Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Athletes

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Jeremy Nelson and Nick Blakely Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention

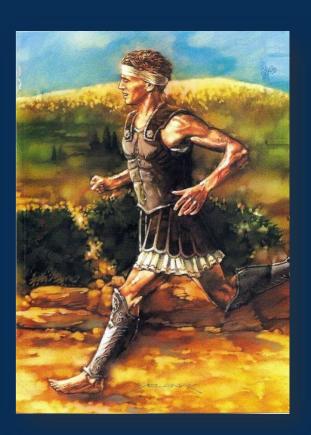
Act



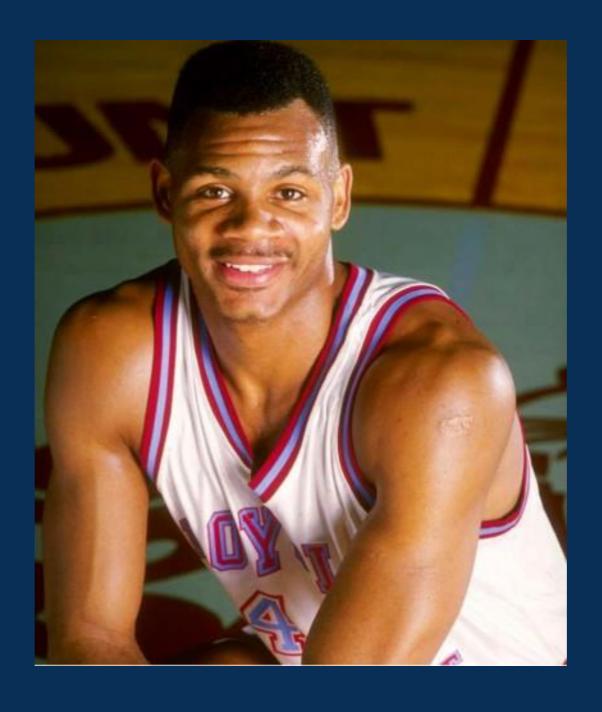


History

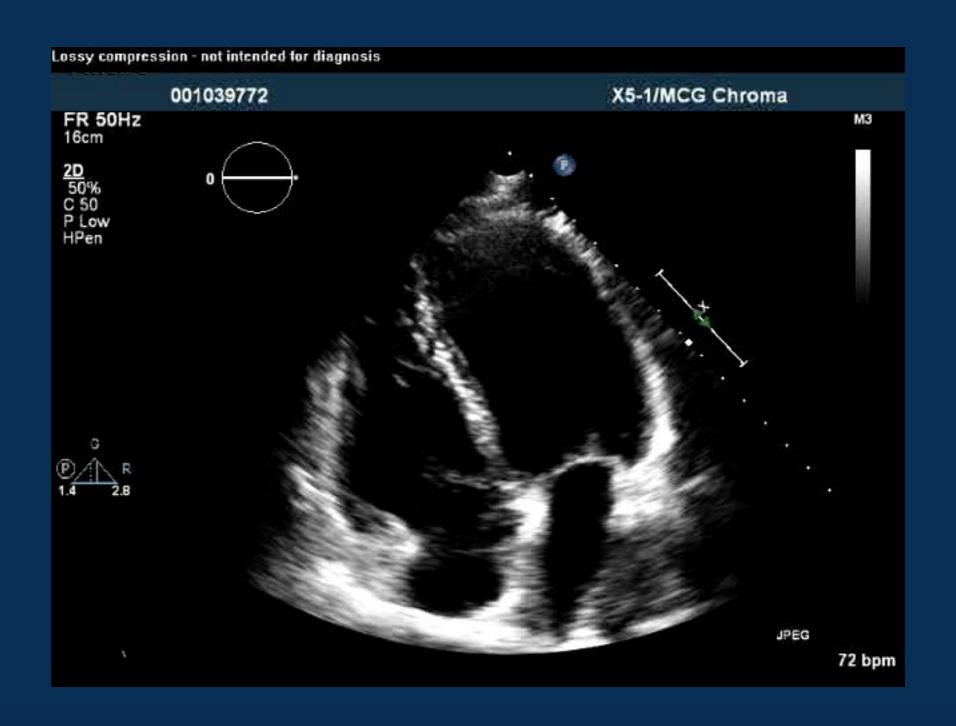
- Pheidippides
 - Inspiration for marathon



- Ran from Marathon to Athens to deliver news of a Greek military victory against the Persians at the Battle of Marathon
- Suddenly collapsed and died



