



The 5th Indonesian  
Symposium on Heart Failure and  
Cardiometabolic Disease

# Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing 101: Heart Failure Edition

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Indonesian Working Group  
on Heart Failure  
and Cardiometabolic Disease



# Introduction

- Universal definition of HF → a clinical syndrome with diverse etiologies, marked with symptoms and/or signs caused by a structural and/or functional cardiac abnormality, and corroborated by elevated NP levels and/or objective evidence of pulmonary or systemic congestion.
- Prevalence of HF continues to increase globally → growing need for precise diagnostic and prognostic tools to guide therapeutic strategies to improve patient outcomes and to provide the basis for clinical trials.
- CPET is an examination that allows the HCP to simultaneously study the responses of the cardiovascular and ventilatory systems to a defined progressive (or incremental) exercise stress performed to the limit of tolerance.
- Cardiopulmonary exercise testing (CPET) is a valuable and versatile tool used in the classification of HF based on their functional capacity, exercise tolerance, and response to exertion.

# Indication

MAIN INDICATIONS FOR CPET							
DIAGNOSIS	RISK STRATIFICATION	EXERCISE PRESCRIPTION	THERAPEUTIC EVALUATION	PROGNOSIS	Athlete's Evaluation	Heart Failure	Cardiomyopathies
					Dyspnea of Unknown Cause	Valvular Heart Disease	Congenital Heart Diseases
					Cardiac Rehabilitation	Ischemic Heart Disease	Pulmonary Hypertension
							Pulmonary Disease
							Cardiac / Lung Transplantation
							Preoperative Risk-Assessment

Dores, et al. Revista Portuguesa de Cardiologia 43 (2024) 525---536. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.repc.2024.01.005>.



# What Guidelines Say

## Recommendations for Exercise and Functional Capacity Testing

Referenced studies that support the recommendations are summarized in the [Online Data Supplements](#).

COR	LOE	RECOMMENDATIONS
1	C-LD	1. In patients with HF, assessment and documentation of NYHA functional classification are recommended to determine eligibility for treatments (1-3).
1	C-LD	2. In selected ambulatory patients with HF, cardiopulmonary exercise testing (CPET) is recommended to determine appropriateness of advanced treatments (e.g., LVAD, heart transplant) (4-8).
2a	C-LD	3. In ambulatory patients with HF, performing a CPET or 6-minute walk test is reasonable to assess functional capacity (4,5,9-16).
2a	C-LD	4. In ambulatory patients with unexplained dyspnea, CPET is reasonable to evaluate the cause of dyspnea (17,18).

# Contraindication

- **Absolut**

Acute myocardial infarction (3---5 days)  
Unstable angina  
Uncontrolled arrhythmia causing symptoms or hemodynamic instability  
Active endocarditis  
Acute myocarditis or pericarditis  
Symptomatic severe aortic stenosis  
Decompensated HF  
Acute aortic dissection  
Uncontrolled asthma  
Acute pulmonary embolism  
Arterial desaturation at rest on room air <85%  
Physical disability that precludes safe and adequate testing

- **Relative**

Untreated left main coronary stenosis or its equivalent  
Asymptomatic severe aortic stenosis  
Severe untreated arterial hypertension at rest (SBP >200mmHg; SBP >110 mmHg)  
Significant tachyarrhythmias  
High-degree atrioventricular block or other significant bradyarrhythmia  
Thrombosis of the lower limb until treated  
Severe abdominal aortic aneurysm  
Recent stroke or transient ischemic attack  
Advanced or complicated pregnancy  
Psychiatric or mental impairment (inability to cooperate)  
Uncorrected medical conditions, such as significant anemia, important electrolyte imbalance, and hyperthyroidism.

# Standard CPET Equipments

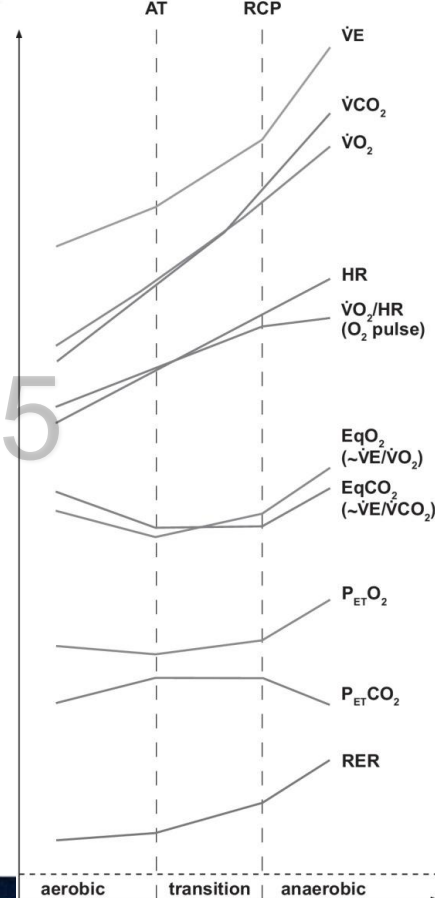


# Cardiopulmonary Response During Exercise

- Increase SBP
- Decrease SVR
- Increase muscle perfusion
- Increase in venous return to the heart facilitated by the calf muscle pump
- Increase CO, HR, SV
- Increase Minute ventilation (VE), Tidal volume (VT) & ventilatory frequency

Any limitation of these physiological cardiovascular or respiratory responses will eventually cause exercise intolerance and an overall decrease in exercise capacity.

Chambers et al. *BJA Education*, 19(5):158e164(2019). Datta, et al. *Ann Thorac Med*. 2015;10(2):77-86.



### Box 7.3.5.1 Pretest considerations

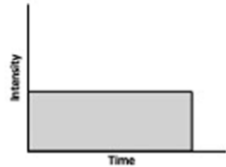
- ◆ Patient consent and collaboration
- ◆ Protocol selection and explanation of test protocol
- ◆ History and clinical examination
- ◆ Assessment of comorbidities (e.g. orthopaedic limitations)
- ◆ Anthropometric measurements: weight, height, body mass index, body surface area
- ◆ Resting electrocardiogram, blood pressure, and oxygen saturations
- ◆ Pretest spirometry



# Protocol

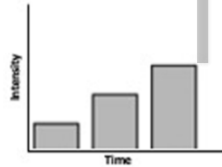
## CPET PROTOCOL

### CONSTANT



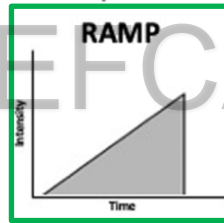
### PROGRESSIVE (INCREMENTAL)

#### INTERMITTENT

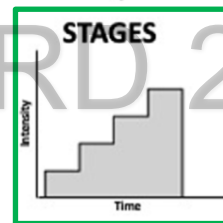


#### CONTINUOUS

##### RAMP



##### STAGES



- Incremental rate protocols (the work rate progressively increase) → Ramp protocols are preferred over conventional incremental tests (5 Watts/min, 7 Watts/min, 10 Watts/min, and 15Watts/min).
- or
- constant work rate protocols (remains constant during the test)
- The test should last between 8 and 12 min
- Warm-up for 1-3 min, Recovery phase at least 5 min

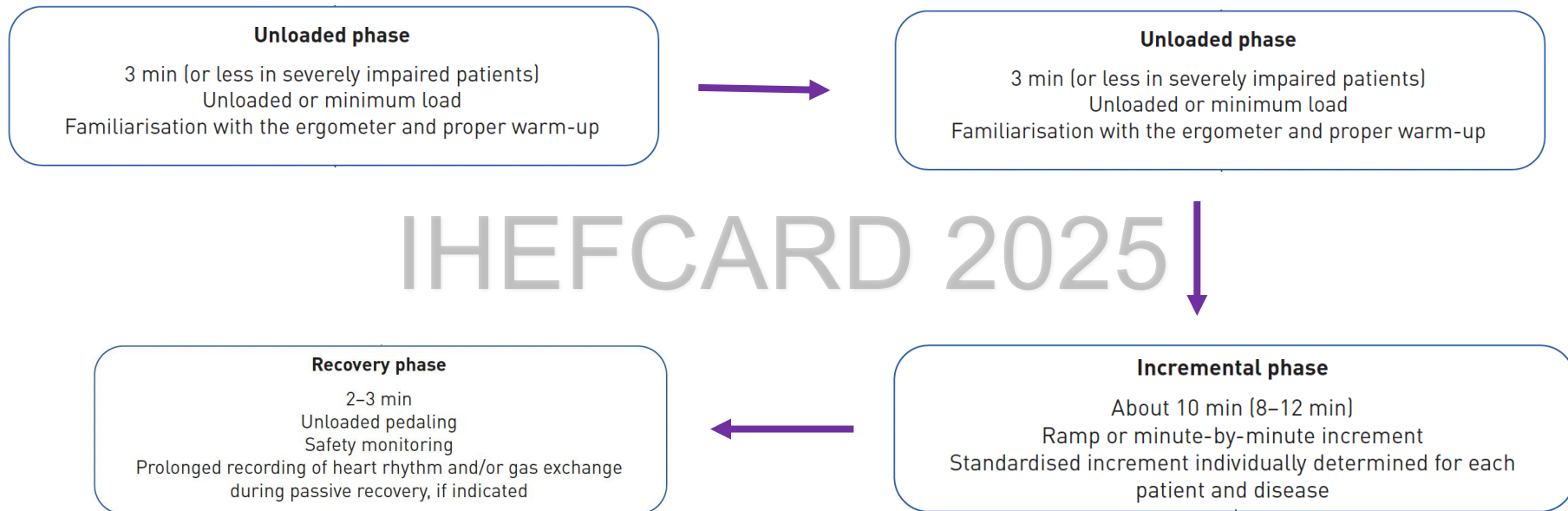
**Table 15** Steep protocol

	Stage (min)														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Speed (mph)	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	4.2	5.0
Speed (kph)	2.4	3.2	3.2	3.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.6	5.6	5.6	6.7	8.0
Incline (degrees)	0	0	1.5	3	3	5	7	7	9	11	11	13	16	16	16

Albouaini, et al. (2007). Cardiopulmonary exercise testing and its application. *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, 83(985), 675–682.

