

# ABC OF CORONARY PHYSIOLOGY AND FFR FOR THE INTERVENTIONALIST

***TCT ASIA***

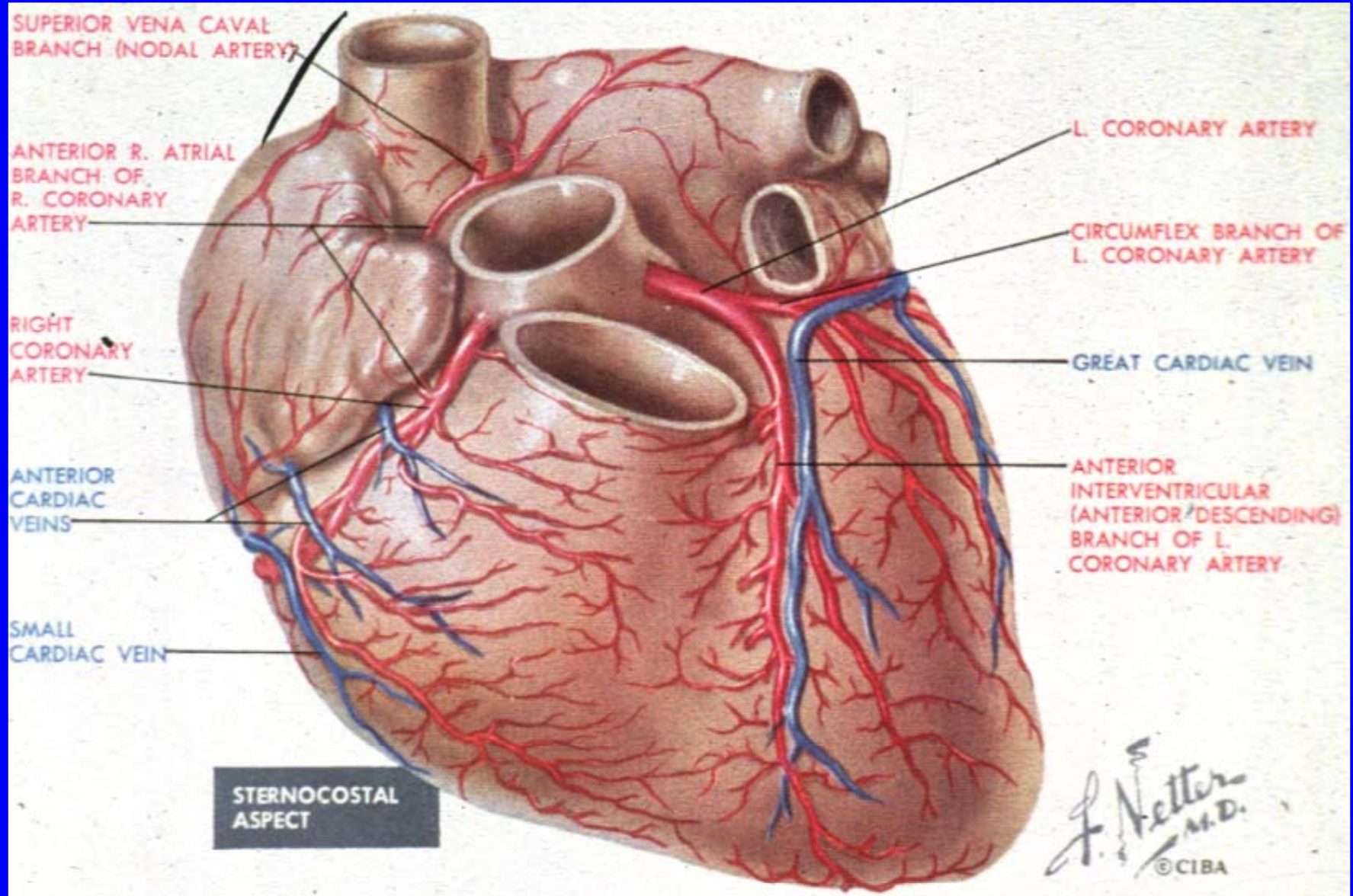
***Seoul, Korea, april 24th, 2012***



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Catharina Hospital,  
Eindhoven, The Netherlands

# ABC OF CORONARY PHYSIOLOGY FOR THE INTERVENTIONALIST

1. Regulation of coronary blood flow
2. Autoregulation
3. Fluid Dynamics Equation and Necessity of  
Maximum Hyperemia
4. Fractional Flow Reserve



SUPERIOR VENA CAVAL  
BRANCH (NODAL ARTERY)

ANTERIOR R. ATRIAL  
BRANCH OF  
R. CORONARY  
ARTERY

RIGHT  
CORONARY  
ARTERY

ANTERIOR  
CARDIAC  
VEINS

SMALL  
CARDIAC VEIN

L. CORONARY ARTERY

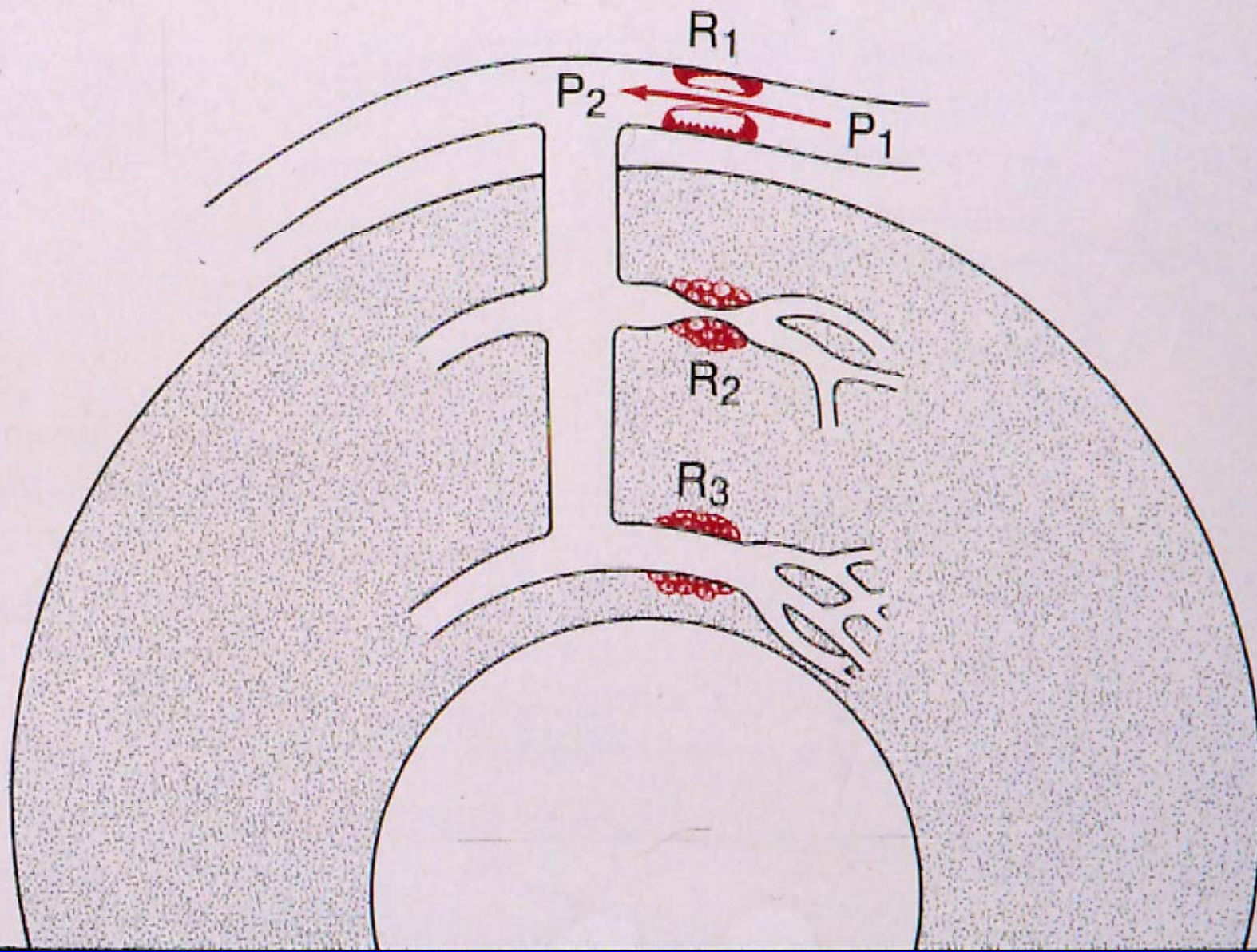
CIRCUMFLEX BRANCH OF  
L. CORONARY ARTERY

GREAT CARDIAC VEIN

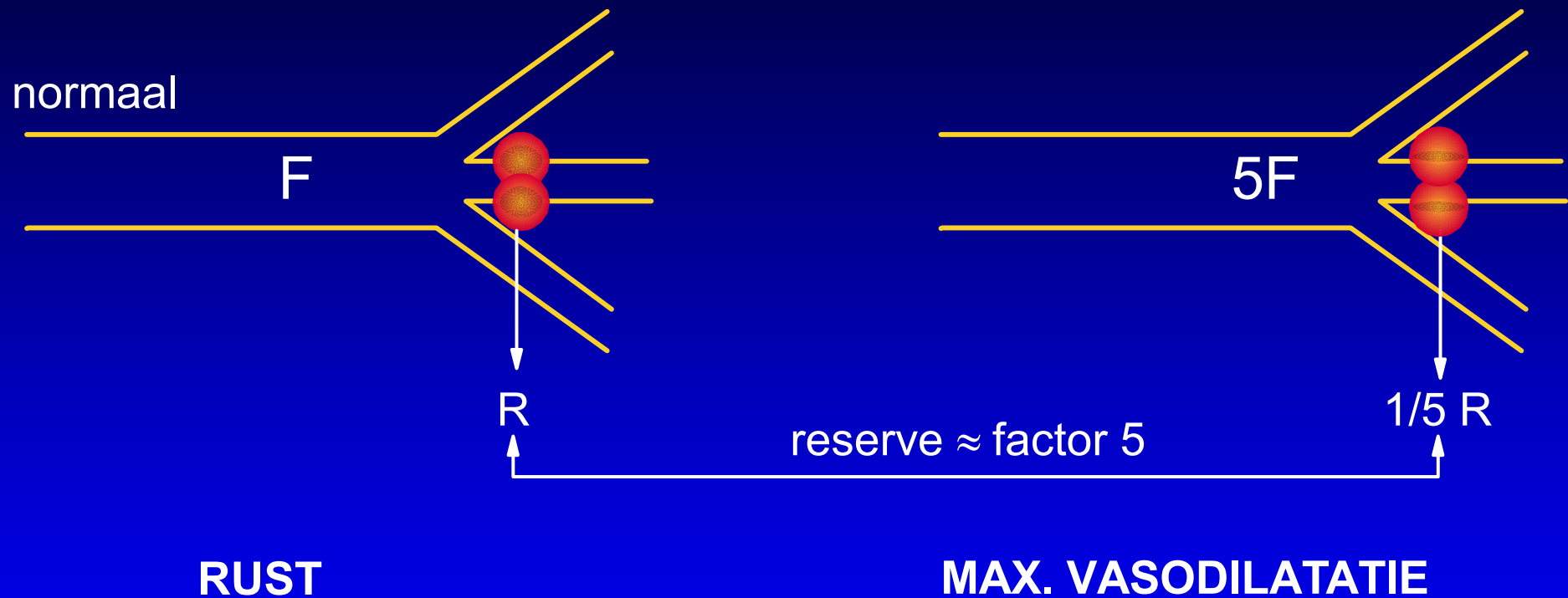
ANTERIOR  
INTERVENTRICULAR  
(ANTERIOR/DESCENDING)  
BRANCH OF L.  
CORONARY ARTERY

STERNOCOSTAL  
ASPECT

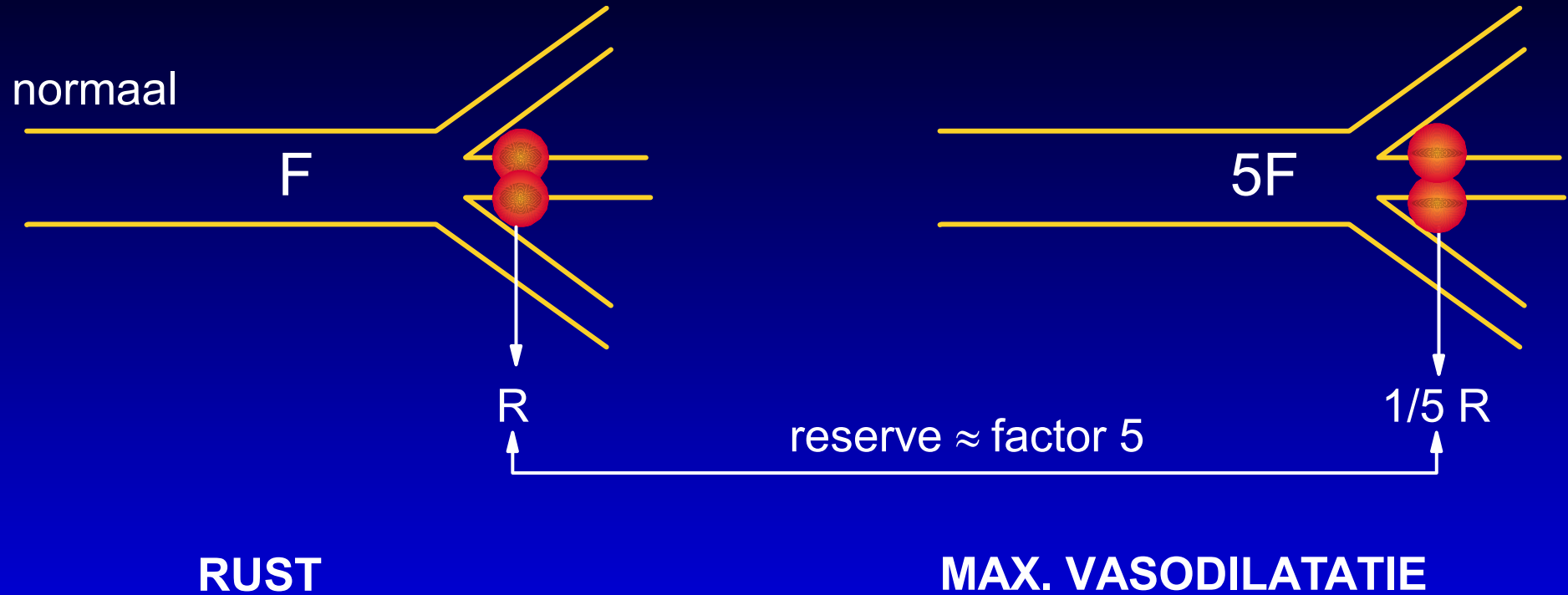
F. Netter  
M.D.  
© CIBA



# Regulation of coronary blood flow by arteriolar vasodilation



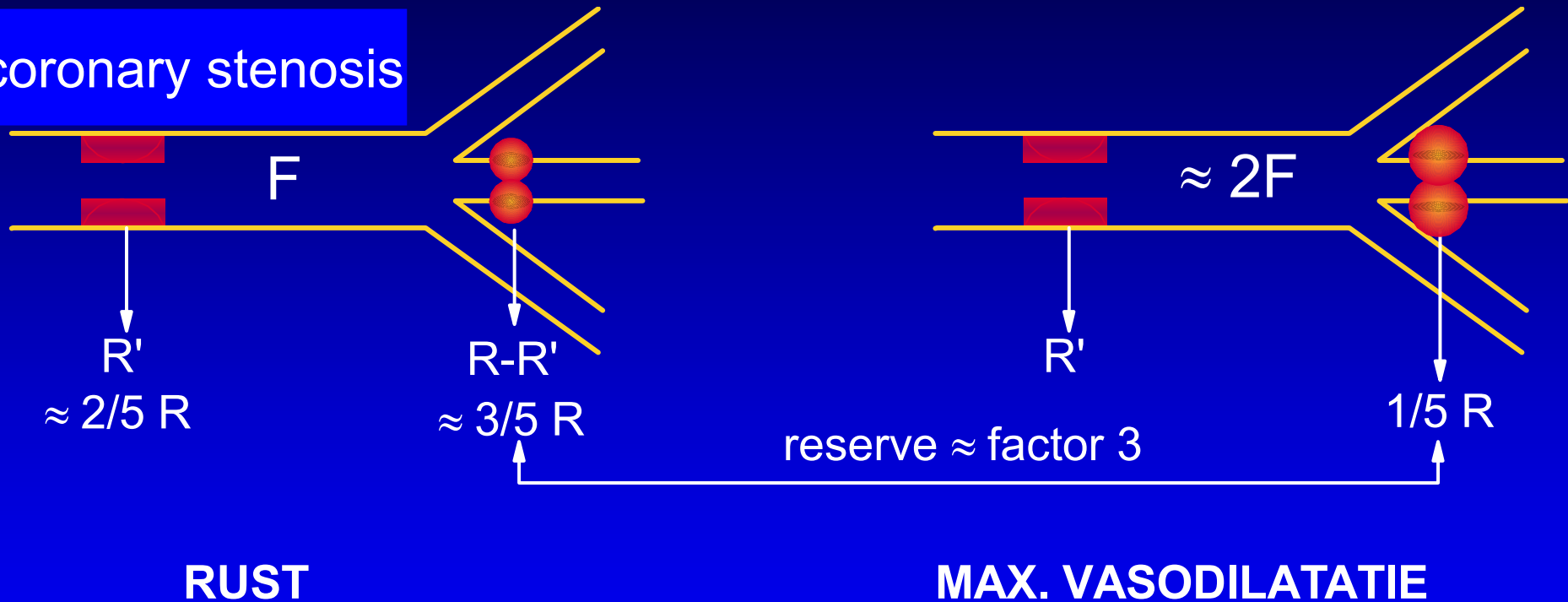
**exercise**  $\rightarrow$  increased oxygen demand  $\rightarrow$  vasodilation



*decrease of blood pressure*  $\rightarrow$  arteriolar vasodilation  
*increase of blood pressure*  $\rightarrow$  arteriolar constriction

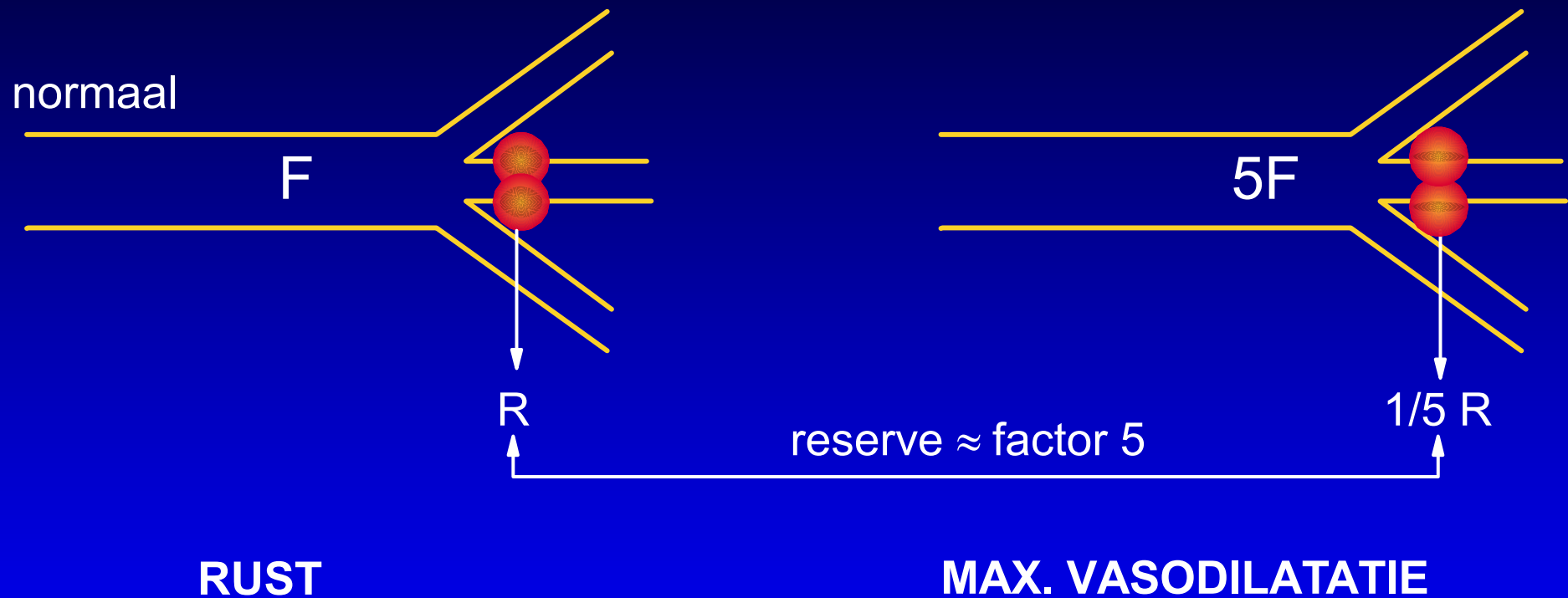
**$\longrightarrow$  coronary flow remains (almost) equal over wide range of perfusion pressure and matched to O<sub>2</sub> demand (autoregulation)**

coronary stenosis



**stenosis**  $\rightarrow$  compensatory decrease of distal resistance by arteriolar vasodilation  
(*preservation of flow at rest but decrease of reserve*)

