



# Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention in the Athlete

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@DrTraceyKA

No disclosures

# Objectives

- To discuss the background and causes of sudden cardiac death (SCD) in athletes
- To discuss preventative strategies to reduce the risk of SCD in sport
- To discuss alternative strategies and secondary prevention

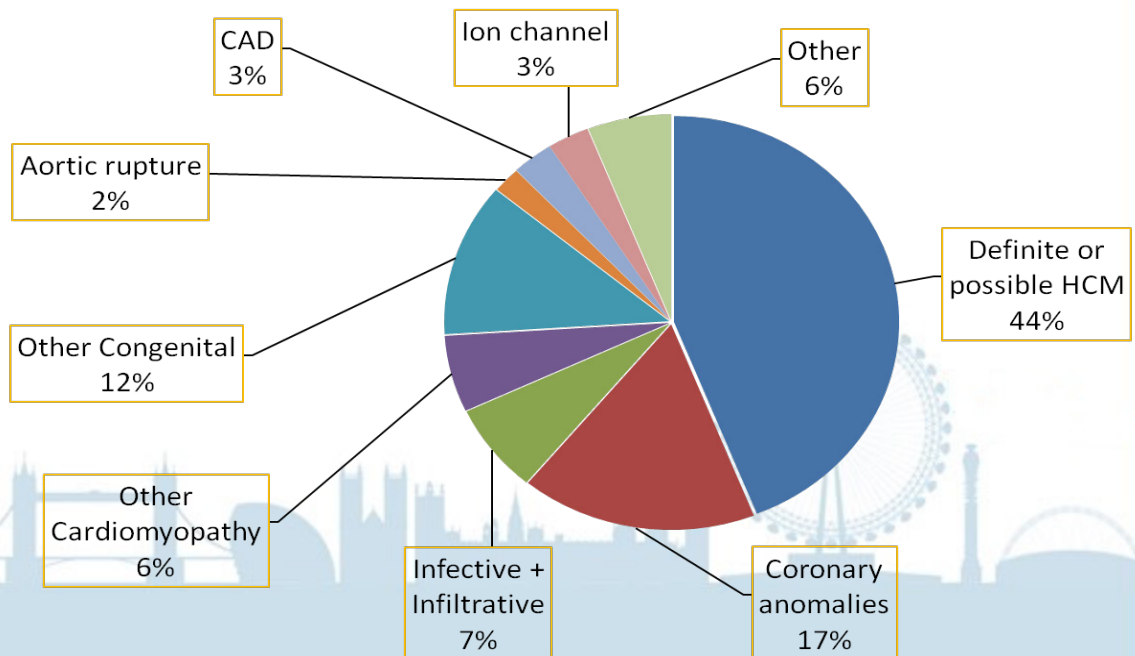
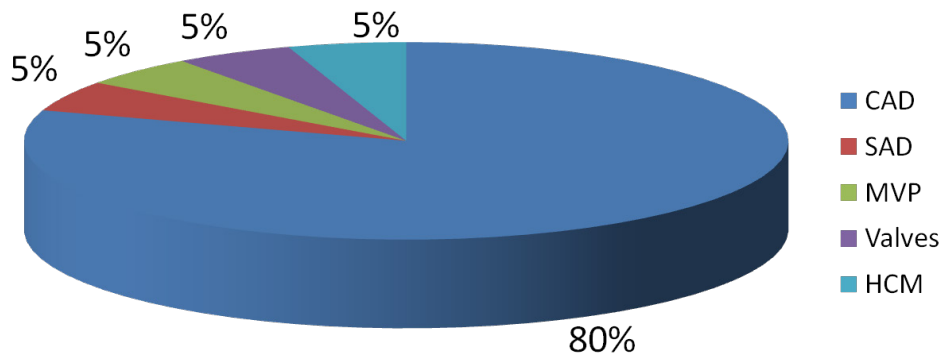


# Sudden Cardiac Death in Young Athletes

- Incidence is approximately 1/50,000
- Mean age at death in athletes 23 years-old
- 40% deaths in athletes aged < 18 years old
- More common in males than females (9:1)
- 90% deaths during or immediately after exertion

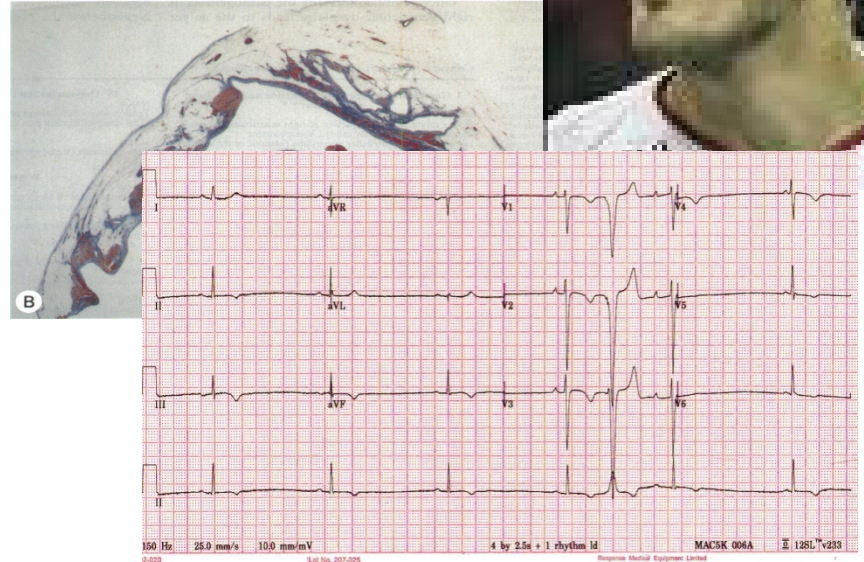
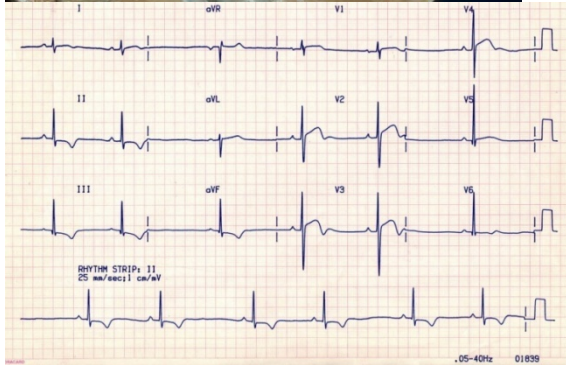


