninvasive parameters	
	Need for research prioritisation: mPAP <30–35 mmHg PAC ≥2.5 mL·mmHg ⁻¹	With emerging therapies and effective combination treatment strategies, comprehensive haemodynamic assessment of treatment response is expected to play a prominent role in the management of patients with PAH	The proposed thresholds may be associated with long-term survival; however, this is not evidence-based and requires further validation	

Limitations of Risk Assessment Tools

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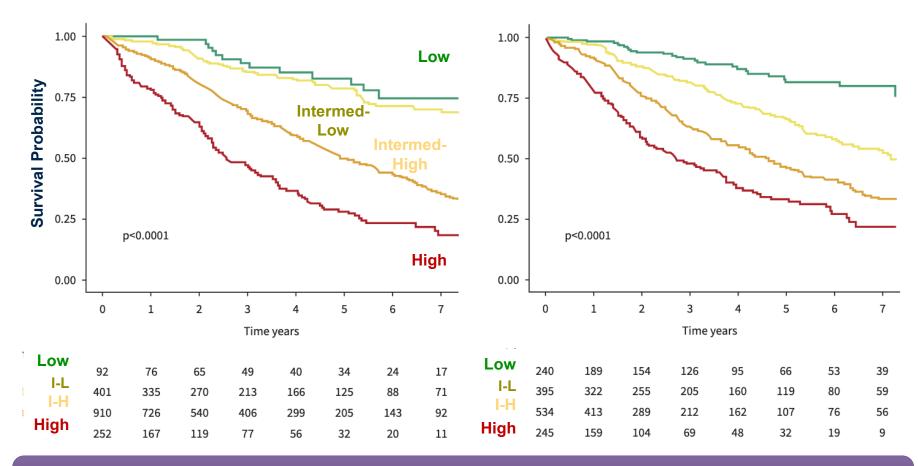


REVEAL 2.0 and Lite 2 Risk Score

Parameter		REVEAL Lite 2 (6 variables)			
Cause	CTD-PAH: +1	PoPl	1: +3	Heritable: +2	-
Demographics		-			
Renal Insufficiency	eGFR <60 mL/ı judgmer	✓			
NYHA or WHO FC	FC I: −1	FC II	l: +1	FC IV: +2	✓
All-Cause Hospitalization	Wit	-			
Vital Signs	SBP <110 mmHg	SBP <110 mmHg: +1 HR >96 bpm: +1			//
6MWD	≥440 m: -2	320 to <440 m: -1		<165 m: +1	✓
BNP (or NT-proBNP)	<50 pg/mL (< 300 pg/mL): −2	200 to <800 pg/mL: +1		≥800 pg/mL (≥1100 pg/mL): +2	✓
Echocardiogram	Pe	-			
PFT	% pre	-			
RHC Within 1 y	mRAP ≥20 mmH	g: +1 PVR <5 \		<5 Wood units: <mark>−1</mark>	-
Total Score	Sum of above +6				✓

Adapted from Benza RL, et al. Chest. 2021:159(1):337-346.

COMPERA 2.0: Refined 4-Stratum Risk Assessment Model



Intermediate-low / intermediate-high 4-stratum model more sensitive to prognostically relevant changes in risk than original 3-stratum with 1 intermediate category.

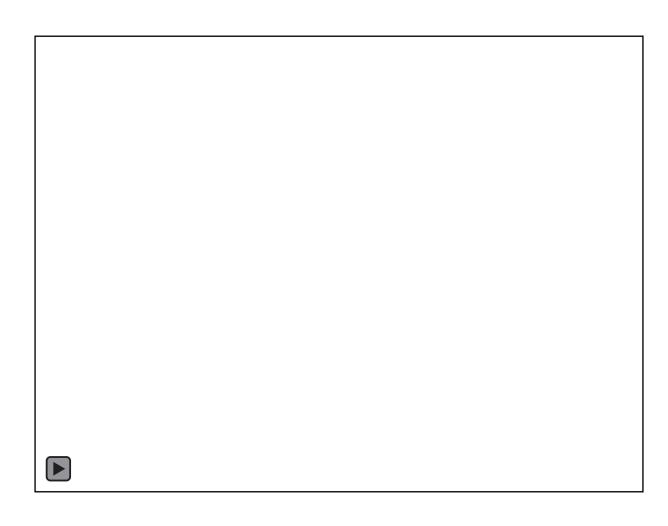
2 Ends of the Spectrum

- Younger patients who function well despite advanced hemodynamics and poor RV function
- Patients who are older or have multiple comorbidities who function poorly despite mild pulmonary vascular disease

