

# Embolic

Q definition, types, etiology, morphology, complications.

## definition

Q) An embolus is an intravascular solid, liquid, or gaseous mass that is carried by the blood to a site of distant from its point of origin.

- Vast majority of emboli derive from a dislodge thrombus - hence the term - thromboembolism

## TYPES

- ① pulmonary thromboembolism
- ② systemic thromboembolism
- ③ Fat embolism
- ④ Air embolism
- ⑤ Amniotic fluid embolism

## pulmonary embolism

(mlc)

### Origin

→ 95% of cases → venous thrombi from deep leg veins proximal to popliteal fossa.

→ thrombi from lower leg → rarely embolize.

## Question - H/O

# If PE → bedridden patient suddenly due to DVT. developed dyspnoea

# Fat embolism → fracture of femur & other long bone.

# Systemic thromboembolism → pt with h/o chest pain, palpitation, dyspnoea - later develops

→ hemiplegia (or)

→ infarction of major organs (any)

# is consequence of systemic embolisation?

↓  
is ischemic necrosis (infarction).

# for pulmonary embolism.

↓  
⇒ hypoxia, hypotension, right sided heart failure

## pathophysiology

• thrombi {usually DVT}

↓

fragment

↓

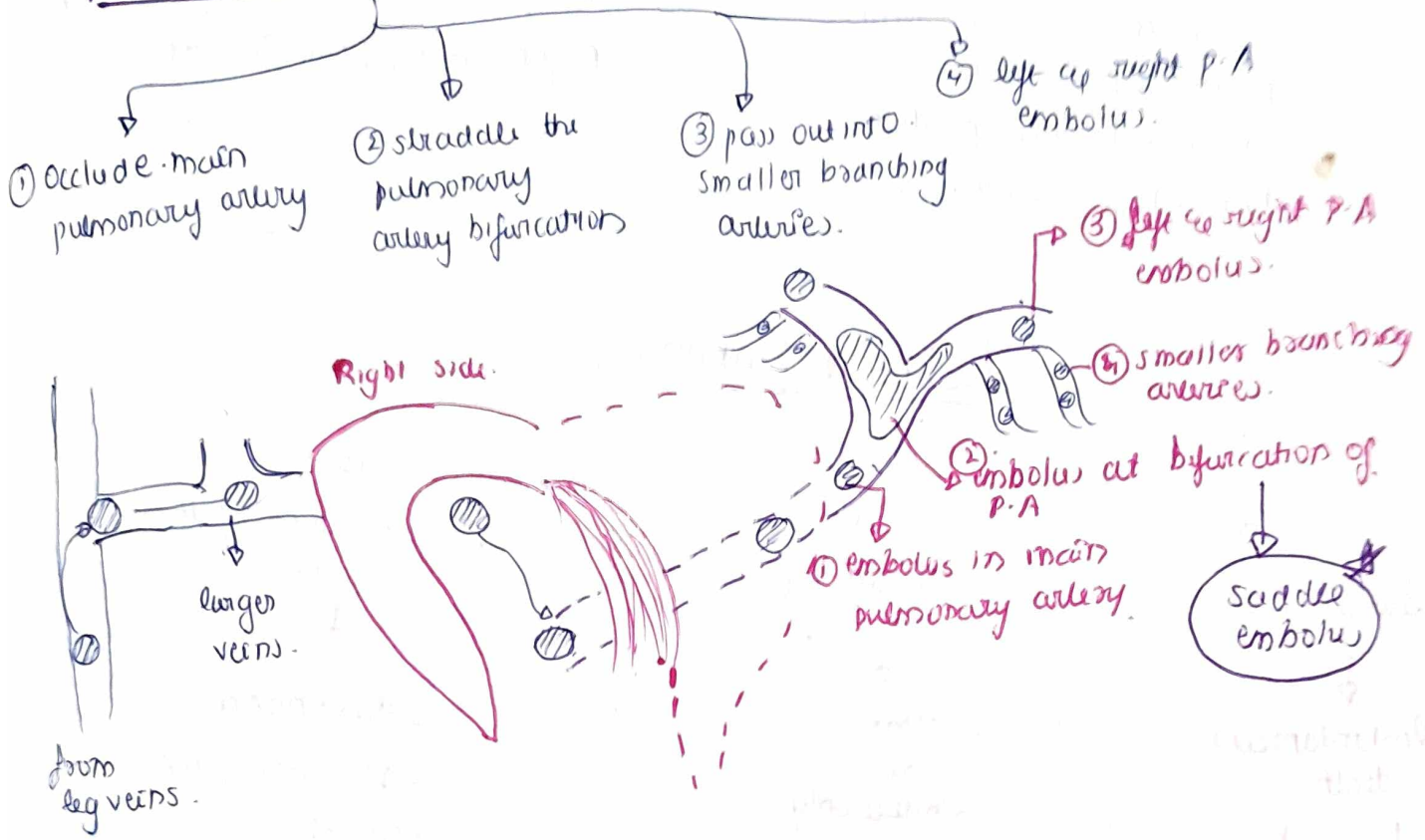
travel via venous system.