# Age of the athlete



n=1435  
Maron B et al.  
Circulation  
2007;115:1643-1655

# Sudden Cardiac Death in Sport

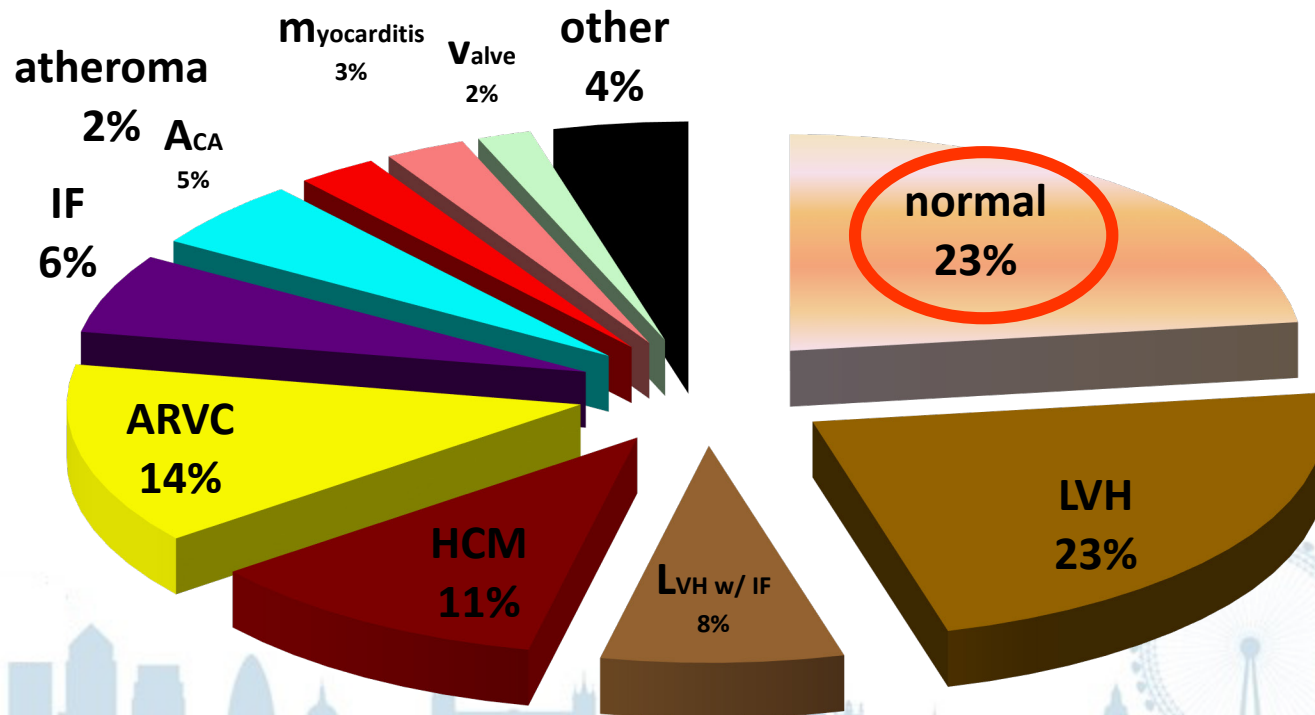


Hypertrophic  
Cardiomyopathy

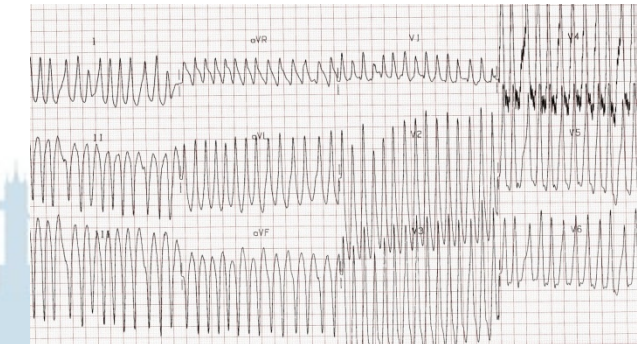
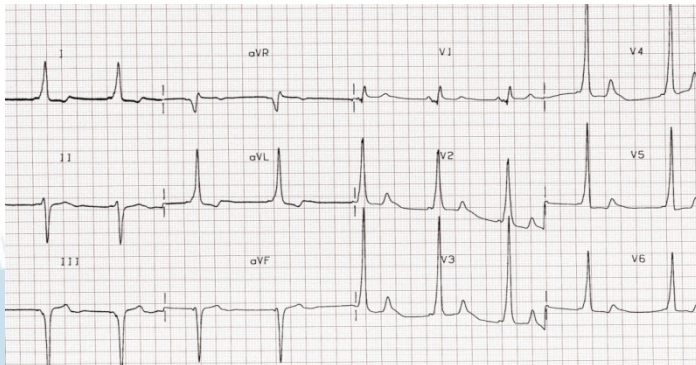
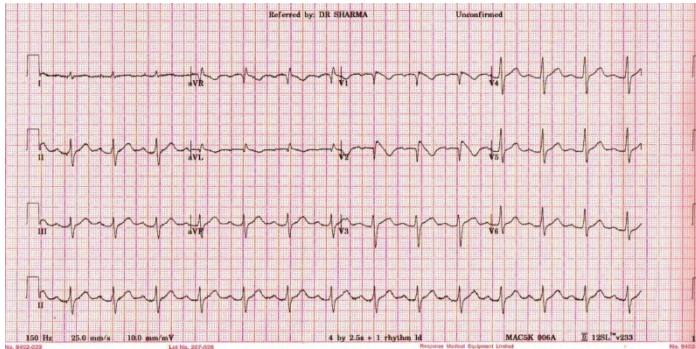
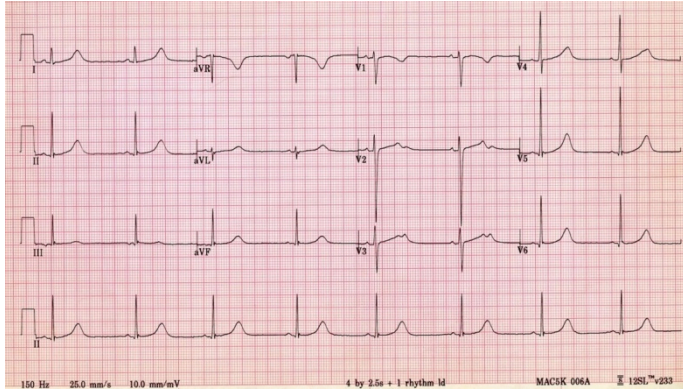
Arrhythmogenic right  
ventricular cardiomyopathy

