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SCAA GLOSSARY

Α

AED – see: Automated External Defibrillator

Ablation- Procedure that eliminates extra electrical pathways within the heart that cause fast of irregular heart rhythms.

Ablation Catheter -Therapeutic destruction of a small part of heart muscle shown at an electrophysiologic study to be responsible for an arrhythmia.

ACE Inhibitor- An ACE Inhibitor (angiotensin-converting enzyme) is a medication that opens up blood vessels, making it easier for the heart to pump blood forward to the body. ACE inhibitors are also used to lower blood pressure.

Amiodarone (cordarone) - Antiarrhythmic agent (class III) widely used for acute (intravenous) and chronic (tablets) treatment of both ventricular and supraventricular arrhythmias. Unlike antiarrhythmic agents with local anesthetic effects (Class I agents), it has little propensity to produce rhythm disturbances.

Aneurysms - Aneurysms are small pouches on blood vessel walls. The blood vessel or area of the heart is thin or weakened in this area. They can rupture (break), causing bleeding.

Antiarrhythmic Agents - Medications for the prevention or termination of arrhythmias. They are categorized into four groups according to their presumptive mechanism of action:

Type I - predominantly inhibit sodium ion channels and act as local anesthetics. Class I drugs are effective agents, but may depress heart performance and induce arrhythmias under special circumstances (proarrhythmia)

Type II - is known as beta receptor blockers (beta adrenergic receptor blockers). Adrenalin (= epineprine) acts *partly* through these receptors. These drugs may reduce mortality in patients recovering from a heart attack or suffering from heart failure

Type III - inhibits potassium ion channels and prolongs recovery after electric activation of cardiac cells. Currently the drugs of choice for the prevention of serious (ventricular) arrhythmias; also useful to prevent or terminate supraventricular arrhythmias

Type IV - inhibits calcium channels, which influence impulse conduction at the level of the AV node. Because these drugs relax (widen) small blood vessels, they are useful for the treatment of high blood pressure

Angina - Angina pectoris or angina is a recurring pain or discomfort in the chest area. This discomfort is caused by some part of the heart not receiving enough blood. The pain can feel like heaviness, a burning sensation or a discomfort in the left arm or jaw.

Angiography - A procedure to x-ray blood vessels usually to view the legs, heart, or brain. A dye is injected into the blood vessel using a catheter or small tube. The dye shows up on x-ray showing blockages and other problems interfering with the blood flow.



- **Angioplasty** A procedure to open clogged arteries. A catheter, with a tiny balloon at the tip, is snaked into the coronary artery. The balloon is used to stretch or break open the narrow part of the artery and improve passage of blood flow.
- **Anticoagulant** Any medication that keeps blood from clotting is referred to as an anticoagulant.
- **Antihypertensive** Hypertensive is another word for high blood pressure. An antihypertensive medication is one that lowers blood pressure.
- **Antiarrhythmic** Arrhythmia is another word for an irregular heartbeat. An arrhythmic medication is given to treat arrhythmias.
- **Aorta** The aorta is the largest artery in the body, and the primary blood vessel that carries oxygenated blood out of the heart to the rest of the body.
- **Aortic Arch -** A curved portion of the aorta on the heart. The aorta is the large blood vessel that carries oxygen-rich blood away from the heart to the body.
- **Aortic Regurgitation -** A backwards leakage of blood from the aorta, through a weakened aortic valve, into the left ventricle. This results in stress in the left side of the heart and an inadequate blood flow to the body.
- **Aortic Stenosis** A narrowing of the opening of the aortic valve, the valve that regulates blood flow from the left ventricle of the heart into the aorta.
- **Aortic Valve** a cardiac membrane that controls the flow of blood out of the heart and into the aorta
- Artery An artery is a blood vessel which carries oxygen rich blood away from the heart to the body. The major arteries of the heart are called the coronary arteries.
- Arrhythmia Also called dysrhythmia. Arrhythmia is a fast, slow, or irregular heartbeat.
- Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia (ARVD) A rare condition that produces ventricular tachycardia. In this disease ventricular muscle is replaced by fatty and fibrous tissue for unknown reasons. It is emerging as a cause of sudden cardiac death (SCD) in young otherwise healthy adults.
- **ASA Aspirin** ASA or acetylsalicylic acid, is the chemical compound know as aspirin.
- **ASD / Atrial Septal Defect** An ASD is a small hole in the septum or top part of the heart.
- Atherosclerosis a build-up of cholesterol or other fatty deposits called plaque that can occur on the inner walls of blood vessels and arteries, which in advanced stages causes restriction or blockage of blood flow to the heart or brain.
- **Atrial Fibrillation** A very fast and irregular beating or quivering of the upper two chambers of the heart. This condition happens just before a cardiac arrest or just as the heart stops all together.
- **Atrial Flutter** A supraventricular tachycardia with a characteristic.
- electrocardiographic appearance. It frequently coexists with atrial fibrillation and is usually associated with structural heart disease.
- **Atrial Septum -**The wall between the right and left atrial. The two upper chambers of the heart are called the septum.



