

2022 MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE  
10th ANNUAL CURRENT CONCEPTS IN  
**VASCULAR THERAPIES**

2022

Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

**APRIL 28-30**

Sentara Vascular Specialists



# Vasculitis

Aditya Sharma, MD, FSVM

Associate Professor of Medicine

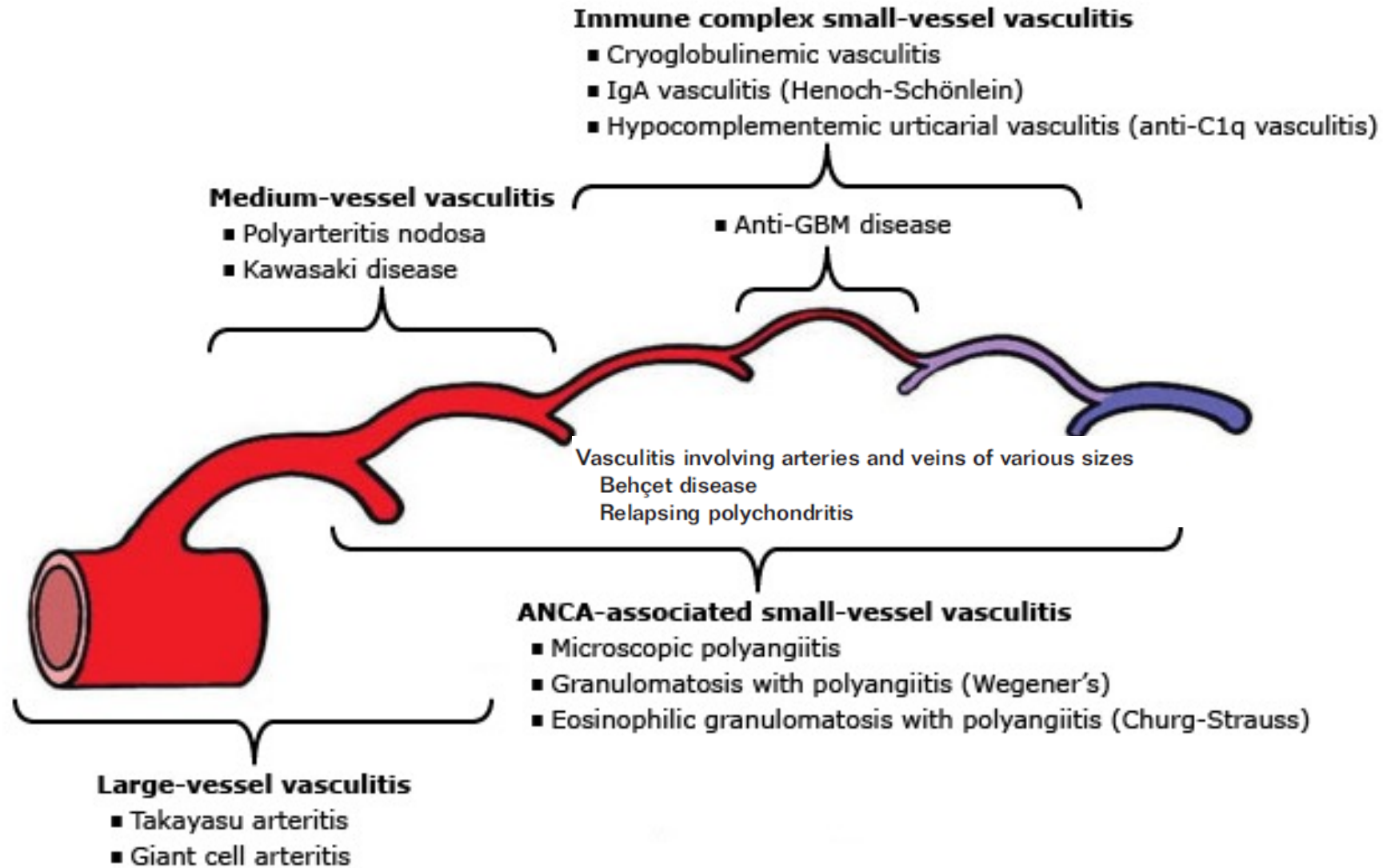
Medical Director, Vascular Medicine and PE Response Team

University of Virginia

# Introduction

- Heterogeneous and complex group of diseases
- Cardinal feature: inflammation (systemic/ localized)
  - This often leads to narrowing, occlusion, or rupture of the involved vessel leading to end-organ or tissue damage
- Diverse presentations including varied organ distribution and size of vessel involvement
  - challenging to diagnose and treat

# Vasculitis: Primary





# Vasculitis: Secondary

## Infectious

### Infectious etiology

#### Virus

- Hepatitis B and C
- Human immunodeficiency virus
- Parvovirus B19
- Cytomegalovirus
- Herpes simplex virus
- Varicella zoster

#### Bacteria

- Salmonella
- Streptococcus
- Staphylococcus
- Clostridium septicum
- Chlamydia pneumoniae
- Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- Treponema pallidum
- Borrelia burgdorferi
- Mycoplasma
- Cryptococcus
- Neisseria
- Coccidioides

## Connective tissue disease

- Relapsing Polychondritis
- Cogan Syndrome
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Sjögren syndrome
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Scleroderma

## Drugs

- D-Penicillamine
- Penicillin
- Propylthiouracil
- Hydralazine
- Minocycline
- Cocaine
- Leukotriene inhibitors

- Sulfasalazine
- Ciprofloxacin
- Pantoprazole
- Phenytoin
- Allopurinol
- Sulfonamides
- Thiazides