## Regulation of coronary blood flow by arteriolar vasodilation



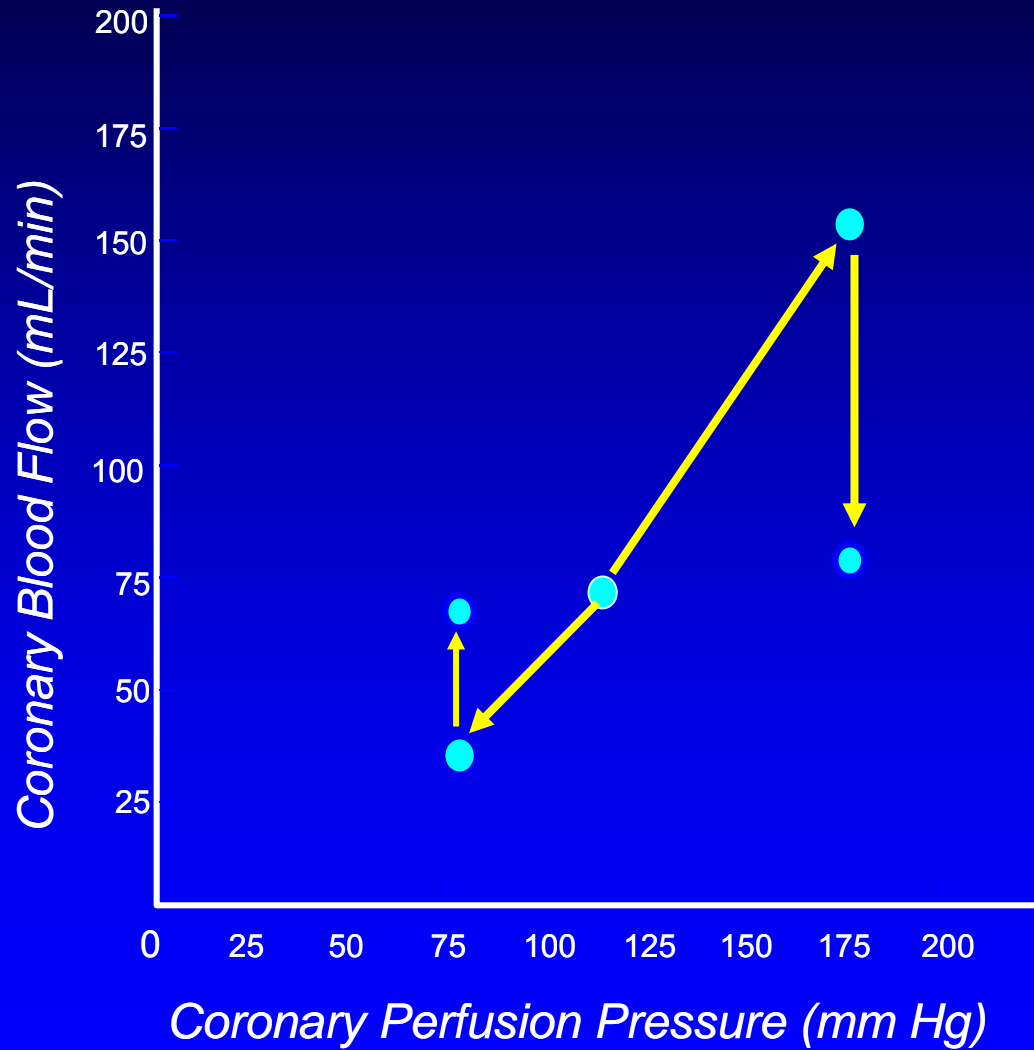
*IF we like to relate perfusion pressure to blood flow, resistance should be excluded as a variable.*

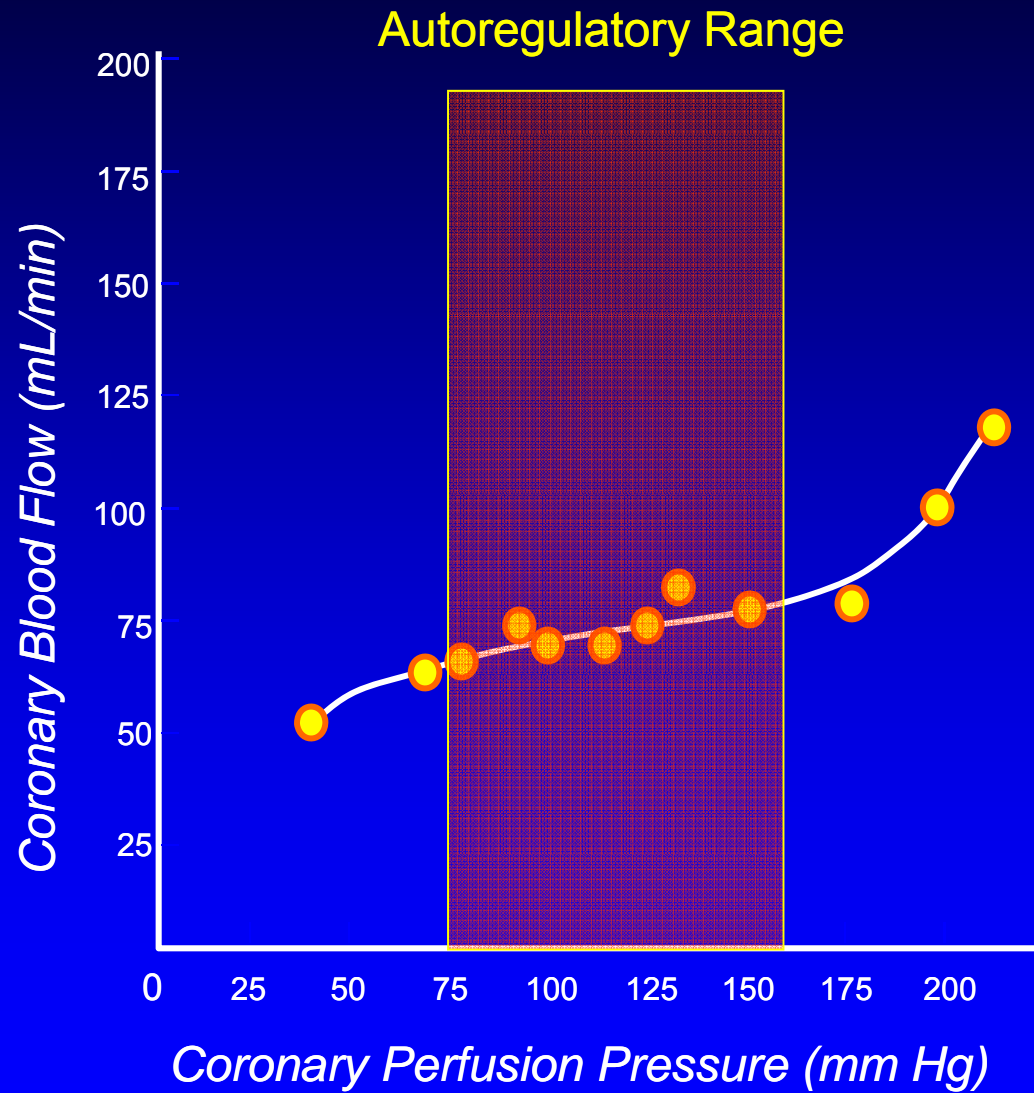
*This can only be achieved by **maximum arteriolar vasodilation***





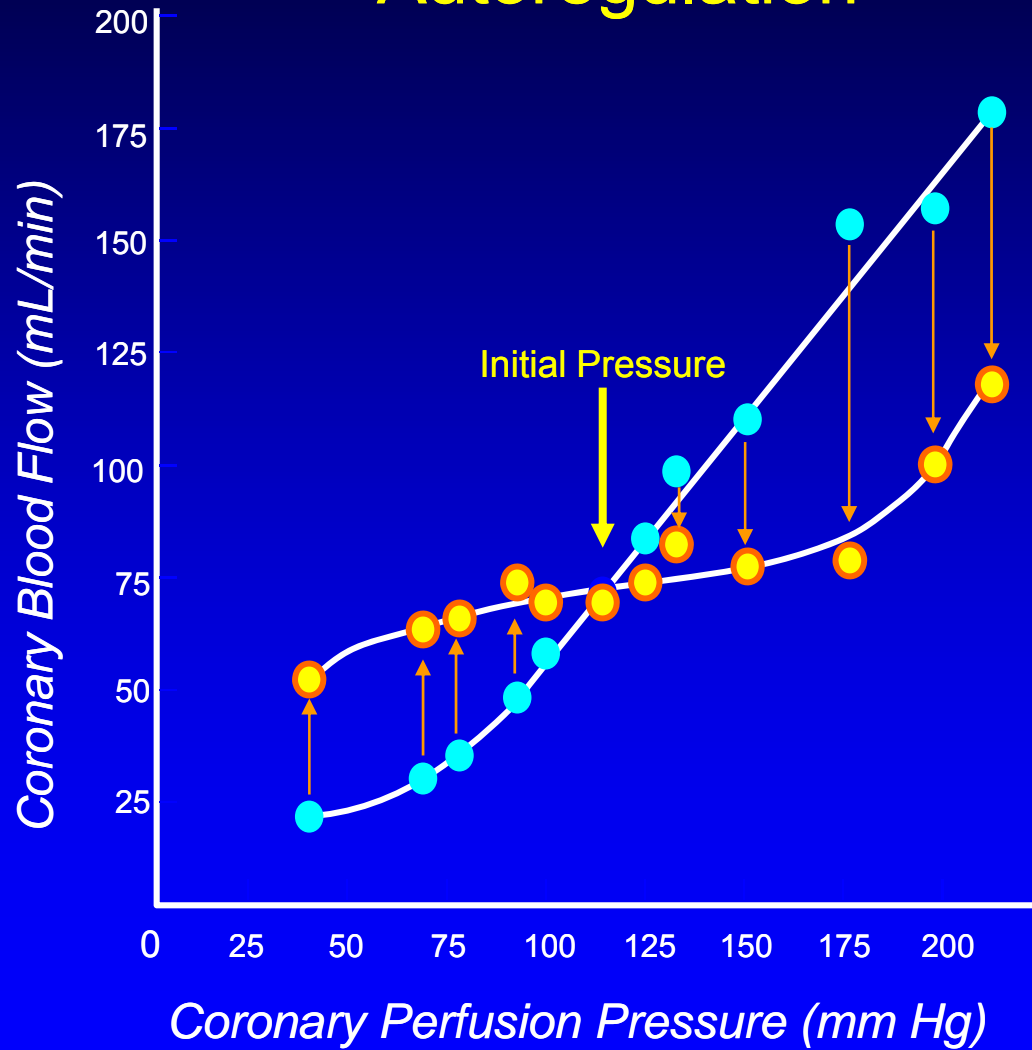
# Autoregulation







# Autoregulation

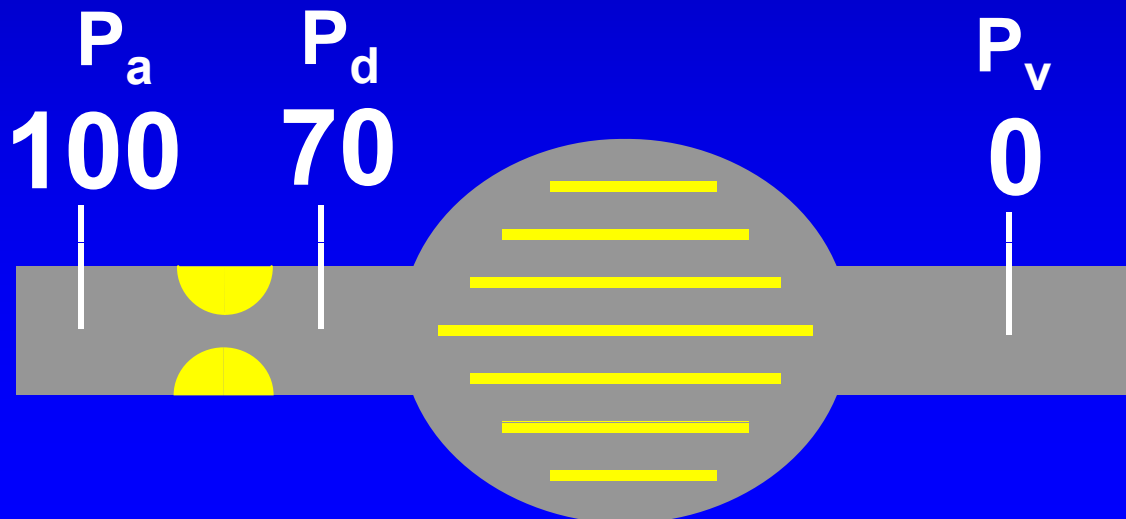
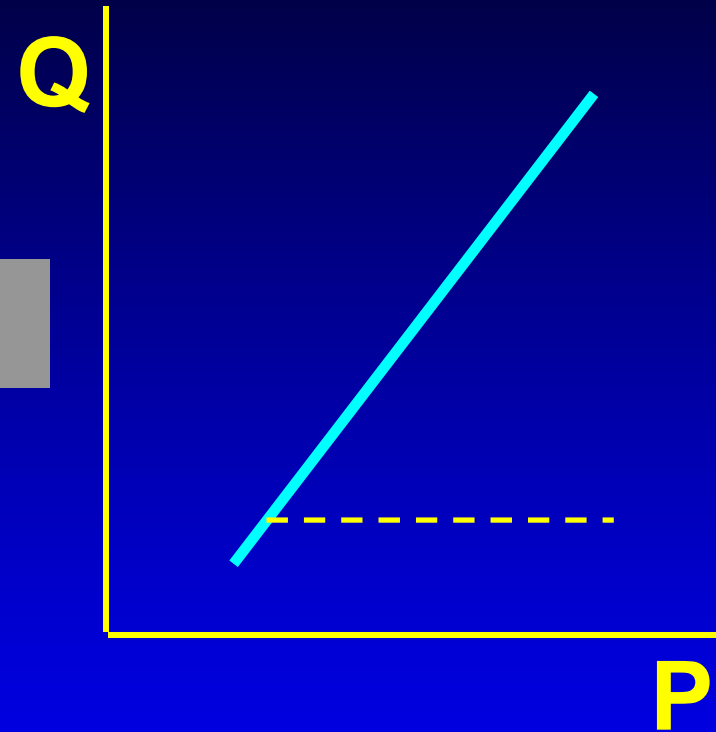
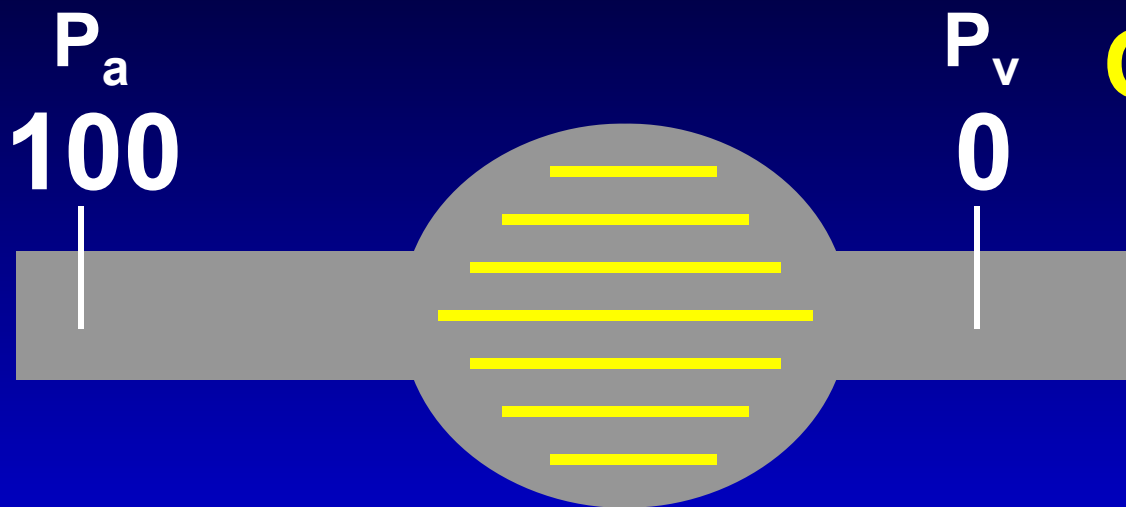


*Only During Maximal Vasodilatation  
(corresponding with minimum myocardial  
resistance), the ratio of pressures reflects  
a ratio of flows*



**Basis of FFR**

# During Maximal Vasodilatation



$$\text{FFR}_{\text{myo}} = \frac{P_d}{P_a} = 0.70$$

## Is hyperemia truly mandatory?

recent **hypothetical** claim that “minimum resistance” is present during part of heart cycle **at rest** (*so-called wave free period ~ 75 % of diastole*)

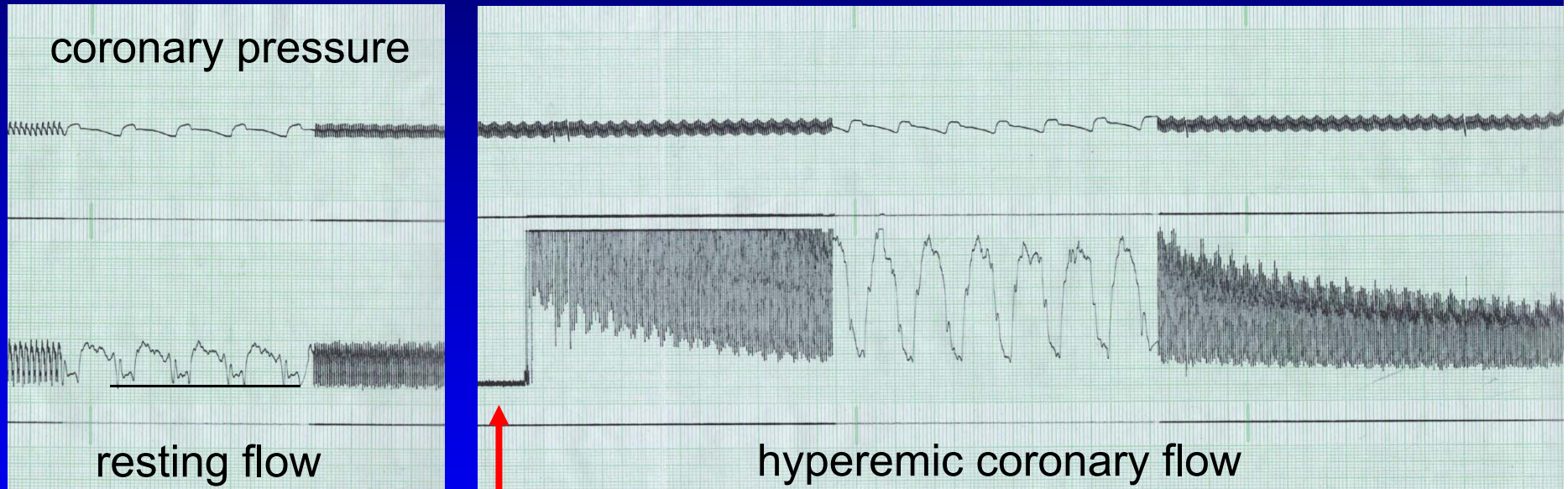
Not any experimental validation or evidence

Despite very complex background theory, the index “iFR” is simply calculated as a ratio of 2 pressures **averaged** over ~ 75 % of diastole at rest  $(P_d / P_a)_{rest}$

So, in contrast to what the name suggests, there is **nothing “instantaneous” in this index**

Neither is it “hyperemia-free” (*independent of hyperemia*)