Dores, et al. Cardiopulmonary exercise testing in clinical practice: Principles, applications, and basic interpretation. Elsevier. 2024 April; 43: 525-536

# Four Parts CPET Procedure



# Parameters Need to be Interpreted During CPET

**Table 1. Common cardiopulmonary exercise testing variables with definitions and ranges.**

Term/symbol	Definition	Units	Common ranges (l/min)
Oxygen uptake ( $\text{VO}_2$ )	Amount of oxygen taken up by the patient, measured at the mouth per min. Marker of the extent of aerobic energy (ATP) regeneration	l/min or weight-adjusted (l/min/kg weight)	0.2–4
Carbon dioxide output ( $\text{VCO}_2$ )	Amount of $\text{CO}_2$ exhaled by the patient, measured at the mouth, per min. $\text{CO}_2$ sources include metabolism, lactic acid buffering by bicarbonate and $\text{CO}_2$ stores	l/min	0.2–4
$\text{G}_{\text{E}}\text{LAT}$	Gas exchange value used to identify the point in the CPET where additional $\text{CO}_2$ production from bicarbonate buffering of lactic acidosis occurs. Refers to ventilatory threshold 1	l/min	>40% of the predicted $\text{VO}_{2\text{max}}$
Respiratory exchange ratio	$\text{CO}_2$ output divided by the $\text{O}_2$ uptake	Dimensionless	Usual 0.8 (rest) to 1.3 (end of exercise)
Minute ventilation ( $\text{V}_\text{E}$ )	Pulmonary ventilation per minute. Compare this with the maximum ventilatory capacity from the pulmonary function tests	l/min	5–150
Ventilatory equivalents for $\text{CO}_2$ and $\text{O}_2$ ( $\text{V}_\text{E}/\text{VCO}_2$ , $\text{V}_\text{E}/\text{VO}_2$ )	$\text{V}_\text{E}$ divided by $\text{VCO}_2$ or $\text{VO}_2$ . Amount of ventilation required to take up 1 l of oxygen or excrete 1 l of $\text{CO}_2$	Dimensionless. Roughly an efficiency marker for the amount of ventilation required to exchange 1 l of gas (either $\text{CO}_2$ or $\text{O}_2$ )	Normal <34 at $\text{G}_{\text{E}}\text{LAT}$
$\text{O}_2$ pulse	Oxygen uptake divided by the heart rate. The amount of oxygen extracted from the volume of blood ejected with each heart beat. $\text{O}_2$ pulse is equal to the stroke volume $\times$ the arterial–venous $\text{O}_2$ content difference	ml $\text{O}_2$ per beat	Normal 5–20 ml/beat

CPET: Cardiopulmonary exercise testing;  $\text{G}_{\text{E}}\text{LAT}$ : Gas exchange lactic acid threshold. Definitions taken from [2].

Stringer. 2010. Expert Review of Respiratory Medicine, 4:2, 179-188

# Target Values for Key CPET Variables (Cycle Ergometry)

Variable	Target value	Abnormal
Peak $\dot{V}O_2$ (exercise capacity)	$\geq 85\%$ based on $\dot{V}O_2$ pred. or $> 20$ mL $O_2$ /min/kg	$< 85\%$ / $< 70\%$ / $< 50\%$ (mild/moderate/severe)
$\dot{V}O_2$ /WR (aerobic capacity)	$\geq 9$ – $10$ mL/min/watt <sup>1</sup>	$\leq 8$ mL/min/watt
$\dot{V}O_2$ at AT	$\geq 40$ – $80\%$ pred. $\dot{V}O$ (usually 50–65% of peak $\dot{V}O_2$ )	$< 40\%$ / $< 30\%$ / $< 25\%$ (mild/moderate/severe)
Blood pressure	Increase by 10 mmHg per 30 watts	Decrease, inadequate increase
$O_2$ pulse ( $\dot{V}O_2$ /HR) <sup>2</sup>	$\geq 80\%$	$< 70\%$ pred. during peak exercise
Heart rate reserve (HRR)	$\geq 85\%$ pred. ( $< 15$ bpm)	$< 85\%$ predicted (but wide range)
Breathing reserve (BR)	$\geq 15$ – $20\%$ (or $\geq 11$ – $15$ L/min)	$< 15$ – $20\%$ (or $< 11$ – $15$ L/min)
Breathing frequency (BF)	$\leq 50$ /min	$\geq 60$ /min
EqCO <sub>2</sub> at AT	25–30 at AT, $\leq 40$ after AT	$\geq 35$ at AT, $> 40$ after AT;
EqO <sub>2</sub> at AT	20–30 at AT, $\leq 40$ after AT	$\geq 35$ at AT, $> 40$ after AT
$\dot{V}E/\dot{V}CO_2$ slope	25–30 (slightly lower than EqCO <sub>2</sub> at AT)	$\geq 35$ or $< 20$
RER	$\geq 1.05$ (ill) or $\geq 1.1$ (healthy); $> 1.1$ – $1.5$ in recovery phase; at rest: $> 0.7$ , $< 1.0$	$< 1$ (peak exercise)
PETCO <sub>2</sub> ( $\approx$ PACO <sub>2</sub> $\approx$ PaCO <sub>2</sub> )	$> 35$ mmHg (at rest); $> 40$ mmHg (during exercise)	$< 33$ mmHg (at rest), $< 3$ mmHg increase or $> 50$ mmHg (peak exercise)
PETO <sub>2</sub> ( $\approx$ PAO <sub>2</sub> )	$\geq 90$ mmHg (at rest), 20–30 mmHg increase during exercise	Lack of increase or decrease during exercise
P(A-a) O <sub>2</sub> <sup>3</sup>	20 mmHg (at rest); 30 mmHg (during exercise)	$> 35$ mmHg
P(a-ET) CO <sub>2</sub> <sup>4</sup>	At rest: minimally positive; during exercise: slightly negative	$> 5$ mmHg

Glaab T, Taube C. Practical guide to cardiopulmonary exercise testing in adults. Respir Res. 2022;23:9.



# Identification of Abnormal Reaction Pattern(s)

Individual findings	Patient	Cardiovascular	Pulmonary vascular	Pulmonary	Lack of fitness
Reduced peak $\dot{V}O_2$		X	X	X	X
Low $\dot{V}O_2$ at AT		X	X	X	(X)
Steep HR increase relative to $\dot{V}O_2$ and shallow rise in $O_2$ pulse, respectively		X	X		X
Low $\dot{V}O_2$ /WR slope during incremental exercise		X	X		
Elevated $\dot{V}E/\dot{V}CO_2$ slope or elevated $EqCO_2$ at AT		*	X	X	
Normal breathing reserve		X	X		X
ECG changes, inadequate BP behaviour		X			
Low peak HR				X	X
Low $PETCO_2$ or $PaCO_2$ at rest and/or decrease during exercise		*	X		
$SpO_2$ or $PaO_2$ decrease during exercise			X	(X)	
Low breathing reserve				X	
Abnormal breathing pattern**				X	

Glaab T, Taube C. Practical guide to cardiopulmonary exercise testing in adults. Respir Res. 2022;23:9.

