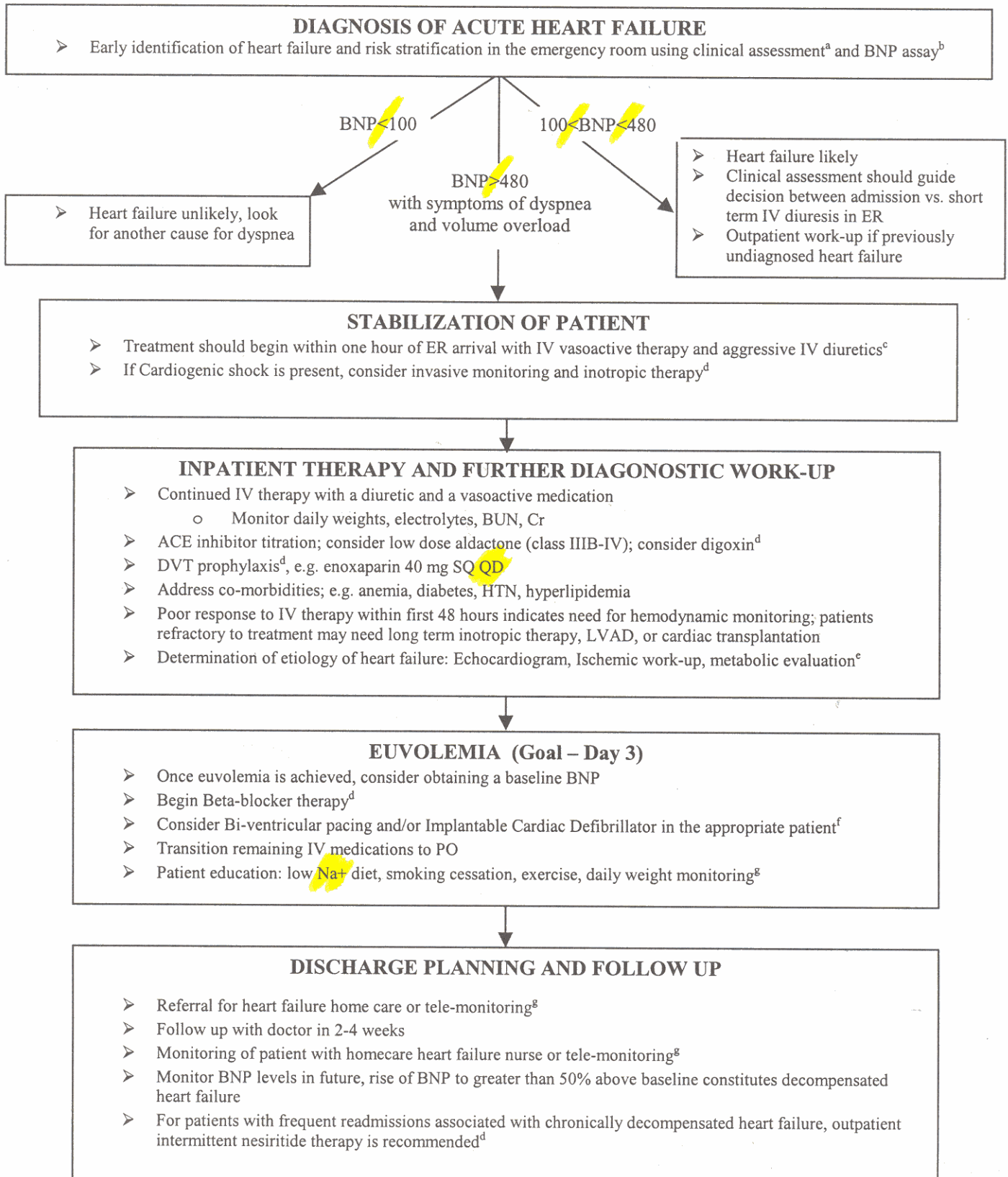


EVIDENCE BASED MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE HEART FAILURE

Robert Berkowitz M.D., Ph.D.,FACC; Sidney Glasofer B.S.E, MS (IV)



*For discussion of the strategies presented in this flow chart refer to addendum a-g.

DIURETIC ALGORITHM

Volume overload is the most common presentation of CHF.¹ Loop diuretics in significant amounts antagonize the RAAS, increase the SVR, decrease the GFR and decrease CO.^{2,3} A furosemide drip preceded by a moderate bolus is more effective than IV push lasix and facilitates a continuous diuresis.³ There is no rebound effect as occurs with IV push lasix alone.^{2,3}

In contrast, loop diuretics with vasodilator treatment increase urine output, GFR, CO.^{4,5} and when the vasodilator is nesiritide, neurohormonal blockade is obtained.^{5,6} Nesiritide is synergistic with loop diuretics requiring less lasix over time⁵ and facilitating renal protection⁶ leading to improved creatinine.

Nesiritide with furosemide is recommended for CHF treatment. "Patients who received an vasoactive agent earlier in their treatment had a significantly shorter LOS."⁷ It is not necessary to down-titrate beta-blockers when beginning vasoactive therapy.

Recommendations for Acute Decompensated Heart Failure in the ETD

On Admission:

Treat within 1-2 hours with:

- Nesiritide 2mcg/kg bolus followed by infusion at 0.01 mcg/kg/min to be titrated as needed (by addition of .005mcg/kg/min q 3 hours PRN).

*The higher doses may be required in cases where hypertension exists. The usual duration of treatment with Nesiritide is for 24-72 hours depending on the severity of volume overload).

Concomitant treatment with furosemide:

- Give 40-80 mg IVP furosemide followed by infusion of furosemide 250mg/250mL at **10mg/hour** for moderate fluid overload or **15mg/hour** for severe/extreme volume overload.
- Goal is to achieve urine output of ≥ 1 mL/kg/h (about 600mL per shift). If goal is not achieved in 4 hours, increase furosemide drip by 5mg/h to a maximum of 20mg/hr until adequate diuresis is seen. Monitor urine output every hour and every shift. Maintain diuresis until fluid retention is resolved.

Day 2

- Consider decreasing furosemide drip as patient approaches euvoemia. *This may occur quicker in patients with diastolic versus systolic dysfunction.

Day 3

- Transition to PO furosemide when euvoemic:
40 mg QD to BID or 80 mg AM, 40 mg PM QD depending on degree of initial volume overload.
* Avoid Zaroxolyn as possible.
* Note: ACEI titration can begin immediately.
Beta-blockers initiated when patient euvoemic.

Legend

RAAS- Renin Angiotensin Aldosterone System

SVR- Systemic Vascular Resistance

GFR- Glomerular Filtration Rate

CO- Cardiac Output

References

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