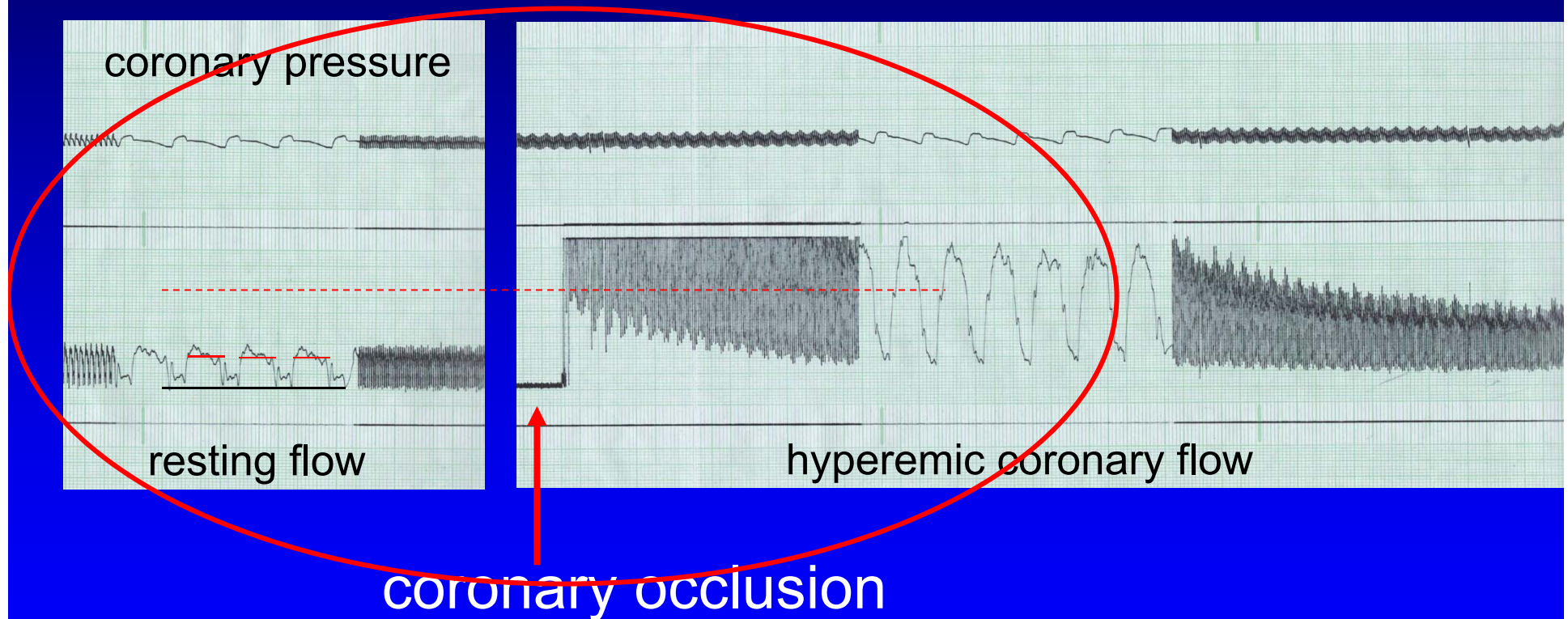
simultaneous recording of coronary pressure and absolute volumetric coronary blood flow at baseline and during maximum hyperemia in a normal coronary artery in a dog



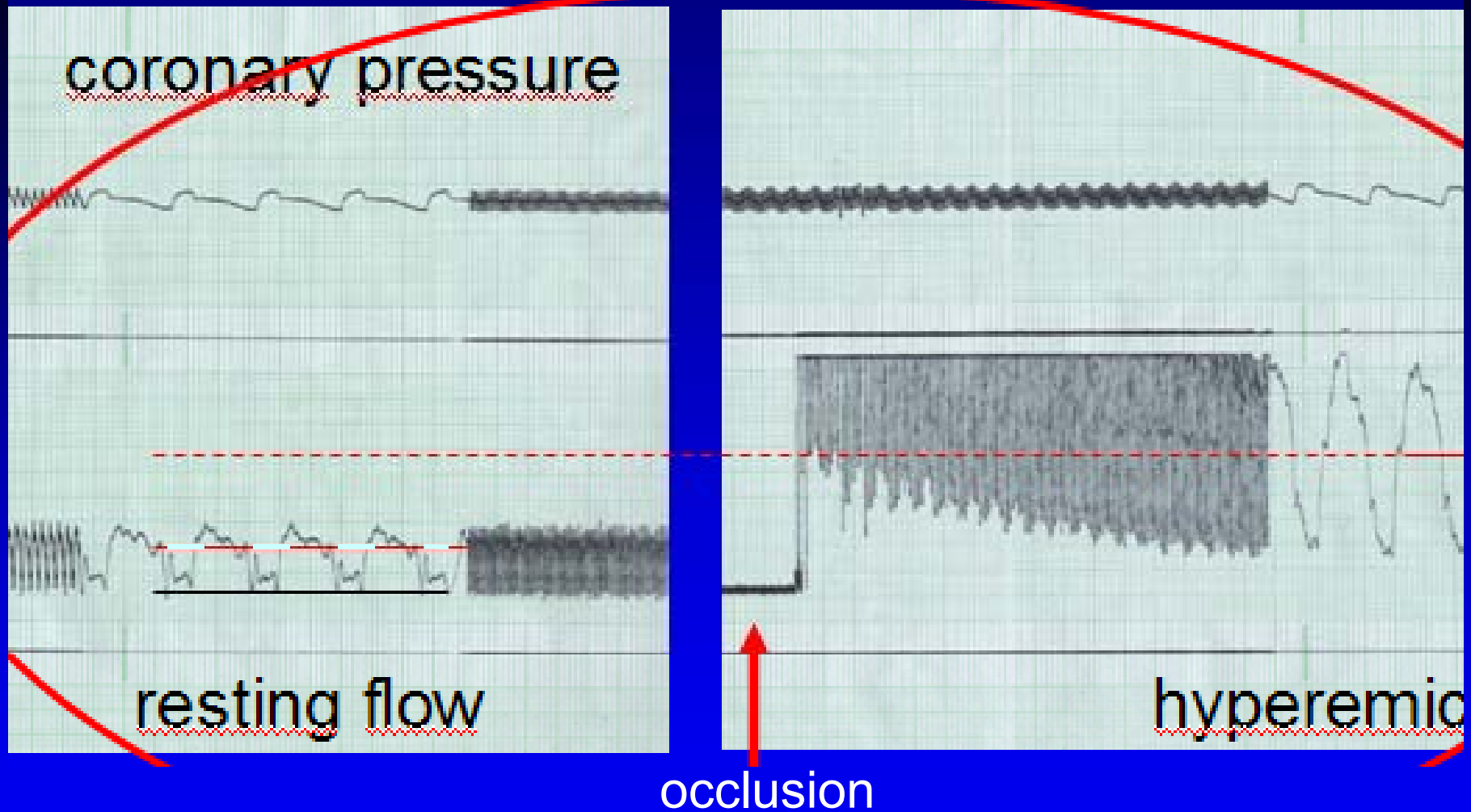
coronary occlusion

In the presence of constant coronary pressure

$$\longrightarrow R \sim 1 / \text{Flow}$$

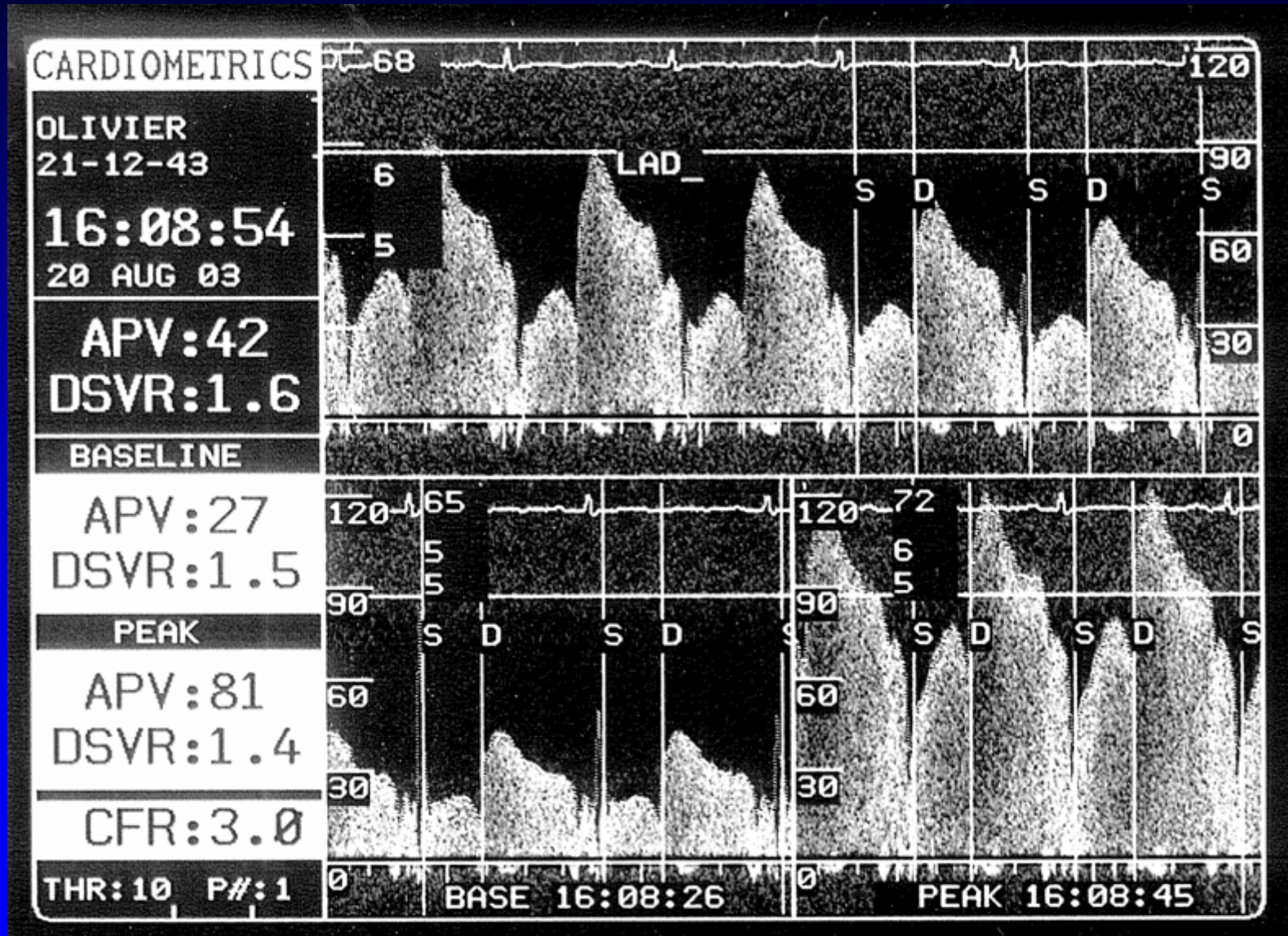






Even during any part of diastole (or “wave-free period”) **at rest**, resistance is 3x higher than average hyperemic resistance

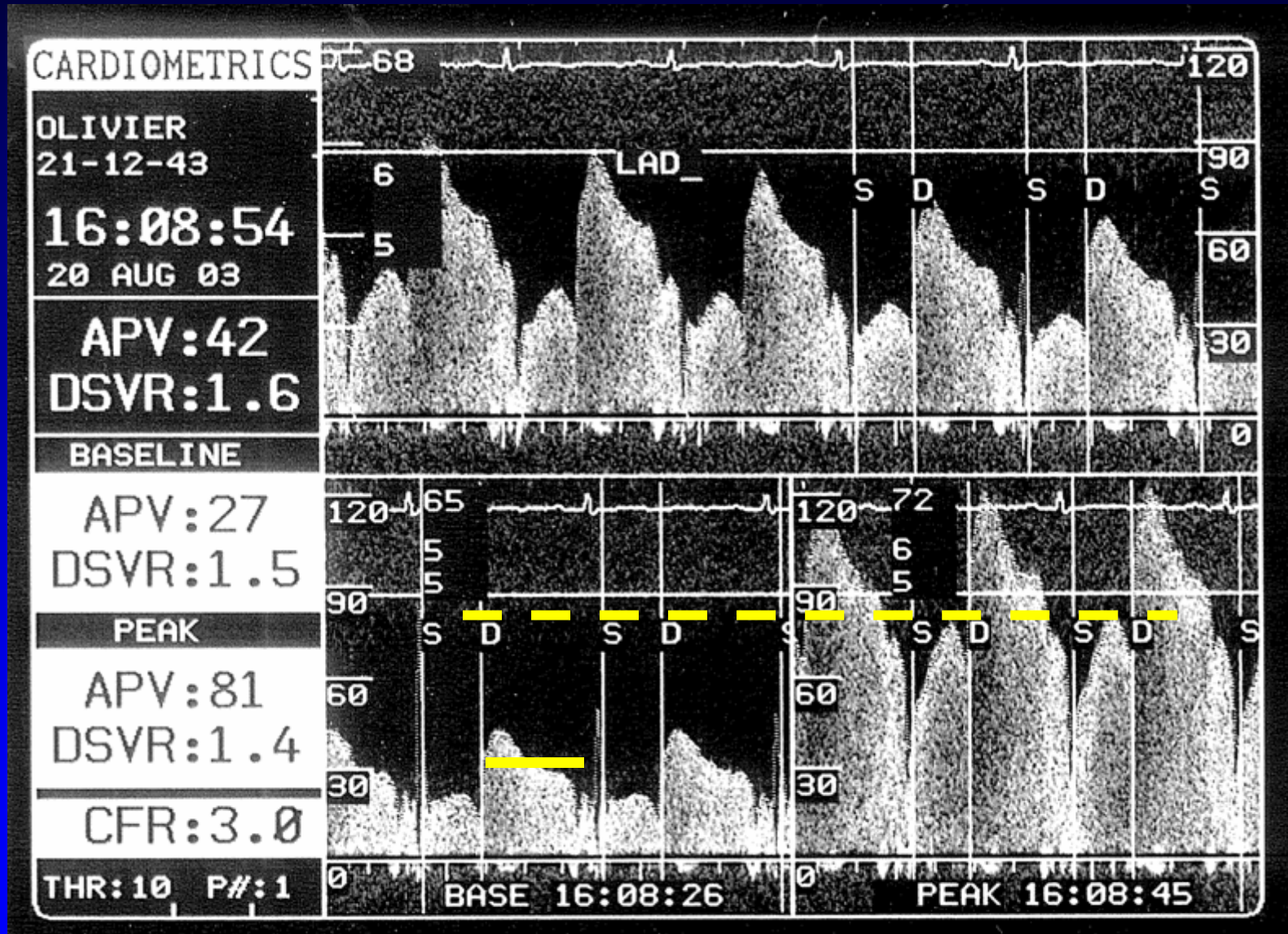
# Doppler flow velocity recording in a human coronary artery



resting

hyperemia (adenosine)

# Doppler flow velocity recording in a human coronary artery (constant pressure $\longrightarrow R \sim 1 / \text{Flow}$ )

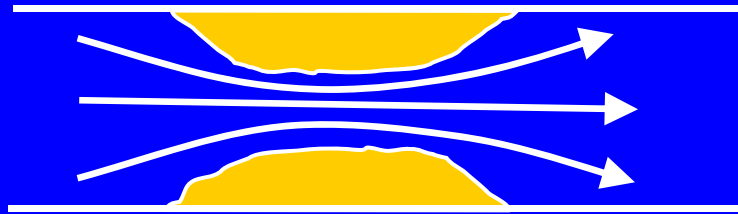


resting

hyperemia (adenosine)