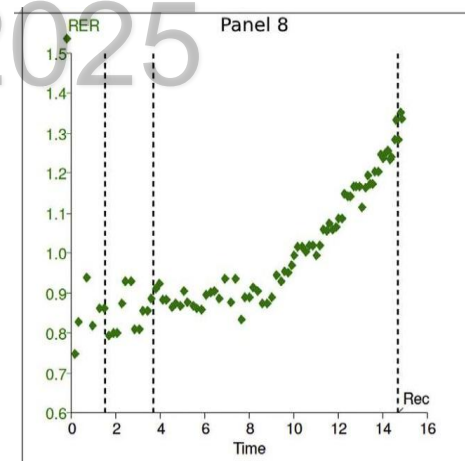
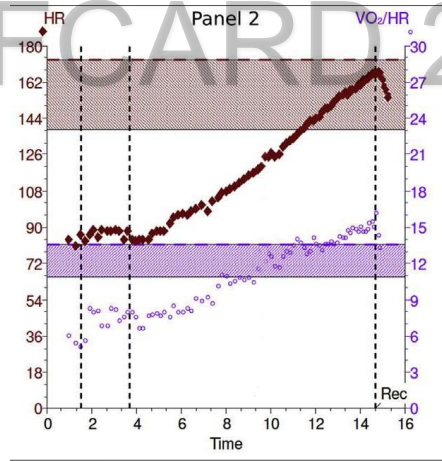
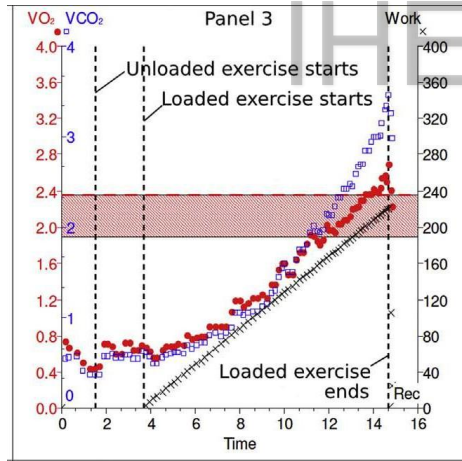
# CPET Validity Check

- **Adequate minute ventilation?**
  - Implausible if the increase of VE does not follow an increase in work rate (mask leakage, anxiety, poor effort?)
  - Increase per 25 W needs VE 9 L + VE at rest (9L)
- **Adequate VO<sub>2</sub> increase for a given work rate ( VO<sub>2</sub> increase/WR)?**
  - Implausible if the increase during early exercise (first 1–2 min) is too low (e.g., mask leakage)
  - VO<sub>2</sub> increase/WR  $\geq 10$  mL/min/watt
- **Adequate respiratory exchange rate (RER)?**
  - Implausible if RER at rest is  $< 0.7$  or RER at early exercise is  $> 1$  (volitional or anticipatory hyperventilation, gas analyser malfunction, clogged sample tube, mask leakage)

Glaab T, Taube C. Practical guide to cardiopulmonary exercise testing in adults. Respir Res. 2022;23:9

# Is The Test Maximal in Terms of Effort?

- Achieving  $\geq 80\%$  of the predicted work
- Achieving an HR of  $\geq 80\%$  of the predicted maximum HR
- Achieving a RER ( $VCO_2/VO_2$ )  $\geq 1.15$
- Achieving Borg scale 17
- Achieving blood lactate  $> 8$  mmol/L



Chambers et al. *BJA Education*, 19(5): 158e164 (2019)

# 9 Panels of CPET

- Cardiovascular parameters  
(panel 1,2,3)**

HR & O<sub>2</sub> pulse against time

VO<sub>2</sub>, VCO<sub>2</sub>, & load against time

HR & VCO<sub>2</sub> against VO<sub>2</sub>

- Ventilatory aspect (panel 4,6,7)**

VE and load against time

VE against CO<sub>2</sub>

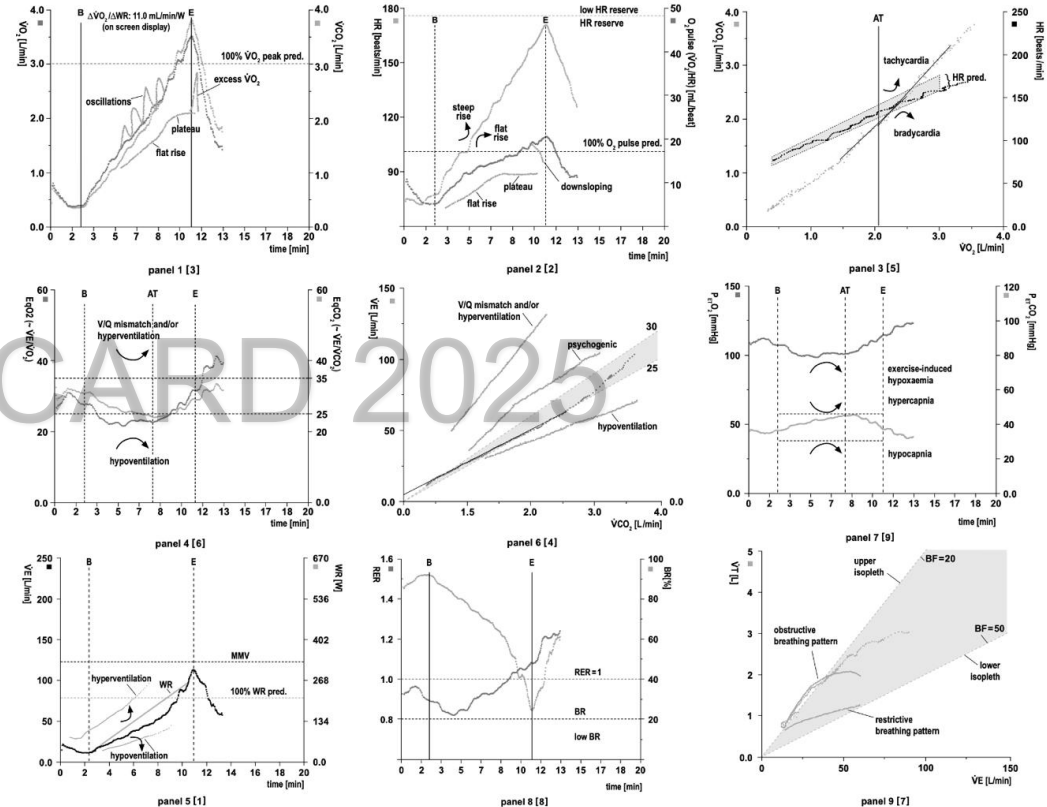
VT against VE

- Gas exchange information  
(Panel 5,8,9)**

VE against CO<sub>2</sub>

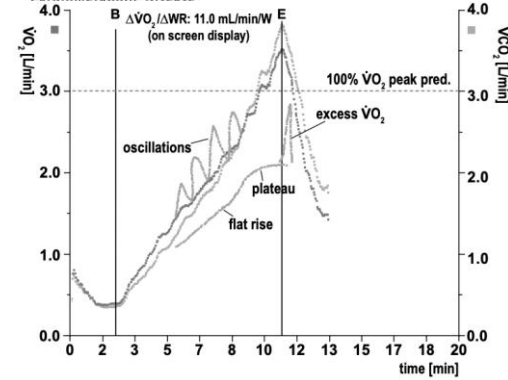
VE/VO<sub>2</sub> & VE/VCO<sub>2</sub> against time

PETCO<sub>2</sub> & PETO<sub>2</sub> against time



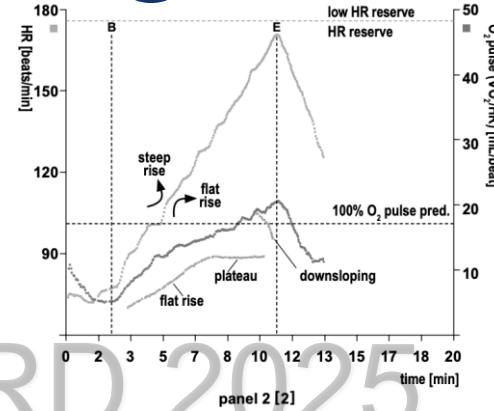


1



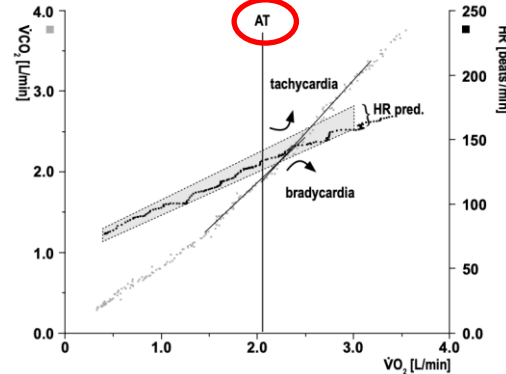
panel 1 [3]

2



panel 2 [2]

3

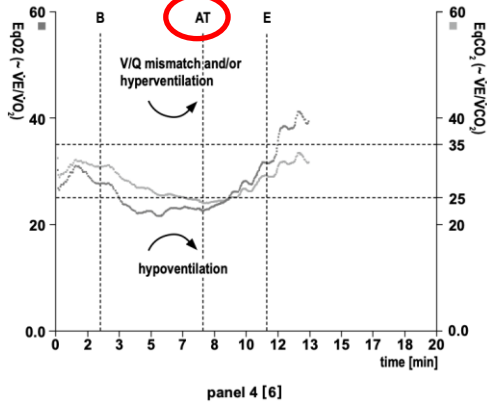


panel 3 [5]

