

Freckle

on

Her

walk



PICKLE

THE

PUG

PUG

PUG





The Newest  
Holt Family  
Member  
Tugg  
Pug Pug







**Roo**

The Newest Newest  
Holt Family  
Member





# Bovine High Mountain Disease



3000 feet

“Brisket Disease”

Feedlot Cardiac Failure

Pulmonary Hypertension

BIF

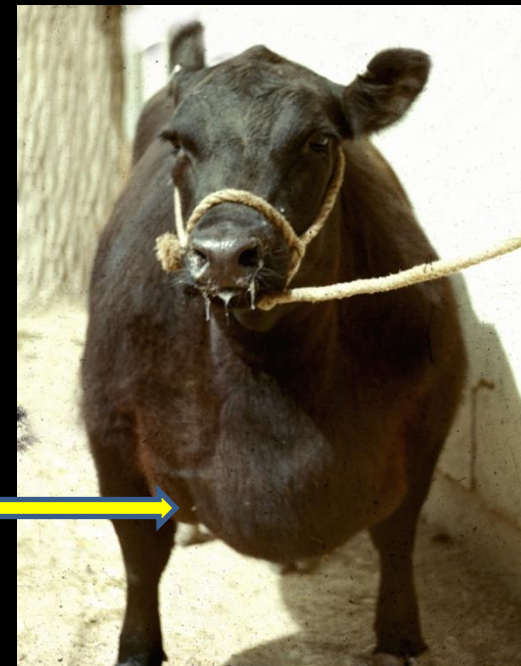
Calgary, Canada

2023

Obesity

Coronary Vascular Disease? 8000 feet

Tim Holt, DVM





**1913-First Formal Description of “Dropsy of High Altitude”**



PAP Testing  
at this  
Elevation

9520 feet

2901.7 meters



# Bovine High Mountain Disease

Vs.

## Feedlot Cardiac Death

Alamosa Colorado

8000 feet



Nebraska Feedlot

3000 Feet





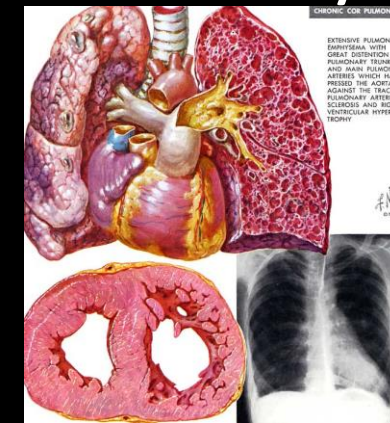


# Background

## Pulmonary Hypertension

### Human Aspect

- Hypoxic pulmonary hypertension is the most common cause of cor pulmonale.
- Occurs with alveolar hypoxia, in conditions such as emphysema, **sleep apnea**. A specialized cause is generalized alveolar hypoxia of altitude, high altitude pulmonary hypertension.
- Early human research



## PH and the WHO Classification



The bovine model recapitulates important features of Group III PH, the second largest group of PH human patients (Gretta)

- Group I pulmonary arterial hypertension, Congenital (PAH)
- Group II PH due to left heart disease
- Group III PH due to lung diseases and/or chronic hypoxia
- Group IV chronic pulmonary thromboembolic PH
- Group V PH with unclear multifactorial mechanisms



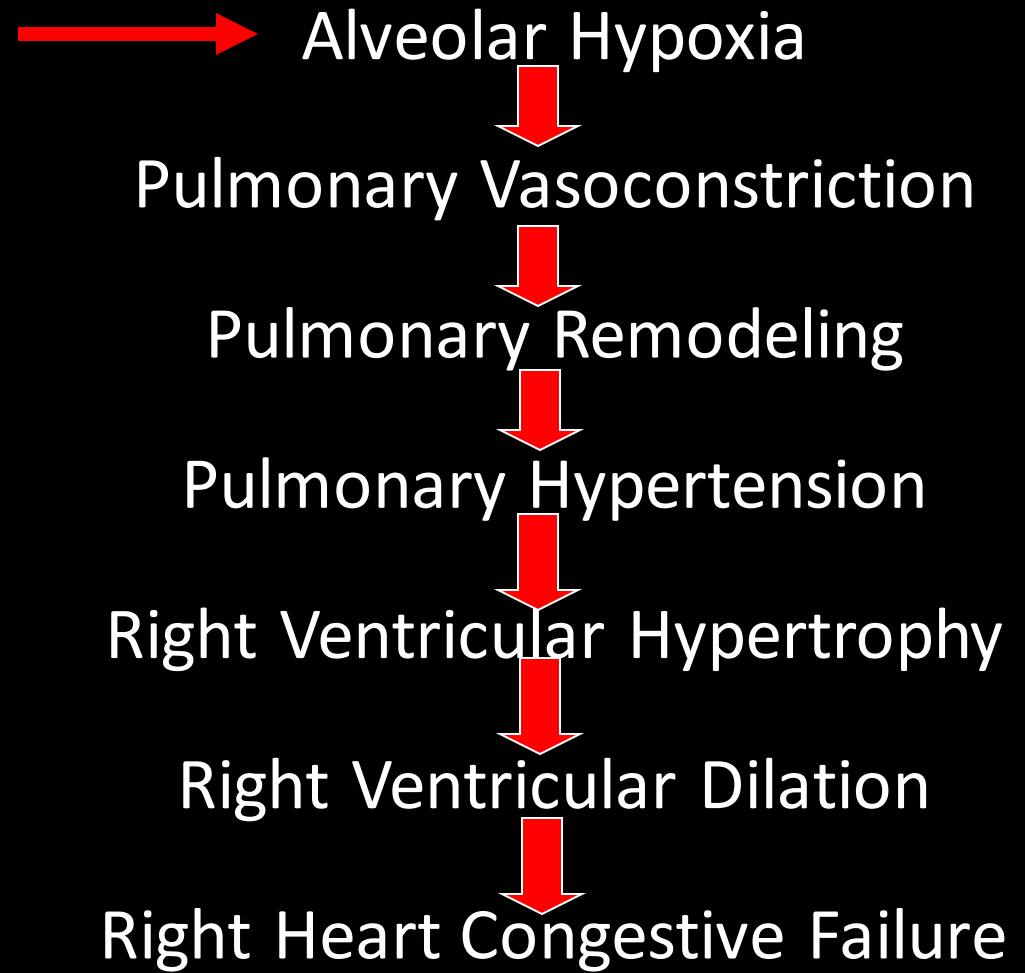


# Pathophysiology

## BHMD

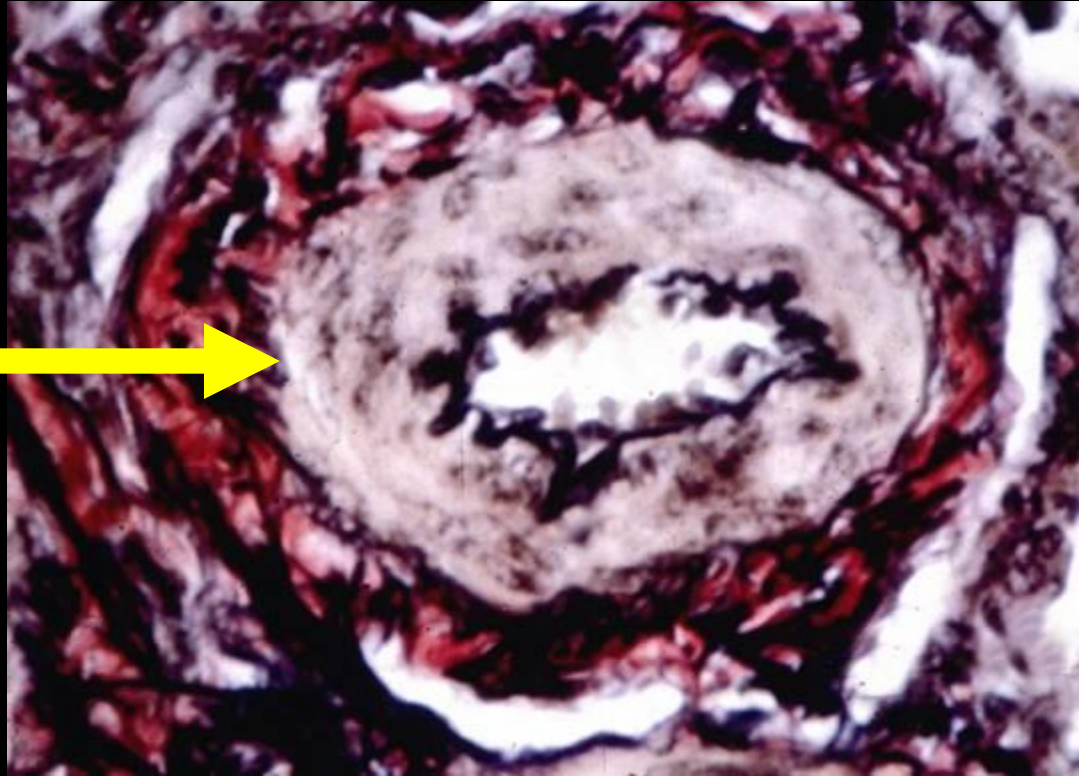
Most Critical  
Part  
Genetics  
Environmental

Don't  
Forget  
Donnie  
Another  
Genetic  
Aspect, To  
Die or  
Not to Die



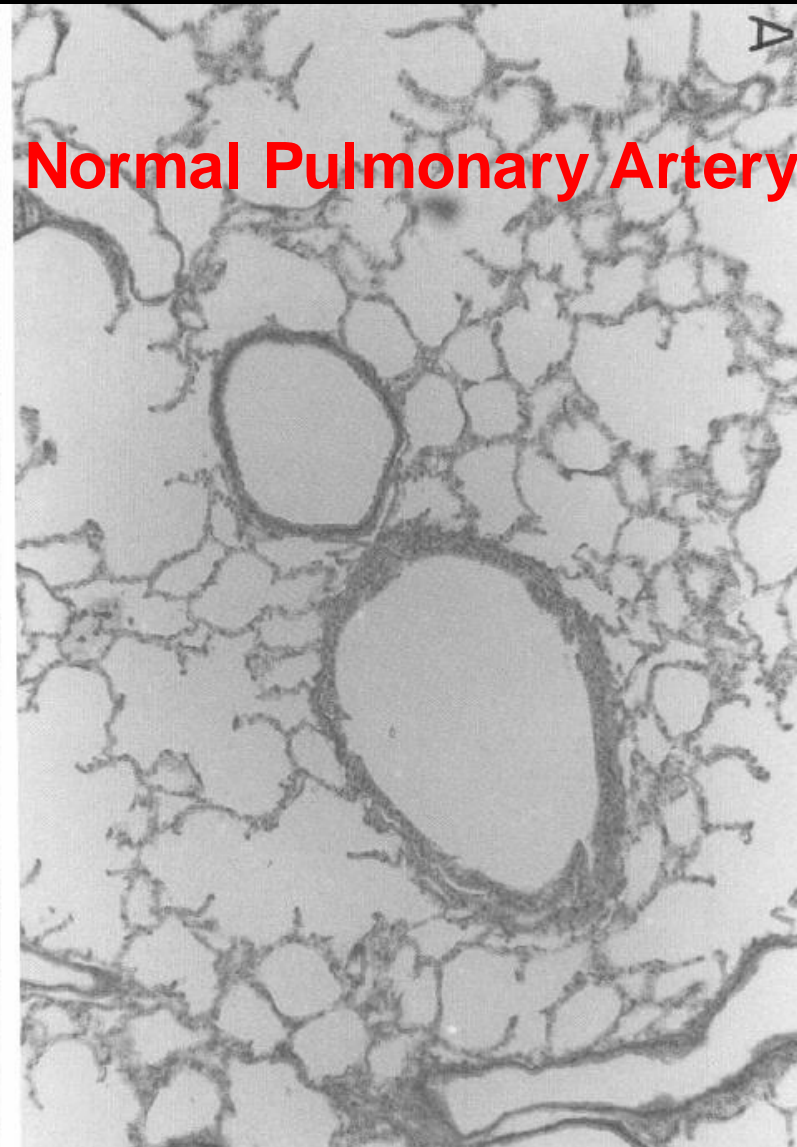
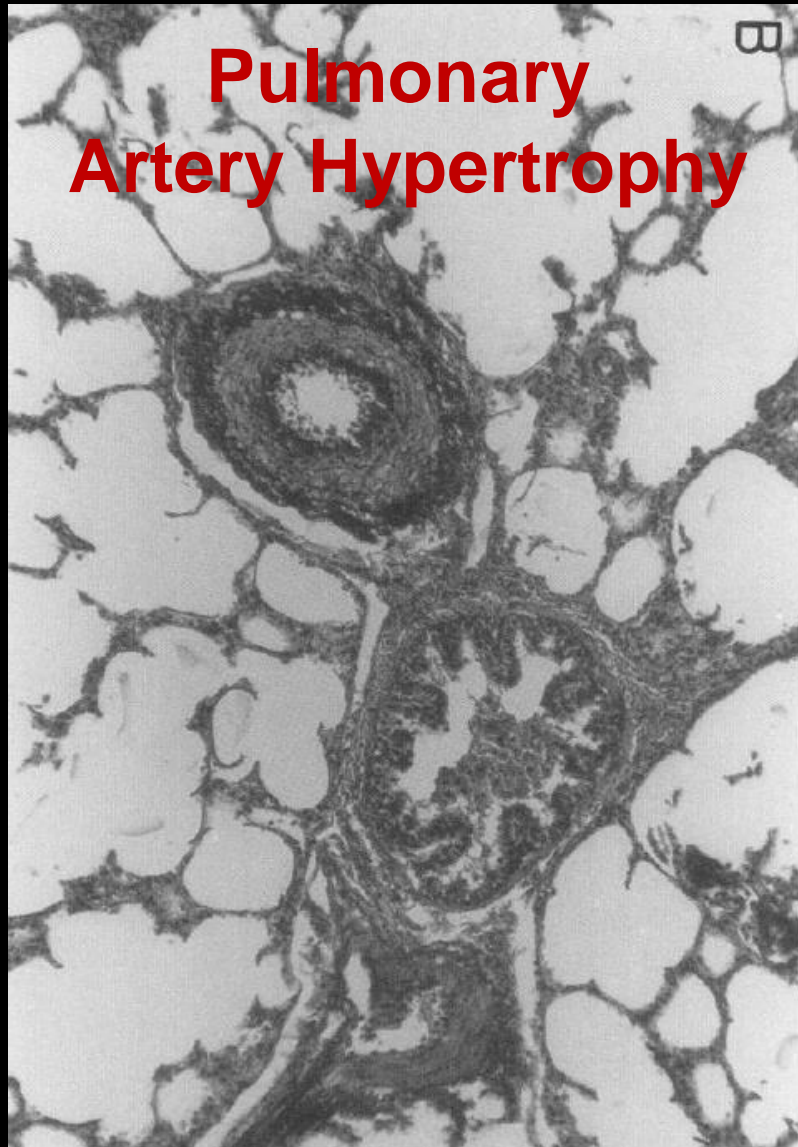


Normal  
Pulmonary Artery  
PAP=40mmHg



Hypertrophy of  
Pulmonary Artery  
Smooth Muscle  
PAP=80mmHg

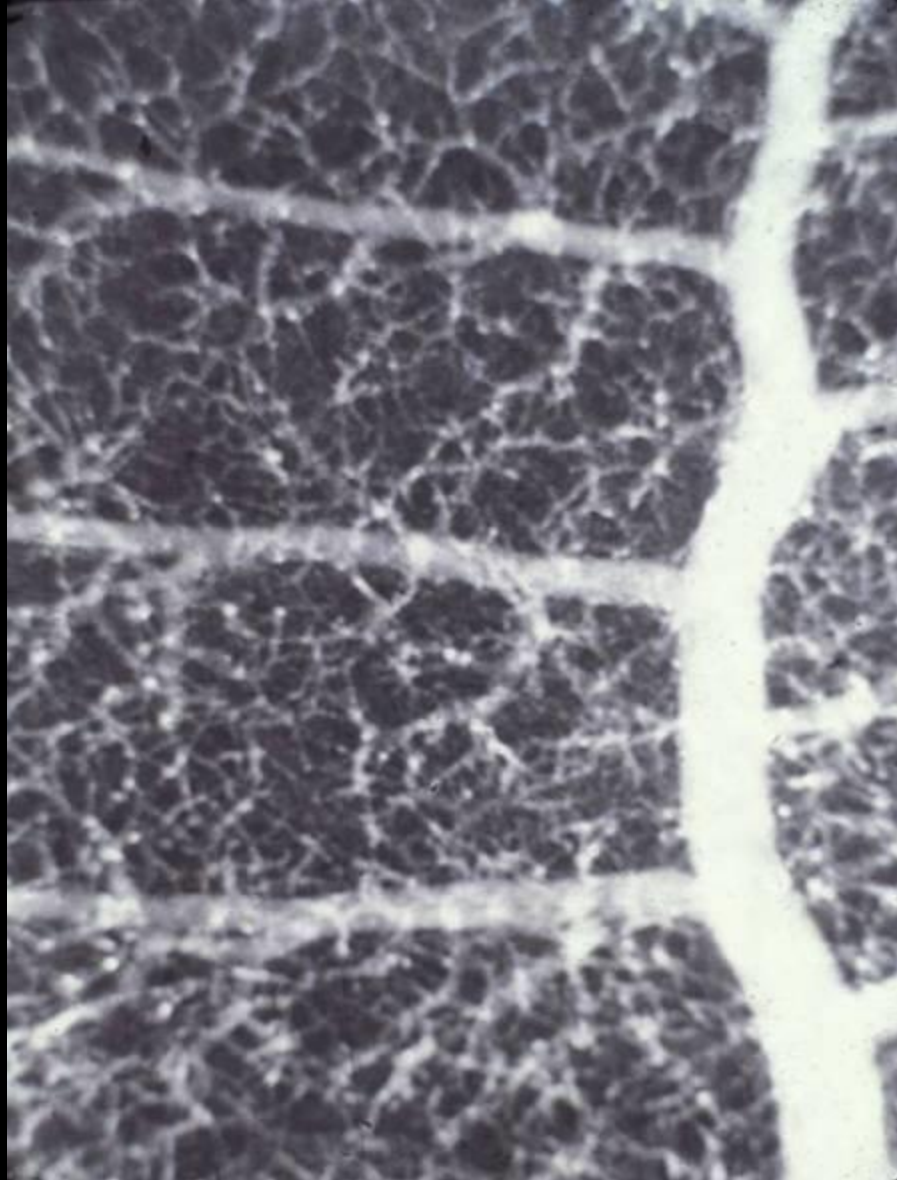




**40 mmHg PAP**

**(Normal)**

**Pulmonary Vasculature**



**80 mmHg PAP**

**(Vasoconstriction)**

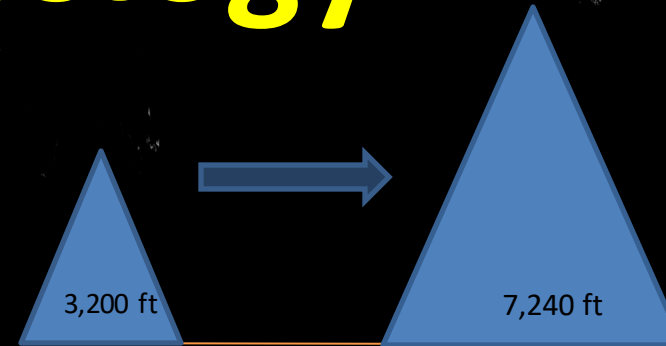
**Pulmonary Hypertension**



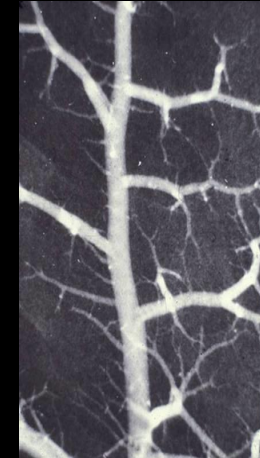
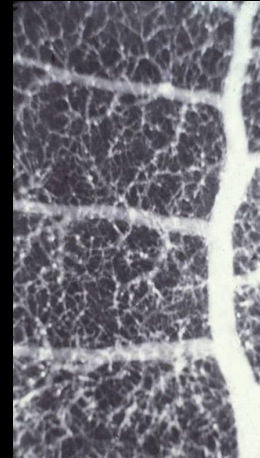