↓  
right heart

↓

pulmonary arteries.

# Sites of Embolus Lodging



paradoxical embolism \*

Rarely embolus bypass lung via cardiac defect → enters systemic circulation.

## ✓ Functional Consequences.

① most emboli are clinically silent  
 ∴ they are small  
 ↓  
 with time they organize & incorporate into vessel wall

② Sudden death, acute right heart failure, {cor pulmonale} or collapse.  
 } }  
 if emboli obstruct 60% or more of pulmonary circulation.

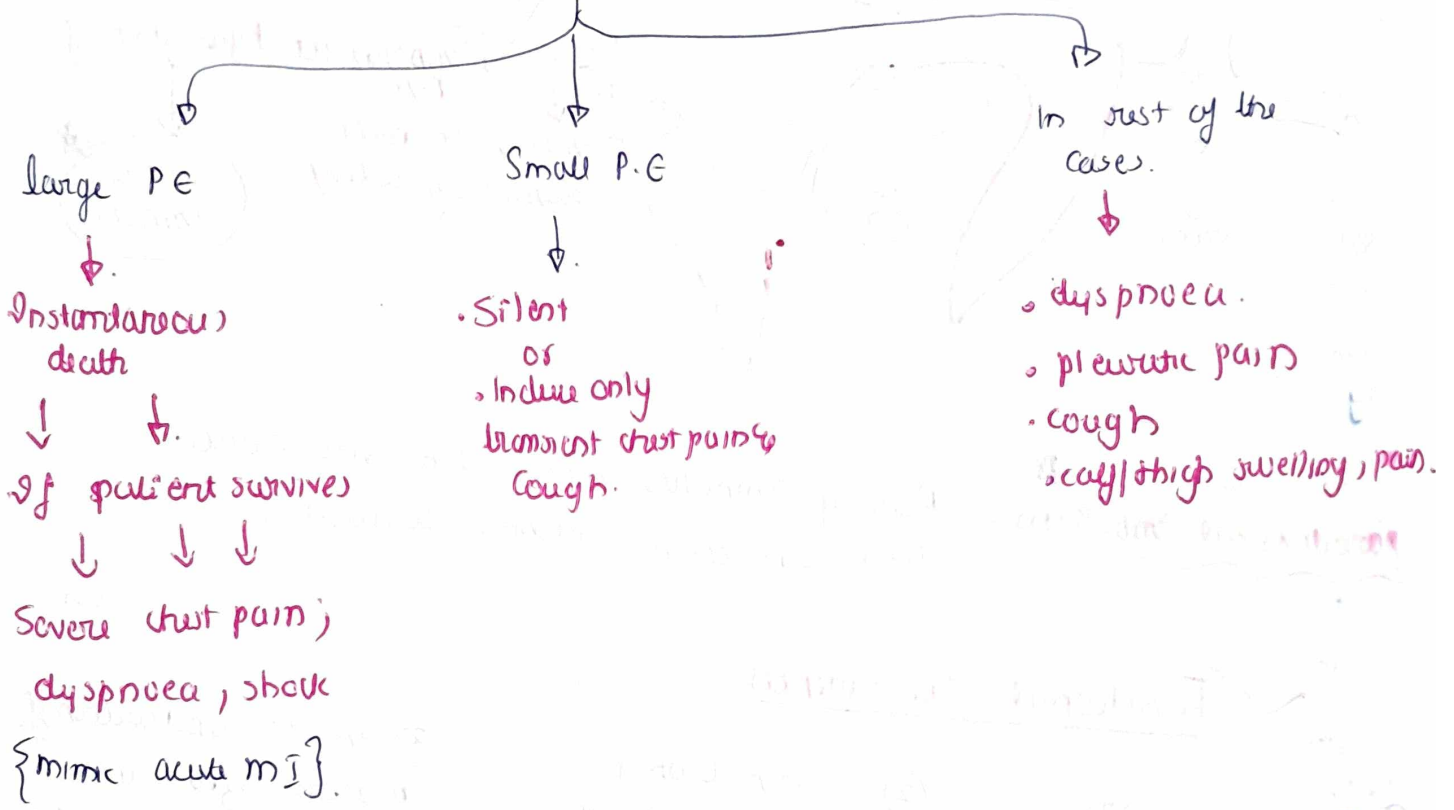
③ Embolic obstruction of medium-sized arteries and subsequent vascular damage, rupture causes pulmonary hemorrhage.  
 But no infarction X due to dual blood supply to lungs.

