

Mx of **Physiotherapy** for **Elderly** with **Cardiovascular Disease** (CVD)

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INSTITUT JANTUNG NEGARA
National Heart Institute

How old are they?



Who is Defined as Elderly?

- Defined as the **chronological age of 65 or older**.
- People from 65 to 74 years old **early elderly**
- 75 years old **late elderly**

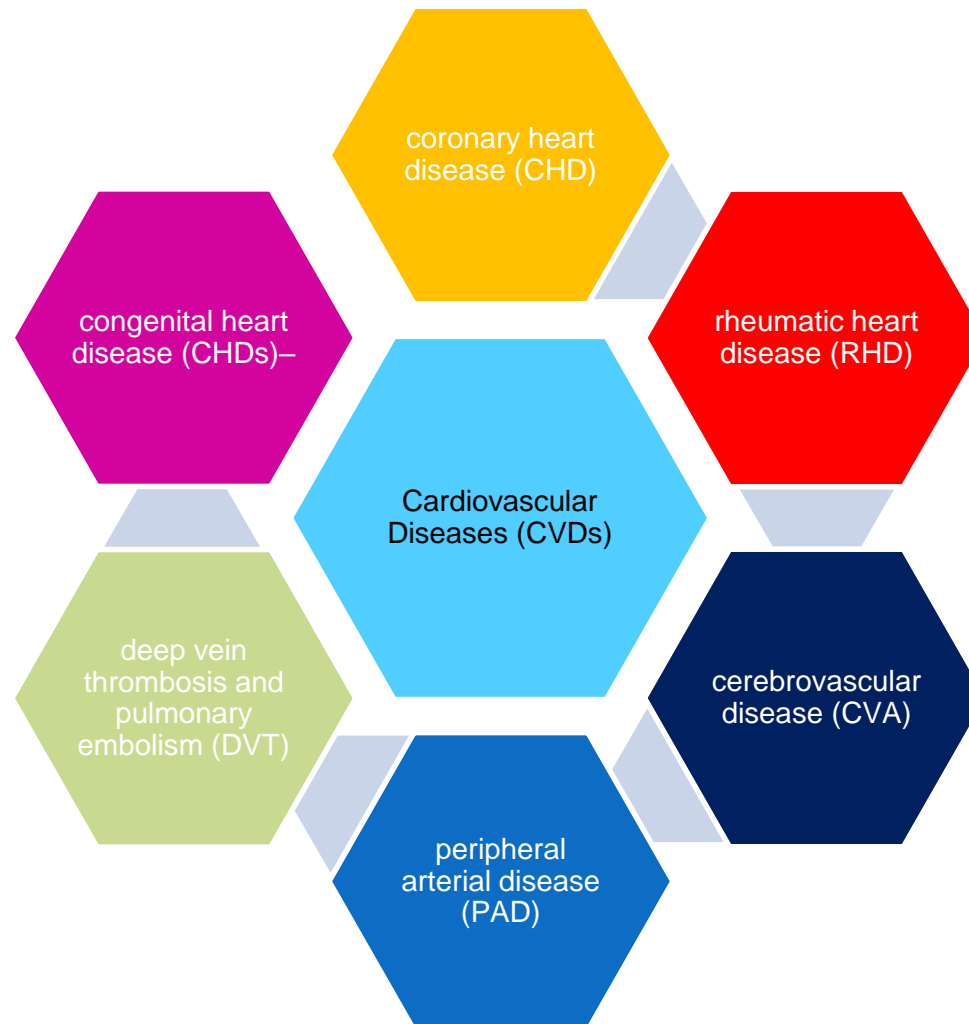


What are the most common with Elderly?

- Urinary incontinence
- Sleep Problems.
- Delirium
- Dementia
- Falls
- Osteoporosis
- Weight Loss
- **Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD)**



What are cardiovascular diseases (CVD)?



Evidences this population need Cardiac Rehabilitation (CR)

- CR can offer **substantial benefits** for older patients with HF, after CABG surgery and/or HVR, and after an acute cardiac event (unstable angina pectoris, AMI) *(Austin et al., 2015, González et al., 2016, Voller et al., 2016, Baldasseroni et al., 2016)*
- older patients with CVD most likely to benefit from the **multidisciplinary approach** that characterizes CR *(Austin et al., 2015)*

European Journal of **Heart Failure** 

Articles | [Free Access](#)

Randomised controlled trial of cardiac rehabilitation in elderly patients with heart failure

Jacky Austin , Robert Williams, Linda Ross, Laurie Moseley, Stephen Hutchison


First published: 17 February 2005 | <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejheart.2004.10.004> | Citations: 146

Volume 7, Issue 3
March 2005
Pages 411-417

[Figures](#) [References](#) [Related](#) [Information](#)

European Geriatric Medicine (2018) 9:853–861
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41999-018-0119-2>

RESEARCH PAPER 

Geriatric rehabilitation in older patients with cardiovascular disease: a feasibility study

Eléonore F. van Dam van Isselt^{1,2} · Jan van Wijngaarden³ · Dirk J. A. Lok³ · Wilco P. Achterberg¹

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JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY 

Brief Reports






Cardiac Rehabilitation in Very Old Adults: Effect of Baseline Functional Capacity on Treatment Effectiveness

Samuele Baldasseroni MD, PhD, Alessandra Pratesi MD, Sara Francini MD, Rachele Pallante MD, Riccardo Barucci MD, Francesco Orso MD, Costanza Burgisser MD ... [See all authors](#) ▾