- **Atrial Tachycardia -** A rapid rhythm driven by pacemaker activity in atrial sites other than the SA node (the natural pacemaker).
- **Atrioventricular Block** An interruption of the electrical signal between the atria and the ventricles.
- **Atrioventricular (AV) node** The atrioventricular (AV) node is a cluster of cells between the atria and ventricles that regulates the electrical current.
- Automatic Implantable defibrillator (ICD) A device used to correct serious ventricular arrhythmias that can lead to sudden death. The defibrillator (ICD) is surgically placed inside the patient's chest. There it monitors the heart's rhythm and identifies serious arrhythmias. Once identified produces an electrical shock, disrupting a deadly arrhythmia.
- Atrioventricular Nodal Reentrant Tachycardia (AVRT) A supraventricular tachycardia caused by dual conduction pathways within the AV node which have different speeds of transmission.
- Atrium One or two chambers in the heart. Atria is the plural for Atrium.

 Automated External Defibrillator (AED) a portable electronic device that automatically detects irregular heart rhythms and, if a problem is present, will deliver an electric shock to the heart, allowing it to re-establish a normal rhythm.

В

- **Balloon Angioplasty** A procedure that is usually performed in the cardiac catherization laboratory (cath lab) that uses a catheter (tube) with a balloon at the tip to open a narrowed valve or blood vessel.
- **Beta-Blocker**, **B-B** Medications given to control the heart rate and rhythm. **Blood Clot** A thick, gelled mass of blood.
- **Blood Pressure (BP)** The force or pressure exerted by the heart against the walls of the arteries when pumping blood. It is the measurable pressure of blood in the arteries. Pressure is measured in systolic (upper number) and diastolic (lower number), and is measured in millimeters of mercury against a meter stick. Ex: 120/80.
- **BNP (Brain and Peptide)** A blood enzyme which can be measured to diagnose heart failure (HF).
- **Bradycardia** slowness of the heartbeat, as evidenced by slowing of the pulse rate to less than 50 beats per minute in an adult
- **Brugada Syndrome** -- An inherited electrical disease of the heart.
- **Bundle Branch Block** A condition in which the heart's electrical system is unable to normally conduct the electrical signal.
- **Bypass Surgery** A blood vessel, usually taken from the leg or chest and is grafted onto the blocked artery, bypassing the blocked area. The blood can then go around the obstruction to supply the heart with enough blood to relieve pain.



C

Capillaries - Tiny blood vessels between arteries and veins that distribute oxygen-rich blood to the body.

Cardiac Arrest - A cardiac arrest is when your heart stops functioning.

Cardiac Catheterization - A diagnostic procedure in which a tiny tube (catheter) is inserted into an artery or vein in order to evaluate the heart and blood vessels.

Cardiac Catheter - A long, flexible tube designed especially for passage through an artery or blood vessel

Cardiac Enzymes - Evaluated in blood tests to diagnose a heart attack.

Cardiac Output - The volume or amount of blood that goes through the circulatory system in one minute

Cardiac Tamponade - Effusion of fluid in the pericardium (sac enclosing the heart) compresses the heart preventing normal filling.

Cardiomyopathy - Disease of the heart muscle, causes decreased functioning of the heart

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) - Disease affecting the heart and its circulation is referred to as Cardiovascular Disease.

Cardioversion - Delivery of a shock to the heart to interrupt arrhythmias. Paddles on the chest or electrodes placed directly on the heart are used. So called chemical cardioversion is intravenous administration of medications to terminate arrhythmias.

Catheter - A small, plastic tube used to enter a cavity of the body

Chamber - An enclosed space. (The heart is divided into four chambers. The upper chambers are called the right and left atrium, and the lower chambers are called the right and left ventricle.

Cholesterol - A waxy substance that is produced by the human body.