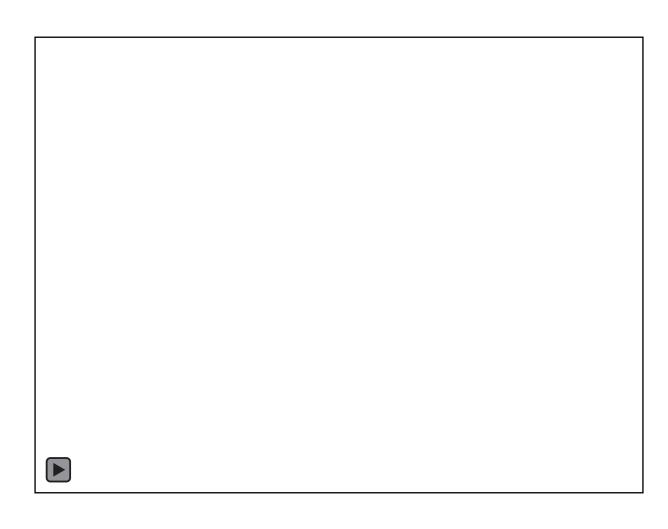
Patient LB

- 45 yo woman with 5-year h/o IPAH, triple therapy
 - Epo at 44 ng/kg/min, tadalafil, macitentan
- Right heart cath 11/22
 - mPAP 81 mmHg, RAP 7, PCWP 14
 - CO/CI 5.53/3.64, PVR 16.2 Wood units
- Most recent office visit: July 2024
 - FC 1, 6MWD 617 m, BNP 48
- Low risk by both 4-strata and REVEAL Lite 2