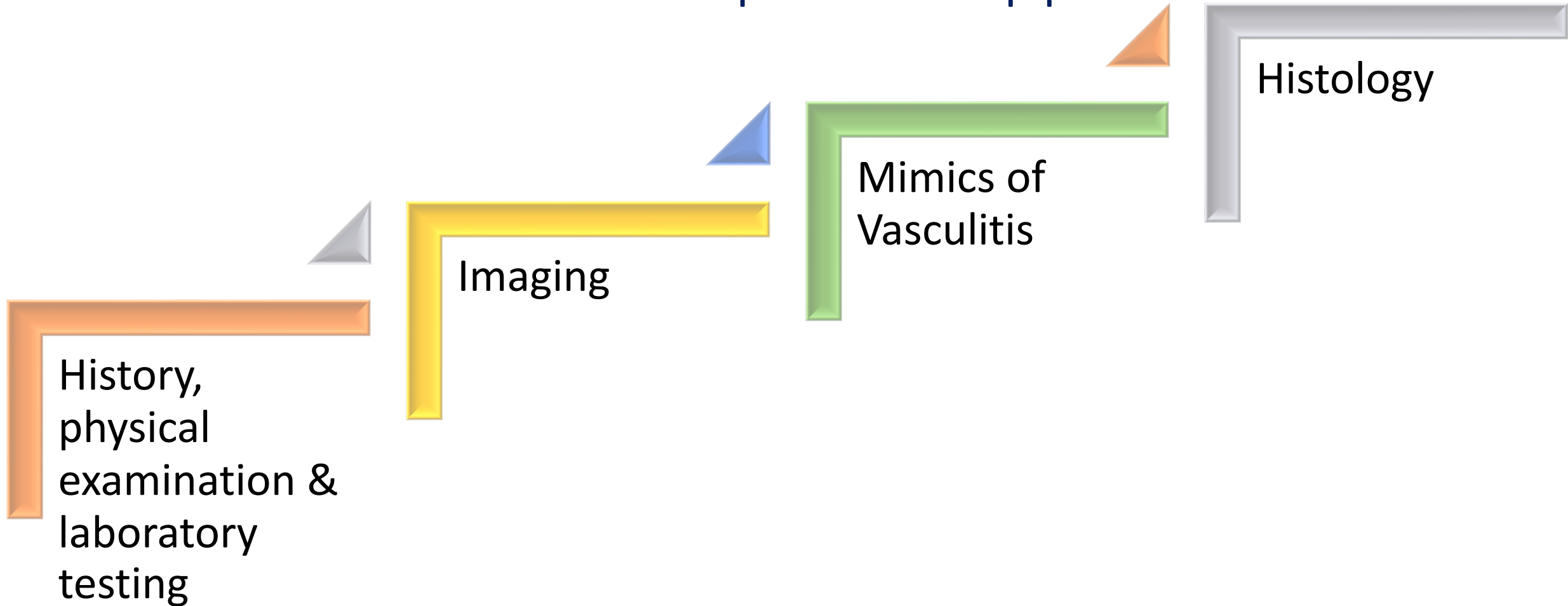
## Malignancies

- Hematologic malignancies (myeloproliferative and lymphoproliferative disorders)
- Solid organ tumors including lung, colon, and GI carcinomas

# Vasculitis: Approach

- Is this a condition that could mimic the presentation of vasculitis?
- Is there a secondary underlying cause?
- What is the extent of vasculitis?
- How do I confirm the diagnosis of vasculitis?
- What specific type of vasculitis is this?

# Vasculitis: Step-Wise Approach



# Step 1: Clinical and Laboratory Assessment

- Preceding illnesses
- New medications
- Constitutional symptoms
  - fever, night sweats, malaise, weight loss, arthralgia, myalgia
- Symptoms and signs localizing to specific organs

## Laboratory Tests

Complete blood count  
Inflammatory markers (ESR and CRP)  
Creatinine level  
Urinalysis  
Liver function tests  
Hepatitis B and C serologies  
Serum cryoglobulins  
Complement levels (C3, C4, and CH50)  
ANCA  
ANA  
Cryoglobulins



# Clinical features: Small Vessel Involvement



*Livedo reticularis*

Cutaneous post-capillary venules → Palpable purpura

Glomerular capillaries → Haematuria, red cell casts in urine, proteinuria, and decline in renal function

Pulmonary capillaries → Lung haemorrhage manifesting as breathlessness, haemoptysis and widespread alveolar shadowing on chest radiograph



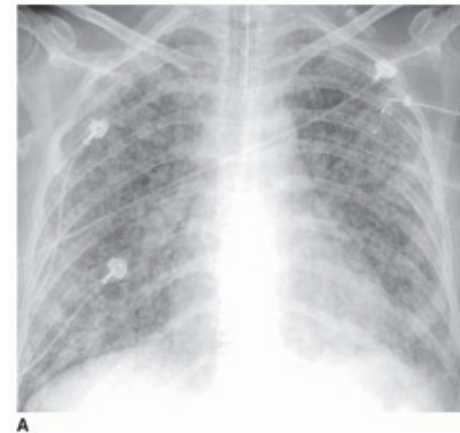
*palpable purpura*



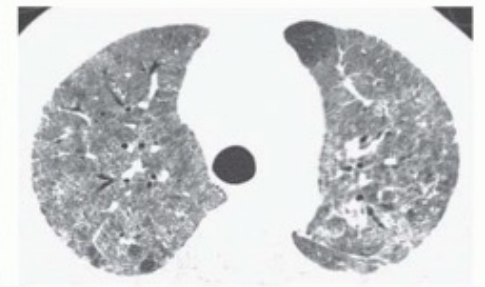
*Leukocytoclastic Vasculitis*



*Urticarial Vasculitis*



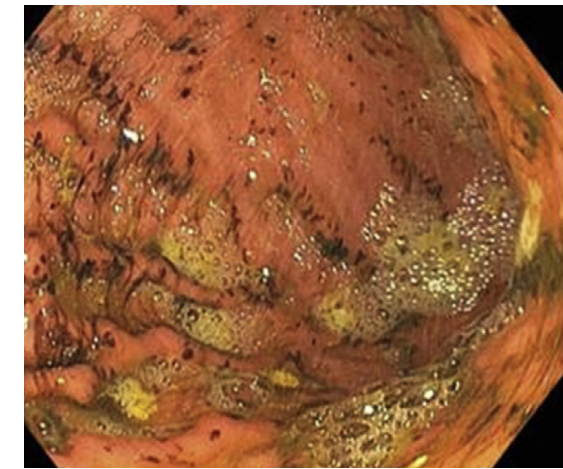
A



B

*Pulmonary hemorrhage*

# Clinical features: Medium Vessel Involvement



Small cutaneous arteries



Necrotic lesions and ulcers, nail fold infarcts

Epineural arteries



Mononeuritis multiplex

Celiac and mesenteric



Abdominal pain, gastrointestinal bleeding and perforation  
Liver, pancreatic and splenic infarction

Renal



Renal infarction, hypertension, flank pain, hematuria etc

Coronaries



Myocardial infarction or angina, coronary artery aneurysm,  
ischemic cardiomyopathy

Pulmonary



Necrotic lesions leading to cavitating lung shadows on chest radiograph

Small arteries in ENT



Nasal crusting, epistaxis, sinusitis, deafness, stridor  
because of sub-glottic stenosis

# Clinical Features: Large Vessel Involvement

Extracranial branches of carotid artery



Temporal headache (temporal artery), blindness (ophthalmic artery), jaw claudication (vessels supplying muscles of mastication)

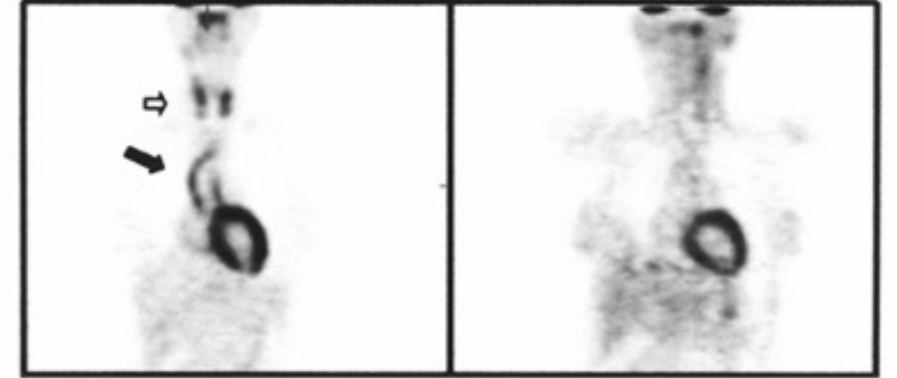
Thoracic aorta and its branches



Limb claudication, absent pulses and unequal blood pressure, bruits, thoracic aortic aneurysms