$$\Delta P = f.Q + s.Q^2$$

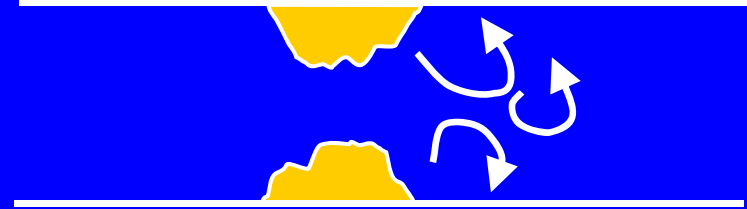
**f** = friction coefficient



Moderate gradient at rest

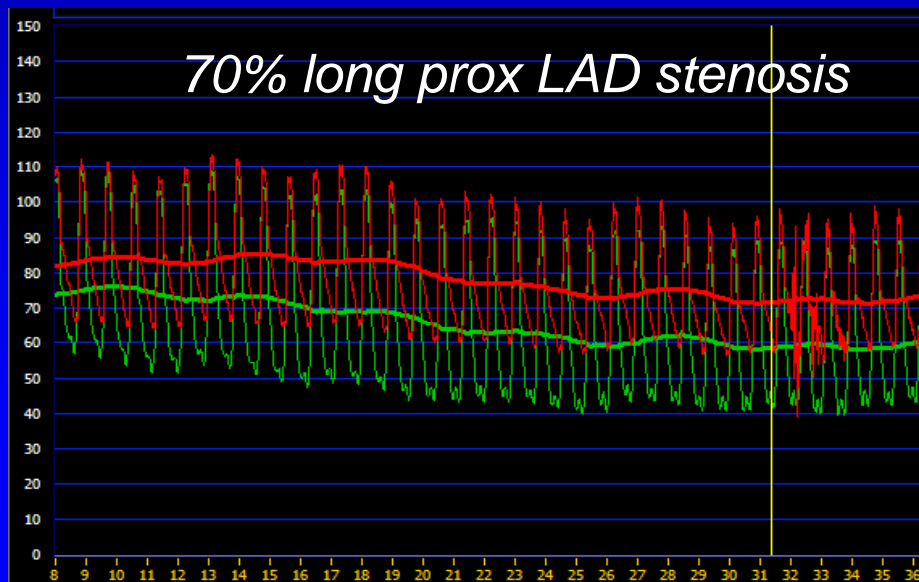
Moderate increment at hyperemia

**s** = separation coefficient

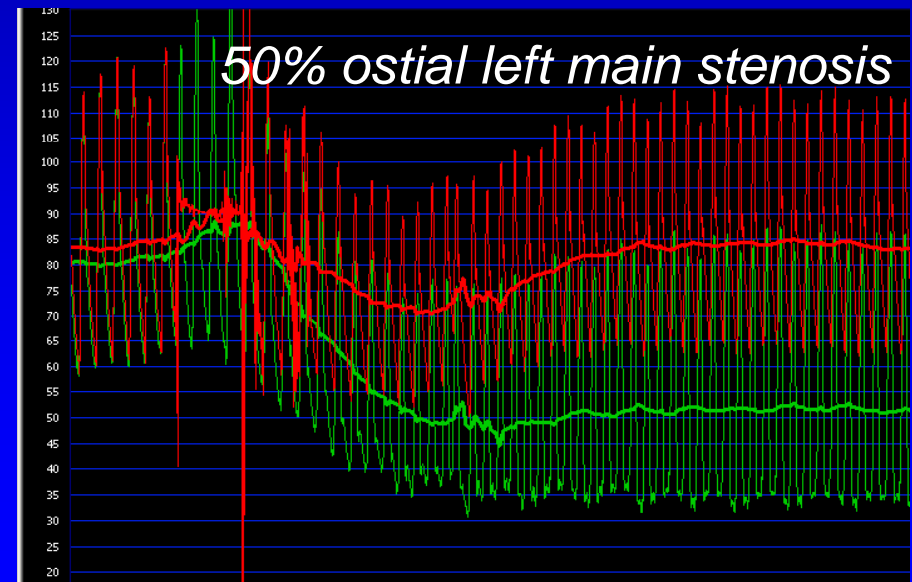


Small gradient at rest

Large gradient at hyperemia



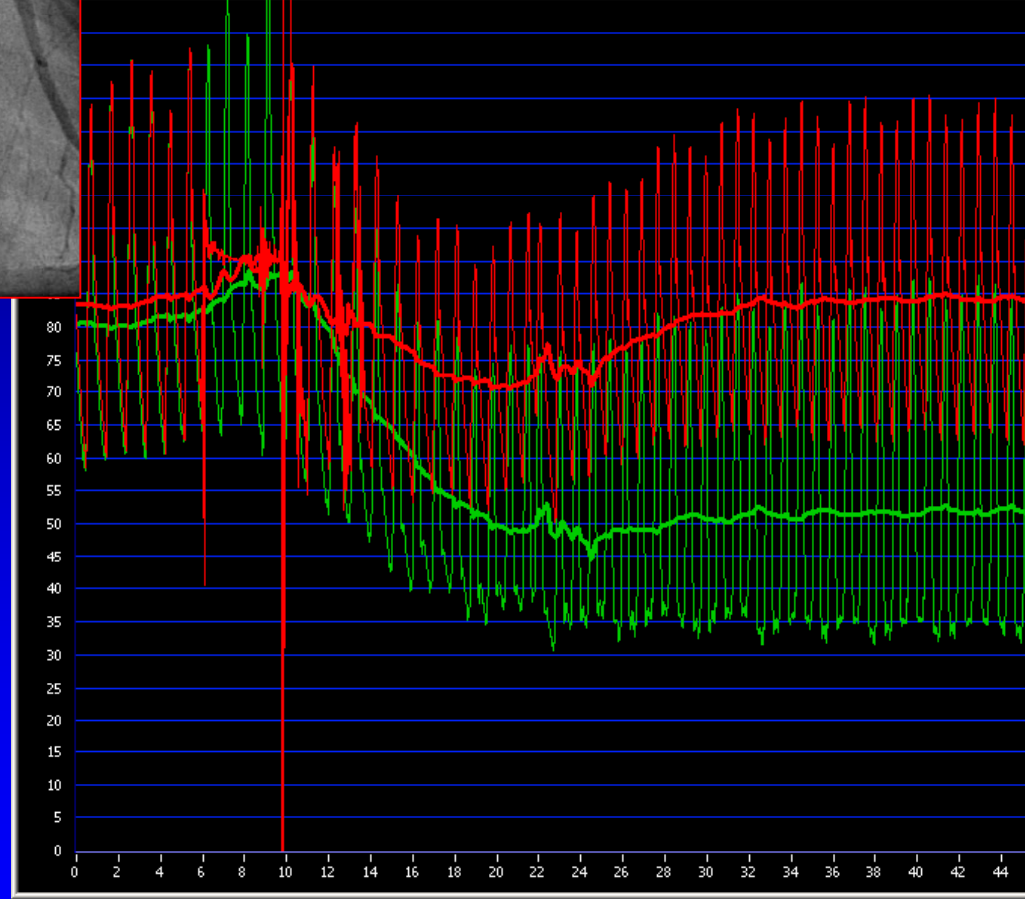
iFR = 0.89 FFR = 0.85



iFR = 0.94 FFR = 0.57

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

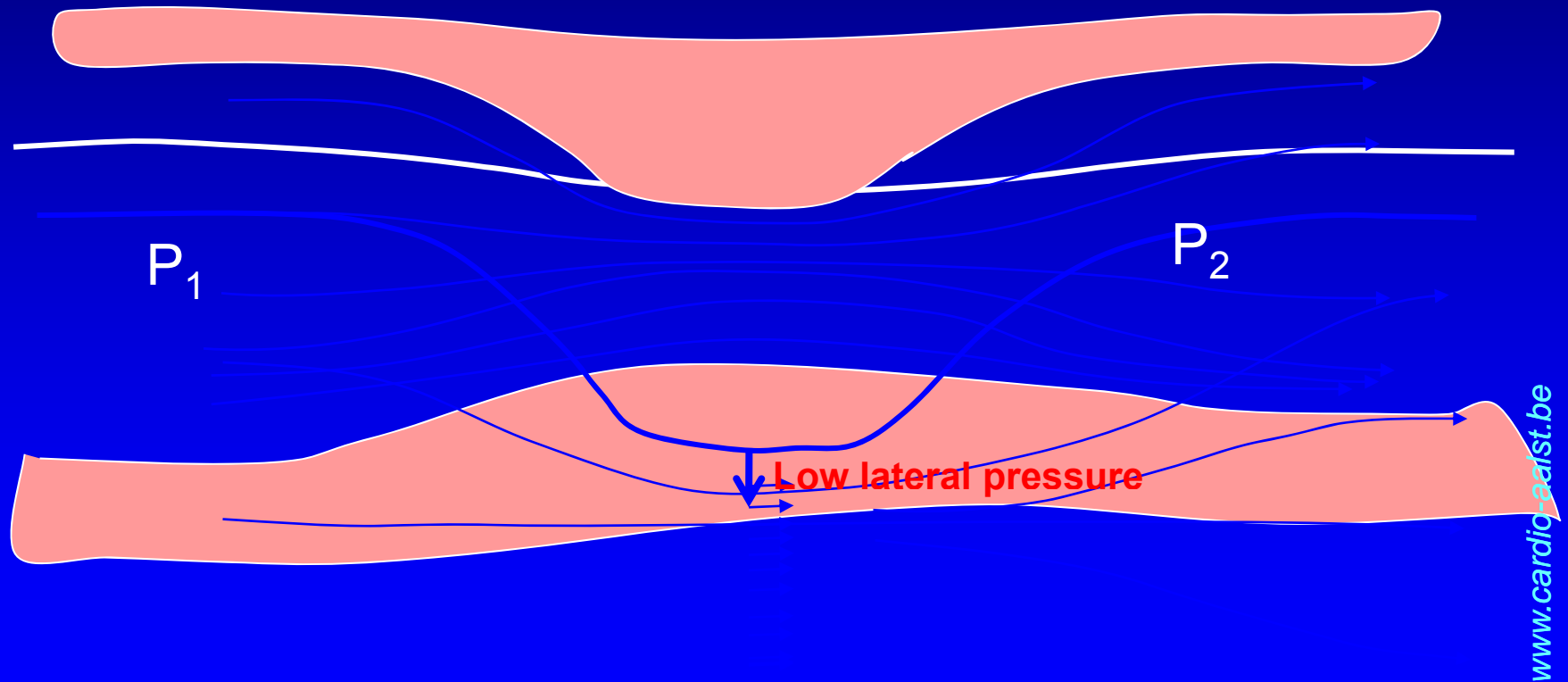
- Physiologic assessment of coronary artery stenosis is important and has significant implications for outcome
- Therefore, some knowledge and insights in coronary physiology is mandatory
- Fractional Flow Reserve (FFR) is an easy technique with a sound physiologic basis, well validated both experimentally and clinically vs a true gold standard
- Maximum hyperemia is paramount to avoid “guessing” and to take the correct decisions with respect to decision-making on revascularization





# Mechanical constraints on coronary stenoses

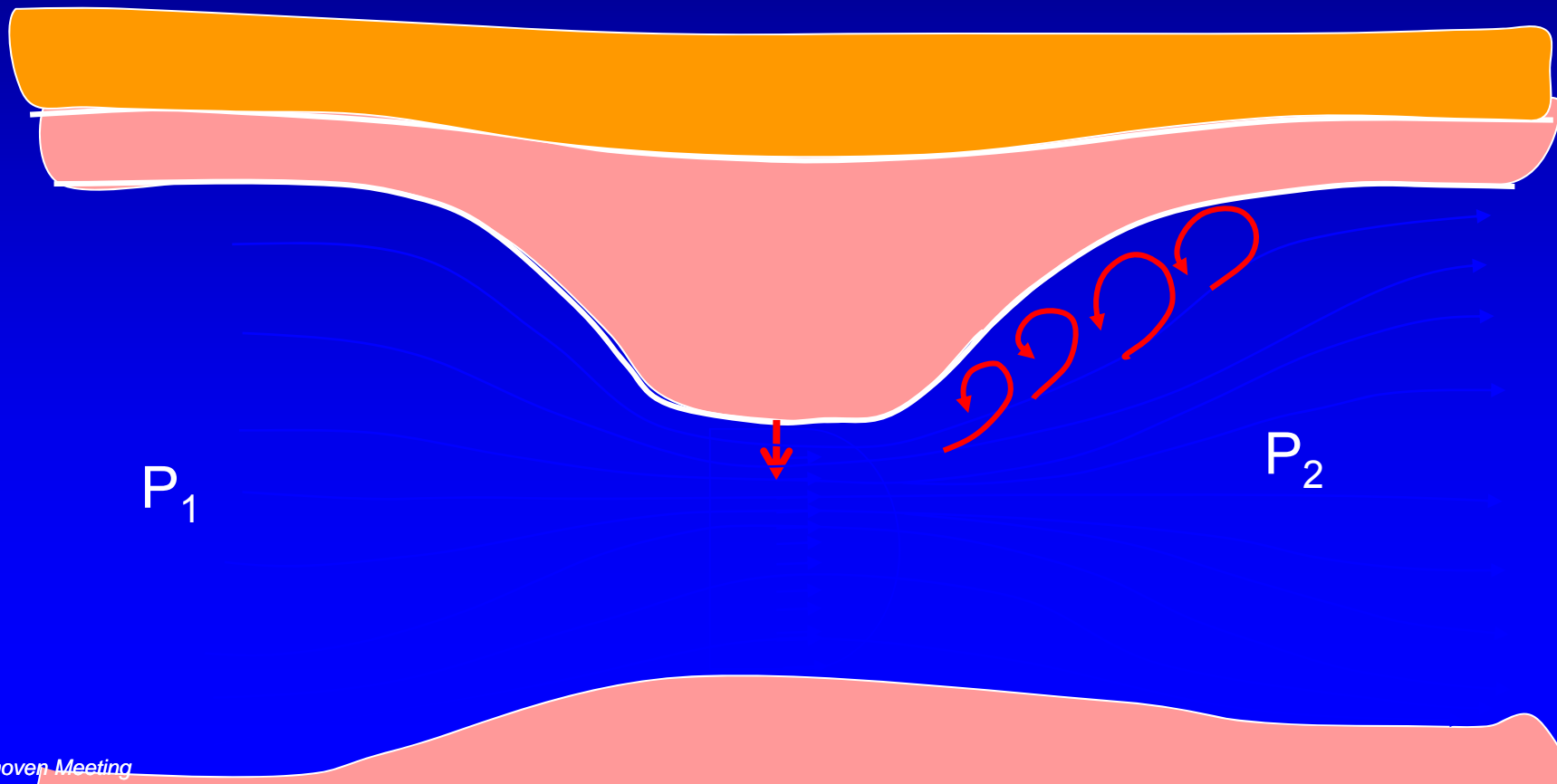
## Decreased lateral pressure (Venturi)





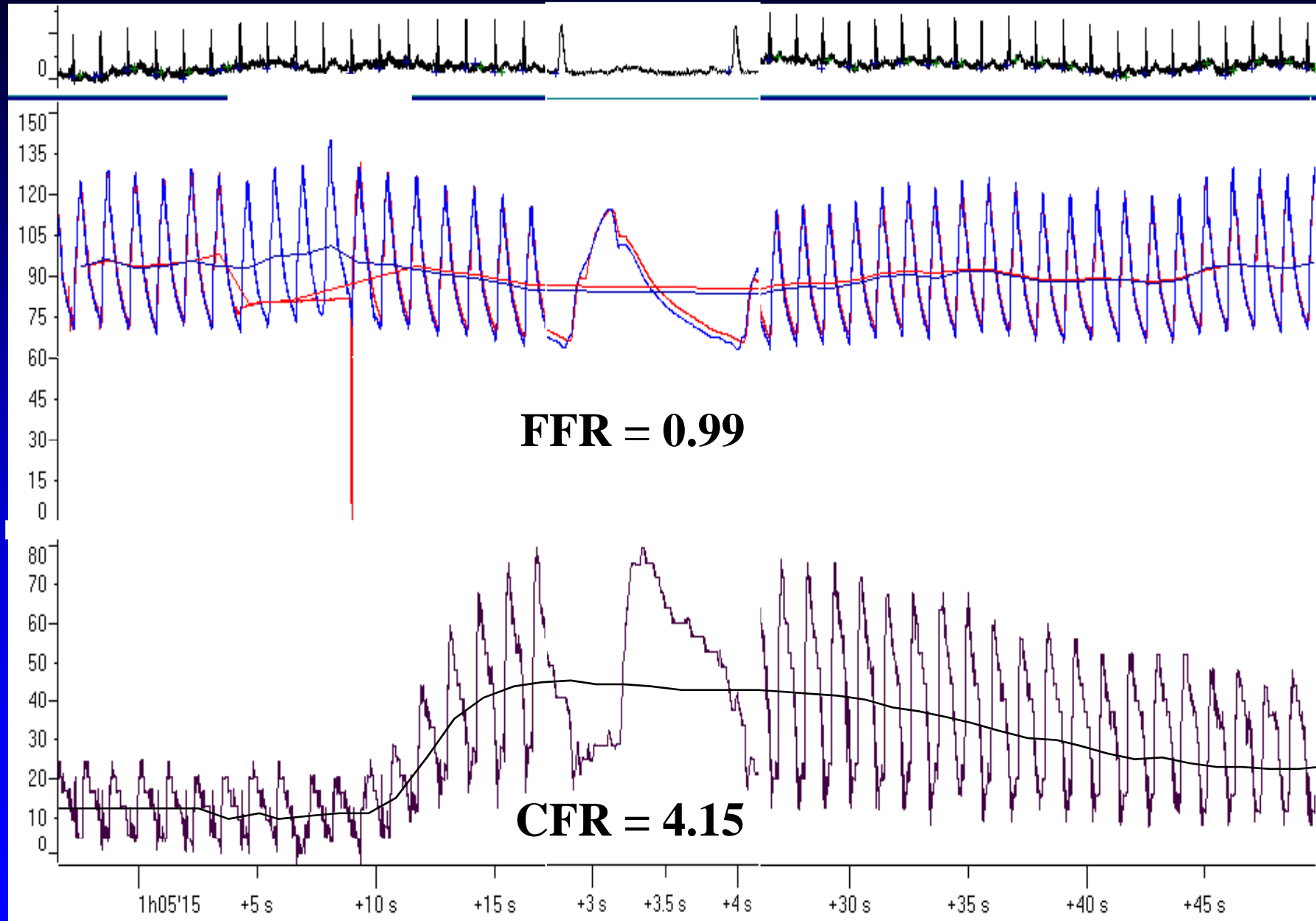
# Mechanical constraints on coronary stenoses

**Turbulences = unfavorable rheologic conditions**





# Normal Coronary Artery



Tekstdia over noodzaak hyperemia

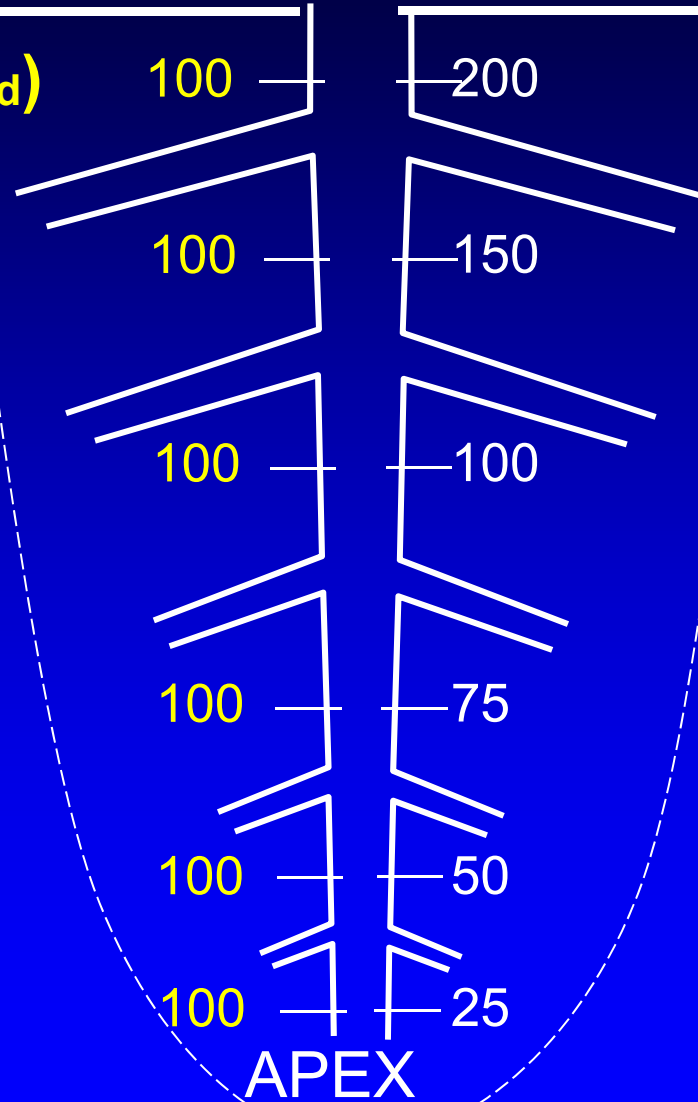
+ evt 1-2 dia's uit iFR-FFR  
(result + ifrrestvshyp)

AORTA  
100 mmHg

IVUS-CSA

pressure ( $P_d$ )  
(mm Hg)

flow (Q)  
(ml/min)



9 mm<sup>2</sup>

7 mm<sup>2</sup>

5 mm<sup>2</sup>

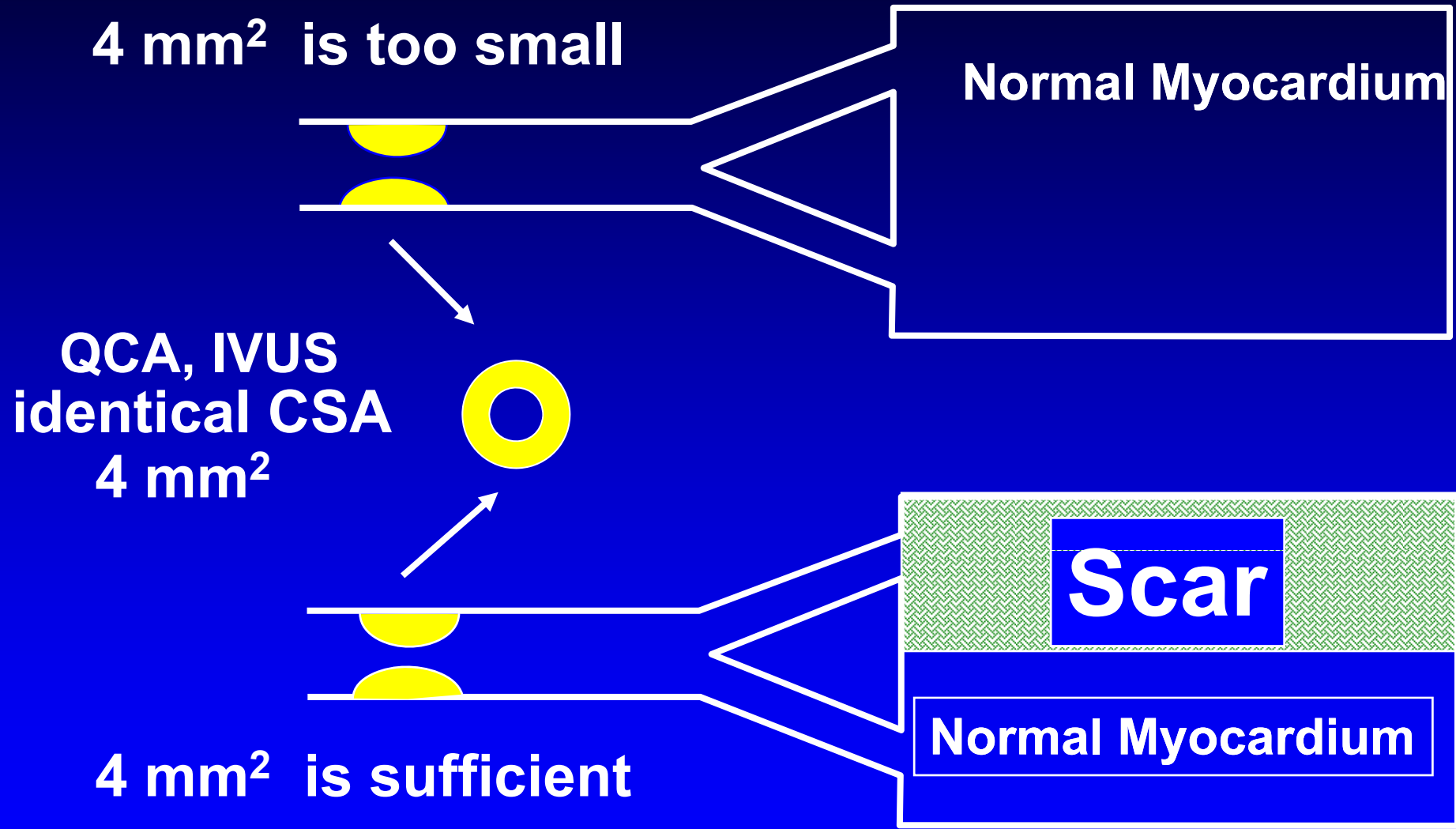
3 mm<sup>2</sup>



! We cannot understand the physiologic significance of a stenosis without taking into account the extent of the distal perfusion territory !