↓ ↓  
 But in case of Failure and reduced bronchial artery supply  
 ↓  
 infarct.

④ Embolic obstruction of. Small end arterioles. pulmonary branches. does not often produce. hemorrhage or necrosis.

✓ ⑤ multiple emboli overtime may cause pulmonary HTN & Right ventricular failure.

**Clinical features**



**Diagnosis**

- d-dimer; screening.
- CT pulmonary Angiogram → definitive.
- for DVT → duplex USG.
- chest x ray - wedge shaped infiltrates.

**Rx**

- anti-coagulants
- thrombolytics.

**Complications**

- multiple small emboli
- ↓ ↓
- pulmonary hypertension & cor pulmonale.

**Prevention**

- Early ambulation post-op & postpartum.
- elastic stockings.
- Anti-coagulants in high risk patients.
- mandatory stockings - bedridden patients.

**Preventive measure**

(49)

Systemic thromboembolism (UQ)  
 due to atrial fibrillation. Essay

H/O - chest pain, dyspnoea, palpitations.  
 ↓  
 hemiplegia developed.

- Q) Explain pathogenesis of dyspnoea.
- Q) likely cause of hemiplegia.

• outcome → tissue infarction

Systemic Thromboembolism / Arterial Emboli

80% arises from.  
 ↓  
 Intra cardiac mural thrombi.

10-15%  
 ↓  
 unk origin.

- (2/3) - arises in relation to left ventricular wall defect
- (1/4) - arises due to left atrial dilatation & atrial fibrillation.

- remaining -
- aortic aneurysm
  - atherosclerotic plaque
  - valvular vegetation
  - Venous thrombi {paradoxical}

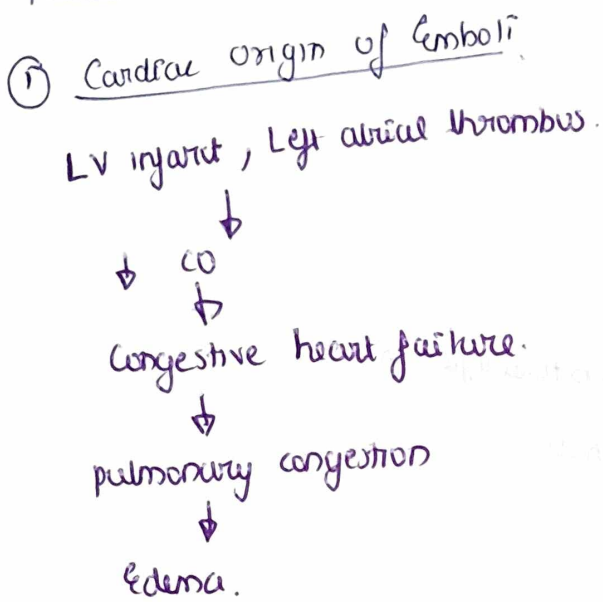
venous emboli

↓  
 deposits in lung. {mainly}

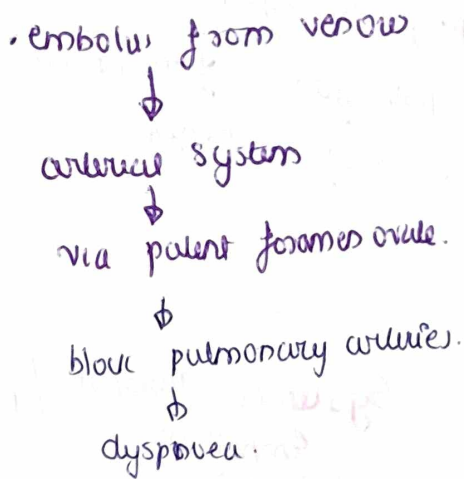
Arterial thromboembolism

↓  
 travel to various sites  
 ↓  
 MIC - lower extremity (75%)  
 & Brain (10%)  
 other: kidney, spleen, intestine.