Cholesterol is found in animal fats (beef, chicken, pork), shellfish, and dairy products (butter, milk, cheese ,eggs). The body needs cholesterol to produce hormones. When too much cholesterol circulates in the blood, atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries) occurs and an increased risk of heart attack.

Commotio Cortis - Is a disruption of heart rhythm that occurs as a result of a blow to the area directly over the heart (percordial region) at a critical time during the cycle of a heartbeat. It is a form of ventricular fibrillation, not mechanical damage to the heart muscle or surrounding organs, and not the result of heart disease. The fatality rate is about 65%. It can sometimes, but not always, be reversed by defibrillation.

Congenital - Present at birth.

Congenital Heart Disease - A heart defect present at birth.

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) - A condition in which the heart cannot pump out all the blood. This can lead to an accumulation of blood in the vessels going into the heart and an accumulation of fluid in the body tissues. Excess blood can increase in the lungs blood vessels leading to fluid accumulation in the lungs which creates congestion.

Continuous Loop Recorder - An electrocardiographic monitor worn for up to a month that stores limited periods of continuously recorded ECG.



- **Coronary Artery** Either of the two arteries that originate in the aorta and supply blood to the heart
- **Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)** Result of the build-up of plaque deposits on the inner lining of the coronary arteries (heart attacks occur in the advanced stage of CAD)
- **Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) -** The most common form of heart disease. This type of heart disease is caused by a narrowing of the coronary arteries that feed the heart. The result in not-enough oxygen-rich blood reaching the heart.
- **Coronary Spasm** Abnormal sustained constriction of a major coronary producing symptoms of ischemia.
- **Coronary thrombosis** Total blockage of the blood flow to the heart due to a blood clot in a coronary artery, also called a "heart attack" or "myocardial infarction".
- **Cyanosis** Due to an insufficient oxygen supply in the blood that would leave tissue appearing blue, first seen in lips and nails.

D

- **Defibrillator** An electronic device used to deliver an electrical shock to the individual to help the heart establish a normal heartbeat.
- **Defibrillation** A process in which an electronic device gives an electric shock to the heart. This helps reestablish normal contraction rhythms in a heart having dangerous arrhythmia or in cardiac arrest.
- **Diastole** The time during each heartbeat when the ventricles are at rest, filling with blood and not pumping.
- **Diastolic Blood Pressure** The lowest blood pressure measure in the arteries. It occurs between heartbeats when the heart is at rest.
- **Doppler Ultrasound** A procedure that uses sound waves to evaluate the heart, blood vessels and valves.
- **Dyspnea** shortness of breath; occurs normally during intense physical exertion or at high altitude
- **Dysrhythmia** An abnormal heart rhythm.

Ε

- **Echocardiogram** A cardiac test and way to see the heart with the use of ultrasound imaging
- **Ejection Fraction (EF)** A measurement of the amount of blood pumped out of the ventricles. When the left ventricle of the heart contracts, blood is forced into the veins and pushes blood throughout the body. The heart literally releases or ejects the blood out of the left ventricle. Not all the blood is released with each beat. The percentage that is released or ejected measured between each heartbeat in a fraction call the ejection fraction. A good ejection fraction is 55% to 60%. When the percentage falls below 55% your heart is not forcing as much blood as is needed into the arteries. The left ventricle is the number we look at for a measurement. When your EF falls below 35% your heart is working too hard.



- **Electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG)** a method for studying the heart by measuring the electrical impulses of the heart as they are detected on the surface of the body
- **Electrode** patch that adheres to the skin to serve as the medium between the heart and an EKG recorder
- **Electrode Catheter** A long, flexible wire that can transmit electrical currents to and from the heart
- **Electromagnetic Interference (EMI)** Impaired function of a pacemaker or ICD under the influence of electric and magnetic fields emitted by Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), power plants, transmitter antennas, amusement parks, or nearby equipment such as, arc welders, CB radios, cellular phones, etc.

Embolism - A blood clot in a blood vessel.

Endocardium - The membrane that covers the inside surface of the heart.

Endocarditis - A bacterial infection that can form on the valves and on the interior surfaces of the heart.

- **Epinephrine** A vital hormone secreted by the adrenal glands. It plays an important role in cardiovascular and neural regulation. It is produced synthetically for use as a stimulant.
- **Extrasystoles -** Extra beats, usually occurring earlier than expected in normal rhythm, triggered by impulses originating from an abnormal site.

