

Table of Contents

Acute Heart Failure

<i>A. Overview</i>	3
I. Recent Developments	3
II. Systematic Use of Vasodilating Agents	3
1. Milestones	3
2. Present State of the Art	4
Literature	4
<i>B. Pathophysiology of Heart Failure With Respect to Vasodilation</i>	6
I. Definition of Heart Failure	6
1. Acute and Chronic Heart Failure	6
2. Clinical Presentations	6
a) Acute Heart Failure	6
b) Chronic Heart Failure	7
c) New York Heart Association Functional Classification	7
II. Hemodynamics in Heart Failure	8
1. Intracardiac Pressures in Heart Failure	8
2. Technique of Measurement	10
a) Swan-Ganz Catheter	10
b) Left Ventricular Filling Pressure	13
c) Right Atrial Pressure	13
d) Cardiac Output	13
e) Arterial Blood Pressure	14
f) Systemic Vascular Resistance	15
III. Pathophysiology	15
1. Pumping Performance as a Function of Ejection Impedance	15
2. Sympathetic Adrenergic Mechanisms of Regulation	16
3. Influence of the Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System	17
4. Ven constriction	17
5. Preload and Afterload	17
a) Preload	17
b) Afterload	21

IV. Therapeutic Concepts in Heart Failure	22
1. Increase of Myocardial Contractility	22
a) Digitalis	23
b) Catecholamines	23
2. Vasodilating Agents	24
a) Unloading Mechanism	24
b) Spectrum of Activity	25
3. Regulation of Venous Vasculature in Heart Failure	26
a) Significance of the Venous System	26
b) Intrinsic Venous Pooling Capacity	28
4. Hemodynamic Effects of Venodilation	28
a) Venous Return	28
b) Reduction of Filling Pressure	29
c) Subendocardial Perfusion	30
d) Diastolic Wall Tension	31
e) Intrinsic Counterregulation	31
5. Arterial Vasodilation	31
6. Agents with Activity on the Venous and Arterial Side	32
7. Attenuation of Action with Long-Term Treatment	32
a) Non-Responders	33
b) Intrinsic Counterregulation	33
c) Genuine Tolerance	34
d) Differences in Response	34
Literature	34
 C. <i>Acute Left Sided Heart Failure</i>	 37
I. Conventional Therapy	37
1. Is there still an Indication for Digitalis in Acute Heart Failure?	37
2. Diuretics in Acute Heart Failure	38
Literature	39
 D. <i>Therapy of Acute Pulmonary Edema</i>	 40
I. Etiology of Pulmonary Edema	40
II. Hemodynamics in Pulmonary Edema	41
III. Clinical Classification of Pulmonary Edema	41
IV. Treatment of Pulmonary Edema	42
1. Action of Nitroglycerin	42
a) Hemodynamics	42
b) Clinical Presentation	44
c) Clinical and Practical Experiences	45
d) Ease of Administration	46
e) Dosage of Nitroglycerin	46
f) Non-Responders in Cardiogenic Shock	47
g) Influence on Peripheral Edema	48

h) Intravenous Administration of Nitroglycerin in Pulmonary Edema	50
i) Sequence of Therapeutic Interventions in the Management of Pulmonary Edema	50
2. Role of Diuretics in the Treatment of Pulmonary Edema	51
3. Digitalis in Pulmonary Edema?	51
4. Morphine	51
5. Drug of Choice	51
6. Other Vasodilators for the Treatment of Pulmonary Edema	52
a) Sodium Nitroprusside	52
b) Phentolamine	52
c) Nifedipine	53
7. Positive Pressure Ventilation	53
Literature	53
<i>E. Left-Sided Heart Failure in Acute Myocardial Infarction</i>	<i>55</i>
I. Clinical Presentation	55
1. Physical Findings	55
2. Radiologic Signs	56
3. Hemodynamics	58
II. Treatment with Nitroglycerin and Nitrates	59
1. Reasons for Contraindications in the Past	59
2. Origins of Nitroglycerin Therapy in Acute Myocardial Infarction	60
3. Hemodynamic Effects of Nitroglycerin	60
a) Sublingual Nitroglycerin	60
b) Continuous Intravenous Infusion of Nitroglycerin	61
4. Oral and Intravenous Administration of Isosorbide Dinitrate	68
5. Clinical Effects of Nitrates	69
a) Influence on Pain	69
b) Reduction of Dyspnea	71
6. Influence on Myocardial Ischemia	72
7. Reduction of Infarct Size	74
a) CK and CK-MB Infarct Size	77
b) Electrocardiographic Signs of Necrosis	79
8. Indications for Potential Influence on Prognosis	80
9. Influence of Nitrates on Ventricular Ectopy	81
10. Decrease in Bradyarrhythmias	82
11. Dilation of Functionally Narrowed Coronary Artery Stenosis	82
12. Long-Term Follow-Up: Increased Incidence of Angina Pectoris	83