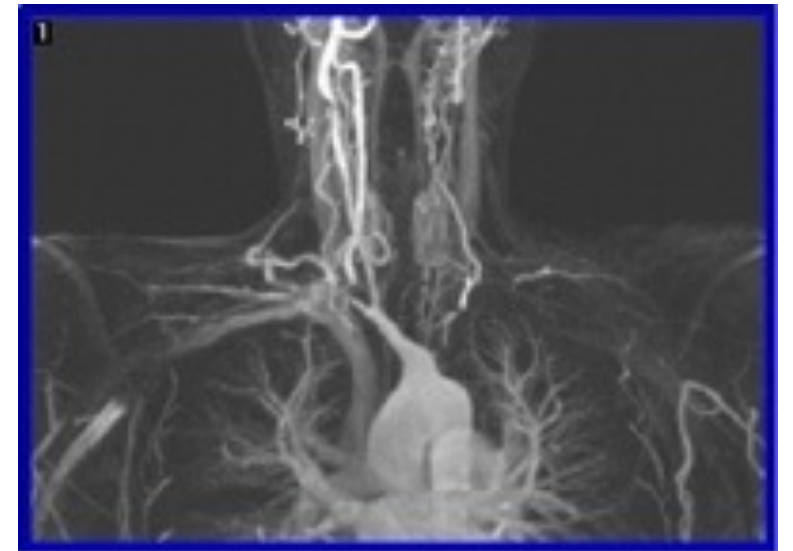
# Step 2: Imaging

- Identify and guide treatment of vasculitides (large and medium vessel vasculitis)



- Imaging modalities:

- Color duplex ultrasound (CDUS)
- Computerized tomography (CT)
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and magnetic resonance angiography (MRA)
- Positron emission tomography (PET)





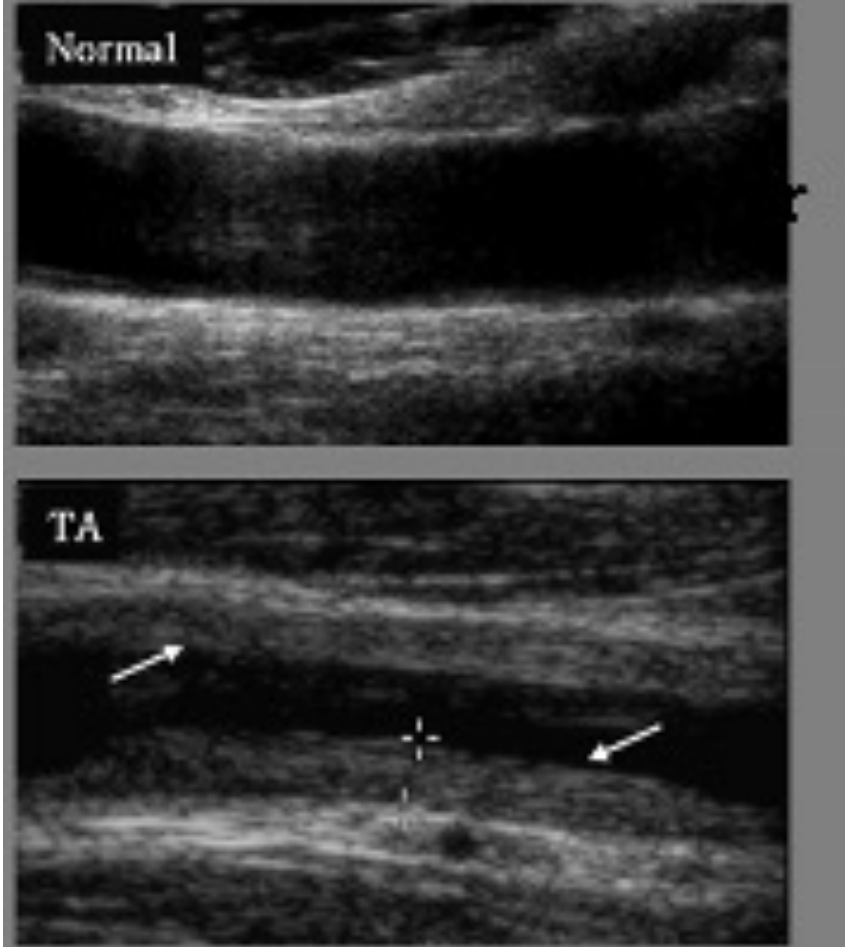
# Cardinal Imaging Signs

- Vessel wall thickening
- Irregular contours
- Perivascular inflammation

- Aneurysms
- Stenosis
- Occlusion

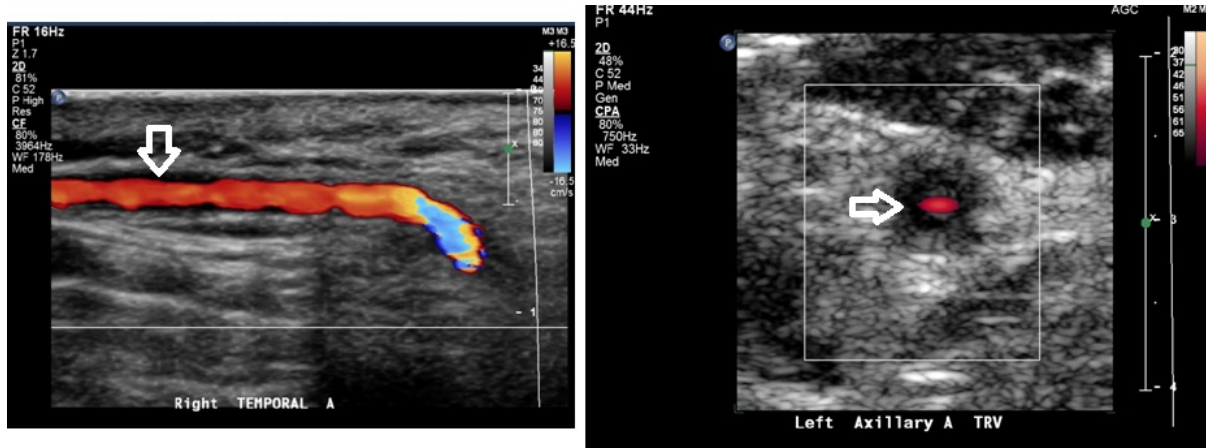


**Vascular remodeling  
secondary to inflammation**



# Ultrasonography

## Giant Cell Arteritis

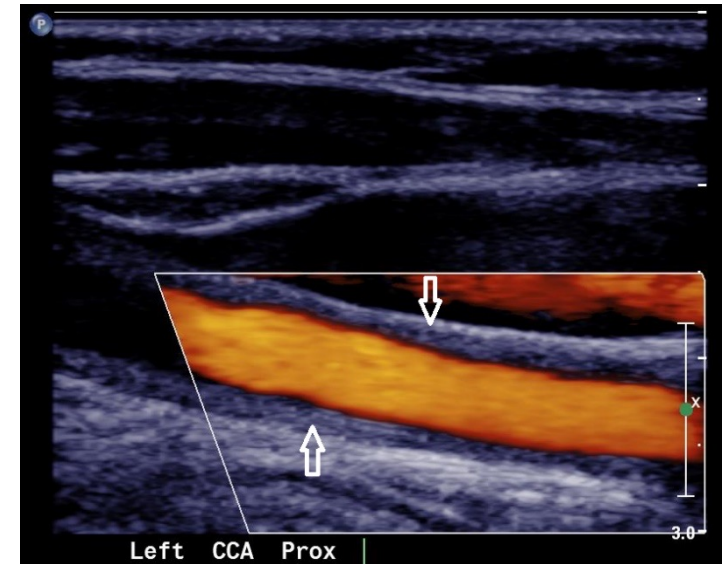


Halo sign: Hypoechoic edematous swelling in the vessel wall

- Negative predictive value → 92-96%
- Meta-analysis of 23 studies with GCA:
  - Sensitivity (87%) and specificity (96%) with CDUS
- Guide temporal artery biopsy

Images provided by Heather Gornik, MD and Esther Kim, MD

## Takayasu Arteritis



“Macaroni sign”: intimal thickening, irregular luminal contour and bright appearance

Vessel wall thickening of common carotid or subclavian artery >1.0 mm

*Br J Surg*, 97, 1765-71.