Panel 3:  
Relationships of CO<sub>2</sub> output (VCO<sub>2</sub>) (y-axis) and O<sub>2</sub> uptake (VO<sub>2</sub>) (x-axis) and the relationship between HR and VO<sub>2</sub>

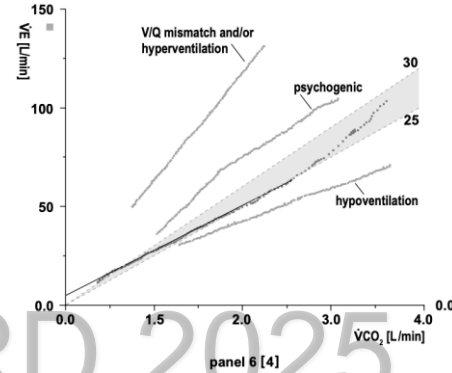
Glaab T, Taube C. Practical guide to cardiopulmonary exercise testing in adults. *Respir Res.* 2022;23:9

4



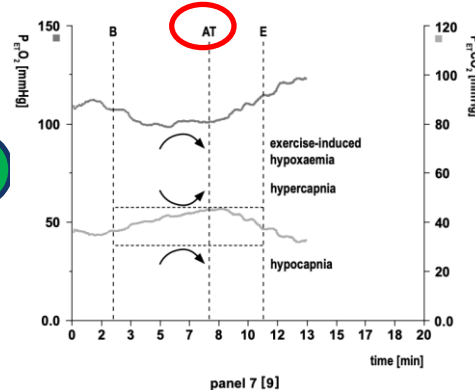
Panel 4: The relationships of minute ventilation (VE) vs. O2 uptake (VO2) and vs. CO2 (VCO2) output (ventilatory equivalents) as a function of time

6



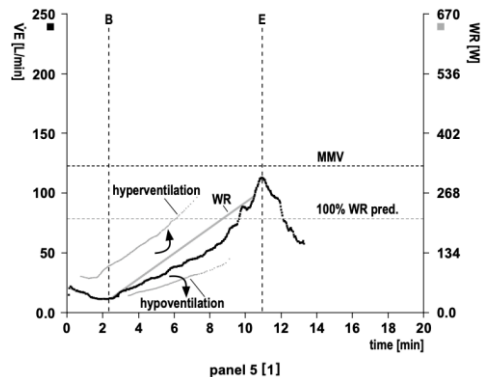
Panel 6: The relationship of ventilation (VE) and CO2 production (VCO2): VE/VCO2 slope.

7



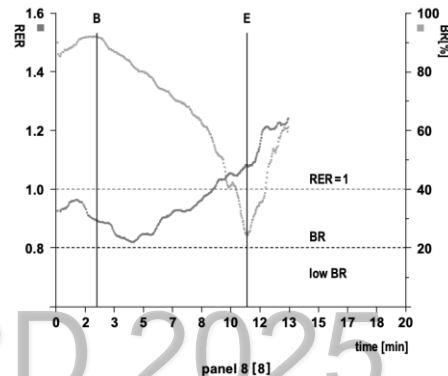
Panel 7: End-tidal partial pressures of O2 (PETO2) and CO2 (PETCO2) vs. time

5



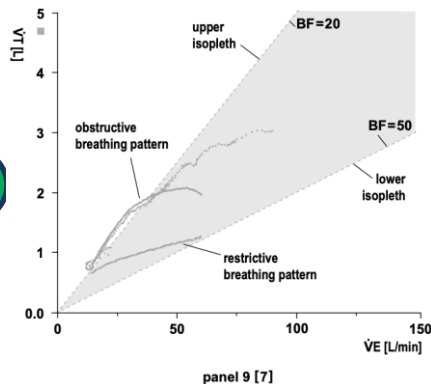
Panel 5:  
Relationship  
between minute  
ventilation (VE) and  
work rate (WR) vs.  
time (x-axis).

8



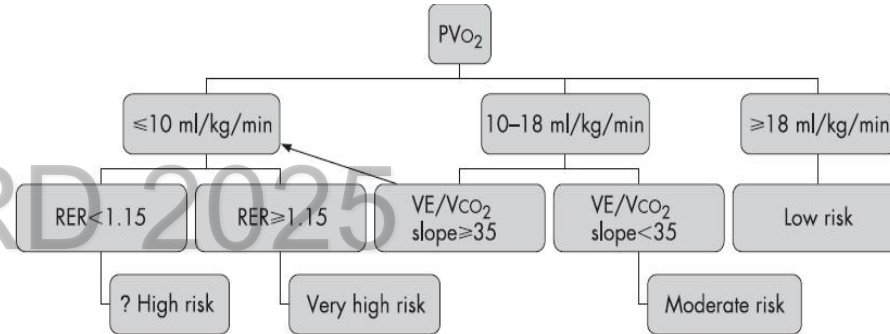
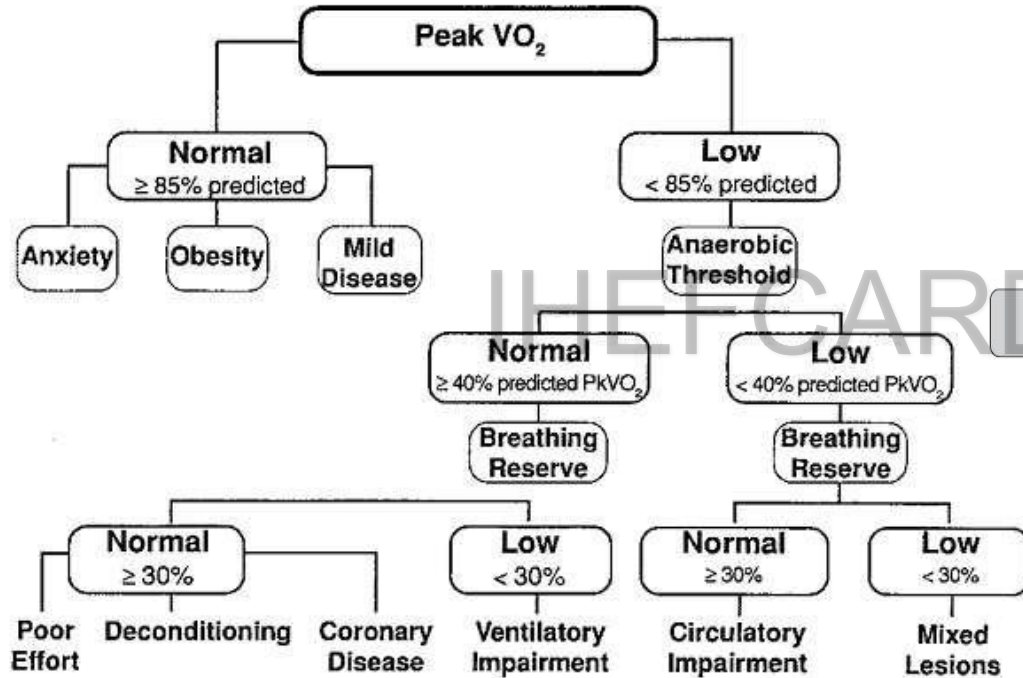
Panel 8: Respiratory  
exchange rate  
(RER) and  
breathing  
reserve (BR).

9



Panel 9: Breathing  
pattern.  
Relationships of  
tidal volume  
(VT) (y-axis), minute  
ventilation (VE) (x-  
axis) and breathing  
frequency (BF).