# Pathophysiology

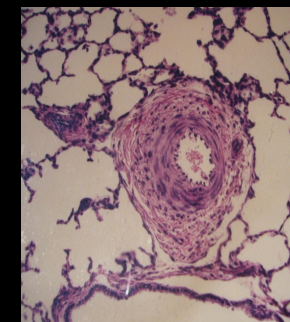
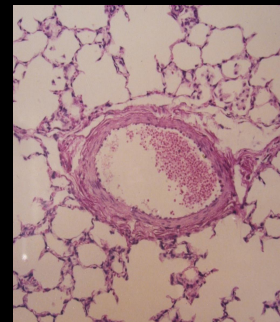
1. Alveolar hypoxia  
Altitude



2. Pulmonary arterial vasoconstriction and shunting

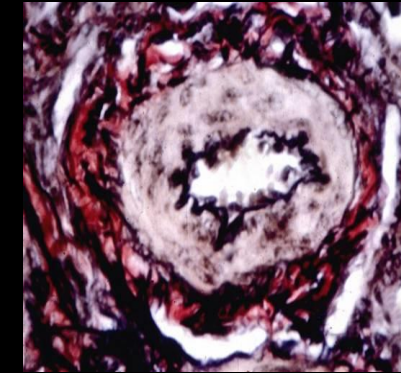
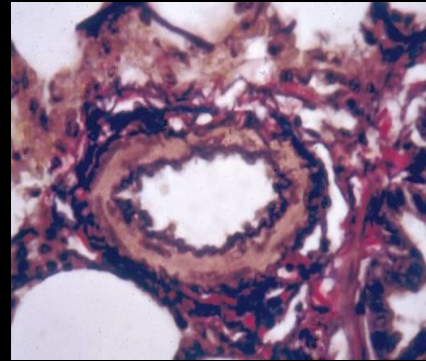


3. Pulmonary arterial remodeling and arterial smooth muscle hypertrophy

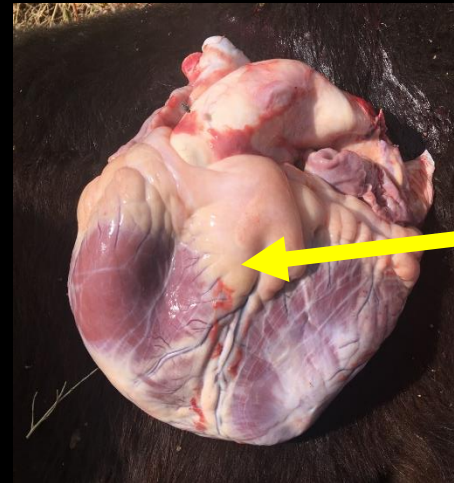


# Pathophysiology

4. Pulmonary hypertension

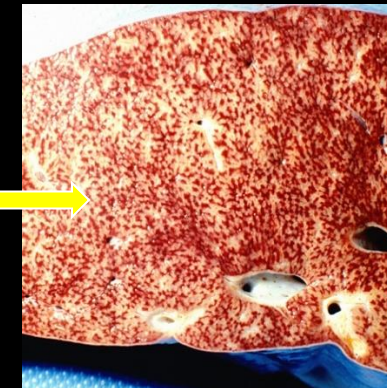


5. Right ventricular hypertrophy



Enlarged Right Ventricle

6. Right ventricular dilation



Congested Liver  
"Nutmeg Liver"

7. Right congestive heart failure





# Clinical Signs

Congestive Right Heart Failure  
BHMD, Feedlot Cardiac Death

- Lethargy, weakness, collapse
- Jugular Distention/Pulsation
- Diarrhea
- Subcutaneous Edema

Brisket Region

Intermandibular

Ventral Abdomen



- Fluid Within  
Abdomen  
Thorax  
Pericardium

-Bulging eyes

-Death

Jugular Distension, BHMD  
27% Death Loss in One Year  
117/435 calves >\$100,000.00 Loss



Wyoming Ranch  
Elevation  
7200 feet Home Ranch

All Calf losses Out of  
Two Sire Groups

Photo:  
Thank you, Dr. Knight



# Variation in Response to **Hypoxia**

**Hyper-Reactive**

**Bovine, Porcine**

Moderate-Reactive

Equine, (Humans)