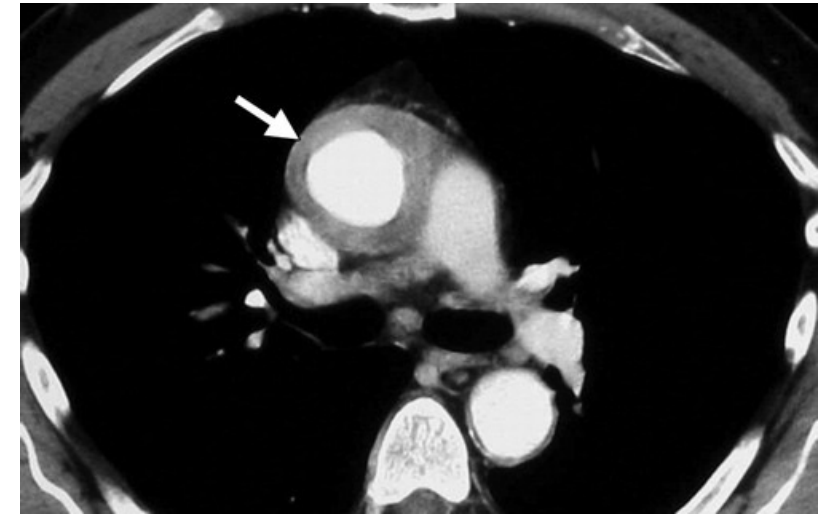
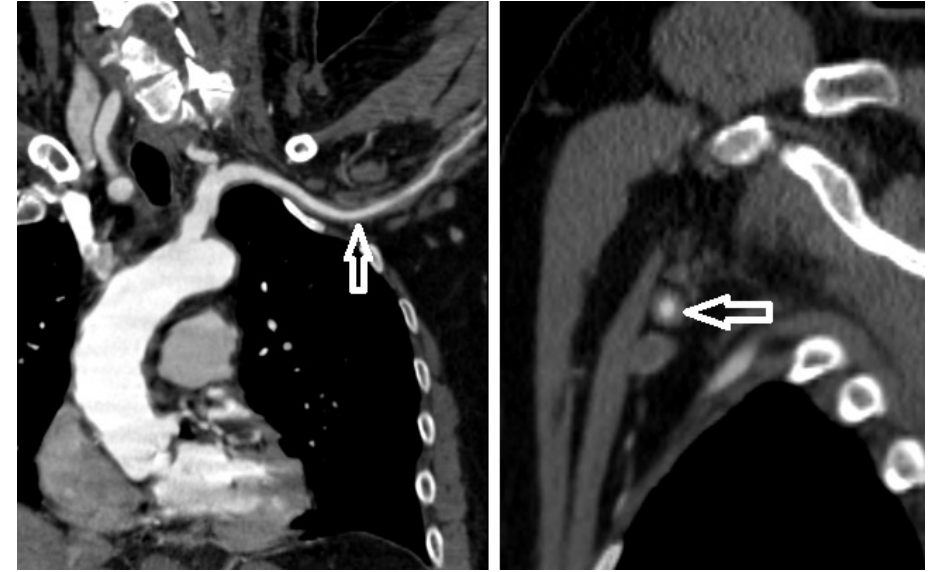
*J Vasc Surg*, 36, 1154-60.

*Ann Intern Med*, 142, 359-69.



# Computed Tomography Angiography

- Good spatial resolution and fast scanning times
- Acute inflammatory phase: the classic “double ring” finding
  - Poorly enhancing inner ring: intimal hyperplasia
  - Brightly enhancing outer ring: active inflammation in the medial and adventitial layers of the artery
  - High specificity and sensitivity (>95 %) for large vessel vasculitis