# Sudden Death in Athletes: The British Experience

UK SCD, n=118, age range 7-59 yr



# Sudden Cardiac Death with a Normal Heart



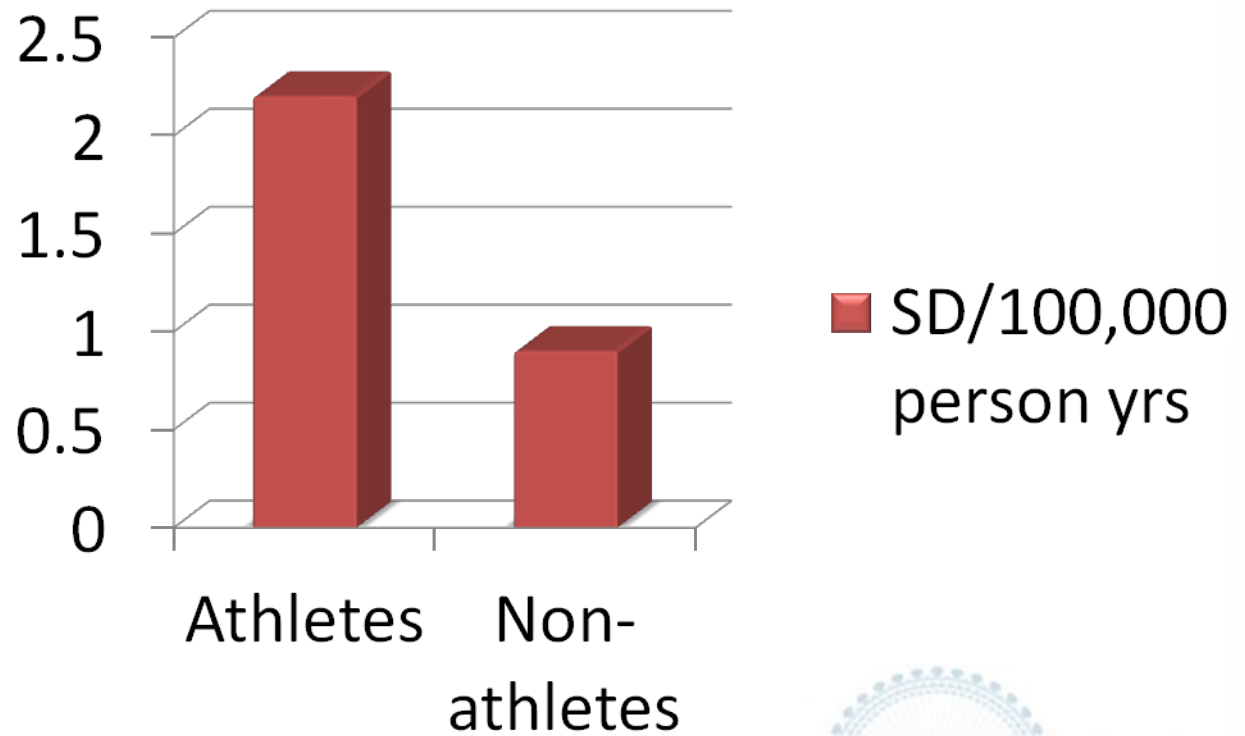
LQTS

Brugada

WPW



# Relative Risk of SCD



Corrado D JACC 2003

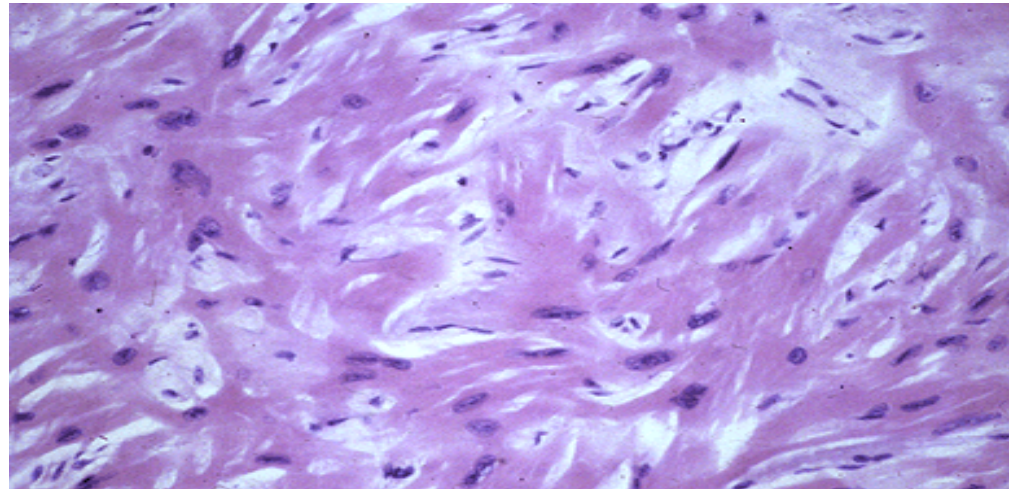




# Triggers for Sudden Cardiac Death

Dehydration

Adrenergic  
surges



Electrolyte  
imbalance

Acid/base  
disturbance



# Screening: The Argument



Medical history\*

Personal history

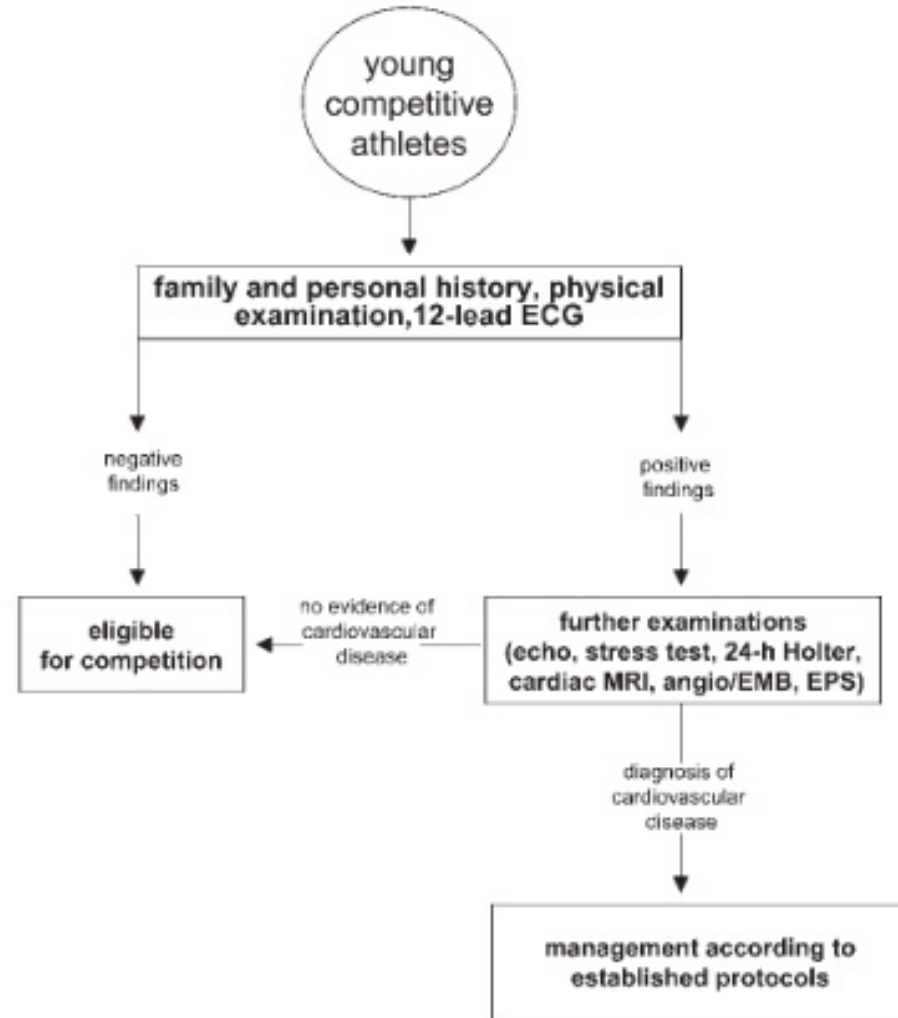
1. Exertional chest pain/discomfort
2. Unexplained syncope/near-syncope†
3. Excessive exertional and unexplained dyspnea/fatigue, associated with exercise
4. Prior recognition of a heart murmur
5. Elevated systemic blood pressure

Family history

6. Premature death (sudden and unexpected, or otherwise) before age 50 years due to heart disease, in  $\geq 1$  relative
7. Disability from heart disease in a close relative <50 years of age
8. Specific knowledge of certain cardiac conditions in family member: hypertrophic or dilated cardiomyopathy, long-QT syndrome or other ion channelopathies, Marfan syndrome, or clinically important arrhythmias