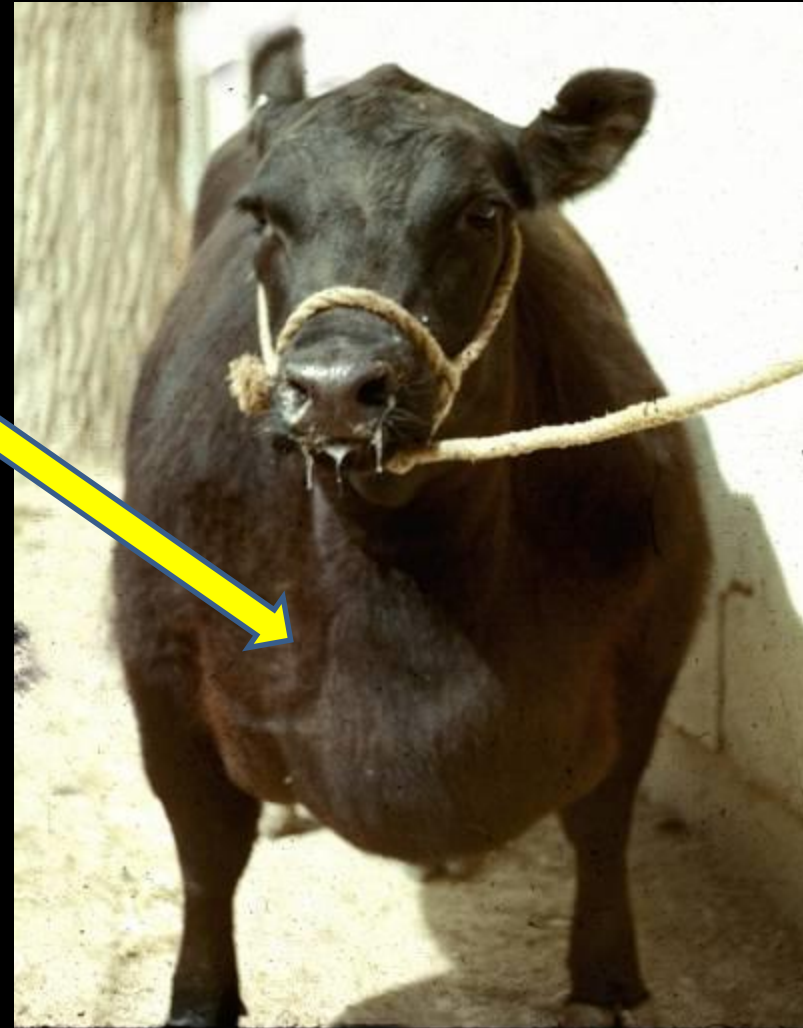
Hypo-Reactive

Ovine, Caprine, Canine,

Llama, Alpaca

**YAK!!!**

**Breed Susceptibility ?**





Very Near Death

Necropsy

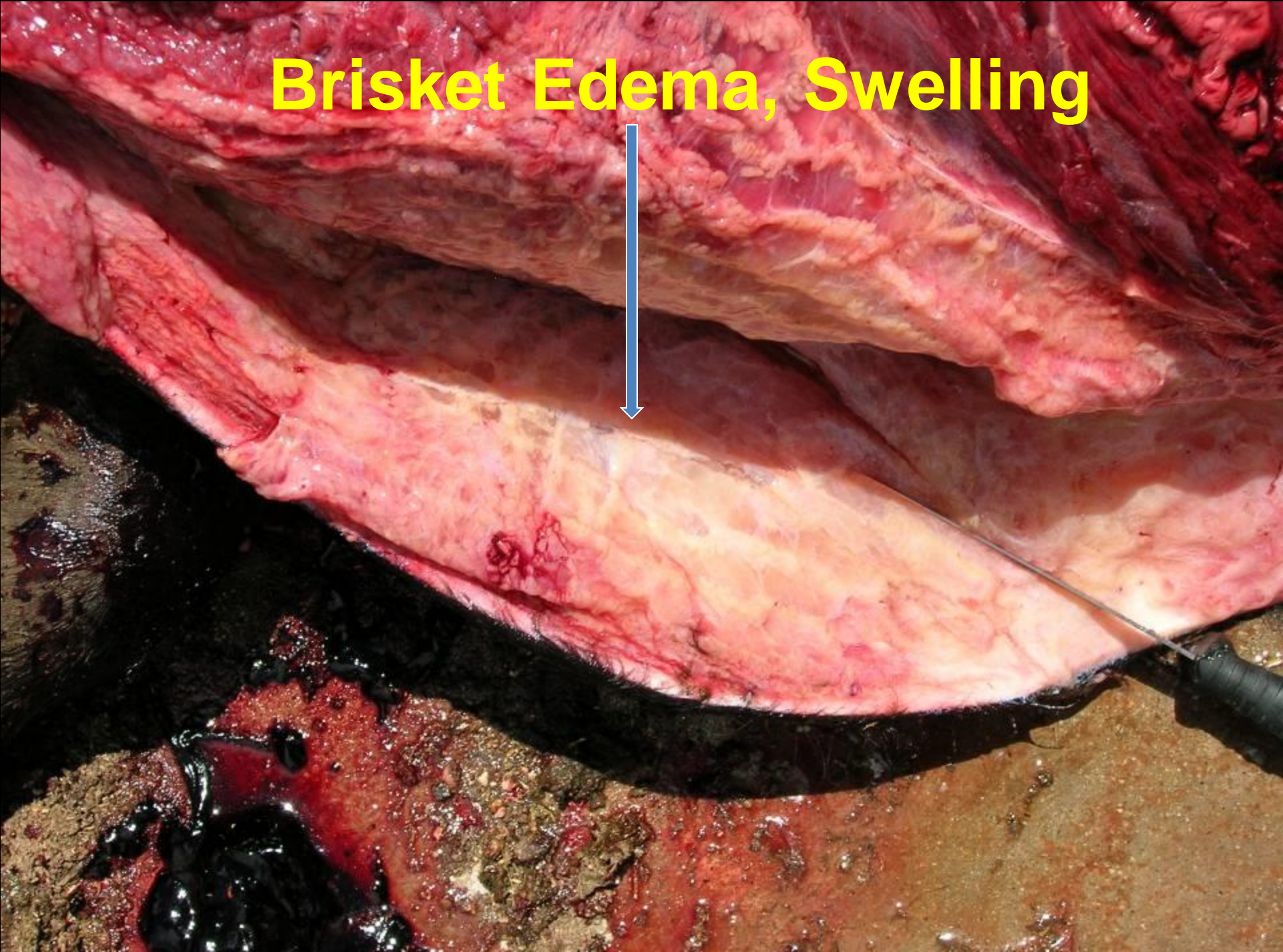


# Necropsy of Clinical Case Of Bovine High Mountain Disease



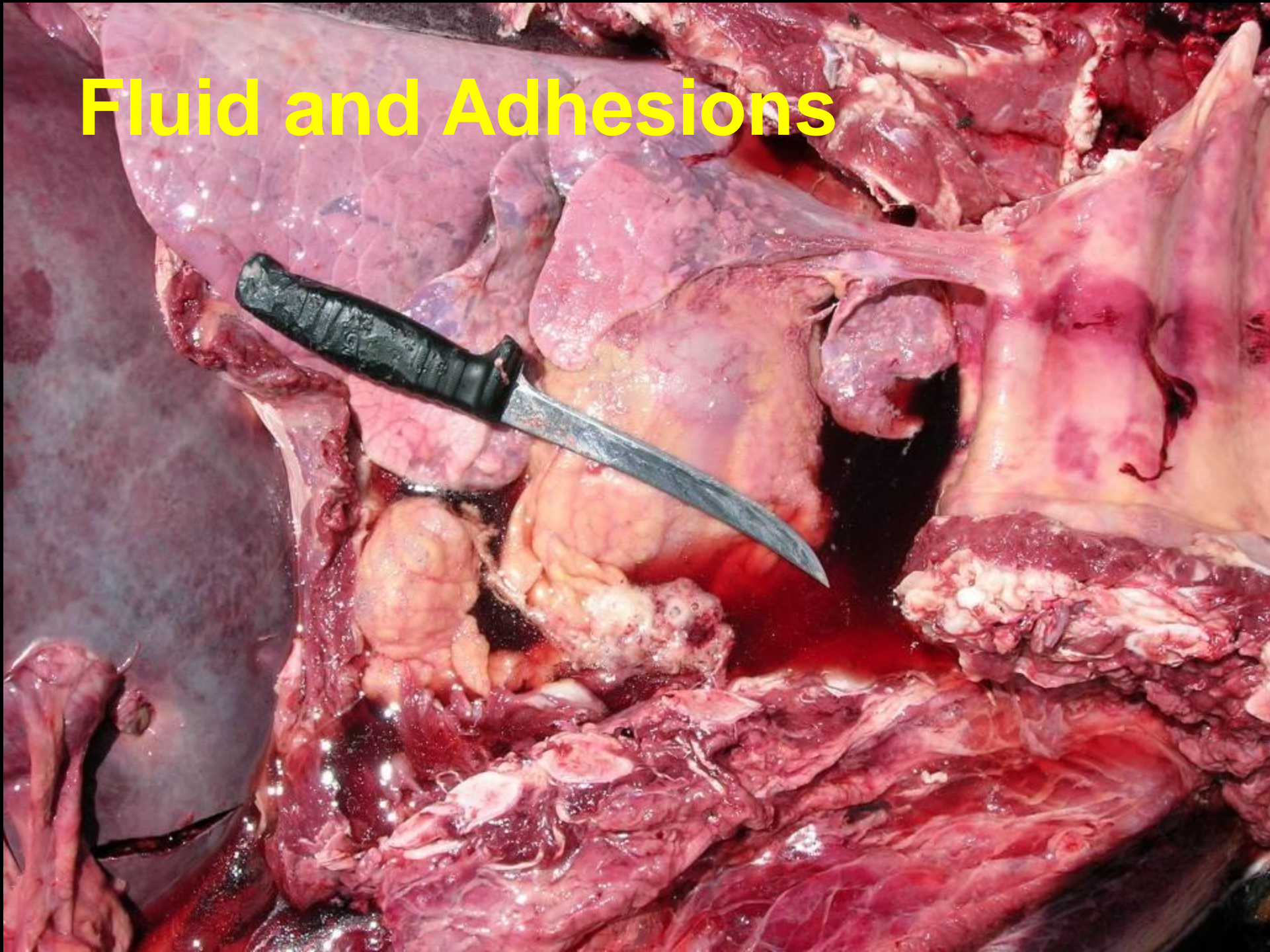


**Brisket Edema, Swelling**





# Fluid and Adhesions

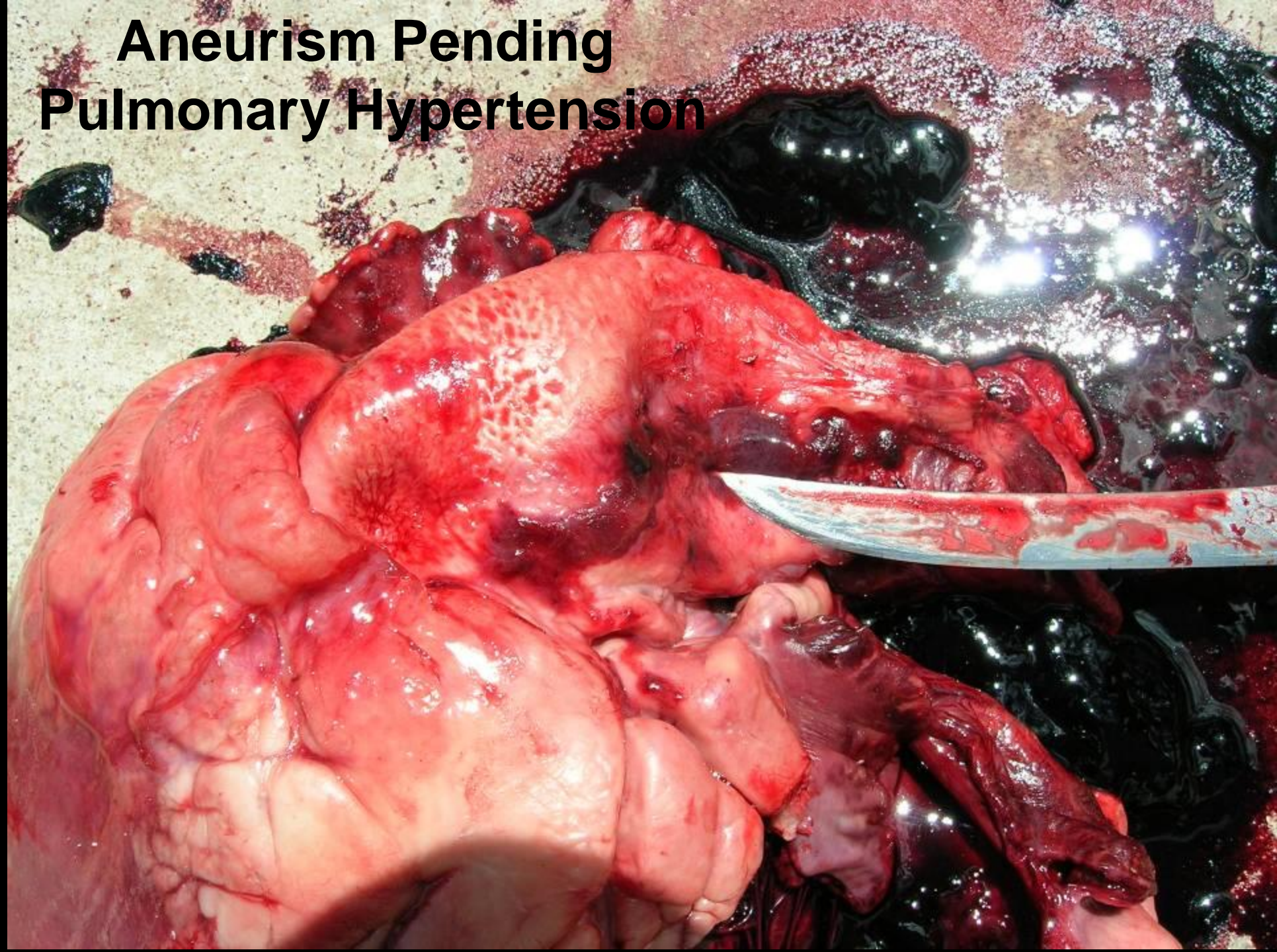








# Aneurysm Pending Pulmonary Hypertension







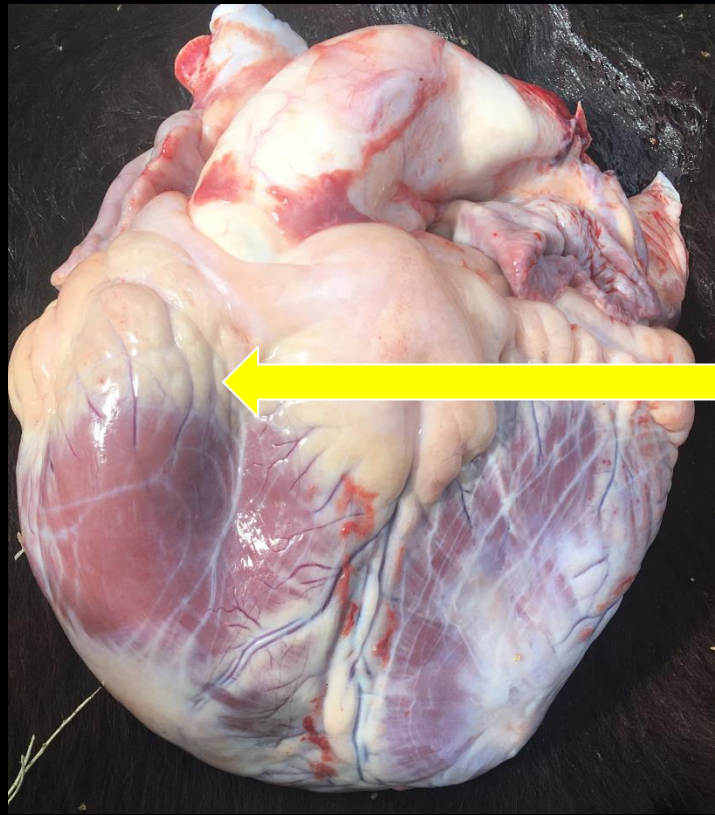


Congested  
Liver  
Swollen  
Rounded Edges





# Necropsy Findings



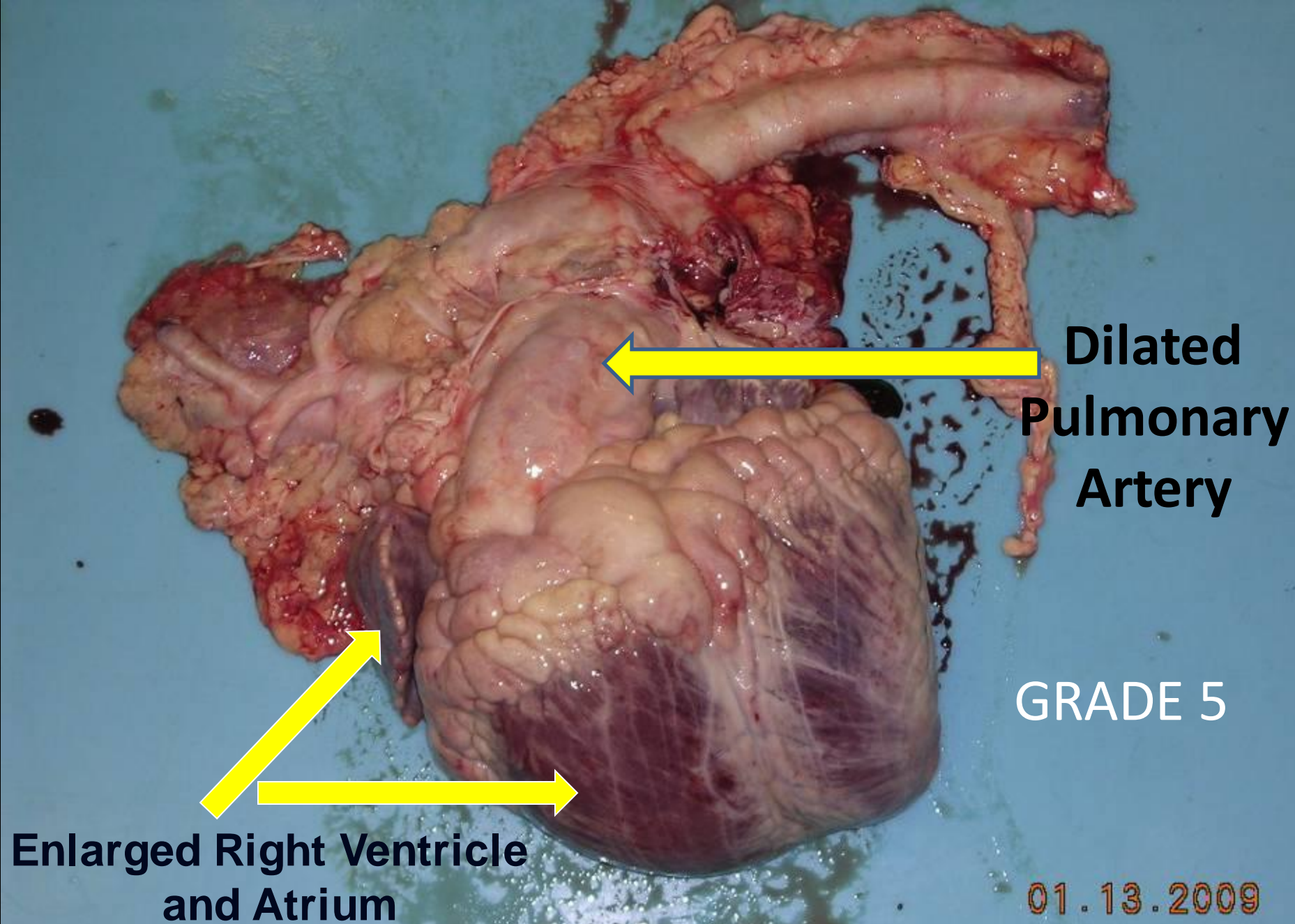
Enlarged Right Ventricle

**GRADE 5**

**Cardiac Collapse**

Congested Liver  
"Nutmeg Liver"





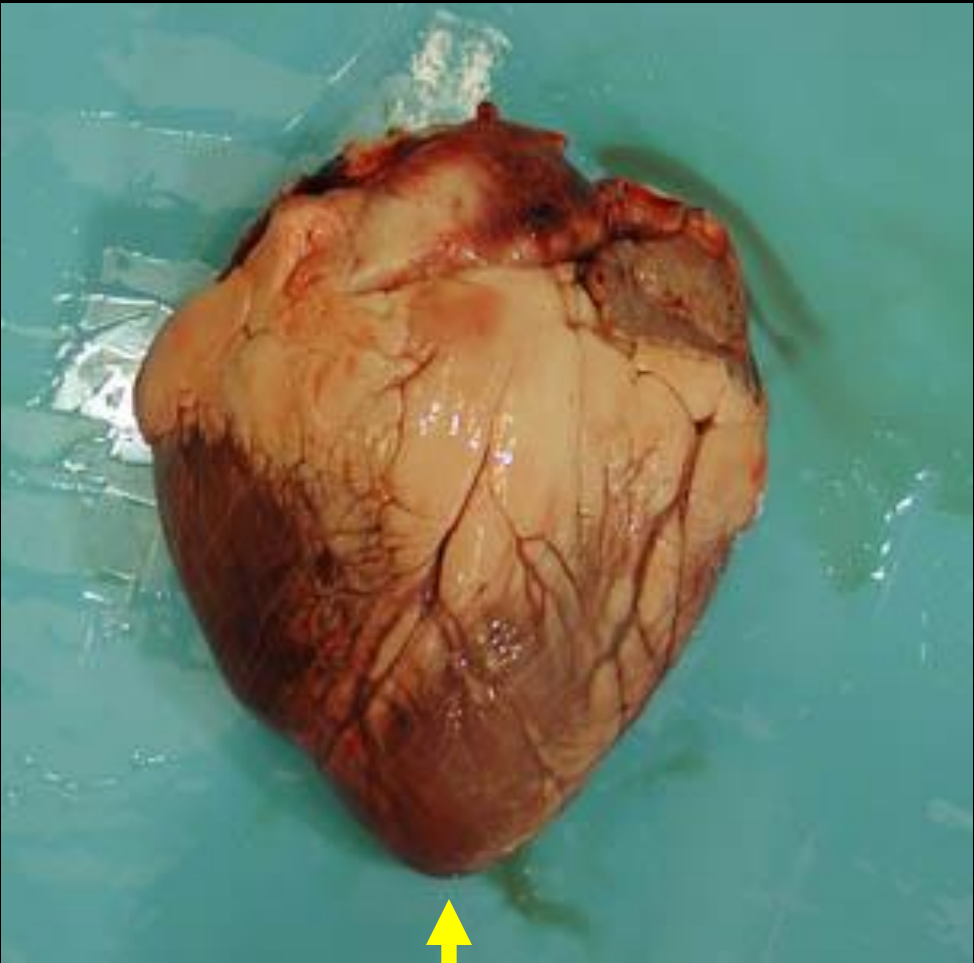
**Dilated  
Pulmonary  
Artery**

**GRADE 5**

**Enlarged Right Ventricle  
and Atrium**

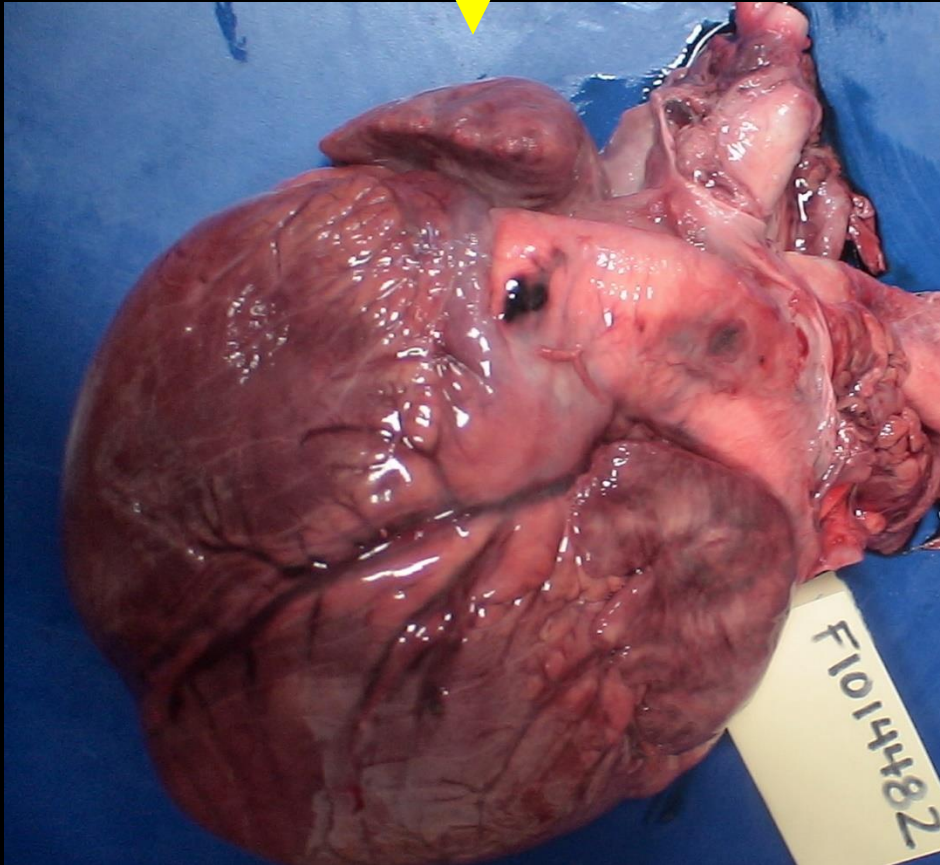
01.13.2009



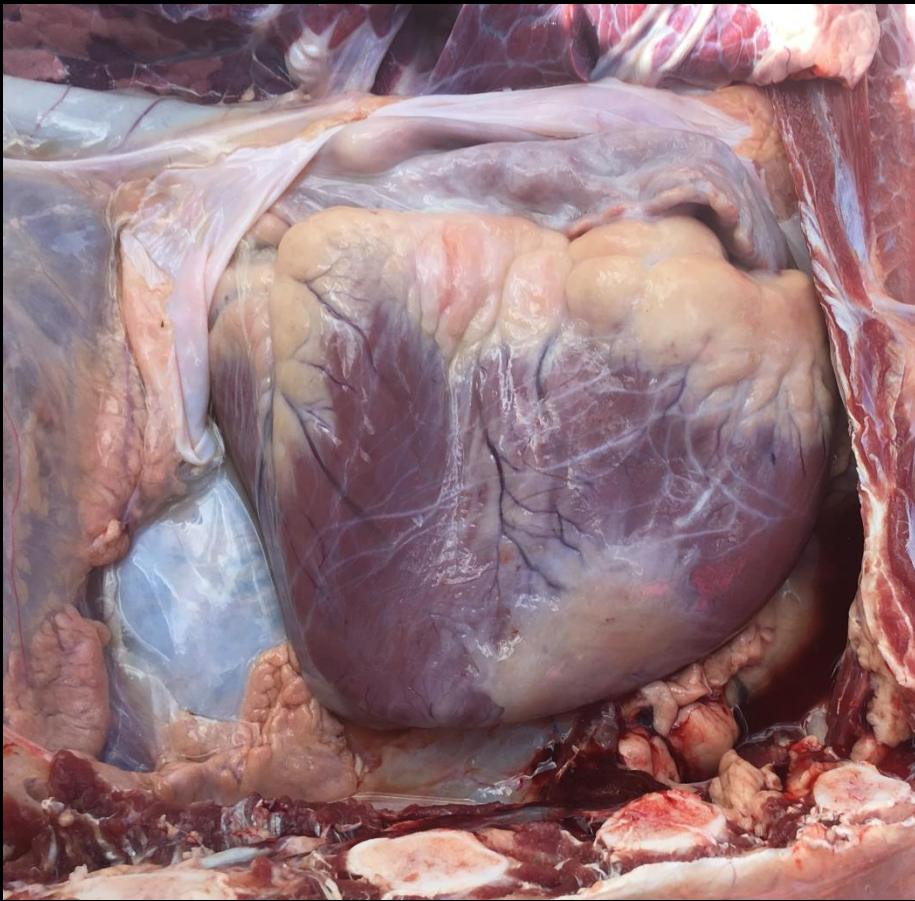


Grade 1—Normal Heart

Grade 4—Heart, Severe Cardiac Disease







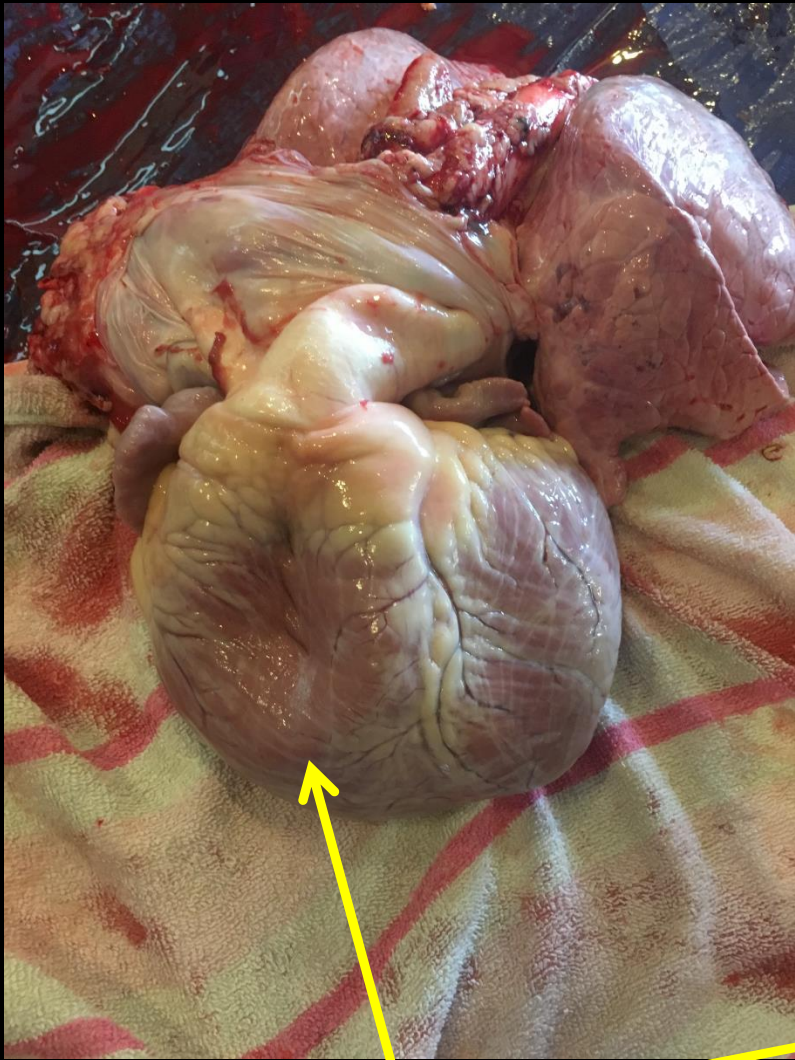
# Grade 5 Heart Complete Cardiac Collapse



Can we use cardiac anatomical  
Changes to track  
Cardiac disease

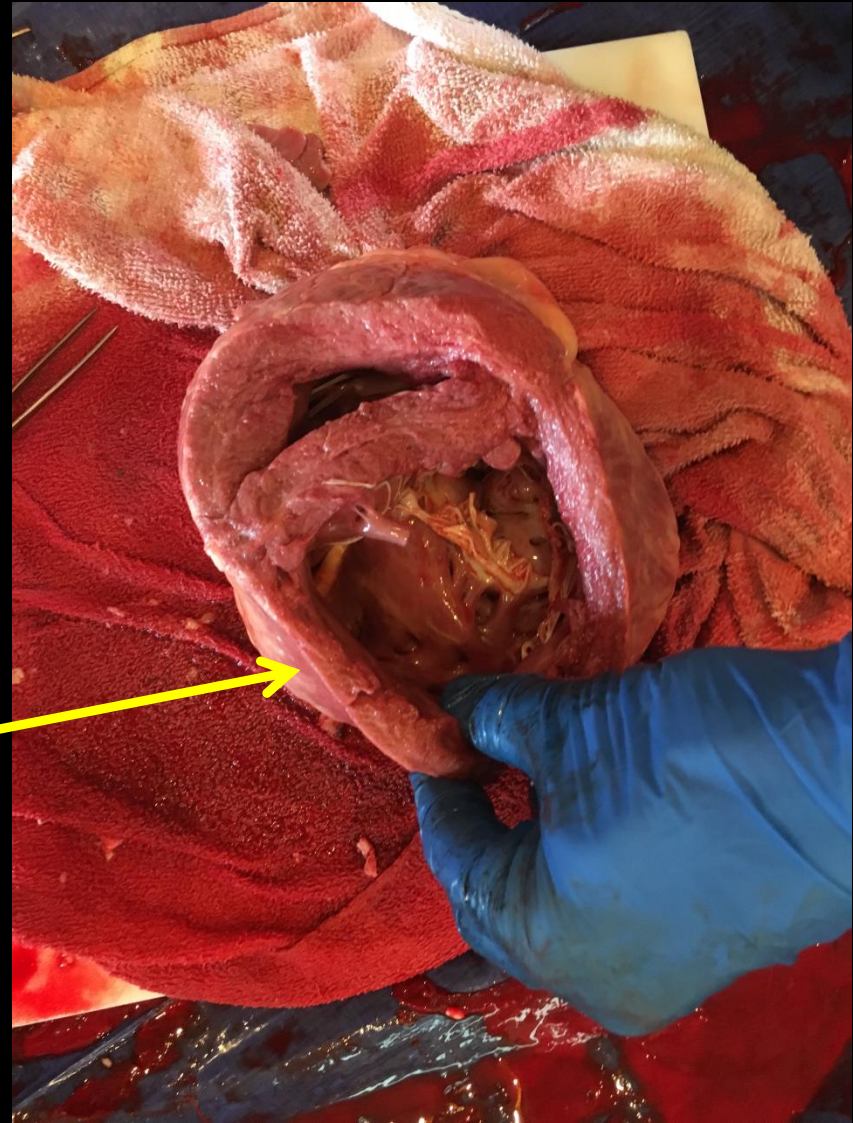
**ABSOLUTELY**





Dilation

To



Hypertrophy















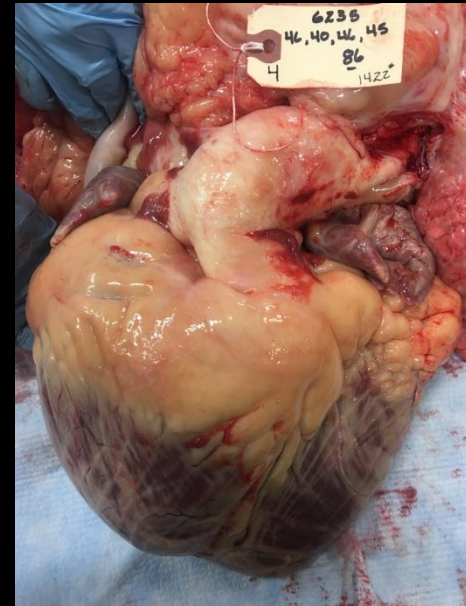
# Why do the Heart Scoring?