First published: 17 August 2016 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jgs.14239> | Citations: 37

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Research Letter FREE

October 2015

Participation in Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs Among Older Patients After Acute Myocardial Infarction

Jacob A. Doll, MD^{1,2}; Anne Hellkamp, MS^{1,2}; P. Michael Ho, MD, PhD^{3,4}; [et al](#)

[» Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

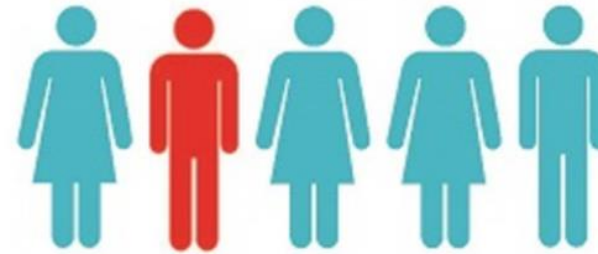
JAMA Intern Med. 2015;175(10):1700-1702. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2015.3819

Prevalence of CVD



116.4 million, or 46%

of US adults are estimated to have hypertension. These are findings related to the new 2017 Hypertension Clinical Practice Guidelines.



On average,

1 in 5 adults, or 22.5%

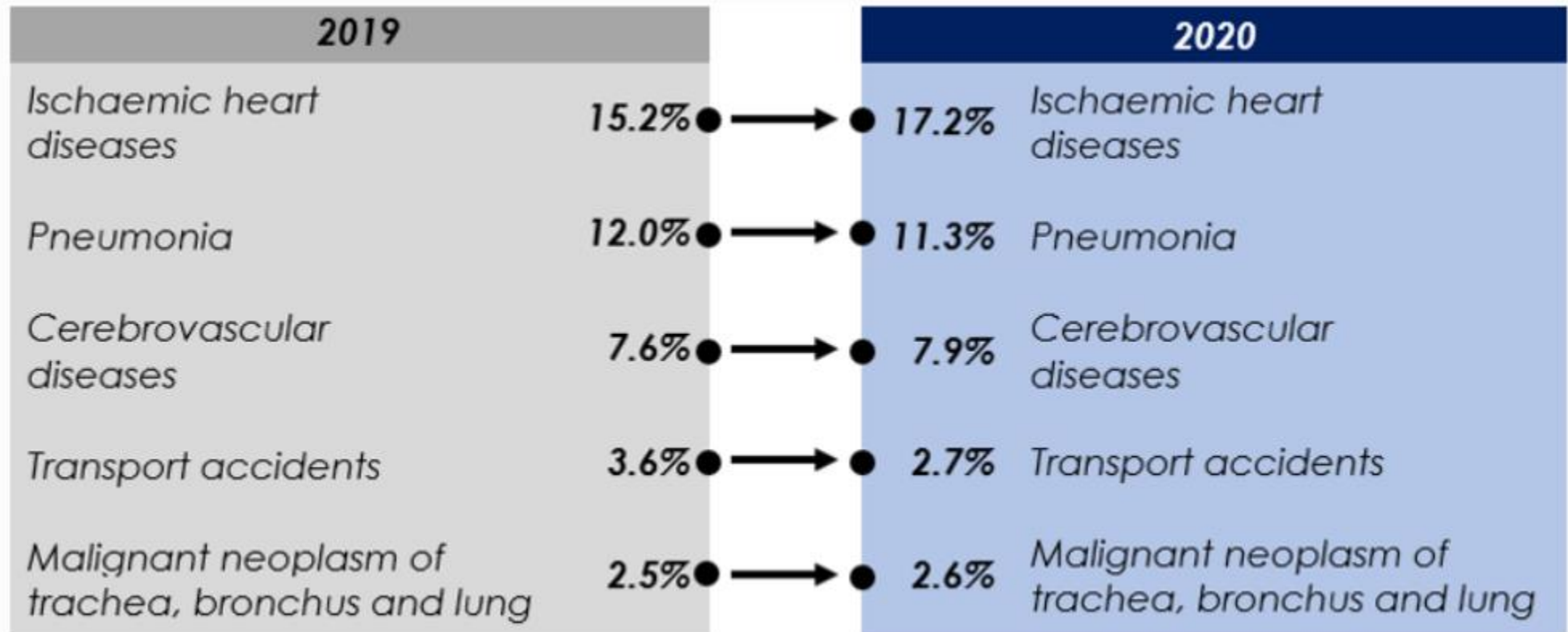
of American adults, reported achieving adequate leisure-time aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities to meet the physical activity guidelines, based on 2016 data.