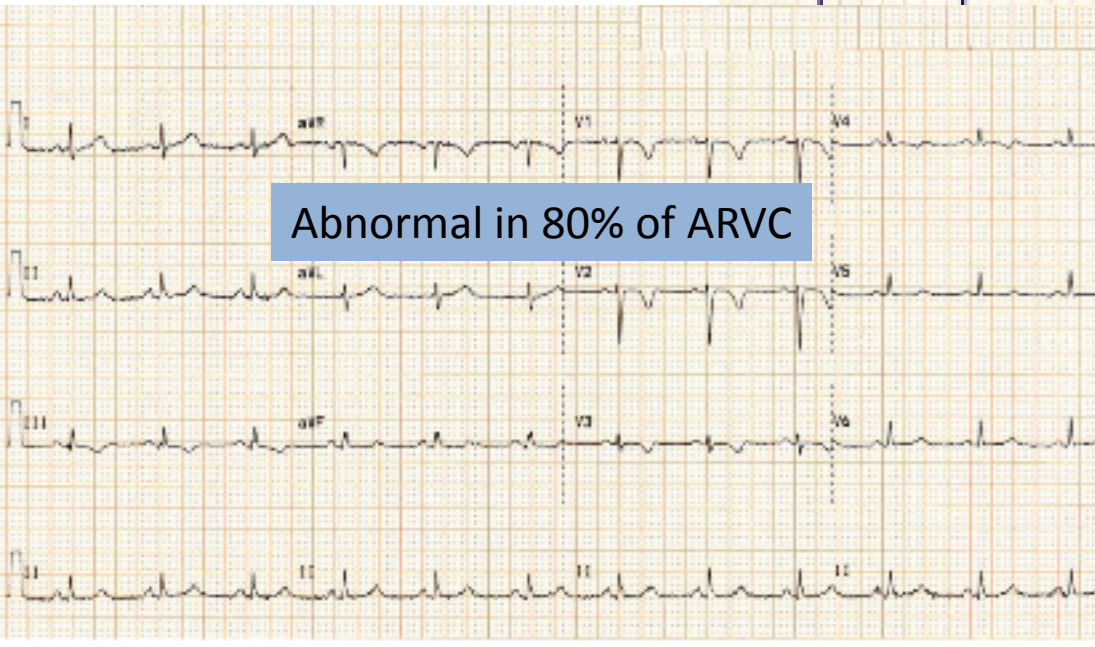
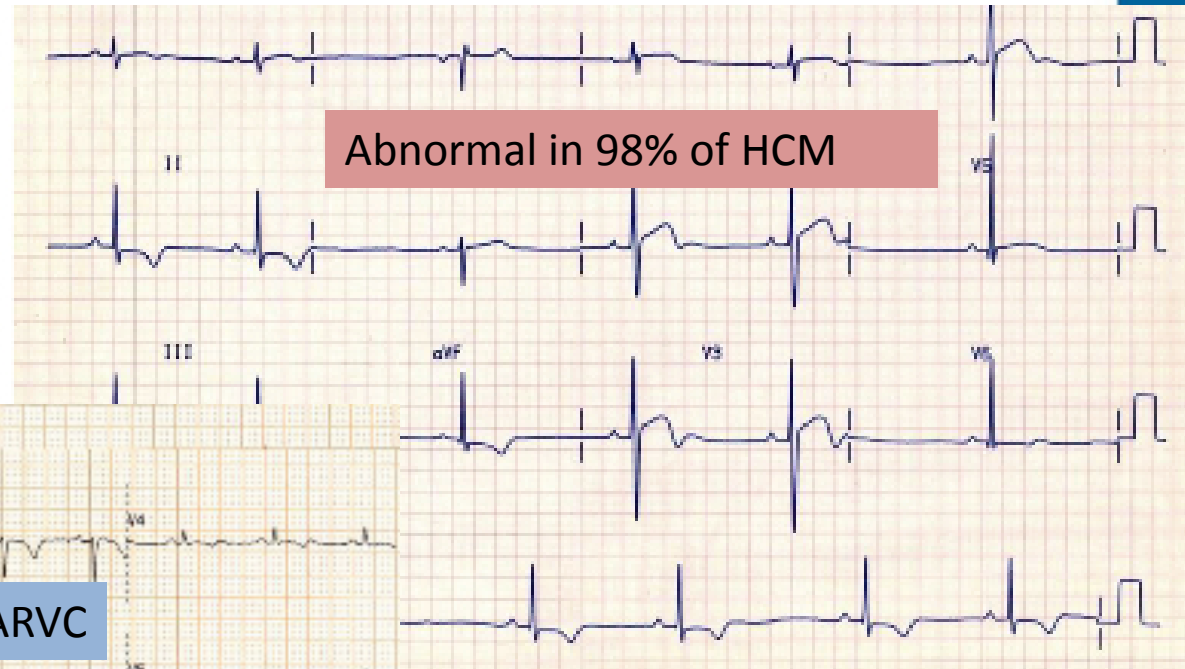
Physical examination

9. Heart murmur‡
10. Femoral pulses to exclude aortic coarctation
11. Physical stigmata of Marfan syndrome
12. Brachial artery blood pressure (sitting position)§



# How effective is the ECG as a screening tool?

- WPW
- Brugada
- LQTS



NEJM, 1998; 339(6):364-369

SCREENING FOR HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY IN YOUNG ATHLETES

DOMENICO CORRADO, M.D., CRISTINA BASSO, M.D., MAURIZIO SCHIAVON, M.D., AND GAETANO THIENE, M.D.

