

In the Name of Allah
Symposium of Challenge in Thrombotic Disease
Lorestan University of Medical Sciences



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Khorram Abad, Lorestan, Iran

Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS) in Cardiology



Arash Amin MD

**Assistant professor of
Interventional Cardiology
and CT angiography**

Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS)

- **An autoimmune disease**
- **Characterized by:**
 - **1. Venous thromboembolism**
 - **2. Arterial thrombosis**
 - **3. Obstetric morbidities**

Antiphospholipid antibodies:

- **Persistently positive**
- **measured on 2 different occasions 12 weeks apart**



Increased risk of disease:

- **1. Accelerated atherosclerosis**
- **2. Myocardial infarction**
- **3. Stroke**
- **4. Valvular heart disease**



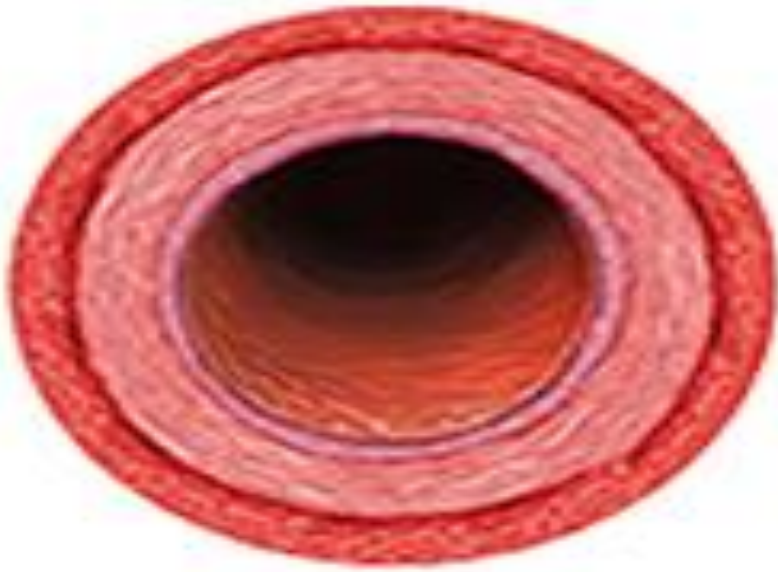
Antiphospholipid Syndrome

Role of Vascular Endothelial Cells and Implications for
Risk Stratification and Targeted Therapeutics

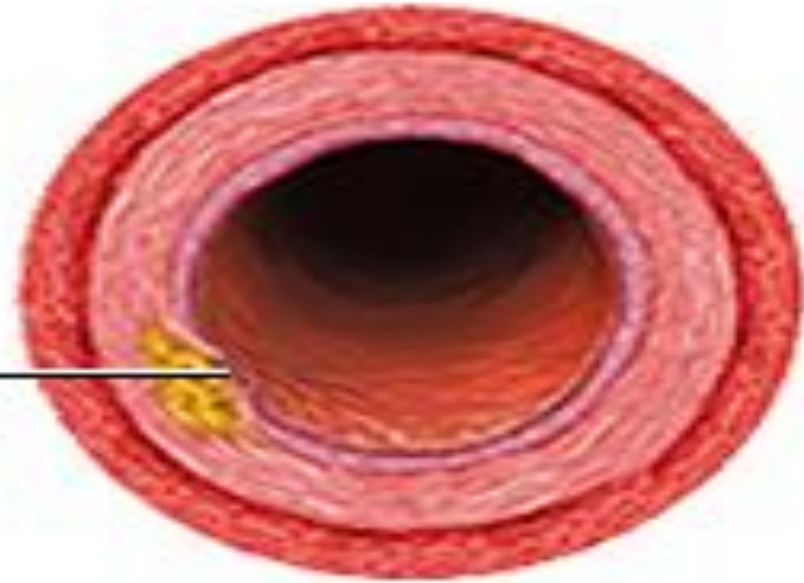
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Accelerated atherosclerosis

