



**2022 Hospital Medicine Update**  
**May 11-14**

# **Hospital management of Acute Pulmonary Embolism**

An update of current practices

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# Disclosures

- I have no financial disclosures or conflicts of interest with the presented material in this presentation



# Objectives

- Pulmonary Embolism Classification
- Acute Management
- IVC Filter Indications
- Home Treatment

# CASE

## What is the next best step in this patient's management?

- A. VQ Scan
- B. Obtain CT Angiogram PE Protocol and start UFH or LMWH**
- C. 2D Echocardiogram
- D. COVID19 swab

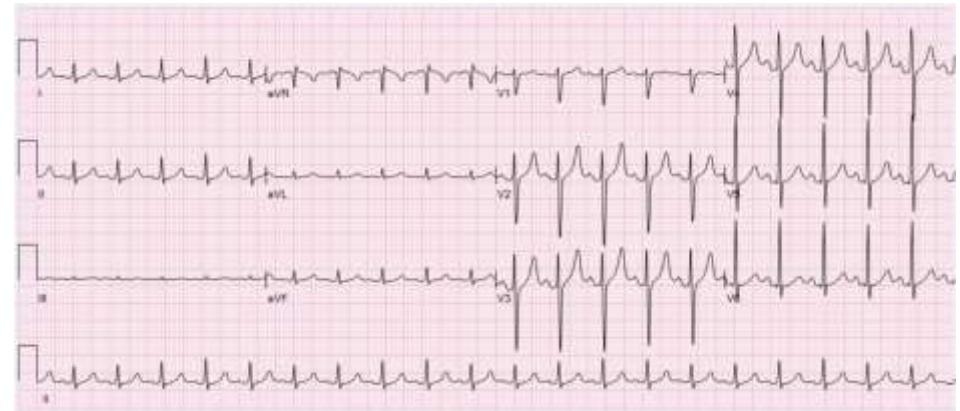
64 year old female with COPD exacerbation two days after...

Her oxygen needs increased from 2 to 6 lpm to maintain SpO2 greater 88%.

She has a non productive cough and inspiratory chest pain.



Test	Value
D-dimer	< 250 pg/mL
Pro-BNP	0.18 ng/mL
Hgb	14.6 g/dl
Procalcitonin	0.03 ng/mL
Lactate	2.6 mmol/L



# CASE C

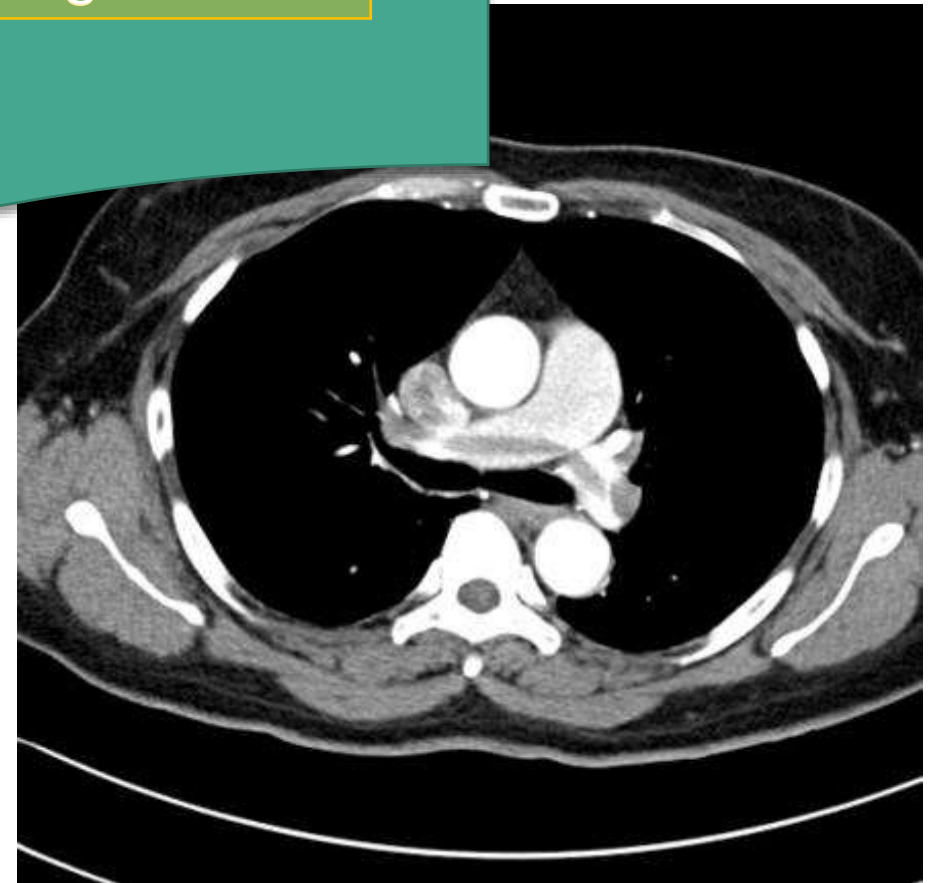
Based on ESC 2019 Guidelines what classification of pulmonary embolism does this patient have?

- A. Low risk/Non-massive
- B. Intermediate low risk/Sub-massive
- C. Intermediate high risk/Sub-massive high risk
- D. High risk/Massive

CT Angiogram  
bilateral pulmonary  
ratio 1.3 with

Laboratory studies	
<b>BNP</b>	< 250 pg/mL
<b>Troponin</b>	0.18 ng/mL
<b>Hgb</b>	14.6 g/dl
<b>Procalcitonin</b>	0.03 ng/mL
<b>Lactate</b>	2.6 mmol/L

Vitals	
<b>HR</b>	103
<b>BP</b>	122/74 mmHg
<b>RR</b>	18
<b>SpO2</b>	92% 6 lpm



## Epidemiology

- 3<sup>rd</sup> leading cause of cardiovascular death and the incidence is rising.
- 10-30% mortality within one month
- > 33% of patients will have recurrence of VTE within 10 years

## Risk Factors

### Acquired

- Obesity
- Surgery / Immobility
- Malignancy
- Peripartum
- Antiphospholipid syndrome

### Inherited

- Factor V Leiden
- Prothrombin gene mutation
- Protein C & S deficiency

## Presenting Symptoms

(PIOPED II)

- Dyspnea (73%)
- Tachypnea (54%)
- Pleuritic pain (44%)
- Calf pain (44%)
- Tachycardia (24%)

## PE Classification

# Pulmonary Embolism in Acute Exacerbation of COPD

Most exacerbations are due to infectious etiology

Up to 30% of AE-COPD patients the etiology remains unknown (1)

Systemic Review and meta-analysis of published articles demonstrated the prevalence of VTE during acute exacerbations is 19.9% (2)

In two separate articles exclusive to patients admitted for acute exacerbation, the prevalence was 25.5% (2)