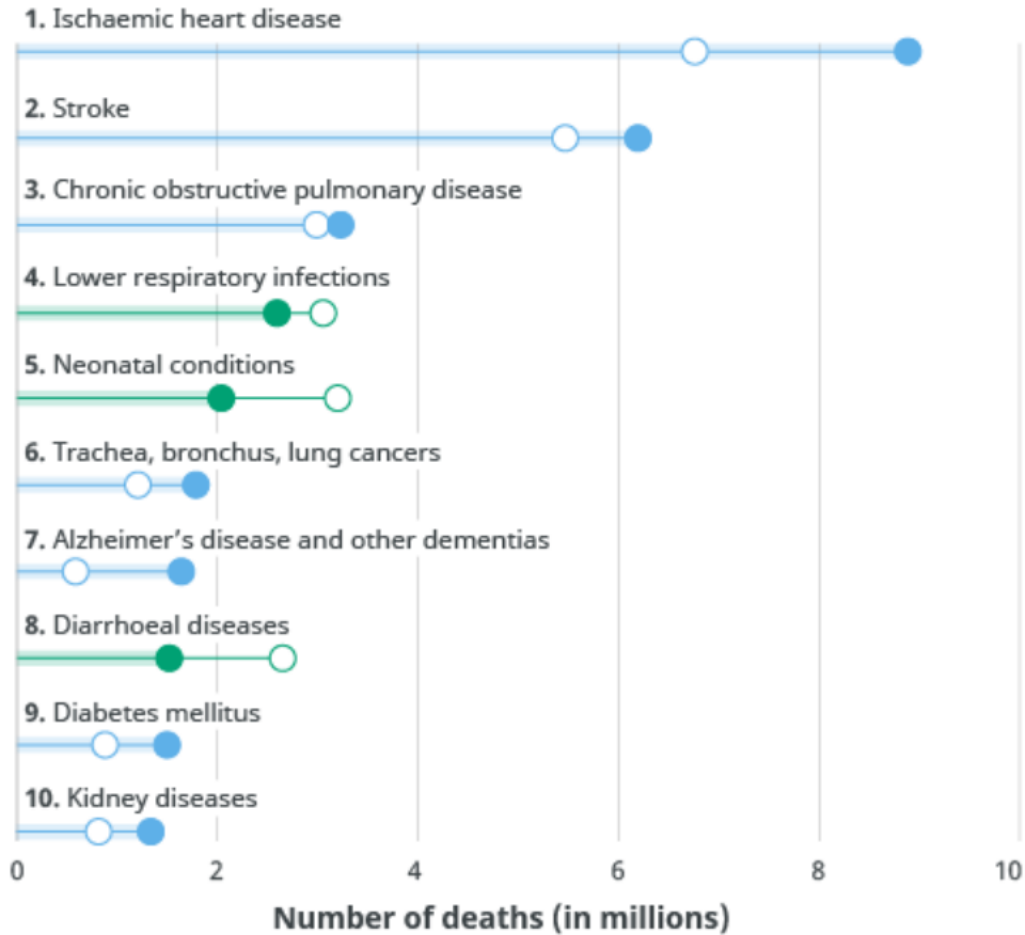
1 in 6 males and 1 in 7 females

in the United States are current smokers, based on 2016 data.

5 principle of death in Malaysia



WHO top-10 causes of death



- 16% of the world's total deaths.
- rising by more than 2 million to 8.9 million deaths in 2019.

Physiotherapy Mx - CR Guidelines



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- actively performed in many Western countries
- effectiveness and safety - established
- CPG in Physio Mx of CR have been developed - consideration circumstances
 - medical and scientific evidence
 - documenting systematically organized
 - ref for medical professionals

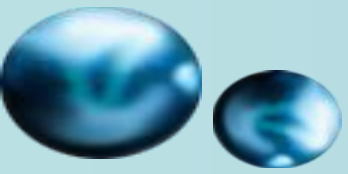


Class of recommendation & level of evidence



- **Class 1 indication** (i.e., strong recommendation)
- AHA/ACC - Class 1 Guideline recommendations for referral to CR include the following conditions:
- MI, PCI, CABG, Chronic stable angina, HF, PAD,

CLASS (STRENGTH) OF RECOMMENDATION	CLASS (STRENGTH) OF RECOMMENDATION	LEVEL (QUALITY) OF EVIDENCE‡
CLASS I (STRONG) Benefit >>> Risk Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Is recommended ■ Is indicated/useful/effective/beneficial ■ Should be performed/administered/other ■ Comparative-Effectiveness Phrases†: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treatment/strategy A is recommended/indicated in preference to treatment B ○ Treatment A should be chosen over treatment B </div>	CLASS I (STRONG) Benefit >>> Risk Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Is recommended ■ Is indicated/useful/effective/beneficial ■ Should be performed/administered/other ■ Comparative-Effectiveness Phrases†: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treatment/strategy A is recommended/indicated in preference to treatment B ○ Treatment A should be chosen over treatment B 	LEVEL A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ High-quality evidence‡ from more than 1 RCT ■ Meta-analyses of high-quality RCTs ■ One or more RCTs corroborated by high-quality registry studies
	CLASS IIa (MODERATE) Benefit >> Risk Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Is reasonable ■ Can be useful/effective/beneficial ■ Comparative-Effectiveness Phrases†: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treatment/strategy A is probably recommended/indicated in preference to treatment B ○ It is reasonable to choose treatment A over treatment B 	LEVEL B-R (Randomized) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Moderate-quality evidence‡ from 1 or more RCTs ■ Meta-analyses of moderate-quality RCTs
	CLASS IIb (WEAK) Benefit ≥ Risk Suggested phrases for writing recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ May/might be reasonable ■ May/might be considered 	LEVEL B-NR (Nonrandomized) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Moderate-quality evidence‡ from 1 or more well-designed, well-executed nonrandomized studies, observational studies, or registry studies ■ Meta-analyses of such studies
		LEVEL C-LD (Limited Data) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Randomized or nonrandomized observational or registry studies with limitations of design or execution ■ Meta-analyses of such studies ■ Physiological or mechanistic studies in human subjects
		LEVEL C-EO (Expert Opinion)



Cardiac Rehabilitation

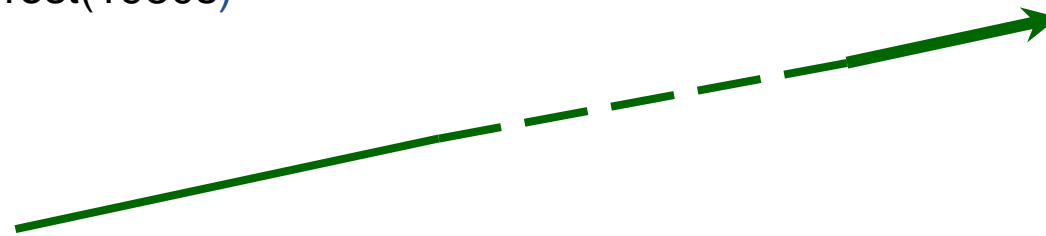
THEN to NOW...