33 735 Competitive Athletes

```
graph TD; A[33 735 Competitive Athletes] --> B[22 Athletes diagnosed with HCM]; B --> C[3 identified on basis of family history (14%)]; B --> D[2 identified on basis of murmur (9%)]; B --> E[73%];
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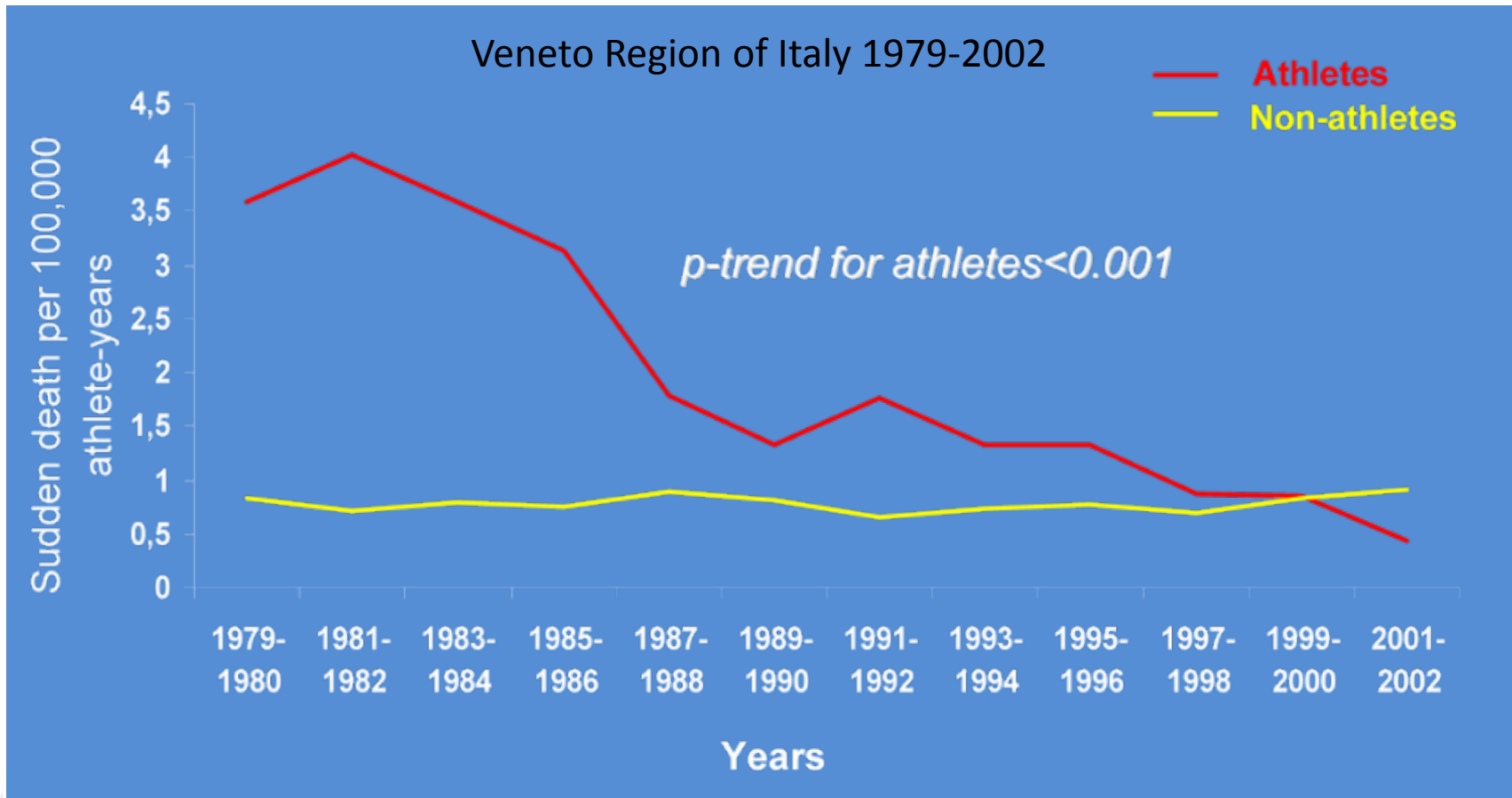
3 identified on basis of family history (14%)

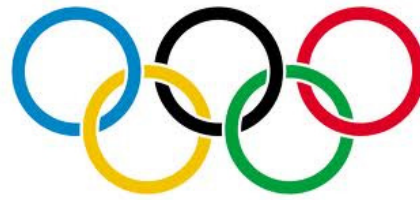
22 Athletes diagnosed with HCM

2 identified on basis of murmur (9%)

73%

# Incidence of Sudden Cardiac Death in Athletes Vs. Non-Athletes Over Time





# Screening Concerns

1. Is it an Important health problem?

Low incidence of SCD

2. Is there a suitable screening test?

False positives

False negatives





# Incidence of Sudden Cardiac Death

Population	Age	Duration	Incidence
Organised high school and college athletes	13-17	12 years	0.5/100 000
<b>Competitive athletes</b>	<b>14-35</b>	<b>25 years</b>	<b>2/100 000/yr</b>
Marathon (London)	42 (mean)	26 years	2.2/100 000 runs
Rhode island jogger	30-65	7 years	13/100 000/yr

# Prevalence of conditions predisposing to SCD in young athletes

Reference	Population	Prevalence
Fuller 1997	5 617 high school athletes (US)	0.3%
Corrado 2006	42 386 athletes aged 12-35yrs (Italy)	0.2%
AHA 2007	Competitive athletes (US)	0.3%
Wilson 2008	2 720 athletes/children aged 10-27 yrs	0.3%
Bessem 2009	428 athletes aged 12-35 yrs (Netherlands)	0.7%
Baggish 2010	510 collegiate athletes (US)	0.6%

# Screening Concerns

1. Is it an Important health problem?

Low incidence of SCD

2. Is there a suitable screening test?

False positives

False negatives



# Recommendations for interpretation of 12-lead electrocardiogram in the athlete

Classification of abnormalities of the athlete's electrocardiogram

## Group 1: common and training-related ECG changes

Sinus bradycardia

First-degree AV block

Incomplete RBBB

Early repolarization

Isolated QRS voltage criteria for left ventricular hypertrophy

## Group 2: uncommon and training-unrelated ECG changes

T-wave inversion

ST-segment depression

Pathological Q-waves

Left atrial enlargement

Left-axis deviation/left anterior hemiblock

Right-axis deviation/left posterior hemiblock

Right ventricular hypertrophy

Ventricular pre-excitation

Complete LBBB or RBBB

Long- or short-QT interval

Brugada-like early repolarization

# High False Positive Rate

Performance of the 2010 European Society of Cardiology criteria for ECG interpretation in

Rory B Weiner,<sup>1</sup> Adolph M Hutter,<sup>1</sup> Francis Wang,<sup>2</sup> Jonathan  
Malissa J Wood,<sup>1</sup> Thomas J Wang,<sup>1</sup> Michael H Picard<sup>1</sup>

Annals of Internal Medicine

Cardiovascular Screening  
Electrocardiography

A Cross-sectional Study

Aaron L. Baggish, MD; Michael H. Picard, MD; Rory B. Weiner, MD; Eli Kupperman, BA;  
Michael H. Picard, MD

The Se... use the specificity of  
prepartic... screening among elite athletes

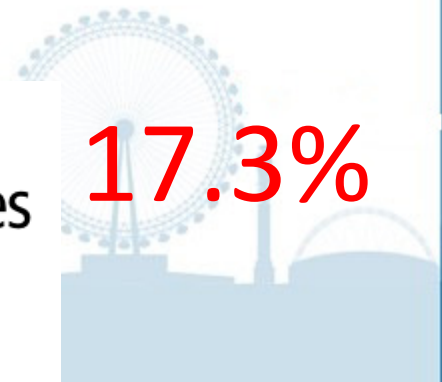
Maria Brosnan,<sup>1</sup> ... La Gerche,<sup>1,2</sup> Jon Kalman,<sup>3</sup> Wilson Lo,<sup>4</sup> Kieran Fallon,<sup>5</sup>  
Andrew Maclsaac,<sup>1</sup> David Prior<sup>1,2</sup>

**Unacceptably high**

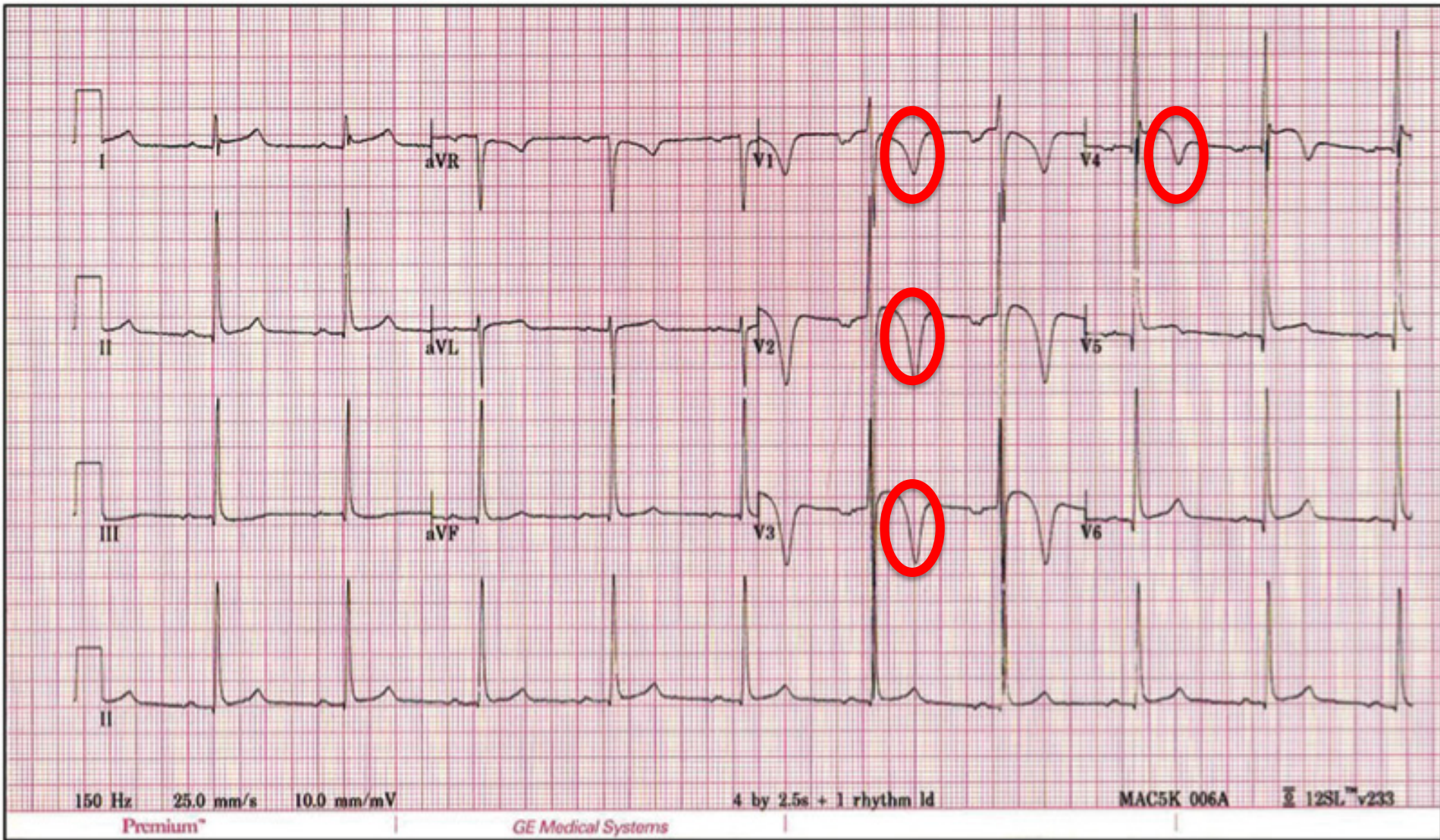
0%

16.9%

17.3%



# T-Wave inversion in Black Athletes



## Classification of abnormalities of the athlete's electrocardiogram

Group 1: common and training-related ECG changes	Group 2: uncommon and training-unrelated ECG changes	
Sinus bradycardia	T-wave inversion	
First-degree AV block	ST-segment depression	