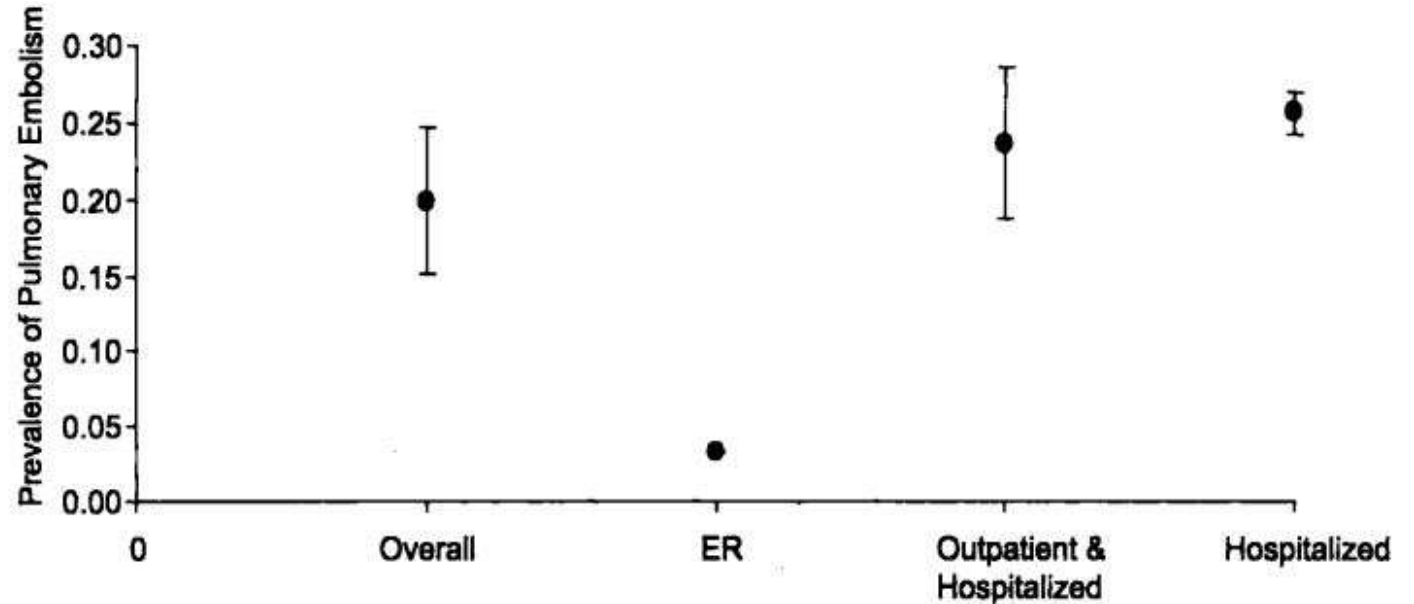


FIGURE 2. The prevalence of PE across different sites. The filled circles represent the mean, and the line bars represent SE; p value for overall = 0.014; p value for emergency department (ER) is not calculable because there was only one study; p value for studies that evaluated inpatients and outpatients = 0.133; p value for studies that evaluated only hospitalized patients = 0.034.

[1] Sapey E, Stockley RA (2006) COPD exacerbations. 2: aetiology. Thorax 61:250–258

[2] Jacques Rizkallah, S.F. Paul Man, Don D. Sin Prevalence of Pulmonary Embolism in Acute exacerbations of COPD CHEST Journal VOLUME 135, ISSUE 3, P786-793, MARCH 01, 2009



Early mortality risk		Indicators of risk			
		Haemodynamic instability <sup>a</sup>	Clinical parameters of PE severity and/or comorbidity: PESI class III–V or sPESI $\geq$ 1	RV dysfunction on TTE or CTPA <sup>b</sup>	Elevated cardiac troponin levels <sup>c</sup>
High		+	(+) <sup>d</sup>	+	(+)
Intermediate	Intermediate–high	-	+ <sup>e</sup>	+	+
	Intermediate–low	-	+ <sup>e</sup>	One (or none) positive	
Low		-	-	-	Assesment optional; if assessed, negative

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- Predictor for 30-day mortality.
- Has not been studied for risk of in-hospital death.
- Over stratifies elderly patients, and under stratifies the young.

Parameter	Original version <sup>214</sup>	Simplified version <sup>218</sup>
Age	Age in years	1 point (if age >80 years)
Male sex	+10 points	–
Cancer	+30 points	1 point
Chronic heart failure	+10 points	1 point
Chronic pulmonary disease	+10 points	
Pulse rate ≥110 b.p.m.	+20 points	1 point
Systolic blood pressure <100 mm Hg	+30 points	1 point
Respiratory rate >30 breaths per minute	+20 points	–
Temperature <36 °C	+20 points	–
Altered mental status	+60 points	–
Arterial oxyhaemoglobin saturation <90%	+20 points	1 point
	<b>Risk strata<sup>a</sup></b>	
	<b>Class I: ≤65 points</b> very low 30-day mortality risk (0–1.6%) <b>Class II: 66–85 points</b> low mortality risk (1.7–3.5%)  <b>Class III: 86–105 points</b> moderate mortality risk (3.2–7.1%) <b>Class IV: 106–125 points</b> high mortality risk (4.0–11.4%) <b>Class V: &gt;125 points</b> very high mortality risk (10.0–24.5%)	<b>0 points</b> = 30-day mortality risk 1.0% (95% CI 0.0%–2.1%)  <b>≥1 point(s)</b> = 30-day mortality risk 10.9% (95% CI 8.5%–13.2%)

**Early initiation of anticoagulation is associated with reduced mortality for acute pulmonary embolism.**

Retrospective single tertiary center cohort study of 400 consecutive patients in ER diagnosed with acute PE by CT angiography at Mayo Clinic.

June 2002 to September 2005

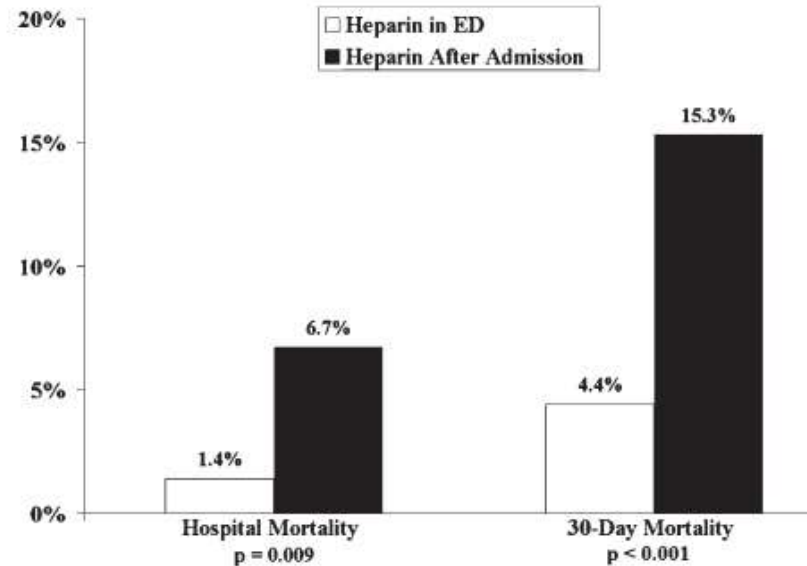


FIGURE 1. Hospital and 30-day mortality rates for patients who received heparin in the ED compared with those who received heparin after admission.

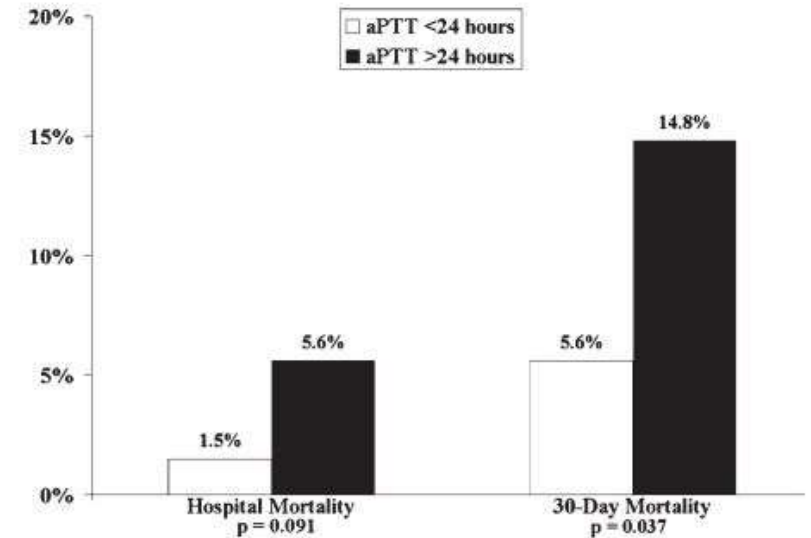


FIGURE 2. Hospital and 30-day mortality rates for patients who achieved a therapeutic aPTT prior to 24 h from ED arrival compared with those who achieved a therapeutic aPTT after 24 hours. aPTT = activated partial thromboplastin time.

Patients who received early heparin in the ED had lower in hospital and 30 day mortality.

# CASE C

What is the next best step in the acute management?

- A. Intubate
- B. Place patient on non-invasive ventilation
- C. Administer 1L saline bolus
- D. Place patient on high flow nasal cannula

5 hours after  
patients con  
breather mo

Consultation to the  
Response Team (PERT) is activated. She  
appears euvolemic on examination.

