

# Women and CVD: Creating Awareness and Making Prevention a Priority

**Sharonne N. Hayes MD., FACC, FAHA**

**Women's Heart Clinic  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN  
@SharonneHayes**



## Relevant Financial Relationship(s)

None

Off Label Usage

None





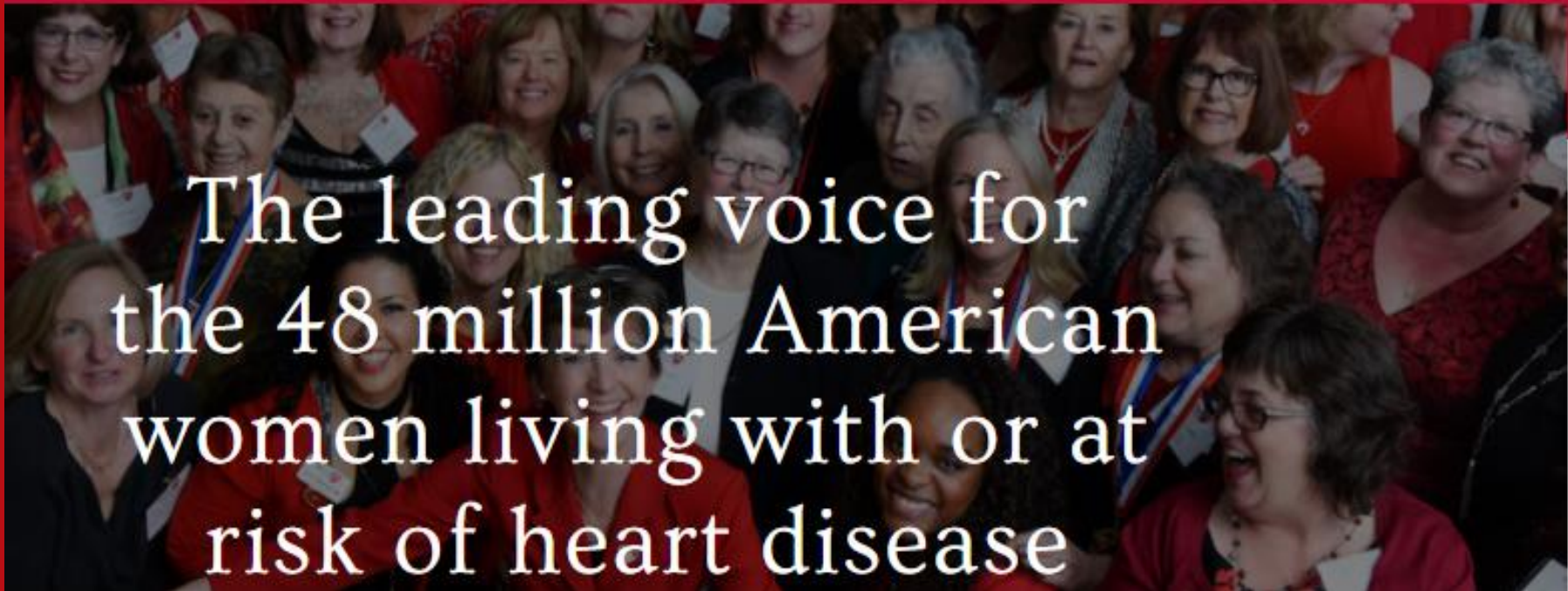
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The leading voice for  
the 48 million American  
women living with or at  
risk of heart disease

We make Virginia Slims  
especially for women

because they are biologically  
superior to men.

...which men are.

Women have two "X" chromosomes in their sex cells, while men have only one "X" chromosome and a "Y" chromosome...which some experts consider to be the inferior chromosome.

They are also less inclined than men to congenital baldness, Albinism of the eyes, improperly developed sweat glands, color blindness of

of hair.

In view of these and other facts, the makers of Virginia Slims feel it highly inappropriate that women continue to use the fat, stubby cigarettes designed for mere men.



**Virginia Slims.**

Slimmer than the fat cigarettes men smoke.  
With rich Virginia flavor women like.

**You've come a long way, baby.**

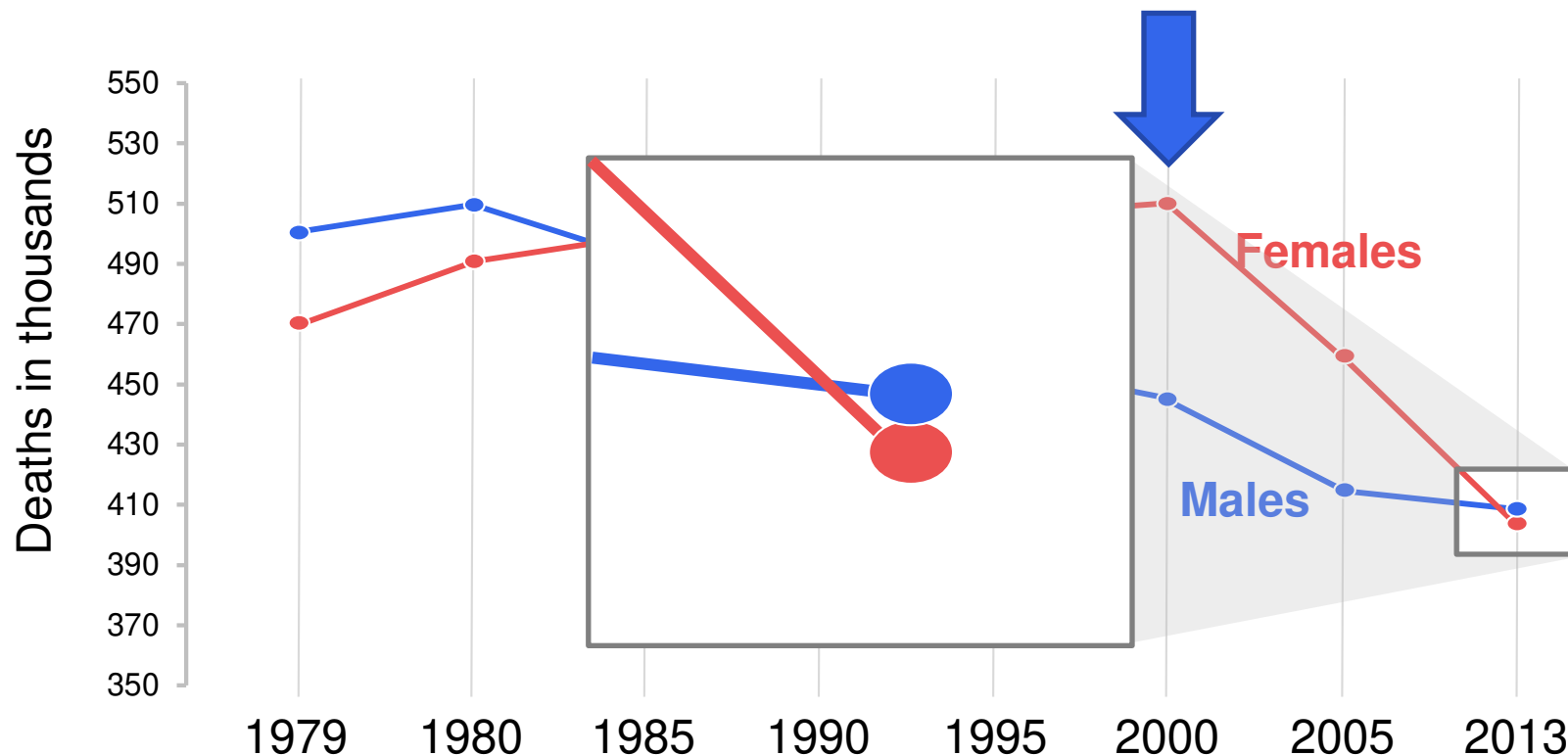
Warning: The Surgeon General Has  
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous

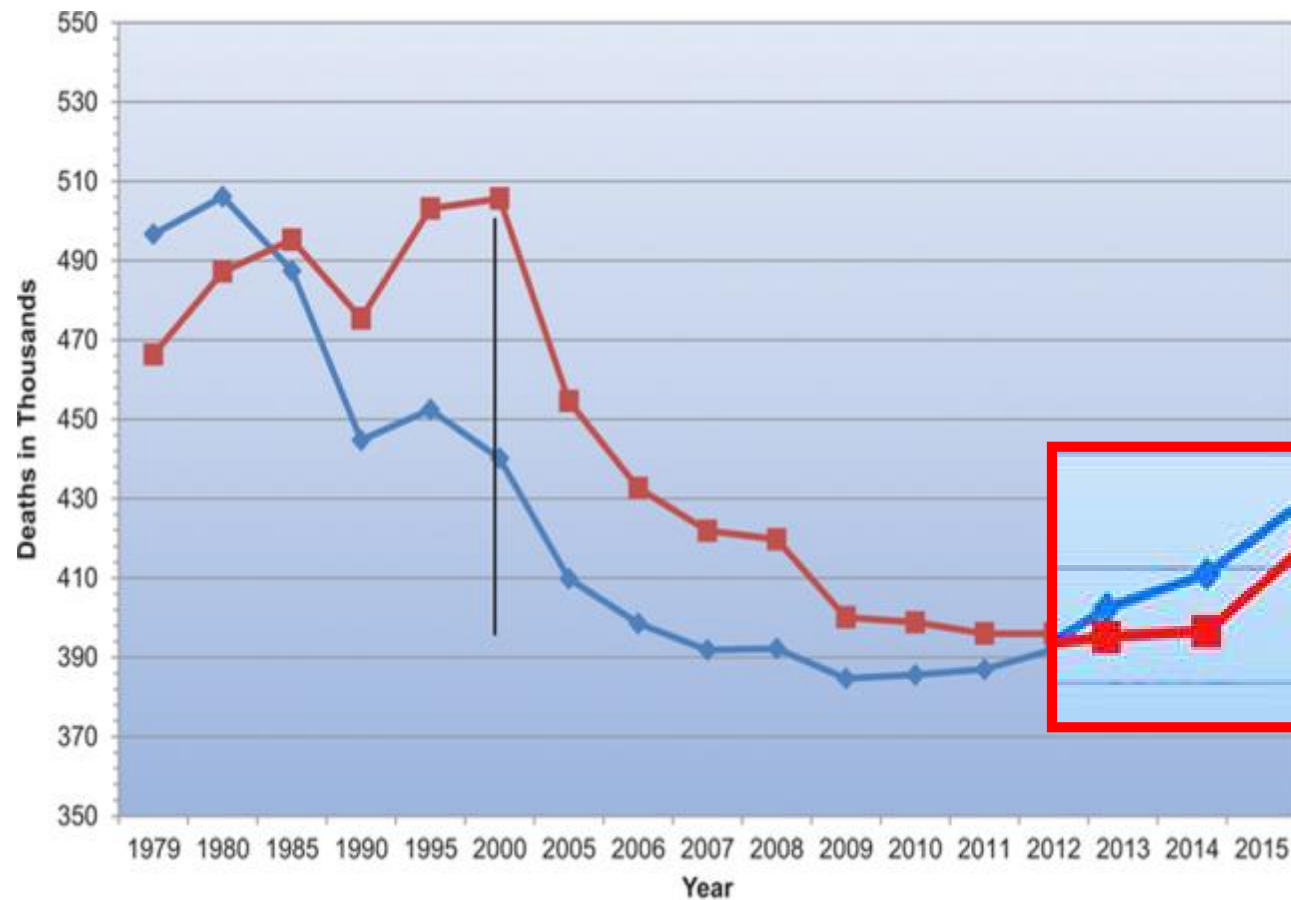
1913, Mrs. Cynthia Robinson  
was quoted as saying in the  
The husband that persecuted  
through the state of his husband  
at his weight to his team.



come a long way.

# CVD Mortality Trends



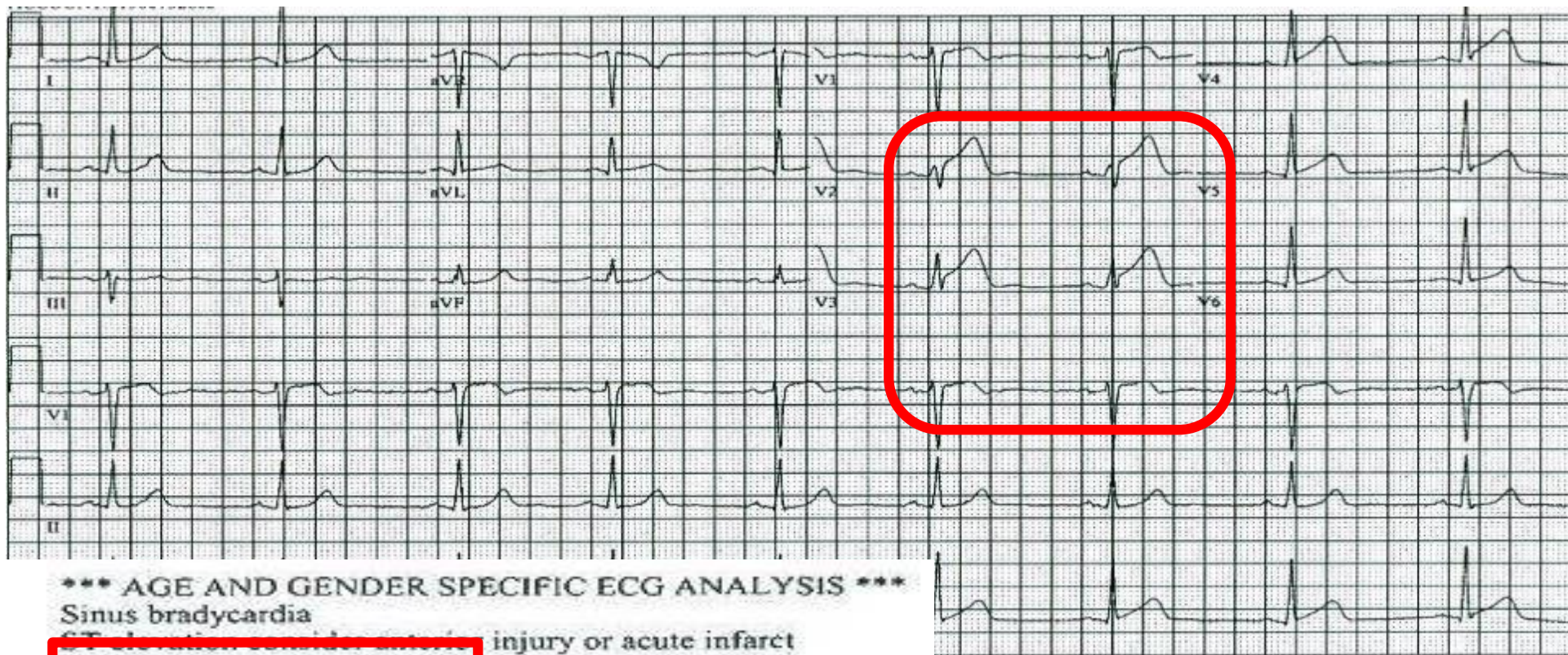


Not So Fast...