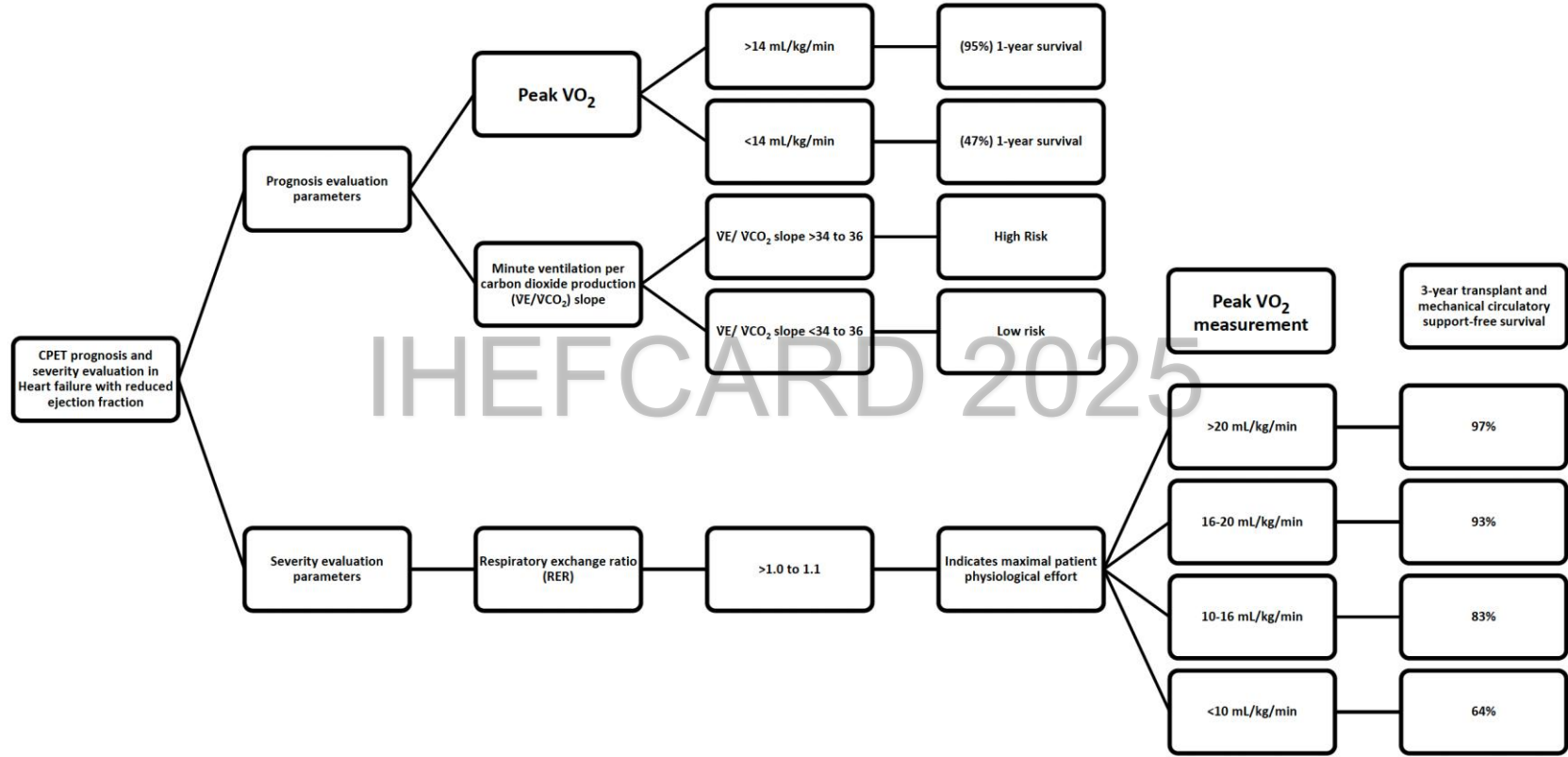
# CPET Diagnostic Flowchart



Milani et al. Circulation. 2004;110:e27-e31.



# Prognostic Roles of CPET in HF Patients



# The Role CPET in Advanced HF

## Chronic Symptomatic LV Systolic Dysfunction (HFrEF)

### Pre-CPET evaluation (1)

Is the patient's condition suitable for conducting CPET?

- Without reversible extra-cardiac conditions expected to impair exercise tolerance (musculoskeletal, neurologic, respiratory illness, prolonged bed rest).
- Without reversible cardiac conditions (acute heart failure exacerbation, uncontrolled arrhythmia).

- The CPET should be postponed until issues are resolved.

NO

YES

### Pre-CPET evaluation (2)

Have implantable electrical device settings been reviewed, if applicable?

- Determine the heart rate that triggers tachy-therapies to avoid reaching it during exercise.
- If reliant on atrial and rate-responsive pacing to augment heart rate, treadmill exercise is preferred to trigger rate-responsive pacing.

NO

- Review device settings. If no implantable electrical device is present, proceed to usual CPET protocol.

## Conduct CPET to Evaluate Exercise Capacity and Hemodynamic Response

Was there maximum volitional effort (RER  $\geq 1.05$ ), which lends validity to maximum CPET Measures?

YES

NO

- Focus on the reason for exercise cessation.
- Interpretable patterns with submaximal testing = Exercise Oscillatory Ventilation,  $VE/VCO_2$  slope,  $VO_2$ : OUES,  $VO_2$  @ VAT<sup>a</sup>

Is there absence of a pulmonary mechanical limit to exercise, with  $VE/MVV < 0.80$ ?<sup>b</sup>

YES

NO

- Address any modifiable pulmonary factor.

### Evaluate Non-invasive CPET Parameters

#### O<sub>2</sub> uptake patterns

Peak  $VO_2 \leq 14$  mL/kg/min<sup>c</sup>

- +  $\beta$ -blockers:  $\leq 12$  mL/kg/min
- BMI  $\geq 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>: adjusted for lean body mass  $\leq 19$  mL/kg/min
- Women,  $\leq 50$ ,  $\geq 70$  y.o.:  $\leq 50\%$  predicted value

#### Hemodynamic patterns

$\Delta$  SBP & HR<sup>d</sup>

- $\Delta$ SBP  $< 20$  mmHg with peak SBP  $< 120$  mmHg
- Peak HR  $< 85\%$  of predicted
- HR recs  $\leq 6$  bpm

#### Ventilatory patterns

$\downarrow$  Efficacy/Stability<sup>e</sup>

- $VE/VCO_2$  slope  $> 36$ <sup>f</sup>
- Exercise oscillatory ventilation<sup>g</sup>

Circulatory Power<sup>k</sup>

Additional abnormal/high-risk patterns

Ventilatory Power<sup>l</sup>

- VAT  $< 40\%$  predicted  $pVO_2$ <sup>m</sup>
- $VO_2$ /work slope  $< 8.5$ <sup>n</sup>
- Delayed  $VO_2$  rec ( $> 25$  sec)<sup>o</sup>

- Low hemodynamic gain index<sup>p</sup>
- Low proportionate pulse pressure<sup>q</sup>

- PETCO<sub>2</sub>  $< 36$  at rest with failure to augment from rest to VAT, without hyperventilation<sup>r</sup>

Consider Heart Transplant. and LVAD Evaluation

### Addition of Invasive Exercise Hemodynamics

#### Cardiac Predominant Limitation

- CO/ $VO_2$  slope  $< 5$ <sup>h</sup>
- Normal peak CavO<sub>2</sub>  $\sim 14$  mL/dL<sup>i</sup>

#### RV-Pulm. Vascular Function<sup>j</sup>

- Resting PVR  $> 3$  WU
- Exercise PVR  $> 2$  WU
- RAP/PCWP  $\leq 0.63$

Favors LVAD Evaluation

#### LV Systemic-Vascular Function<sup>s</sup>

- PCWP/CO slope  $> 2$  mmHg/L/min
- PCWP  $> 25$  mmHg exercise

#### RV-Pulm. Vascular Function<sup>t</sup>

- RAP/PCWP  $> 0.63$
- PAPI  $< 1.85$

Favors Transplant. Evaluation

Bossone, et al. Exercise Testing in Pulmonary Hypertension and Heart Failure. Vol.1. Elsevier. 2025

# Conclusions

- CPET is a dynamic, non-invasive assessment of the cardiopulmonary system at rest and during exercise
- Using a systematic approach, the nine-panel plot can be used to identify limitations in cardiac and respiratory capacity
- The exercise is performed on a bicycle or treadmill, with use of a ramp protocol and wearing a nonrebreathing valve that measures O<sub>2</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> gas and ventilation.
- During the test, ECG, BP, and oxygen saturations are recorded; the test should last 8–12 minutes.
- The VO<sub>2</sub> is the most important parameter to evaluate disease severity, whereas other parameters such as VE/VCO<sub>2</sub>, VO<sub>2</sub>/HR, RER, and VE complete the picture.
- CPET is useful in HFrEF, HFmrEF, and HFpEF to determine severity of the disease, provide important prognostic information, facilitate exercise prescription, and assess the efficacy of new drugs and devices.
- In Advanced-HF, CPET-derived parameters enable clinicians to more accurately assess risk, guide the selection of candidates for advanced therapies such as heart transplantation and LVAD implantation,

# Thank you

IHEFCARD 2025





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on Heart Failure  
and Cardiometabolic Disease



## Indications for exercise termination!

Chest pain suggestive of ischaemia  
Ischaemic ECG changes  
Complex ectopy  
Second- or third-degree heart block  
Fall in systolic pressure  $>20$  mm Hg from the highest value during the test  
Hypertension ( $>250$  mm Hg systolic;  $>120$  mm Hg diastolic)  
Severe desaturation:  $SpO_2 \leq 80\%$  when accompanied by symptoms and signs of severe hypoxaemia  
Sudden pallor  
Loss of coordination  
Dizziness or faintness  
Signs of respiratory failure  
Mental confusion

Adapted from ATS/ACCP Statement on Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing.<sup>1</sup>

### Criteria for determining if effort is maximal

- ▶ Achieves a plateau in  $VO_2$  (indicating the patient has reached their  $VO_{2max}$ ).
- ▶ Heart rate reaches 90% of predicted or heart rate reserve is  $\leq 15$  beats/min
- ▶ There is evidence of ventilation limitation (breathing reserve  $<15\%$ , expiratory flow limitation, also consider significant increase in end-expiratory lung volume).
- ▶ mBorg for leg fatigue or breathlessness is  $\geq 9/10$ .
- ▶ Peak exercise blood lactate concentration  $\geq 8$  mmol/L (if measured).