Estimated loss of \$250,000.00 per feedlot, incidence continues to rise and is increasing even now

Etiology **genetic driven**, growth, performance area in which to control loss, selection, etc

PAP score has a positive correlation  
to  
Higher Heart  
scores thus

**Pulmonary Hypertension**





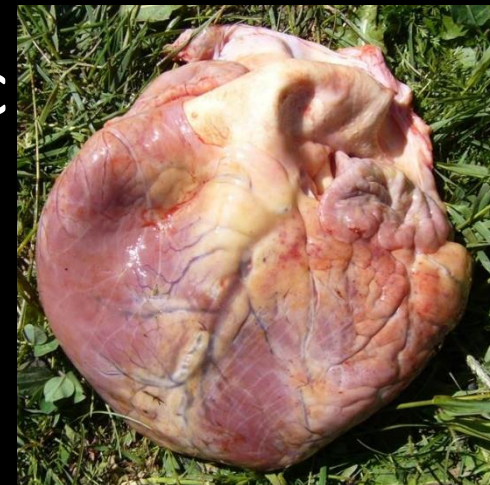
# Why do the Heart Scoring

- \* Evaluate relationship between healthy heart scores and abnormal heart scores by evaluating phenotypic differences seen in fattening cattle
- \* Better understand the relationship of heart scores in the estimation of heritability for the trait



## Genetics vs. Phenotypic

CSU study in genetics  
USMARC study, phenotype  
Simplot Genetics



## High Altitude Disease

- Condition affecting cattle at altitudes of >5,000 ft.
- Pulmonary arterioles begins to constrict and thicken in response to low oxygen being transported.
- Selecting bulls with lower PAP has been successful in producing progeny with lower PAP scores thus more adapted to elevation.

## Feedlot Heart Disease

- Condition affecting feedlot cattle at low to moderate altitudes.
- Direct cause is currently unknown, but these individuals experience heart remodeling similar to animals experiencing brisket disease.

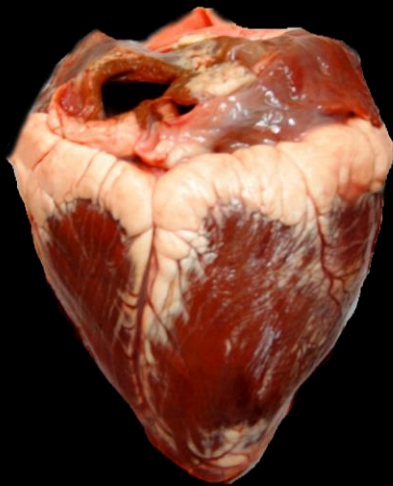
**HYPOXIA**

PAP is currently used as a decision factor for culling animals in the herd who display high PAP at early ages.



# Heart Fat Score

- \*Epicardial fat has been shown to have relationships with pulmonary hypertension in humans.



1



2



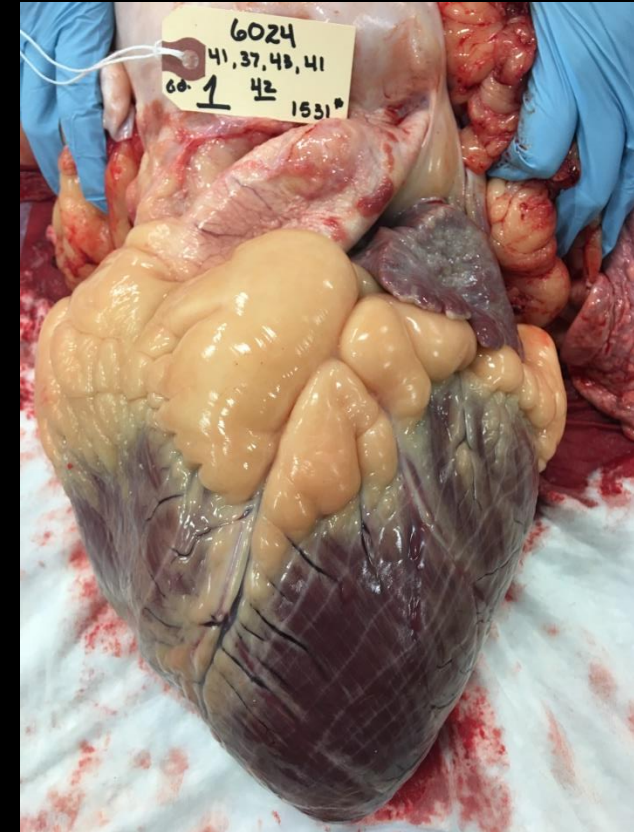
3

# Tracking and Evaluating Incidence of Cardiac Failure

## Gross Visual External Cardiac Evaluation Grading system 1-5

### GRADE: 1, Normal Heart

- Normal conical shape
- Normal left ventricle apex, easily visible
- Right ventricle smaller than left and in normal portion, fitting on the side of left ventricle
- Normal Atrial Anatomy, right atrium smaller than left
- No clinical evidence of infarction or aneurysm pending, no thinning of vessel wall
- Normal Pulmonary Artery size
- May appear as 2 but with rigor may develop and shrink to 1





# Gross Visual External Cardiac Evaluation Grading system 1-5

## GRADE: 2, Mild Change

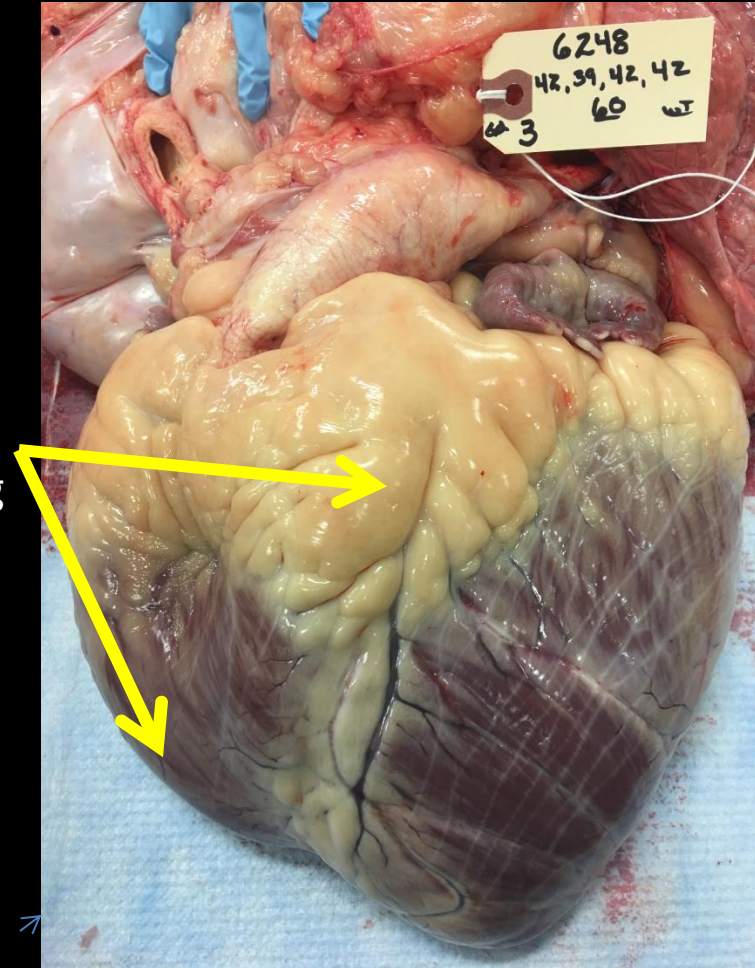
- Normal conical shape
- blunting of left ventricle apex, visible but losing apex point
- Right ventricle becoming larger than left, right ventricle becoming pronounced.
- Right Atrium beginning to enlarge, same size or slightly larger than left.
- No clinical evidence of infarction or aneurysm pending, no thinning of vessel wall
- Pulmonary artery beginning to show mild enlargement.
- Cardiac muscle when palpated is stiff and suggestive of hypertrophy and loss of lumen space, may be biventricular
- 2+, Right Ventricle enlarged but not complete reverse D, flaccid



# Gross Visual External Cardiac Evaluation Grading system 1-5

## GRADE: 3, Moderate Change

- Beginning to lose conical shape
- Blunting of left ventricle apex, visible but losing apex point and deviating, beginning of **reverse "D"**
- Right ventricle larger than left, right ventricle becoming more pronounced.
- Right Atrium enlarged, Atrium larger than left
- Can be clinical evidence of infarction or aneurysm pending, thinning of vessel wall apparent
- Pulmonary artery enlarged.
- Cardiac muscle when palpated is stiff and suggestive of hypertrophy and loss of lumen space, may be biventricular, after removal muscle may be severely flaccid

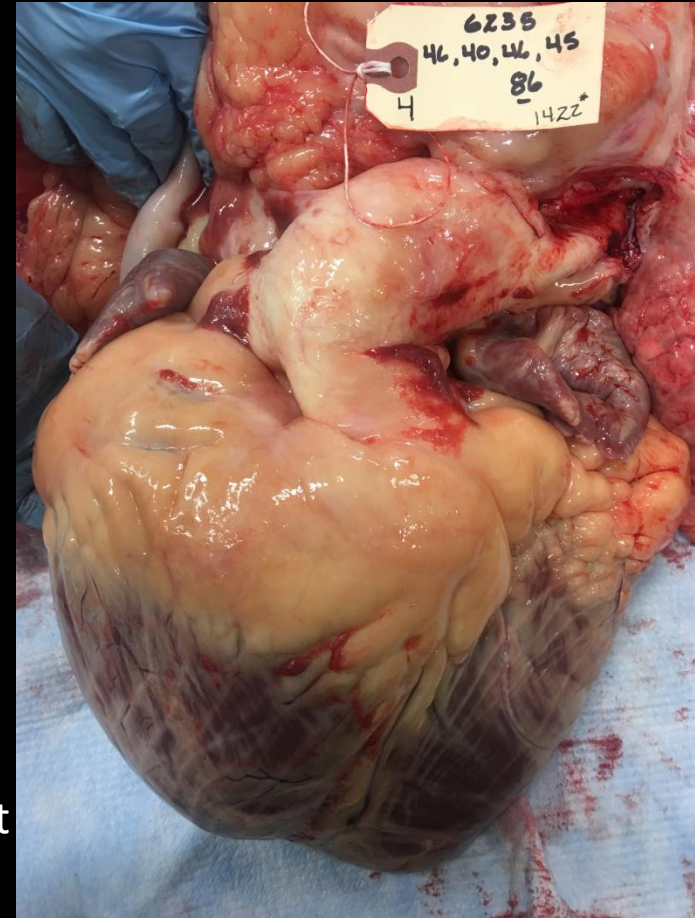




# Gross Visual External Cardiac Evaluation Grading system 1-5

## GRADE: 4, Severe Changes

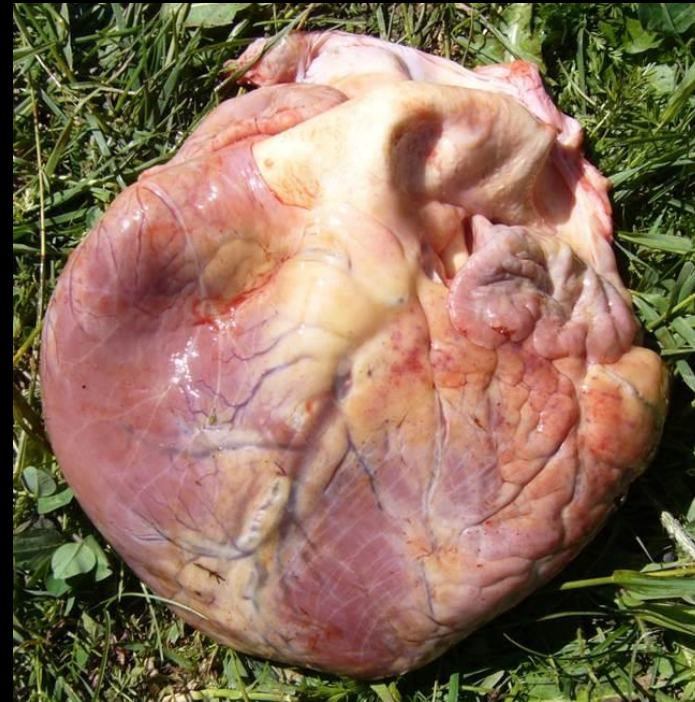
- Lose of cardiac conical shape
- Left ventricle apex has been lost due to ventricular rounding. Reverse "D" is apparent.
- Right ventricle larger than left, right ventricle becoming more pronounced and taking on rounding shape.
- Right Atrium enlarged, Atrium larger than left and remains congested
- Can be clinical evidence of infarction or aneurysm pending, thinning of vessel wall apparent
- Pulmonary artery enlarged greatly.
- Cardiac muscle when palpated is becoming soft and without shape but still has some muscle tone.



**Gross Visual  
External Cardiac Evaluation  
Grading system  
1-5**

**GRADE: 5, Severe Changes, flaccid heart**

- Loss of cardiac conical shape, severe
- Left ventricle apex has been lost due to ventricular rounding. Reverse “D” is apparent.
- Right ventricle larger than left, right ventricle becoming more pronounced and taking on rounding shape.
- Right Atrium enlarged, Atrium larger than left and remains congested.
- Can be clinical evidence of infarction or aneurysm pending, thinning of vessel wall apparent
- Pulmonary artery enlarged greatly.
- Cardiac muscle when palpated is soft and without shape, there is no muscle tone and heart lays flat.