6 weeks bed rest(1930s)



Multidisciplinary
& lifestyle
modification





Early Concepts Of Cardiac Rehabilitation



Historical Perspective

heart



1960's In USA, Kellerman showed that exercise was safe for post attack patients

Development of Inpatient Rehab Programs
Introduction of CCU



1967

Introduction of CABG and heart transplantation



1970's

Several RCT provided evidence that post heart attack patients did better if there were mobilized early after the event.

ambulation.

Beginnings of Comprehensive
& Outpatient Rehab Programs



Factor Modification.



The Initial Years.... Physio involvement

- Done in the Ward post-surgery
- Breathing exercises
- Active exercises
- Ambulation
- Home Exercise Program



Cardiac Rehabilitation Program Phase 1

Phase 1

Hospitalization

Activities

- Early mobilization
- Personalized Individual program
- Pt & family education :
 1. *to increase the patient's awareness*
 2. *reassure the patient about future progress and follow-up*

Benefits

- shorter hospital stay
- Improves ADL/ functional





Phase 1

- Inpatient rehabilitation program (CRP 1)
:admission to discharge
- Mostly post-surgical cases ([auto referral](#))-
services provide equitable access to all patient
groups (different socioeconomic status)
- Cardiology cases ([auto referral](#))- clinical pathways



- As soon as possible after admission (for surgery)
- Pre-op physiotherapy education (patient & family member)
 - Basic information and reassurance
 - Expectations after surgery:
 1. Mobilisation
 2. Family involvement
 3. Outpatient Cardiac Rehabilitation



Basic Information & Reassurance

- Reassurance and brief explanation of cardiac condition, treatment and procedure
 - ❖ Surgical incision
 - ❖ Pain-Support (drugs/ non-drug)
 - ❖ Effects of anesthesia on the respiratory system
 - ❖ Sleeping positions
 - ❖ Getting in and out of bed



Inpatient Phase 1

- Mobilisation program:
 - Active exs in bed(ICU & Wards): prevent Deep vein thrombosis & Pulmonary embolus

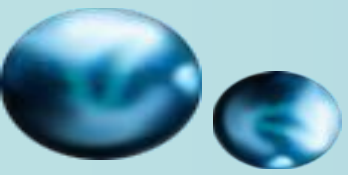




Early Mobilization

- **initiation of the rehabilitation activities** immediately upon respiratory and hemodynamic stabilization (*Bailey et al., 2007; Needham & Korupolu*),
- “the physical activity that, **performed with the appropriate intensity**, produces physiological benefits for the organism”, acting on the circulation, central and peripheral perfusion, ventilation, or state of consciousness (*Castro Avila et al, 2015*).





Benefits of EM

- Minimizing complications of bed rest.
- Promoting improved function for patients.
- Shortening the duration of mechanical ventilation.
- Reducing length of hospital stay.
- Reducing overall hospital cost.
- Improving patient's quality of life.





Indications

- Post Myocardial infarction.
- Chronic stable angina.
- Heart failure.
- After coronary artery bypass surgery.
- After a percutaneous coronary angioplasty or intervention.
- Heart valve repair or replacement.
- Heart or heart and lung tx.
- Correction of congenital abnormalities
- Peripheral artery disease
- Mechanical Circulatory support
- Etc.



Auto Referral

- All elderly patients in Critical Care Area (ICU, HDUCT, PICU, PCICU)
- All ventilated cases in Coronary Care Unit

All other cases

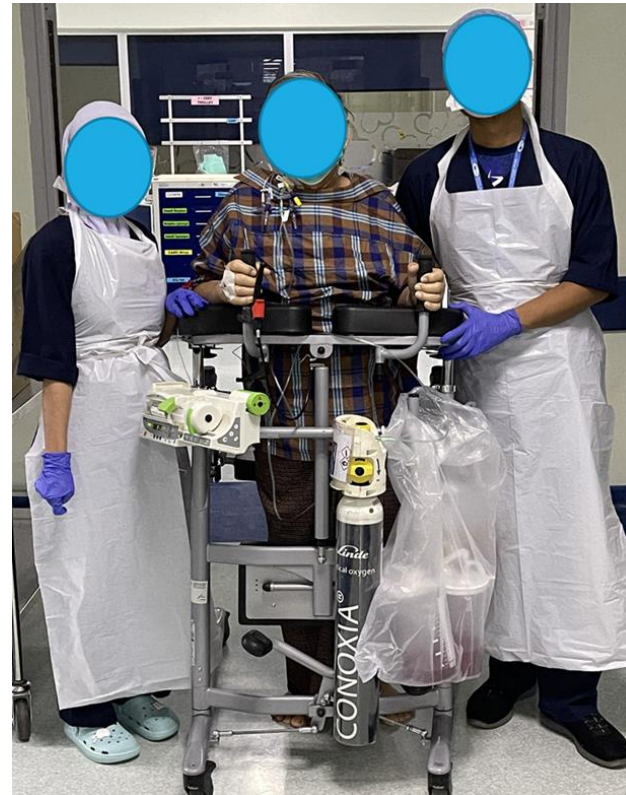
Individual Referral.