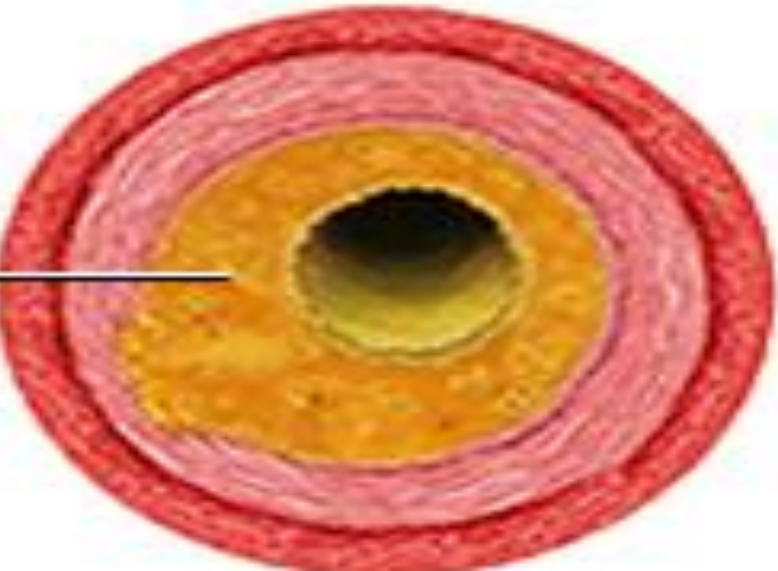
Normal cut-section of artery



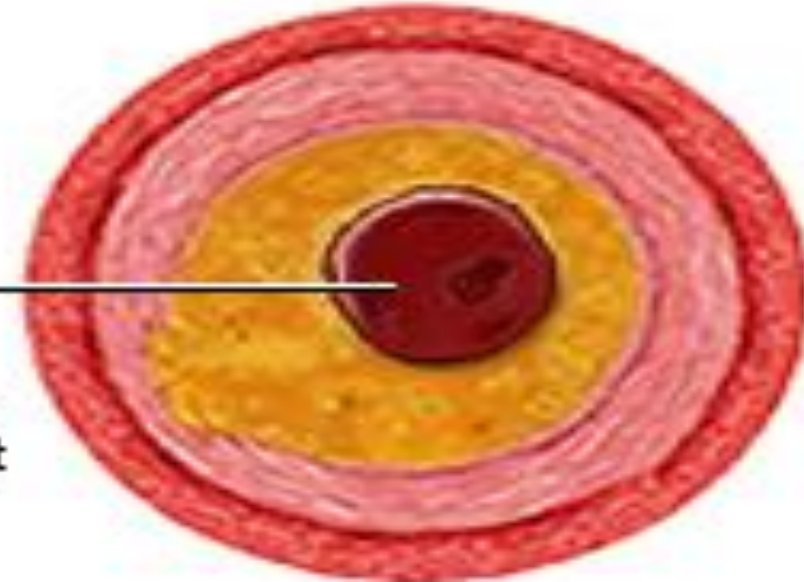
Tear in artery wall

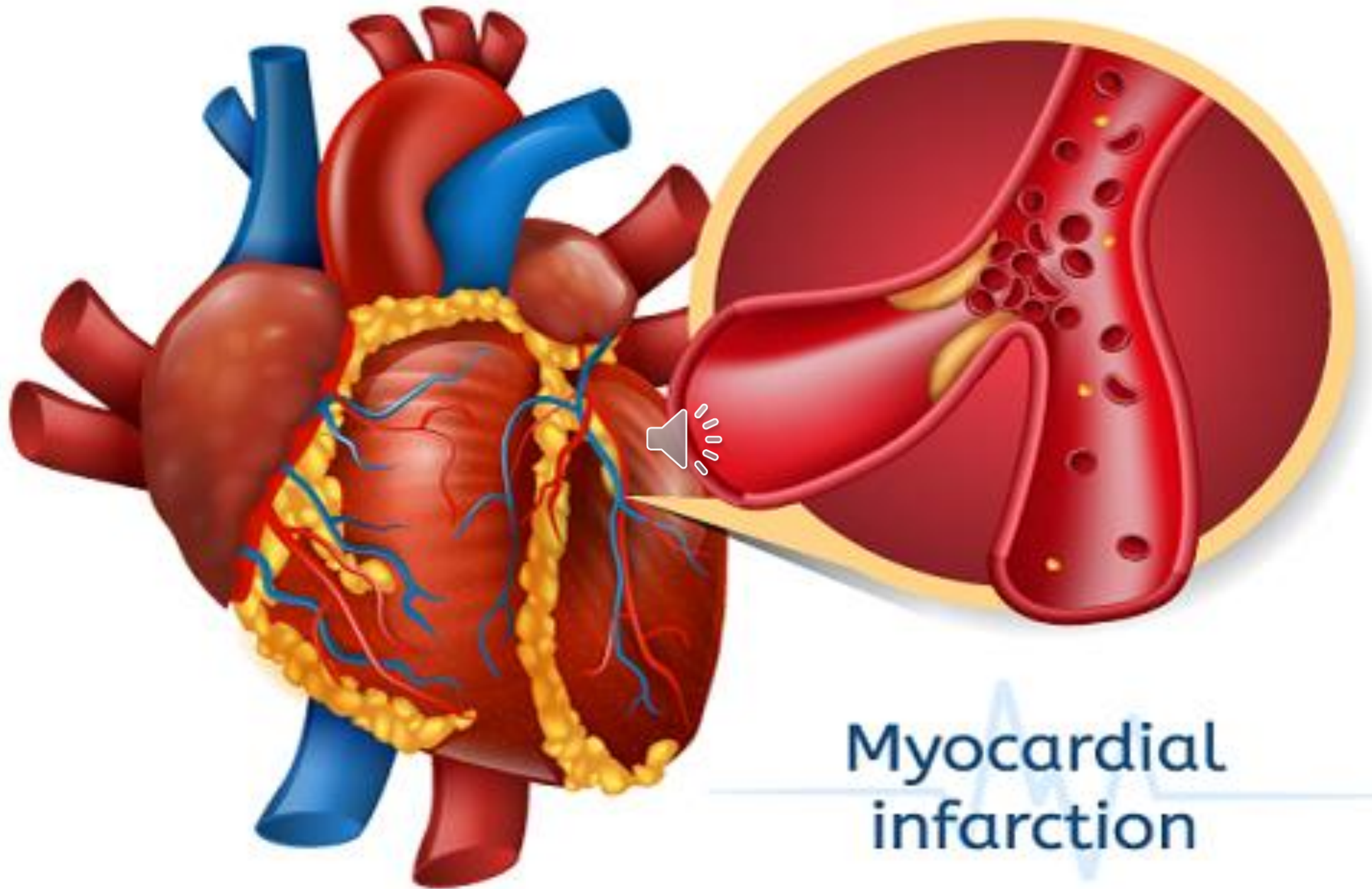