pathogenesis of dyspnea in STE



② Paradoxical Embolism



Hemiplegia in STE

likely cause: cerebral infarction.  
 ↓ due to  
 embolus lodging in  
 middle cerebral artery

pathogenesis

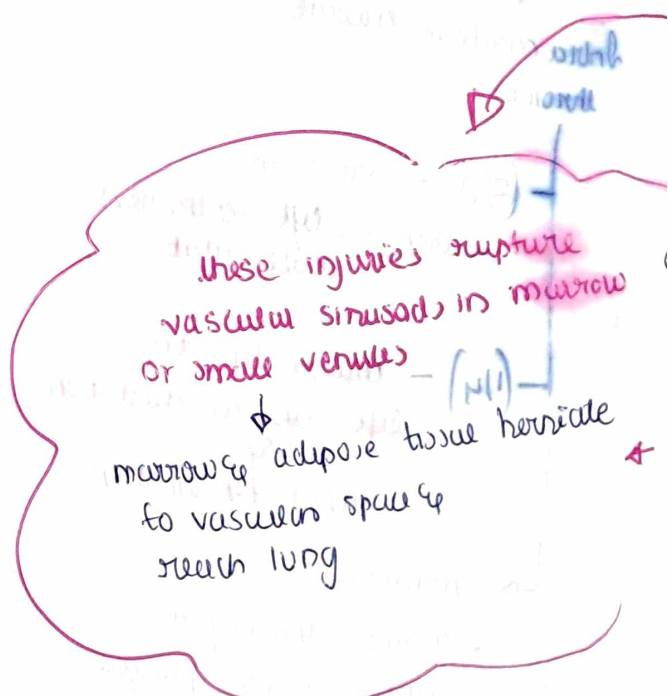
embolus from LV thrombus,  
 LA thrombus, aortic plaque.

via carotid artery.

MCA: supplies motor cortex  
 controlling upper limb.

infarction

Sudden onset of → paralysis of opposite side.



\* autopsy finding

\* fat emboli demonstration

# Fat Embolism

essay.  
 {H/o femur fracture}.  
 collapse & died.

- Q) diagnosis?
- Q) etiology
- Q) morphological & postmortem findings.

\* Fat embolism refers to the presence of microscopic fat globules (sometimes with associated hematopoietic bone marrow) in vasculature after fracture of long bones or rarely in the setting of soft tissue trauma or burns.

## Etiopathogenesis

### Etiology

- long bone fractures (m/c)
- severe soft tissue trauma/burns
- vigorous CPR
- occurs in 90% of severe skeletal injuries. {but <10% have CF}

## Pathogenesis

- mechanical obstruction.
- Biochemical injury.

## pathogenesis

### Mechanical obstruction

- fat micro-emboli and associated red cells & platelet aggregates can occlude pulmonary & cerebral microvasculature.

### Biochemical Injury

release of FFA from fat globules  
 ↓  
 local toxic injury to endothelium  
 ↓  
 platelet & granulocyte aggregation  
 ↓  
 exacerbates the situation.

\* "fat embolism syndrome" is used for minority of patients who become symptomatic

### Symptoms

- ① pulmonary insufficiency
  - typically presents 1-3 days after injury
  - sudden onset of tachypnoea, dyspnoea, tachycardia
- ② Neurological Symptoms
  - Irritability
  - restlessness
  - delirium
  - coma.
- ③ Thrombocytopenia
  - platelet adhere to fat globule
  - splenic sequestration.

### ④ Anaemia

- due to red cell aggregation & hemolysis.