F

Fibrillation - Rapid contractions of the heart muscles, sometimes called quivering of the heart muscle. When your heart is in fibrillation blood cannot be pumped in or out properly. Fibrillation can lead to cardiac arrest, a stopping of all heart functions.

Flutter - Ineffective contractions of the heart muscle.

Н

- Heart Attack A heart attack is caused by a circulation or pumping of the heart, one (or more) of the arteries delivering blood to the heart is blocked. Oxygen in the blood cannot reach the heart muscle, and the heart muscle becomes damaged.
- **Heart Block (HB) -** An interruption of the electrical pathway causing a slowing of the heart rate.
- **Heart Failure (HF)** A condition where the heart fails in its duties of circulating blood through the lungs and back out to the tissues. Congestive heart failure refers to a heart failure condition in which the body has accumulated extra fluid so that the lungs are congested.
- **Heart Valve Prolapse:** A condition of the heart valve where is it partially open instead of being closed.
- **Hemodynamic Monitoring** A diagnostic study that evaluates the movement of blood circulation



- **High Blood Pressure (HBP) -** The pressure in the blood vessels that is above the normal range, also called Hypertension.
- **High-Density Lipoprotein (HDL) -** The "good" cholesterol that promotes breakdown and removal of cholesterol from the body.
- **His Bundle** The topmost part of the hearts wiring system between the AV node and the ventricles. The His bundle penetrates the electrically insulating fibrous layer between the atria and ventricles.
- **Hypertension** High blood pressure that is exerted against the walls of blood vessels as blood is pumped through the body
- Hypertropic Cardiomyopathy- Is a disease of the myocardium (the muscle of the heart) in which a portion of the myocardium is thickened without any obvious cause. It is most well-known as a leading cause of sudden cardiac death in young athletes.
- **Hypokalemia** Low potassium concentration in the blood. Low potassium concentrations may invite arrhythmias. Certain diuretics may increase loss of potassium and produce hypokalemia.
- **Hypotension -** Low blood pressure

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- **Ibutilide (corvert)** An antiarrhythmic drug used for atrial fibrillation and flutter that works by prolonging the recovery of the heart muscle after electrical stimulation.
- **Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)** A small battery-powered electrical impulse generator that delivers electrical shocks, or pacing therapy, when the heart suffers arrhythmias. ICDs are surgically installed, usually near the heart.
- Infarct The area of the heart tissue damaged by a lack of blood and oxygen.
 Ischemia (ischemic = withheld) reduced nutrient blood flow to organs or tissue resulting in reversible or irreversible damage to tissue.

- **Left Atrium -** The upper left-hand chamber of the heart which receives oxygenrich blood from the lungs via the four pulmonary (lung) veins and sends it to the left ventricle. The workhorse ventricle of the heart.
- **Left Ventricle -** The lower left-hand chamber of the heart which receives oxygenrich blood from the left atrium and pumps it to the aorta which sends it to the body.
- Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction (LVEF) The amount of blood ejected during a single contraction of the LV, expressed as a fraction of the amount of blood the LV contains at the onset of contraction. It measures the completeness of active ventricular emptying, an index of functional adequacy. Normal LVEF at rest is about 2/3 or 66%.
- **Lidocaine** A drug administered intravenously for acute management of ventricular arrhythmias or for local anesthesia.
- **Lipid -** Any fatty substance in the body, including cholesterol and triglycerides.



Long QT Syndrome - An inherited heart condition in which a delayed action in the heart following a heartbeat forms an irregular heartbeat. These episodes may lead to palpitations, fainting and sudden death due to ventricular fibrillation.

Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) - The primary cholesterol-carrying substance in the body. In large amounts LDL accumulates inside the arteries and can lead to cardiovascular disease.

M

Mitral Valve - The valve between the left atrium and the left ventricle functions like a one way door to keep blood flowing in one direction as it enters the left ventricle from the left atrium.

Monounsaturated Fats - Dietary fats, such as olive oil or canola oil. This may lower LDL cholesterol levels. Look for foods high in Monounsaturated Fats.

Myocardial infarct - Occurs when one or more regions of the heart muscle experiences a severe or prolonged decrease in oxygen supply caused by a blocked blood flow to the heart muscle, which causes the heart to stop. Also called a heart attack.

Myocardial Ischemia - An insufficient blood flow to part of the heart.

Myocardium -The muscular layer of the heart.