Fatty material is deposited in vessel wall



Narrowed artery becomes blocked by a blood clot





Myocardial
infarction

Stroke



Valvular heart disease

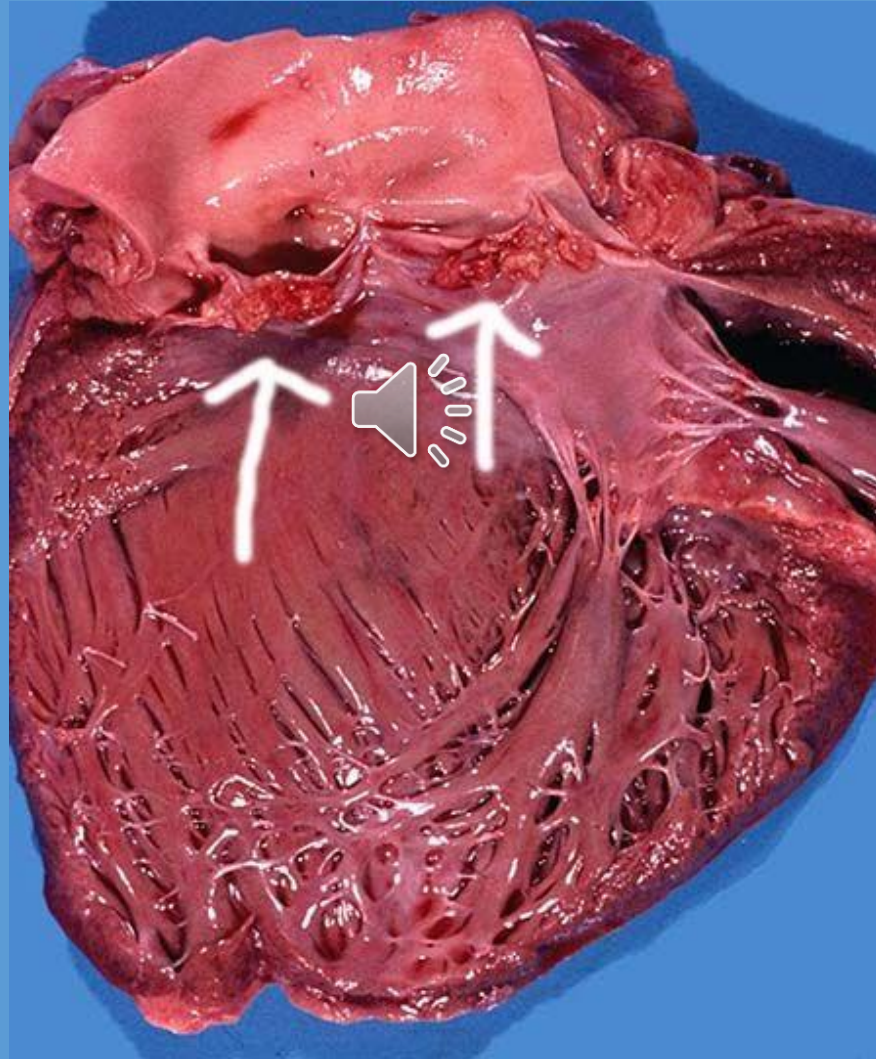