# Air Embolism (S.N)

## definition

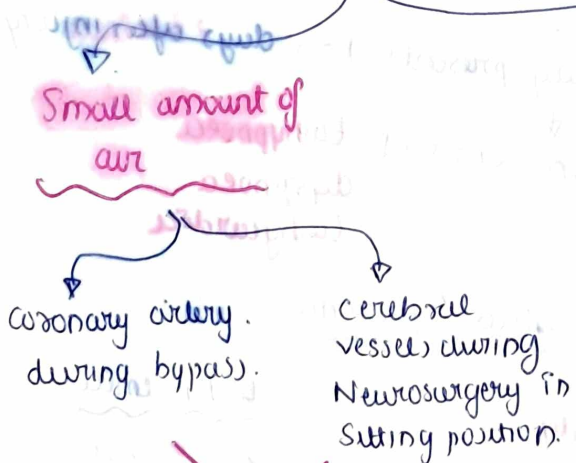
air embolism refers to the presence of gas bubbles within circulation, which can coalesce into frothy masses, obstruct vascular flow, and cause distal ischemic injury.

## Etiopathogenesis

### Etiology



air can enter the vasculature when there is a negative pressure gradient



### Other consequences

- Mental Impairment (CF) ✓
- Sudden onset coma. (CF) ✓

# Decompression Sickness

## definition

- Occurs when individuals experience sudden decrease in atmospheric pressure, leading to gas bubble formation in bodily tissues.

## causes

- seen in Scuba divers
- deep sea divers
- underwater construction workers

## mechanism

- \* air is breathed -  $\uparrow$  amt of gas esp.  $\downarrow$   $\uparrow$   $N_2$  dissolves in blood & tissue
- \* at high pressure  $\rightarrow$   $\uparrow$   $N_2$  dissolves in blood & tissue
- \* rapid ascent (depressurization)  $\rightarrow$   $N_2$  comes out of solution  $\rightarrow$  forming gas bubbles.

large volume > 100 cc.

necessary to produce CF in pulmonary circulation

during obstructive / laproscopy procedures.

OR consequence of chest wall injury.

~ 350 - 500 ml

fatal. (CF) respiratory distress ✓

# Types & features

## ① Acute decompression sickness

### ① The "Bends"

painful condition  
↓  
due to.

rapid formation of gas bubbles within skeletal muscle and supporting tissue in & about joints.

### ② The "Chokes"

In lungs.

bubbles in pulmonary vasculature

causes

- pulmonary edema
- Hemorrhage.
- focal atelectasis or emphysema!

↓  
leads to Respiratory distress.

## CHRONIC DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS

### CAISSON DISEASE

\* persistent gas emboli in skeletal system.

↓  
leads to multiple foci of ischemic necrosis.

M/C sites → femoral head, tibia, humerus.

## Treatment - Acute decompression

{for acute I think?}

high pressure oxygen chambers

→ forces gas bubbles back into solution.

+ Subsequent Slow decompression.

→ allows resorption & exhalation of gases.

→ prevents bubble formation

## Causes of emboli

arterial emboli  
venous emboli

# Amniotic fluid Embolism

## Definition

- It is the 5th m/c cause of maternal mortality worldwide.
- ⇒ It is an ominous complication of labor or the immediate postpartum period.
- ⇒ mortality rate can be as high as 80%.

## Clinical feature.

onset is characterized by:

- Sudden Severe dyspnea.
- Cyanosis
- Shock.

Followed by Neurologic Impairment:

- Headache
- Seizures
- Coma

If the patient survives the Initial Crisis:

- pulmonary edema.
- DIC.

## Pathogenesis

{ features of AFE differ from PE }  
as it occurs due to.

Much of morbidity & mortality is due to.

Biochemical activation of.

- Coagulation factors.
- innate immune system.

⊕ of innate immune system

release of vasoactive substance.

{ rather than mechanical obstruction by amniotic debris }

Vasoactive substances

causes:

- ① Acute pulmonary HTN
- ② Right heart failure.
- ③ Left Heart failure
- ④ Pulmonary edema
- ⑤ diffuse alveolar damage.

## Autopsy findings

- ① Squamous cells shed from fetal skin
- ② Larugo hairs
- ③ Fat from Venous caseosa
- ④ mucus from fetal GIT / RT

in maternal pulmonary microvasculature.

# Amniotic fluid Embolism

## Definition

- It is the 8th m/c cause of maternal mortality worldwide.
- ⇒ It is an ominous complication of labor or the immediate postpartum period.
- ⇒ mortality rate can be as high as 80%.