**Prevention  
Alert!**



# 39 y/o Headache, Chest Pain, Dyspnea



## \*\*\* AGE AND GENDER SPECIFIC ECG ANALYSIS \*\*\*

Sinus bradycardia

ST depression consistent with injury or acute infarct

\*\*\* ACUTE MI / STEMI \*\*\*

Abnormal ECG

# What is the next step in care?

1. Start a nitro drip, admit to cardiology
2. Call in the STEMI cath lab team
3. Start a beta blocker and send to the CCU
4. GI cocktail and a nitro, then overnight observation in the chest pain unit



# What is the next step in care?

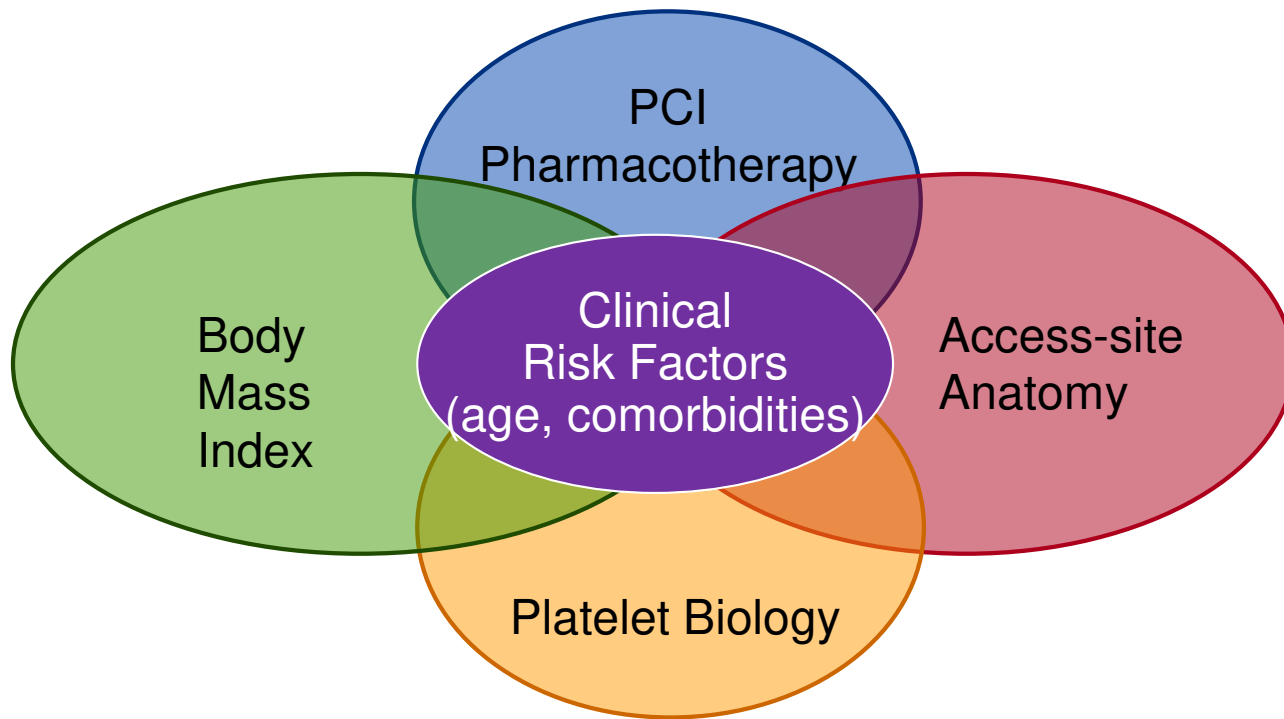
1. Start a nitro drip, admit to cardiology
2. **Call in the STEMI cath lab team**
3. Start a beta blocker and send to the CCU
4. GI cocktail and a nitro, then overnight observation in the chest pain unit

# Gender Disparities in MI Care

- 1238 pts **w/STEMI** (18-55 yr; 695 women)
- Women (vs. men):
  - Less likely to receive reperfusion (4% vs 9%)
  - Exceeded door-to-needle time (67% vs. 37%)
- Sex: Major factor in exceeding reperfusion guidelines - OR **1.72** (95% CI 1.28–2.33)

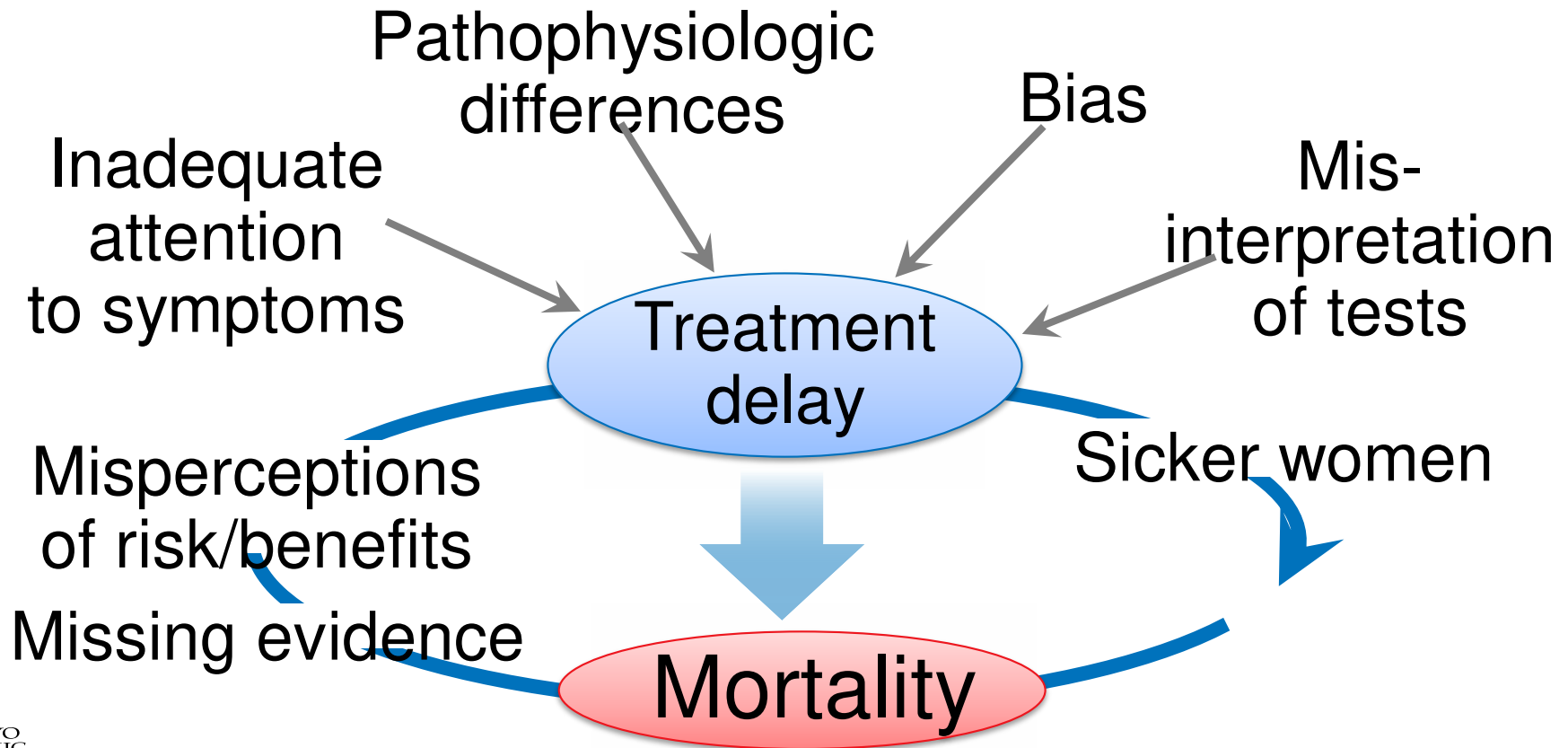
# Bleeding Risk in AMI

## Sex and Gender Considerations





# Sex/Gender Differences in Survival



# Disparities and Biases



# Why The Differences? Disparities?

- Sex-based physiological differences (unexplored)
- Psychosocial influences
- Provider knowledge & research gaps
- Provider bias (unconscious)
- Non-aligned policies
- Unenforced recs and best practices

**When women are valued and well, families, children, and communities will benefit**



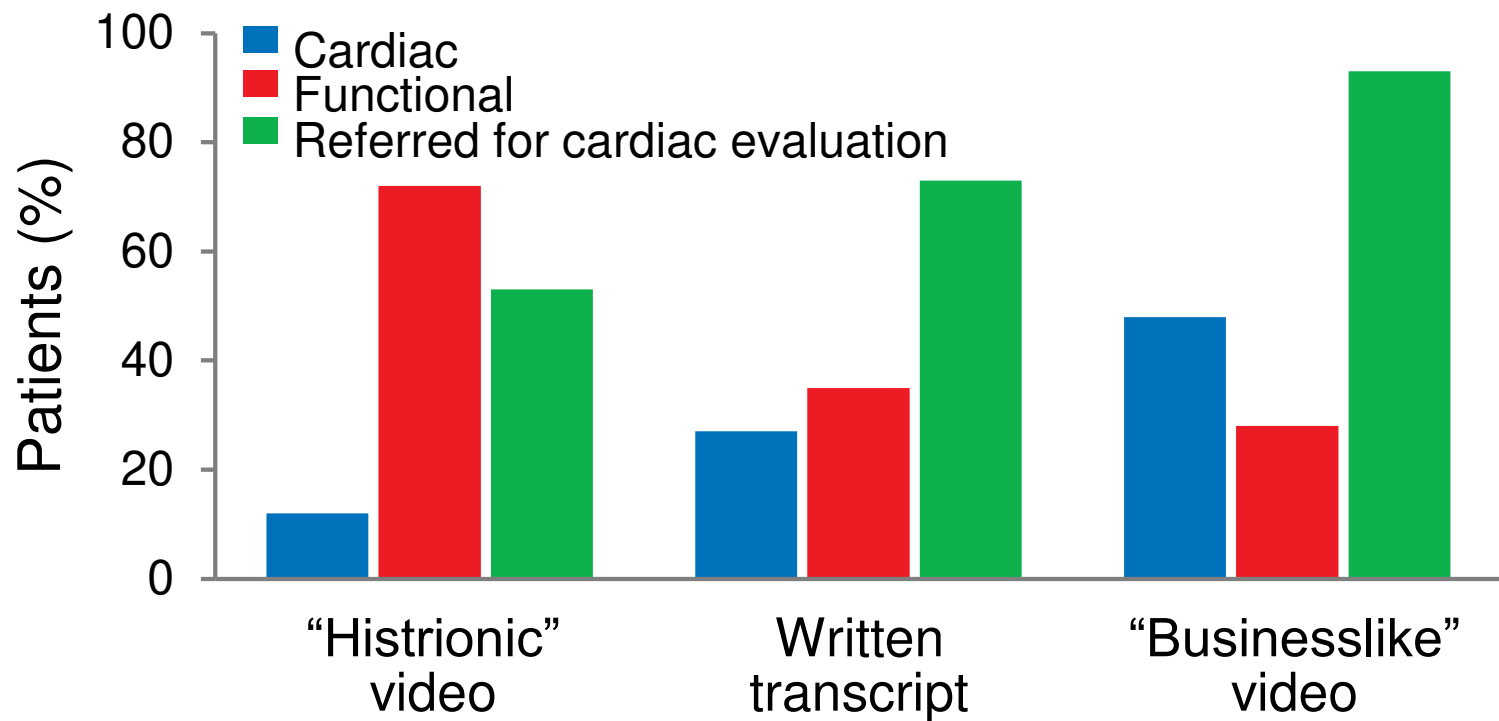


# Missed Diagnoses of MI, ACS in Women: ED & Office

- **Unconscious bias** about “what a heart patient looks like”
- **Index of suspicion** lacking, despite “classic” ACS presentation
- Absent protocols/not following established protocols



# Physician Attitude and Women's Communication Styles



Birdwell, Arch Int Med 1993

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# Patient-Level Gender Differences: Young Women & Acute MI

- Prodromal symptoms vary: nature, duration
- Inaccurate assessment of personal CVD risk, attribute Sx to noncardiac causes
- Competing/conflicting priorities influence decisions about seeking acute care (e.g., caregiving)
- Healthcare system inconsistently responsive to women: delayed eval, Diagnosis
- Women do not **routinely** access primary care & preventive care for heart disease



# Sex Matters....

“Every cell has a sex”

Understanding sex-based differences is critical to optimal prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of men *and* women

**Sex  $\neq$  Gender**

- Sex: *biology* of human and animal subjects
- Gender: *self-identity and/or social representation* of an individual

# Women's Unique CVD Risks

## Individualized (*"Precision"*) Cardiology

- Lifetime hormonal fluxes (puberty, pregnancy, menopause)
- Peripartum vascular remodeling
- HTN disorders of pregnancy
- Gestational diabetes
- Delivering a thin baby
- PCOS
- Post menopausal hormone therapy
- Coronary/aortic root dissection
- Sex-specific effects of conventional risk factors