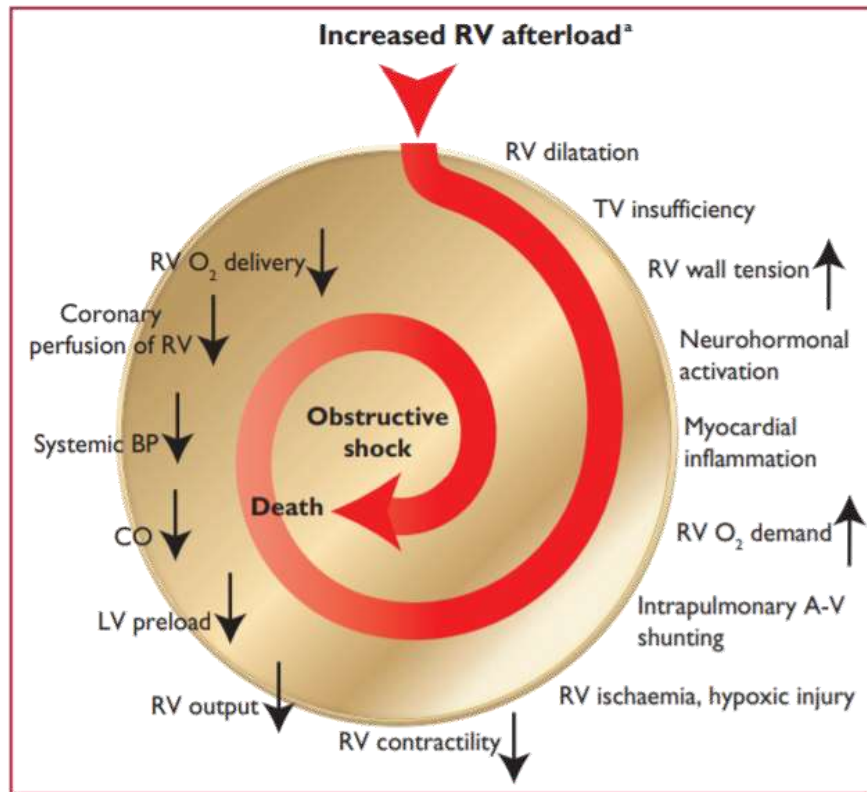


<b>BG</b>	
	41
<b>pCO2</b>	21 mmHg
<b>pO2</b>	58 mmHg
	mEq/L
<b>HCO3</b>	22
<b>Vitals</b>	
<b>HR</b>	115
<b>BP</b>	92/50 mmHg
<b>RR</b>	28
<b>SpO2</b>	90% (15 lpm)

- ✓ Avoid intubation or non-invasive ventilation unless necessary
- ✓ Use high flow nasal cannula
- ✓ Caution volume loading, saline, or ringer's lactate < 500 mL over 15-30 minutes
- ✓ Early initiation of vasopressors (norepinephrine)

# Acute Management

## Complete RV Failure



25%

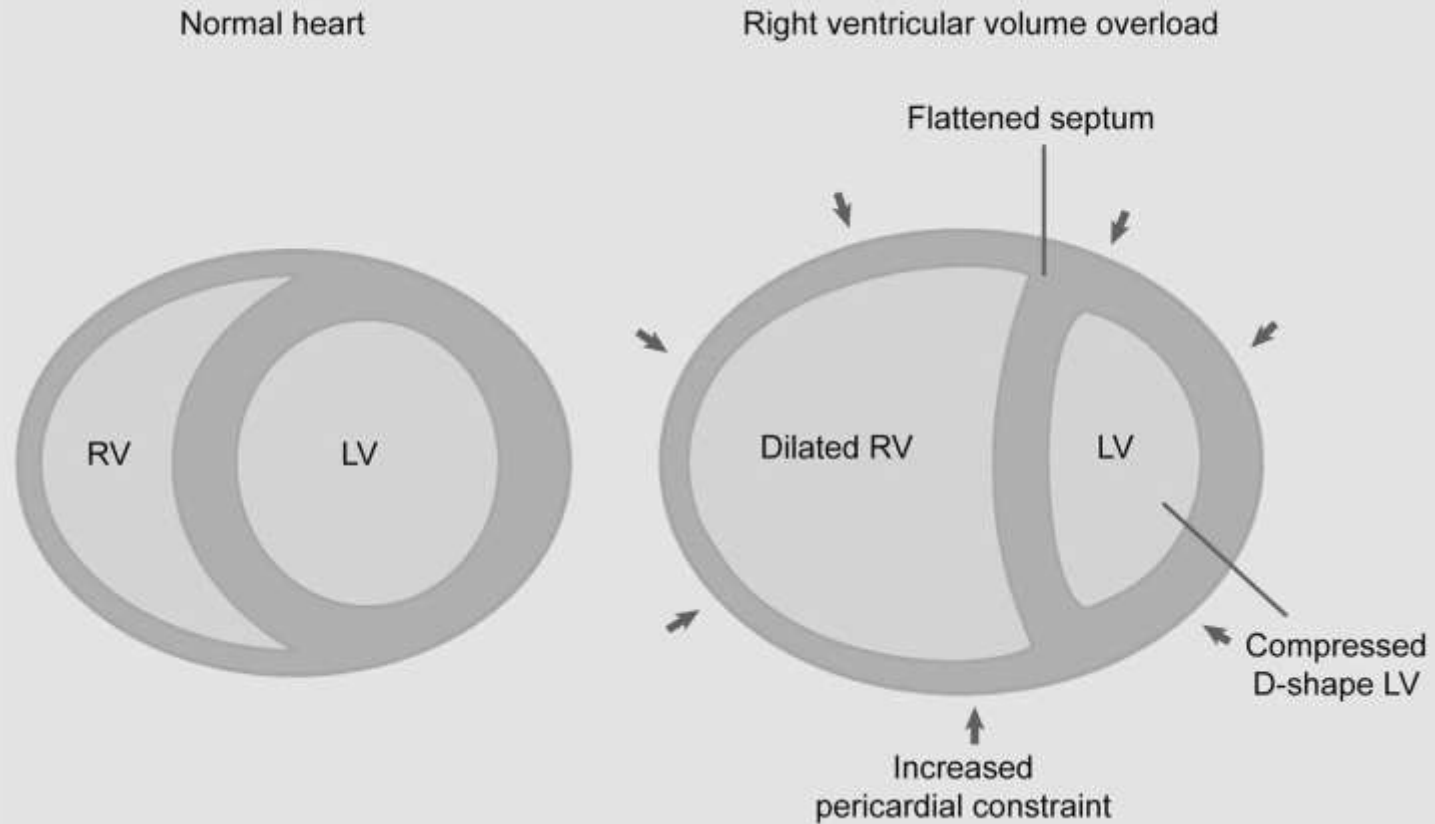
Percent of patients who have evidence of right ventricular dysfunction on presentation

45%

Of those with evidence of right ventricular dysfunction, 45% will have right ventricular failure

