# Approach to Internal Medicine

A Resource Book for Clinical Practice

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# **Pulmonary Hypertension**

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# WHO CLASSIFICATION OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

# GROUP I. PULMONARY ARTERIAL HYPERTENSION

- IDIOPATHIC—primary
- FAMILIAL DISORDERS
- DRUG AND TOXIN INDUCED
- PAH ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIFIC DISORDERS connective tissue disease, HIV, portal hypertension, congenital heart disease, schistosomiasis
- PAH LONG TERM RESPONDERS TO CALCIUM CHANNEL
  RIOCKERS
- PAH with significant venous or capillary involvement—pulmonary veno-occlusive disease, pulmonary—capillary hemangiomatosis
   PERSISTENT PULMONARY HYPERTENSION OF NEWBORN

GROUP II. PULMONARY VENOUS HYPERTENSION DUE TO LEFT HEART DISEASE—heart disease with preserved LVEF, heart disease with reduced LVEF, valvular heart disease, cardiovascular conditions leading to postcapillary PH

GROUP III. PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DUE TO LUNG DISEASE AND/OR HYPOXEMIA—obstructive lung disease, restrictive lung disease, mixed restrictive/obstructive disease, including obstructive sleep apnea and obesity hypoventilation syndrome, developmental lung disease

GROUP IV. PULMONARY HYPERTENSION DUE TO PULMONARY ARTERY OBSTRUCTIONS—chronic thromboembolic, other pulmonary artery obstructions (i.e. tumor, parasites, foreign material)

GROUP V. PULMONARY HYPERTENSION WITH UNCLEAR AND/OR MULTIFACTORIAL MECHANISMS—hematological (pulmonary Langerhans cell histiocytosis, lymphangiomatosis), systemic and metabolic disorders (sarcoidosis),

# WHO CLASSIFICATION OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION (CONT'D)

complex congenital heart disease, others (compression of pulmonary vessels by tumor, fibrosing mediastinitis)

### PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

**DEFINITION OF PULMONARY HYPERTENSION**—mean pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP) >25 mmHg at rest or mean PAP >30 mmHg with exercise measured with right heart catheterization

### **CLINICAL FEATURES**

**HISTORY**—unexplained dyspnea on exertion, cough, chest pain, hemoptysis, dizziness, syncope, hoarseness, past medical history (cardiac and respiratory diseases, thromboembolic diseases, HIV, cirrhosis, autoimmune and rheumatologic disorders), medications (amphetamine, diet pill such as dexfenfluramine)

PHYSICAL—vitals (tachypnea, tachycardia, atrial fibrillation, hypoxemia), peripheral cyanosis, small pulse volume, elevated JVP (prominent a wave or absent if atrial fibrillation, large v wave), right ventricular heave, loud or palpable P2, right-sided S4, tricuspid regurgitation murmur, Graham-Steell murmur (high-pitched, decrescendo diastolic rumble over LUSB), crackles, congestive liver, ascites, ankle edema

### INVESTIGATIONS

# **BASIC**

- LABS—CBC, lytes, urea, Cr, AST, ALT, ALP, bilirubin, INR, albumin, ANA, RF, anti-CCP, anti-Scl-70, anticentromere antibody, ESR, HIV serology, TSH
- IMAGING—CXR, CT chest, V/Q scan or CT chest PE protocol, echocardiogram

# INVESTIGATIONS (CONT'D)

- · ECG
- overnight polysomnography—if suspect OSA
- ABG
- PFT

### **SPECIAL**

 RIGHT HEART CATHETERIZATION WITH VASOREAC-TIVITY TESTING

# MANAGEMENT

SYMPTOM CONTROL—diuretics, O<sub>2</sub>, anticoagulation, calcium channel blockers if positive vasoreactivity test (in high doses), endothelin receptor antagonists (bosentan,

# MANAGEMENT (CONT'D)

ambrisentan), **phosphodiesterase type-5 inhibitors** (sildenafil), prostacyclin analogues (epoprostenol, iloprost, selexipag), soluble guanylate cyclase stimulators (riociquat)

TREAT UNDERLYING CAUSE
ATRIAL SEPTOSTOMY
LUNG TRANSPLANT
REFERRAL TO A SPECIALIZED PULMONARY
HYPERTENSION CLINIC

### SPECIFIC ENTITIES

**EISENMENGER SYNDROME**—left-to-right shunt leading to pulmonary hypertension and eventually right-to-left shunt