13. Side Effects	84
14. Summary	85
III. Therapeutic Intervention in Acute Myocardial Infarction with Left Ventricular Failure Outside the Hospital	85
IV. Mechanism of Action of Sodium Nitroprusside	86
1. History	86
2. Pharmacology and Hemodynamics	86
3. Release of Cyanide	87
4. Effects on Acute Myocardial Infarction	87
a) Profile of Action in Specific Subgroups	87
b) Recommendations for Use	89
c) Potential Side Effects	89
5. Role of Sodium Nitroprusside Therapy Today	90
a) Side Effects	90
b) Microcirculation: Nonhomogenous Perfusion	91
V. Isosorbide Dinitrate in Patients with Acute Myocardial Infarction and Left-Sided Heart Failure	92
1. Comparison with Nitroglycerin	92
2. Sustained Action after Oral Administration	93
3. Prognostic Aspects	94
VI. Isosorbide-5-Mononitrate Efficacy Compared to Isosorbide Dinitrate	94
1. Pharmacokinetics	94
2. Hemodynamic Effects	95
3. Absence of Sublingual Efficacy	95
VII. Molsidomine in Left Ventricular Failure	96
1. Pharmacology and Mechanism of Action	97
2. Hemodynamics	98
3. Myocardial Ischemia and Necrosis	101
VIII. Xanthine Derivatives	101
IX. Calcium Antagonists for the Treatment of Patients with Myocardial Infarction and Left-Sided Heart Failure	103
1. Nifedipine	103
a) Hemodynamic Effects	103
b) Effects on Pulmonary Edema	103
c) Myocardial Ischemia	105
d) Side Effects	106
e) Therapeutic Role of Nifedipine	106
2. Verapamil for the Treatment of Acute Myocardial Infarction	106
a) Negative Inotropic Effect	106
b) Anti-Ischemic Mechanism of Action	107
c) Hemodynamic Effects of Verapamil in Patients with Myocardial Infarction	108
d) Reduction of Infarct Size	110

e) Antiarrhythmic Effects	113
f) Side Effects	113
g) Pharmacokinetics of Verapamil	113
Literature	113
F. Left-Sided Heart Failure and Papillary Muscle Dysfunction	120
I. Etiology and Clinical Signs of Mitral Regurgitation	120
1. Case Report 1	120
2. Case Report 2	121
II. Hemodynamics	125
III. Therapy	125
1. Sodium Nitroprusside	125
2. Nitroglycerin	126
IV. Papillary Muscle Dysfunction with Cardiogenic Shock	126
Literature	128
G. Heart Failure Following Rupture of the Ventricular Septum	129
I. Incidence	129
II. Clinical Manifestations	129
1. Verification of Diagnosis	130
2. Clinical Course	131
III. Treatment	134
a) Drugs	134
b) Surgery	134
Literature	135
H. Cardiogenic Shock	136
I. Definition	136
1. Etiology of Cardiogenic Shock	136
2. Clinical Presentation	137
3. Hemodynamics	137
4. Mortality	138
II. Treatment of Cardiogenic Shock	139
1. Goals of Treatment	139
a) Mild Increase in Blood Pressure	140
b) Mild Reduction of Filling Pressure	140
2. Dopamine	140
3. Dobutamine	141
4. Comparison between Dopamine and Dobutamine	142
5. Epinephrine	142
6. Norepinephrine	142
7. Combination Therapy with Dobutamine and Nitroglycerin	143