Myocarditis - inflammation of the muscular walls of the heart

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Obesity - Being overweight by at least 30% of the ideal body weight.
 Occluded Artery - An artery that is narrowed by plaque, impeding the flow of blood.

Р

Pacemaker (Artificial) - An electrical device which delivers electrical impulses to produce a heartbeat of desired frequency (fixed frequency). Modern pacemakers "kick in" on demand only when heart rate falls below a critical (chosen) value and may deliver impulses at rates adapted to physical activity (rate adapted). Implantable pacemakers are the mainstay of treating slow heart rhythms.

Pacemaker Cells - Cardiac cells whose electrical oscillatory activity (clock like function) release electrical impulses eliciting rhythmic cardiac contraction.

Pacing - Delivery of electrical stimulation to the heart muscle to produce a heartbeat.

Palpitation – Forcible or irregular pulsation of the heart, usually with an increase in frequency or force, with or without irregularity in rhythm

Pericarditis — Inflammation of the pericardium

Pericardium – Sack that surrounds the heart



- **Plaque** A combination of cholesterol, fatty deposits, cellular debris and calcium that form deposits on the inner lining of the coronary arteries, results in coronary artery disease
- **Polyunsaturated Fat** A type of fat found in vegetable oils and margarines that does not appear to raise blood cholesterol levels.

Premature Arterial Contraction (PAC) - An early heartbeat started by the atria.

Premature Ventricular Contraction (PVC) - An early heartbeat started by the ventricles.

Proarrhythmia - Creation of a new arrhythmia by drugs.

Procainamide - A medication introduced in 1950 to treat supraventricular and ventricular arrhythmias.

Pulmonary - A term pertaining to the lungs and respiratory system.

Pulmonary Artery - The artery originating from the heart's right ventricle that carries oxygen-depleted blood to the lungs.

Pulmonary Valve - The valve between the right ventricle and the pulmonary artery.

Pulmonary Vein - The vessel that carries oxygenated blood from the lungs to the left side of the heart.

Pulse - The rhythmic expansion of an artery that can be felt with the finger on your wrists, neck and temple, reflects the number of times your heart beats each minute

P Wave - Part of the ECG recording reflecting depolarization of both atria.

Q

Q Wave - First wave of the ECG recording reflecting ventricular activation.
 QRS Complex - Part of the ECG recording reflecting ventricular depolarization.
 QT Interval - Period of the ECG recording from the onset of the Q wave to the T wave.

R

- **Sinus Node** The heart's natural pacemaker, produces electrical impulses to keep the heart beating at a healthy pace by causing the heart to contract and pump blood at regular intervals
- **Right Atrium** The upper chamber of the heart which receives oxygen-poor blood from the body and sends this blood to the right ventricle
- **Right Ventricle** The lower right chamber of the heart, which receives oxygenpoor blood from the right atrium and sends this blood to the pulmonary artery
- **Risk Factor** Defined as a condition, element, or activity that may adversely affect the heart. Non- controllable risk factors: age, gender, genetics. Controllable risk factors: smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, obesity, excessive alcohol use, drug use, abuse of dietary supplements.



S

- **Saturated Fat** A fat that is found in foods from animal meats and skin, dairy products, and some vegetables. Saturated fats are usually solid at room temperatures and can increase LDL levels.
- **Septal Defect** A hole in the wall between the atria or ventricles (upper or lower heart chambers)
- **Septum -** A muscle wall between the atria or ventricles.
- **Shunt -** A connector to allow blood flow between two locations.
- **Sinus Node** the heart's natural pacemaker, produces electrical impulses to keep the heart beating at a healthy pace by causing the heart to contract and pump blood at regular intervals
- **Sinus Rhythm** Normal Sinus Rhythm (NRS) A normal heart rhythm of 60-100 beats per/min at rest originating from the sinoatrial node.
- **Sinus Tachycardia** A normal heart rate greater than 100 beats/min. It occurs as a desirable response to exertion, pregnancy, and emotion. It may also occur with, illness, circulatory problems, or drug use.
- **Stent** An expandable mesh tube (about one-half inch long) that is placed in an artery to maintain the free flow of blood through the vessel following an angioplasty or atherectomy
- Stenosis A narrowing or constriction of a blood vessel or valve in the heart
 Sternum Bony area in center of chest connecting the ribs. Also called the breastbone.
- **ST Segment** the segment of the ECG recording connecting the end of the QRS complex with the beginning of the T wave.
- **Stroke -** The sudden disruption of blood flow to the brain. Many strokes are caused by a clot of blood traveling into the brain (thrombosis). A stroke may also be caused by a rupture of a blood vessel (hemorrhage).
- **Sudden Cardiac Arrest** A sudden abrupt loss of the heart's electrical system function. The most common cause of the arrest is an irregular heart rhythm (arrhythmia) called ventricular fibrillation (VF), in which the heart ventricles begin to quiver (fibrillate) instead of contract. When this happens, blood is no longer pumped to the rest of the body.
- **Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD)** Generally SCD is defined as an unexplained (non-traumatic) death that occurs suddenly and unexpectedly within one hour of onset of symptoms. Death is usually due to cardiac arrhythmias ventricular tachycardia/fibrillation.
- **Superior Vena Cava** The large vein that returns blood to the heart from the head and arms.
- **Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT)** Arrhythmias caused by electrical events originating in the atria, i.e. above the ventricles.
- **Syncope** loss of consciousness and postural tone caused by diminished cerebral blood flow usually associated with aging.
- **Systole -** The time during the heartbeat when the ventricles are pumping blood, either to the lungs or to the body.
- **Systolic Blood Pressure -** The highest blood pressure measured in the arteries.