### Test termination by patient

- ▶ Dyspnoea.
- ▶ Leg fatigue.
- ▶ Chest pain.
- ▶ Pain/physical discomfort.
- ▶ Dizziness.
- ▶ Saddle discomfort.
- ▶ Palpitations



# Comparison Between Cycle and Treadmill Ergometers

Feature	Cycle	Treadmill
Familiarity with exercise	Lower	Higher
Predicted VO <sub>2</sub>	Lower	Higher
Quantification of external work	Yes	With some algorithms
Quality of ECG monitoring	Good	With artifacts
BP measurement	Easier	Harder
Ease to take arterial blood gas	Easier	Harder
Muscles in lower limbs	Dependent	Less dependent
Patients with pacemakers, ICDs, or CRTs	Less appropriate	More appropriate
Safety	Higher	Lower (risk of falls)
Size of equipment	Lower	Higher
Mobility of equipment	Higher	Lower
Costs	Lower	Higher

CRT: cardiac resynchronization therapy; ICD: implanted cardioverter-defibrillator.

Dores, et al. Revista Portuguesa de Cardiologia 43 (2024) 525---536. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.repc.2024.01.005>.

# Prognostic Roles of CPET (1)

- **Peak VO<sub>2</sub>**

- Peak VO<sub>2</sub> > 14 mL/kg/min was a predictor of event free-survival in CVD patients
- Peak VO<sub>2</sub> < 14 mL/kg/min higher morbidity & mortality in HF patients
- When AT can't be identified, peak VO<sub>2</sub> < 10 mL/kg/min shows a high risk of events in CVD patients while patients with peak VO<sub>2</sub> > 18 mL/kg/min have a good prognosis

- **AT**

- HF Patients with peak VO<sub>2</sub> of ≤14 mL/kg per minute had a >3-fold-increased risk (OR=3.4; CI, 1.3 to 9.1), with VO<sub>2</sub> AT <11 mL/min per kg or VE versus VCO<sub>2</sub> slope >34 a 5-fold increased risk for early death (OR=5.3; CI, 1.5 to 19.0; OR=4.8; CI, 1.7 to 13.8, respectively).

- **VE/CO<sub>2</sub> slope**

- HF patients with both VO<sub>2</sub>AT <11 mL/kg per minute and VE versus VCO<sub>2</sub> slope >34, the risk of early death was 10-fold higher (OR=9.6; CI, 2.1 to 44.7)

## Prognostic Roles of CPET (2)

- **Chronotropic incompetence** =  $(\text{max HR} - \text{baseline HR}) / (\text{max predicted HR by age} - \text{baseline HR}) \times 100\%$ 
  - Chronotropic index does not reach 80% or does not reach 62% for patients using beta blockers
  - Heart rate does not reach 85% of the maximum predicted heart rate by age  $(220 - \text{age})$ .
  - Heart rate does not reach 120 x/minute with adequate EST
- **Heart rate recovery**
  - HRR 1:  $\geq 12$
  - HRR 2:  $\geq 22$
- **Hemodynamic response**
  - Exercise-induced hypertension: Increase SBP  $\geq 210$  mmHg, Increase DBP  $> 10$  mmHg, Increase SBP  $> 40$  mmHg per stage of the Bruce protocol
  - Exercise-induced hypotension: Decrease SBP  $\geq 10$  mmHg



## Prognostic Roles of CPET (3)

- **Ventricular arrhythmia**

- Frequent
- Multifocal
- Couplet
- VT
- VF

- **Duke Treadmill Score**

- = EST duration – 5 x ST segmen depression – 4 x angina score  
> 5 = low risk; -10 – 4 = moderate risk; < - 11 = high risk

IHEFCARD 2025

# CPET Report

## 1. Metabolics

- includes oxygen uptake ( $\text{VO}_2$ )
- Carbon dioxide excretion ( $\text{VCO}_2$ )
- Respiratory exchange ratio (RER)

## 2. Cardiac

- HR
- BP

## 3. Ventilation

- Minute ventilation
- RR
- Dead space ventilation

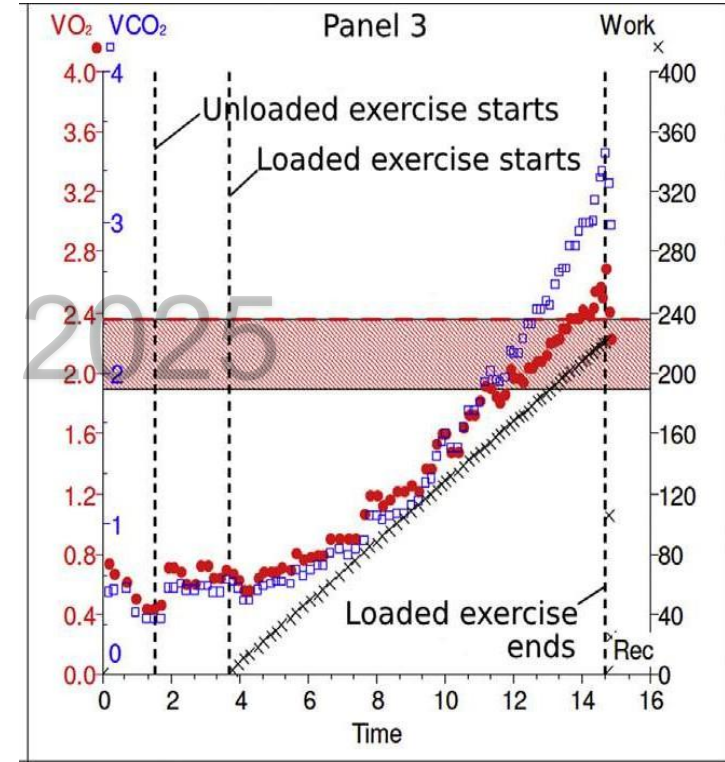
## 4. Gas Exchange

- $\text{FiO}_2$
- $\text{SpO}_2$
- pH
- $\text{PaCO}_2$
- $\text{PaO}_2$
- arterial–alveolar oxygen difference pressure
- Lactate levels

CPET provides invaluable diagnostic and prognostic information about clinical disorders associated with exercise intolerance

## What is the VO2 Peak in Panel 3?

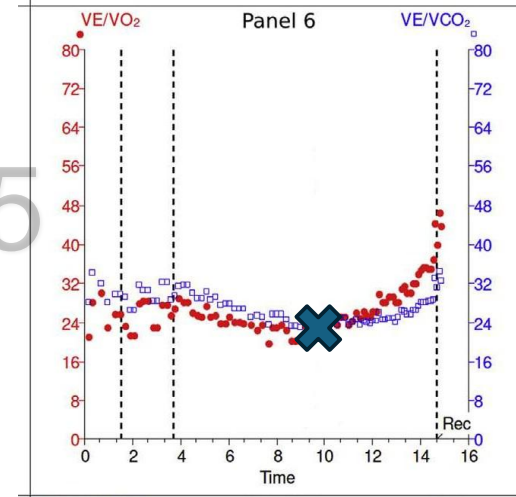
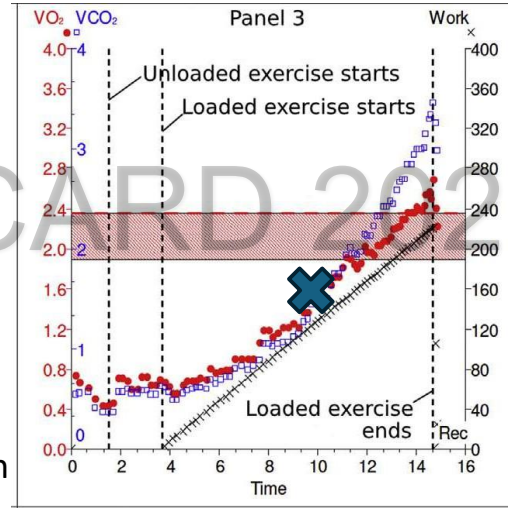
- VO2 peak → 2.7 L/min ~ weighed 71 kg, equates to a VO2peak of 38 ml O2/kg/min
- **Is the VO2 - work relationship normal?**
  - As resistance is added to the cycle ergometer, VO2 normally increases at 10 ml O2/min/W



Chambers et al. *BJA Education*, 19(5): 158e164 (2019)

