Cardiac Auscultation

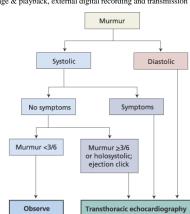
- 1. Auscultatory findings have modest sensitivity and specificity for cardiac hemodynamic parameters:
 a) \$3: − 95% specificity & 30%-50% sensitivity for EF<50% or LV filling pressures>15mmHg. \$4 is less diagnostic
 b) Crackles on pulm exam in pts w/ dyspnea is not specific for ↑ LV filling pressures; may be absent in chronic CHF
 c) In VHD, auscultation helps establish disease, not severity. Severe AS may be missed on PE
 2. Auscultatory skills are difficult to teach and skill levels are low: 20%-24% of cardiac findings recognized by trainees in internal or family medicine; & 35% after intensive training
 3. Acoustic stethoscopes rely on transmission of sound from the pt's chest wall, through the stethoscope tubes, and to the ear: a process prone to sound loss and resonance effects
 4. Electronic stethoscope has a receiver with filtering circuitry to ↓ ambient noise and amplification control to ↑ recognition of low-amplitude signals; with a choice of frequency range, providing better separation of high-frequency (100-500 Hz) and low-frequency (200 Hz) signals than an acoustic stethoscope. Complex models allow storage & playback, external digital recording and transmission of heart sounds to other stethoscopes

 Grade Description

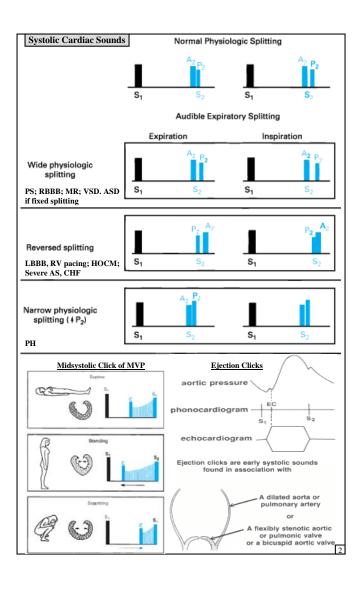
Grade Description Murmur heard with Grade stethoscope, but not at first Grade Faint murmur heard with stethoscope on chest wall Murmur heard with Grade stethoscope on chest wall, louder than grade 2 but without a thrill Grade Murmur associated with a Murmur <3/6 Murmur heard with just Grade the rim of the stethoscope held against the chest

> Murmur heard with the stethoscope held away and in from the chest wall

Grade



| Maneuver | Hemodynamic Effect | Murmur Effect |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Normal respiration | Transient increase in venous filling during inspiration | Increases right-sided murmurs |
| Passive leg elevation | Increases venous return (transient increase in LV size and preload) | Increases right-sided murmurs; decreases murmur of HOCM and MVP |
| Stand to squat | Increases venous return (transient increase in LV size and preload) | Increases right-sided murmurs; decreases murmur of HOCM and MVP |
| Squat to stand | Decreases venous return (transient decrease in LV size and preload) | Increases murmur of HOCM; moves midsystolic click of MVP closer to S ₁ and <i>increases</i> murmur of MVP; decreases AS murmur |
| Valsalva | Decreases venous return (transient decrease in LV size, preload, and relative systemic hypotension) | Increases murmur of HOCM; moves midsystolic click of MVP closer to S ₁ and <i>decreases</i> murmur of MVP |
| Isometric handgrip exercise | Increases afterload | Increases murmur of MR and VSD; decreases murmur of HOCM; decreases AS murmur |
| Inhaled amyl nitrate | Decreases afterload | Decreases murmur of MR and VSD; no change to AS murmur |



Systolic Cardiac Murmurs