Initiation

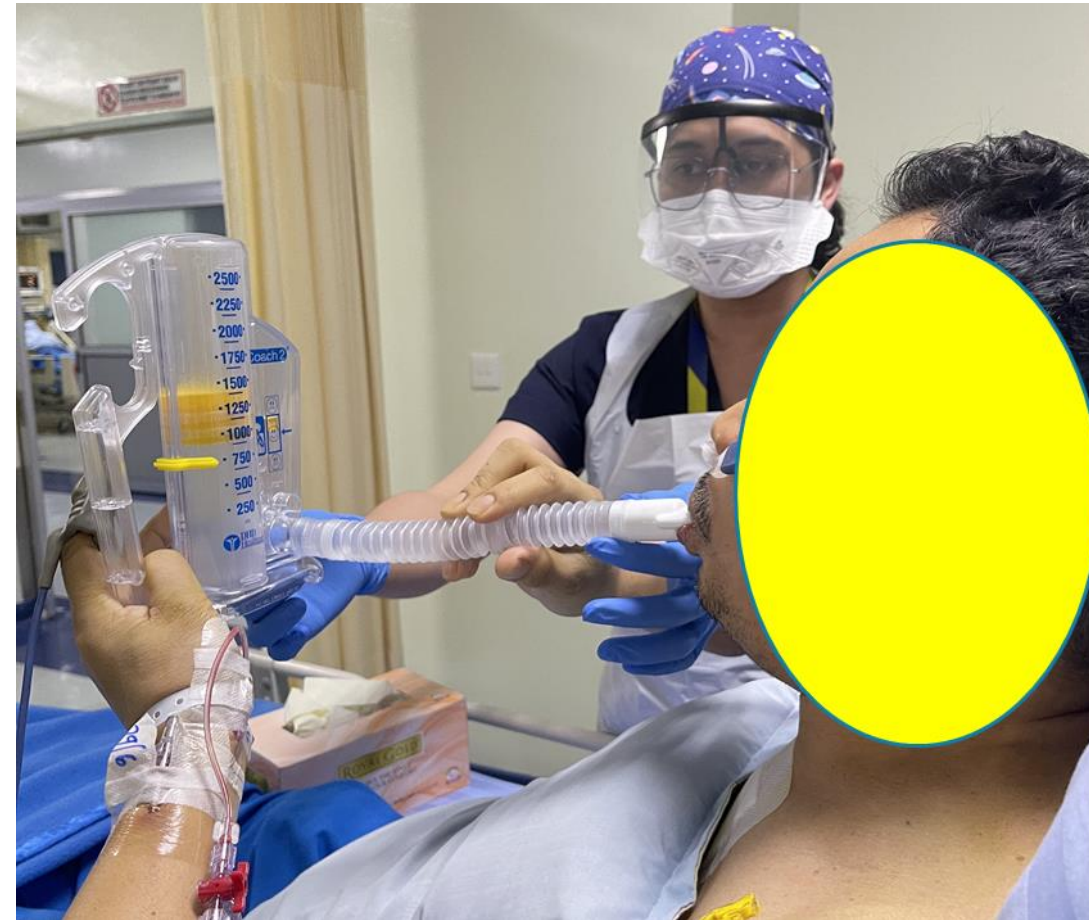
- Immediately upon respiratory and hemodynamic stabilization, generally within 24-48 hours after admission.
- Screen for contraindications





Contraindications

- Hemodynamically unstable
- Medical or surgical status necessitating immobility
- Active Myocardial Infarction
- Unsecure Airway
- Chest not closed or chest re open
- Active gastrointestinal tuberculosis (GITB)
- Intracranial Pressure > 20





Safety Measures

- **HEART RATE**

- 60 100 bpm
- HR Trend, HR 50- 130
- Example: if a pt HR always maintain at around 90 bpm and on the day of your assessment it was at 50.

- **BLOOD PRESSURE**

- MAP 60 100, SBP 90 180
- Trend of BP need to be review. What is acceptable for the patient

- **SpO2**

- 90% and above.

- **pO2**

- pO2 > 80 mmHg
- Baseline pO2, post surgery. pO2 trend, acceptable range





RR

- 12-20
- < 30, in selective cases

Pain Score:

- 3/10 and below

Blood Investigation

- Hb: >7
- Platelet: > 20k
- INR: 1-3
- Potassium: 3.5-5.2 mmol/L



Frequency

- 2 to 4 times /day is recommended.
- Depend on the physiotherapy assessment & pts need.





Intensity

Graded Exercises Test (GXT)

NO Graded Exercises Test (GXT)

Graded Exercises Test (GXT)/ Exercises Stress Test

- Percentages of heart rate reserve (%HRR),
- VO₂ reserve (%VO₂R)
- peak aerobic power (%VO₂max)

} To achieve
40–80%

Borg's rating of perceived exertion (RPE) 6–20 scale, target of 12–16 (moderate to hard).