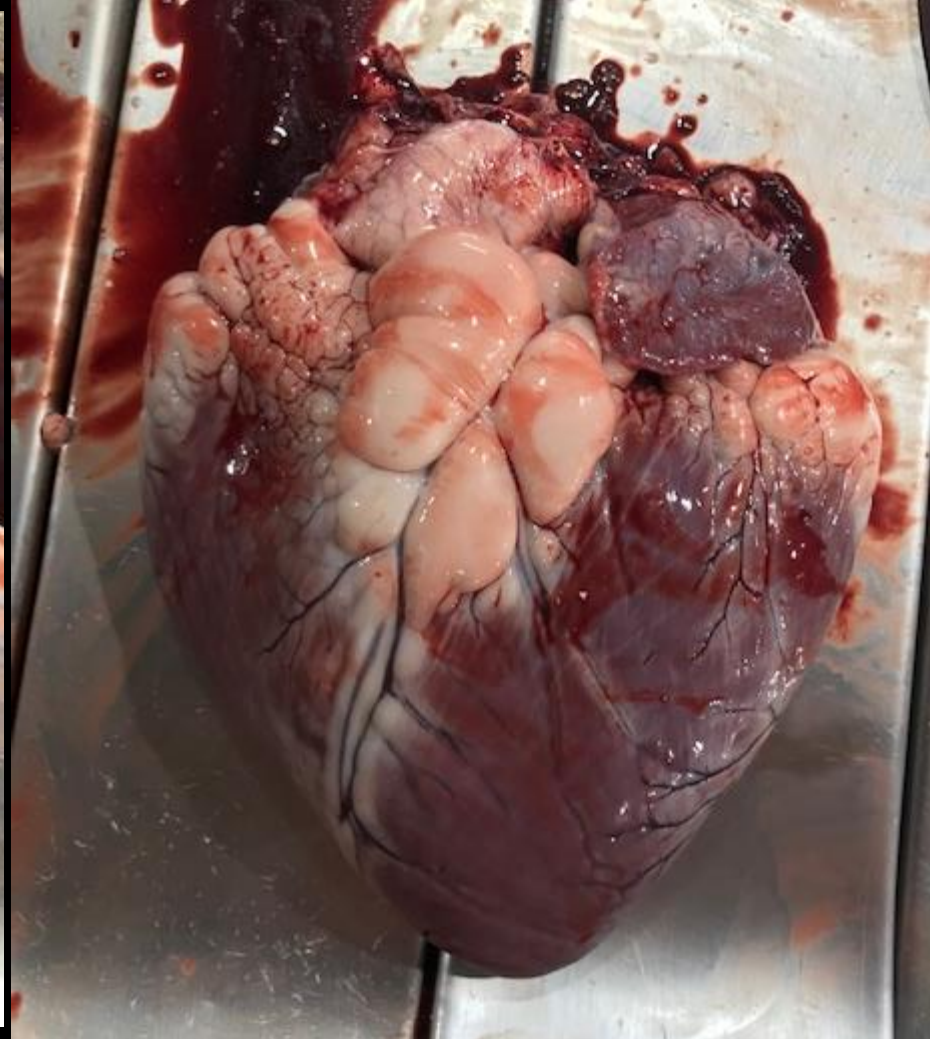




# Examples of Grade 1

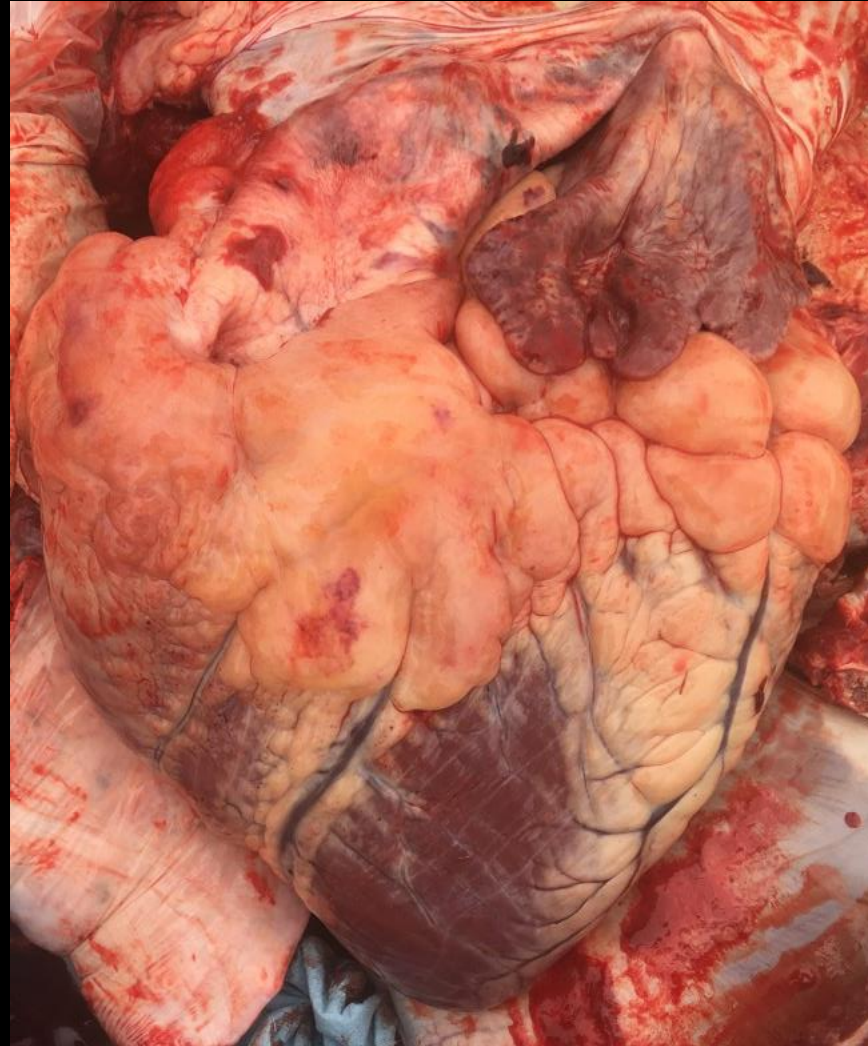
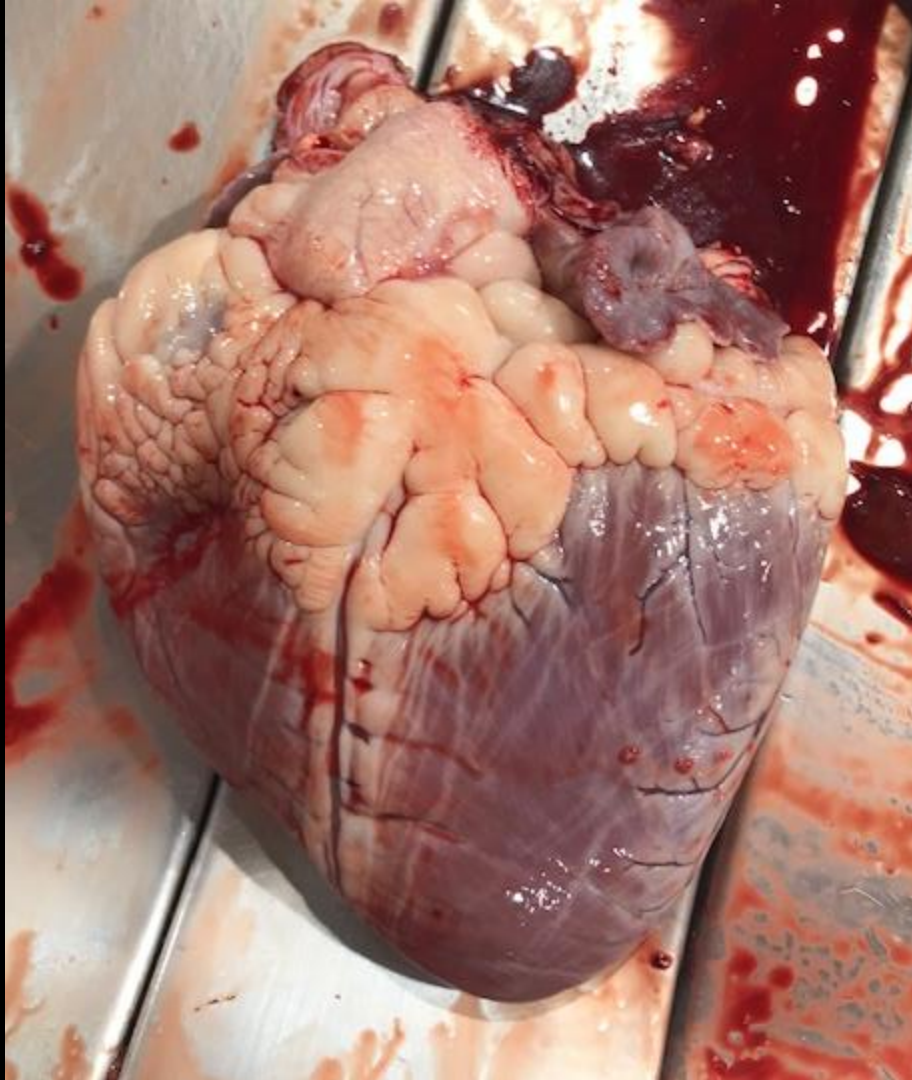


# Examples of Grade 2

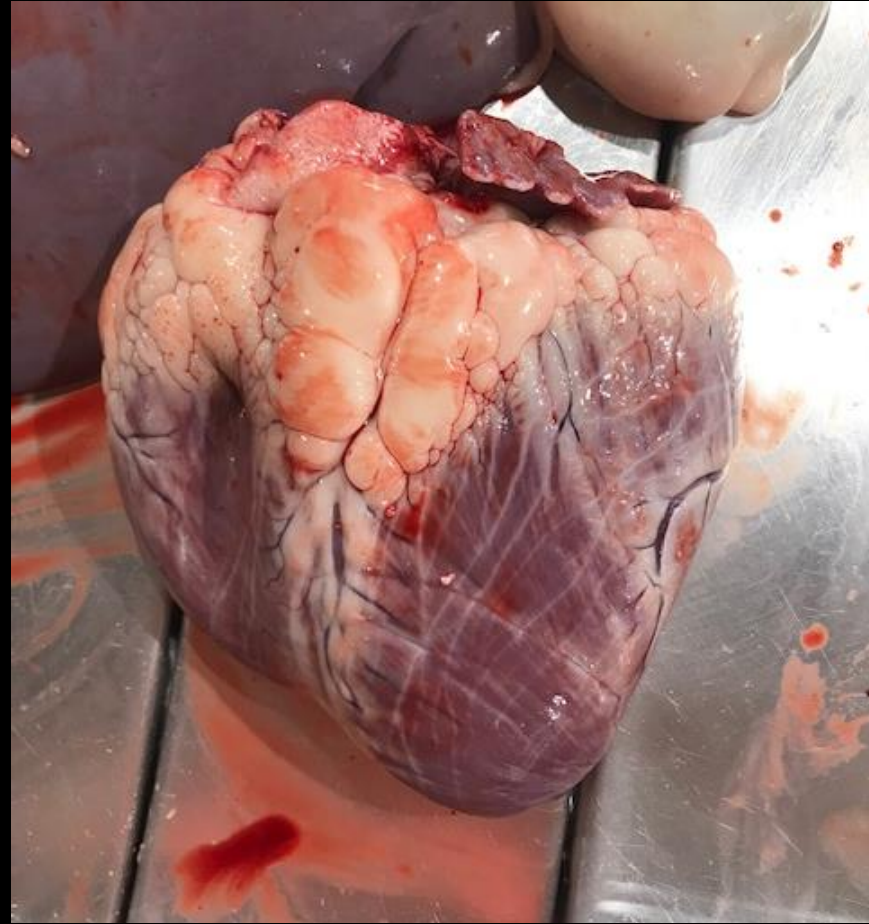
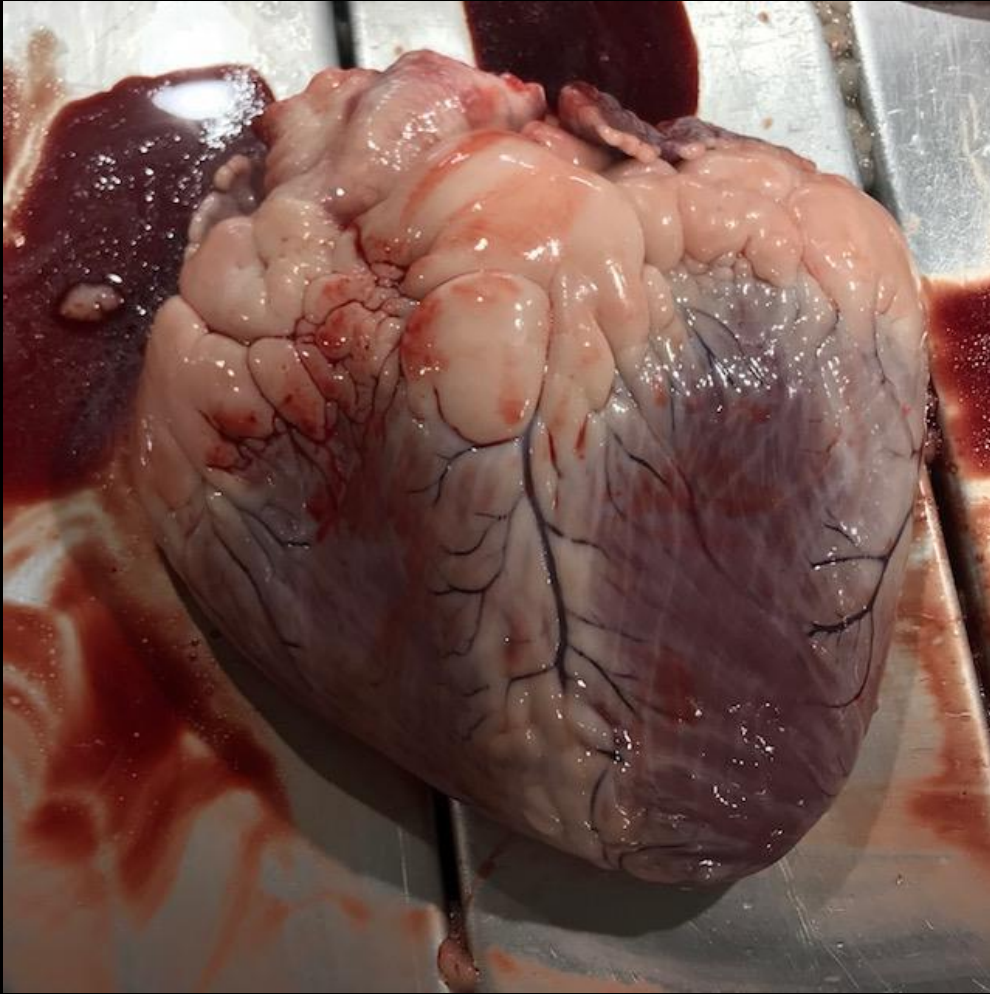




# Examples of Grade 3

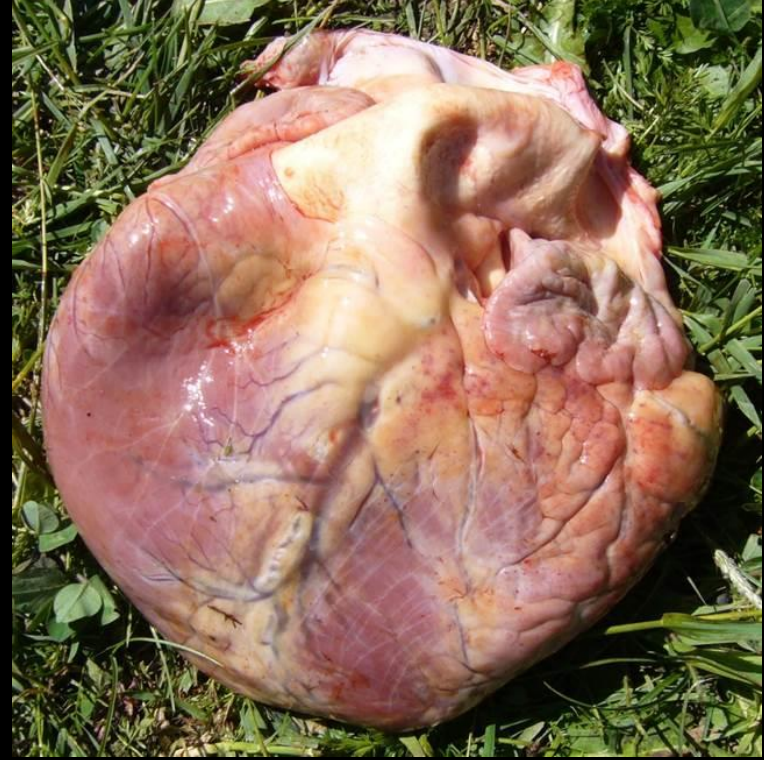


# Examples of Grade 4



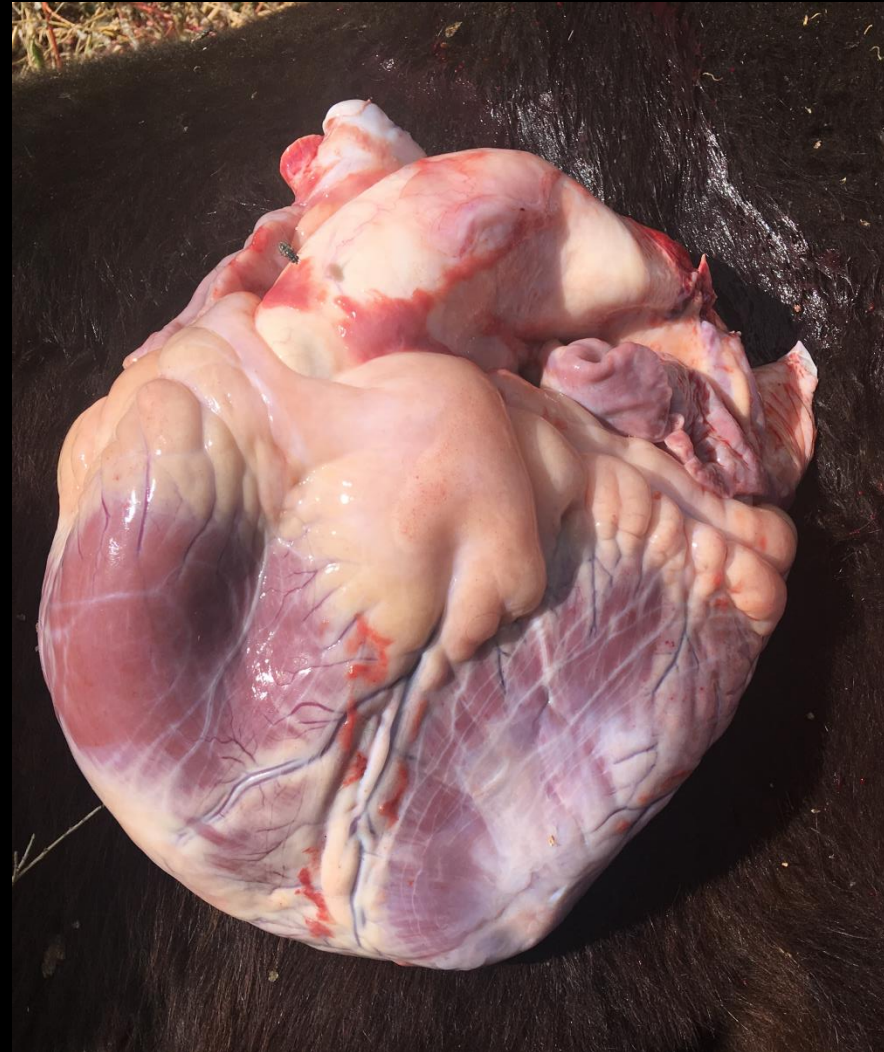
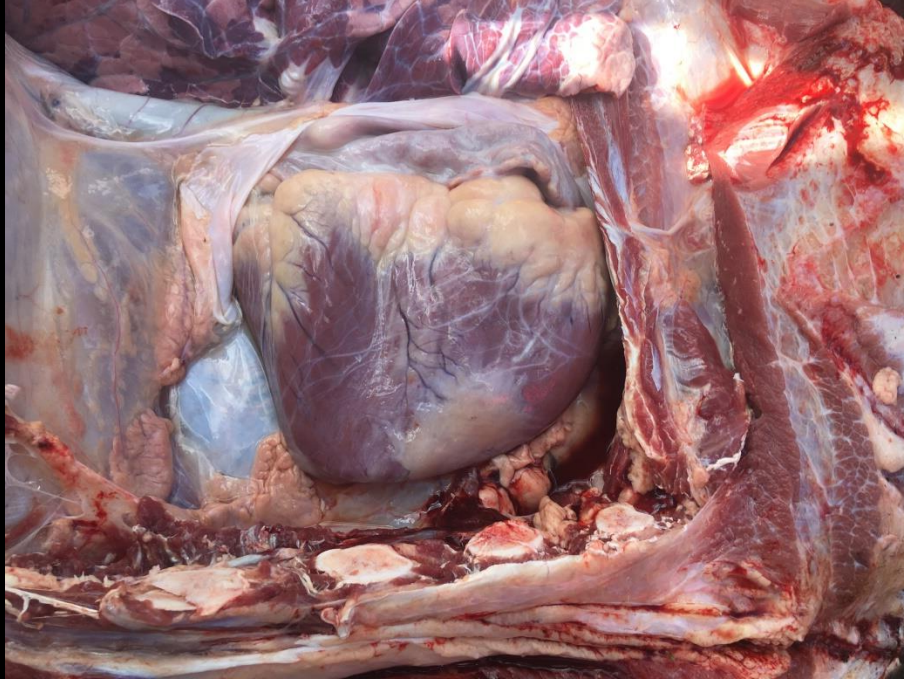


# Examples of Grade 5





# Examples of Grade 5





# Heart Scores Summary

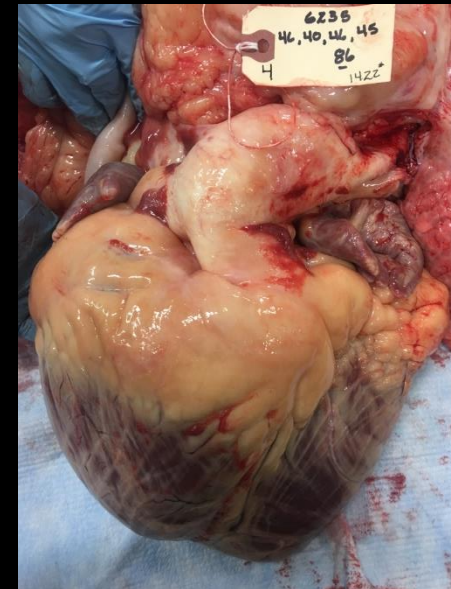
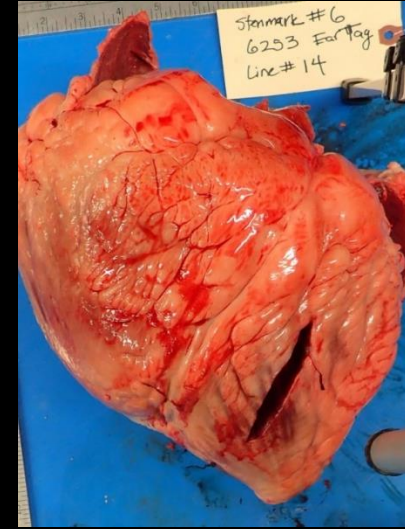
## Thus far