Hank Gathers



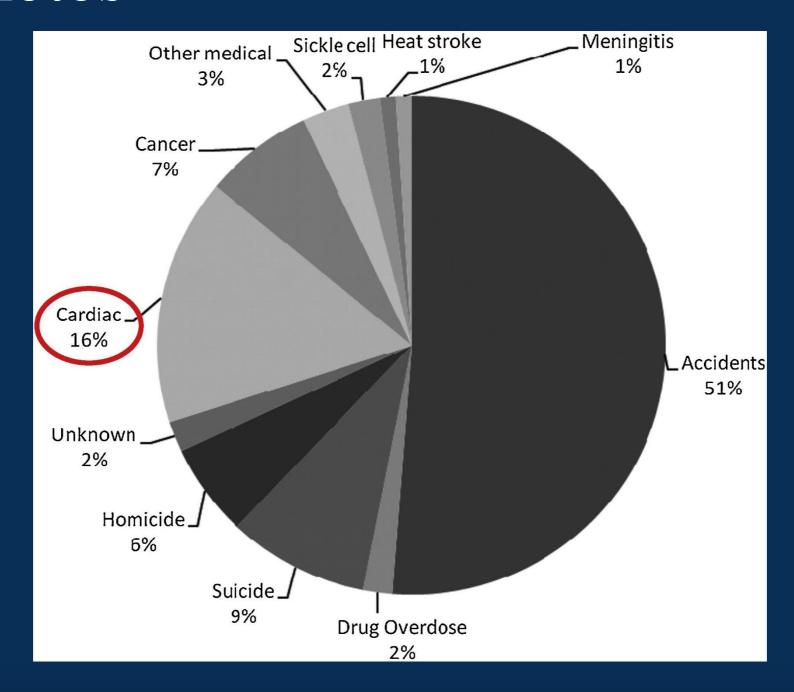
Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- Rare but devastating event
- Interruption in normal function of the heart leading to loss of pulse
- Loss of consciousness leading to death
- 360,000 events each year

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

- Basketball and football
- Males:females 9:1
- African Americans

Causes of Sudden Death in Athletes



Causes of Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Athletes

Cardiomyopathy HCM, DCM, RCM, ARVC, LVNC

Arrhythmiae.g. LQTS, CPVT,
Brugada, SQT

Vascular

e.g. Marfan, Ehler-Danlos IV

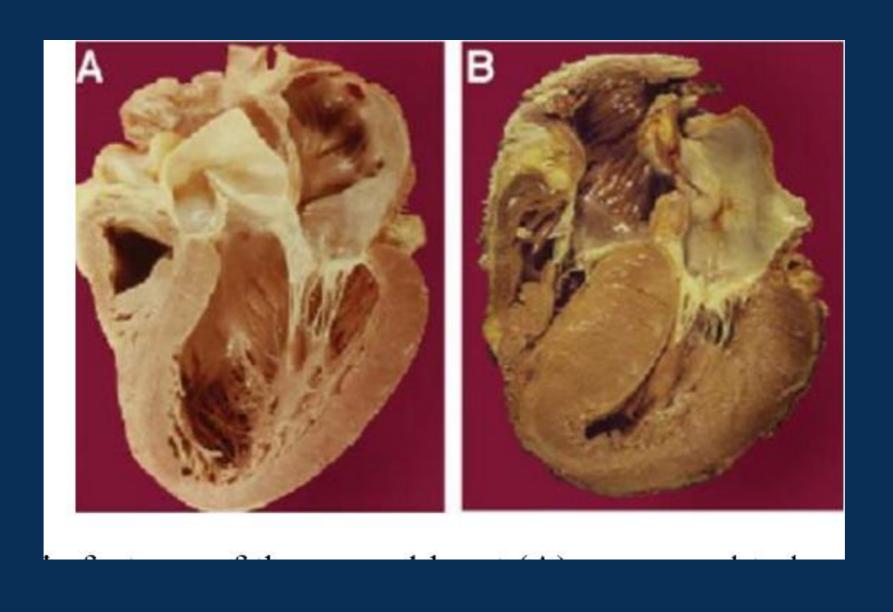
Congenital

e.g. coronary anomalies

Metabolic

e.g. FH, homocystinuria

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy



Screening History and Physical

Personal history

- 1. Exertional chest pain/discomfort
- 2. Unexplained syncope/near-syncope
- 3. Excessive exertional and unexplained dyspnea/fatigue, associated with exercise
- 4. Prior recognition of a heart murmur
- 5. Elevated systemic blood pressure
- 6. Prior sport restriction
- 7. Prior cardiac testing

Family history

8. Premature death before age 50 years due to heart disease in ≥1 relative

- 9. Disability from heart disease in a close relative <50 years of age
- 10. Specific knowledge of certain cardiac conditions in family members: hypertrophic or dilated cardiomyopathy, long-QT syndrome or other ion channelopathies, Marfan syndrome, or clinically important arrhythmias

Physical examination

11. Heart murmur

- 12. Femoral pulses to exclude aortic coarctation
- 13. Physical stigmata of Marfan syndrome
- 14. Brachial artery blood pressure (sitting position)



American Heart Association®

CPR & First Aid

- Cardiac Emergency Response Plan
- Cardiac Emergency Response Team
- heart.org/handsonlycpr



Sudden Cardiac Arrest







Jason Collier Thomas Herrion Jiri Fischer

Conclusion

- SCA in athletes is a rare, but highly visible event
- Diverse range of causes
- May be preventable in some cases
- Early recognition of loss of pulse and rapid response with CPR and AED is key