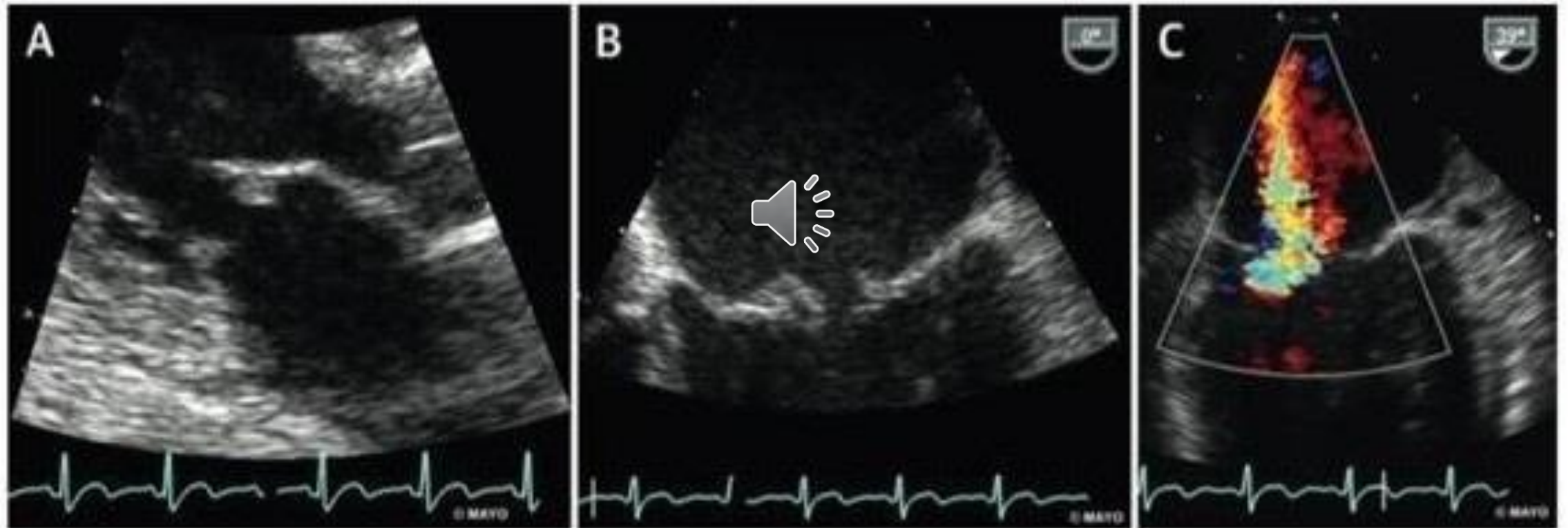
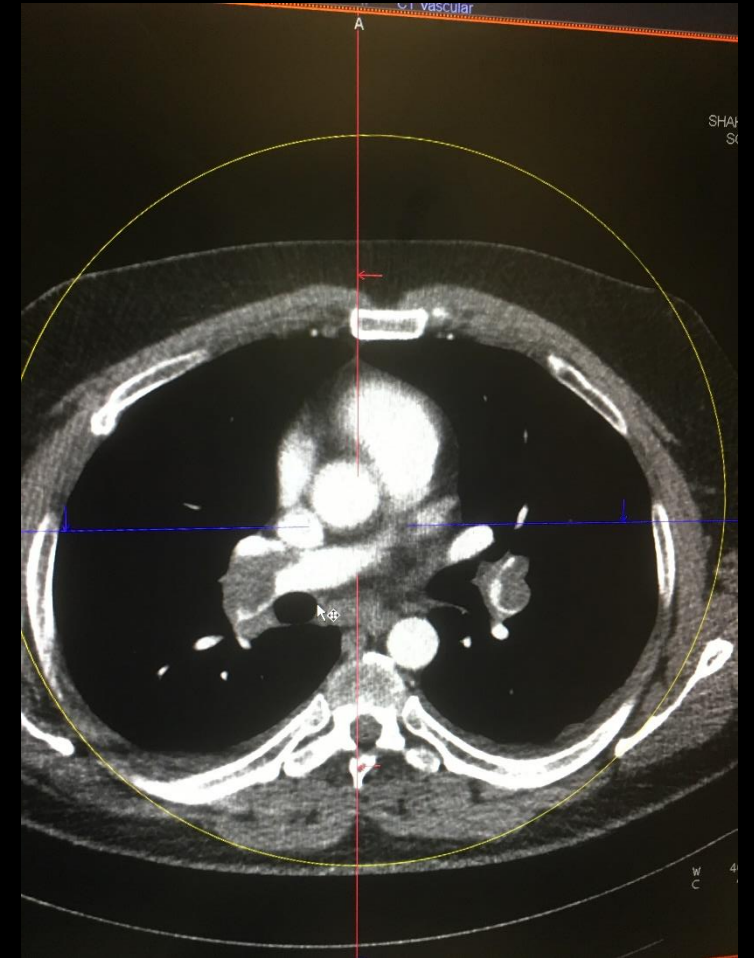
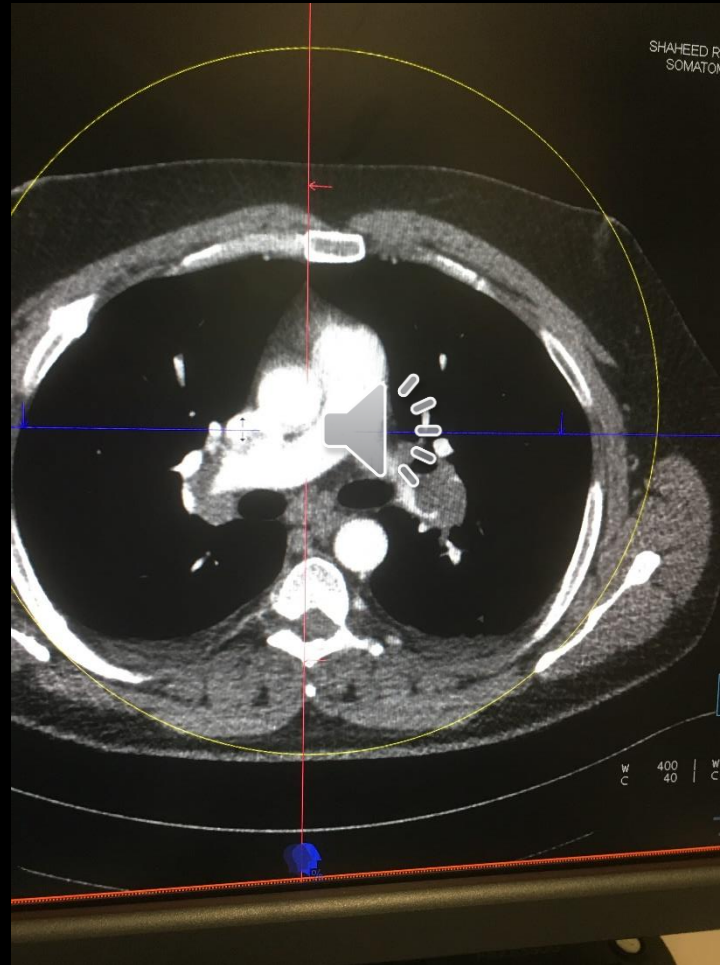
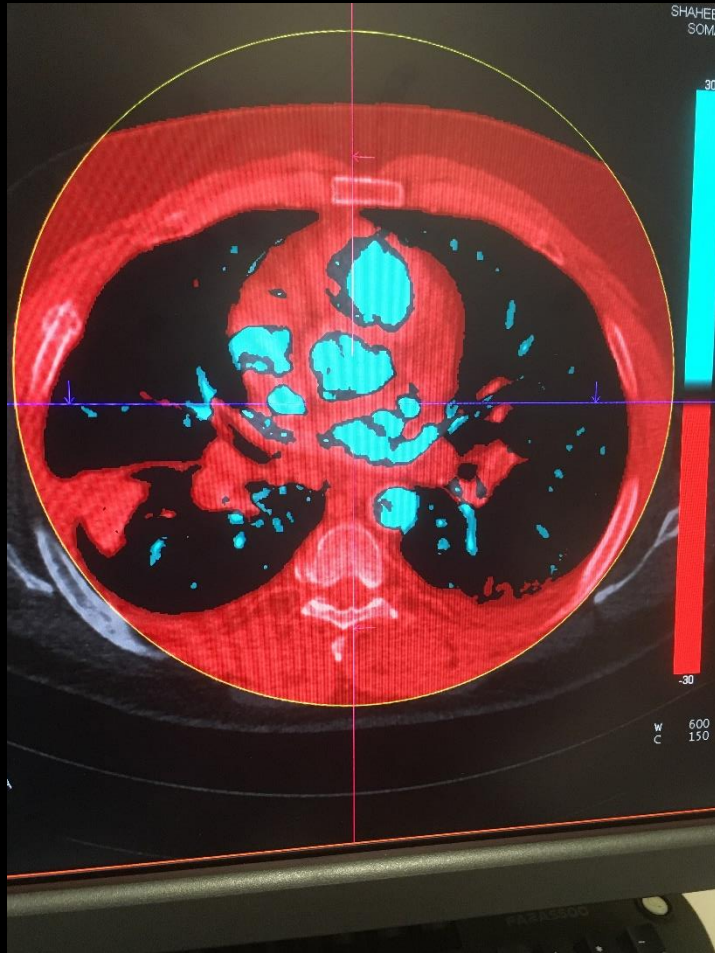