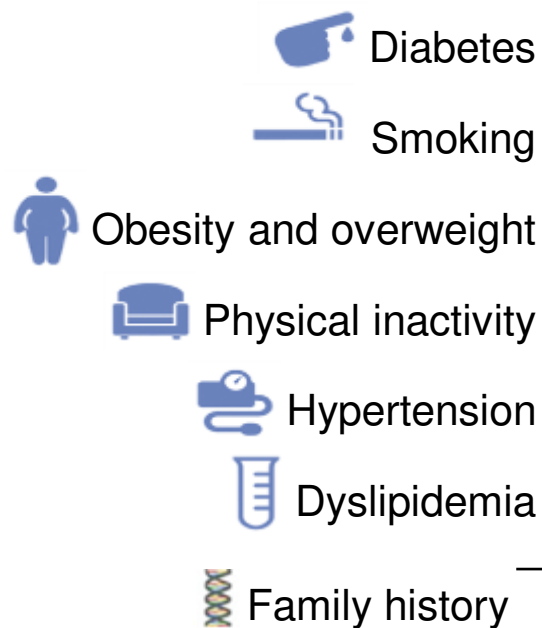


**“I’d like some of that preventive medicine  
I’ve heard so much about.”**

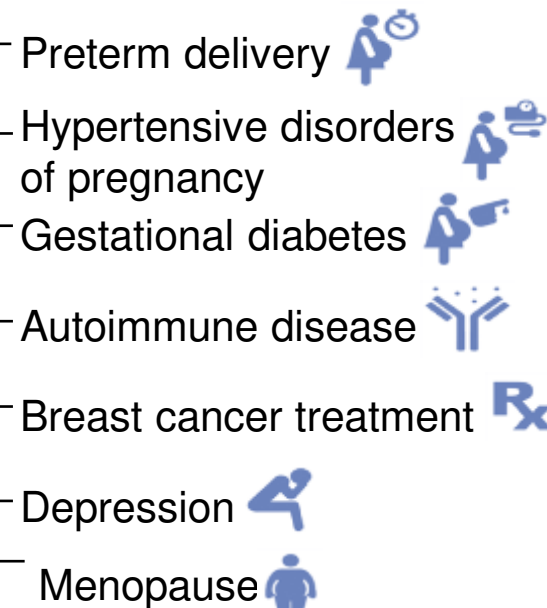




## Traditional ASCVD Risk Factors



## Emerging, Nontraditional ASCVD Risk Factors





# Smoking in Women

**Prevention  
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“Social” (non-daily) smoking kills

- 50% ↑ death
- 3X ↑ heart disease
- 5X ↑ lung cancer

} *vs. never  
smokers*

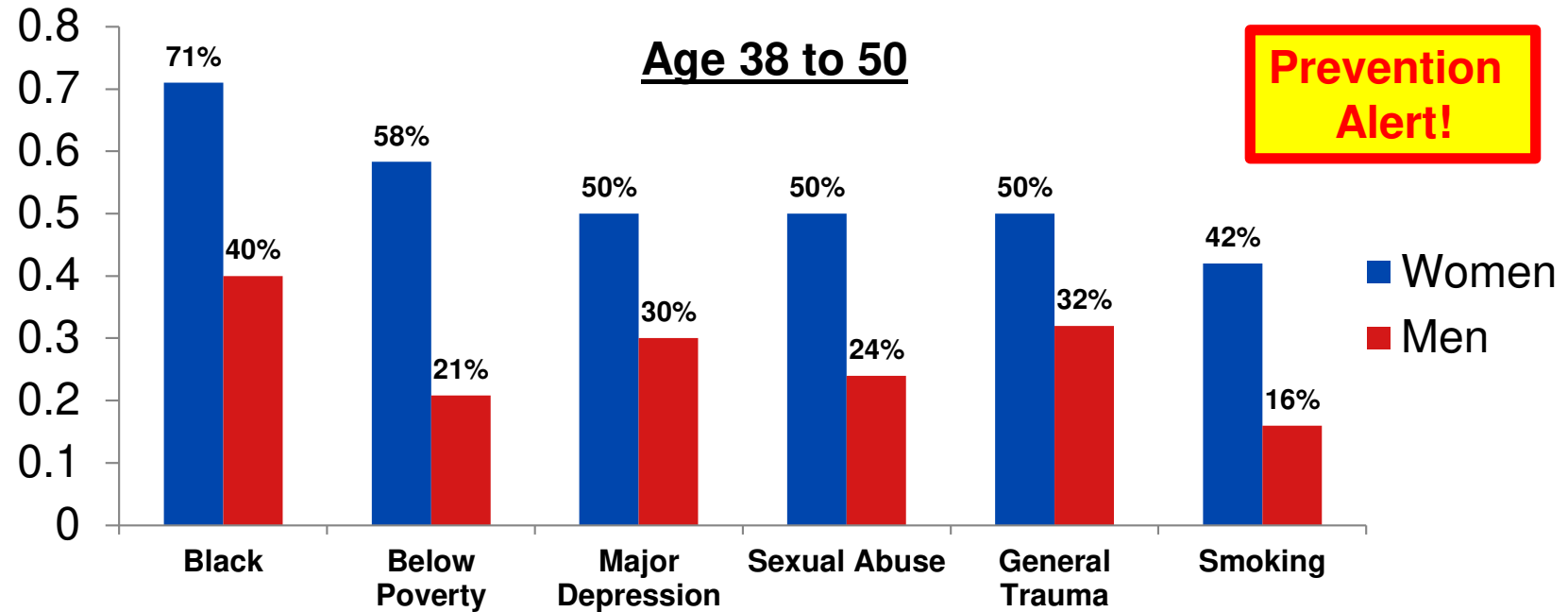


# Sex Differences in Modifiable Risk Factors in Young Adults at 1<sup>st</sup> MI

	During a first myocardial infarction in young adults (18-59 years) in the U.S.			
25%	Diabetes Mellitus	>1 in 4	34%	
6%	Drug Abuse	>1 in 20	5%	
57%	Hypertension	>1 in 2	61%	
58%	Dyslipidemia	>1 in 2	52%	
16%	Obesity	>1 in 6	23%	
54%	Smoking	>1 in 2	50%	
92%	Any of these modifiable risk factors	>9 in 10	91%	

# Young Women with Recent MI Have More Psychosocial/Behavioral Risk Factors Than Men

Myocardial Infarction and Mental Stress Study (MIMS)







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# **Depression & Anxiety and CVD**

## **Indirect Causal Effects**

- **Poor health behaviors – diet, activity**
- **Maladaptive coping styles – tobacco, alcohol**
- **Social isolation**
- **Chronic life stress**
- **Delays in seeking care**
- **Treatment nonadherence (meds, rehab)**

**Physical inactivity  
accounts for ~ 25% of ↑  
CVD mortality risk due to  
depression**

# Pregnancy: A Sex-Specific CVD Risk Factor

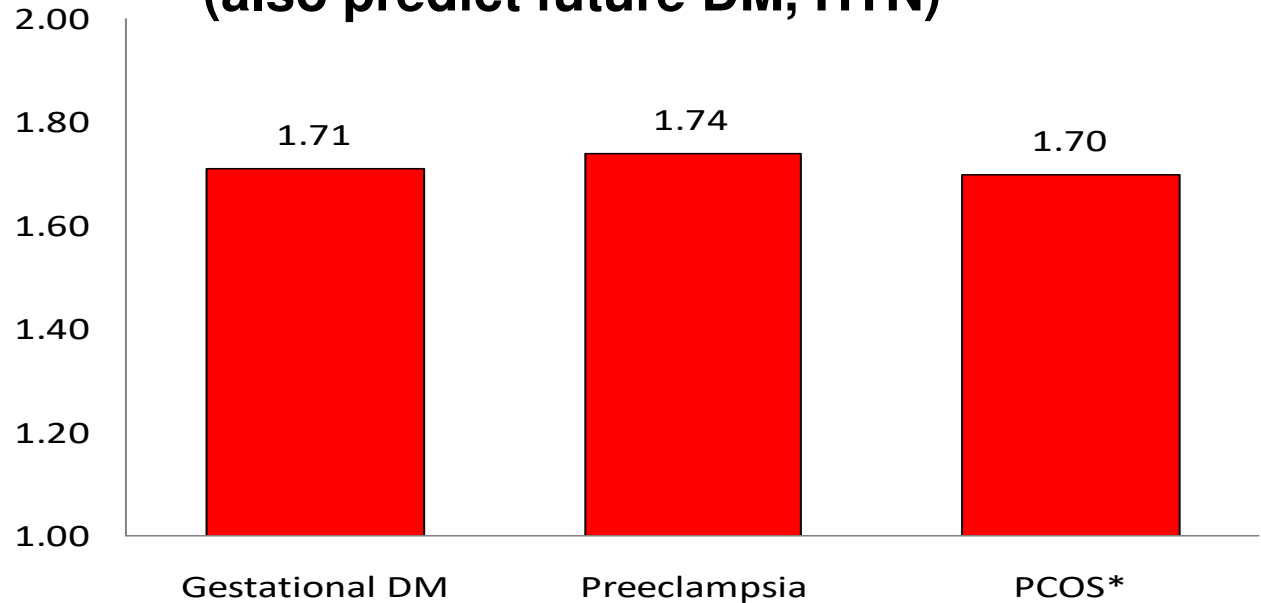


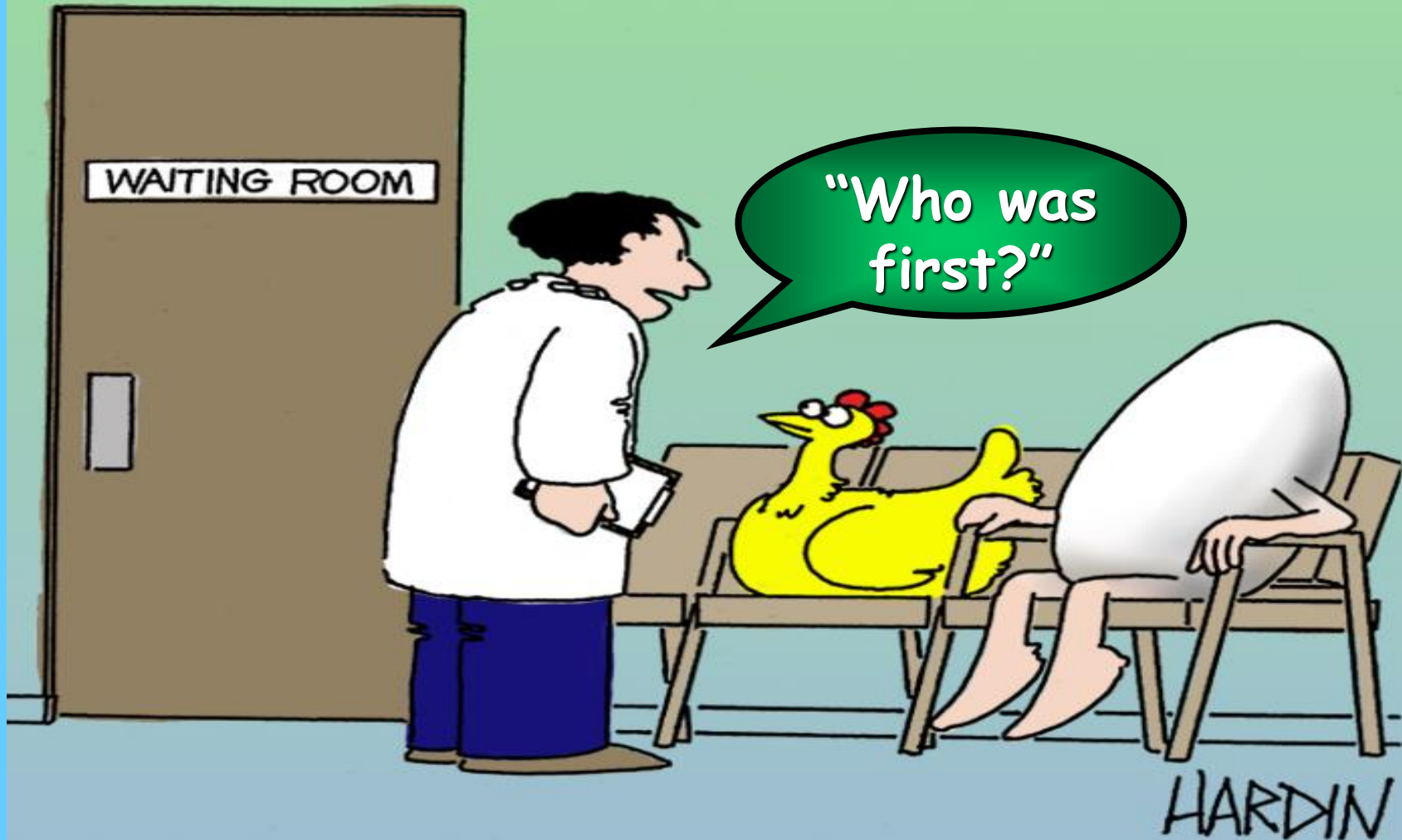
# Pregnancy: “Metabolic Stress Test” That Predicts Future CVD