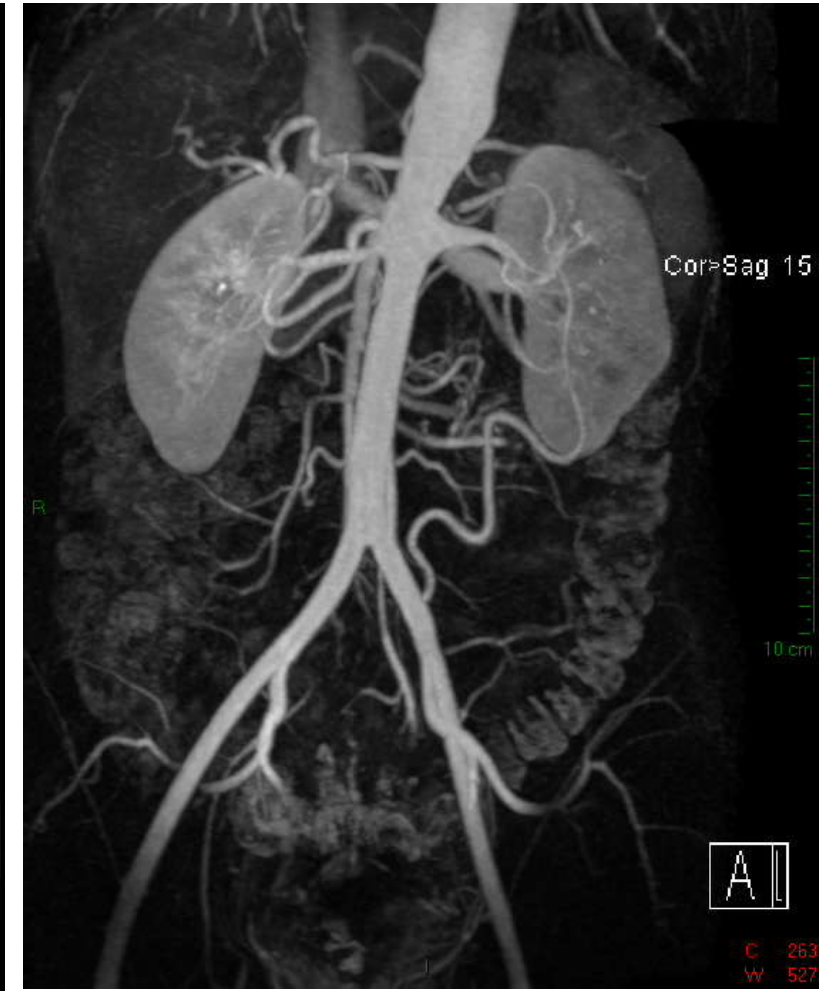


# Chronic Changes

## Takayasu Arteritis:

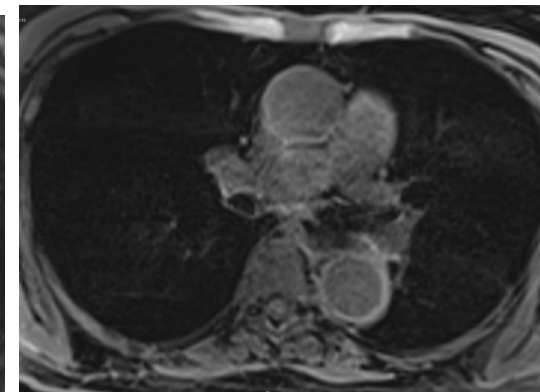
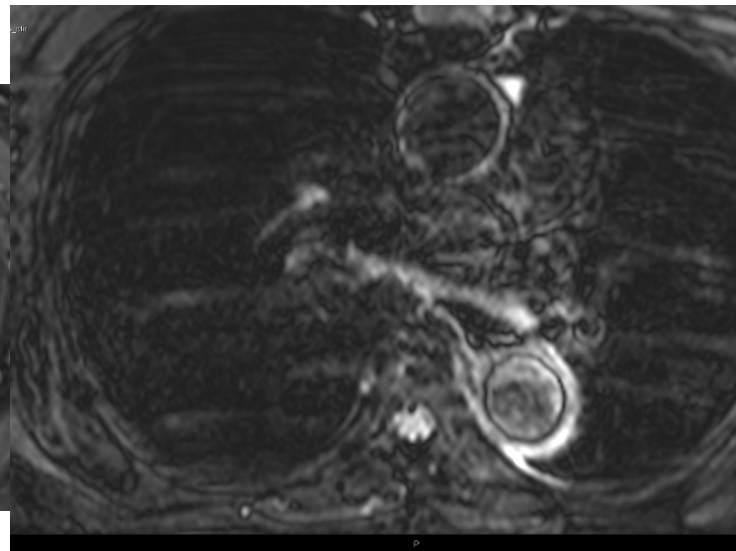
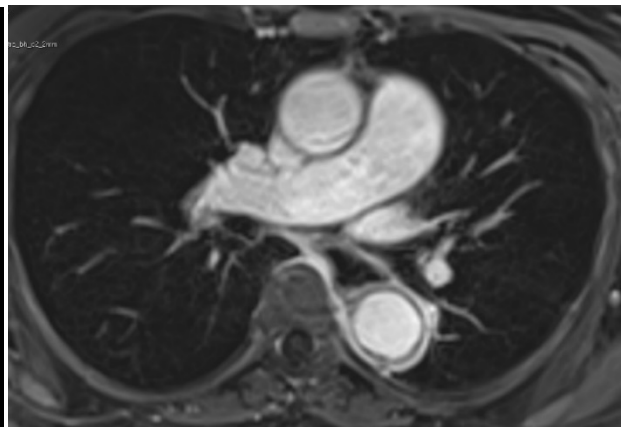
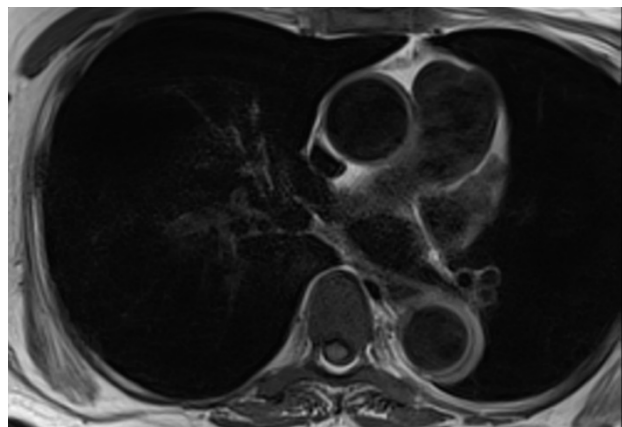
- Calcification
- Stenosis
- Occlusions
- Aneurysms

Monitor progression of aneurysm



# Magnetic Resonance Angiography

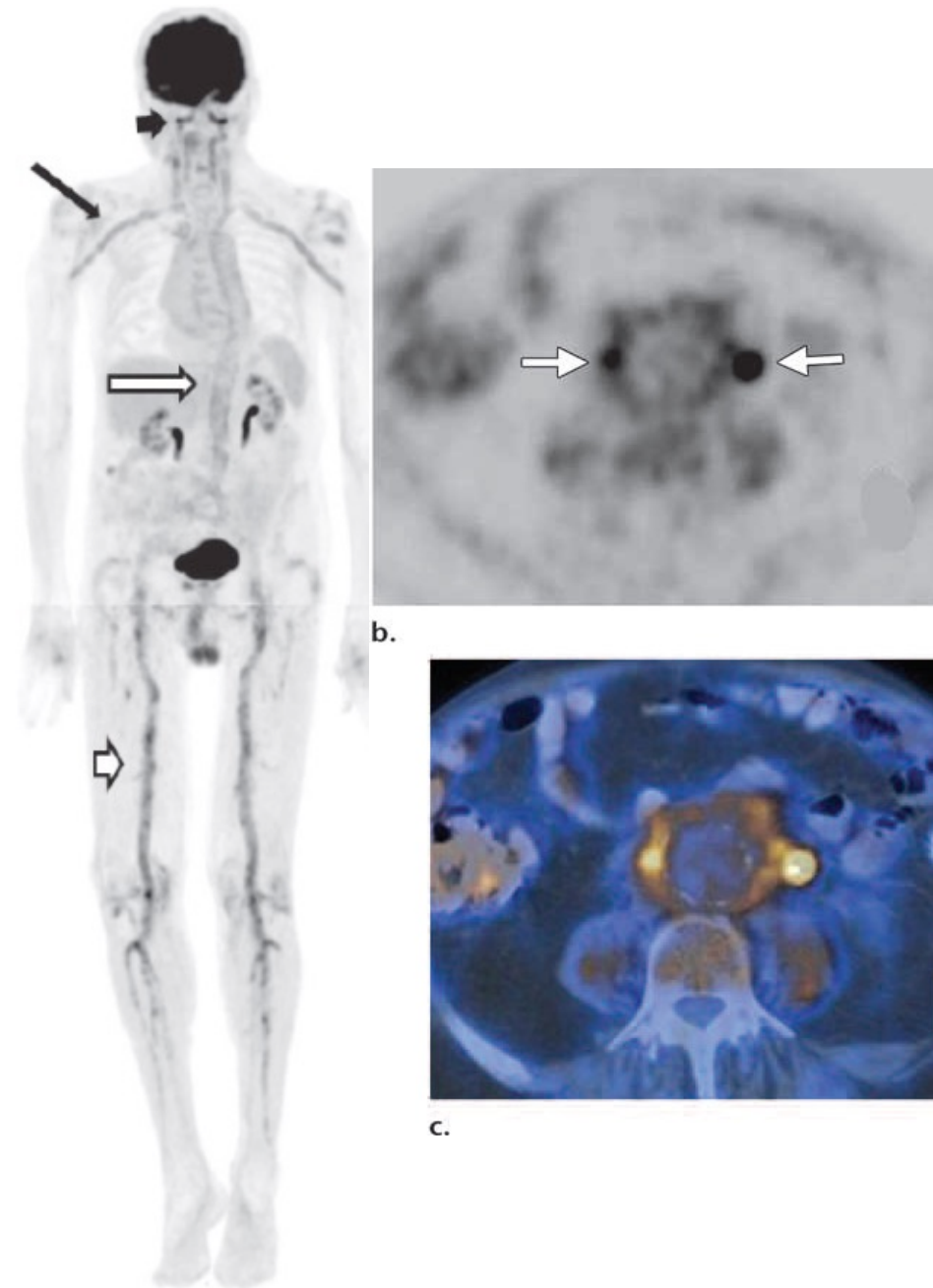
- Detect subtle changes in the aortic wall
- Increased wall thickness and wall edema: Fat-suppressed T2 black blood sequences
- Mural enhancement: T1-weighted sequences post contrast
  - Post contrast T1 images are superior to T2 or fat-suppressed images in detecting large-vessel inflammation and are required for detection of more subtle sign
- Periodic assessment providing luminal and vessel wall assessment
  - High signal on T2 weighted sequences and mural contrast enhancement > active disease and < initiation of immunosuppressive therapy.
- Sensitivity / specificity = 81% / 91%