Intensity: NO GXT

RPE scale must be accurately explain

First session:

- Target 20 bpm above resting heart rate (RHR +20–30)
- RPE to a range of 11–14 (somewhat hard to hard)

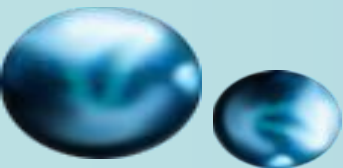
Monitor Symptoms:

- Symptoms free, report low RPE (<11) at RHR +20–30
- Increase exercises intensity to reach RPE goal of 11–14

Patients on beta-blocker tend to report a higher RPE

RPE ↑ as work rates ↑, consistent in exercises prescription

Recognize that hemodynamic responses associated RPE values



Special Consideration

- Hypertension
 - Monitor hypertensive or hypotensive exercise responses (Measure BP during exercise)
- Diabetic
 - Monitor blood glucose level
- Heart Failure patients
 - Slightly lower performance
- Lifestyle habit (Physical activity behaviour)
 - Begin at higher exercise workloads if patient is active.



- Passive/ Active assisted/ Active and Resistance Exercises.

Bed Mobility Training

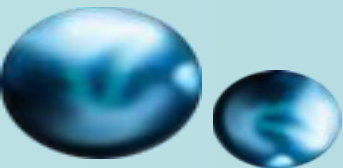
- Turning side to side
- Bridging
- Supine to sitting/ bedside sitting

➤ Balance Training.

- Sitting (Static/ Dynamic)
- Standing (Static/ Dynamic)

➤ Gait Retraining

➤ Endurance Training



Common Goals

- Assist in bronchial hygiene/ To achieve highest IS value
 - To achieve full FSS: ICU Score
 1. Rolling
 2. Supine to Sit Transfer
 3. Sit to Stand Transfer
 4. Sitting Edge of Bed
 5. Walking (45 meter)
 - 30 second sit to stand, minimum of 14 times
 - 6MWT, to achieve the highest distance possible
- Score range 0 (unable to attempt, weakness) – 7 (Independence)



Termination Criteria

Heart Rate

- >70% APMHR (age predicted max heart rate)
- >20% decrease in resting HR
- <50 bpm; >130 bpm

Blood Pressure

- SBP >180mmHg
- >20% decrease in SBP/DBP; orthostatic hypotension (associated with dizziness, fainting, and/or diaphoresis)
- MAP < 60 mmHg; >110 mmHg

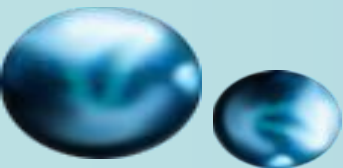
Respiratory Rate

- < 5 breath/minute; >40 breath/minute
- Change in breathing pattern with an increase in accessory muscle use, paradoxical pattern, or appearance of facial distress.

SpO2

- > 4% decrease
- < 88%- 90%

Patient sign and symptoms



Exercise Progression

Progression of exercise should be **individualize** and based on:

- Patient's risk stratification
- Underlying disease state
- Exercise tolerance
- Goals

Duration

- Initially to achieve 10 continuous minutes of exercise
- Increase 1–5 minutes per session
- Goal of 40–60 minutes.
- Duration should be achieved before intensity is progressed

Intensity

- Systematically increased RPE, from 11- 14 (somewhat hard to hard) to consistently exercising at 12-16 (moderate to hard)



Outcome Measures

1. Incentive Spirometer
2. FSS:ICU
3. 30 second sit to stand
4. 6MWT

There are multiple outcome measures to be use in clinical practice.
These are what adopted by IJN

Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase 2

Activities:

- Begins soon after discharge
- Circuits training
- Individualized prog
- Low to moderate intensity
- group education for Elderly pts and family members

Benefits:

- Supervised/ monitored prog
- Pts return to work safely & sooner
- Reduces stress



Phase 2

Ambulatory
Elderly Out
Patient



Exercise training program

CR PHASE 2 EXERCISE PRESCRIPTION

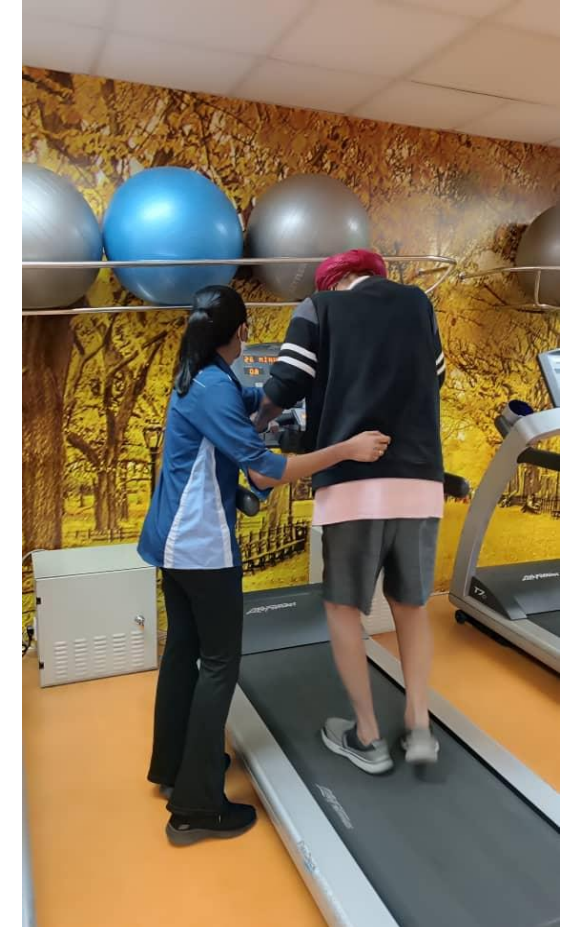
Intensity AT: 50% to 95% HRR, RPE 11 to 14