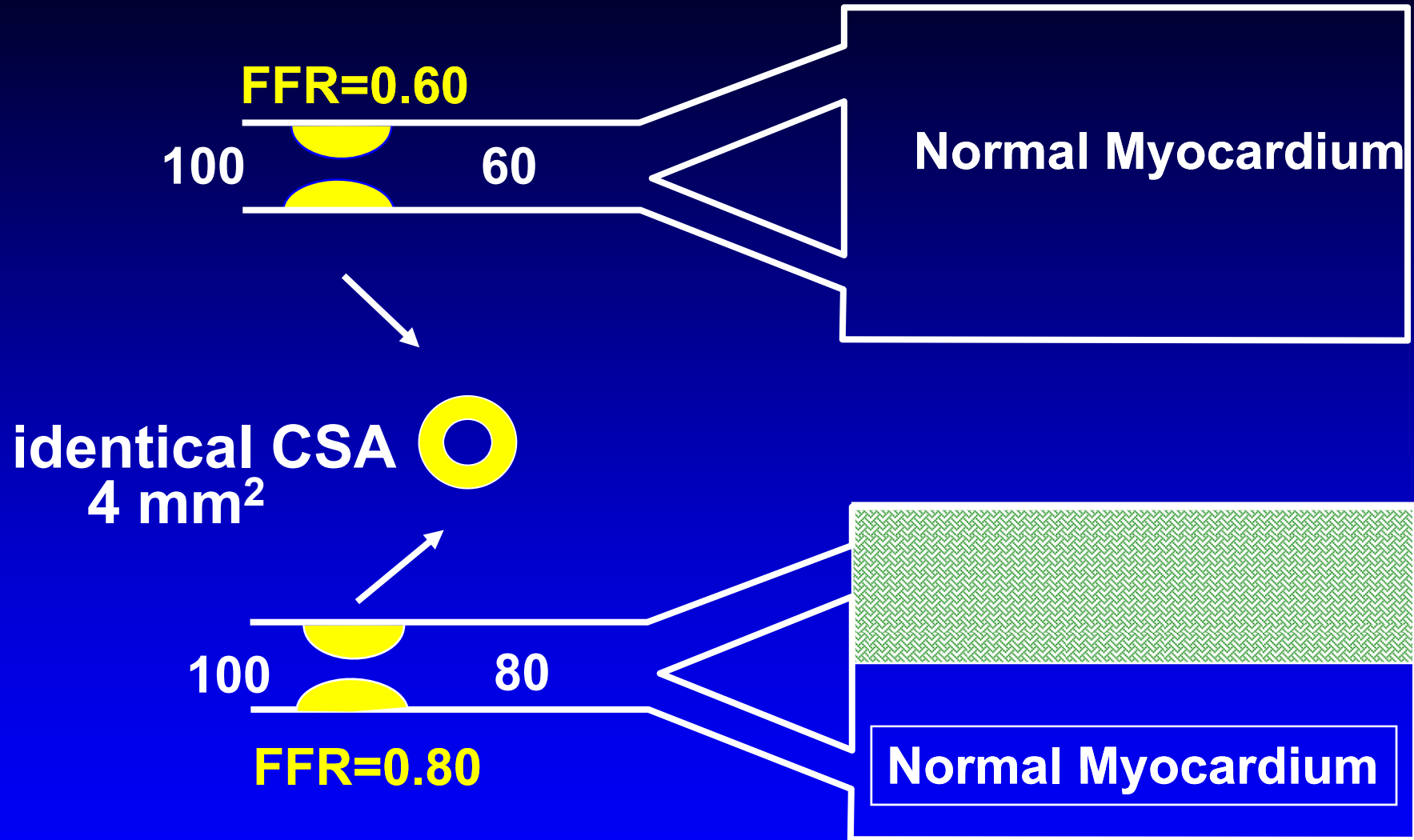
*.....especially not under pathologic conditions, when the “physiologic match” between vessel size and perfusion area has been lost*

***similar stenosis but different extent of perfusion area***



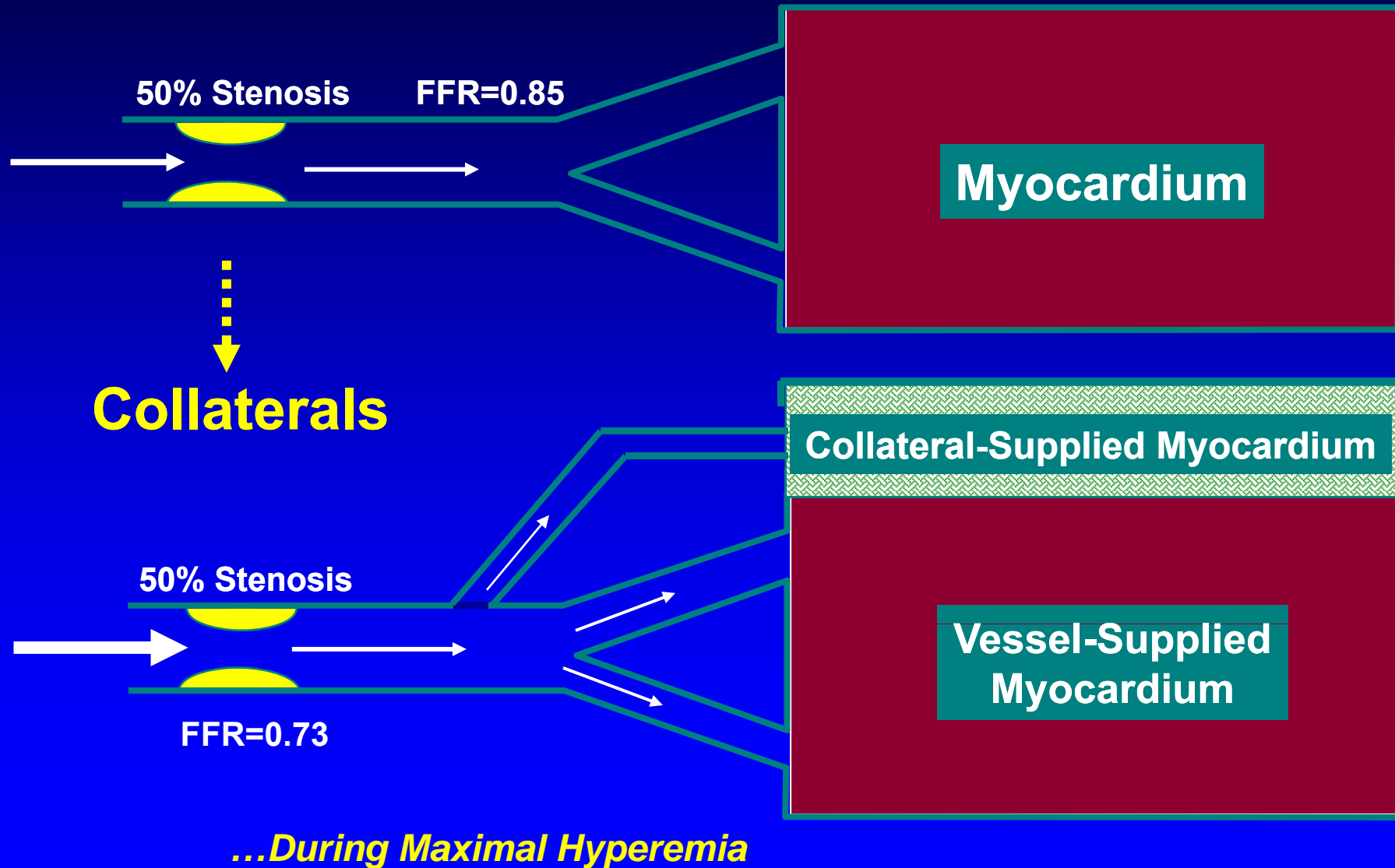
***identical CSA, but different significance of stenosis***

**vessel size and myocardial mass after myocardial infarction:**

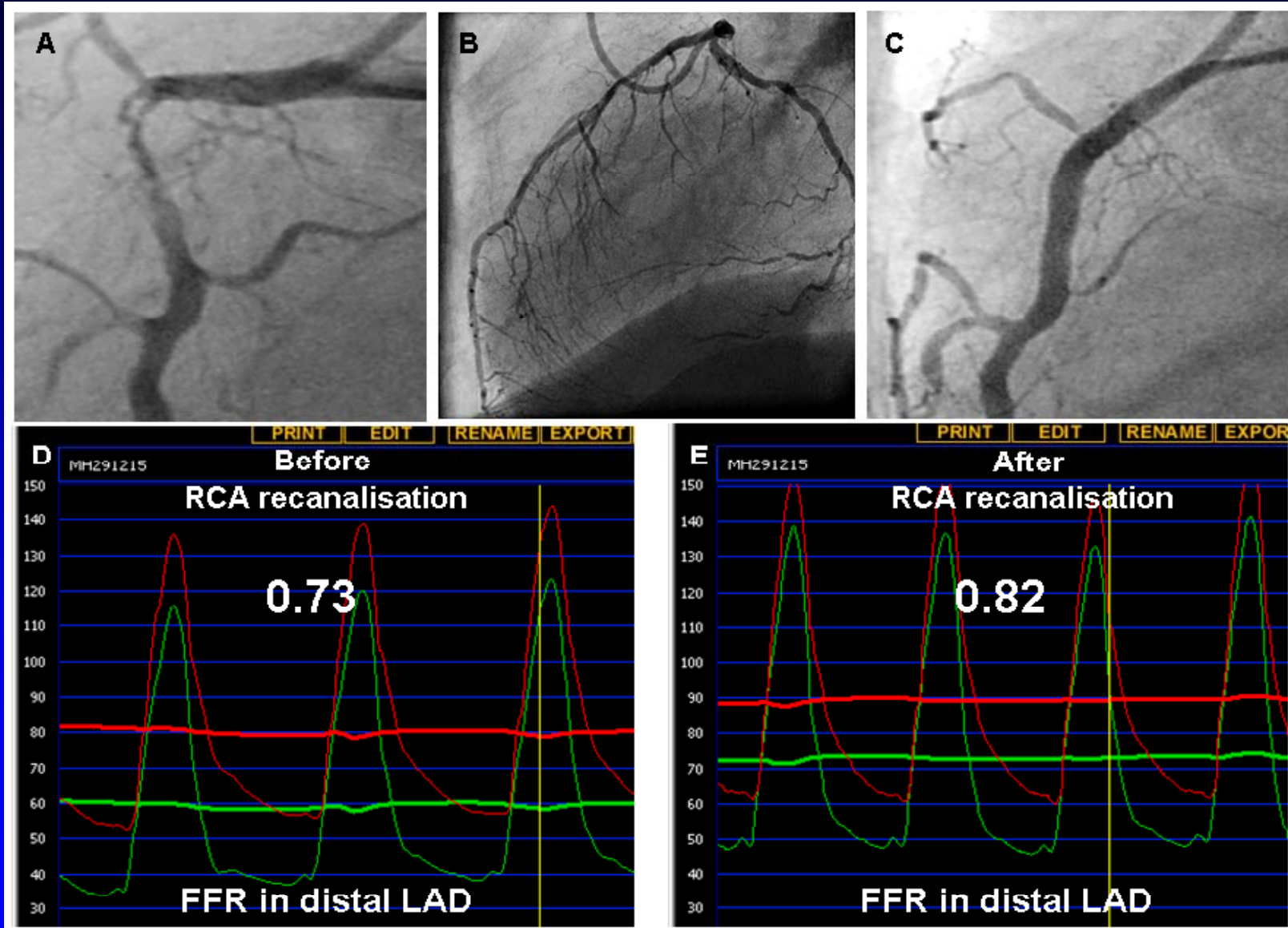


**Anatomic stenosis severity is similar  
but Physiologic severity is different  
→ reflected by FFR**

# Disconnect between Anatomy and Physiology



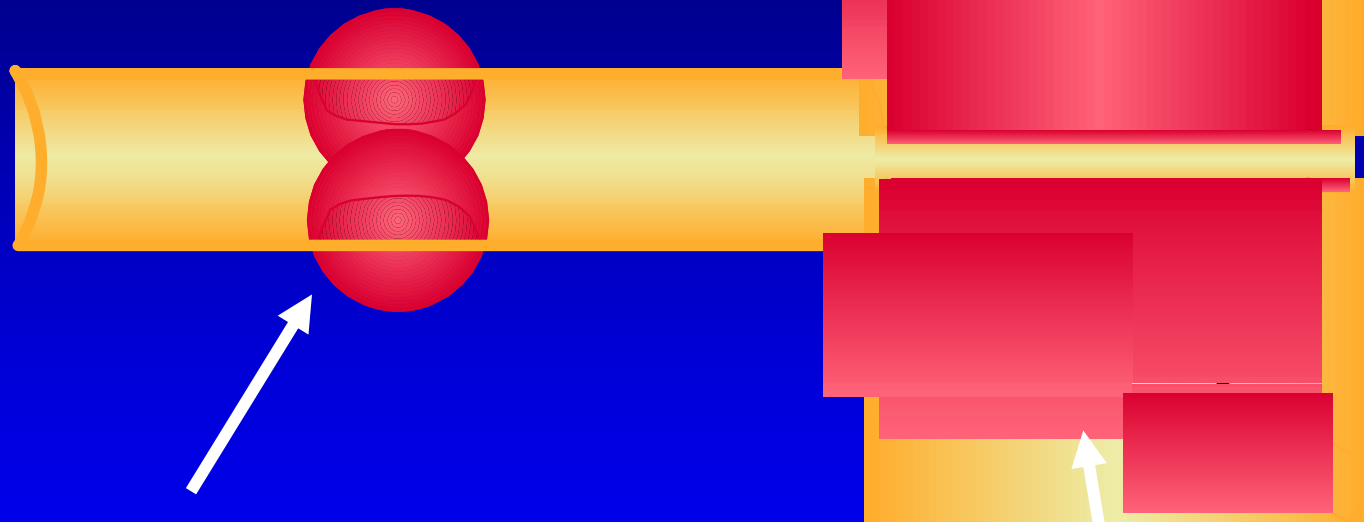
# FFR in the distal LAD before and After recanalization of the RCA





epicardial  
compartment  
( > 400  $\mu\text{m}$ )

microvascular  
compartment

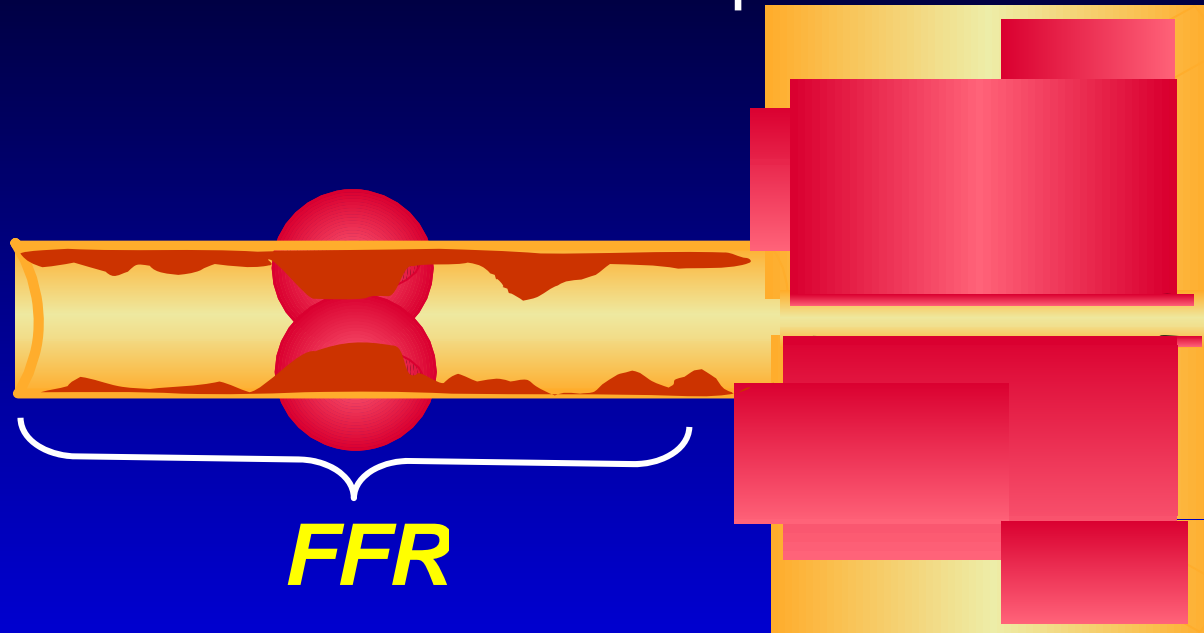


traditionally visible by angiography  
and more recently by many invasive  
and non-invasive imaging methods

**Black box**  
(until recently)

focal *and* diffuse  
epicardial disease

microvascular  
compartment



hard to distinguish by  
traditional methods,  
but easily assessed  
and quantified by FFR

## ***The 3rd compartment:***

**Diffuse epicardial coronary disease**  
*(Dr Fearon)*

→ **easily evaluable by FFR**  
*(pressure pull-back recording)*

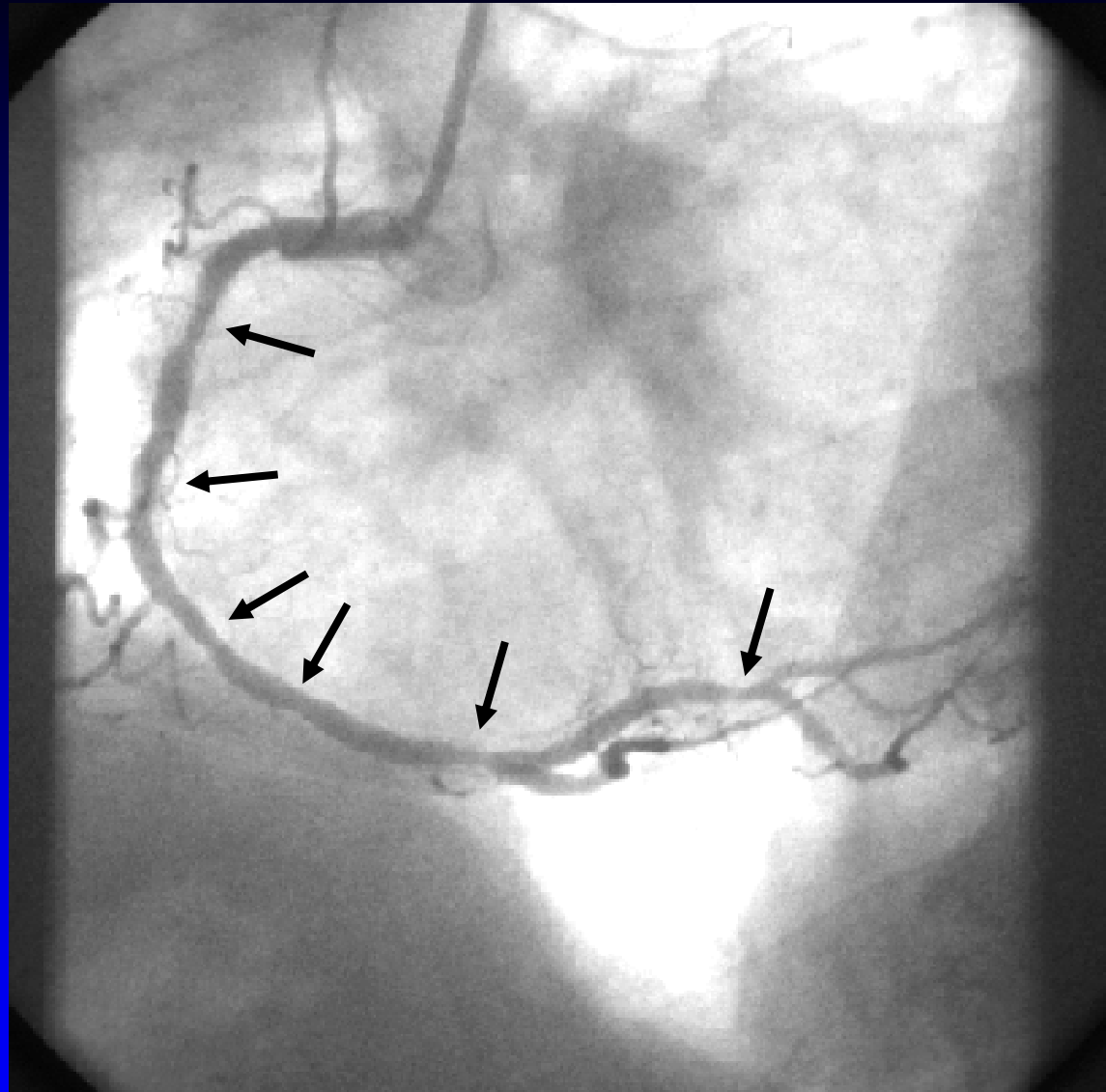


**important consequence for treatment**  
*(interventional or medical)*

Male 58-y-old



***Typical chest pain; positive MIBI-Spect inferior wall***

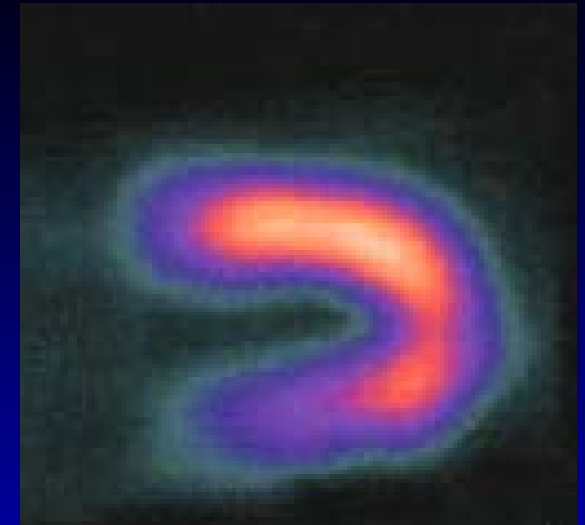
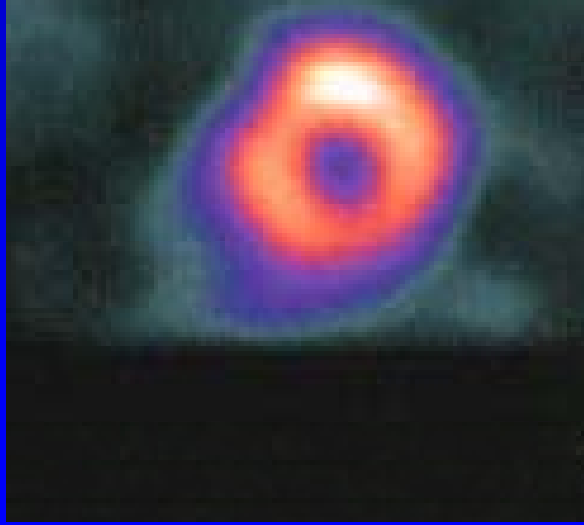
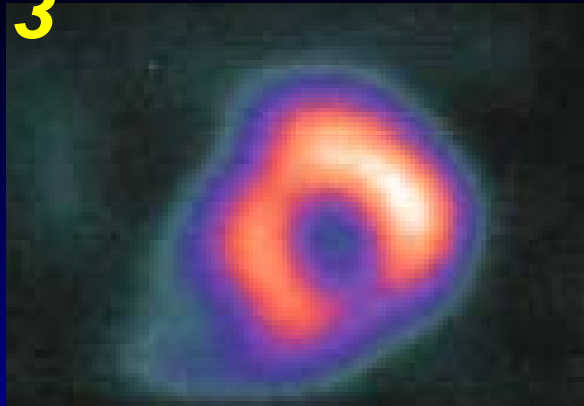