### Results thus far:

- \*High Heart Scores correlate with High Heart Fat Scores
- \*There is a high correlation to sire groups

### Conclusions:

Significant score effect, 56 sires accounted for 66% ; scored 1,2 normal  
34% ; 3 plus, significant cardiac remodeling



# PAP Testing Adventures

- 1980 in Gunnison/Hesperus Colorado
- 1980-Present, >492,000 head
- Ambient Temps **-42** degrees to **115** degrees.
- Numerous Breeds with high Pap's in all
- Elevations from sea level to 14,300 feet





**Minus 12 degrees F**

**7800 Feet Elevation**









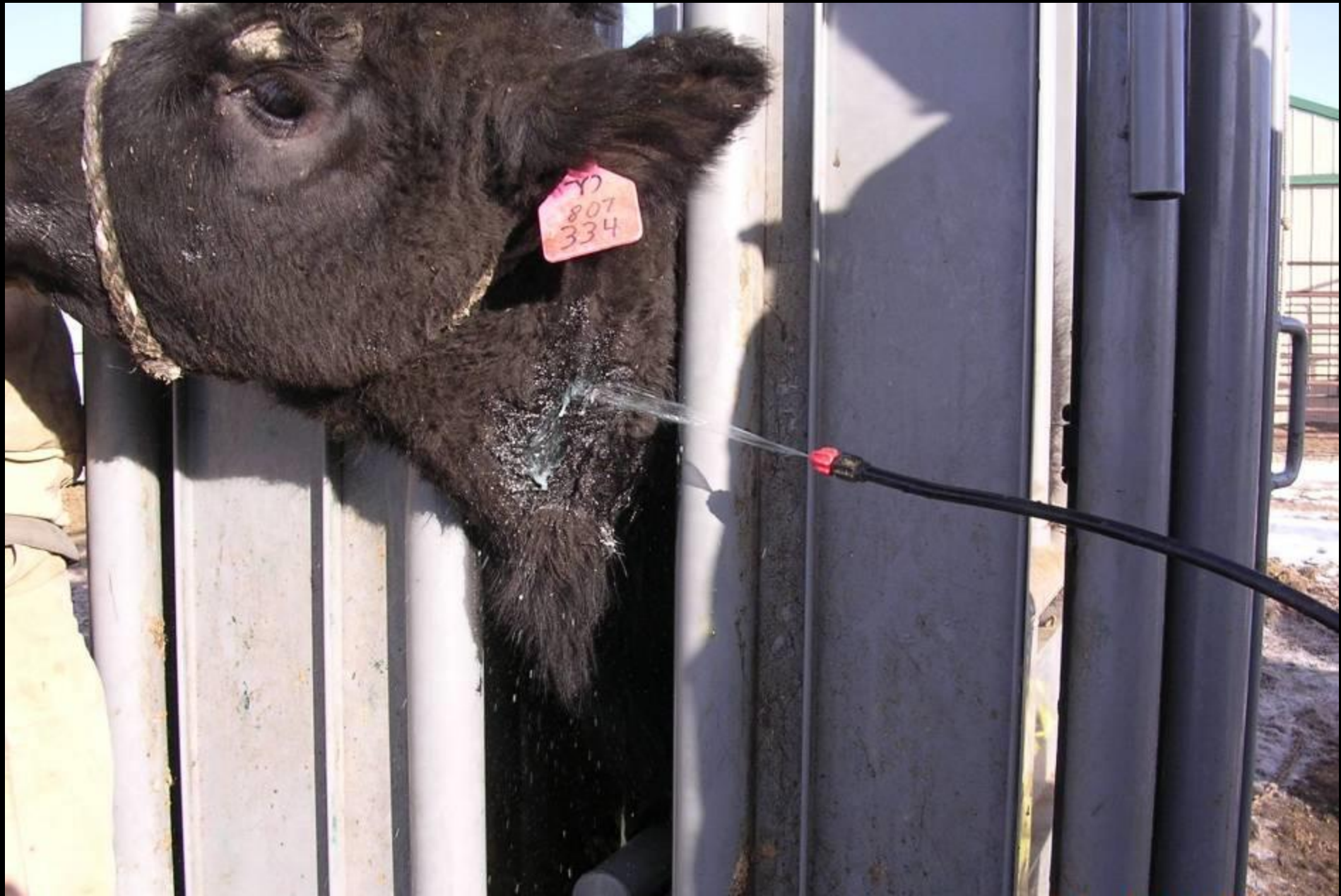


