Intensity RT: 30% to 60% 1RM, 8-12 reps, 2-4 set

Modality: cycle ergometer, treadmill walking, circuit training

Duration : 20–80 minutes/session, including warm-up and cool-down exercises

Group based & individual supervised



CR Phase 2 Aerobic Training Intensity

With Graded Exercises Test (GXT)

Graded Exercises Test (GXT)/ Exercises Stress Test

- Percentages of heart rate reserve (%HRR),
 - VO₂ reserve (%VO₂R)
 - peak aerobic power (%VO₂max)
- }] To achieve 40–70%

Borg's rating of perceived exertion (RPE) 6–20 scale, target of 12–16 (moderate to hard).

Intensity: IF NO GXT

First session:

- Target 20 bpm above resting heart rate (RHR +20–30)
- RPE to a range of 11–14 (somewhat hard to hard)

Monitor Symptoms:

- Symptoms free, report low RPE (<11) at RHR +20–30
- Increase exercises intensity to reach RPE goal of 11–14

Duration of Exercise & RPE is an Objective goal, then progression will be based on last / recent exercise achieved



Exercise Progression

Progression of exercise should be **individualized** and based on:

- Patient's risk stratification
- Previous/ recent exercise record that pts reported
- Exercise tolerance
- Goals

Duration

- Initially to achieve 10 continuous minutes of exercise
- Increase 1–5 minutes/ session
- Goal of 40–60 minutes.
- Duration should be achieved before intensity is progressed

Intensity

- Systematically increased RPE, from 11- 14 (somewhat hard to hard) to consistently exercising at 12-16 (moderate to hard)



Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD

1. Hypertension
2. Hypotension
3. Diabetes Mellitus (DM)
4. Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD)
5. Respiratory Problems
6. Obesity
7. Skeletal Disorder
8. Musculoskeletal Problems

Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD- Hypertension (HPT)

- 90% of elderly identified as hypertensive.
- Secondary HPT - renal, endocrine or vascular abnormalities.
- BP over a period of years - damage to the arteries & puts strain on the heart & other organs.



High blood pressure

Exercise Considerations

- Mode, frequency, duration & intensity = CVD
- Training at the lower end of the recommended range (40-70% VO₂max, 60-80% HRM)- effective in lowering BP & is safer than high intensity exercise prescription.
- Effect of medication on BP become exaggerated during exercise,

Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD- Hypotension

- Elderly has low BP & this is normal for them.
- Symptoms- faintness/dizziness, cold hand & feet (reduced blood flow to brain, palpitations & sweating (body releasing adrenaline - restore BP to normal level)
- Rx- lie pt down, check BP, BP no improving (legs 2b raise)
- Loosen clothing
- recovery - 20-30mins

Exercise Considerations

- a thorough graduated w/up & equally c/down- lessen the incident of post exs.
- Immediate changes- lying / seated to standing positions avoided
- GTN - pt remains seated after administration medication.

HYPOTENSION



Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD- Diabetes Melitus (DM)

- **Hyperglycaemia**

Most pt hv been taught how to manage & will know how to test for the presence of ketones.



- **Hypoglycaemia**

Give a sweetened drink/ glucose tablets immediately. Pt should not resume exs, for that session. If the pt become unconscious, call an ambulance.

Exercise Considerations

- pt to monitor their blood sugar levels b4 exercising. $>10\text{mmol/l}$ - should be monitor 10 minutes after the start of exs.
- If the levels are falling, exs can continue. If they are rising, stop exs. (exs with spikes blood sugar level is dangerous)
- Monitor b4 & post-exs.
- insulin dose may need to be reduced on exs day.
- Avoid exs. - peak insulin effect & not injected into limb to be exercise within the next 12 hrs (increases rate insulin absorbed)

Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD-Neuropathy

- Damage to peripheral nerves - lead to loss of sensation & cause numbness feet.
- Autonomic neuropathy may present, - pts will exhibit abnormal HR & BP
- HR not be a reliable indicator of intensity. Immediate changes posture avoided.

Exercise Considerations

- advance retinopathy -avoid activities involves excessive pain/discomfort & spikes BP.
- Do not bend over, head remain above the heart, or not below it.



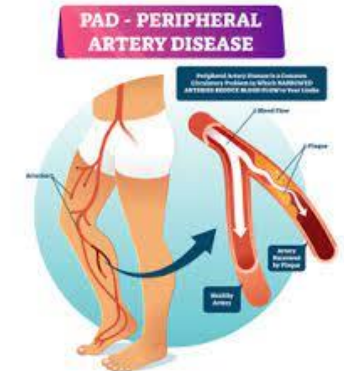
Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD- Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD)

- Severe PVD causes cold, painful feet & lead to toes gangrene
- Pt suffering from severe PVD - exs carefully, skin of the feet easily damaged, heals slowly.