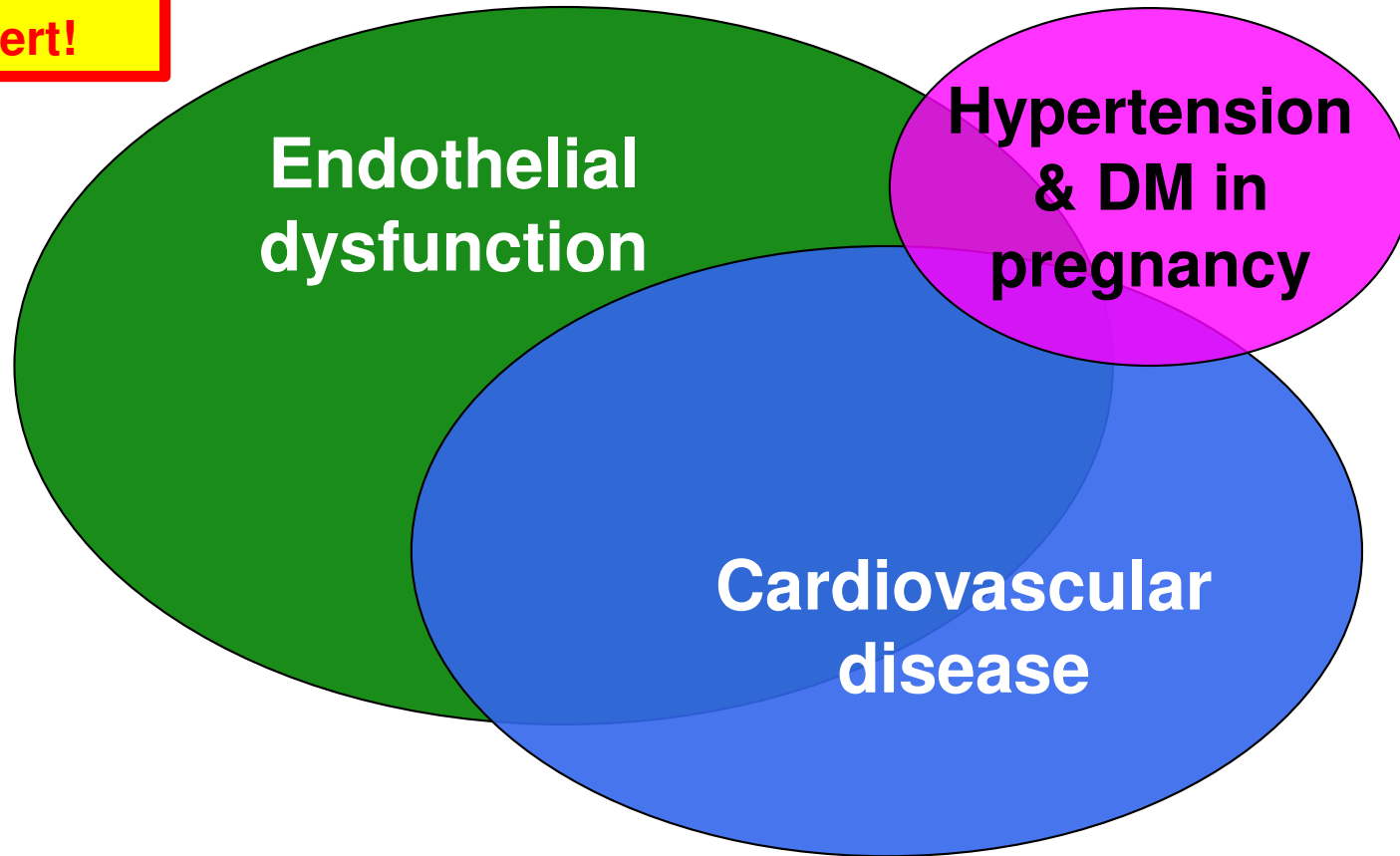
**Relative  
Risk of  
Subsequent  
CVD**

**Ob-Gyne Diagnoses Impact on CVD Risk  
(also predict future DM, HTN)**





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# Hierarchy of Female Concern

## What's Important to Women?



Ranking created from P&G 2000 Health Archetype Study

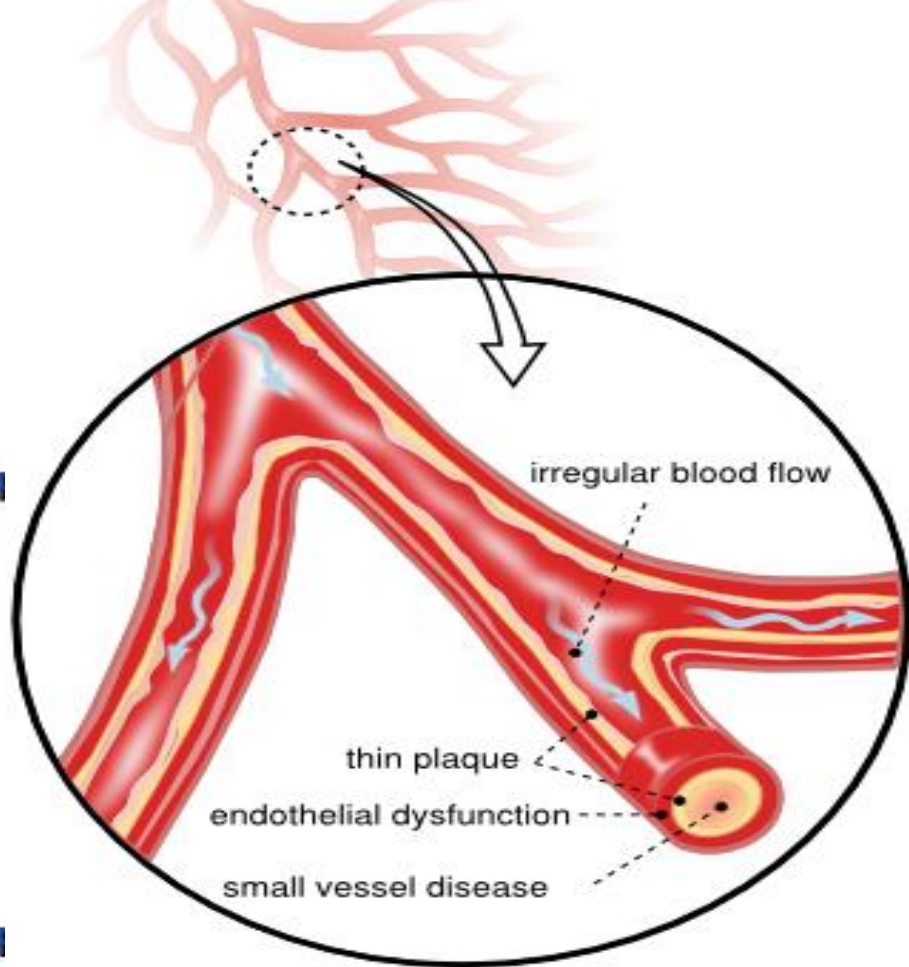
# Barriers to Lowering Heart Disease Risk

- Caregiver obligations
- Confused by media
- God/higher power determines my health
- Not confident I can, don't know how to change, too complicated, fear change
- Financial/insurance barriers
- I am not at risk for heart disease
- I don't WANT to change
- Stress
- No support from health care provider or family

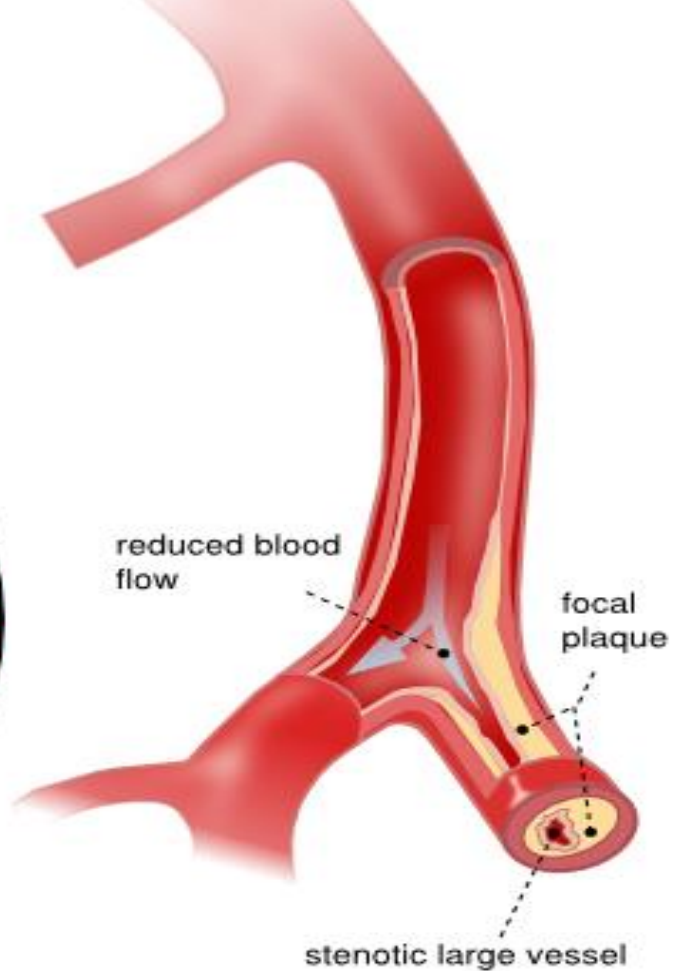


RESEARCHERS HAVE  
PROVEN THAT WORK-  
ING WITH EVIL OR  
STUPID PEOPLE CAUSES  
HEART DISEASE.





♀ Microvascular coronary disease in women



♂ Focal coronary disease in men

n)

is





**“Run for it...It’s a heart attack!!”**



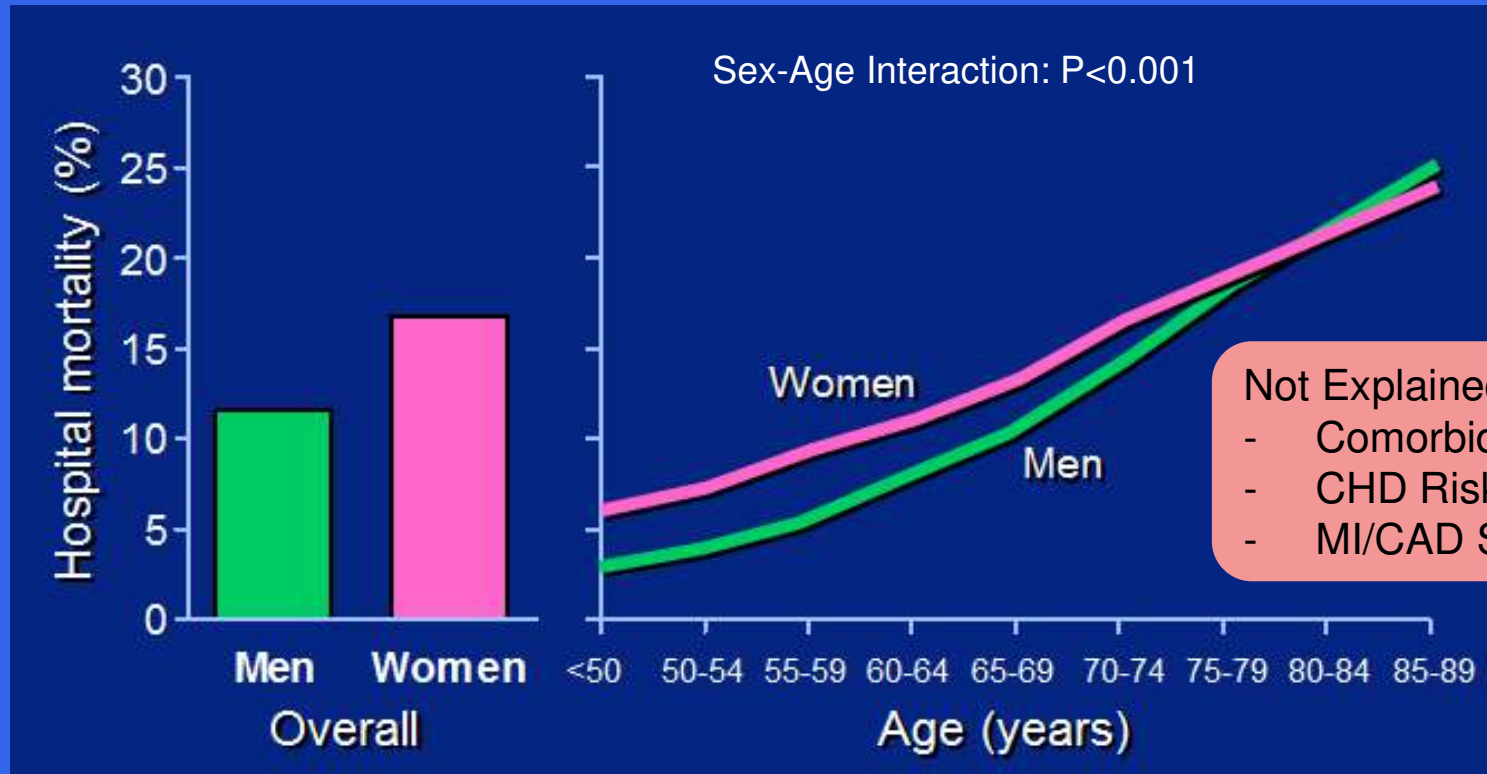
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# ***Make The Call Don't Miss a Beat***

- Only **53%** of women would call 911 if **they** were experiencing the symptoms of a heart attack
- However, **79%** said they would call 911 if **someone else** was having a heart attack
- 46% of women would do something **other than call 911** if they had chest pain —such as take an aspirin, go to the hospital, or call the doctor



# Higher Mortality in Young Women With MI

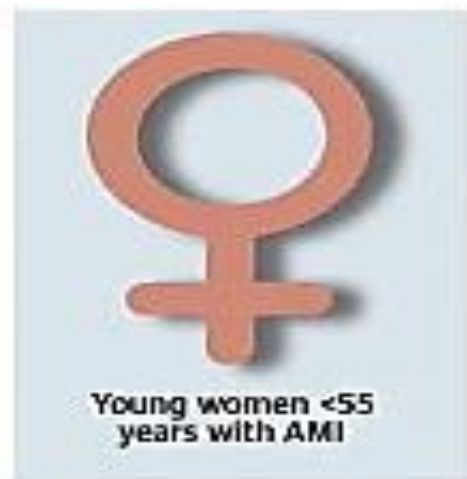


NRMI 1994-1998 N=384,878

Vaccarino et al., N Engl J Med 1999; Vaccarino, Arch Int Med 2009; Izadnegahdar, J Wom Health 2014

# AMI Trends for Young Women & Men

2001-2010 [230,684 hospitalizations (total 1,129,949)]



- Comorbidities
- AMI Hospitalization Rate
- Length-of-Stay
- In-hospital Mortality



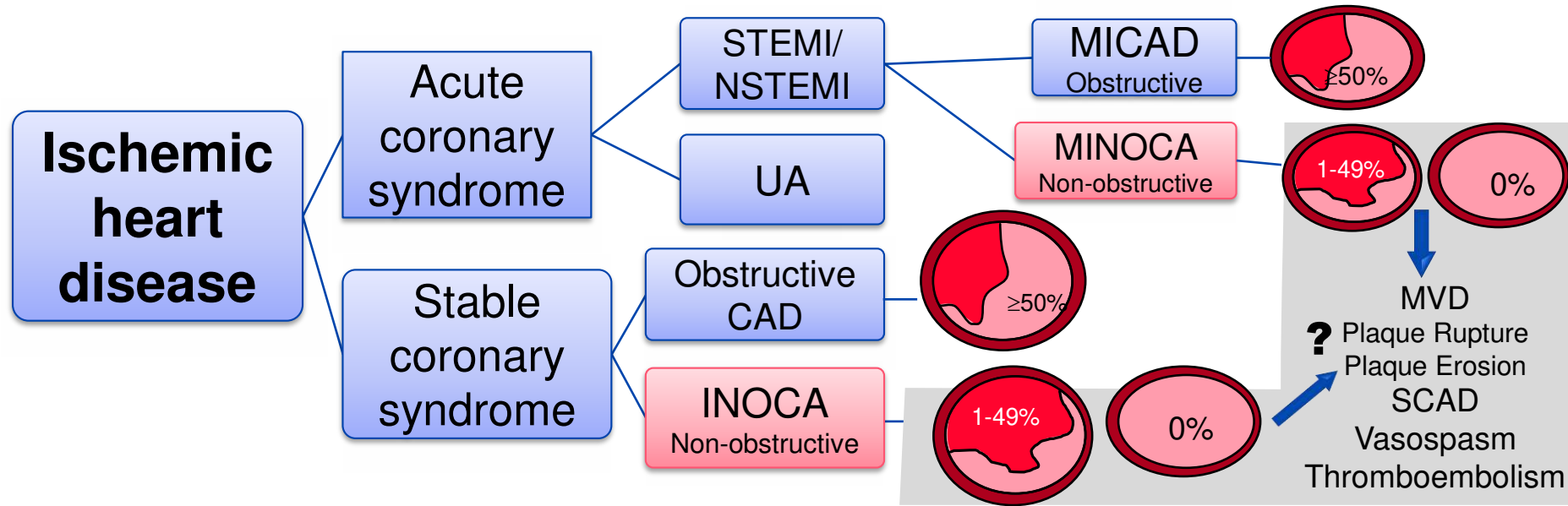
AMI hospitalization rates in the young have not declined. Sex differences persist.