a) Patients with Valvular Defects	143
b) Patients with Myocardial Lesions	144
8. Combination Therapy with Dobutamine and Sodium Nitroprusside	144
9. Volume Replacement?	147
10. Cardiogenic Shock without Increased Filling Pressures	147
III. Mechanical Therapeutic Modalities: Intra-Aortic Balloon Counterpulsation	148
1. Technique	148
2. Mechanism	148
3. Influence on Mortality	149
4. Therapeutic Guidelines	149
Literature	151
<i>I. Left-Sided Heart Failure Associated with Rheumatic Valvular Defects or Cardiomyopathies</i>	<i>153</i>
I. Effects of Nitroglycerin on Acute Decompensation with Left Ventricular Failure and Pulmonary Congestion	153
II. Vasodilating Agents in Aortic Stenosis	154
Literature	154
<i>J. Left-Sided Heart Failure in Hypertensive Crisis</i>	<i>155</i>
I. Etiology	155
II. Treatment	155
1. Recommendations of the League	155
2. Sodium Nitroprusside	155
3. Nitroglycerin	156
4. Nifedipine	157
5. Urapidil	157
III. Treatment of Postoperative Hypertension	157
Comparison between Nitroglycerin and Sodium Nitroprusside	159
Literature	159
<i>K. Acute Right-Sided Heart Failure</i>	<i>160</i>
I. Pulmonary Thromboembolism	160
1. Etiology	160
2. Clinical Presentation	161
3. Diagnostic Procedures	161
a) Shock Symptoms	161
b) Less Severe Pulmonary Embolism	162
c) Hemodynamics	162

d) Pulmonary Scintigraphy	162
e) Digital Subtraction Angiography	163
f) Echocardiography	163
4. Treatment	163
a) Embolectomy	163
b) Fibrinolysis	163
c) Other Therapeutic Agents	164
II. Right Ventricular Infarction	166
1. Incidence of Right Ventricular Infarction	166
2. Hemodynamics	168
3. Treatment	168
III. Right Heart Failure in Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease	168
Literature	169
<i>L. Pharmacokinetics of Vasodilating Agents</i>	<i>170</i>
I. Nitroglycerin	170
1. Sublingual Nitroglycerin	170
2. Intravenous Administration of Nitroglycerin	170
a) Accumulation in the Vascular Wall	171
b) Dose-Response Curve in the Venous and Arterial Beds	171
c) Loss of Active Substance through Plastic Material	173
3. Oral Nitroglycerin	176
4. Transdermal Nitroglycerin	177
II. Isosorbide Dinitrate	178
1. Sublingual and Oral Administration	178
2. Pharmacokinetics During Acute and Chronic Administration	179
III. Sodium Nitroprusside	180
Literature	181

Chronic Heart Failure

<i>A. Pathophysiologic Mechanisms of Chronic Heart Failure</i>	<i>185</i>
I. Frank-Starling Mechanism	185
II. Sympathetic Adrenergic Stimulation	185
1. Reduction of Beta-Adrenergic Receptor Density	185
2. Decrease of Myocardial Norepinephrine Stores	186
III. Stimulation of the Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System	187
IV. Reactivity of Vessel Walls in Chronic Heart Failure	187
V. Renal Vasoconstriction	188
Literature	188

<i>B. New Aspects in the Treatment of Chronic Heart Failure</i>	189
I. Digitalis and Diuretics	189
II. Vasodilators	189
1. Critical Evaluation of the Therapeutic Concept	190
2. The Classic Therapeutic Concept	190
3. Restrictions on Therapy for Patients with Severe Heart Failure	190
Literature	191
 <i>C. Role of Digitalis</i>	 192
I. Mechanism of Action of Digitalis Glycosides	192
1. Molecular Mechanism	192
2. Hemodynamic Effects	193
II. Contraindications	193
III. Dosage of Digoxin and Digitoxin	194
1. Blood Levels	194
2. Interactions	194
IV. Long-Term Effects	194
1. Excessive Prescribing of Digitalis by Physicians in West Germany	196
2. Rate of Intoxication, 3 Percent	196
3. Significance of Discontinuation Trials	196
Literature	197
 <i>D. Role of Diuretic Therapy</i>	 198
I. Renal Function in Heart Failure	198
II. Sites of Action for Various Diuretics	199
III. Hemodynamic Changes after Diuretic Therapy in Acute Left Ventricular Failure	199
IV. Activity of Furosemide in the Venous System	202
V. Long-Term Effects of Diuretics	202
VI. Side Effects of Diuretics	203
Literature	204
 <i>E. Clinical Role of Vasodilator Therapy</i>	 205
I. The Ideal Vasodilating Agent	205
II. Spectrum of Side Effects	205
III. Effect on Acute Decompensation	206
IV. Goals of Chronic Treatment	206
V. Therapeutic Agents	206