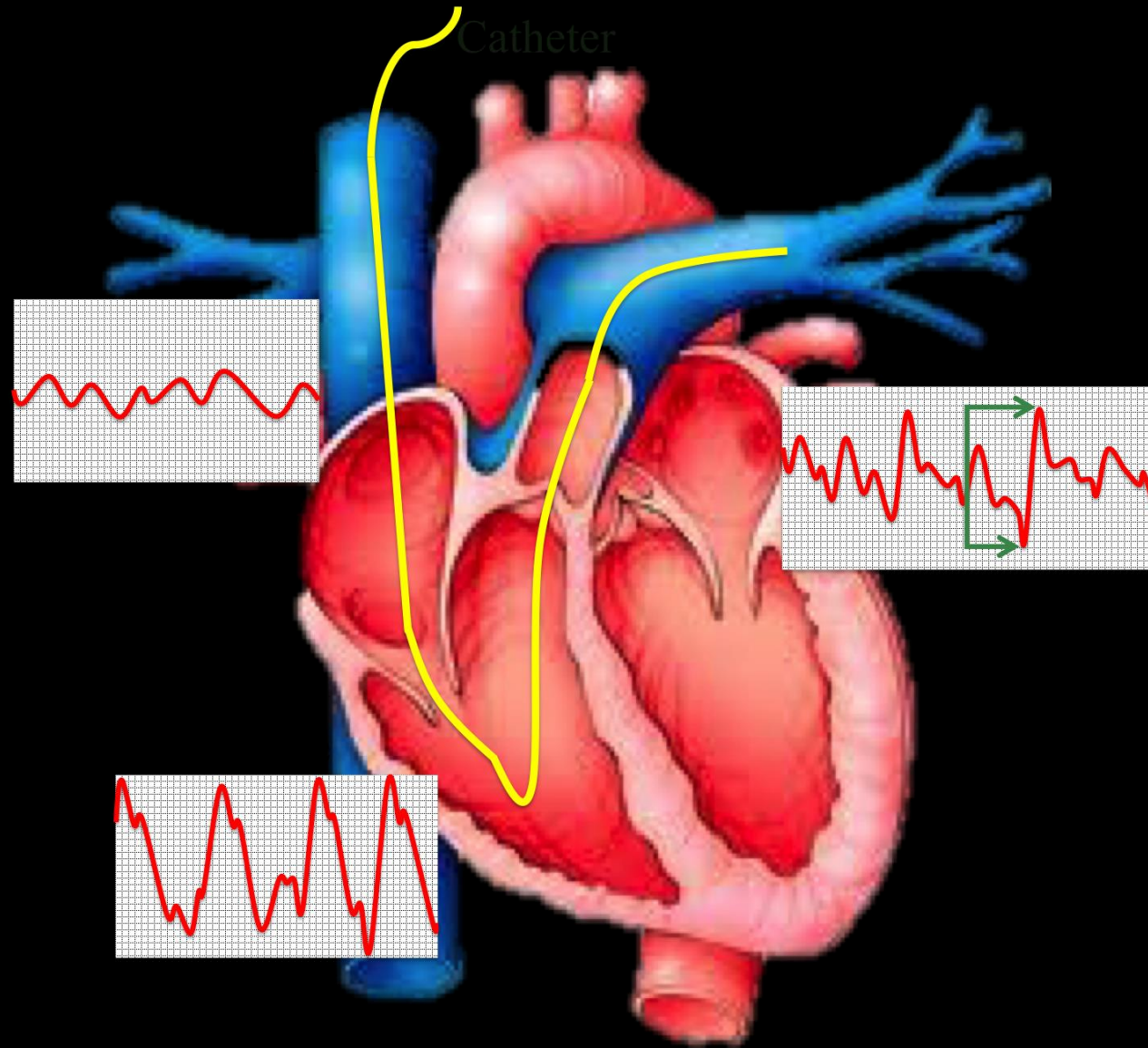




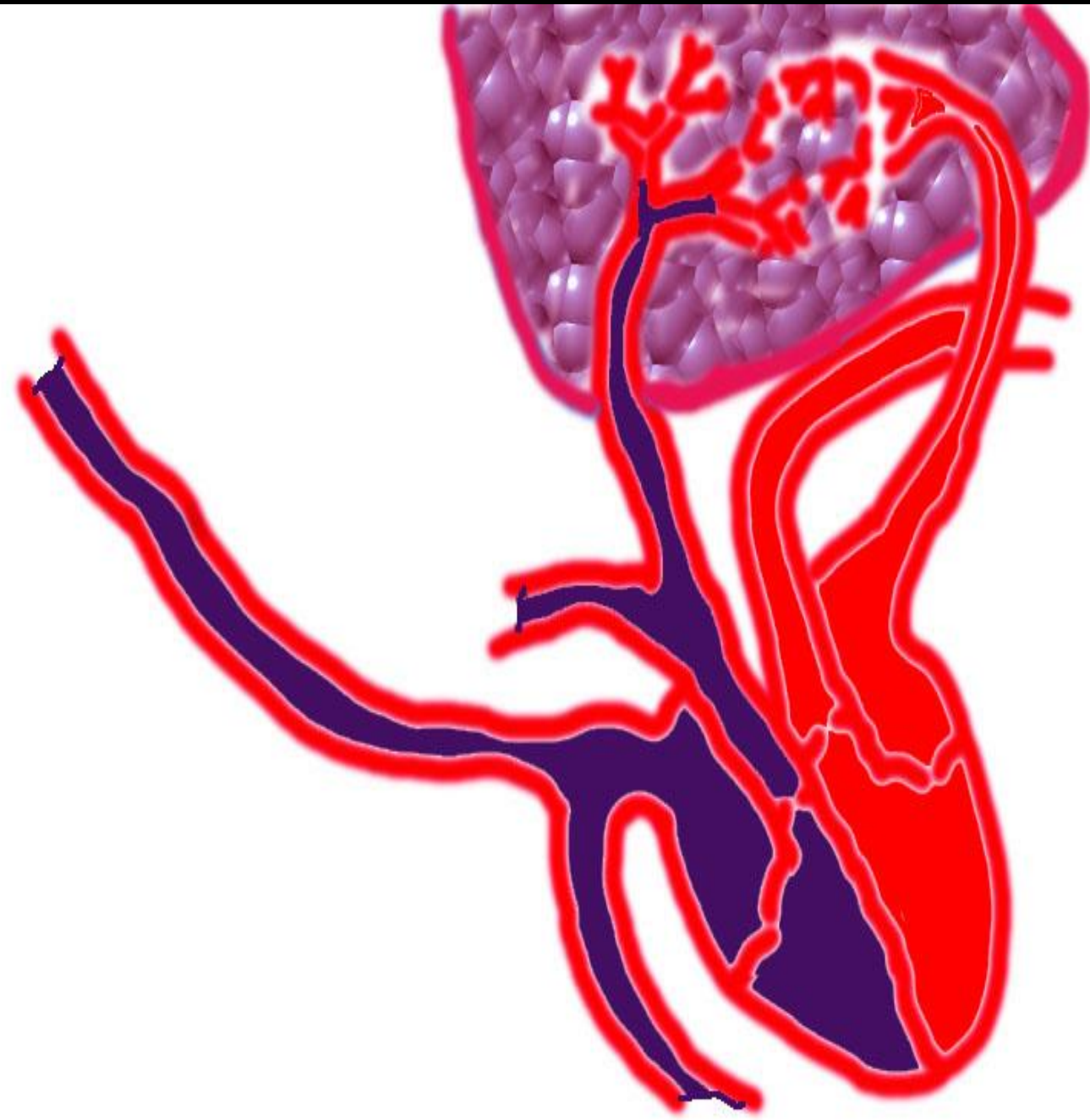


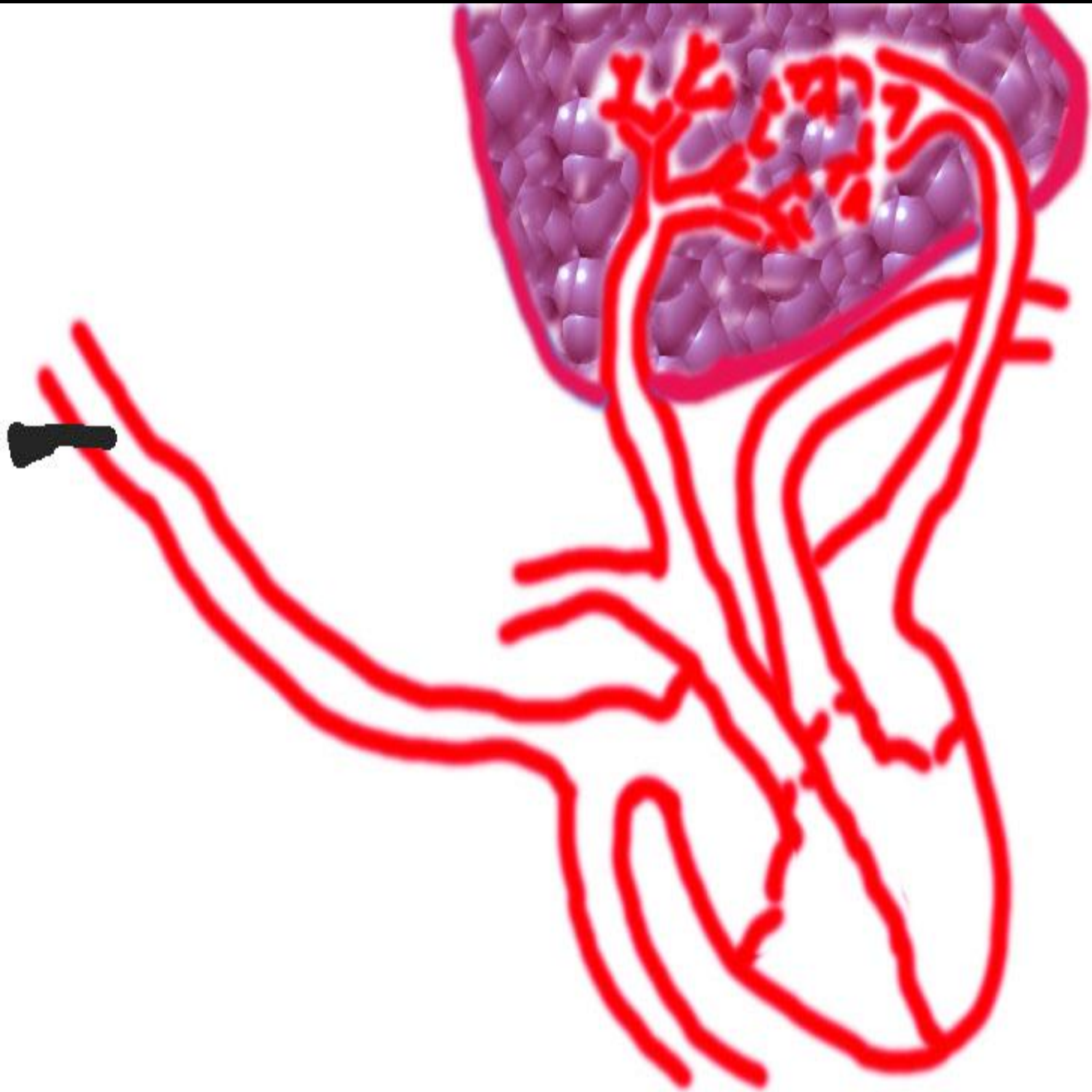


# PAP Measurement Catheter Location



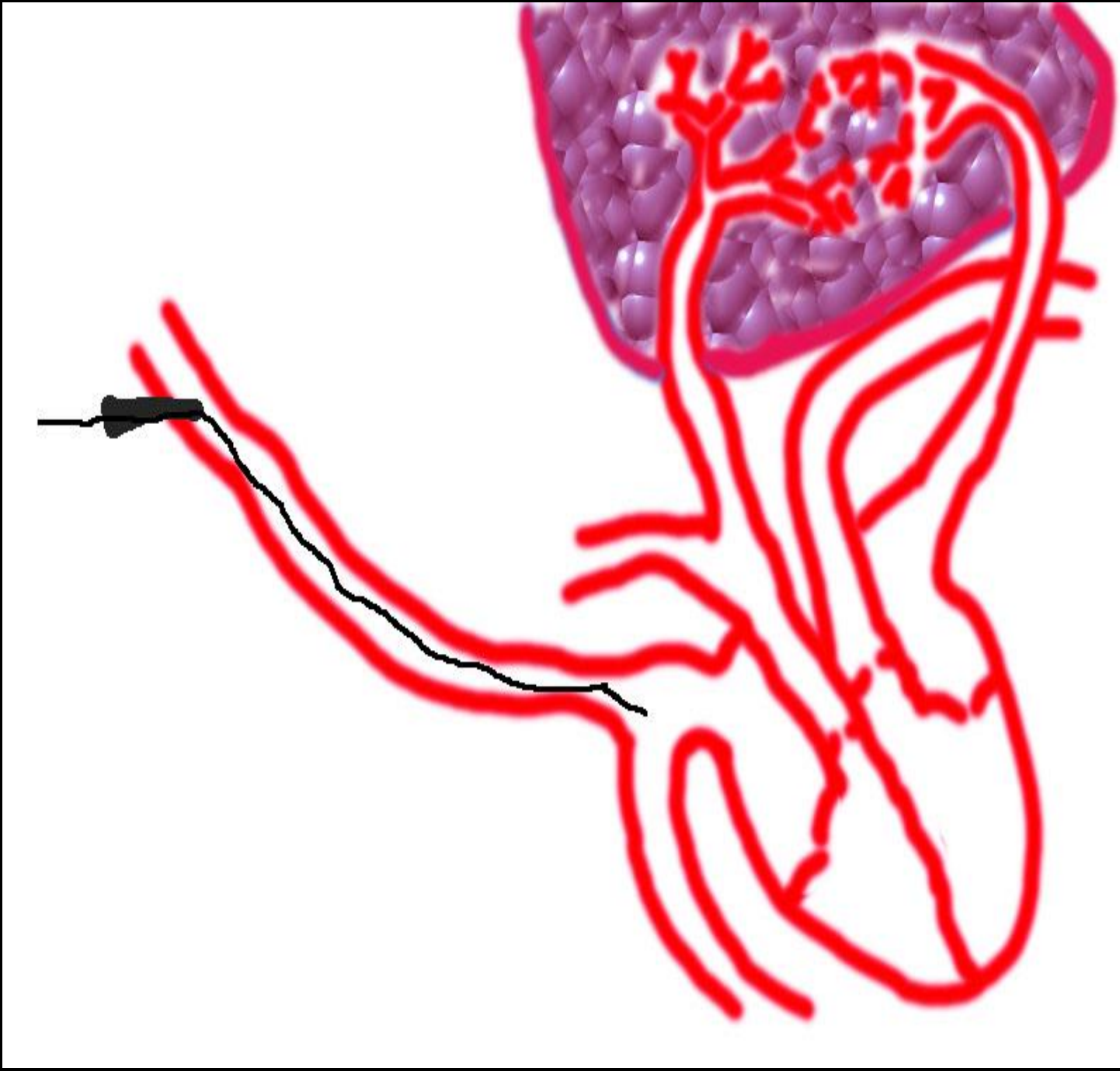






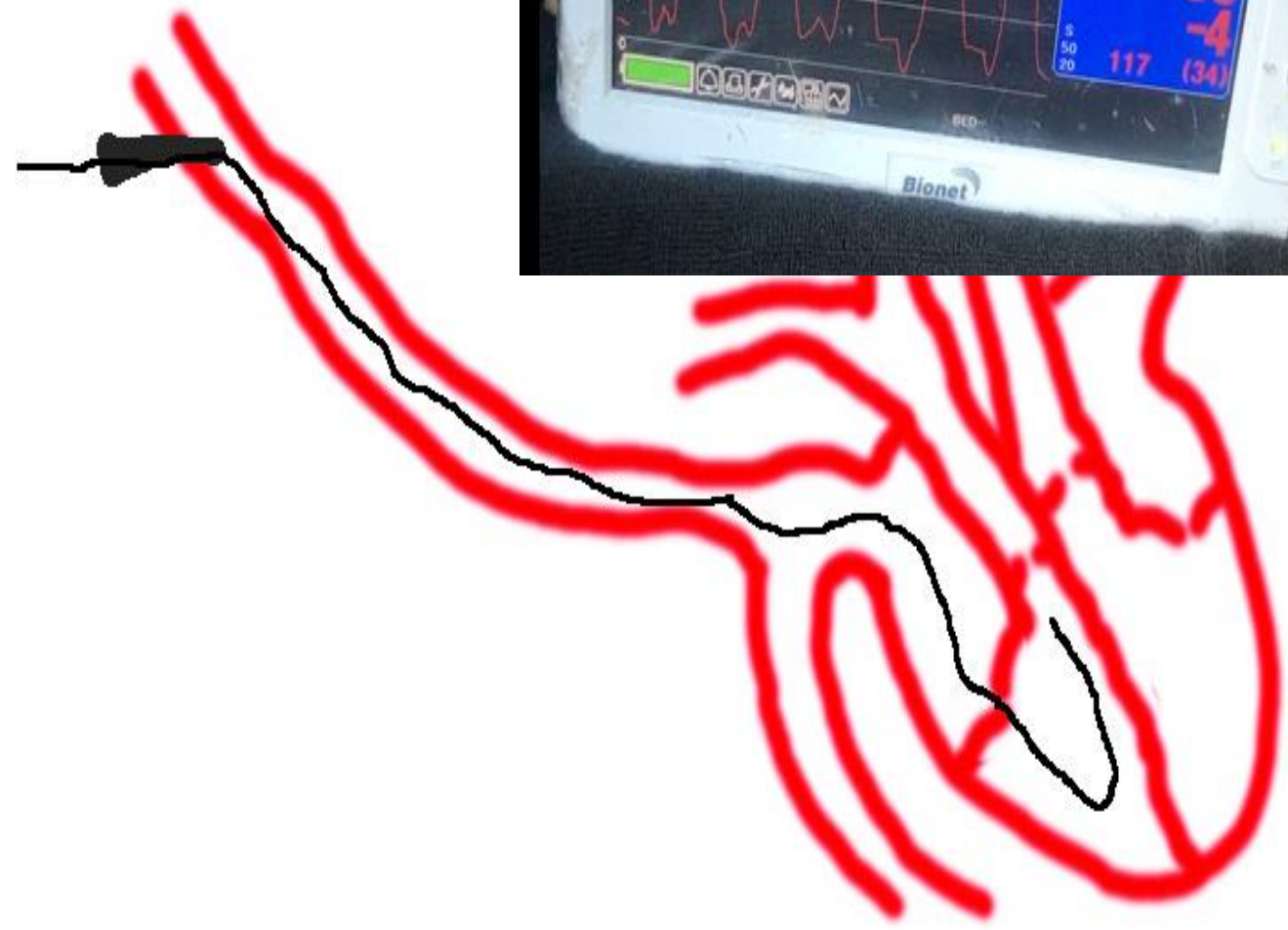
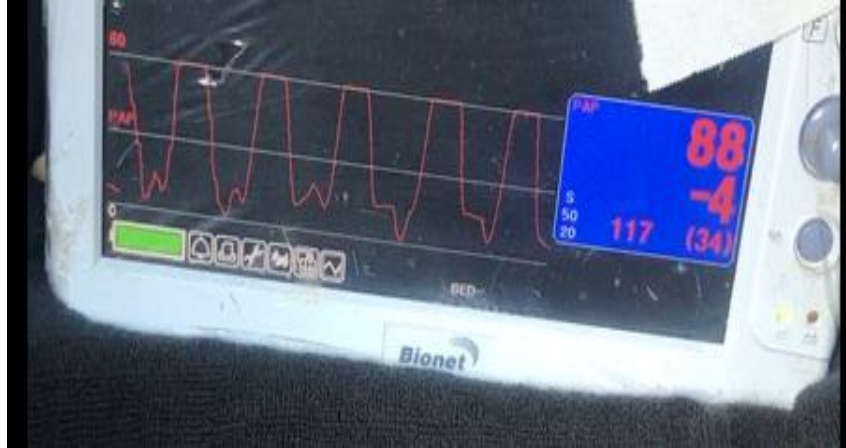




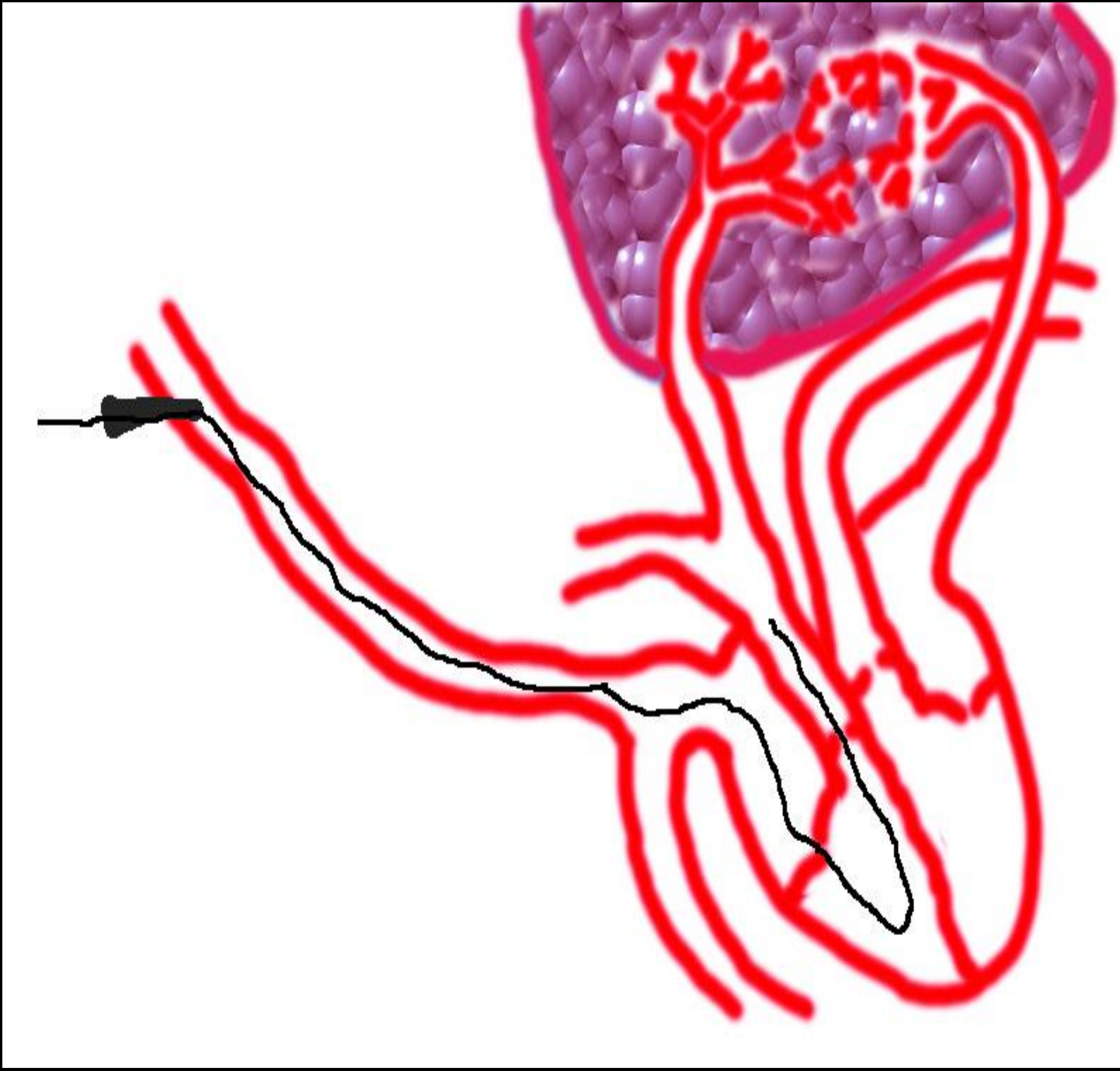


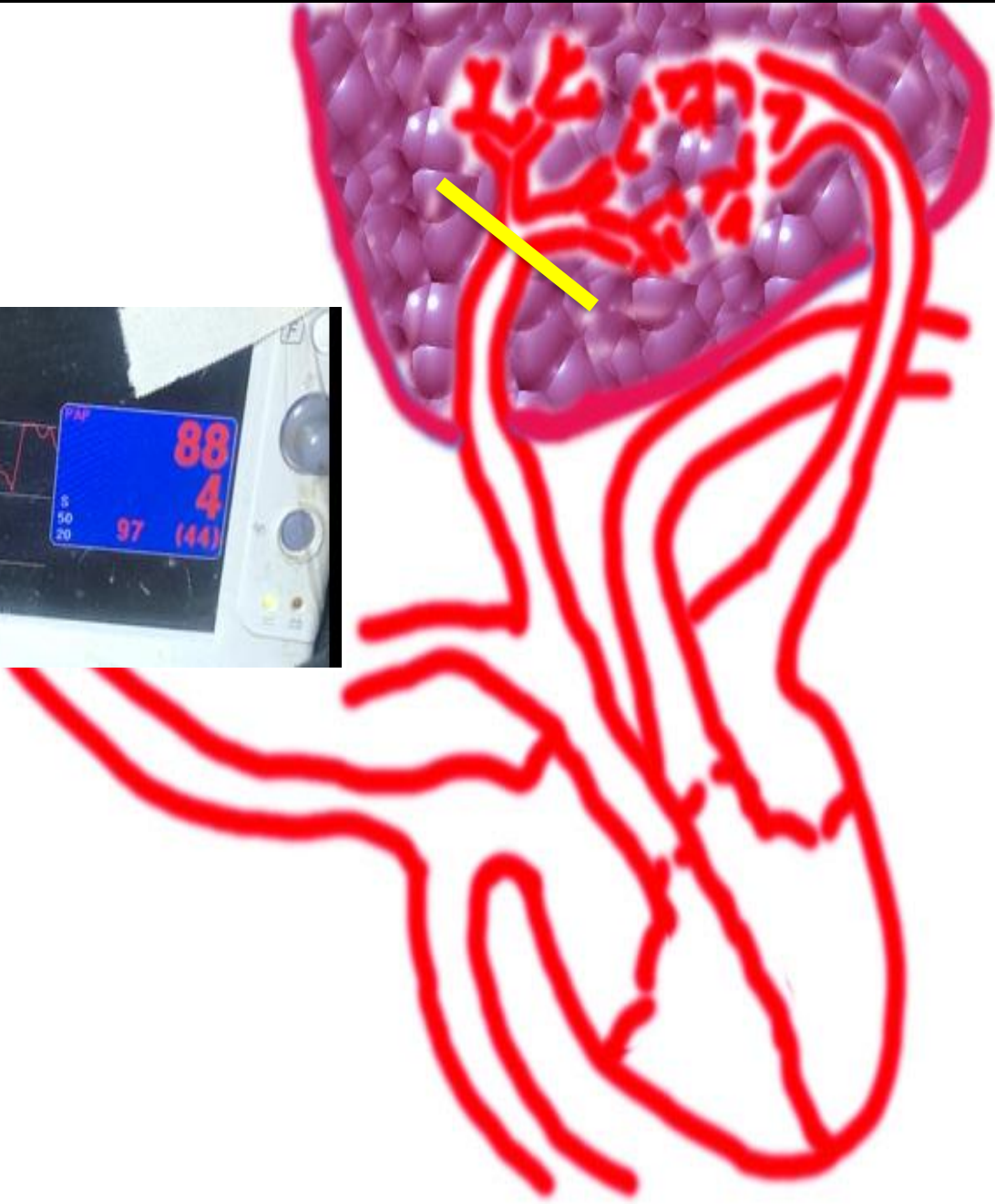




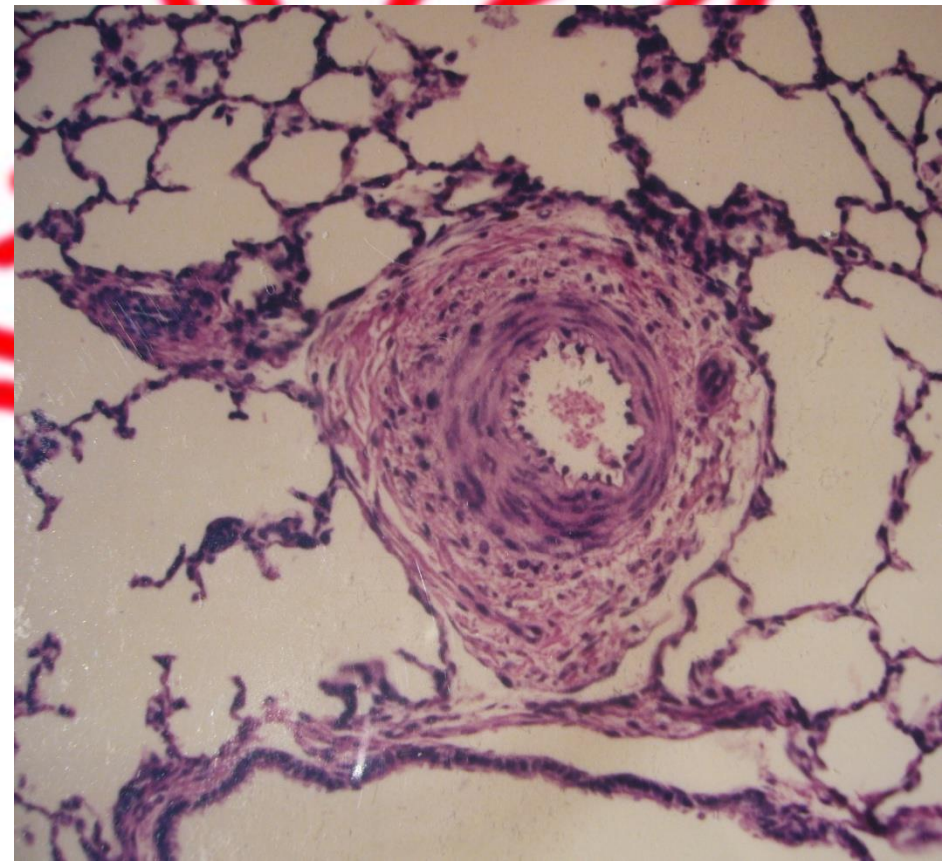
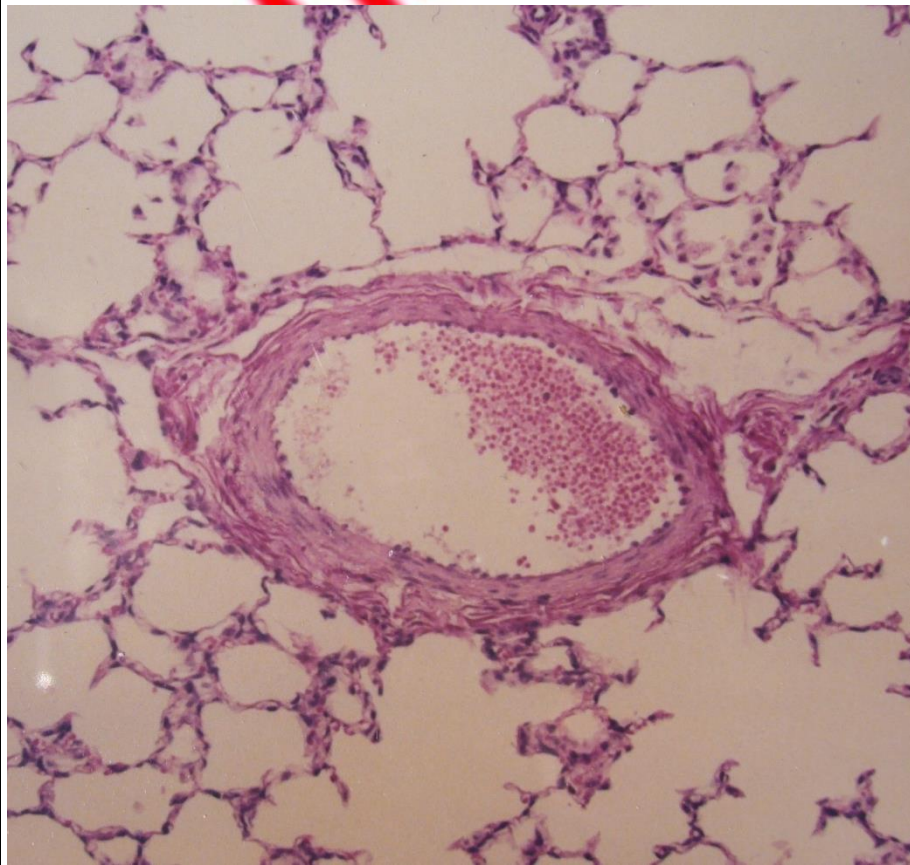
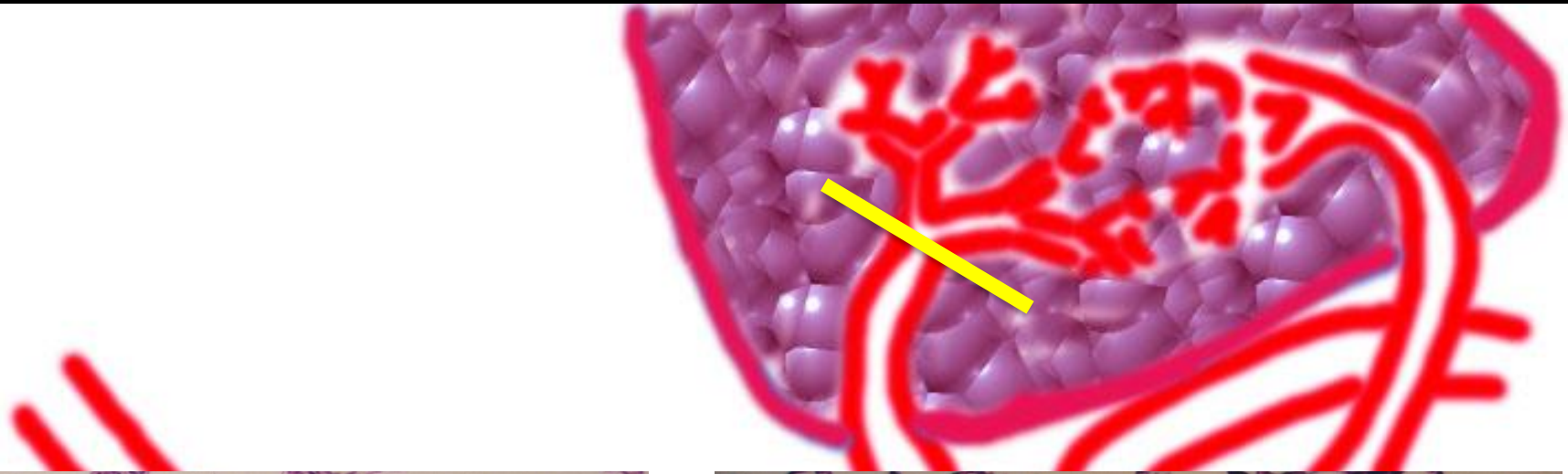