## Can I Determine AT in This Test?

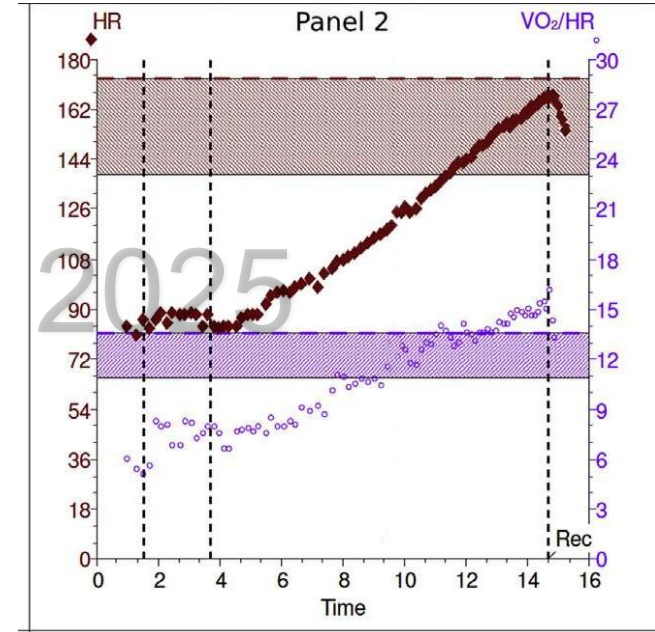
- $\text{VCO}_2$  increases disproportionately when compared with  $\text{VO}_2$
- $\text{VE}/\text{VO}_2$  starts to increase (lowest point)
- $\text{VE}/\text{VCO}_2$  remains relatively constant or decreases slightly
- **If so, what is the  $\text{VO}_2$  at AT?**
  - AT occurs at  $\text{VO}_2$  of 1.45 L/min
  - In this 71 kg patient, AT  $\sim 20.4$  ml  $\text{O}_2/\text{kg}/\text{min}$





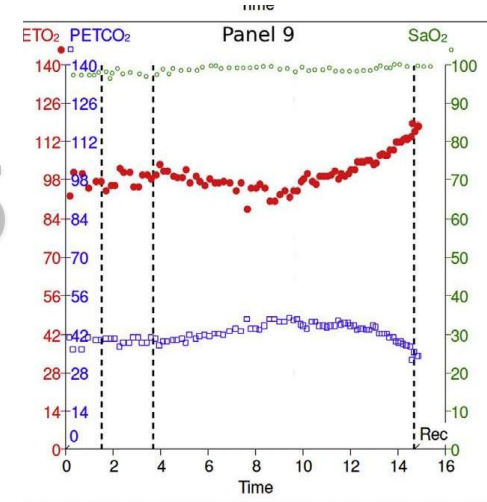
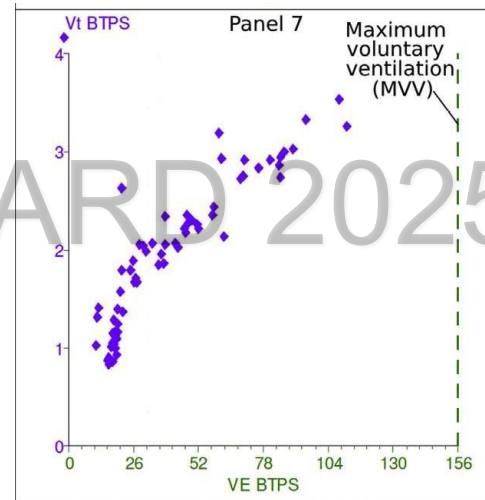
# Was the HR Response Normal?

- HR increase linearly with exercise intensity
- 1 METS ~ + 10 bpm
- **Does the oxygen pulse increase with exercise?**
  - The oxygen pulse is the  $VO_2/HR$ , and represents the product of the stroke volume and the arterial-venous oxygen difference

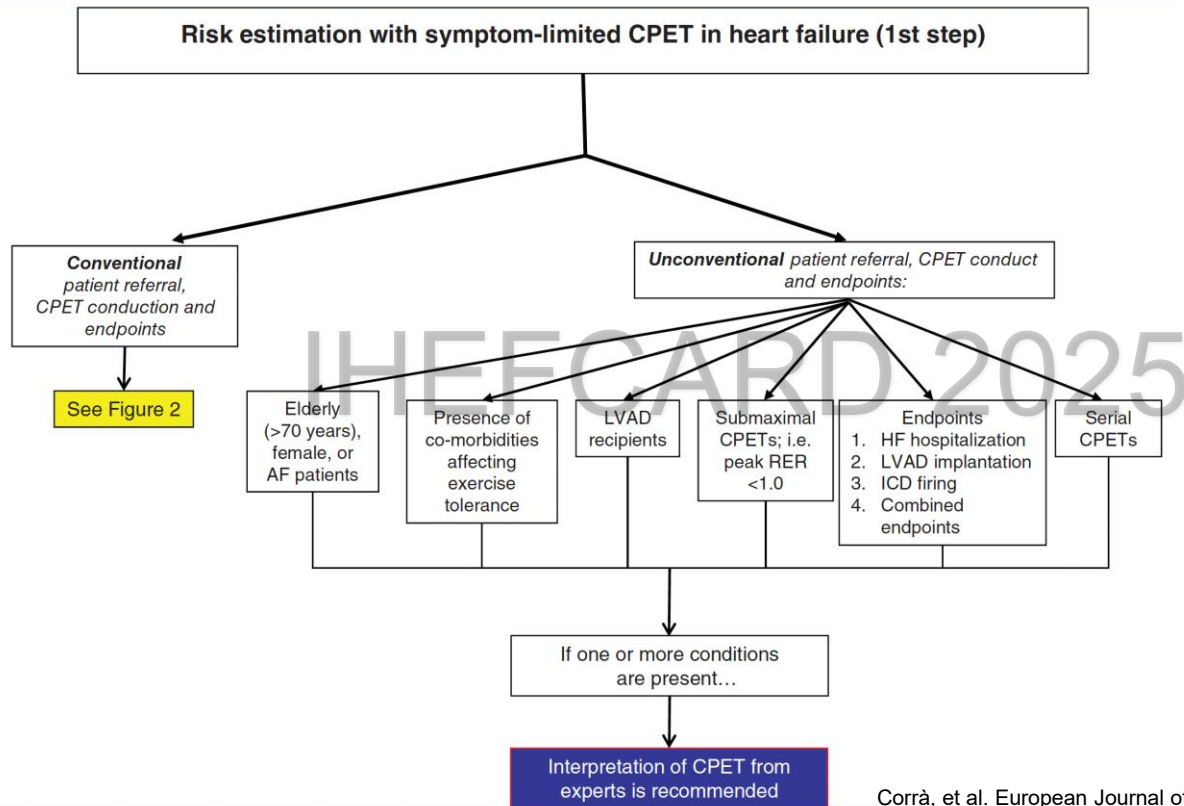


# Is There any Ventilatory Limitation?

- Measure forced expiratory volume in first second (FEV1) & forced vital capacity (FVC) using static spirometry
- Maximum voluntary ventilation (MVV) is a measure of the max volume of air that can be inhaled and exhaled within 1 min.
- $MVV = FEV1 \times 40$
- Max VE normal  $\leq 80\%$  MVV
- Ventilatory reserve =  $MVV - V_{Emax} > 11 \text{ L}$
- SpO2 should remain  $\geq 95\%$  throughout the test



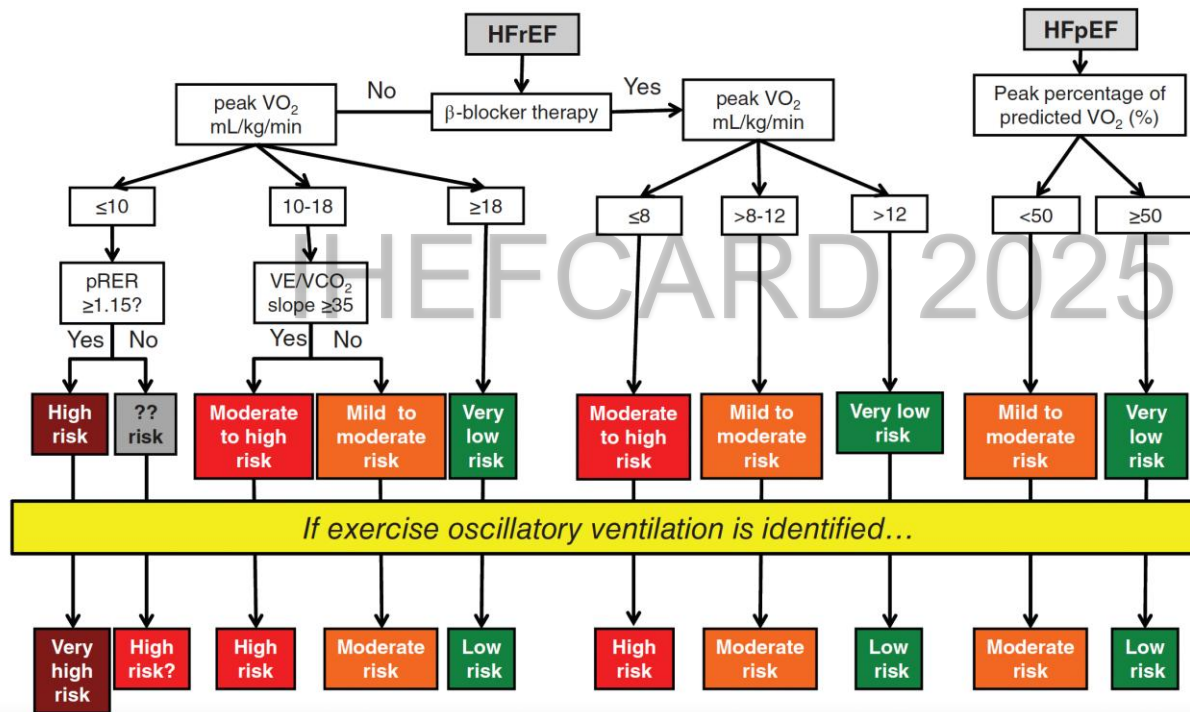
# Risk Estimation with Symptom-limited CPET in HF