FIGURE 2 Libman-Sacks Endocarditis



Pulmonary thromboembolism



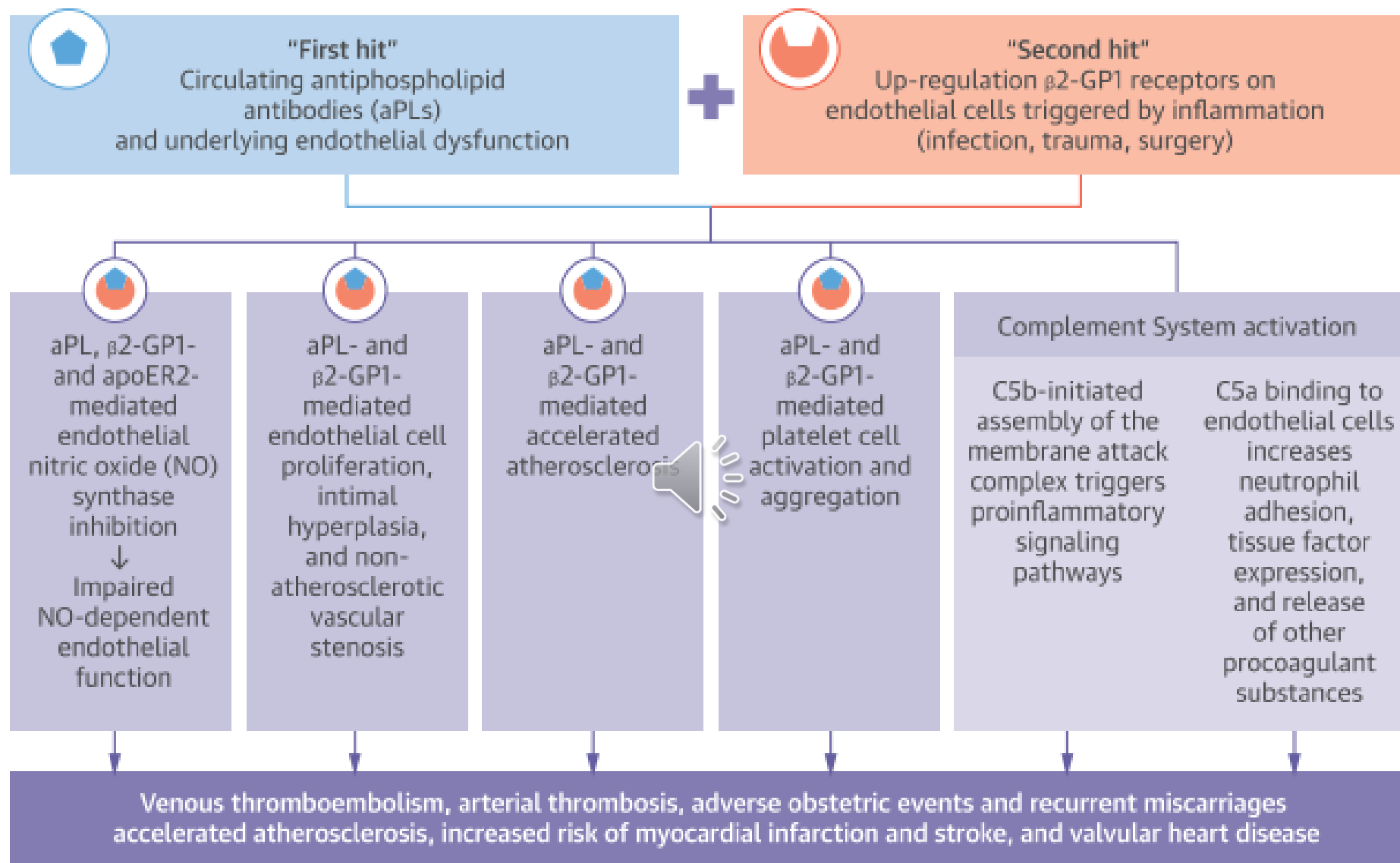


- **Vascular endothelial cell dysfunction mediated by antiphospholipid antibodies and subsequent complement system activation play a cardinal role in APS pathogenesis.**



- **Improved understanding of their pathogenic function could help in the risk stratification of patients with APS and provide new molecular therapeutic targets.**

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Antiphospholipid Syndrome Pathogenesis