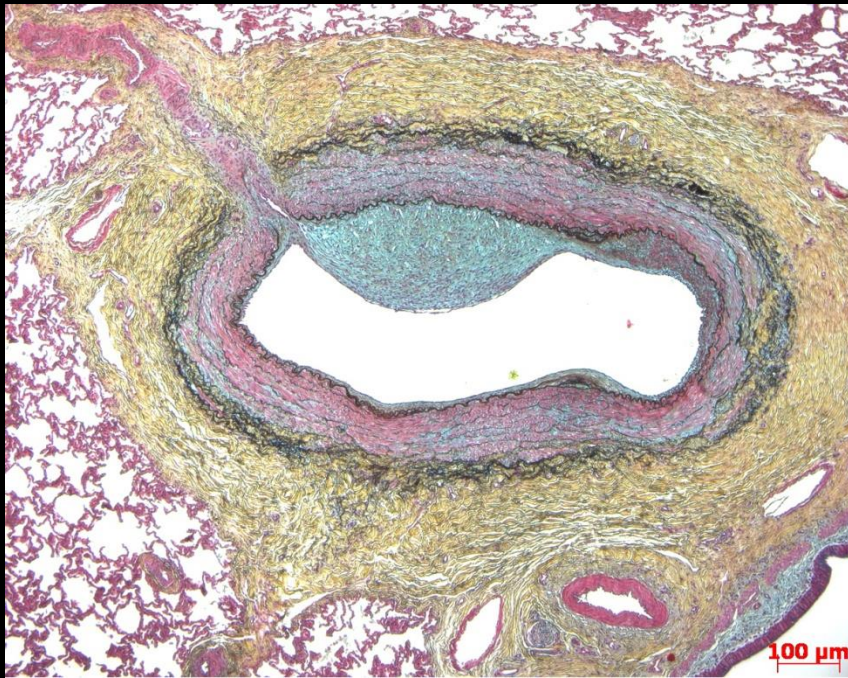








**PAP  
of  
46 mmHg**



**PAP  
of  
94 mmHg**



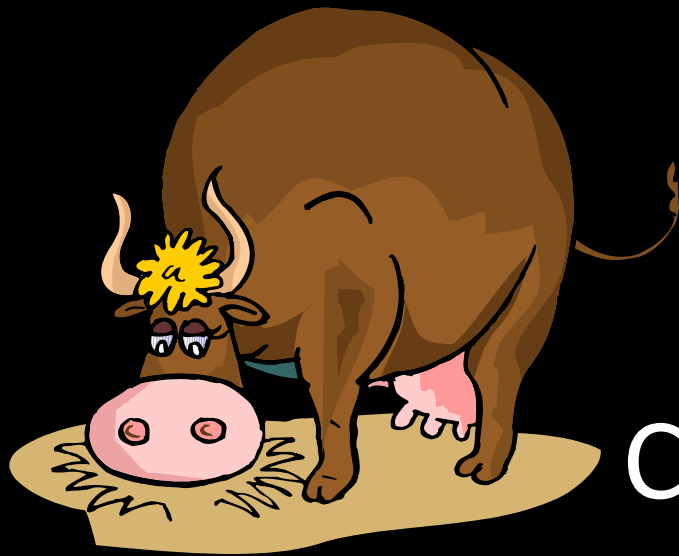


# Confounding Factors

## “Body Condition”

- Excessive body condition increases PAP
  - Bulls on Test
  - Feedlot Cattle, Newest area of Research!

1.4 billion dollar loss  
per year  
concerning

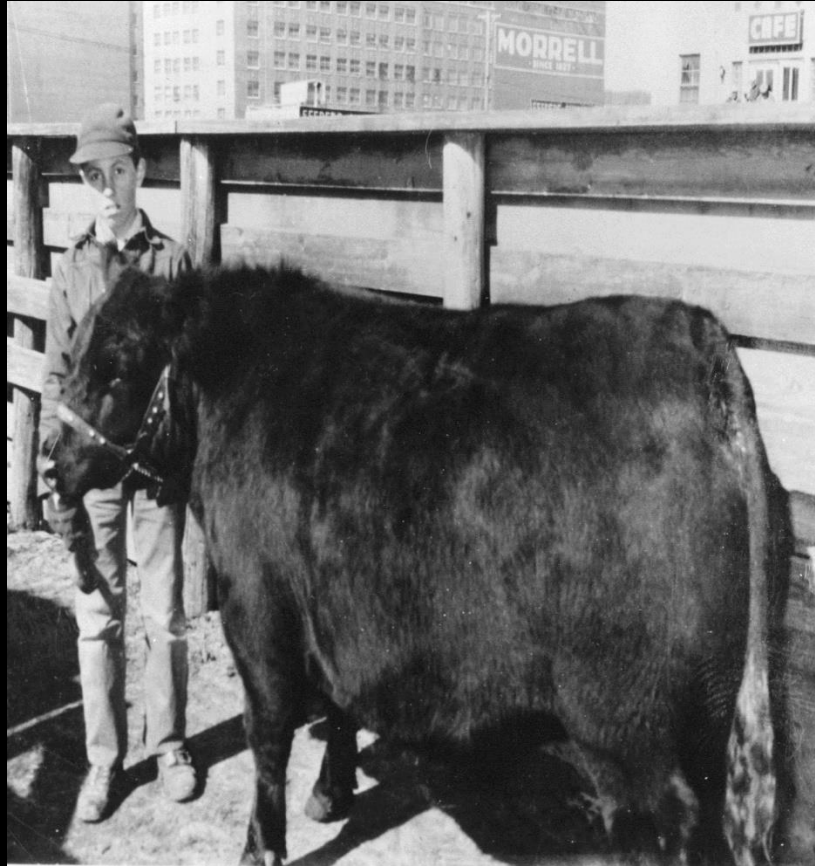


Feedlot  
Cardiac Death





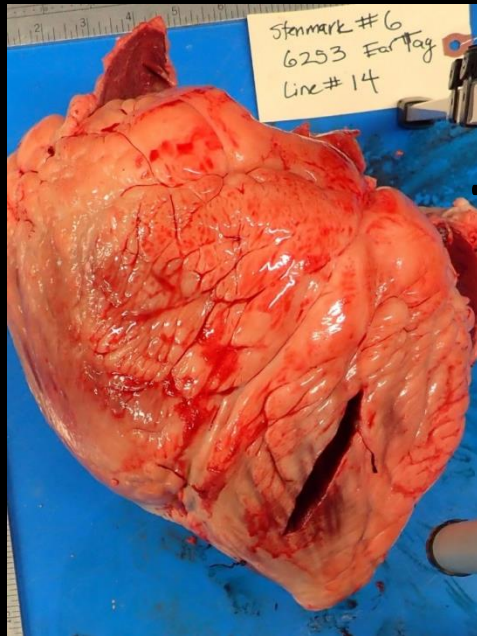
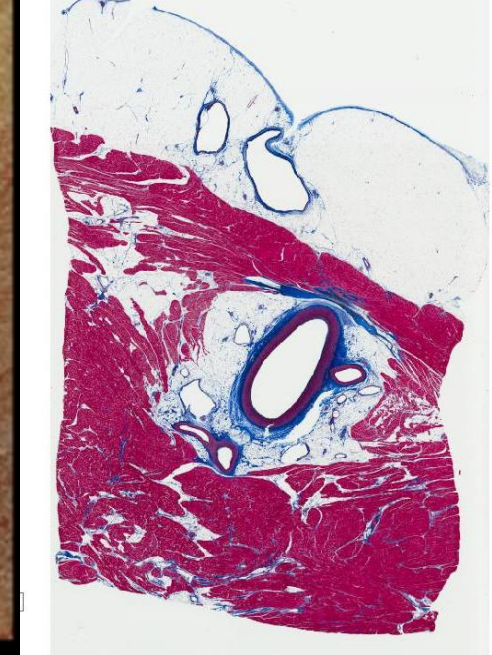
# Average Live Market Weight has Increased 48% since 1944



**1953 Angus Steer  
950 lb. Live Weight**



**2015 Angus Steer  
1200-1600 lb. Live  
Weight**



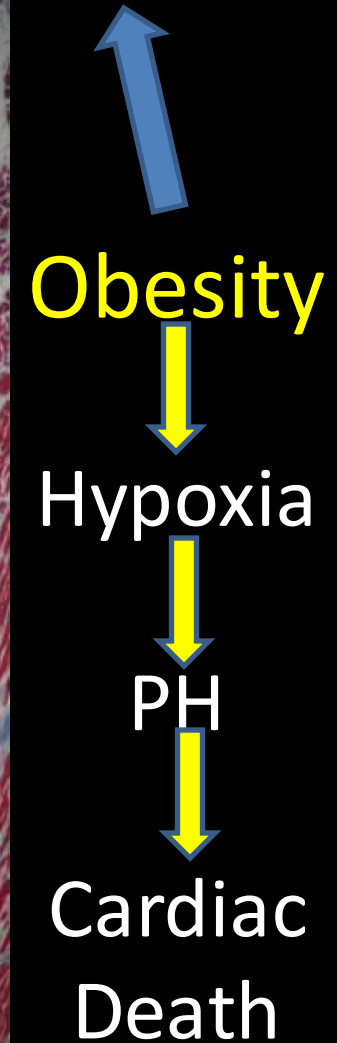
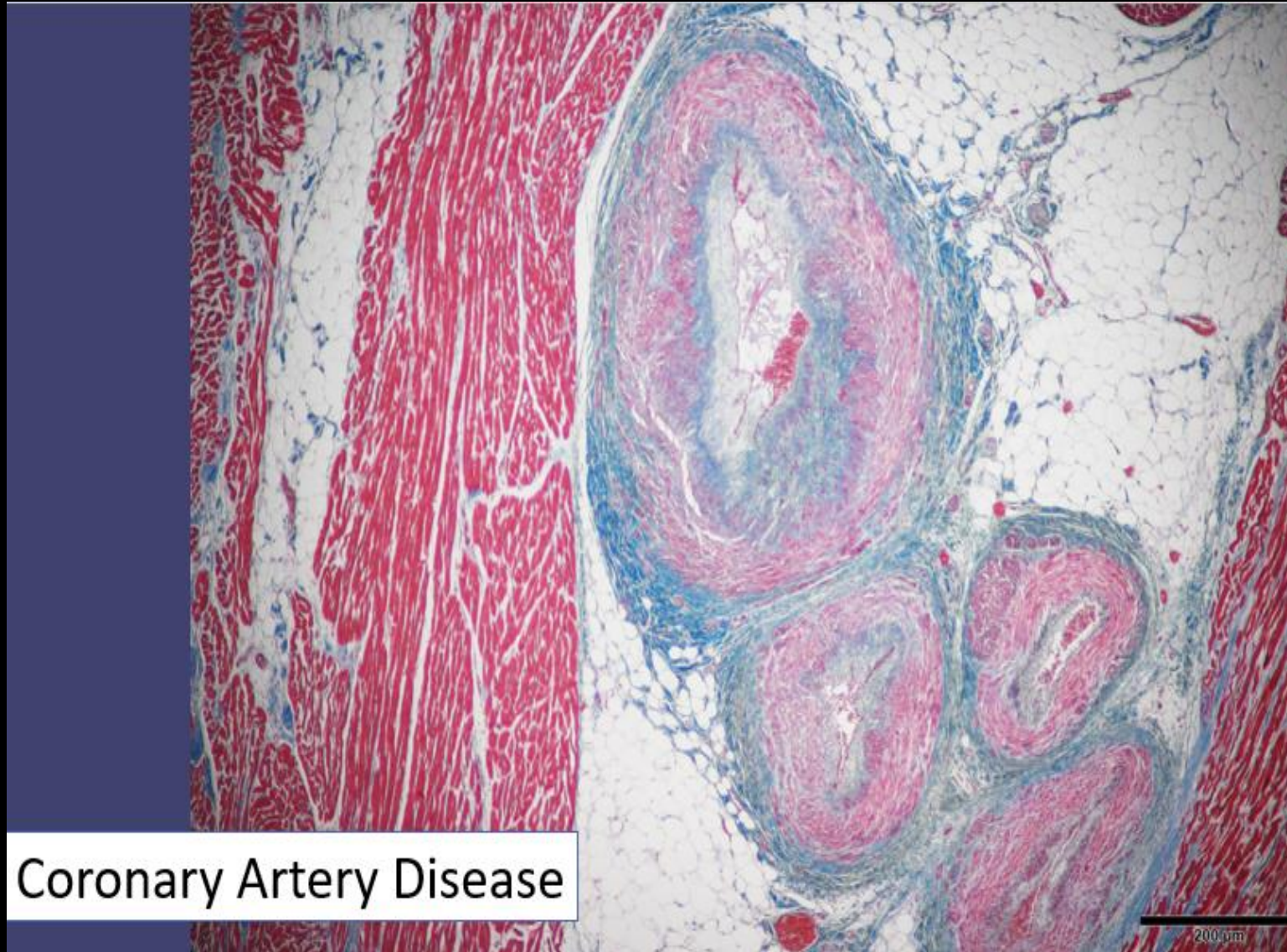
# The Well-Marbled Heart

Closer Look at Feedlot Cardiac Death  
Is It Bovine High Mountain Disease



# Feedlot Cardiac Death

Fattening Induces Hypercholesterolemia and Dyslipidemia



Greta

# Altitude and Repeatability

- <5000 feet

Estimated Repeatability

60% Predictive

Screening only



- 1-1.5 mmHg increase per 1000 feet elevation rise.

Elevated PAP—Accurate  
Measurements <41

Questionable  
predictive value

**PAP Hot Topics**

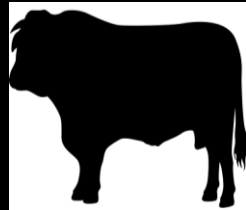


# Herd Example: Red Angus Bulls

## 16 months of Age

PAP Test #1,  
100 selected

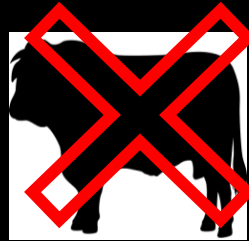
**36-41 mmHg**



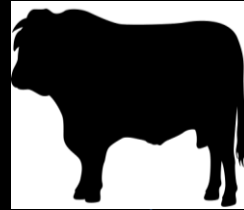
MT

3,200 ft

25 head out  
1-4 weeks  
12 BHMD



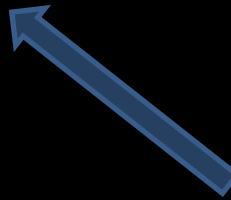
PAP Test #2  
75 remaining



Laramie, WY


7,240 ft

**6 weeks**



# Results

## Elevation and Repeatability

(3200  7240 feet)

- **48% (36/75) had PAPs  $\geq 46$  mmHg**
  - 10/75 had PAPs 46-50 mmHg
    - Pulled from sale
  - 26/75 had PAPs  $> 50$  mmHg
    - Pulled from sale and moved to lower elevation
- **52% (39/75) had PAP  $\leq 45$  mmHg**
- **Average increase of +12 mmHg**



# PAP Risk Factor

## Low Elevation Test Chart

PAP test conducted at elevation <4000 ft.  
(60% Repeatable, Predictive Value)

<b>PAP Score</b>	<b>Use at Low Elev. (&lt;4000 feet)</b>	<b>Use at Moderate Elev. (4000-5500 FEET)</b>	<b>Use at High Elev. (5500-7500 feet)</b>	<b>Use at Extreme (&gt;7500 feet)</b>
<b>34-39</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>
<b>40-45</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>
<b>46-49</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>
<b><u>≥50</u></b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>

# **PAP Risk Factor**

## **Moderate Elevation Test Chart**

**PAP test conducted at elevation 4000-5500 ft.  
(70% Repeatable, Predictive Value)**

<b>PAP Score</b>	<b>Use at Low Elev. (&lt;4000 feet)</b>	<b>Use at Moderate Elev. (4000-5500 FEET)</b>	<b>Use at High Elev. (5500-7500 feet)</b>	<b>Use at Extreme (&gt;7500 feet)</b>
<b>34-39</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>
<b>40-45</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>
<b>46-49</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>
<b><u>≥50</u></b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>	<b>Do Not Use</b>



# **PAP Risk Factor**

## **High Elevation Test Chart**

**PAP test conducted at elevation 5500-7000 ft.  
(75-95% Repeatable, Predictive Value)**

<b>PAP Score</b>	<b>Use at Low Elev. (&lt;4000 feet)</b>	<b>Use at Moderate Elev. (4000-5500 FEET)</b>	<b>Use at High Elev. (5500-7500 feet)</b>	<b>Use at Extreme (&gt;7500 feet)</b>
<b>34-39</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>
<b>40-45</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>
<b>46-49</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>
<b>≥50</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>

# PAP Risk Factor

## Very High Elevation Test Chart

PAP test conducted at elevation >7000 ft.  
(95% Repeatable, Predictive Value)

<b>PAP Score</b>	<b>Use at Low Elev. (&lt;4000 feet)</b>	<b>Use at Moderate Elev. (4000-5500 FEET)</b>	<b>Use at High Elev. (5500-7500 feet)</b>	<b>Use at Extreme (&gt;7500 feet)</b>
<b>34-39</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>
<b>40-45</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>
<b>46-49</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>
<b>≥50</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>Moderate Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>	<b>High Risk</b>



# WHY ETHIOPIA?

- Ethiopian highlanders maintain venous hemoglobin concentrations and arterial oxygen saturation within the ranges of sea level populations, despite the decrease in the ambient oxygen tension at high altitude.
- Different from Andean and Tibetan populations





PAP testing in  
Ethiopia  
Elevation  
14,300 feet

Tested 325 Head  
Highest PAP  
Measurement  
34 mmHg





# Questions



# Finished



# Thank You !!



# Questions



# Finished



# Thank You !!