Back to basics…

- **Blood**
  - Bodily fluid that transports necessary substances (oxygen, nutrients, antibodies, hormones, etc) and waste to and from cells in the body

- **Blood vessels**
  - Circulates blood to organs
The Circulatory System

- Heart
- Arteries
  - Away from the heart
- Veins
  - Towards the heart
- Lymphatics
  - Part of the immune system
Arteries

- Vertebral
- Carotid
- Coronary
- Mesenteric
  - Celiac
  - Superior mesenteric
  - Inferior mesenteric
- Renal
- Brachial
- Iliac
- Femoral
Arterial layers

Intima
Media
Adventitia
Arterial layers

- **Intima**
  - One layer of endothelial cells
  - Many functions:
    - Selective permeability barrier
    - Inflammation
    - Blood clotting
    - Vascular growth and remodeling
    - Control of vascular tone

- **Media**
  - Smooth muscles and elastic tissue
  - Vascular tone

- **Adventitia**
  - Connective tissue
  - Anchors and stabilizes vessel
Arterial Pathologies
Atherosclerosis

- Hardening, thickening, and narrowing of arteries due to buildup of fatty materials (cholesterol)
- Most common cause of cardiovascular disease in the USA
- Most common cause of heart attack and stroke
- Traditional risk factors include age, smoking, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, family history, and gender
- May cause significant narrowings in many vascular beds but may also result in aneurysm and dissection
Arterial stenosis

- Abnormal narrowing in a blood vessel
- May be any blood vessel
- Most common cause is atherosclerosis
- Can result in a “bruit”
Arterial Dissection

- Tear within the artery wall allowing blood to separate the wall layers
- Most common within the aorta but can happen in smaller vessels
- Weakening in wall from dissection → “pseudo”aneurysm
- FMD
  - Cervical artery dissection
  - Coronary dissection
  - Renal artery dissection
  - Mesenteric artery dissection
Arterial aneurysm

- Aneurysm
  - An abnormal bulge or ballooning of an artery caused by weakening of the arterial wall
  - Usually 2x normal caliber

- Types
  - Saccular – sac or pouch on one side of vessel wall
  - Fusiform – outward bulging in all directions

- “Ectatic”
  - Dilated artery wall but not quite large enough to be considered an aneurysm
Pseudoaneurysm

- Not a true aneurysm
- Outpouching of the vessel in an area of prior dissection
Vasculitis

- Inflammation of the blood vessels, small, medium, or large
  - Polyarteritis nodosum,
  - Takayasu’s arteritis,
  - Giant cell arteritis
- Infectious or autoimmune
- May cause stenosis, aneurysm, dissection
- Treatment is with immunosuppression
Fibromuscular Dysplasia

- Non-inflammatory, non-atherosclerotic disorder of the arteries
- Thickening of one of the layers of the artery resulting in
  - Arterial stenosis
  - Aneurysm
  - Dissection
- Type is determined according to angiographic appearance
Medial Fibroplasia

- Most common angiographic variant
- > 85% of cases
- Multiple areas of stenosis and aneurysmal dilatation
  - “String of beads”
  - “String of pearls”
  - “Stack of coins”
  - “Sausage links”

Intimal Fibroplasia

- < 10% of cases
- Variable angiographic appearance
  - Focal, severe concentric stenosis
  - Longer, tubular lesions:

Perimedial Fibroplasia

- Very rare
- Few beads of small caliber
- Often associated with severe stenosis
Classification can get complex

- FMD no longer a primarily pathologic diagnosis
- Radiographic findings
- Nomenclature in evolution?
  - Unifocal
  - Multifocal

- Medial hyperplasia?
- Intimal fibroplasia?

Savard et al. Circulation 2012;126:3062-3069
Physical Exam
Horner’s sign

Thumb and Wrist Sign

Elbow Hyperextension

Knee Hyperextension

Torus Palatinus
Connective Tissue Disease

- Any disease that targets the connective tissues of the body, including the blood vessels
- Heritable
  - Marfan’s
  - Ehlers-Danlos
  - Neurofibromatosis
  - Loeys-Dietz
- Varied manifestations
  - Skin, blood vessels, joints, facial features
Bruit
(french for “noise”)

“the unusual sound that blood makes when it rushes past an obstruction in an artery when the sound is auscultated with a stethoscope” – Dr Wikipedia
Ultrasound
Ultrasound

- Uses sound waves to create an image
- Non-invasive
- Can be used to image most arteries involved in FMD
- Test of choice for initial diagnosis and follow-up in most cases
- Pros: non-invasive, velocity information, no need for contrast
- Cons: technician dependent
CT scan

- CT stands for computed tomography
- Uses x-rays to produce cross-sectional images of the body
- Much more resolution than traditional x-ray
- Pros: great detail
- Cons: radiation, contrast, no physiologic information
MRI

- Stands for magnetic resonance imaging
- Uses a magnet to detect magnetic fields emitted by atoms in the body to produce an image
- Can image the arteries well
- Pros: no ionizing radiation, can sometimes be done without contrast
- Cons: cannot be done in patients with metal implants or pacemakers, noisy during scan, more expensive, longer scanning time, claustrophobic
- Can be institution dependent – many protocols
ABI/PVR

- Stands for ankle brachial index and pulse volume recording
- Series of blood pressure cuffs on the legs
- Can use exercise as well
- Pros: non-invasive, office-based, physiologic/functional test
- Cons: not a direct visualization of the arteries
Angiography

- Gold standard for the diagnosis of FMD
- Uses contrast dye to fill the lumen of the artery while a series of x-rays are taken
- Pros: gold standard, able to take physiologic measurements, can proceed directly to intervention
- Cons: invasive, procedural risk, contrast
Intravascular Ultrasound

- Ultrasound from inside an artery
- Catheter based during an angiography
- Pros: ability to visualize inside the vessel for stenosis, webs, plaque
- Cons: invasive, not yet widely available
Intravascular Ultrasound
Fractional Flow Reserve
Treatment
Invasive Treatment
Angioplasty

- Mechanically opening a narrowed vessel with a balloon mounted on a catheter
- Usually the treatment of choice for FMD, if necessary
Pre-angioplasty
Angioplasty
Post-angioplasty
Stent

- Artificial tube inserted into a natural passage in the body
- Vascular stents are metallic, can be bare metal, drug eluting, or covered
- In FMD, use is generally reserved for cases of dissection
Bypass Surgery

- Surgical procedure where an artery or vein from elsewhere in the body or an artificial graft is used to bypass a diseased artery and supply blood flow to the organ.
- Generally reserved for cases not amenable to PCI.
Aneurysm Clipping

- Surgical procedure for treatment of cerebral aneurysms
- Requires craniotomy (removal of part of skull)
- Aneurysm is clipped with a titanium clip
Aneurysm Coiling

- Endovascular procedure
- Tiny platinum coils deployed into aneurysm
- Coils block blood flow into the aneurysm and prevent rupture
Thank you