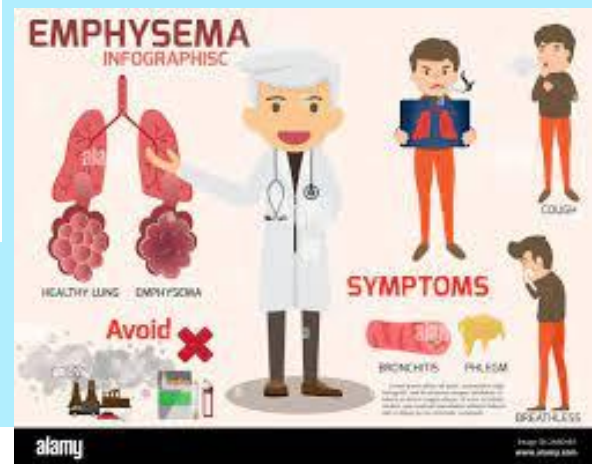
Exercise Considerations

- Daily exs. (prescribed walking intermittent)
- Encourages increased blood flow & greater oxidative capacity - muscles increase exs. tolerance & alleviate symptoms
- Progress duration & intensity exs, gradually



Special Physiotherapy Considerations for Elderly with CVD- Respiratory Problems

- Bronchitis
- Asthma
- Emphysema



Exercise Considerations

- Exs. induce bronchoconstriction- in cold conditions & bronchospasm by exs uncommon.
- Bronchodilator - preventive measure to exs. - will increase the HR.
- w/up lessen chest tightness & wheezing.
- Elderly pt are unlikely to exhibit improvement in pulmonary function as a result of exs. But will increase their exs tolerance as a results of peripheral adaptation to increase level of activity.

Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD-Obesity

- Defined as BMI >30
- Habitually inactive

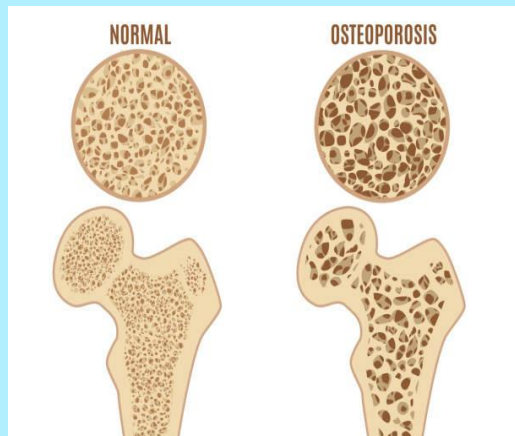
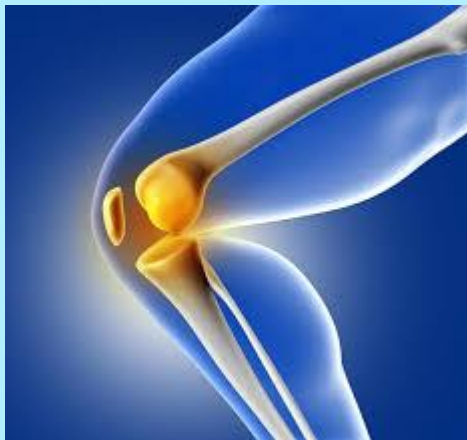


Exercise Considerations

- Intensity -lower end of the normally prescribed range 60-80% HRmax.
- 2-3x/week (300kcal/session)
- 20-30 mins remaining days of the week.
- Brisk walking
- No high impact
- good posture
- Supine position should be avoided, this bcoz they embarrassed by getting down onto & up from the floor. Lying flat - restrict breathing.
- RPE to monitor intensity
- fat around neck/wrist makes pulse palpation difficult.

Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD- Skeletal Disorders

- Arthritis
- Osteoarthritis (OA)
- Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)
- Replacement Surgery
- Osteoporosis



Exercise Considerations

- Maintaining good ROM
- Mobility & flexibility prescribe -daily basis
- Strengthening exs. -maintain joint stability & diminish pain, not be perform without load on the affected joints.
- Weight bearing activity need not be excluded
- Non weight bearing activity
- No high impact movements
- Emphasize good posture- elderly pt tend to adopt flexed positions.

Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD- Musculoskeletal Problems

- Frozen Shoulder
- Tennis Elbow
- Sciatica

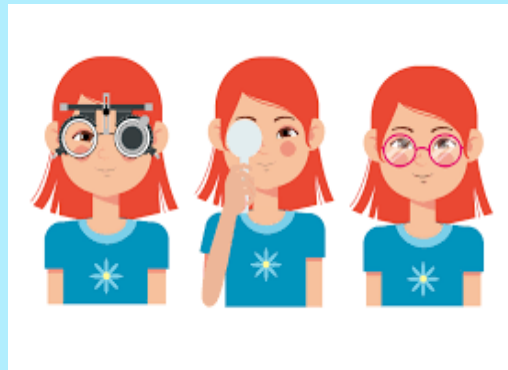


Exercise Considerations

- Action should be avoided
- Passive movt may performed within pain limits.
- Once pain subside -mobility exs which intensified until full recovery achieved
- Analgesic & gentle mobility exs recommended.
- For long term alleviation, strengthening exs recommended

Special CR Considerations for Elderly with CVD- Hearing & Eyesight

Both tend to deteriorate with age, although variation between individuals in sensory loss is considerable. For some, impaired hearing or vision may be a source of anxiety and lack of confidence.



Exercise Considerations

- Instructions must be clear, precise and unhurried.
- Visual demonstration + verbal explanation = most effective means of communicating with individuals & groups.
- If written handouts are supplied/ exs cards used, ensure easy to read & diagrams are clear.

In Conclusion

Not only are more elderly pts surviving from cardiac events, but because pts are less likely nowadays to be refer to CR on the basis. The number who benefit from CR is increasing. It is hoped that Physiotherapy & CR multidisciplinary team will make a significant contribution to helping older pts maintain favorable lifestyle change adopted during Cardiac Rehabilitation Program.

Thank You

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