Incomplete RBBB	Pathological Q-waves	
Early repolarization	Left atrial enlargement	
Isolated QRS voltage criteria for left ventricular hypertrophy	Left-axis deviation/left anterior hemiblock	
	Right-axis deviation/left posterior hemiblock	<b>53%</b>
	Right ventricular hypertrophy	
	Ventricular pre-excitation	
	Complete LBBB or RBBB	
	Long- or short-QT interval	<b>6%</b>
	Brugada-like early repolarization	



# The Seattle Criteria

## Differences from the ESC 2010

Following included in the normal category:

- T wave inversion in V1-V4 in black athletes.
- T wave inversions in V1-V2 in all athletes.
- QTc < 470 M and < 480 F
- Criteria for RVH also include RAD

### Classification of abnormalities of the athlete's electrocardiogram

Group 1: common and training-related ECG changes	Group 2: uncommon and training-unrelated ECG changes
Sinus bradycardia	T-wave inversion
First-degree AV block	ST-segment depression
Incomplete RBBB	Pathological Q-waves
Early repolarization	Left atrial enlargement
Isolated QRS voltage criteria for left ventricular hypertrophy	Left-axis deviation/left anterior hemiblock
	Right-axis deviation/left posterior hemiblock
	Right ventricular hypertrophy
	Ventricular pre-excitation
	Complete LBBB or RBBB
	Long- or short-QT interval
	Brugada-like early repolarization

50%



# Evidence based ECG interpretation 2004-2014



European Heart Journal  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehs404

Clinical research

## Prevalence and significance of an isolated long QT interval in elite athletes

Sandeep Basavarajaiah<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Wilson<sup>2</sup>, Gregory Whyte<sup>3</sup>, Ajay Shah<sup>1</sup>, Elijah Behr<sup>4</sup>, and Sanjay Sharma<sup>1\*</sup>



European Heart Journal  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehs140

CLINICAL RESEARCH

## The prevalence, distribution, and clinical outcomes of electrocardiographic repolarization patterns in male athletes of African/Afro-Caribbean origin

Michael Papadakis<sup>1,2</sup>, Francois Carre<sup>3</sup>, Gaelle Kervio<sup>4</sup>, John Rawlins<sup>1,2</sup>, Vasileios F. Panoulas<sup>2</sup>, Navin Chandra<sup>1,2</sup>, Sandeep Basavarajaiah<sup>2</sup>, Lorna Carby<sup>2</sup>, Tiago Fonseca<sup>2</sup>, and Sanjay Sharma<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>St. George's University of London, Cranmer Terrace, SW17 0BS, London, UK; <sup>2</sup>University Hospital Lewisham, London, UK; <sup>3</sup>French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) U442, Rennes, F-35003, France; and <sup>4</sup>French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM), D.C.I.T. 804, Rennes, F-35000, France

Received 7 January 2011; revised 15 February 2011; accepted 25 March 2011



European Heart Journal  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehs390

CLINICAL RESEARCH  
Sports cardiology

## Should axis deviation or atrial enlargement be categorised as abnormal in young athletes? The athlete's electrocardiogram: time for re-appraisal of markers of pathology

Sabiha Gati<sup>1,2</sup>, Nabeel Sheikh<sup>1</sup>, Saqib Ghani<sup>1</sup>, Abbas Zaidi<sup>1</sup>, Mathew Wilson<sup>3</sup>, Hariharan Raju<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Cox<sup>1</sup>, Matt Reed<sup>1</sup>, Michael Papadakis<sup>1</sup>, and Sanjay Sharma<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>St George's University of London, Cranmer Terrace, SW17 0BS, London SE5 5RS, UK; <sup>2</sup>University Hospital Lewisham, London, UK; and <sup>3</sup>Aspetar, Department of Sports Medicine, Qatar Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Hospital, Doha, Qatar