# ACS in Young Women: Different disease??

## Potential Explanations

- ? Vasospasm (migraines, Raynaud's)
- ? Thrombosis (hormones)
- ? Hormones, pregnancy
- ? Genetics, epigenetics
- ? Inflammation (autoimmune Dz burden)
- ? Psychosocial burdens
- ? SCAD, connective tissue disorders

# Ischemic Heart Disease Phenotypes





# Symptom Triggers May Be Different in Women

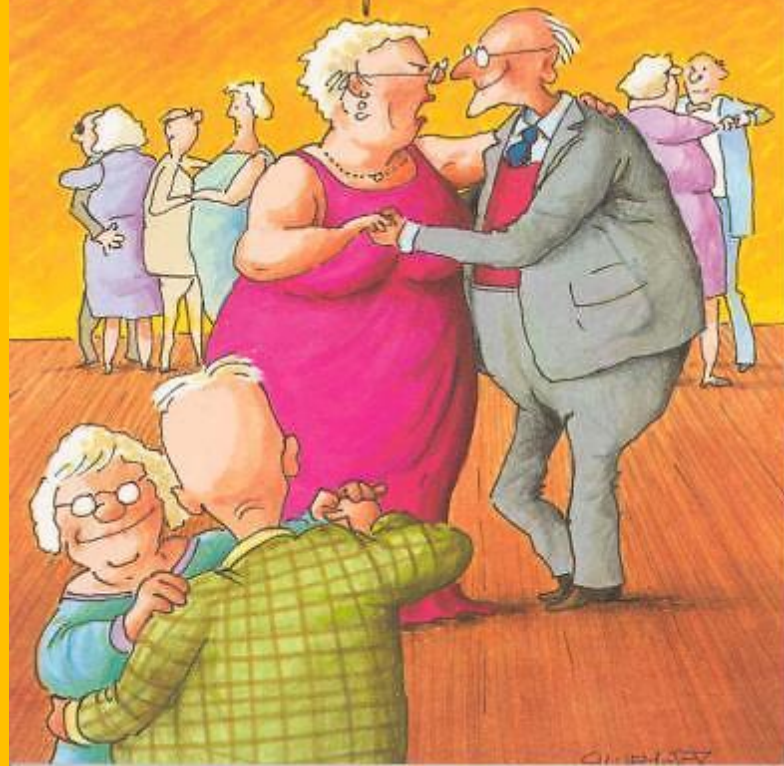


Emotional stress is more frequently a trigger for women than men



Sex AND gender differences: **pathophysiology, prevention, acute care, attitudes, all** contribute to young women's elevated AMI mortality

NO...NO...  
I SAID I'VE GOT  
ACUTE ANGINA

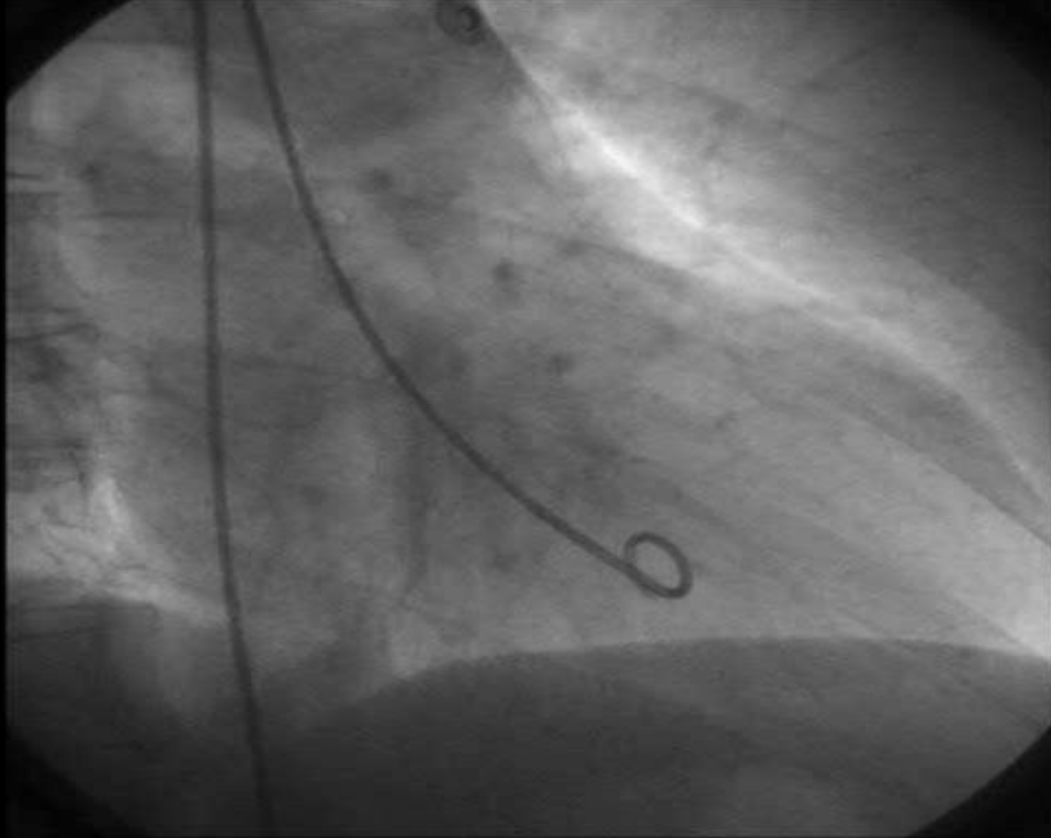


# 70 y/o Woman: Chest Pain for <2 Hrs.

## PMH

- HTN
- Dyslipidemia
- Migraines
- Multiple negative cardiac evaluations for CP
- Learned of husband's death <1 hr before Sx
- ECG: mild ST elevation V1-V3

# Normal coronaries: LV gram

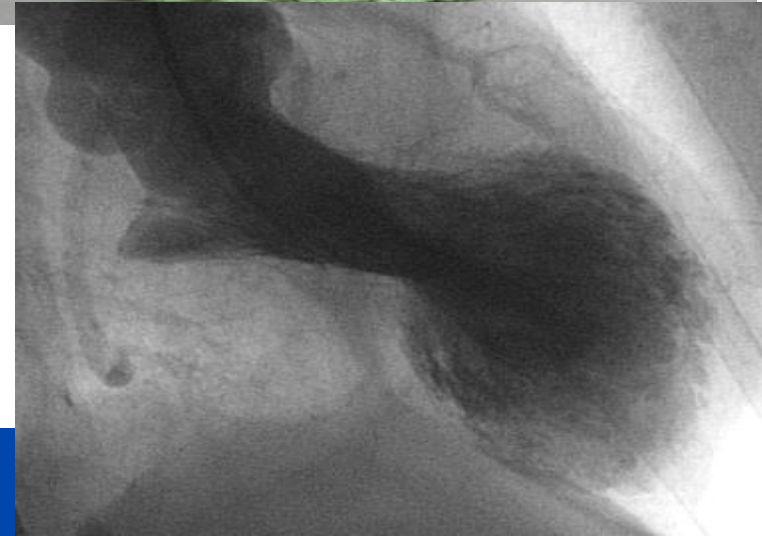


Peak troponin 0.6 ng/ml

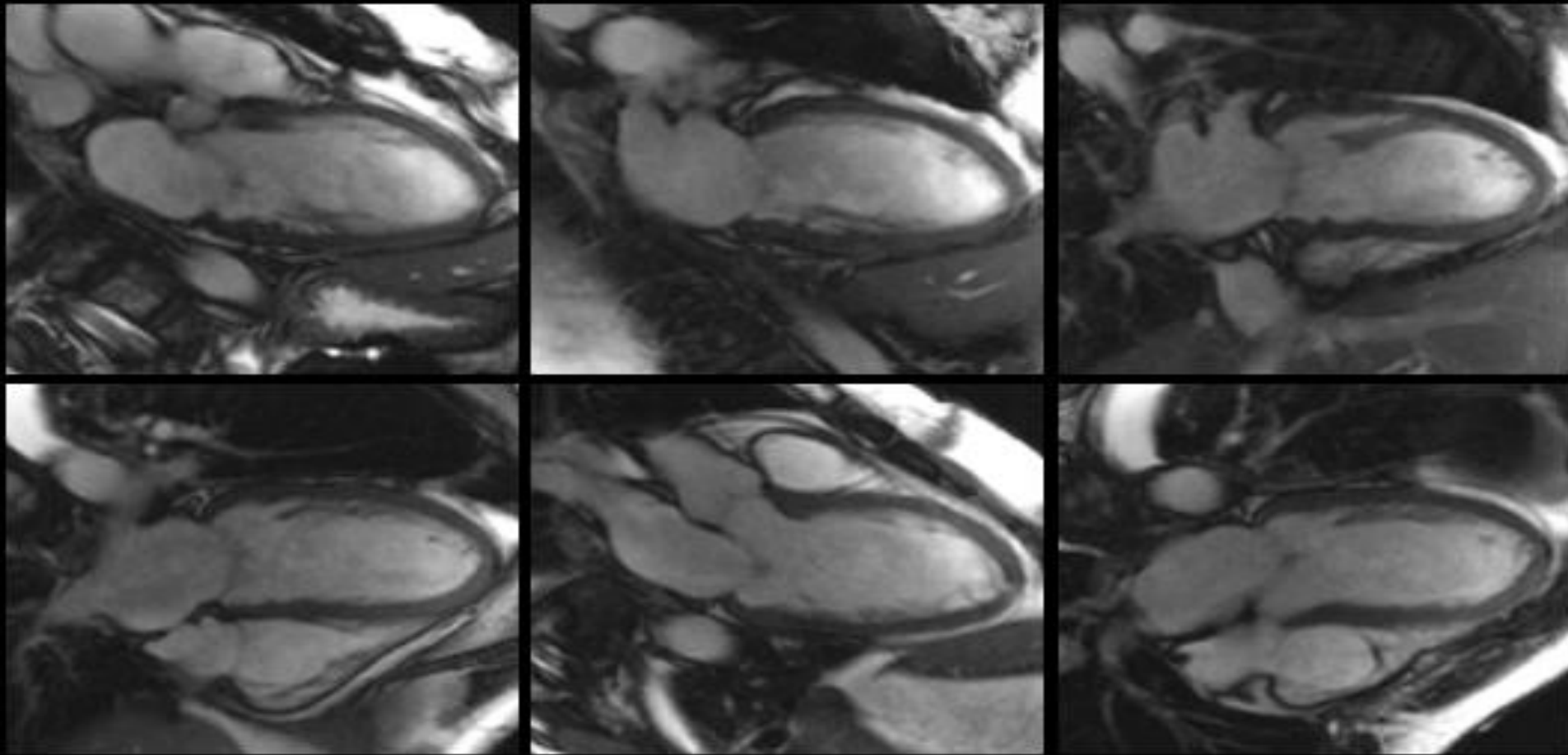


# Tako-tsubo = Octopus Trap

- Transient, reversible LV dysfunction
- First described in Japan 1990
- ~2% of ACS presentations
- LV mid & apical hypo/akinesis with hyperdynamic base
- Variants: mid-ventricular, LVOT obstruction
- 30% RV involvement

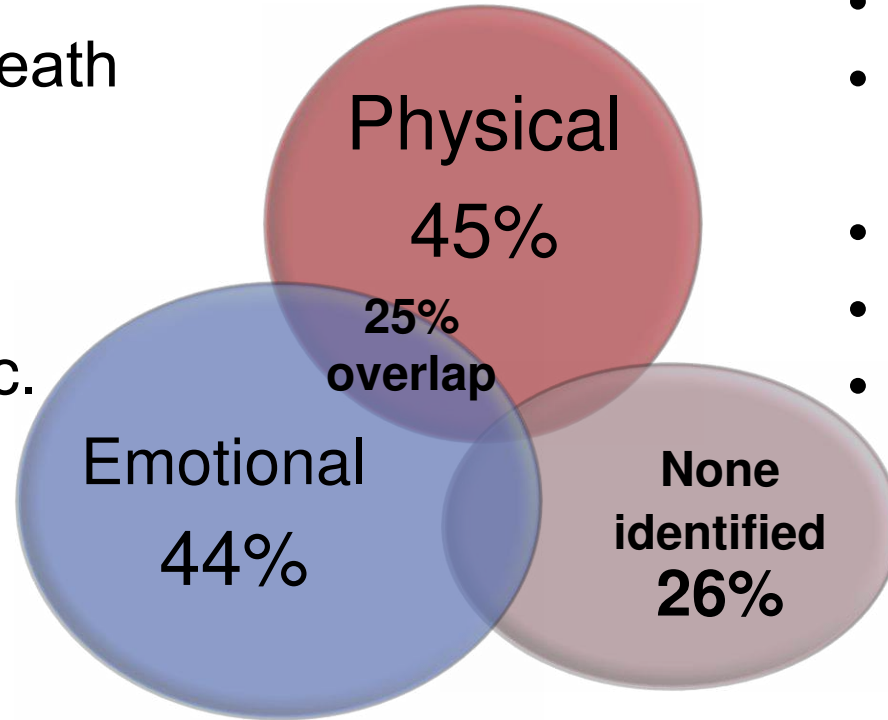


# Stress Cardiomyopathy



# Clinical Presentation: Stressors

- Relative's illness, death
- Arguments
- Family problem
- Tax preparation
- Public speaking, etc.