Т

T Wave - ventricular repolarization wave inscribed on the ECG.

Tachycardia - excessive rapidity in the action of the heart, usually above 100 beats per minute in an adult

Telemetry Monitor - A method for measuring a patient's vital signs from a distance, transmits through radio signals or other means and displays onto a monitor

Thrombolysis - A clot-busting drug used to dissolve a blood clot that is causing a heart attack.

Thrombus - A clot in the cardiovascular system

Tilt Table Test - A test that involves placing the patient on a special table and standing him or her upright at 60 to 70 degrees for 30 to 45 minutes.

Torsade de Pointes (Twisting of the points) -- A unique form of ventricular tachycardia that can be congenital in origin or can result from antiarrhythmic or psychotropic drug therapy, hypocalcemia, or acute myocardial infarction.

Trans Fat - This is a vegetable oil that has been treated with hydrogen in order to make the oil more solid and provide a longer shelf life. It is the "bad" fat which raises LDL (bad) cholesterol.

Transducer - A device that translates one form of energy to another, such as during an ultrasound when high frequency sound waves are transmitted through a transducer and then converted into electrical impulses

Transtelephonic Event Recorder - A miniaturized computer chip operated unit that stores brief ECG recordings when patients experience symptoms.

Tricuspid Valve - The valve between the right atrium and the right ventricle that functions like a one way door to keep blood flowing in one direction as it enters the right ventricle from the right atria.

Triglyceride - Fats or lipids from fatty foods that are primarily found in the blood. Main constituent of vegetable oil and animal fats. Excessive triglycerides is linked to the occurrence of coronary artery disease.

U

Ultrasound - An imaging modality that visualizes the body's internal structures by recording the pulsating "echoes" of sound waves that are directed into the tissues

V

Valve - Membrane in a passage that prevents the reflux of the contents flowing through it

Valvular Stenosis - Narrowing of the heart valves (the specific valve that is affected is often preceded by the word stenosis, i.e., aortic stenosis, mitral stenosis, pulmonary stenosis and tricuspid stenosis)

Vascular - Refers to the blood vessels.



- **Vasodilators -** Are drugs that widen (dilate) blood vessels. They unload the heart because it requires less effort to pump a given amount of blood per minute through a system of wide vessels compared with narrow ones.
- **Vein -** A vein is a blood vessel that carries low oxygenated blood from the body back into the heart.
- **Ventricle** A small cavity (the right and left ventricles of the heart have thick muscular walls that make up the bulk of the heart and propel blood through and from the heart)
- **Ventricular Fibrillation (VF)** A rapid, disorganized, and chaotic contraction of ventricular muscle accompanied by loss of effective pumping of blood. It results in loss of consciousness and death if it is not terminated immediately by delivery of shock with a defibrillator.
- **Ventricular Tachycardia (VT)** A very rapid heart rhythm arising within the ventricles
- **Vertigo** Dizziness or the feeling that you are falling or watching the world go round.
- **Vessel** Any channel for carrying a fluid, such as blood vessels, which include arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules and veins

W

Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome - A syndrome with abnormal ECG and where aberrant conducting pathways allow inappropriate transmission of signals from the atria to the ventricles or back to the atria from the ventricles