***Typical chest pain; positive MIBI-Spect inferior wall***



***Typical chest pain; positive MIBI-Spect inferior wall***

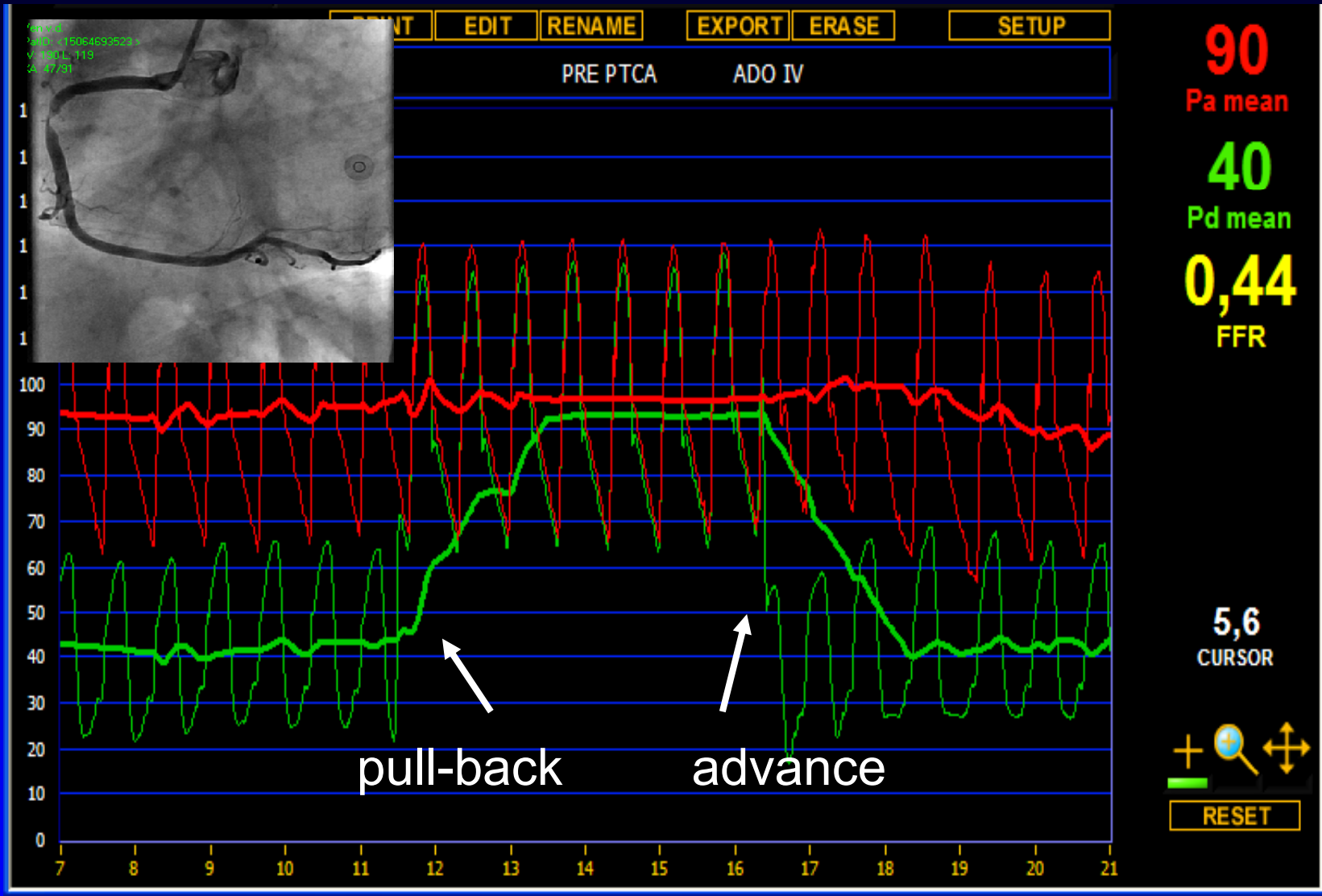
**CASE # 3**



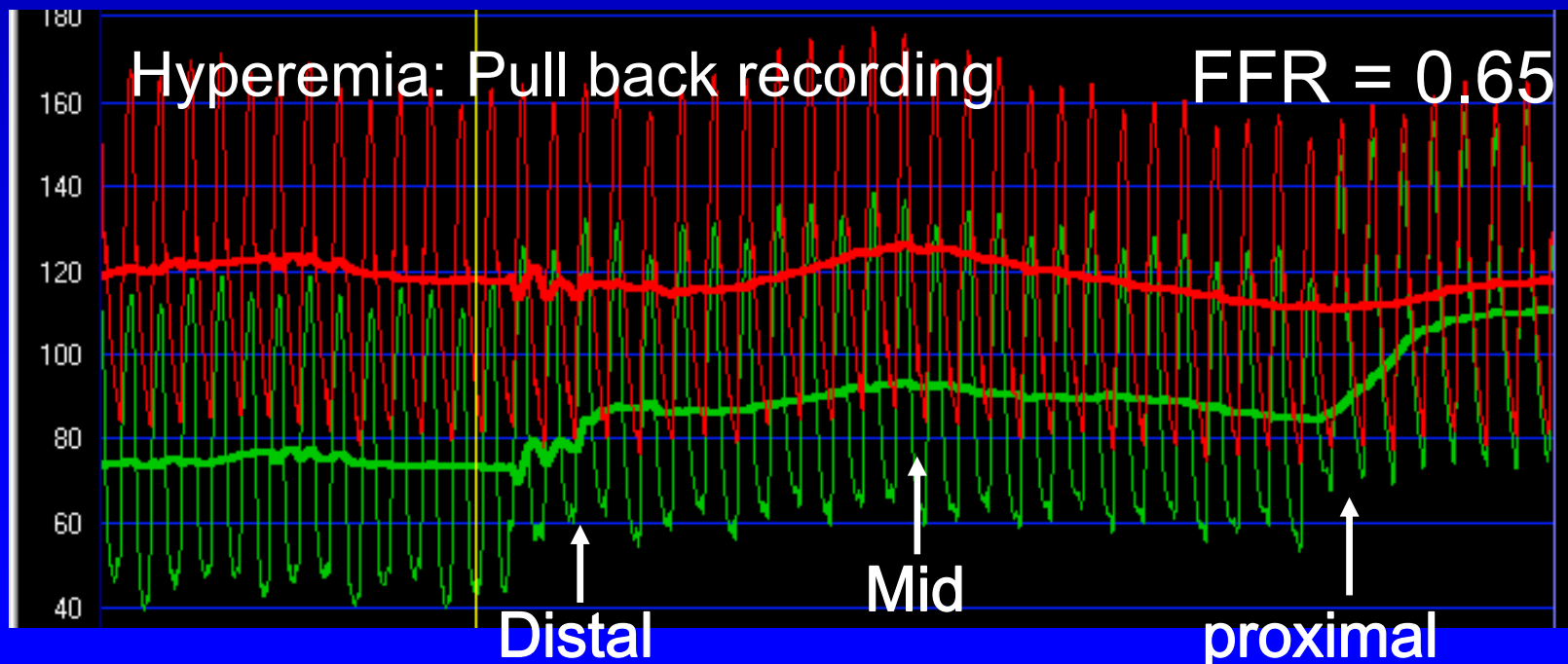
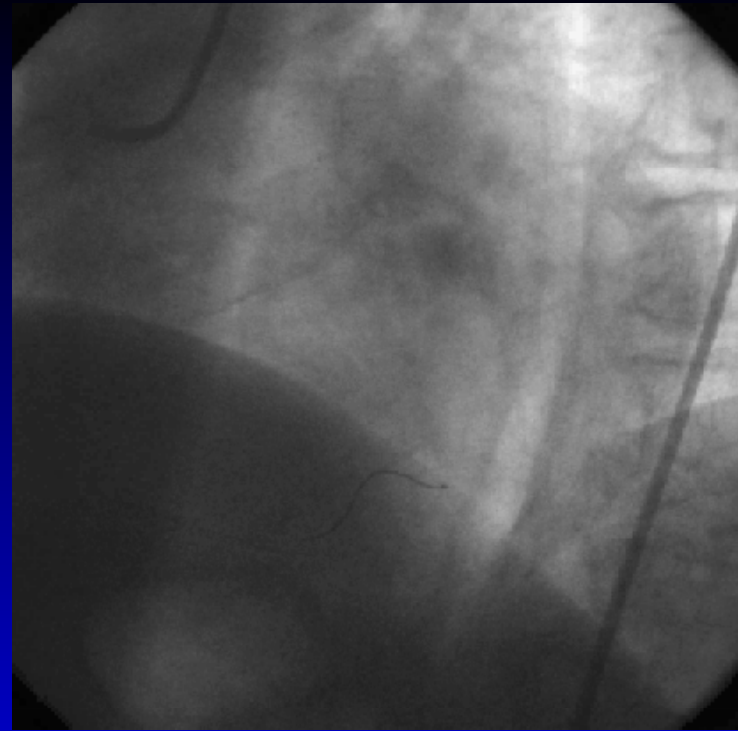
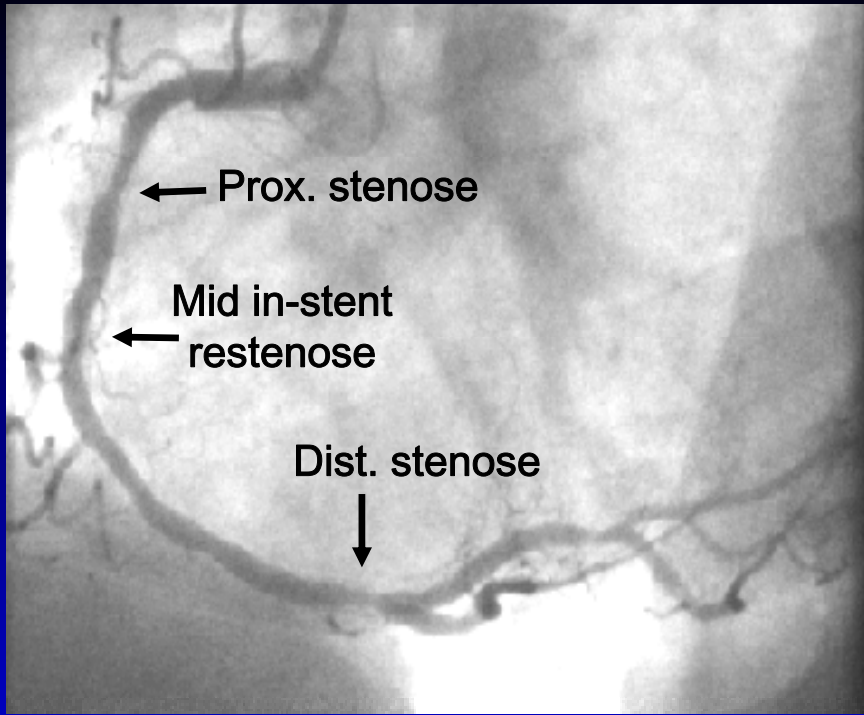
6



6







EDIT

RENAME

EXPORT

ERASE

SETUP

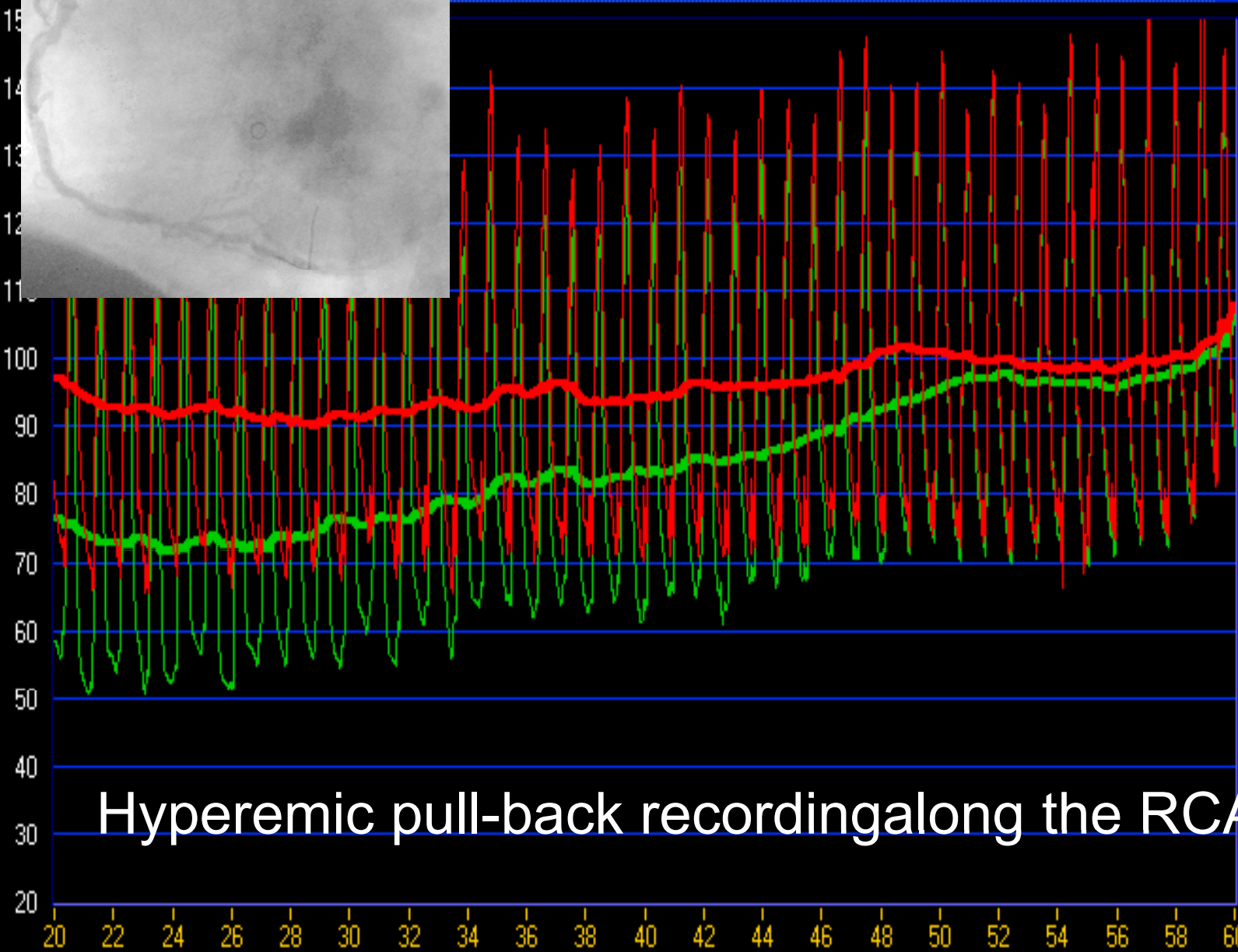
2004-06-14 15:55:19

**109**  
Pa mean

**84**  
Pd mean

**0,77**  
FFR

**7,9**  
Cursor



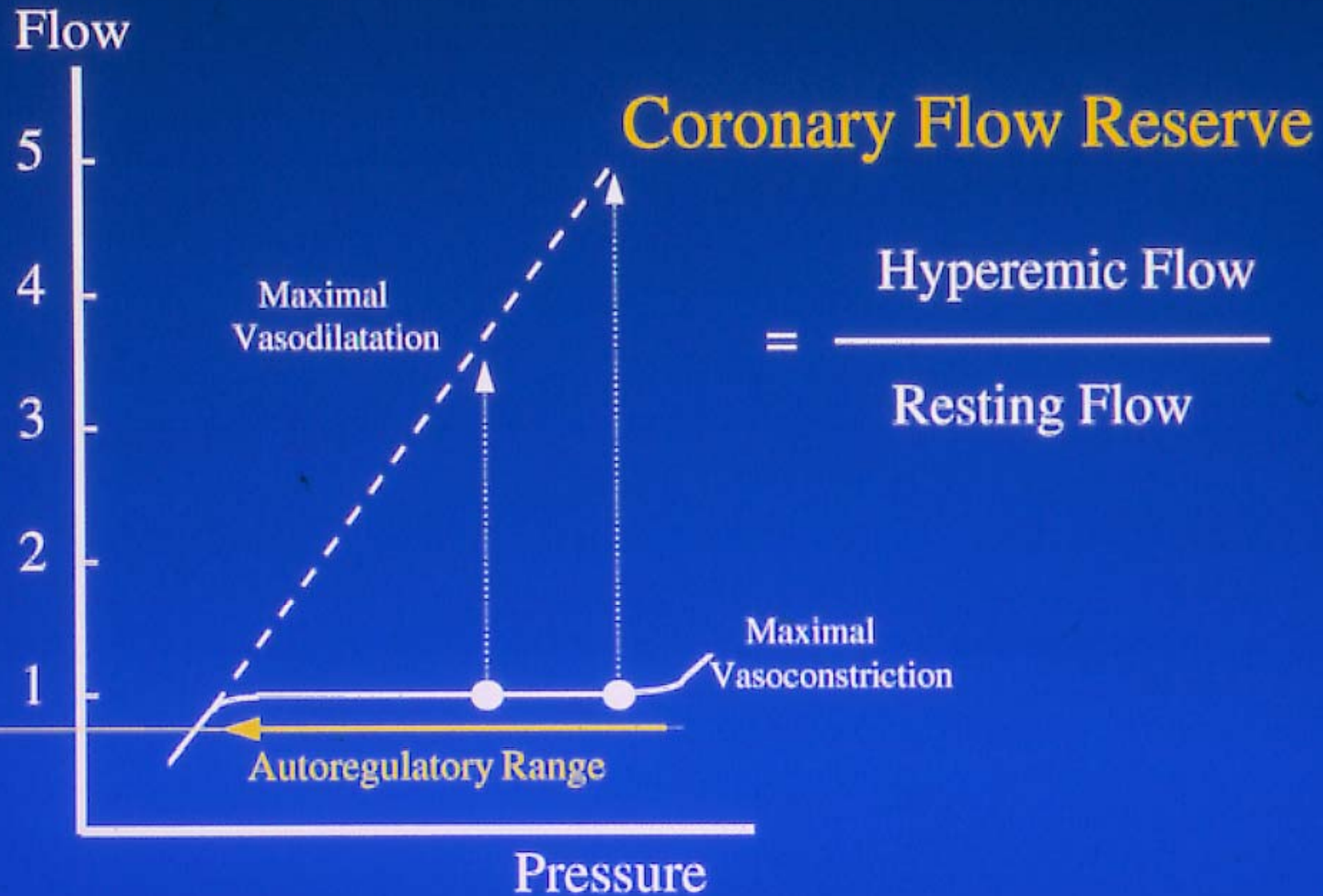
Hyperemic pull-back recording along the RCA