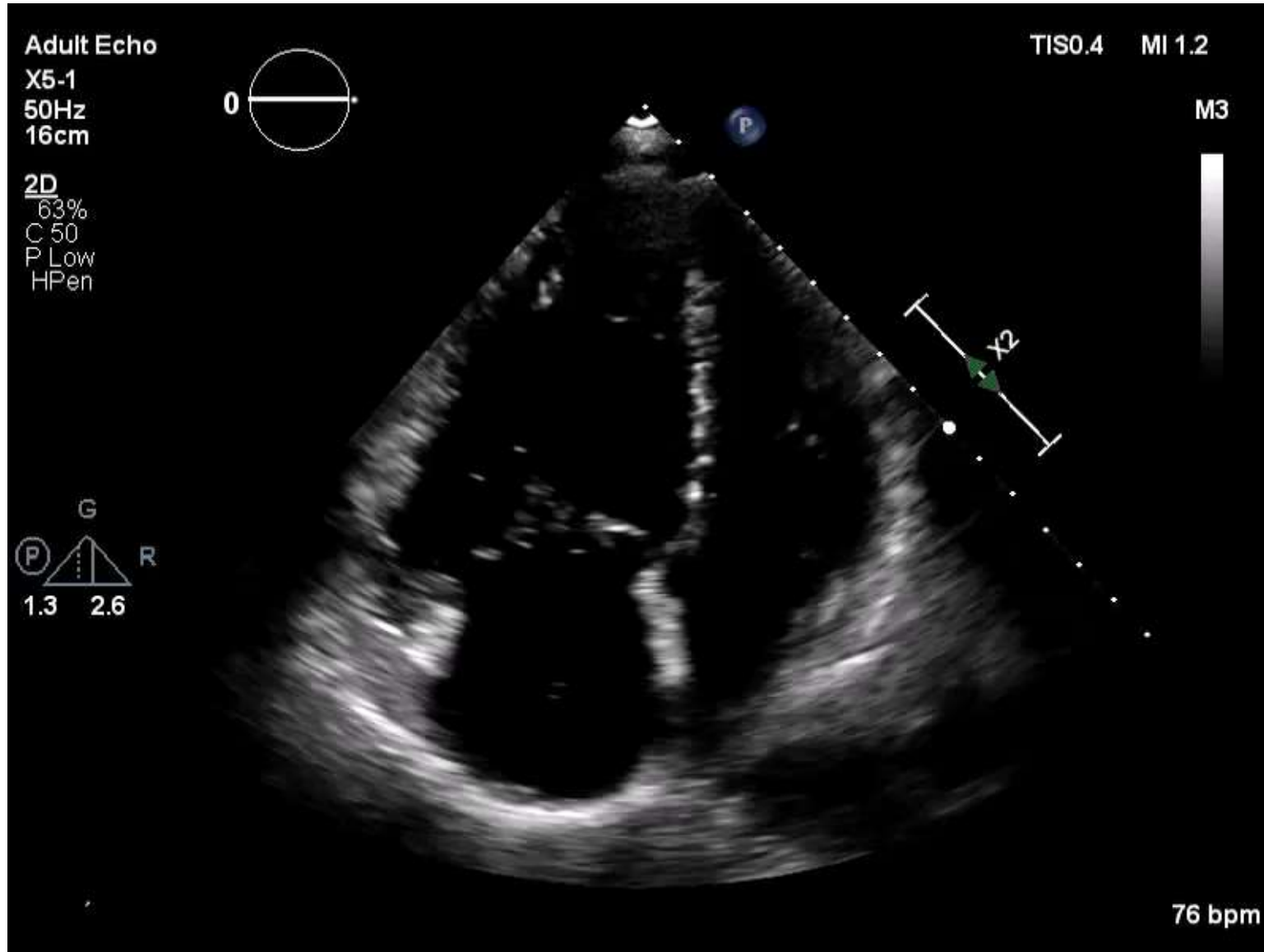
65%

Mortality rate among those with hypotension

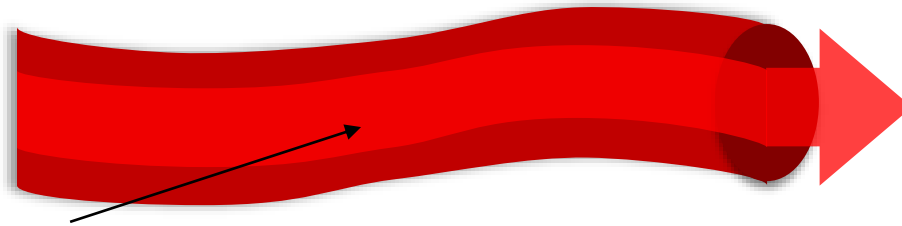


# Acute Management

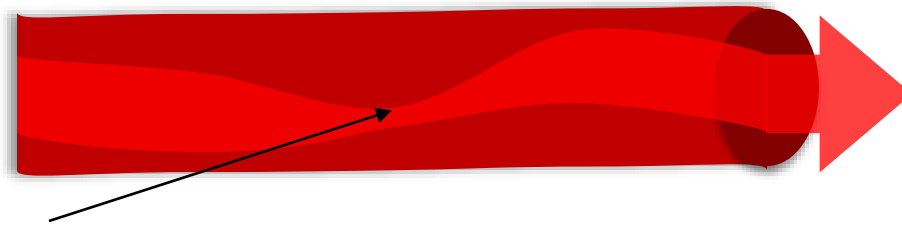
## Right Ventricular Dysfunction







Normal pressure and folds in the RV wall resulting in unimpeded coronary artery flow



Increased pressure and straightening of the folds in the RV wall resulting in impedance of the coronary artery flow

**Coronary Perfusion Pressure = MAP - CVP**

**Cardiac Output = HR x SV**

# CASE C

What is the next best step in management of this patient?

- A. Intubate
- B. Give Systemic thrombolysis
- C. Place central line
- D. 1 liter normal saline bolus

After placement of a peripheral cannula the patient improves but remains hypotensive.

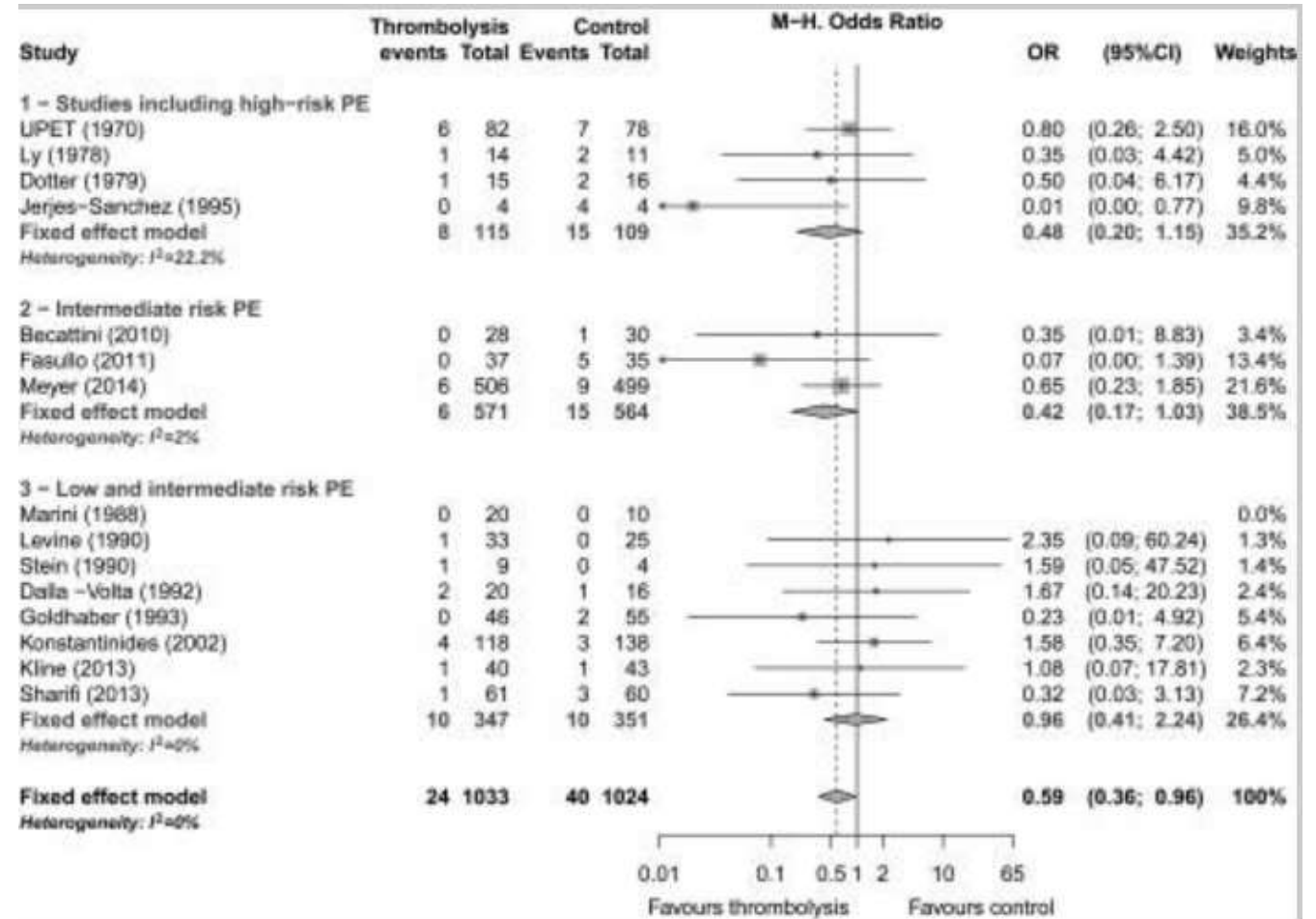
She is neurologically intact and has no history of GI bleed or recent surgery.