- Surgery
- COPD exacerbation
- Pneumonia
- Fracture
- DSE

# Stress Cardiomyopathy Patients/Diagnosis

- M:F ratio~ 1:9, Post menopausal, (Mean age 70.2 yrs)
- Preceding stressful situation (physical or emotional)
- WMA's with mild, non-obstructive coronary disease
- New ECG abnormalities and *modest* elevation in troponin
- **Recurrence rate** ~10% at 4-5 years; Excess mortality persists
- Treat comorbidities; **manage HTN, stress**

**Prevention  
Alert!**

\* *CVA, drug abuse, anxiety & mood disorders, malignancy, liver Dx, sepsis, smoking, alcohol abuse, hyperlipidemia*

# Cardiac Rehabilitation Referral and Participation

- Cardiac rehabilitation (CR): essential component of comprehensive care after AMI
- Class I recommendation after MI
- CR has failed to reach >80% of eligible women for decades
- Young & female-risk factor for no CR
- Lack of referral is largest impediment



Reunion Dinner,  
bad, CA

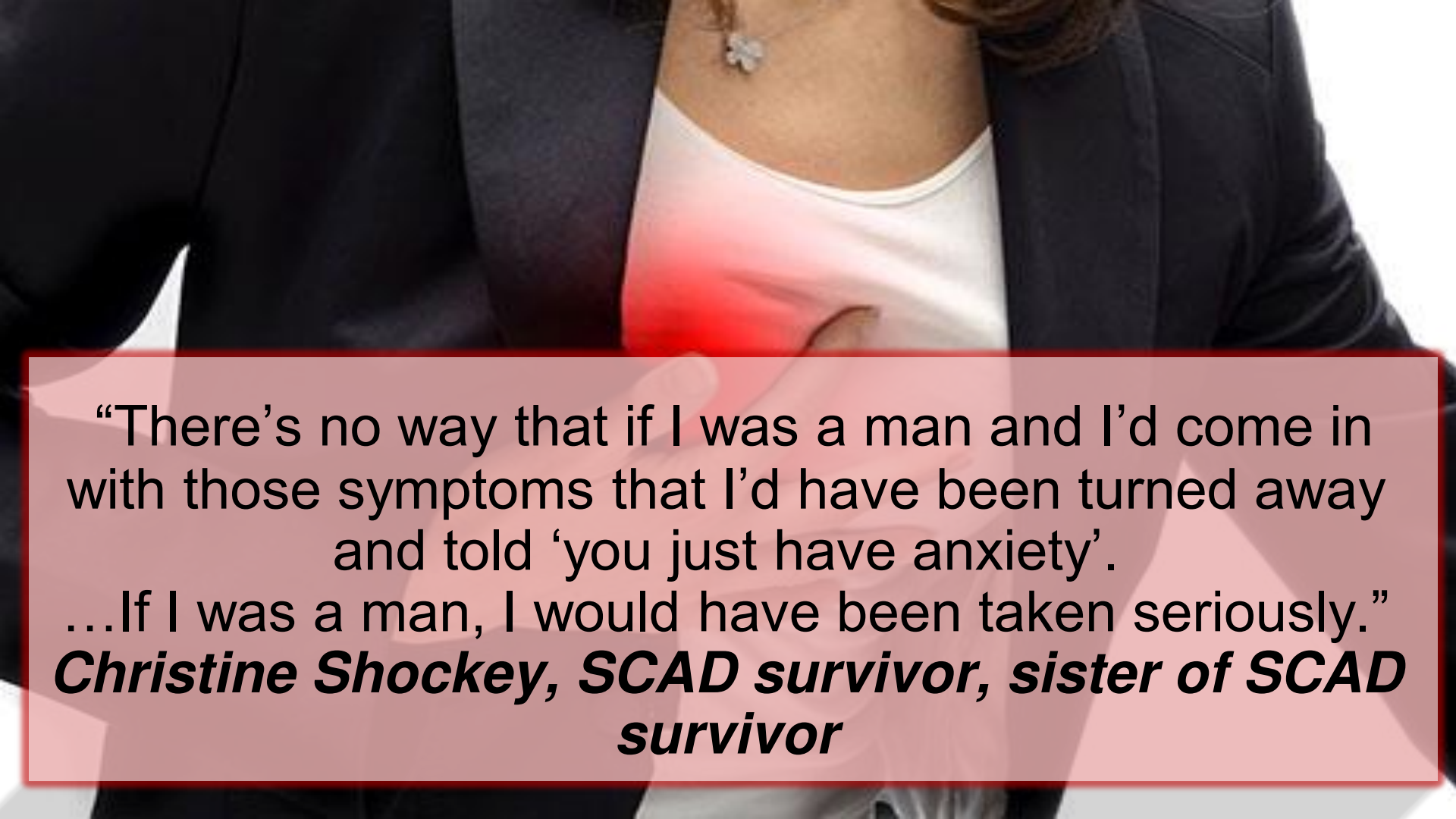


## A Tale of 2 Sisters: 43 y/o Attorney, 2 days CP

- Emergency Department eval:
  - Hx preeclampsia, gestational diabetes X 2, & anxiety.
  - No other CVD risk factors
  - Sister had MI 10 days prior (**SCAD!!**)
  - ↑Troponin
  - Dismissed (!)
- Outpatient stress treadmill = negative
- Continued severe pain, shortness of breath
  - Rx: gabapentin (Day 3)

## 43 y/o Attorney: 2 Days - Severe Chest Pain

- Another 48 hrs of 9/10 chest, L arm pain (Day 5)
  - Internist: Rechecked the troponin, ↑ further
  - ECG = “ST elevation”
  - Echo = wall motion abnormality
  - Diagnosis = “myopericarditis”.
  - Cath scheduled for ***next day (!)***
- Day 6-Angio: LAD SCAD, TIMI-0, Ejection fraction: 40%
  - Stent X 2
  - Subsequent Dx FMD

A close-up photograph of a person's torso. They are wearing a white tank top under a dark blazer. A red, glowing light is visible on the lower part of the tank top, near the waistline. The person is also wearing a small, light-colored necklace with a cross pendant.

“There’s no way that if I was a man and I’d come in with those symptoms that I’d have been turned away and told ‘you just have anxiety’.

...If I was a man, I would have been taken seriously.”

***Christine Shockey, SCAD survivor, sister of SCAD survivor***







# E-patients: Equipped, Enabled, Empowered, Engaged

- Patients discuss the latest treatments, trials
- Peer-to-peer healthcare
- Eager “rare disease” community

patientslikeme™





# MAYO CLINIC



## WOMENHEART

*WomenHeart champions prevention and early detection, accurate diagnosis and proper treatment of women's heart disease.*

**I am WomenHeart**  
The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

"I had crushing sub-sternal chest pain, left arm numbness, tingling, pain in my left arm."

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March 03, 2012

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RE: Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection

Dear Dr. Hayes,

I am writing to follow-up on our conversation at the Science & Leadership Symposium regarding a potential research opportunity for women diagnosed with spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD).

The attached document provides a summary of the information I've collected from the WomenHeart "Inspire" online community. As of today, 86 User IDs represent women who have been told they had a spontaneous dissection of an artery. The material is segmented by "cause unknown" and "postpartum." Fifty-eight women (67%) are "cause unknown." Twenty-eight women (33%) are postpartum. Each category is arranged by age at time of SCAD.

Among the issues the women hope a research effort would address are SCAD's relationship to:

- Hormone fluctuations (occurrence with pregnancy vs. menstrual period vs. ovulation vs. menopause)
- History of birth control pill use
- Connective tissue disorders
- Congenital heart defects
- Vasospasm/Prinzmetals
- Migraines
- Heredity
- Thyroid conditions
- LAD vs. RCA
- Extreme exertion (exercise or labor)
- Choice of treatment (medication only vs. stents vs. bypass surgery)

Naturally, our overriding concerns are whether we will suffer another SCAD (two women in the data claim they have); and, have we (will we) pass on the potential for SCAD to our children.

“If this small universe from the online community provides a starting point, maybe a mechanism could be set up for cardiologists nationwide to report SCAD for inclusion in ongoing research.”

Katherine K. Leon  
WomenHeart Champion, 2009



# SCAD Research Population...

2young4this

Shazz

QueenE

Saintster

Sunshyne

Texheart

Dee81

Mommyto2many

Brknhrtgirl

Sunshine10

Niffy

Heartsyl

Rnow52

Asurvivor

Heartmother

## When Patients Band Together

Using Social Networks To Spur Research for Rare Diseases; Mayo Clinic Signs C

By RON WINSLOW

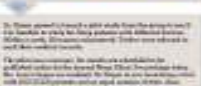
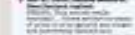
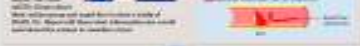
When Katherine Leon began feeling crushing chest pain six weeks after the birth of her second child, doctors were perplexed about what was causing her symptoms.

Ms. Leon was then 38 years old and healthy, and doctors didn't believe she was having a heart attack. She saw her physician and made two visits to the emergency room. Finally, doctors decided to perform an X-ray angiogram to check for arterial blockages. What they found was so serious, she was whisked to the operating room within 30 minutes for bypass surgery.

The diagnosis: Ms. Leon had spontaneous coronary artery dissection, or SCAD, a mysterious condition in which the internal layer of an artery separates from the outer wall, creating a fissure where blood clots can form and potentially block blood flow. SCAD is so rare that little research has been done into what causes it, who is at risk and what treatments are most effective. It mainly affects women and can be fatal.

How They Did

““What distinguishes this group of patients, however, is that they succeeded in persuading researchers at a major medical center to launch a research program to learn more about SCAD”



Center to launch a research program to learn more about SCAD.

Tuesday, results of a pilot study conducted by researchers at the Mayo Clinic are being published online by the journal Mayo Clinic Proceedings. The study, which involved 12 SCAD patients from the message board, found that it is feasible to collect data and medical records from patients with different doctors and from far-flung locales. The study

How They Did It



After Katherine Leon, in Alexandria, Va., was diagnosed with spontaneous coronary artery dissection, or SCAD, she started connecting online in 2005 with others with the unusual and potentially fatal disease.



Leanne Haywood-Cory, in Durham, N.C., met Ms. Leon online on the WomenHeart message board in September 2009. Ms. Haywood-Cory had been diagnosed with the same obscure illness earlier that year.

Ms. Haywood-Cory posted a message in September 2009, trying to find more women with the disease. Playing off Beyoncé's hit 'Single Ladies,' she wrote: 'All the SCAD ladies put your hands up.' The group grew to 86 women, many of whom posted their stories on the site.

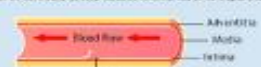


In October 2009, Ms. Leon and Ms. Haywood-Cory attended a workshop on heart disease in women at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minn., where they met Dr. Sharlene Hayes, Ms. Leon

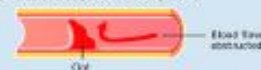


### Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection

A tear in coronary artery causes intima layer to separate



Separated media layer and clot clog artery



Dr. Hayes agreed to launch a pilot study from the group to see if it is feasible to study far-flung patients with different doctors. Within a week, 18 women volunteered. Twelve were selected to send their medical records.

The pilot was a success. Its results are scheduled to be published online by the journal Mayo Clinic Proceedings today. Ms. Leon's hopes are realized: Dr. Hayes is now launching a trial with 400 SCAD patients and an equal number of their close relatives to look at who gets the disease and why.



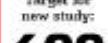
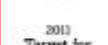
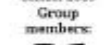
Ms. Leon with her son at home.

The Group of SCAD Patients Grows

September 2009

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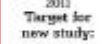
Katherine Leon and Leanne Haywood-Cory



October 2009

Group members:

86



2011

Target for new study:

400



**AHA SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT**

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# Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection: Current State of the Science

A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association

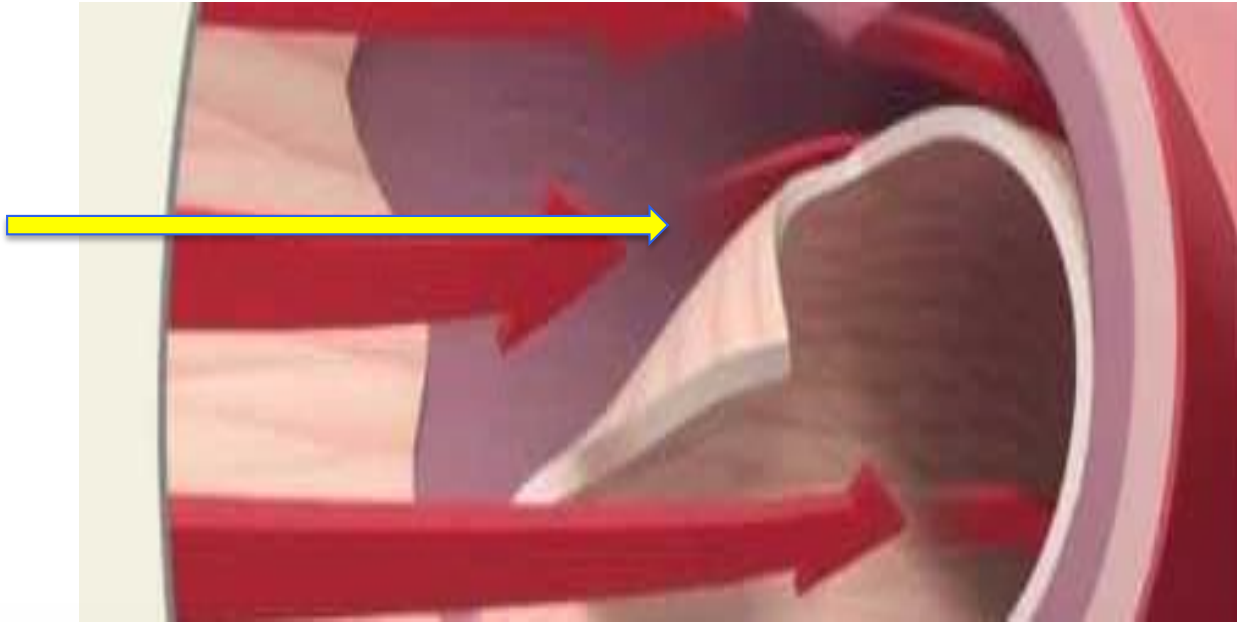
**ABSTRACT:** Spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD) has emerged as an important cause of acute coronary syndrome, myocardial infarction, and sudden death, particularly among young women and individuals with few conventional atherosclerotic risk factors. Patient-initiated research has spurred increased awareness of SCAD, and improved diagnostic capabilities and findings from large case series have led to changes in approaches to initial