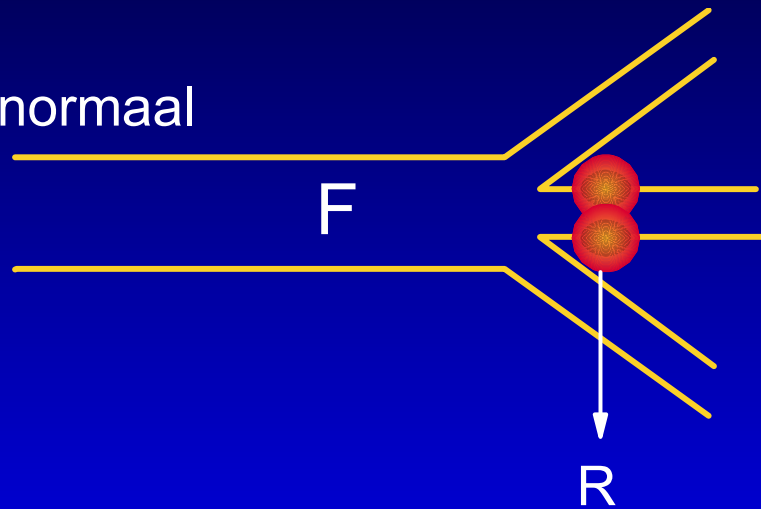
RESET

Soort conclusiedia

# The Concept of Coronary Flow Reserve



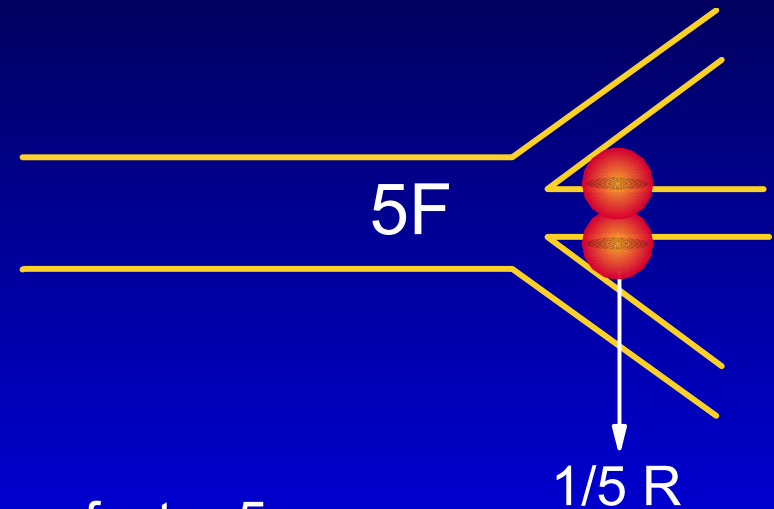
normaal



F

R

reserve  $\approx$  factor 5



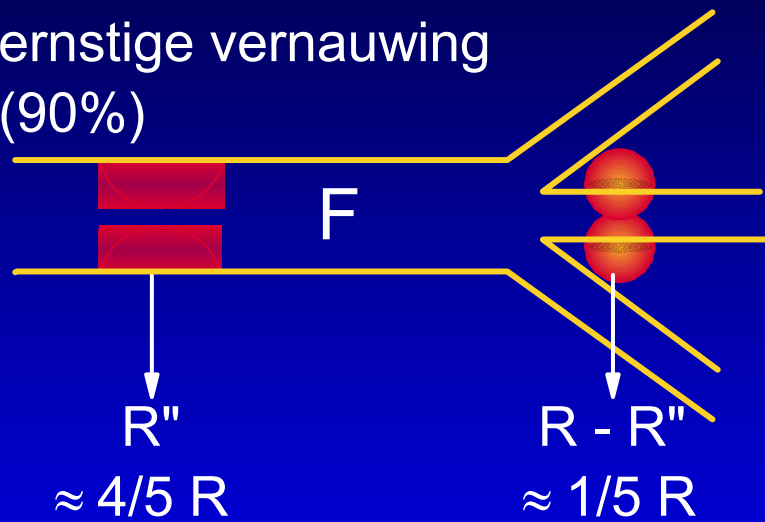
5F

1/5 R

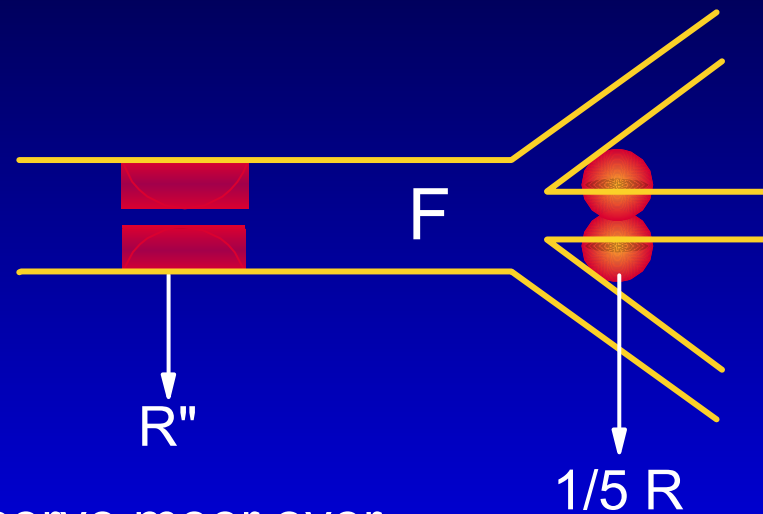
RUST

MAX. VASODILATATIE

ernstige vernauwing  
(90%)

