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Cardiac imaging characteristics of patients with COPD: prognostic implications

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Cardiac imaging characteristics of patients with COPD: prognostic implications

1. Left ventricular global longitudinal strain might be a more sensitive marker to identify the COPD patients at the highest risk of adverse events at the moment of discharge after acute myocardial infarction, as compared to conventional LVEF (this thesis)
2. Although often mild and slowly progressing, pulmonary hypertension in patients with COPD can cause pressure overload of the right ventricle, leading to right ventricular remodelling and dysfunction. (this thesis)
3. COPD patients might be more prone to develop right ventricular dysfunction after inferior infarction, due to less contractile reserve when ischemia occurs (this thesis)
4. Better understanding of the substrate of atrial fibrillation in COPD patients could lead to more targeted treatment strategies. (this thesis)
5. Cardiovascular comorbidities are one of the most frequent systemic manifestations that have the biggest effect in patients with COPD, contributing substantially to disease progression, clinical outcomes, mortality and resource use. (Chen et al, *Lancet Respir Med* 2015;3:631-639)
6. Identification of cardiac structural changes in patients with COPD that are associated with patient centered outcomes may lead to novel therapeutic targets to impact a specific disease phenotype. (Cuttica et al, *PLoS ONE* 6(12): e29069)
7. Global longitudinal strain has the advantage of being a robust measure and will also accurately add important information about myocardial function in relatively preserved ventricles (Edvardsen et al, *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging*. 2018 Jan;11(1):35-37)
8. Atrial fibrillation is a progressive bi-atrial disease and yet, the right atrium, similarly to the right ventricle, is often the forgotten chamber as in many cardiac disease states. (Govindan et al, *J Echocardiogr* 2017; 15:166–175)
9. Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead. (*Nelson Mandela 1918-2013*) – *Live in the moment, you never know what the future brings*
10. The measure of greatness in a scientific idea is the extent to which it stimulates thought and opens up new lines of research (Paul Dirac 1902-1984) – *never settle for the answer, but try to find new questions instead*