INR level is normal.

	SpO2
	93%
	RR
	30
	BP
	88/50 mmHg
	S
	20



- Systemic review of 15 studies including 2057 patients reported early ( $\leq 30$  days) all-cause mortality.
- Mortality was 2.3% (24/1033) in the thrombolysis group and 3.9% (40/1024) in the control group



In select patients (intermediate high and high risk/massive)

## Ekos – Ultrasound accelerated catheter directed thrombolysis

Randomized Controlled Trial > JACC Cardiovasc Interv. 2018 Jul 23;11(14):1401-1410.

doi: 10.1016/j.jcin.2018.04.008.

### A Randomized Trial of the Optimum Duration of Acoustic Pulse Thrombolysis Procedure in Acute Intermediate-Risk Pulmonary Embolism: The OPTALYSE PE Trial

Victor F Tapson<sup>1</sup>, Keith Sterling<sup>2</sup>, Noah Jones<sup>3</sup>, Mahir Elder<sup>4</sup>, Uttam Tripathy<sup>5</sup>, Jayson Brower<sup>6</sup>, Robert L Maholic<sup>7</sup>, Charles B Ross<sup>8</sup>, Kannan Natarajan<sup>9</sup>, Pete Fong<sup>10</sup>, Lee Greenspon<sup>11</sup>, Houman Tamaddon<sup>12</sup>, Amir R Piracha<sup>13</sup>, Tod Engelhardt<sup>14</sup>, John Katopodis<sup>15</sup>, Vasco Marques<sup>16</sup>, Andrew S P Sharp<sup>17</sup>, Gregory Piazza<sup>18</sup>, Samuel Z Goldhaber<sup>18</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 30025734 DOI: 10.1016/j.jcin.2018.04.008

## Angiodynamics alphavac

## Surgical embolectomy

## Inari Flotriever, Clotriever

### A Prospective, Single-Arm, Multicenter Trial of Catheter-Directed Mechanical Thrombectomy for Intermediate-Risk Acute Pulmonary Embolism: The FLARE Study

#### Peripheral

Thomas Tu, Catalin Toma, Victor F. Tapson, Christopher Adams, Wissam A. Jaber, Mitchell Silver, Sameer Khandhar, Rohit Amin, Mitchell Weinberg, Tod Engelhardt, Monica Hunter, David Holmes, Glenn Hoots, Hussam Hamdalla, ... [SEE ALL AUTHORS](#) ✓