*Arthritis Rheum*, 46, 1634-42.  
*Arthritis Rheum*, 58, 2574-8.  
*AJNR Am J Neuroradiol*, 28, 1722-7.  
*Rheumatology (Oxford)*, 47, 65-7.

# Positron Emission Tomography

- Uptake of IV radiolabeled glucose analogue FDG by activated cells in inflammatory processes
- Sensitivity / Specificity = 73% / 84%
- PPV / NPV = 82% / 77%
- Accuracy compared to clinical assessment alone = 71
- Combine with CT / MR ↑ anatomical accuracy
- Steroid initiation: 50% accuracy



*Rheumatology (Oxford)*, 47, 403-8.

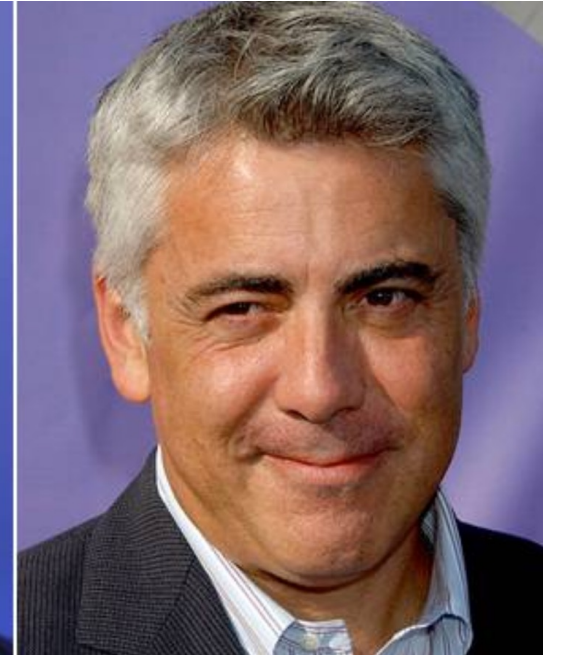
*Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*, 30, 730-6.

*Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*, 39, 344-53.

*Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*, 30, 1305-13.

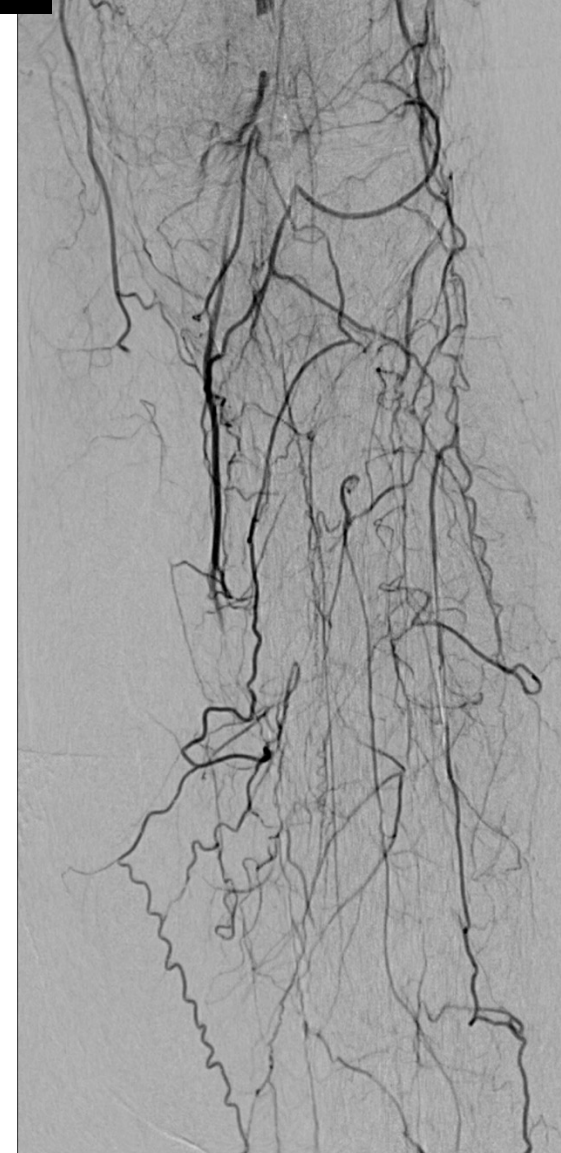
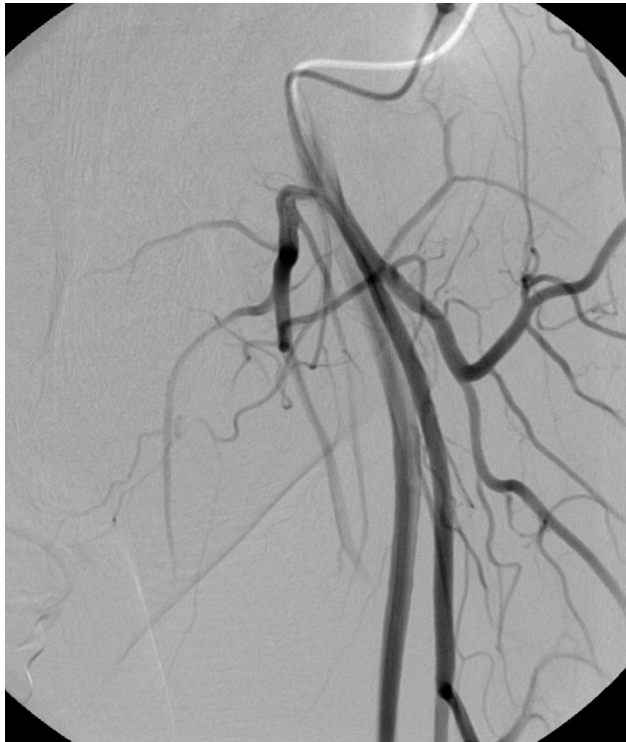