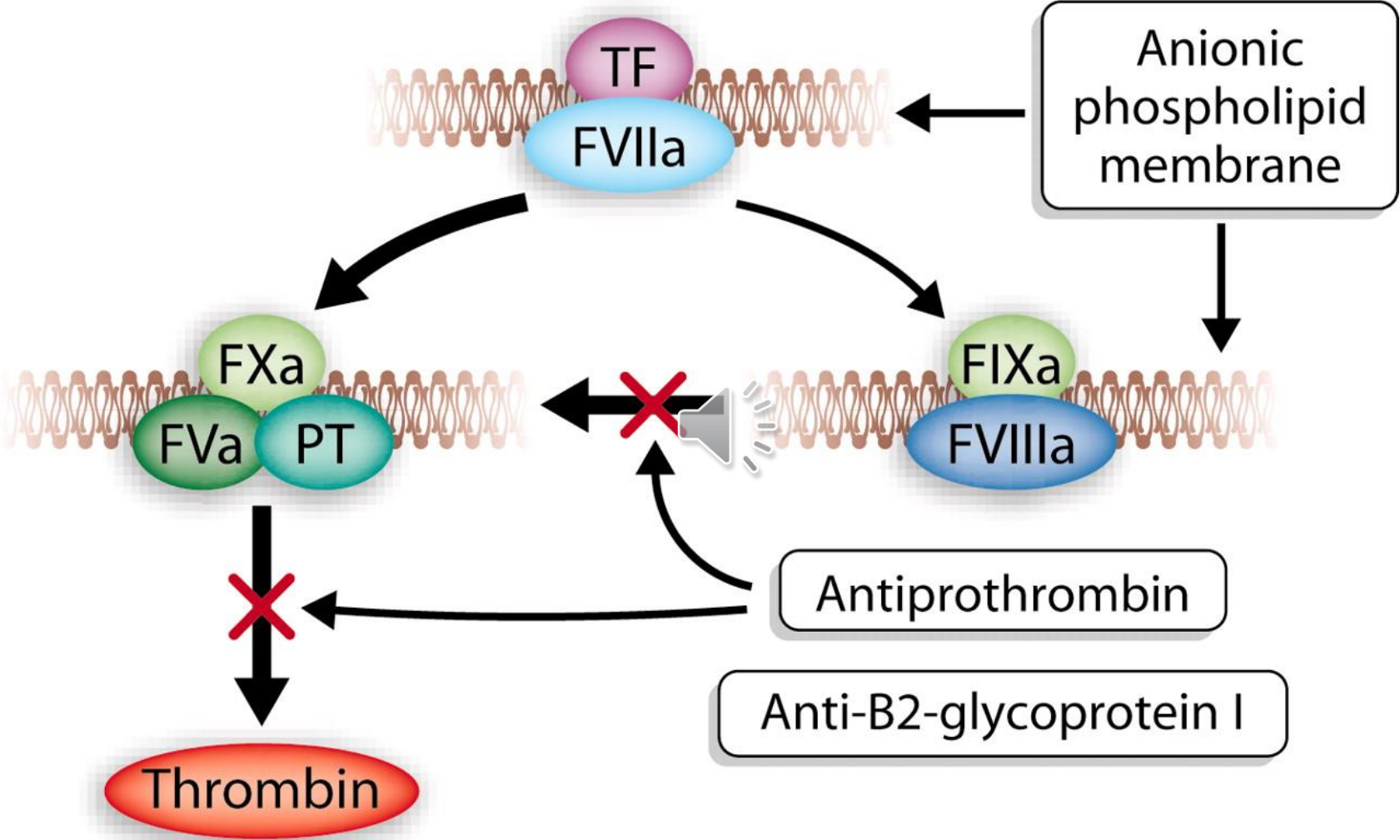
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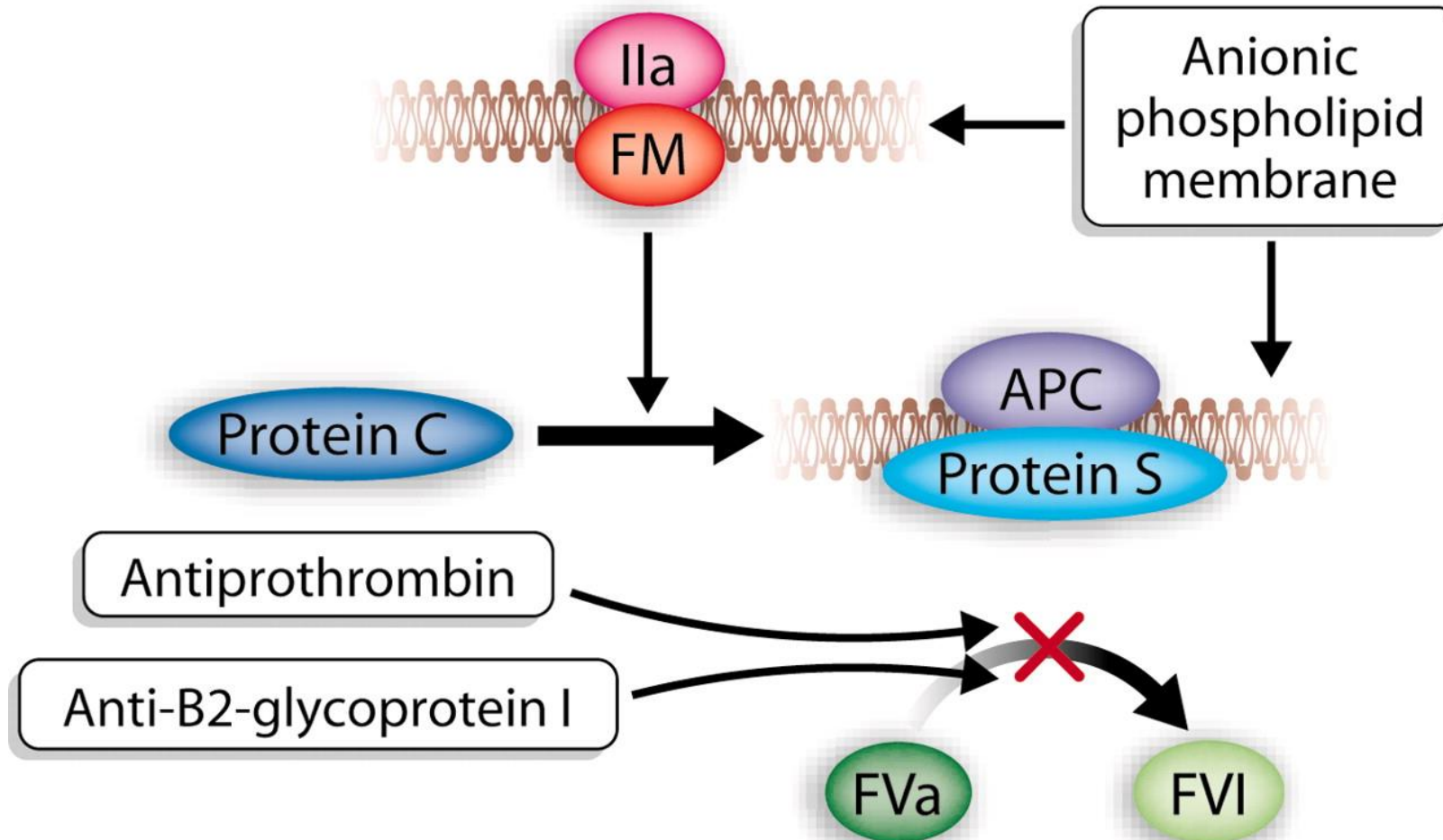
Risk Stratification and Targeted Therapeutics

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Inhibition of phospholipid-dependent coagulation reactions. The sites of action of anti-B2GP-I and antiprothrombin antibodies are indicated by Xs.