Sharonne N. Hayes, MD,  
FAHA, Chair  
Esther S.H. Kim, MD, MPH,  
FAHA, Co-Chair  
Jacqueline Saw, MD, FAHA,  
Co-Chair

Sharonne N. Hayes, MD, Esther S. H. Kim, MD, MPH, Jacqueline Saw, MD, David Adlam, BA, BM, BCh, Dphil, Cynthia Arslanian-Engoren, PhD, RN, Katherine E. Economy, MD, MPH, Santhi K. Ganesh, MD, Rajiv Gulati, MD, PhD, Mark E. Lindsay, MD, PhD, Jennifer H. Mieres, MD, Sahar Naderi, MD, MHS, Svati Shah, MD, MHS, David E. Thaler, MD, PhD, Marysia S. Tweet, MD, Malissa J. Wood, MD

# SCAD Defined

**+/-  
Intimal  
Tear**



**+/- Vaso  
vasorum  
rupture**

**Spontaneous~Non-traumatic~Non-iatrogenic  
Non-atherosclerotic**

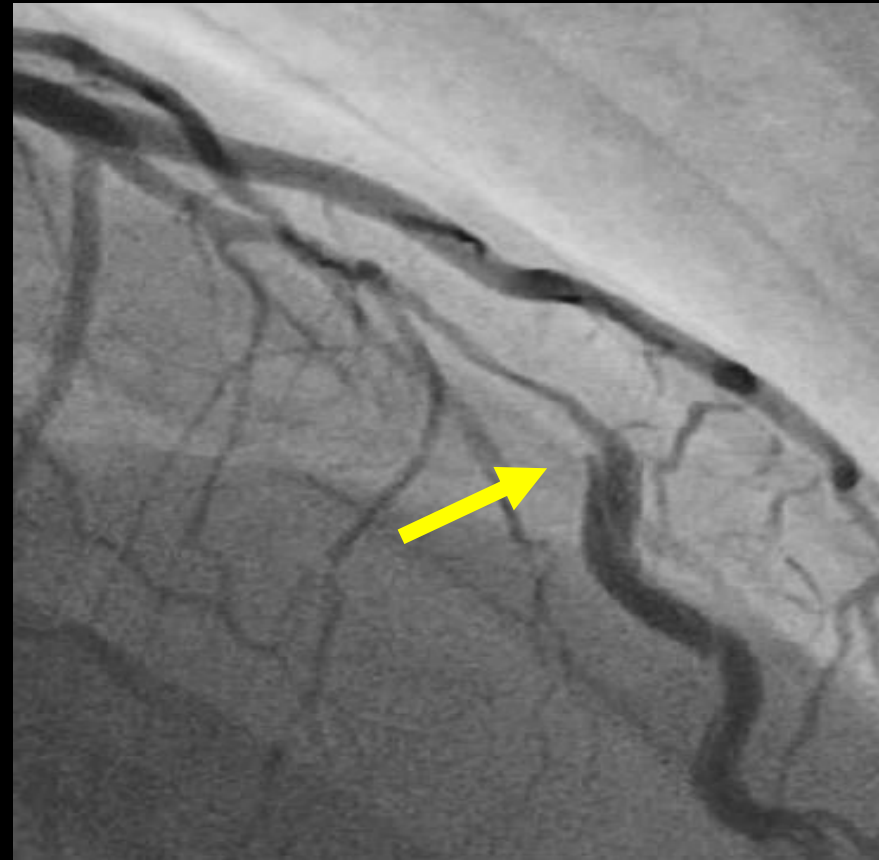
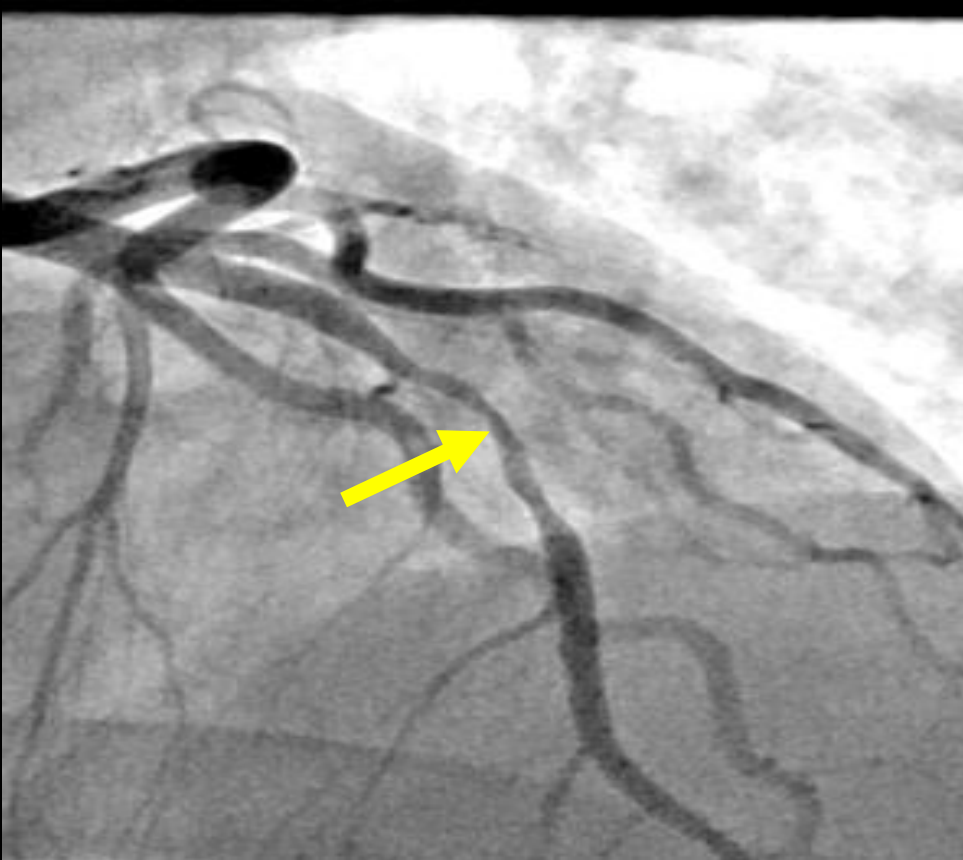
# SCAD 2019-What We Know Now

- **NOT atherosclerosis!**
  - Average age 42-52 yrs
  - ~90% women, ~5-15% of women peripartum
  - CVD risk factors absent
- **NOT “rare”! (we were missing it...)**
  - 1-4% of MI patients overall
  - #1 cause pregnancy-related MI
  - #1 cause MI women <40 yrs

# SCAD 2019-We've Been Missing It

- **Not “benign”**
  - STEMI~50%, Vfib~15%, Multivessel 25%
  - Traditional ACS treatments often cause harm
  - Recurrence rates ~ 20+% over time
- **Different associated factors:** pregnancy, FMD, arterial tortuosity, stress, exercise, migraines
- **Making the diagnosis** affects management!



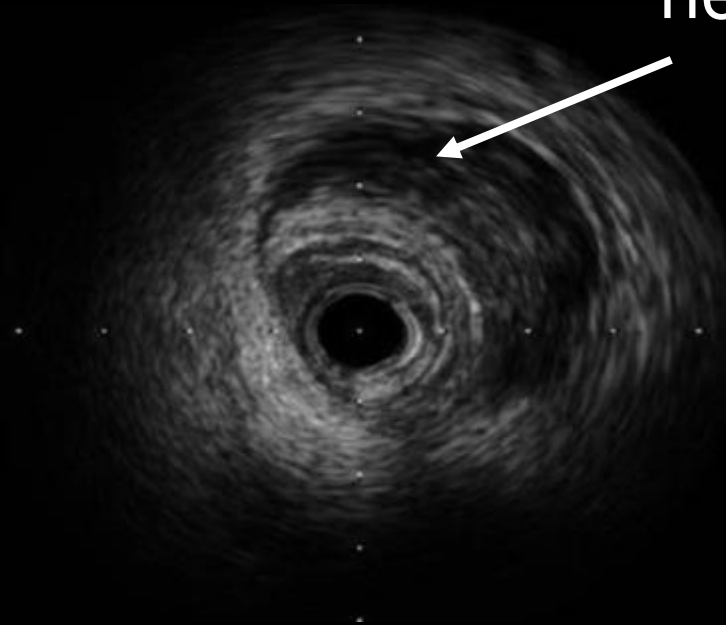


Medial Hematoma vs. Intimal Tear

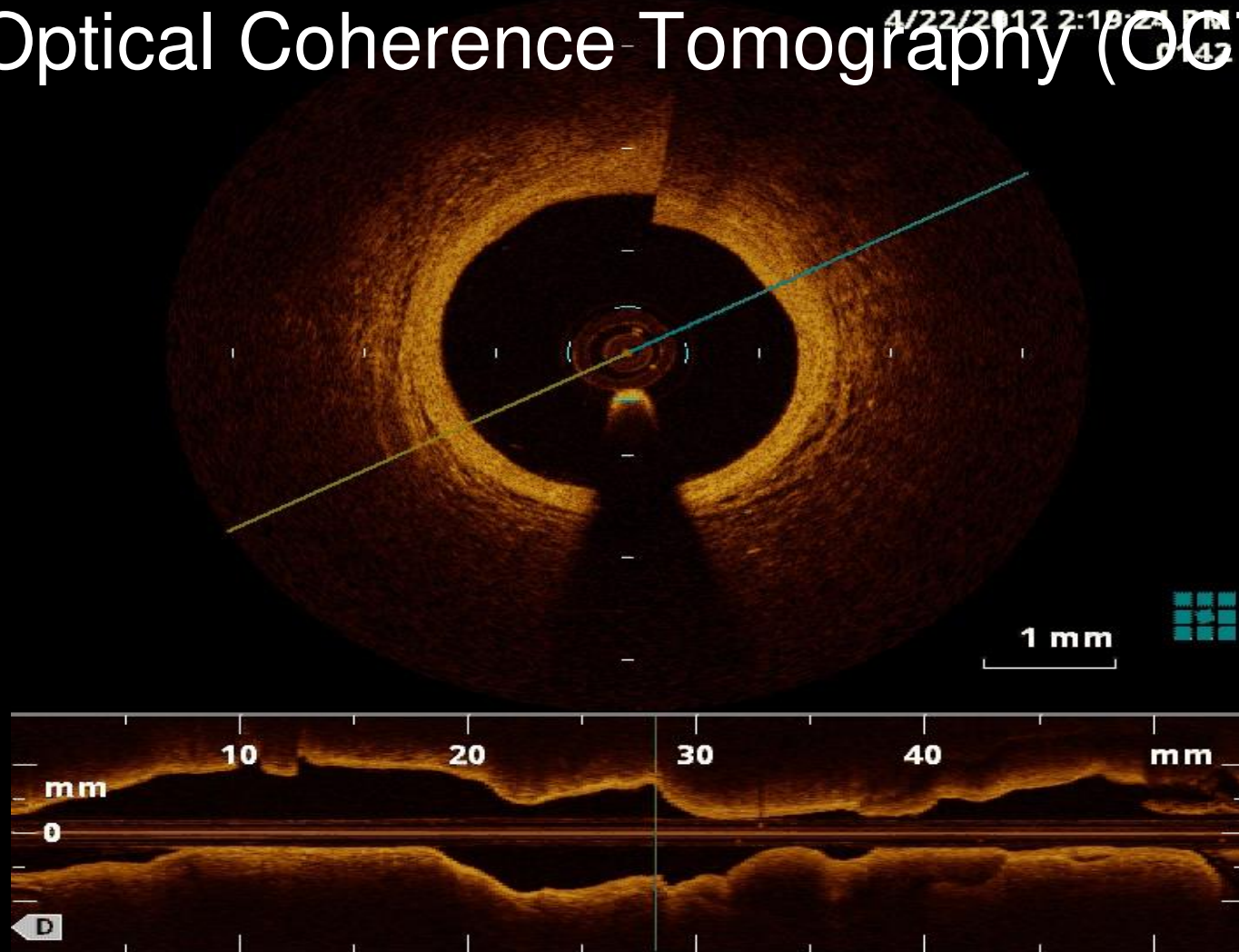
# IVUS (Intravascular Ultrasound)