# Step 3: Mimics



# 40 yr old with claudication

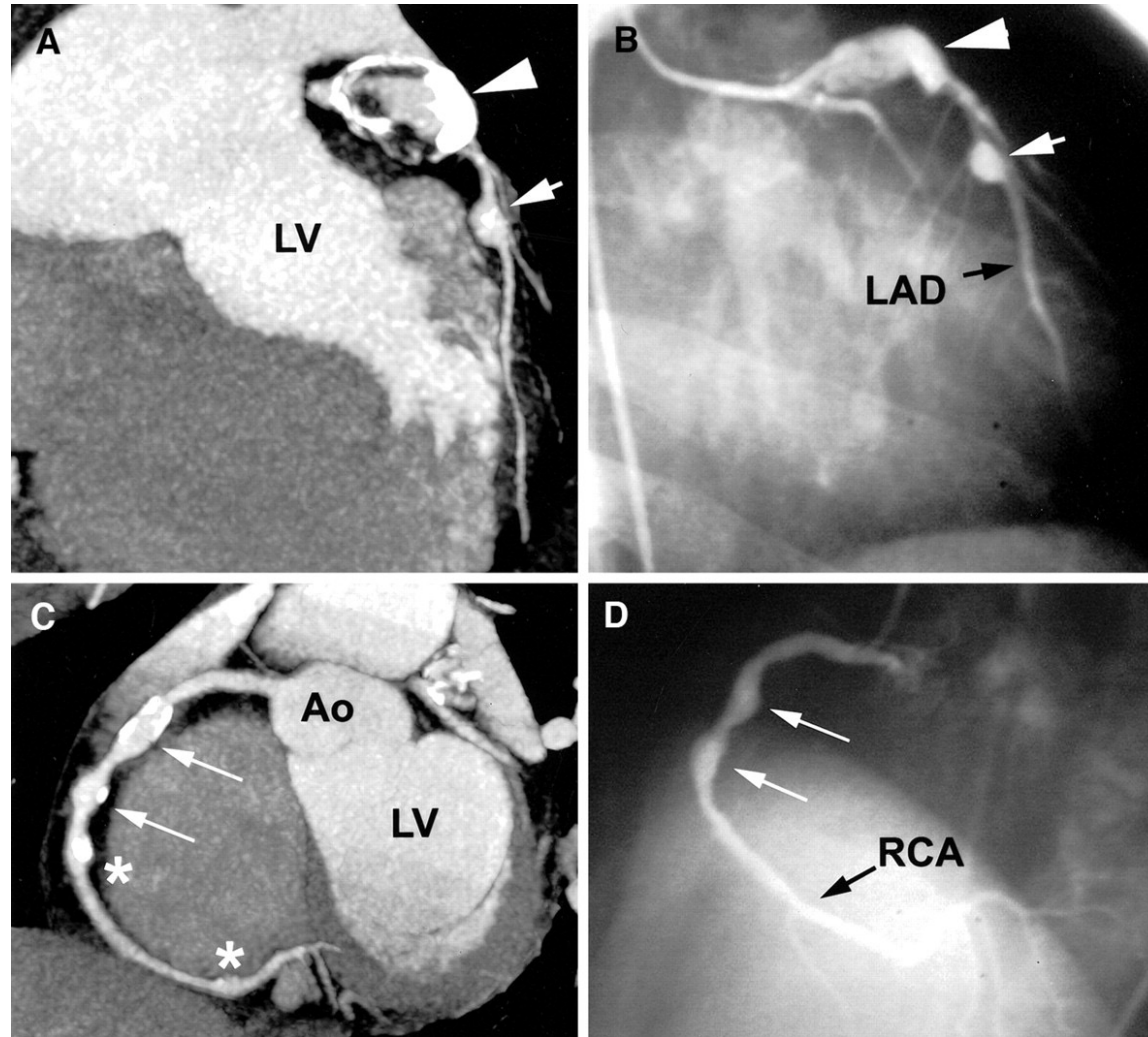
## Buerger's disease





# Kawasaki's Disease

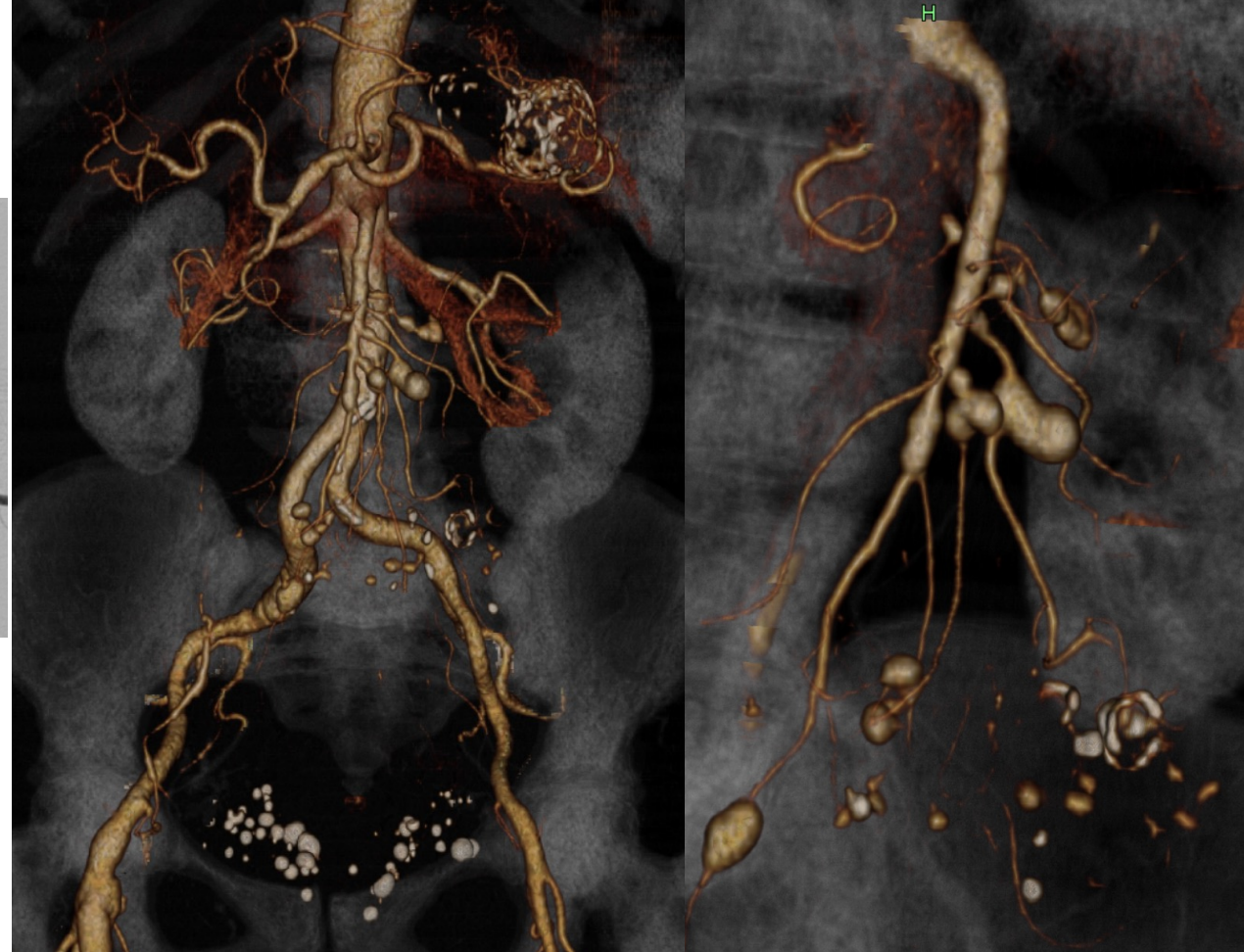
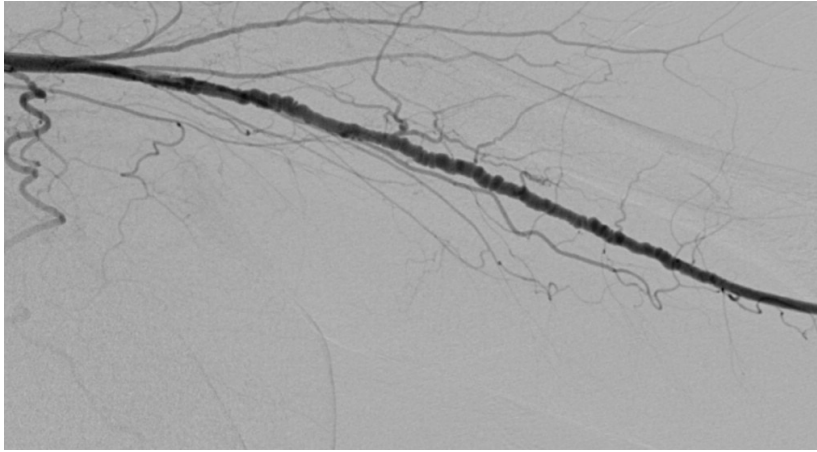
## 40 year old with Chest pain