Inhibition of inactivation of factor Va by the protein C pathway. The stable trimolecular complexes formed by antiphospholipid antibodies (APL) at the anionic phospholipid surface hamper the inactivation of factor Va.



- **Morbidity and mortality in APS is strongly associated with aPL-mediated vascular endothelial cell dysfunction and complement system activation.**



- **Although thrombophilia is the hallmark of APS, accurate identification of patients at increased risk for thrombosis remains a challenge.**

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- A microscopic view of red blood cells (erythrocytes) in a blood vessel. The cells are biconcave discs, appearing as bright red, circular structures with a darker center. They are densely packed in the center of the vessel and more sparsely distributed towards the edges. The background is a dark, reddish-brown color, suggesting the presence of plasma and other blood components.
- **To date, therapeutic efforts have focused mostly on preventing recurrent thrombotic events in patients with APS, with only limited research directed toward new therapies for primary prevention.**

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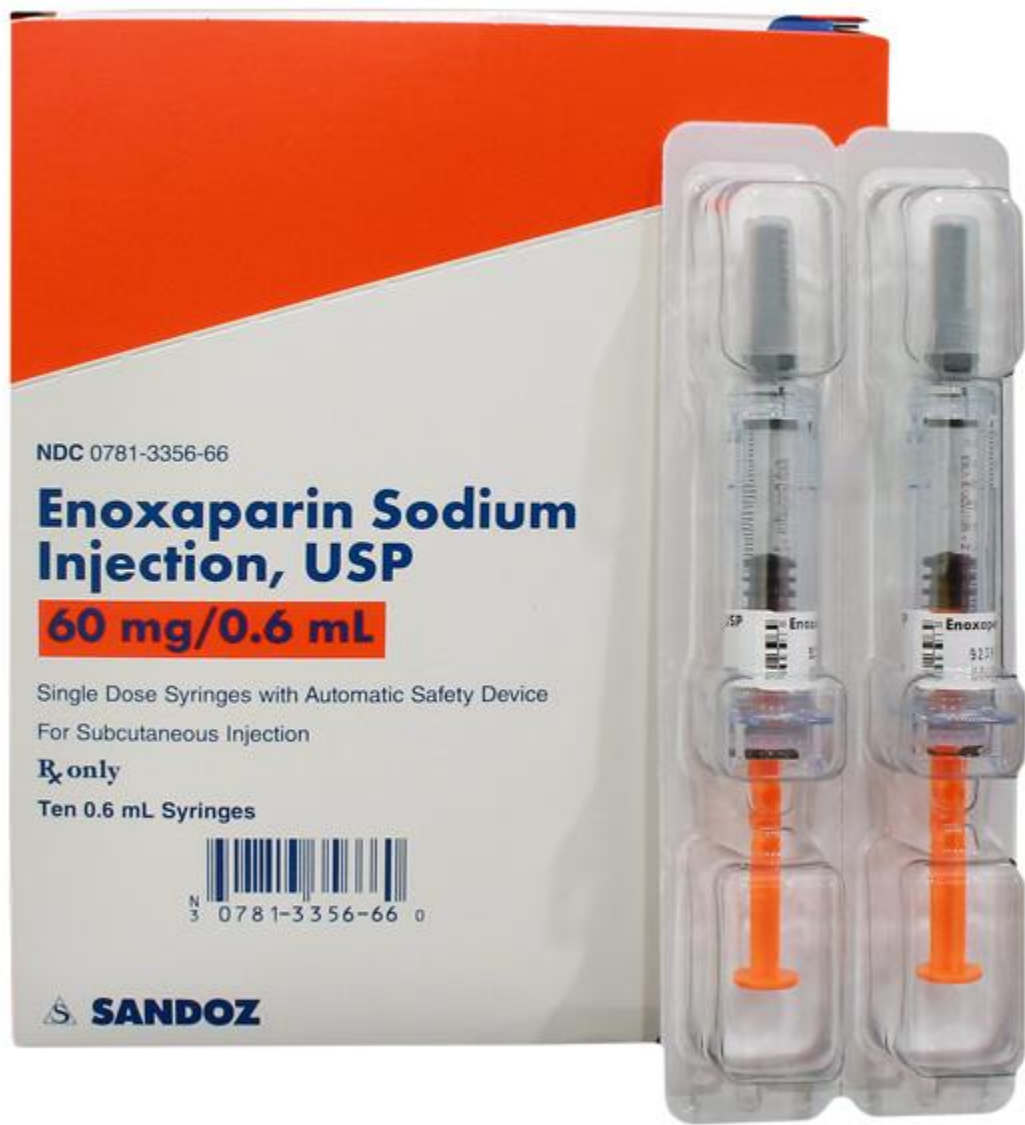


Thrombophylaxis

Primary Thrombophylaxis:

- **General measures for all antiphospholipid positive patients:**
- **Assessment of cardiovascular risk factors**
- **In high risk situations (Puerperium, surgery, prolonged immobilization):**
- **LMWH for thrombophylaxis**