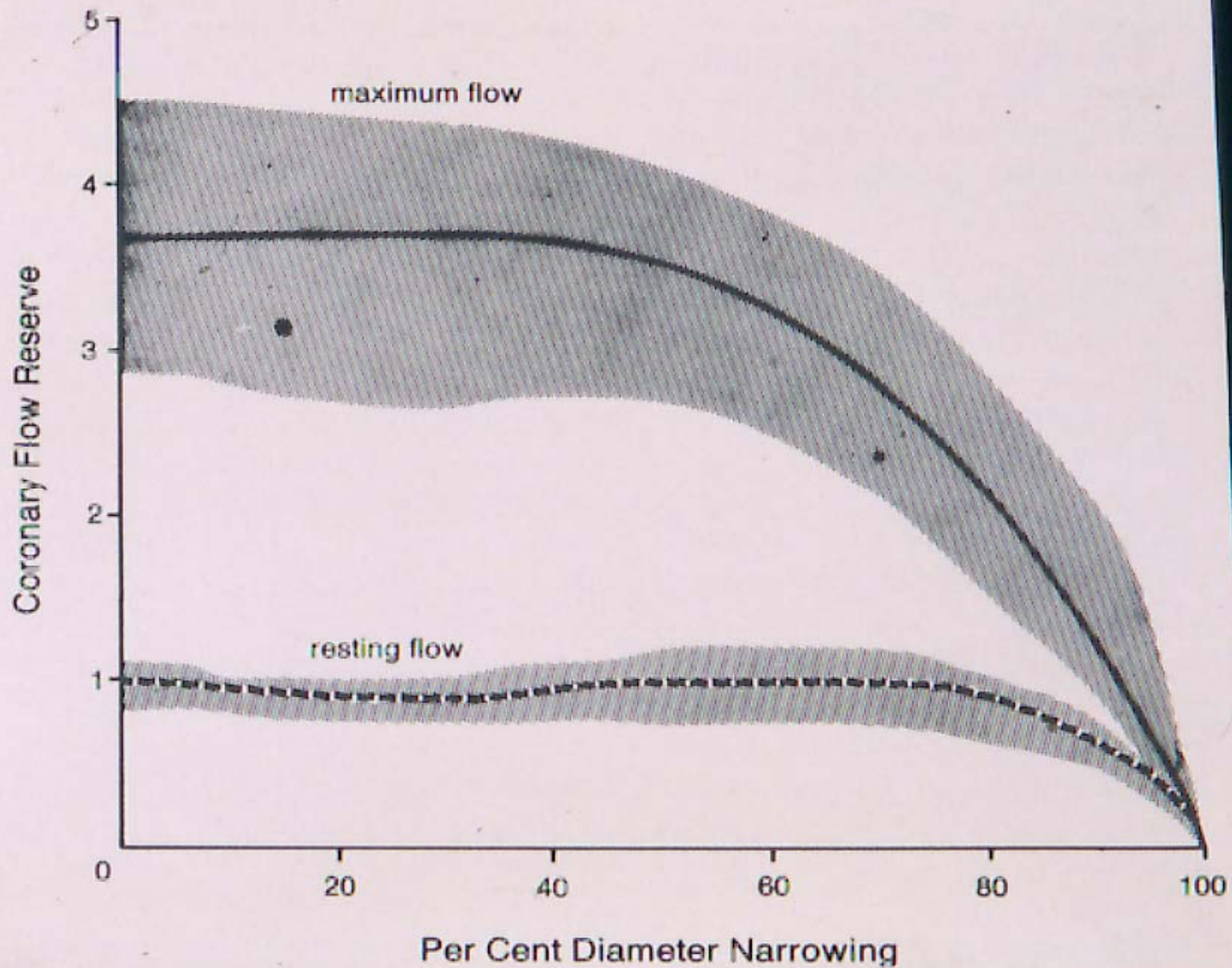


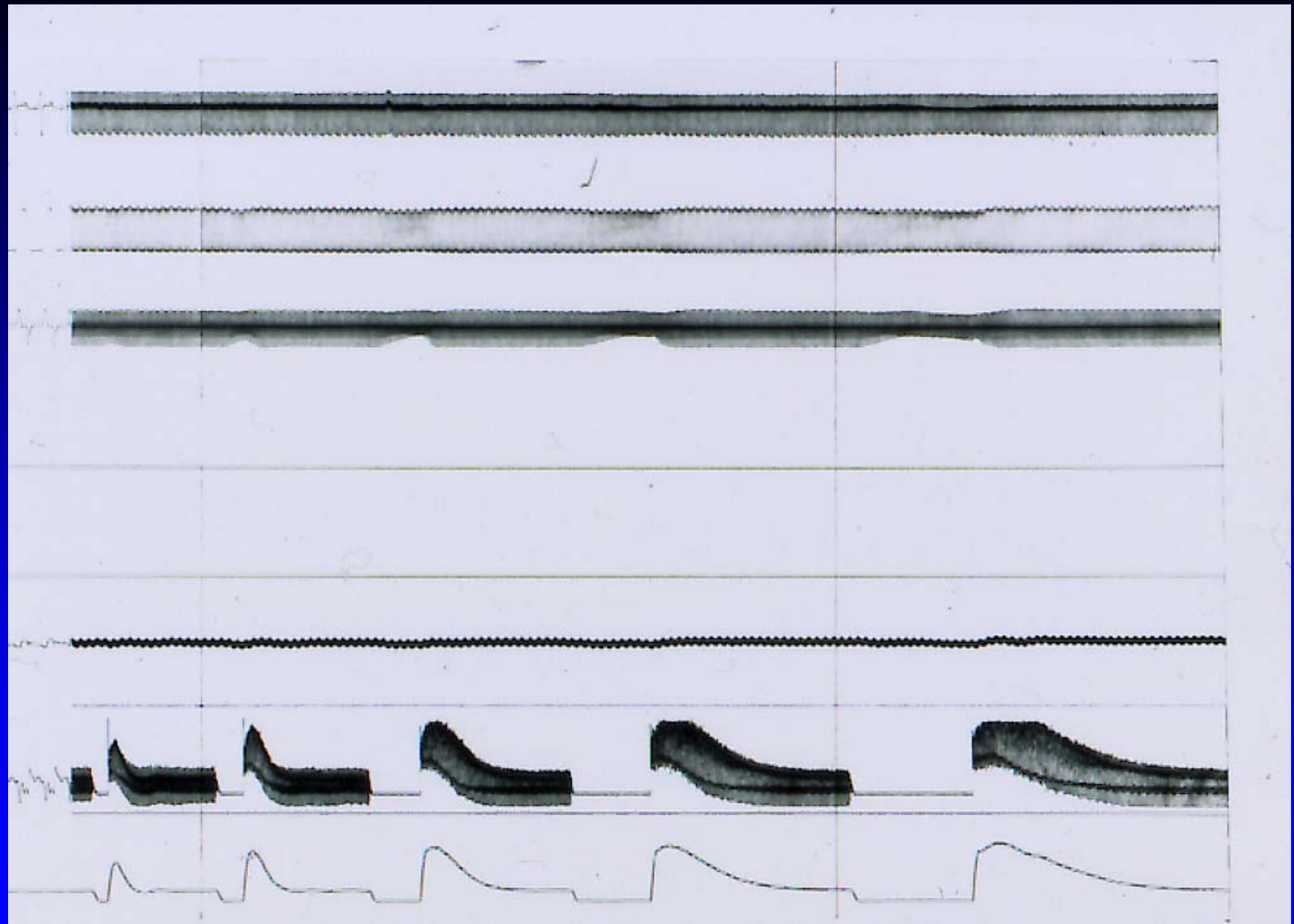
**RUST**



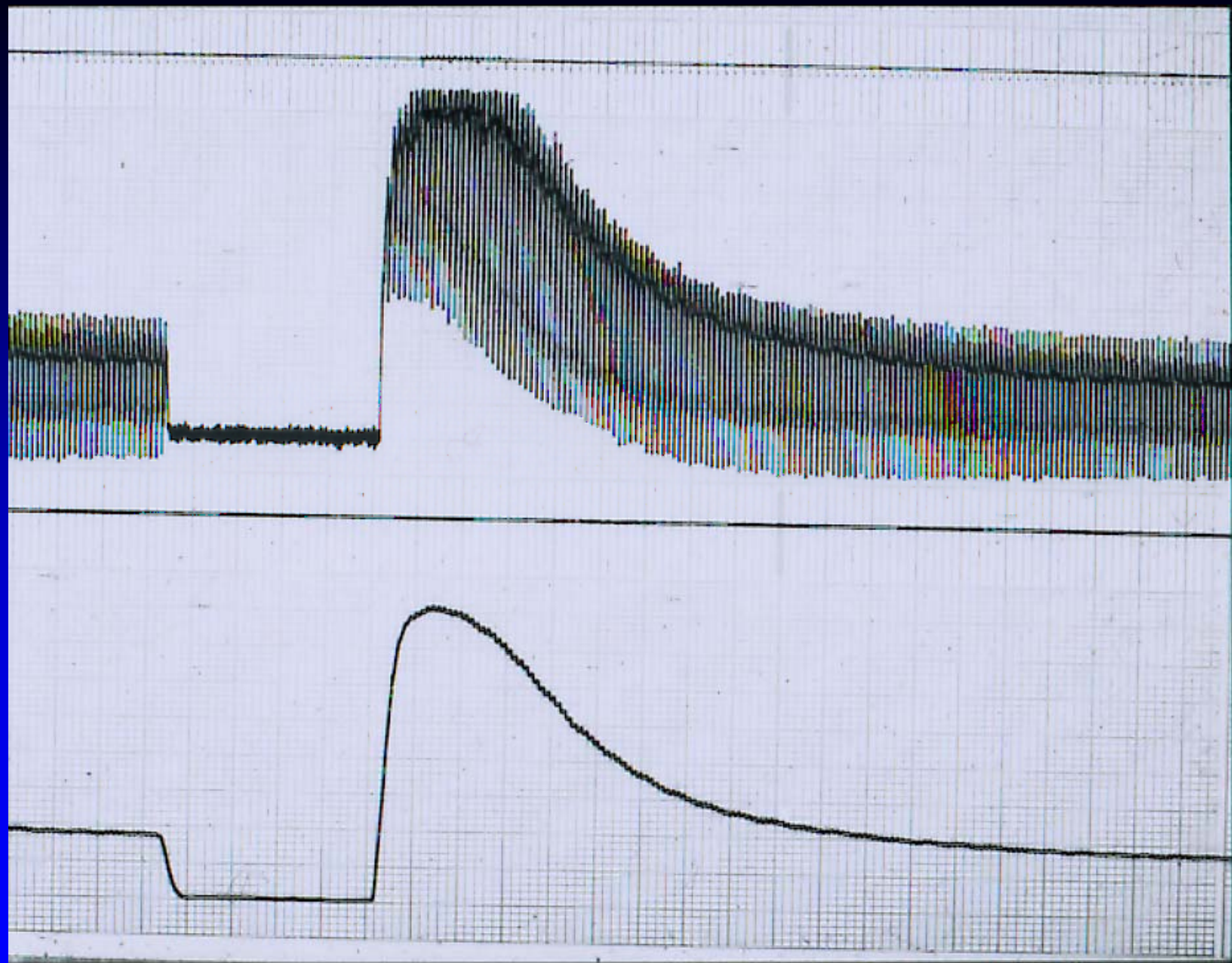
**MAX. VASODILATATIE**

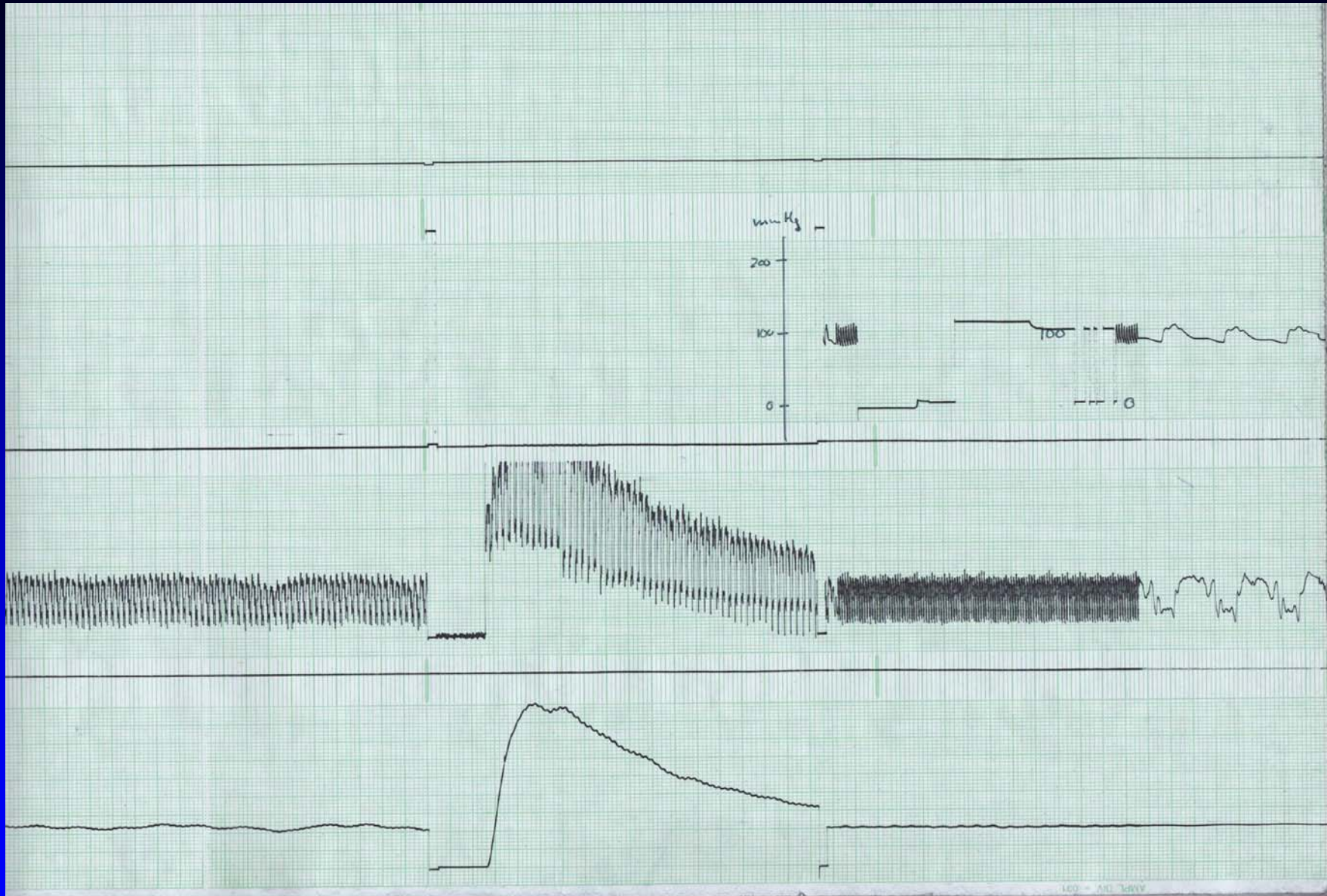
geen reserve meer over











AMPL DIV - 100

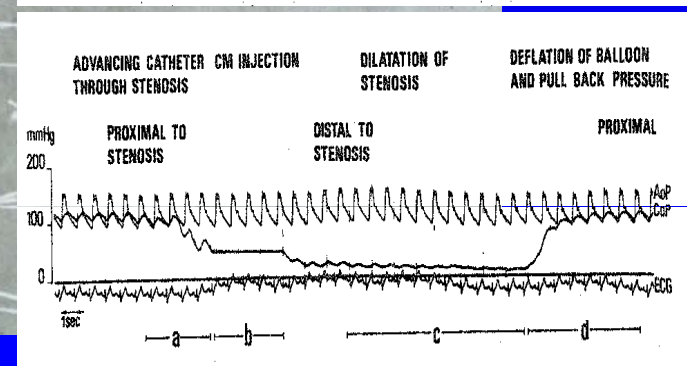
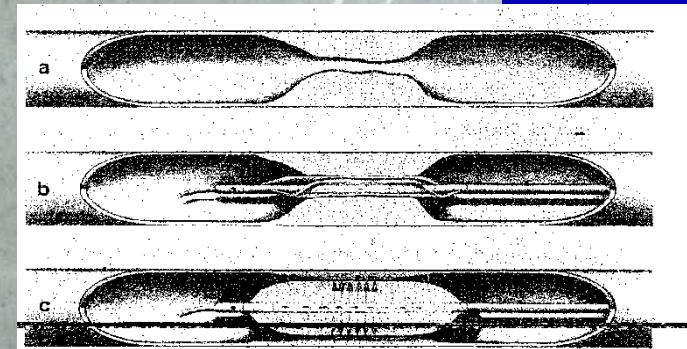
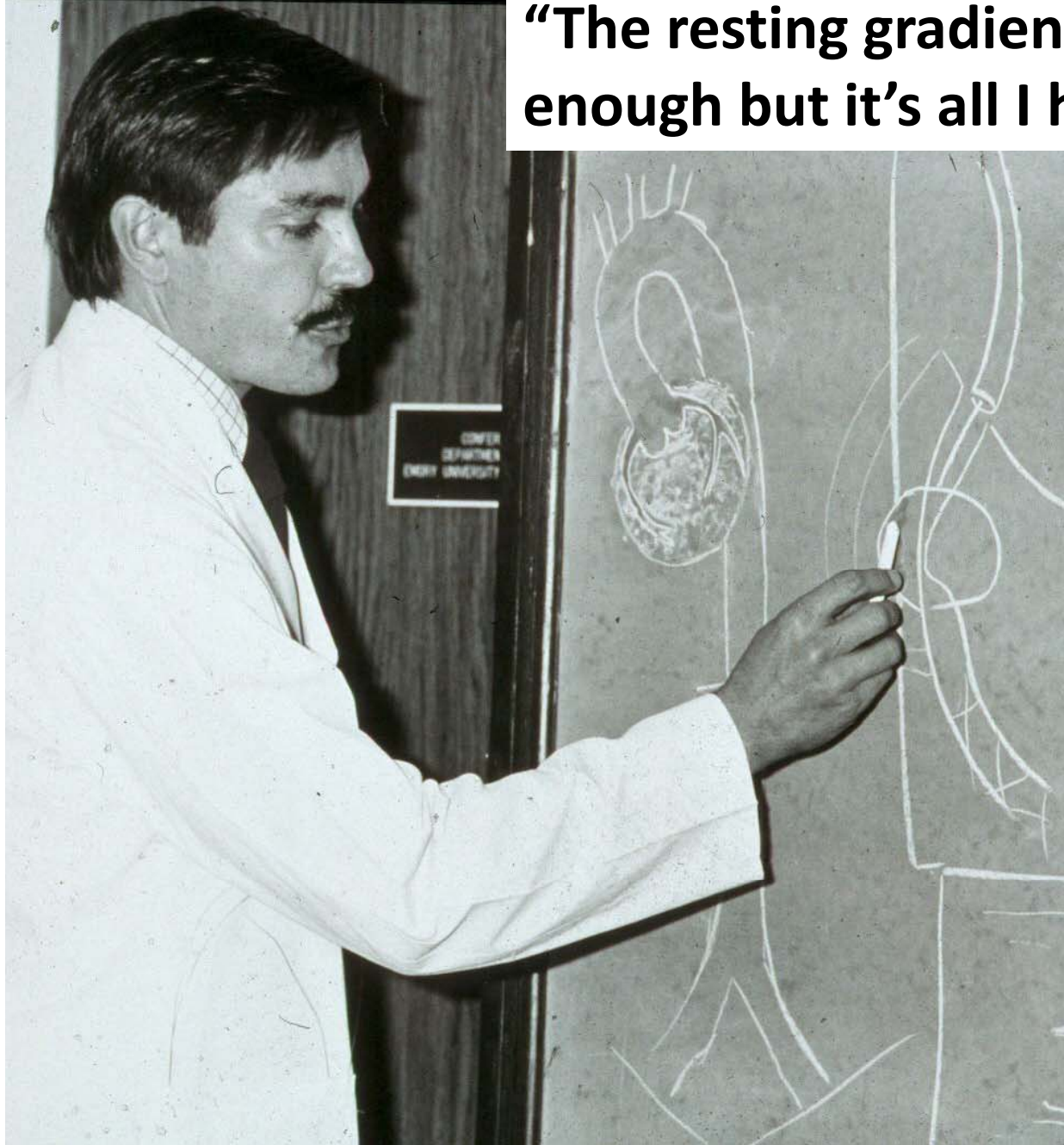
## FLUID DYNAMIC EQUATION:

$$\Delta P = f.Q + s.Q^2$$

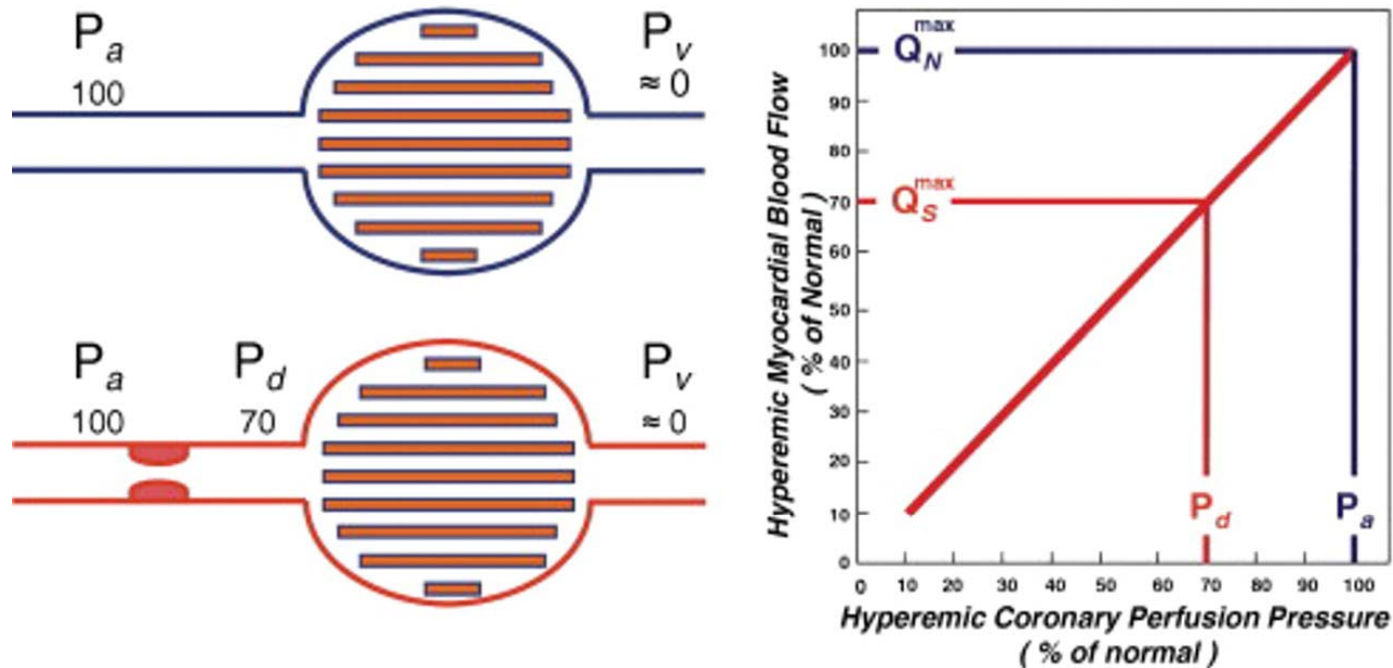
Hier tekening afmaken

- Resting gradient cannot predict hyperemic gradient because Friction coefficient (f) and separation coefficient (s) are greater and different from one stenosis to another
- Functional assessment without hyperemia is a Windtunnel without wind

**“The resting gradient is not nearly enough but it’s all I have now”.**

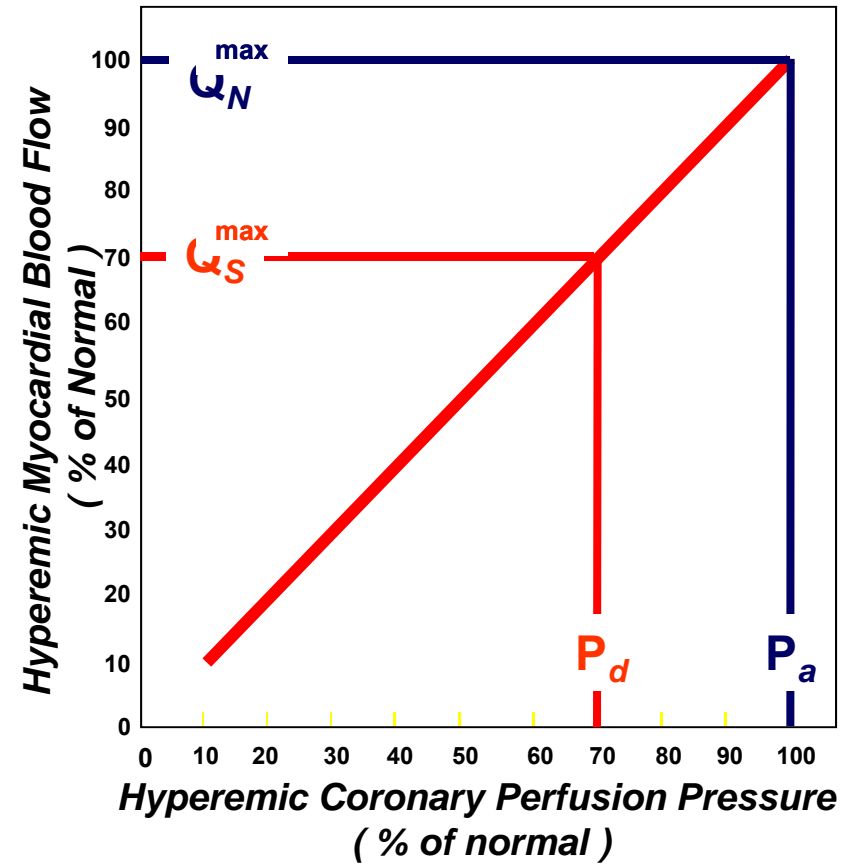
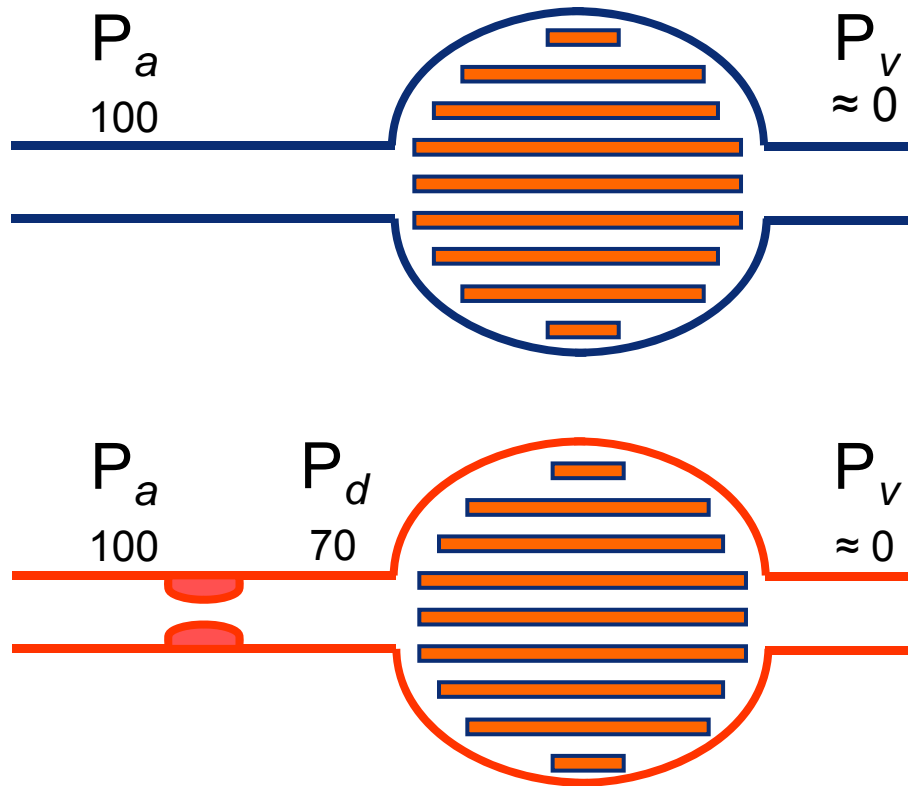


# Concept of Fractional Flow Reserve Measurements

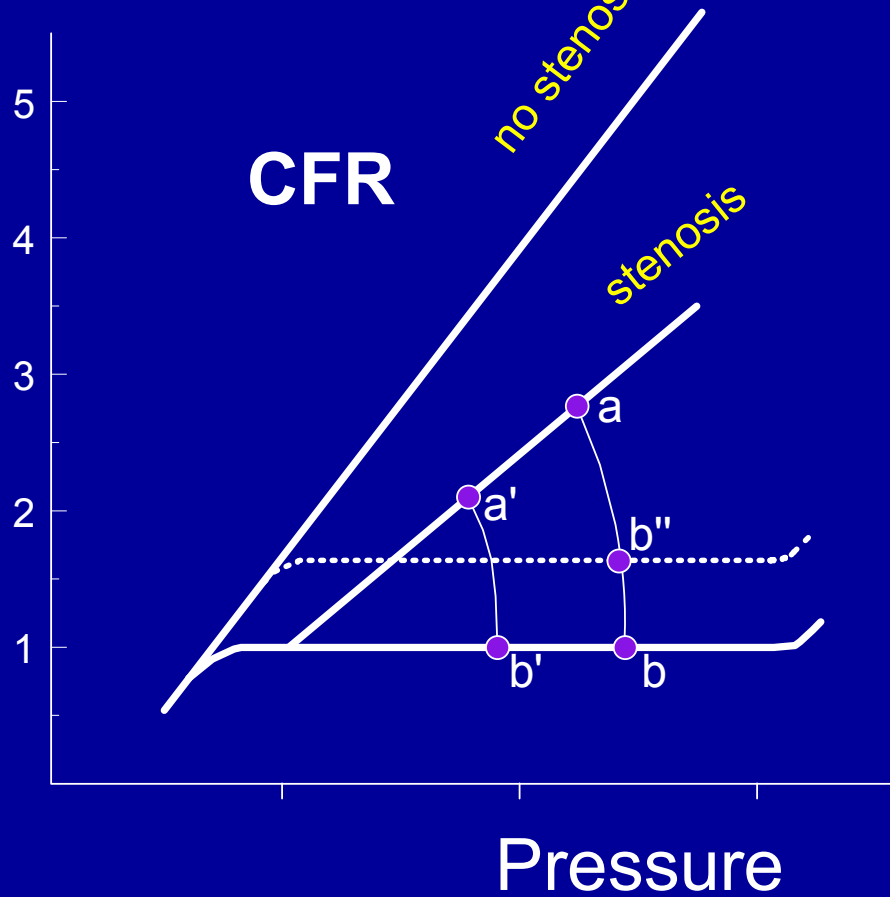


Pijls, N. H. J. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2012;59:1045-1057

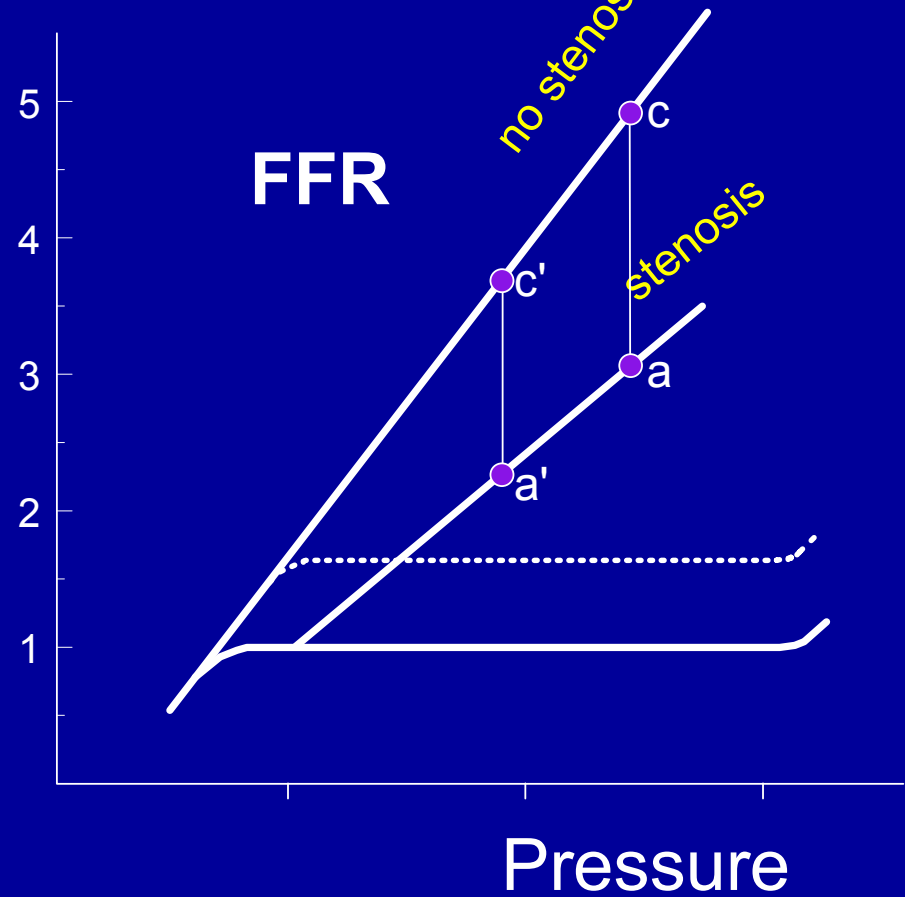
# The concept of Fractional Flow Reserve



Flow



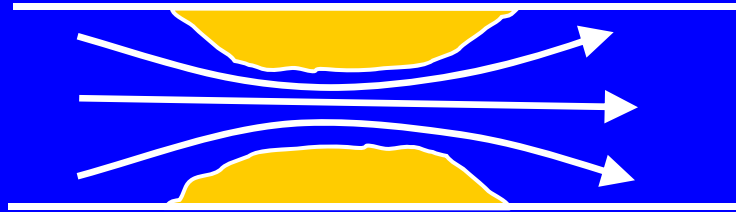
Flow



Deze dia er uit

$$\Delta P = f.Q + s.Q^2$$

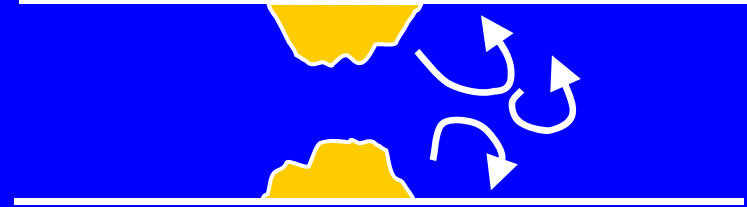
**f** = friction coefficient



Moderate gradient at rest

Moderate increment at hyperemia

**s** = separation coefficient



Small gradient at rest

Large gradient at hyperemia