J Am Coll Cardiol Interv. 2019 May, 12 (9) 859-869

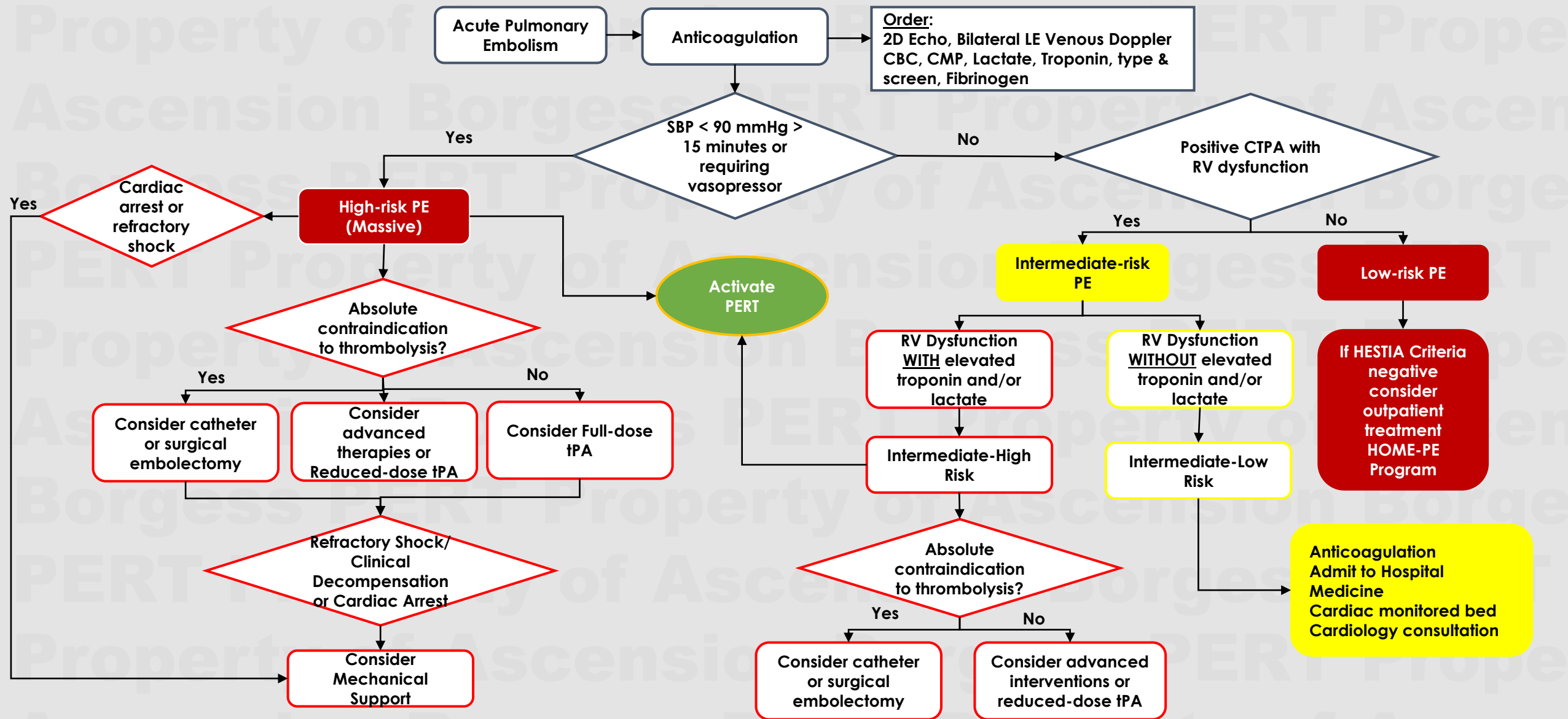
## Penumbra

### Indigo Aspiration System for Treatment of Pulmonary Embolism: Results of the EXTRACT-PE Trial

#### Peripheral

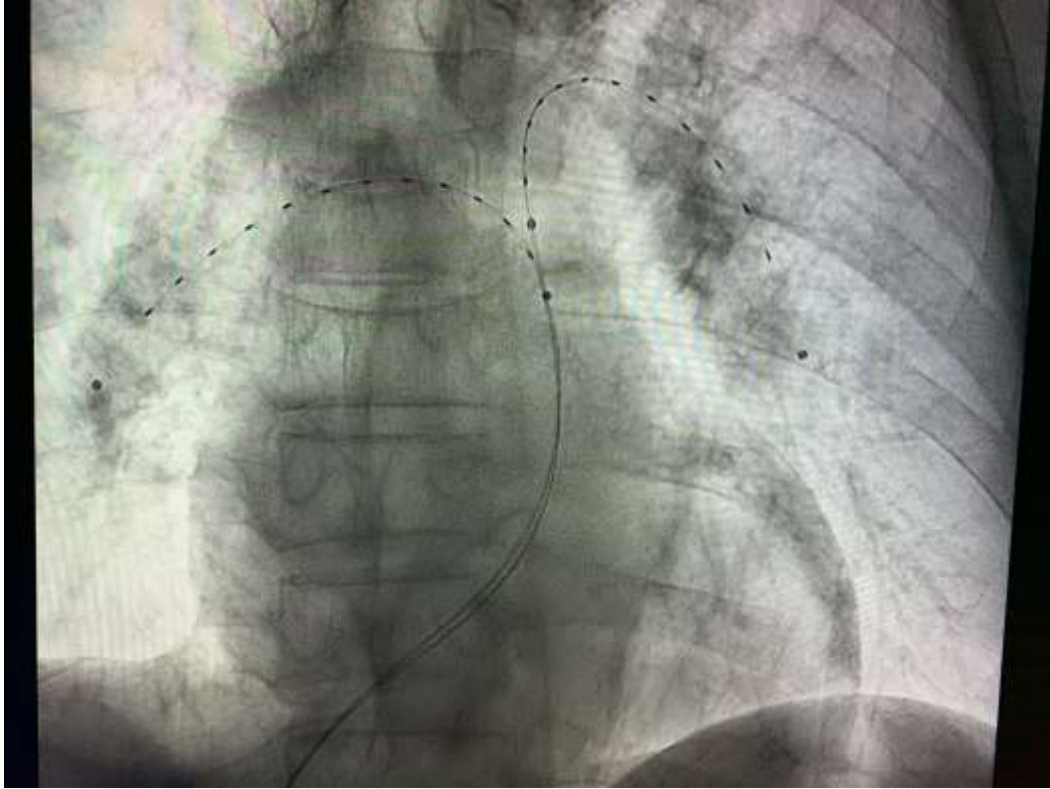
Akhilesh K. Sista, James M. Horowitz, Victor F. Tapson, Michael Rosenberg, Mahir D. Elder, Brian J. Schiro, Suhail Dohad, Nancy E. Amoroso, David J. Dexter, Christopher T. Loh, Daniel A. Leung, Bruce Kirke Bieneman, ... [SEE ALL AUTHORS](#) ✓

J Am Coll Cardiol Interv. 2021 Feb, 14 (3) 319-329

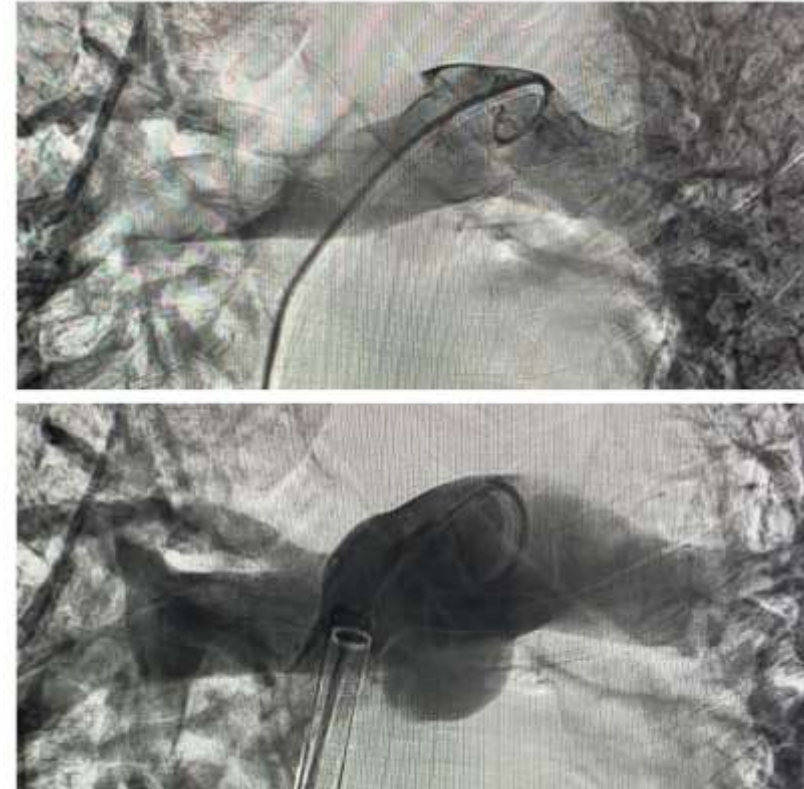


# Acute Management

## Interventions



Ekos Ultrasound accelerated catheter directed thrombolysis



Inari Flowtriever

## CASE C

Patient improved over the next 24 hours. Right mid-femoral artery occlusion. Sensation and pulses in lower extremities

### What is the next best step in management?

- A. Place IVC filter
- B. Continue anticoagulation
- C. Catheter directed thrombolysis and/or mechanical thrombectomy
- D. Continue mechanical compression devices

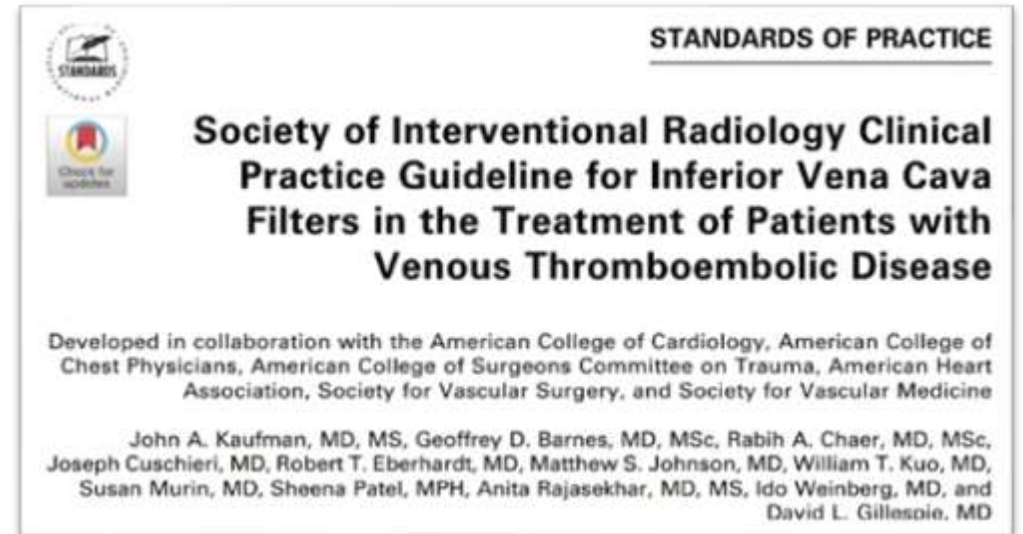


improved over the next 24 hours. Sensation and pulses in lower extremities

# IVC Filter Indications

## Questions to ask before considering IVC filter:

- Is there a major contraindication to anticoagulation?
- How will IVC filter mitigate risk?
- Does the benefit outweigh the risk?



Guidelines are based on weak recommendations.  
Current data is variable and often confusing.  
Inability to anticoagulate  $\neq$  IVC filter placement.



# IVC Filter Indications

## Guideline Recommendations

Strength of Recommendation

### Acute PE

*In patients with acute PE with contraindication to anticoagulation therapy, we suggest an IVC filter to be considered based on various clinical risk factors, as outlined in the rationale.*

Limited



### Acute DVT

*In patients with acute DVT without PE and with a contraindication to anticoagulation therapy, that an IVC filter be considered based on various clinical risk factors, as outlined in the rationale.*

Consensus



### Recurrent VTE

*In patients who are receiving therapeutic anticoagulation for VTE (DVT, PE), who experience a recurrent VTE, we suggest that a filter not be placed, with few exceptions. Reasons for anticoagulation failure should always be addressed.*

Consensus



### Routine IVC Filter Placement

*In patients with acute VTE (DVT, PE) who are being treated with therapeutic anticoagulation, we recommend against routine placement of an IVC filter.*

Moderate



### Indwelling IVC Filters with Mitigated PE Risk

*In patients with indwelling retrievable/convertible IVC filter whose risk of PE has been mitigated or who are no longer at risk for PE, we suggest filters be routinely removed/converted unless risk outweighs benefit.*