Received 19 February 2012; revised 20 August 2012; accepted 28 August 2012



European Heart Journal  
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehs391

CLINICAL RESEARCH  
Sports cardiology

## Clinical significance of electrocardiographic right ventricular hypertrophy in athletes: comparison with arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy and pulmonary hypertension

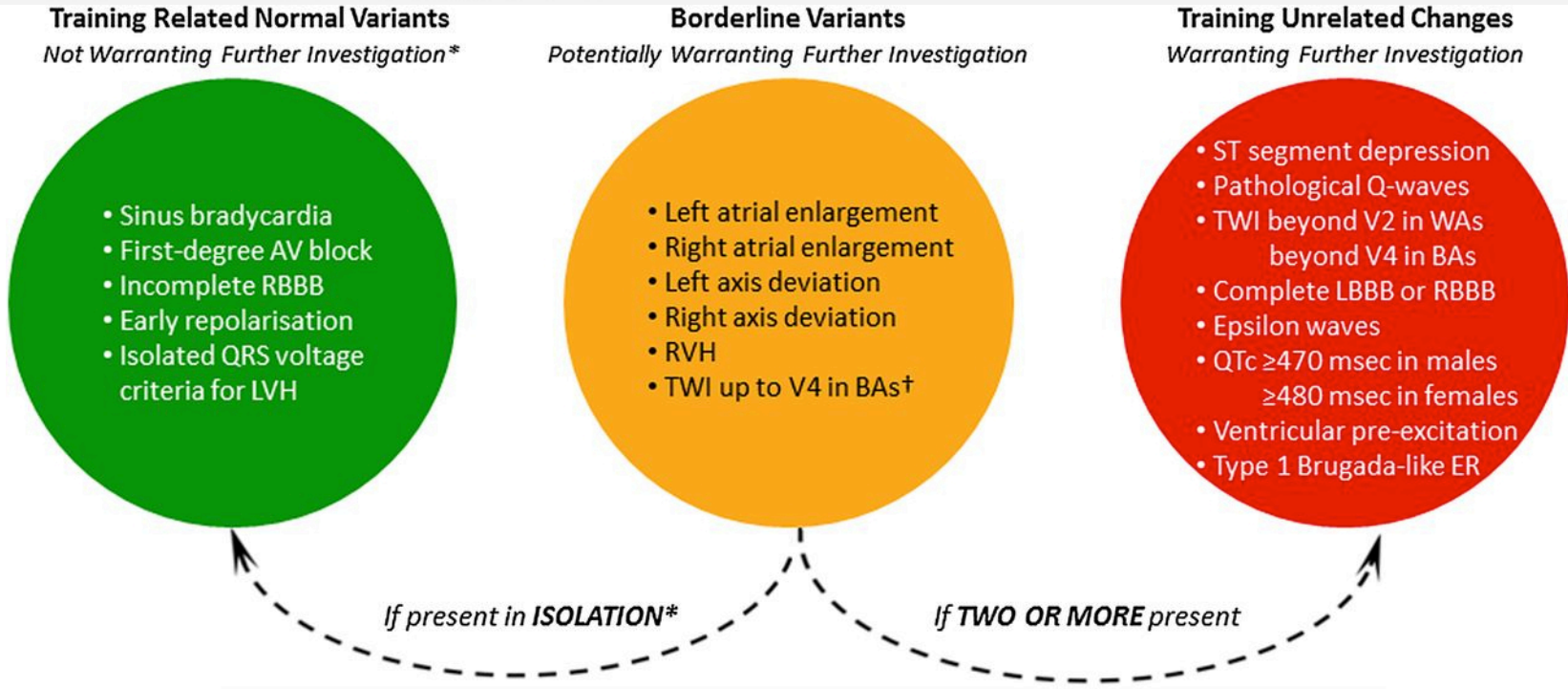
Abbas Zaidi<sup>1</sup>, Saqib Ghani<sup>1</sup>, Nabeel Sheikh<sup>1</sup>, Sabiha Gati<sup>1</sup>, Rachel Bastiaenen, Brendan Madden, Michael Papadakis<sup>1</sup>, Hariharan Raju<sup>1</sup>, Matthew Reed, Rajan Sharma, Elijah R. Behr, and Sanjay Sharma<sup>1\*</sup>

Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, St George's University of London (SGUL), Cranmer Terrace, SW17 0BS London, UK

Received 7 May 2012; revised 7 August 2012; accepted 28 August 2012

# Comparison of ECG Criteria for the Detection of Cardiac Abnormalities in Elite Black and White Athletes

Nabeel Sheikh, Michael Papadakis, Saqib Ghani, Abbas Zaidi, Sabiha Gati, Paolo Adami, François Carré, Frédéric Schnell, Paloma Avila, Mathew Wilson, William McKenna and Sanjay Sharma



Sensitivity: All conditions 60%

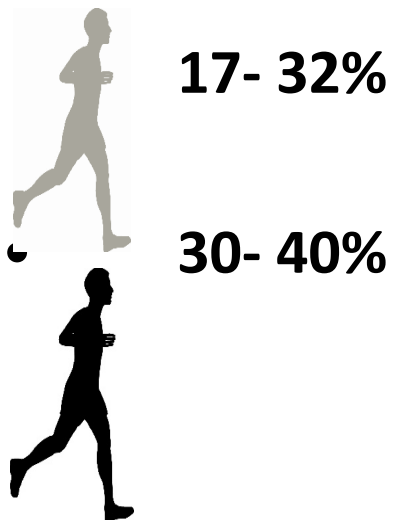
Sensitivity: Serious conditions 100%

Specificity: 94% Caucasians

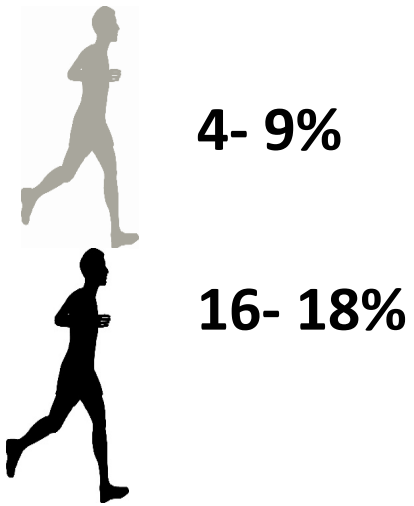
                  84% Black athletes

# False positives

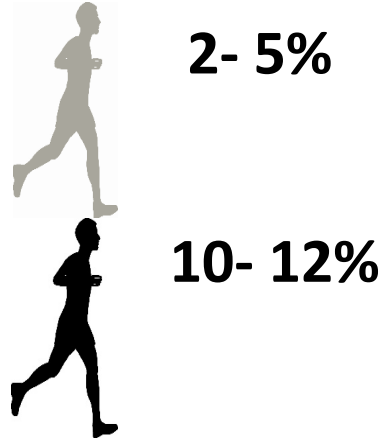
European Society of Cardiology (2010)



Seattle (2013)



Refined (2014)



Brosnan *et al*, 2013; Riding *et al*, 2014; Bessem *et al*, 2014; Sheikh *et al*, 2014



# False Negatives

- Conditions where there is no clue on the ECG
  - Premature atherosclerosis
  - Anomalous coronaries
  - Incomplete expression of cardiomyopathy/ion channelopathy
- Events which are not prevented by screening
  - Commotio Cordis
  - Myocarditis
  - Electrolyte disturbance



# Alternative Strategies



Automated External Defibrillators

# Circulation

## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

### Sports-Related Sudden Death in the General Population

Eloi Marijon, Muriel Tafflet, David S. Celermajer, Florence Dumas, Marie-Cécile Perier, Hazrije Mustafic, Jean-François Toussaint, Michel Desnos, Michel Rieu, Nordine Benameur, Jean-Yves Le Heuzey, Jean-Philippe Empana and Xavier Jouven

- General population in **France**
- Mean age  $46.1 \pm 15.8$
- Males 93%
- Survival 16%
- Incidence in the general population **Netherlands** (2006-2009)
- Mean age  $58.8 \pm 13.6$ .
- 95% Male.
- Survival 45%



### Exercise-related out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the general population: incidence and prognosis

Jocelyn Berdowski<sup>1</sup>, Margriet F. de Beus<sup>2,3</sup>, Marieke Blom<sup>4</sup>, Abdennasser Bardai<sup>4</sup>, Michiel L. Bots<sup>2</sup>, Pieter A. Doevendans<sup>3,5</sup>, Diederick E. Grobbee<sup>2,6</sup>, Hanno L. Tan<sup>4</sup>, Jan G.P. Tijssen<sup>1</sup>, Rudolph W. Koster<sup>1</sup>, and Arend Mosterd<sup>2,3,7\*</sup>

# Exercise related cardiac arrest

Country	Netherlands	France
Age, years	58.8 ± 13.6	46.1 ± 15.8
Success rate	45%	16%
Men	93%	95%
Bystander witnessed arrest	89%	94%
Bystander CPR	87%	31%
AED use	36%	1%
Shockable initial rhythm	80%	47%
Time to first shock (min)	9.8 (6.4 – 12.5)	12.5 (10.5 – 15.5)