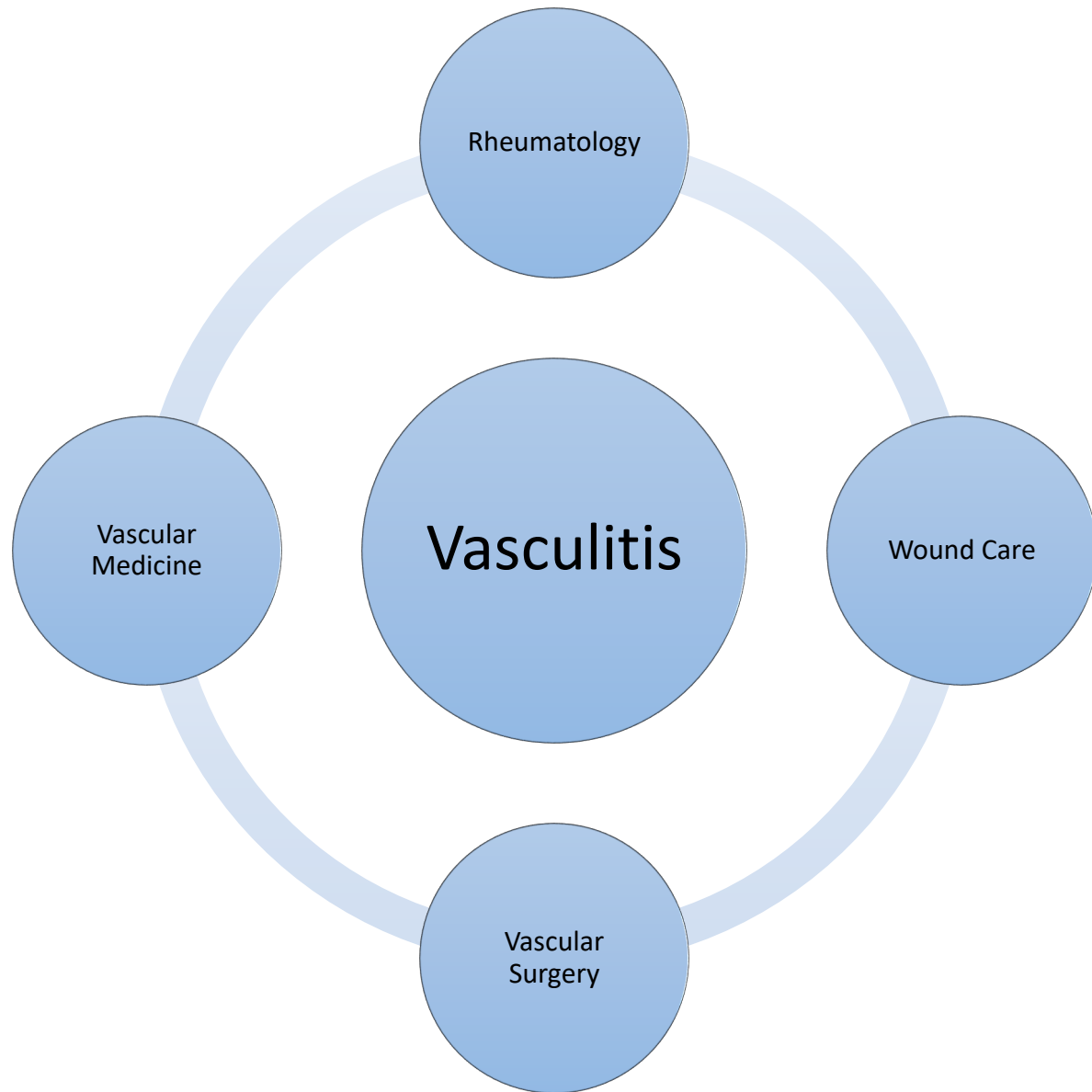
# Mimics

**Fibromuscular Dysplasia**

**Connective tissue disease**



# Treatment



- Goals:
  - Stop active inflammation
  - Prevent permanent damage
- Treatment approach:
  - Remission induction
  - Remission maintenance
  - Monitoring
- Treatment
  - Medical therapies
  - Surgical and endovascular therapies
- Treatment protocols are tailored to the type of vasculitis, extent of disease and clinical presentation (acute ischemia vs. claudication vs. minimal or asymptomatic)

# Treatment

- Remission induction
  - Intensive with need for close monitoring
  - Delay in diagnosis and induction → worsening morbidity and mortality
  - Glucocorticoids +/- other immunosuppressive agents
- Remission maintenance
  - Maintain control of disease activity
  - Prevent disease recurrence following reduction or discontinuation of medications
  - Minimize the risks of drug toxicity
  - Management of osteoporosis, chronic infections, accelerated atherosclerosis
- Monitoring
  - Disease activity (clinical, laboratory and imaging)
  - Drug toxicity

## Treatments for Inflammatory Vasculitis

### Commonly Used Medications/Treatments

Aspirin  
Glucocorticoids  
Cyclophosphamide  
Azathioprine  
Methotrexate  
Mycophenolate mofetil  
Cyclosporine and tacrolimus (FK506)  
Antiviral agents  
Plasmapheresis  
Intravenous immunoglobulin

### Newer

Rituximab (anti-CD20)  
Inhibitors of tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$   
Tocilizumab (anti-IL-6)  
Mepolizumab (anti-IL-5)  
Abatacept (CTLA4-Ig)  
Other experimental biologics

### Surgical/Invasive Treatments

Balloon angioplasty  
Intravascular stents ( $\pm$  drug-eluting coating)  
Vascular bypass or replacement grafts  
Reconstructive surgery

# Conclusion

- Challenging group of disorders
  - Difficult to diagnose and treat
- Multidisciplinary care across multiple specialties is key
- Longitudinal follow-up is imperative