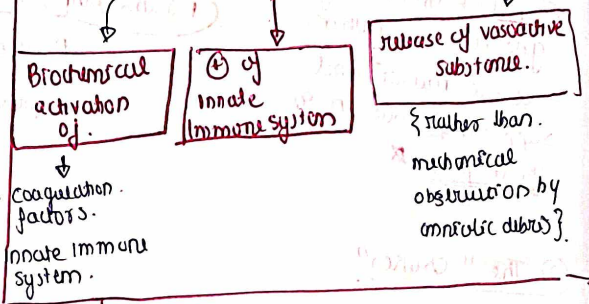
## Clinical feature - Onset is characterized by:

- Sudden Severe dyspnea.
- Cyanosis
- Shock.
- Followed by Neurologic Impairment:
  - Headache
  - Seizures
  - Coma
- if the patient survives the initial crisis:
  - pulmonary edema.
  - DIC.

## Pathogenesis

{ features of AFE differ from PE }  
as it occurs due to.

Much of morbidity & mortality is due to.



## underlying cause

↓  
 effusion of amniotic fluid or fetal tissue.  
 ↓  
 into maternal circulation.  
 ↓  
 v/a  
 ↓  
 tear in placental membrane  
 • Rupture of uterine veins.

## vasoactive substances causes.

- ① Acute pulmonary HTN
- ② Right heart failure
- ③ Left Heart failure
- ④ Pulmonary edema
- ⑤ diffuse alveolar damage.

## Autopsy findings

- ① Squamous cells shed from fetal skin
- ② Lanugo hairs
- ③ Fat from venous caseosa
- ④ mucus from fetal GIT/RT

↓  
 in maternal pulmonary microvasculature.

## Other findings

- Other findings:
- marked pulmonary edema.
  - diffuse alveolar damage
  - fibrin thrombi in many vascular bed due to DIC.

Q). 504 - altered sensorium,  
 cyanosis, oliguria, weak rapid  
 pulse, tachypnea, cool clammy  
 extremities.

Q) provisional diagnosis?

X Q) etiology. <sup>what is mean?</sup> <sup>of what</sup>

Q) mention organs involved.

describe pathology in lung.

Q) mention 4 types of shock?

Q) morphological changes in organs.

Q) septic shock - pathogenesis.

⇒ Shock is defined as a state of systemic hypoperfusion due to  
~~low~~ diminished cardiac output.

or reduced effective circulating  
 blood volume → impairs tissue  
 perfusion and leads to cellular  
 hypoxia.

Types

① cardiogenic.

② hypovolemic.

③ septic

④ Neurogenic & anaphylactic shock.

Cardiogenic.

hypovolemic

anaphylactic &  
 Neurogenic

Mechanism

• failure of myocardial pump due to intrinsic myocardial damage; Extrinsic compression/obstruction to outflow.

• fluid loss.  
 ↓  
 • inadequate blood or plasma volume.

Spinal cord injury → anesthetic accident → N.S. → Igt mediated HSR → A.S.

Example

: MI, Arrhythmia, ventricular rupture, Cardiac tamponade, PE.