Consensus



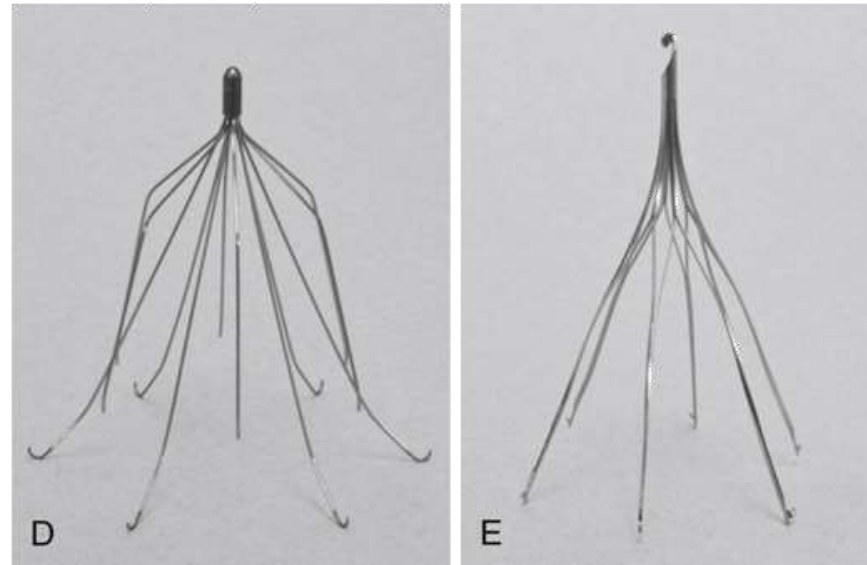
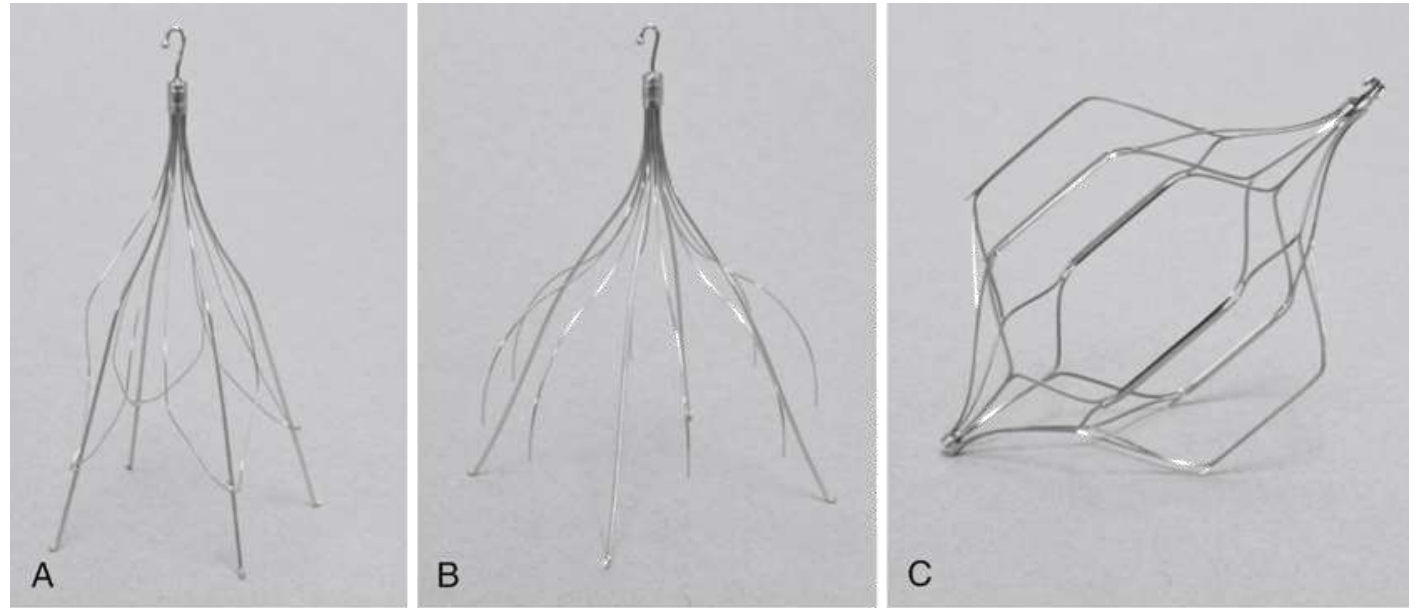
*In patients with indwelling permanent IVC filters whose risk of PE has been mitigated or who are no longer at risk for PE, we suggest against routine removal of filters.*

Consensus



**Most importantly:**

**IVC filters DO  
NOT prevent  
Pulmonary  
Embolism.**



# CASE

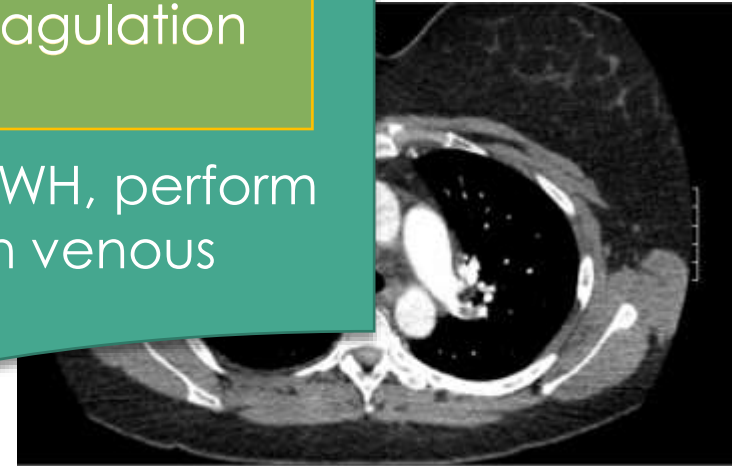
## What is the next best step in management?

- A. Admit patient to Cardiac floor, start parental UFH/LWMH
- B. Activate Pulmonary Embolism Response Team
- C. Discharge patient from ER with anticoagulation and outpatient management
- D. Admit patient to observation, start LMWH, perform hypercoagulable work up, and obtain venous dopplers

56 year old female with progressive dyspnea. Angiogram is pictured. RV is dilated. Shunt is negative. She

- **PmHx:** Former smoker, history of breast cancer. She has good social support system.

The ER attending on call speaks with you the admitting physician to admit the patient.



Vitals	
HR	68
BP	130/70 mmHg
RR	14
SpO2	99% Room Air

### Study Design

- Prospective Randomized Trial (Hestia vs sPESI) of normotensive patients with PE in 26 hospitals in 4 European Countries.
- Outcomes: 30 day composite recurrence of VTE, major bleeding, all-cause death, and rate of discharge home with 24 hours of randomization
- January 2017 through July 2019
- 1975 patients were included