## Major regional disparities in outcomes after sudden cardiac arrest during sports

Eloi Marijon<sup>1,2,3,4\*</sup>, Wulfran Bougouin<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, David S. Celermaier<sup>5</sup>, Marie-Cécile Perier<sup>1,2</sup>,

- Overall 16% survival after sports-related cardiac arrest.
- But **50%** in regions with rates of bystander resuscitation >90%





## Cardiac Arrest during Long-Distance Running Races

Jonathan H. Kim, M.D., Rajeev Malhotra, M.D., George Chiampas, D.O., Pierre d'Hemecourt, M.D., Chris Troyanos, A.T.C., John Cianca, M.D., Rex N. Smith, M.D., Thomas J. Wang, M.D., William O. Roberts, M.D., Paul D. Thompson, M.D., and Aaron L. Baggish, M.D.,  
for the Race Associated Cardiac Arrest Event Registry (RACER) Study Group

- 10.9 million runners
- 59 cardiac arrests
- 42 deaths
- 29 % survival rate
- Association between age and cardiac-arrest outcome
- survival >40 years of age
- Age-specific pattern of underlying cardiac disease.
  - Younger - hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
  - Older - ischemic heart disease.

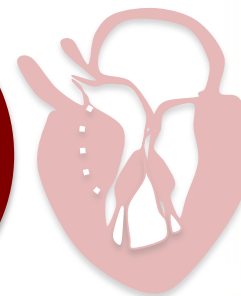
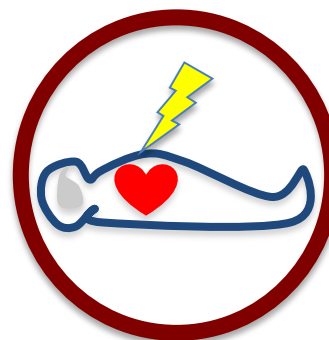
Cardiac Arrest during Long-Distance Running Races

Time taken for  
Emergency Arrival  
(mins)

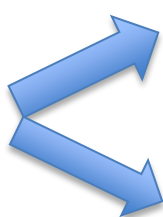
CPR

VF

HCM



**SCA**



Survivor 29%

Death 71%

100  
%

3.3

88%

0%

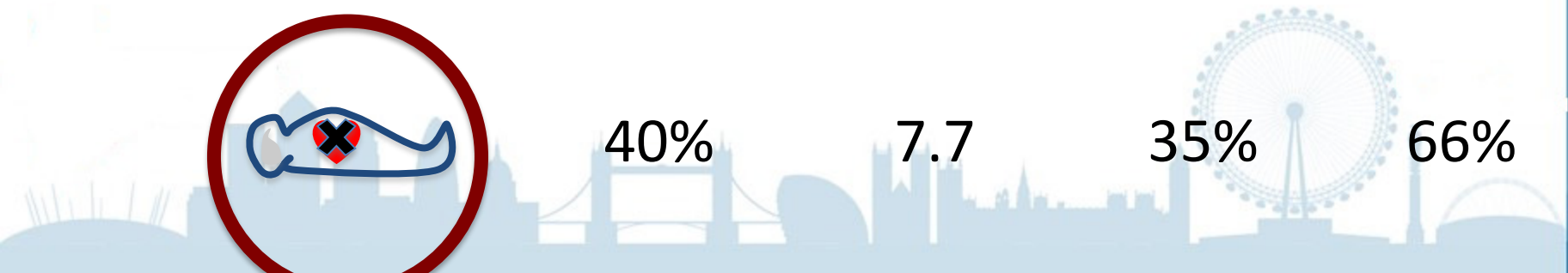


40%

7.7

35%

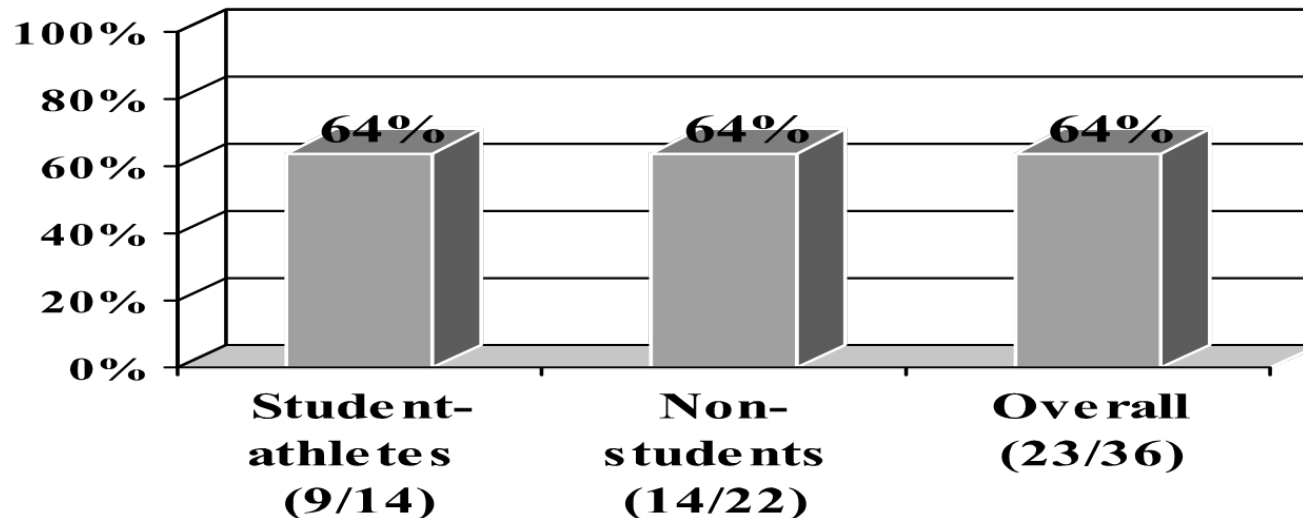
66%



**Effectiveness of Emergency Response Planning for Sudden Cardiac Arrest in United States High Schools With Automated External Defibrillators**  
Jonathan A. Drezner, Ashwin L. Rao, Justin Heistand, Megan K. Bloomingdale and Kimberly G. Harmon  
*Circulation* published online Jul 27, 2009;  
DOI: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.109.855890

Report of 1710 US high schools with an on-site AED program.  
Survey relating to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) between Jan 2006-  
July 2007  
36 cases of SCA

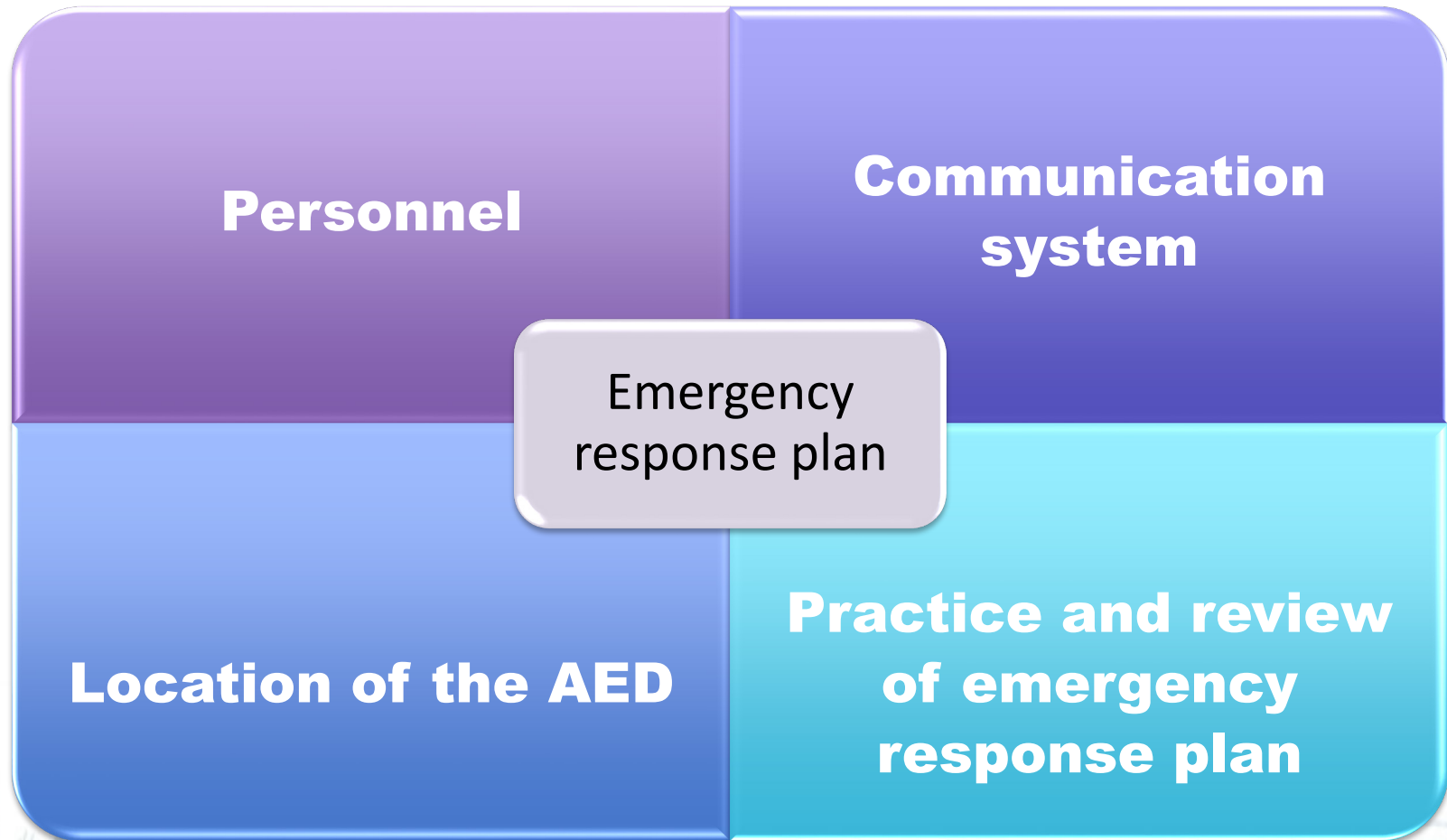
Prompt CPR 94%  
AED shock 83%







# The Emergency Response Plan



# Survival after SCA after exercise

Author	Study	Survival
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Maron	Commotio cordis	16%
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Drezner	Survival trends	4-21%
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Drezner	Schools with AED	64%
---------	------------------	-----

Kim	Marathon runners	29%
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Sharma	London Marathon	43%
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Marion	Gen Pop 10-75	16%
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Berdowsky	Gen Pop Amsterdam	46%
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# Conclusions

- Sudden cardiac death in young athletes is rare.
- Exercise is a trigger for SCD in predisposed athletes.
- Pre-participation screening with ECG identifies athletes with cardiomyopathy.
- Early CPR and AEDs save lives in sport.





# Thank You

- Acknowledgements
- Professor Sanjay Sharma
- Cardiac Risk in the Young



**Cardiac**  
**Risk** *in the*  
**Young**

# Success Rates From External Defibrillation in Young Athletes

- 1999-2005. 9 Cases of sudden cardiac arrest
- Mean age 21 years old (18-30)
- Witnessed collapse (all during exercise)
- CPR within 1 min in 8 cases
- AED provided by trainer in 5 cases and by emergency services in 4 cases
- Time to defibrillation (1-7.5 min)
- 8/9 athletes died (HCM 5, commotio cordis 2, MI 1)