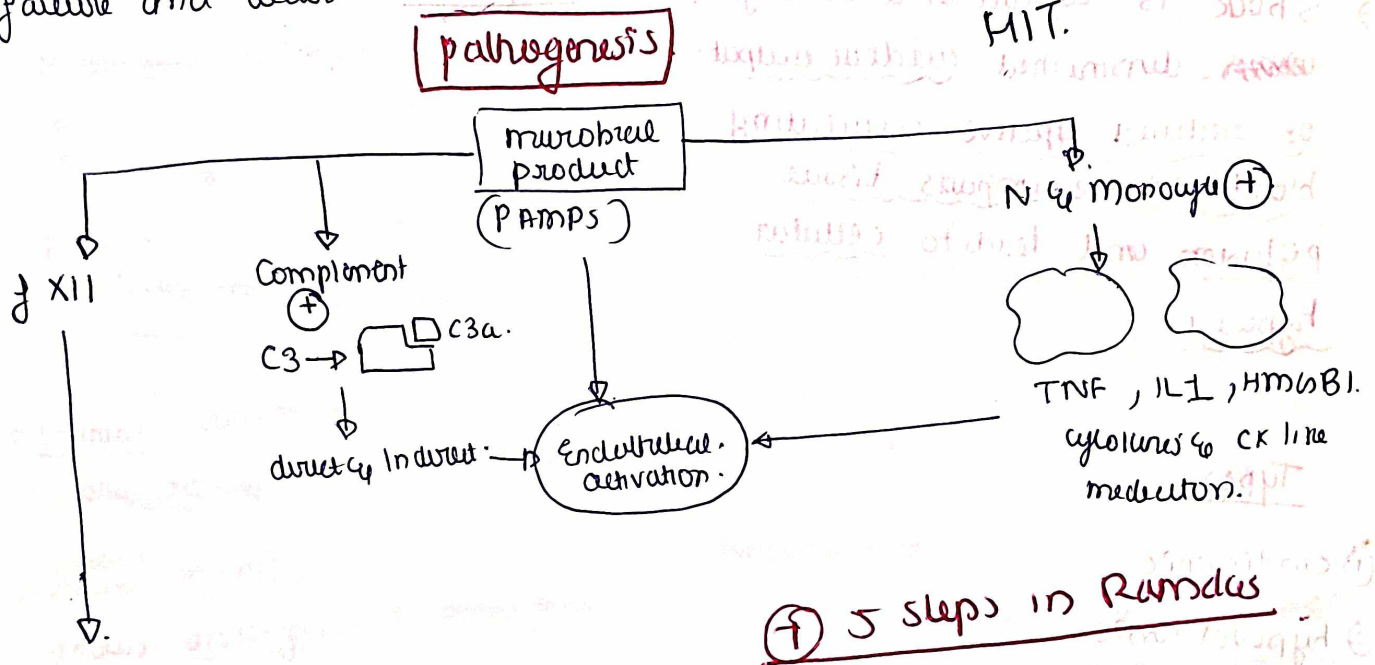
eg:  
 • Haemorrhage  
 • vomiting  
 • diarrhoea  
 • Burns  
 • Trauma

aut. vasodilation  
 ↓  
 hypotension.  
 ↓  
 tissue hypoperfusion.

# Septic Shock.

Septic shock is caused by host responses to Bacterial, viral or fungal infection;

It is a systemic inflammatory condition characterized by endothelial cell activation, tissue edema, DIC, and metabolic derangement. that often lead to organ failure and death.



⊕ 5 steps in Robbins

## Figure in Robbins - Screenshot -

### Basic pathogenesis

- massive outpouring of inflammatory mediator from innate & adaptive immune cells.

- peripheral vasodilation
- vascular leakage
- neovascularization
- endothelial activation
- DIC
- WBC mediated injury.

Tissue hypoxia.

↓  
persistent  
↓  
death.

## Morphology of Organ.

→ Changes in Cardiogenic/hypovolemic shock.

### Adrenal.

- Lipid depletion in cortical cell:
  - due to conversion of relatively inactive vacuolated cells to metabolically active cells.
  - active cells used pt to make steroids.

• focal hemorrhage - in adrenal cortex. {in severe shock}

- Massive hemorrhagic necrosis of entire adrenal gland.

↓  
Waterhouse - Friderichsen's Soc.

as) with meningococcal septicemia.

### Kidney

- acute tubular necrosis {acute renal failure}

#### Gross:

enlarged, swollen, congested, pale cortex.

- cut section - blood pooling in outer section of medulla.

#### MC

- acute tubular necrosis - dilated tubules, epithelial necrosis.
- pigmented cast - {from Hb, myoglobin}.
- interstitial edema & mononuclear infiltration.

## Lung

- Lungs are relatively resistant to hypovolemic shock & hypoxic injury.

### Gross

- But in shock due to bacterial sepsis/trauma, it shows

↓  
diffuse alveolar damage

↓  
that can lead to ARDS.

### Gross

- Firm, congested lungs
- cut surface: oozes frothy fluid

### MC

- edema - interstitial & alveolar.
- Necrosis - of alveolar epithelium & endothelium.

• intravascular microthrombi

↓  
Hyaline membrane

### Heart

Gross: petechial hemorrhages on epicardium & endocardium.

### MC

- myocyte necrosis: light microscopy
- contraction bands: microscopy

Liver, Brain, GI

↓  
in Ramadan tube.