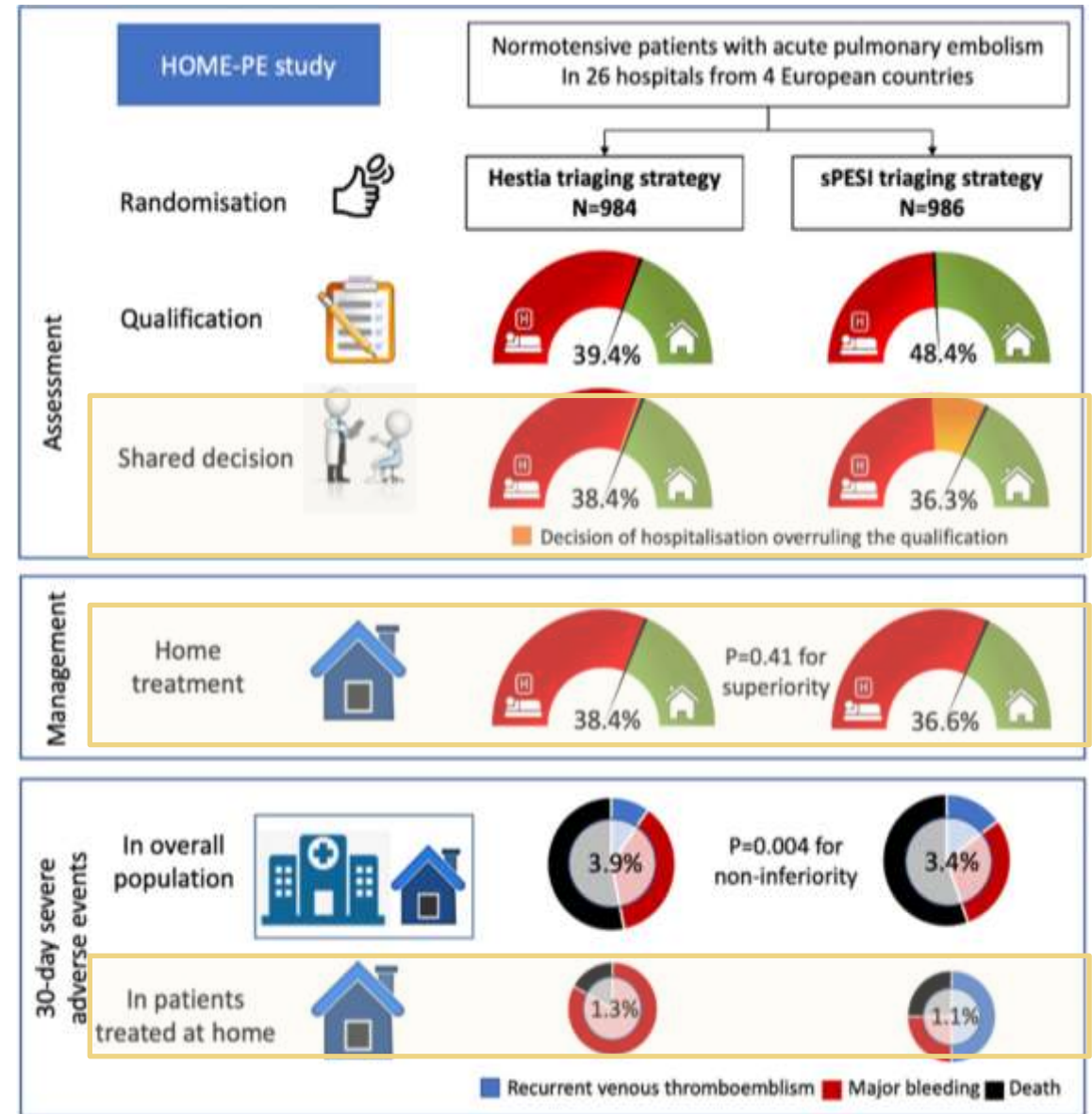
### Conclusions:

Hestia Rule vs sPESI had similar safety and effectiveness with triaging PE patients for discharge

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>1/3 of patients enrolled were discharged home with low incidence of complications

What is the best strategy for triaging patients with acute pulmonary embolism for home treatment?



### Social

Financial, poor support system, homelessness, history of alcohol or drug dependence, neglect. Lack of access for follow up.

### Psychological

Untreated mental health, concerns for noncompliance.

### Special Circumstances

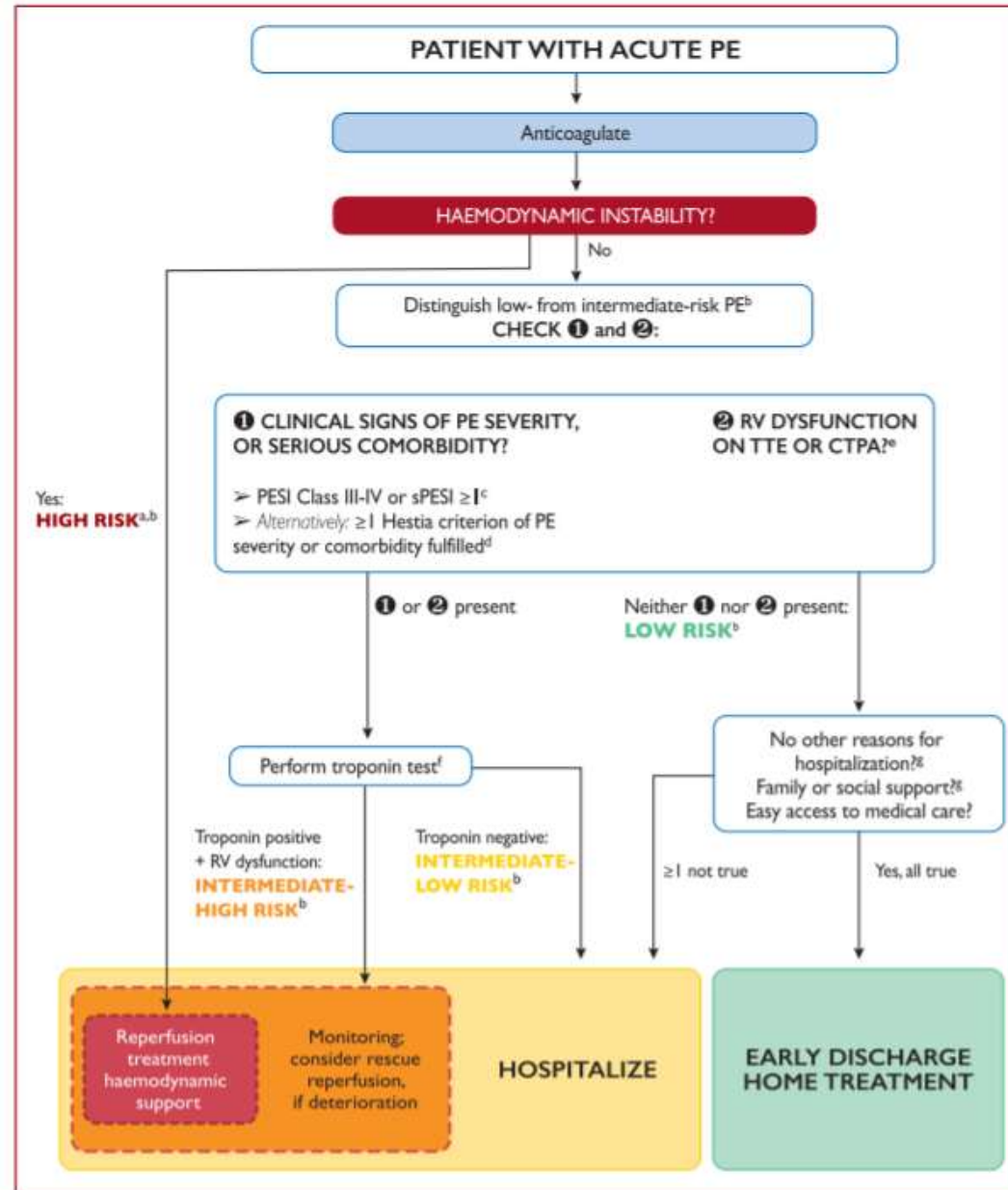
Active Malignancy or diagnosis of new medical conditions necessitating hospitalization.

Availability of a Pulmonary Embolism follow-up clinic.

### Hestia Criteria

1. Hemodynamically unstable?
2. Thrombolysis or embolectomy necessary?
3. Active bleeding or high risk of bleeding?
4. Oxygen supply to maintain oxygen saturation > 90% > 24 h?
5. Pulmonary embolism diagnosed during anti-coagulant treatment?
6. Intravenous pain medication > 24 h?
7. Medical or social reason for treatment in the hospital > 24 h?
8. Creatinine clearance of less than 30 mL/min?
9. Severe liver impairment?
10. Pregnant?
11. Documented history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia?

If one of the questions is answered with **YES**, the patient can **NOT** be treated at home.



Konstantinides SV, Meyer G, Becattini C, Bueno H, Geersing GJ, Harjola VP, Huisman MV, Humbert M, Jennings CS, Jiménez D, Kucher N, Lang IM, Lankeit M, Lorusso R, Mazzolai L, Meneveau N, Ní Áinle F, Prandoni P, Pruszczyk P, Righini M, Torbicki A, Van Belle E, Zamorano JL; ESC Scientific Document Group. 2019 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of acute pulmonary embolism developed in collaboration with the European Respiratory Society (ERS). Eur Heart J. 2020 Jan 21;41(4):543-603. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehz405. PMID: 31504429.

Thank you!