## OCT (Optical Coherence Tomography)

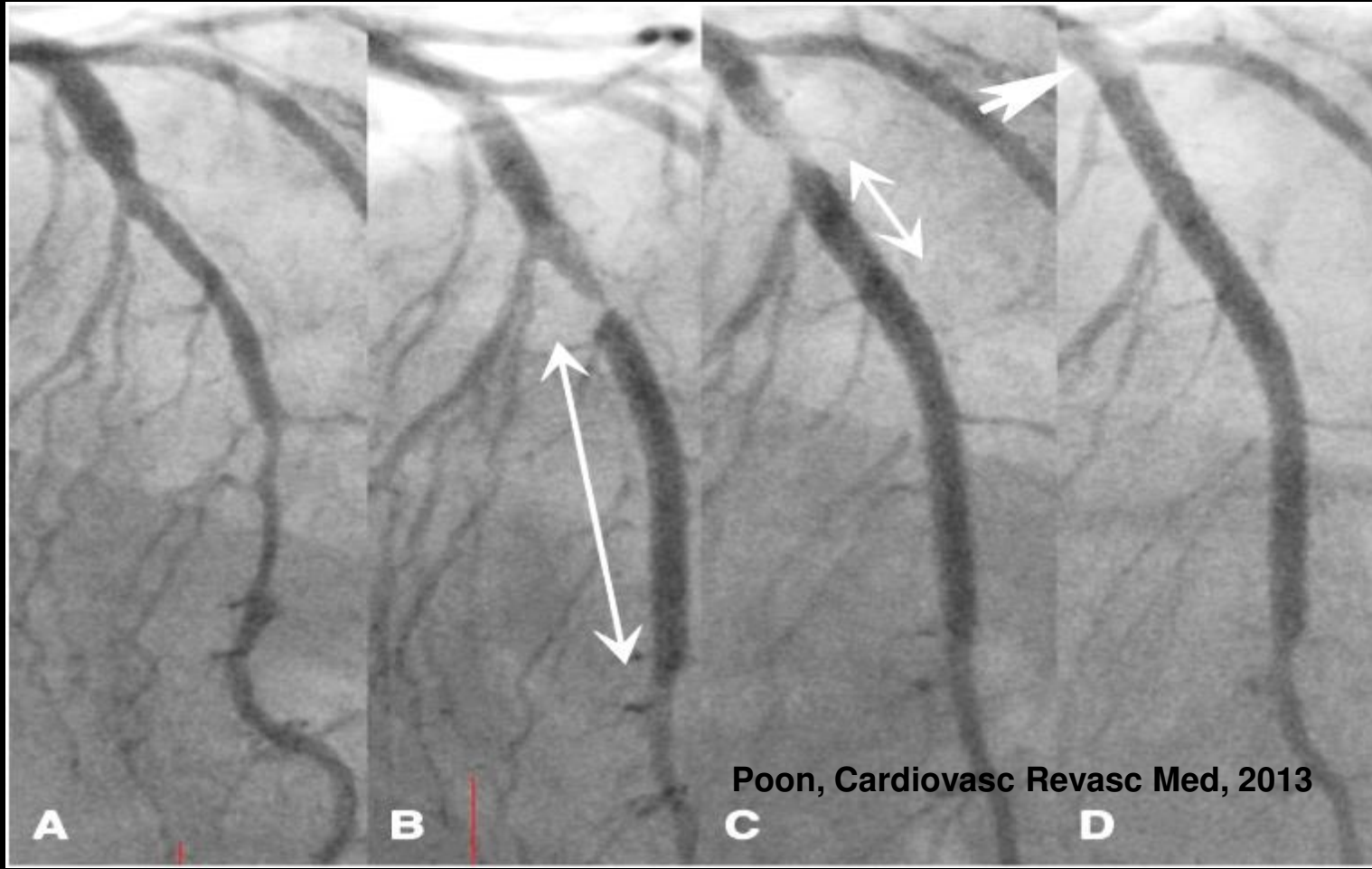
Intramural  
hematoma



# Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)



# Dissection Propagation with PCI



# Acute Outcomes & Recurrence

- **Survival** excellent- 93-95% @ 10 yrs
- **Recurrent SCAD:**
  - Incidence: 2-3%/year
  - **Typically occurs in different vessel**
  - >3-4 recurrences reported (rare)
- **PCI/CAB: no protection from recurrent SCAD**
- **Dissection healing** without intervention, **60%-100%**

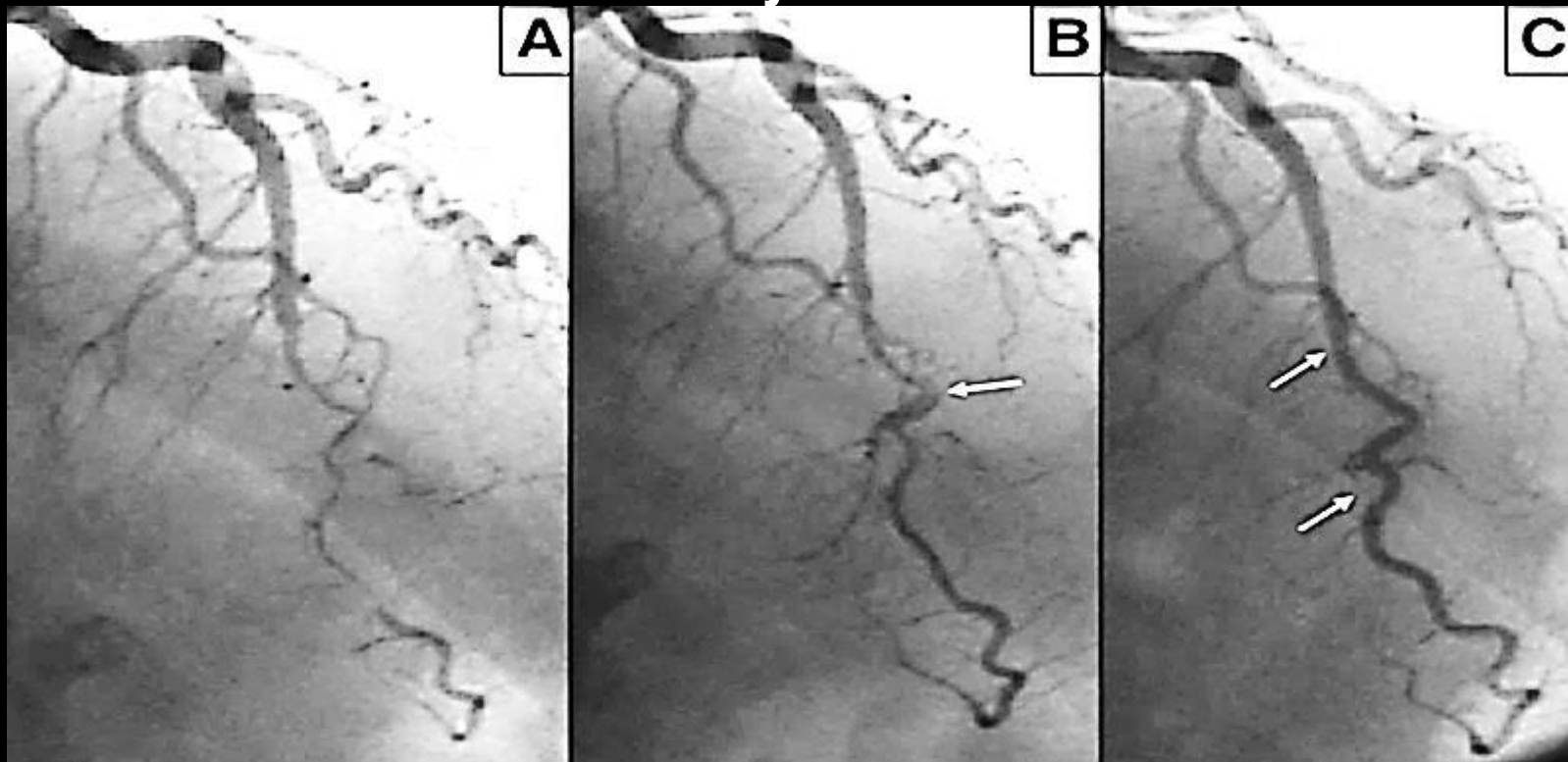


# Conservatively Managed SCAD

Baseline

4 Days

4 Mos





# SCAD-Associated Conditions

**“Condition”**

+

**“Trigger”**

*Hormonal*

*Exertion*

*Emotion*

*Shear Stress*

*Other*

**“Other”**

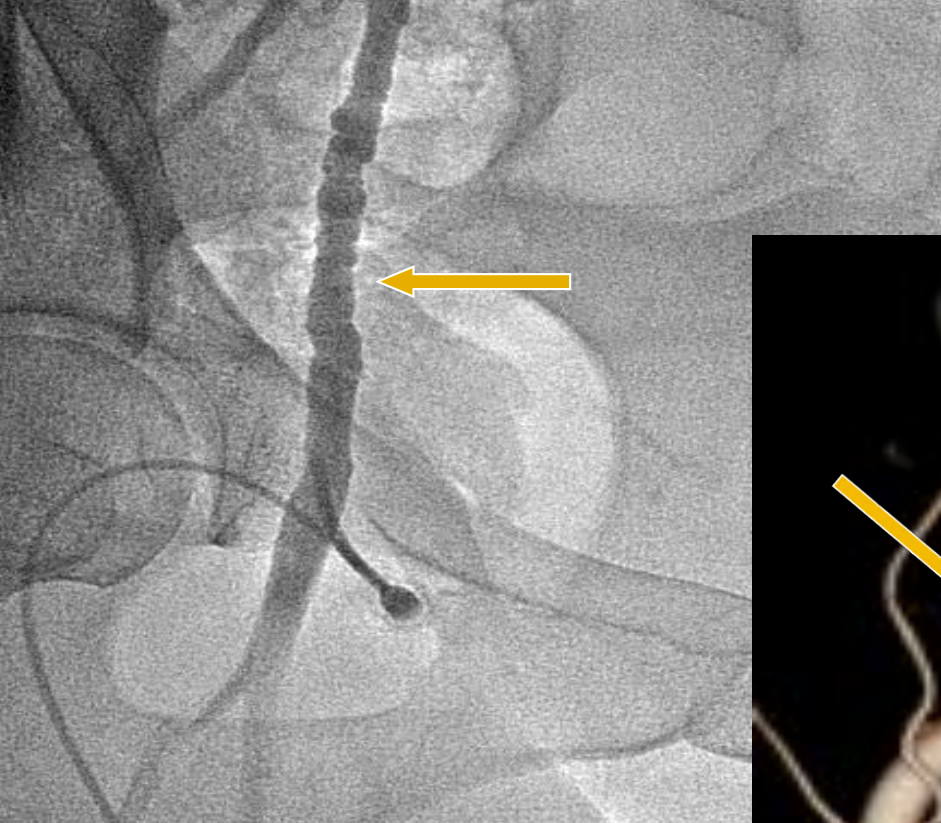
**Collagen  
or genetic  
defect**

**Pregnancy,  
hormonal**

**SCAD**

**Fibromuscular  
dysplasia**

HTN  
Preeclampsia  
Gestational DM  
Infertility Rx  
Migraines



# Early Therapy After SCAD?

**Prevention  
Alert!**

- ASA
  - vs DAPT? Standard for ACS  
MVO on MRI
  - vs NAPT? Intramural hematoma frequent  
Luminal thrombus rare
- **Beta-blocker** (“*associated with*” lower recurrence-often poorly tolerated)
- **No statin** if normal lipids (no effect on recurrence)
- Other Rx per non-SCAD indication

# Chest Pain After SCAD

- Common (30-70%) “Scary!” High rates of ED, inpatient CP evals
- CP  $\neq$  ischemia. Chest wall pain, non-cardiac, restenosis, stent “issues”, new/recurrent SCAD...
- Menstrual cycle variations/angina is common
- “Second-look angiograms” in stable patients (no!)



## Other SCAD Outcomes

- FMD, associated conditions, complications
- Uterine bleeding (DAPT, D/C OCPs)
- Migraine therapy issues
- Psychosocial burden
- “Losses” (e.g., health, reproductive options)
- Avoid pregnancy...↑recurrent SCAD risk even if 1<sup>st</sup> SCAD not P-SCAD
  - **Effective, nonhormonal** contraception (IUD OK, esp. if menorrhagia)



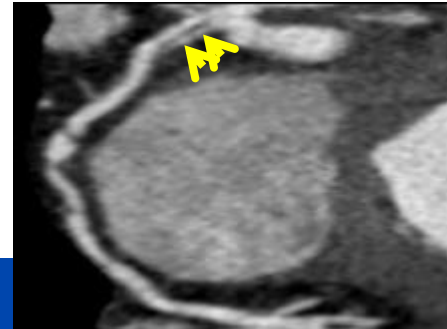
# Long Term SCAD Management

- Physical activity guidelines- REHAB!-1-2 wks post SCAD is feasible, safe, and improves aerobic capacity, body composition, stress and depression
  - Avoid competitive, endurance, high intensity activity, extreme temps
  - Strength training (yes!): Lower resistance/higher reps
  - Limit lifting to what can be done w/o straining/Valsalva
- Vascular screening
- Medical Genetics referral
- Support for patient, family

**Prevention  
Alert!**

# SCAD Conclusions

- Will see more SCAD (awareness, intravascular imaging)
- Index of suspicion essential (young, female, no CVD risks)
- **Correct diagnosis even more important because management different than ACS guidelines!!!**
- Strong association with systemic arteriopathies, esp. FMD
- Referrals welcome: Mayo Clinic Virtual and DNA SCAD Registries



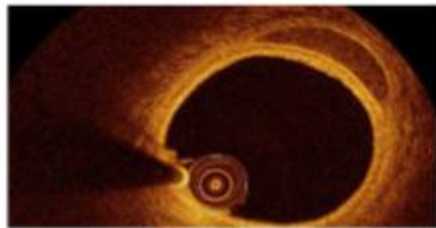


## CENTERS AND PROGRAMS SPONTANEOUS CORONARY ARTERY DISSECTION (SCAD)

### Overview

Faculty  
Contact  
About  
For Participants  
For Medical Professionals  
Projects  
Clinical Trials  
News  
Publications  
Videos  
Resources

### OVERVIEW



The Mayo Clinic Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection (SCAD) Research Program is part of an innovative multidisciplinary collaborative research and clinical practice initiative formed in 2011. The goal of the program is to advance the understanding of underlying causes and risk factors for SCAD and for optimal diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

The Mayo Clinic SCAD Research Program is a patient-initiated research program that comprehensively addresses the clinical, genetic, and lifestyle factors associated with SCAD. The program is a collaborative effort involving research colleagues from Mayo Clinic and other organizations, who have already had an impact on the field.

[www.mayo.edu/research/SCAD](http://www.mayo.edu/research/SCAD)

facebook



SCAD  
SPONTANEOUS CORONARY  
ARTERY DISSECTION

SCAD Research, Inc.



- SCAD at Mayo Clinic (Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection)
- "SCAD Survivors"

# Reducing the Burden of CVD in Women

- Address, explore sex- & gender- differences: physiology, outcomes, disparities
- Support psychosocial needs
- Address knowledge, research gaps (\$\$)
- Mitigate provider bias (unconscious)
- Align policies, procedures
- Disseminate, employ best practices & guidelines

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[www.Mayo.edu/Research/SCAD](http://www.Mayo.edu/Research/SCAD)

[MayoSCAD@Mayo.edu](mailto:MayoSCAD@Mayo.edu)

[@SharonneHayes](https://twitter.com/SharonneHayes)

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**SCAD at Mayo Clinic**