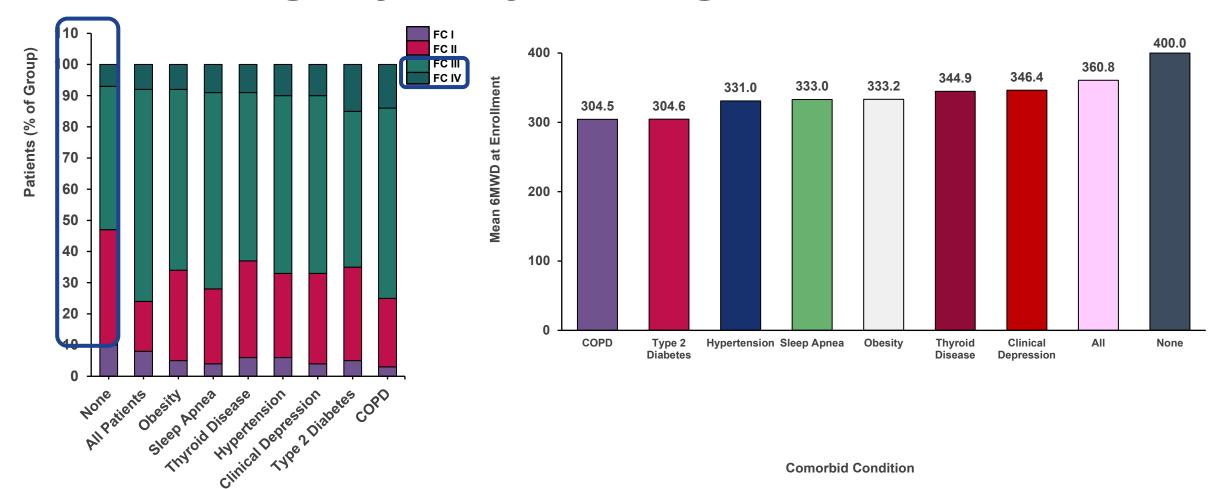
Patient LB-Apical 4 Chamber



Patient LB-Parasternal Short Axis



REVEAL Registry Analysis: Prognostic Factors

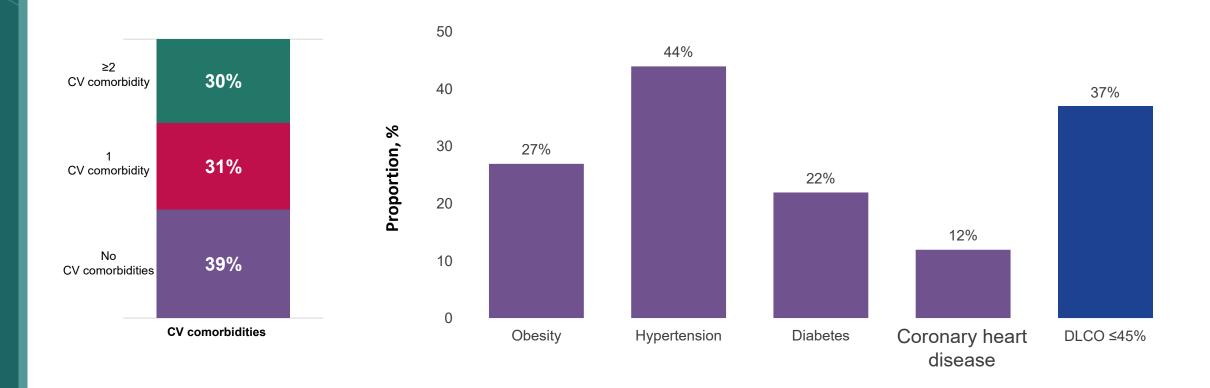


Subjects with Group 1 PAH with any comorbidity had worse FC and 6MWD

Comorbid Condition

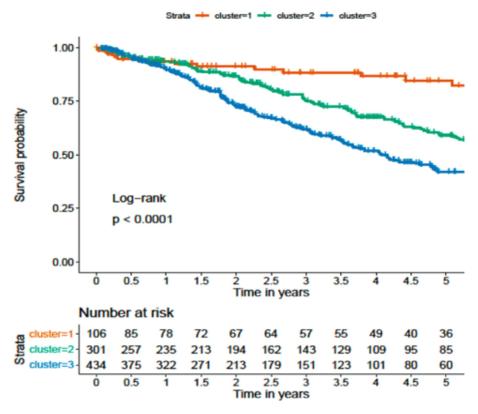
Prevalence of Cardiopulmonary Comorbid Conditions in PH: French PH Registry

• 60% of patients with PAH have at least 1...



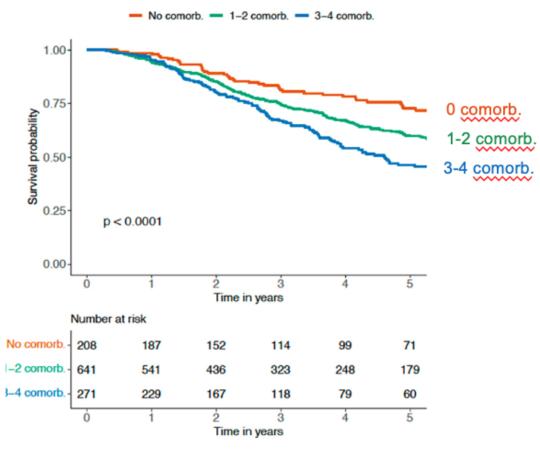
Do Cardiopulmonary Comorbidities in PH Affect Outcomes?

iPAH phenotypes



Hoeper MM, et al. J Heart Lung Transplant. 2020:39(12):1435-1444.

CV comorbidities

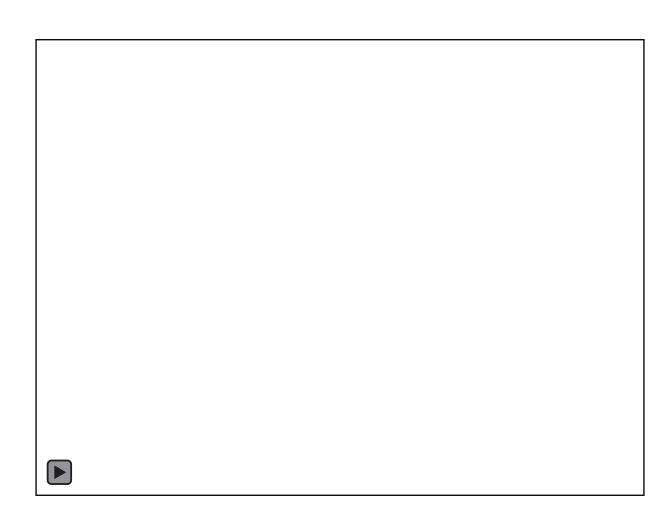


Rosenkranz S, et al. J Heart Lung Transplant. 2023;42(1):102-114.

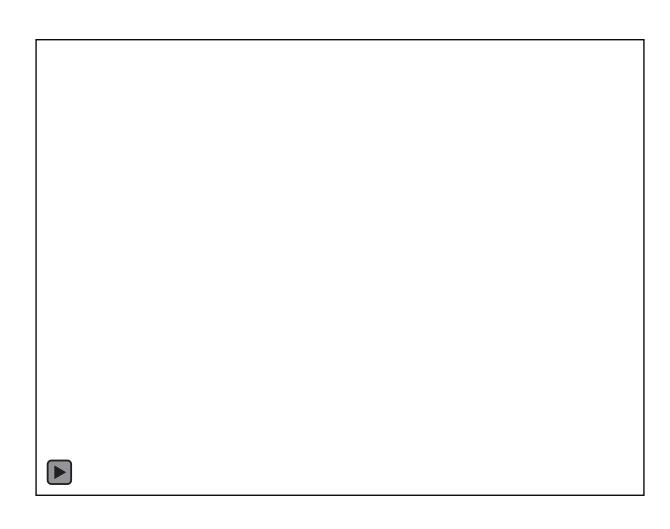
Patient JD

- 75 yo woman with PAH r/t scleroderma dx 2012
 - mPAP 33, PCWP 11, CO/CI 5.95, 3.18
 - PVR 3.2 WU, treated with PDE5i monotherapy
- Repeat RHC 7/19, PVR 2.8
- Last office visit: 8/24
 - FC3, HW 244, BNP 128
- Risk status
 - Intermediate high by 4 strata, intermediate by REVEAL Lite 2

Patient JD



Patient JD



PAH Therapy Decisions

