Coronary Care Unit Objectives

Knowledge

- Understand the indications for, interpretation of, and risks of the common cardiovascular testing modalities: ECG, CXR, CT scan, myocardial serum marker interpretation for ACS, echocardiography, cardiac catheterization, and electrophysiologic testing
- Understand the risk factors for CAD and their impact on clinical presentation, prognosis, and treatment options.
- Understand the spectrum of disease from silent ischemia to acute coronary syndrome in the coronary vasculature, and from claudication to limb loss in the peripheral vasculature
- Understand the diagnostic and prognostic evaluation of valvular insufficiency and stenosis (AS, AR, MS, MR, TR) as well as the role of medical treatment and considerations for angiographic evaluation, treatment, and surgical intervention.
- Understand the etiology, work-up, medical treatment, and prognostic evaluation of patients with congestive heart failure.
- Become familiar with the treatment of endstage heart failure and cardiogenic shock (including medical, surgical, and mechanical interventions).
- Understand the indications for and long-term care of patients undergoing orthotopic heart transplantation.
- Be familiar with the evaluation of pulmonary hypertension and understand the medical, surgical, and intravascular treatment options for primary pulmonary hypertension.
- Appreciate the spectrum of congenital heart disease, know the clinical presentation of the uncorrected adult patient, and understand the most common complications of corrected congenital lesions.
- Review the most common collagen vascular diseases (Marfan's, Scleroderma, Sjogren's) and rheumatologic disorders (SLE, RA) affecting the cardiovascular system.
- Be familiar with the post-operative care of patients undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting, valvular repair or replacement, and aortic aneurysm repair.

Skills

- Recognize physical exam findings associated with common structural and valvular abnormalities, including AS, AI, MS, MR, VSD, IHSS, and TR.
- Recognize physical exam findings associated with congestive heart failure, cardiogenic shock, pulmonary hypertension, and pericardial tamponade.
- Be able to independently perform and interpret the results of bedside right heart catheterization.
- Be comfortable with the management and troubleshooting of intra-aortic balloon pumps.
Teaching Methods

- Active participation in CCU (Stanford), heart failure (Stanford), and surgical rounds (VA)
- Cardiovascular Medicine Didactic Core Conferences
- Participation at Stanford Cath conference and Heart Failure conference
- Review of ACC/AHA Guidelines
- Literature review of specific topics as they relate to the care of individual patients on service

Methods of Evaluation

- Direct observation by the attending physician of the fellow's diagnostic evaluation of patients and formulation of a therapeutic plan
- Chart review of the fellow's notes by the attending physician.