<i>F. The Use of Nitrates in Chronic Heart Failure</i>	208
I. Acute Effects in Chronic Heart Failure	208
1. At Rest	208
a) Sustained Action	209
b) Increase in Cardiac Output	210
2. During Physical Exercise	212
II. Chronic Action of Nitrates	212
1. Nitrate Tolerance	215
2. Side Effects	216
3. Combination with Hydralazine	216
4. Pharmacokinetics of Isosorbide Dinitrate in Chronic Heart Failure	216
Literature	216
 <i>G. Hydralazine for Chronic Heart Failure</i>	 218
I. Pharmacokinetics of Hydralazine	218
II. Mechanism of Action of Hydralazine	219
1. Hemodynamic Effects	219
a) Renal Blood Flow	219
b) Coronary Blood Flow	220
c) Increased Blood Flow in Other Vascular Beds	221
III. Acute and Chronic Effects of Hydralazine	222
1. Improved Function at Rest	222
a) Long-Term Effects	222
b) Attenuation of Effects	223
c) Clinical Improvement	224
2. Hydralazine Effects During Exercise	224
a) Acute and Chronic Effects	225
b) Absence of Increase in Oxygen Extraction	225
3. Hydralazine in the Treatment of Mitral and Aortic Regurgitation	226
a) Mitral Regurgitation	226
b) Aortic Insufficiency	227
4. Hydralazine: Influence on Prognosis	228
5. Side Effects of Hydralazine	230
a) Lupus Erythematosus Syndrome	230
b) Neuropathy	231
c) Febrile Condition	231
d) Reflex Tachycardia	231
e) Fluid Retention	231
f) Flushing	232
6. Hydralazine in Combination with Nitrates	232
a) Long-Term Effects	232
b) Side Effects	232
Literature	233

<i>H. Prazosin in Chronic Heart Failure</i>	235
I. Mechanism of Action of Prazosin	235
1. Alpha-Adrenergic Blocking Agents	236
2. Plasma Renin Activity with Prazosin	237
3. Myocardial Oxygen Consumption	237
II. Pharmacokinetics of Prazosin	237
1. Kinetics in Patients with Hypertension	237
2. Kinetics in Patients with Heart Failure	237
3. Elimination	238
4. Prazosin in Renal Failure	238
5. Dosage	239
III. Acute and Chronic Effects of Prazosin in Heart Failure	239
1. Acute Effects of Prazosin	239
a) Regional Blood Flow	239
2. Chronic Effect of Prazosin	241
a) Follow-Up Studies	241
b) Placebo-Controlled Trials	241
c) Prazosin Influence on Exercise Tolerance	245
IV. Attenuation of Prazosin Effects with Chronic Therapy	246
1. Repetitive Single Dosing	246
2. Temporary Withdrawal of Prazosin	247
V. Role of Prazosin in the Treatment of Chronic Heart Failure	248
VI. Side Effects of Prazosin	248
1. 'First-Dose Phenomenon'	248
2. Weight Gain	249
3. Other Side Effects	250
Literature	250
 <i>I. Converting Enzyme Inhibition: Therapy for Chronic Heart Failure</i>	 252
I. Mechanism of Action	252
1. Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System	252
2. Special Mechanism of Action of Converting Enzyme Inhibitors	253
a) Influence of Converting Enzyme Inhibitors on the Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System	254
b) Local Inhibition of the Renin-Angiotensin-System in the Vascular Wall	254
c) Inhibition of Sympathetic Regulation in Resistance Vessels	254
d) Inhibition of Bradykinin Metabolism	255
e) Influence of Vasoactive Prostaglandins	255
f) Hormonal Factors	255
g) Conclusion: Mechanism of Action	257

II. Pharmacokinetics of Captopril	257
1. Absorption	257
2. Elimination	258
III. Other Agents	258
1. Specific Angiotensin II Inhibitor: Saralasin	258
2. Converting Enzyme Inhibitor: Teprotide	258
IV. Clinical Use of Captopril in Hypertension	258
V. Captopril in Heart Failure	260
1. Acute Effects of Captopril	260
2. Long-Term Effects of Captopril	260
a) Repetitive Single Dosing	260
b) Sustained Action	260
3. Regional Flow Changes During Captopril Therapy	264
a) Renal Blood Flow	265
b) Coronary Blood Flow	265
c) Splanchnic and Extremity Blood Flow	265
4. Effects of Captopril During Exercise	265
5. Influence on Prognosis	269
6. Captopril for Acute Myocardial Infarction	269
7. Captopril for Acute Left Ventricular Failure	269
8. Captopril Dosage	269
VI. Side Effects of Captopril	271
1. Hematologic Side Effects	271
2. Renal Side Effects	271
3. Cutaneous Side Effects	272
4. Alterations in Taste Sensation	272
5. Drug Interactions	272
6. Side Effects in Patients with Heart Failure	273
7. Summary of Side Effects	273
Literature	273
<i>Index</i>	281