Corrà, et al. European Journal of Heart Failure (2018) 20, 3–15. doi:10.1002/ehf.979

# Risk Estimation with Symptom-limited CPET in HF

## Risk estimation with CPET in patients with heart failure (2nd step)



Corrà, et al. European Journal of Heart Failure (2018) 20, 3–15. doi:10.1002/ehf.979



# RECENT FIELDS OF APPLICATION

## Respiratory Medicine

- Obstructive and restrictive ventilatory disorders
- Interstitial disorders
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Diffusion and distribution disorders
- Flow limitations
- Exercise related dyspnea of unknown origin
- Suspected limited exercise capacity due to circulatory or pulmonary vascular disorders
- Suspected exercise-induced asthma
- Trending for subtle respiratory disease changes
- Pre-operative risk assessment for lung transplant patients

## Sports Medicine / Science

- Measurement of physical exercise capacity
- Threshold determination
- Training management
- Quantification of training success

## Occupational Medicine

- Exercise-related career proficiency tests
- Determining the degree of disability or work limitation/inability
- Fitness checkups (high altitude, air travel, tropical climate, diving)

## Rehabilitation

- Optimizing rehabilitative measures
- Assessing and documenting rehabilitative and therapeutic progress

## Cardiology

- Coronary heart disease
- Cardiomyopathy
- Heart disease, valvular heart failure
- Congenital cardiac defects
- Pre-operative risk assessment for heart transplant patients
- Cardiac insufficiency

## Intensive Care

- Pre-operative risk assessment
- Nutrition control (adjusting parenteral nutrition of intensive care patients)

## Nutrition

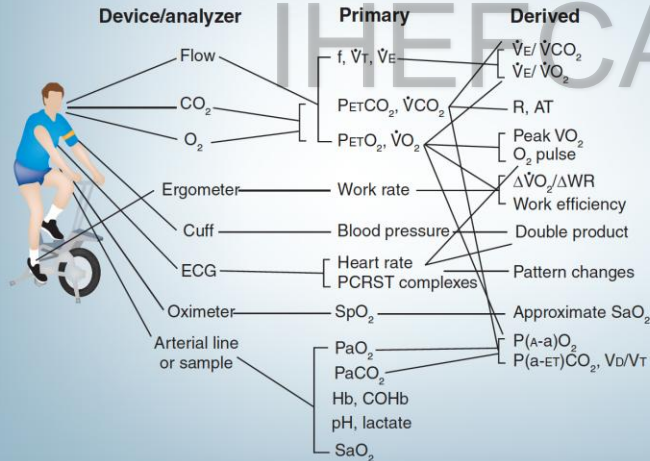
- Determination of Resting Energy Expenditure
- Energy Expenditure during Exercise
- Substrate utilization
- Nutritional counselling
- Dietary advice

Special Edition Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing, 2017

### Why use CPET?

#### ECG treadmill

- Ischemia/12-lead ECG
- Heart rate/HRR
- Blood pressure, double product
- Estimate of METs
- Symptoms/reason for stopping



#### CPET

- Ischemia/12-lead ECG
- Heart rate/HRR
- Blood pressure, double product
- Measured work rate
- Symptoms/ reason for stopping
- Oxygen saturation
- Maximal oxygen uptake ( $\dot{V}_{O_2}$  max)
- Lactic acidosis threshold
- Carbon dioxide output ( $\dot{V}_{CO_2}$ )
- Minute ventilation ( $\dot{V}_E$ ), TV, RR/BR
- Ventilatory equivalents ( $\dot{V}_E/\dot{V}_{O_2}$ ,  $\dot{V}_E/\dot{V}_{CO_2}$ )
- $\dot{V}_{O_2}$  / work rate relationship ( $\Delta\dot{V}_{O_2}/\Delta WR$ )
- O<sub>2</sub> pulse ( $SV \times C(a-v)O_2$  difference)
- Respiratory exchange ratio
- End tidal O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>
- Blood gases/COHb
- V<sub>d</sub>/V<sub>t</sub>
- P(A-a)O<sub>2</sub> → low V<sub>A</sub>/Q
- P(a-ET)CO<sub>2</sub> → high V<sub>A</sub>/Q
- Expiratory flow pattern

## Multiple Advantages of Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing Over ECG Treadmill Exercise Testing

Stringer. 2010. Expert Review of Respiratory Medicine, 4:2, 179-188

# Indication

- Evaluation of exercise tolerance
- Determination of functional impairment or capacity (peak VO<sub>2</sub>)
- Determination of exercise-limiting factors and pathophysiological mechanisms
- Evaluation of undiagnosed exercise intolerance
- Assessing the contribution of cardiac and pulmonary aetiology in coexisting disease
- Symptoms disproportionate to resting pulmonary and cardiac tests
- Unexplained dyspnoea when initial cardiopulmonary testing is non-diagnostic (or standard pulmonary function test is not diagnostic)
- Evaluation of patients with cardiovascular disease
- Functional evaluation and prognosis in patients with heart failure
- Selection for cardiac transplantation
- Exercise prescription and monitoring response to exercise training for cardiac rehabilitation (special circumstances, i.e. pacemakers)
- Evaluation of patients with respiratory disease
- Functional impairment assessment
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Establishing exercise limitation(s) and assessing other potential contributing factors, especially occult heart disease (ischaemia)
- Determination of magnitude of hypoxaemia and for oxygen prescription
- When objective determination of therapeutic intervention is necessary and not adequately addressed by standard pulmonary function testing
- Interstitial lung diseases
- Detection of early (occult) gas exchange abnormalities
- Overall assessment/monitoring of pulmonary gas exchange
- Determination of magnitude of hypoxaemia and for oxygen prescription
- Determination of potential exercise-limiting factors
- Documentation of therapeutic response to potentially toxic therapy
- Pulmonary vascular disease (careful risk–benefit analysis required)
- Cystic fibrosis
- Exercise-induced bronchospasm
- Specific clinical applications
- Preoperative evaluation
- Clinically relevant research purpose
- Lung resection surgery
- Elderly patients undergoing major abdominal surgery
- Lung volume resection surgery for emphysema (currently investigational)
- Exercise evaluation and prescription for pulmonary rehabilitation
- Evaluation for impairment–disability
- Evaluation for lung and heart–lung transplantation

# Indication

- Determining the cause(s) and severity of exertional dyspnoea, exercise intolerance or exercise-induced hypoxaemia;
- Assessing exercise capacity and estimating prognosis in various disease states (including chronic heart failure);
- Assessing perisurgical and postsurgical complication risk (e.g., for thoracic, heart and visceral surgery; surgical and bronchoscopic lung volume reduction);
- Early detection and risk stratification of cardiovascular, pulmonary vascular and lung diseases, and musculoskeletal disorders;
- Measuring the response to treatment (e.g., drugs, rehabilitation);
- Guiding and monitoring individual physical training in rehabilitation (e.g., cardiac, pulmonary), and in preventive and sports medicine;
- Evaluating the limitations/impairments of individual maximum and continuous exercise capacity in occupational medicine.

Glaab T, Taube C. Practical guide to cardiopulmonary exercise testing in adults. *Respir Res.* 2022;23:9

Measurement	Heart failure	COPD	ILD	Pulmonary vascular disease	Obesity	Deconditioned
PV <sub>O</sub> <sub>2</sub>	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓ for actual, N for ideal weight	↓
VAT	↓	N / ↓ / indeterminate	N or ↓	↓	N	N or ↓
Peak HR	Variable, N in mild	↓, N in mild	↓	N / slightly ↓	N / slightly ↓	N / slightly ↓
O <sub>2</sub> Pulse	↓	N or ↓	N or ↓	↓	N	↓
VE/MVV × 100	N or ↓	↑	N or ↑	N	N or ↑	N
VE/VCO <sub>2</sub> at VAT	↑	↑	↑	↑	N	N
VD/VAT	↑	↑	↑	↑	N	N
PaO <sub>2</sub>	N	Variable	↓	↓	N/may ↑	N
P(A-a)O <sub>2</sub>	Usually N	Variable, usually ↑	↑	↑	May ↓	N

COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; HR, heart rate; ILD, interstitial lung disease; MVV, maximum voluntary ventilation; N, normal; P(A-a)O<sub>2</sub>, alveolar-arterial difference for oxygen pressure; PV<sub>O</sub><sub>2</sub>, peak oxygen uptake; VAT, ventilatory anaerobic threshold; VD/VAT, ratio of physiological dead space to tidal volume; VE, minute ventilation; VCO<sub>2</sub>, carbon dioxide output.

Adapted from ATS/ACCP Statement on Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing.<sup>1</sup>