NDC 0781-3356-66

Enoxaparin Sodium Injection, USP

60 mg/0.6 mL

Single Dose Syringes with Automatic Safety Device
For Subcutaneous Injection

Rx only

Ten 0.6 mL Syringes



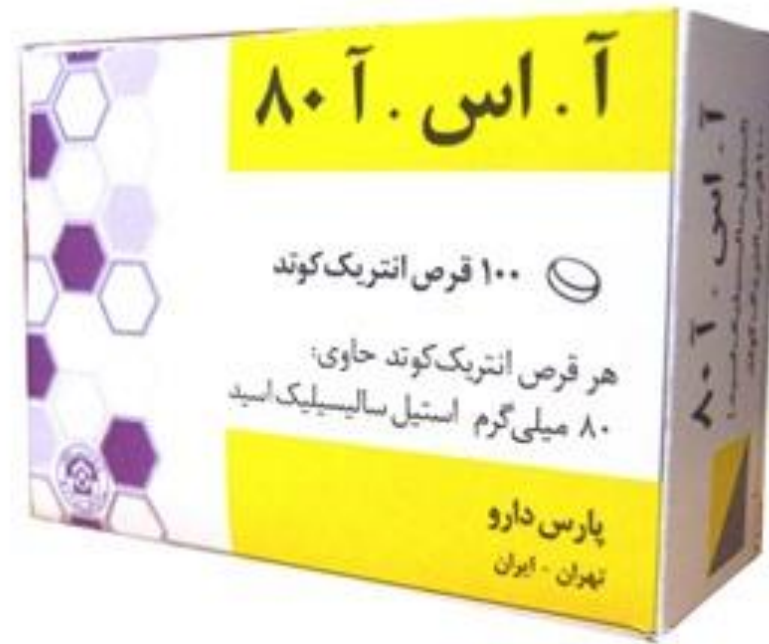
SANDOZ



Primary Thrombophilia:

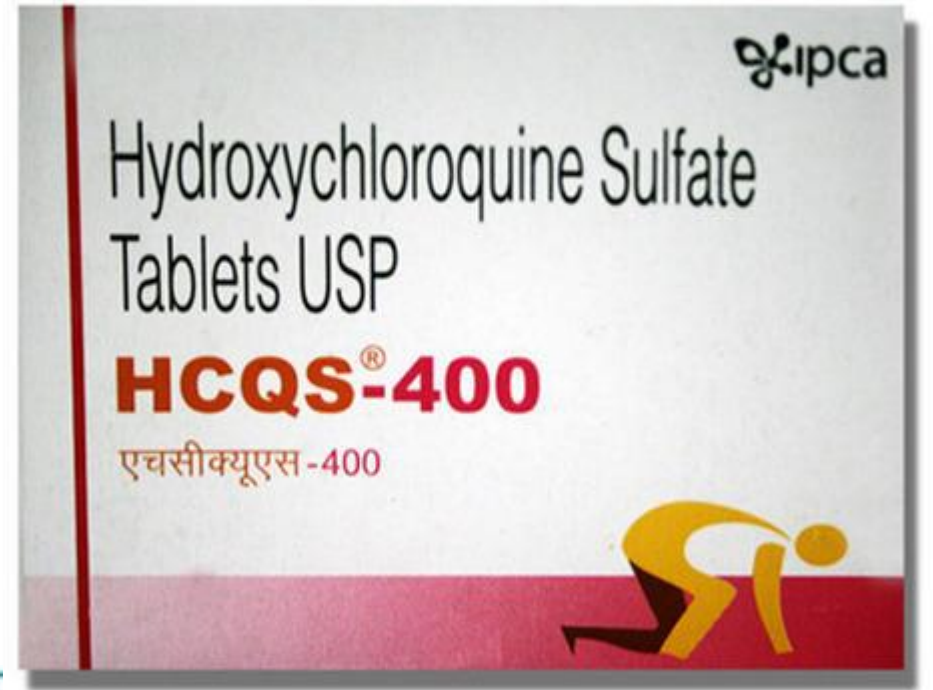


- **Antiphospholipid-positive non SLE patients (Obstetric APS and asymptomatic carriers):**
- **Low dose Aspirin (75-100 mg/day) in those with a high risk APL profile, especially in the presence of other thrombotic risk factors**



Primary Thrombophilia:

- **Patients with SLE and positive aPLs:**
- **Hydroxychloroquine (200-400 mg/day) + Low dose Aspirin (75-100 mg/day)**



Secondary prevention:

- **Definitive APS and a first venous event:**
- **Indefinite oral anticoagulant therapy to a target INR of 2-3**



Secondary prevention:

- **Definite APS and arterial thrombosis:**
- **Indefinite oral anticoagulant therapy to a target INR>3 or combined antiagrecant-anticoagulant therapy (INR:2-3)**




Secondary prevention:

- **Patient with venous or arterial thrombosis who do not fulfill criteria for APS: Treatment as usual recommendation for arterial or venous thrombosis**

TABLE 3 Alternative and Adjunctive Therapeutic Options for Specific Clinical Scenarios in Antiphospholipid Syndrome

Known warfarin allergy, warfarin intolerance, or poor anticoagulant control on warfarin despite therapeutic target (as per Table 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment with, or addition of, NOAC: direct thrombin inhibitor dabigatran or direct anti-factor Xa inhibitors rivaroxaban, apixaban, or edoxaban
Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment with fondaparinux or argatroban
Refractory APS despite adequate anticoagulation (as per Table 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider starting statin therapy • Consider adding rituximab therapy • Consider adding glucocorticosteroids and IVIG + plasma exchange
CAPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heparin anticoagulation + glucocorticosteroids + IVIG and/or plasma exchange reduces mortality • Eculizumab reduces mortality
Renal transplantation patients with APS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirolimus decreases recurrent vascular lesions and vascular proliferation • Eculizumab for treatment and prevention of thrombotic microangiopathy in patients with history of CAPS
Obstetric APS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heparin (unfractionated or LMWH) + low dose aspirin (75-100 mg/day) • Patients on warfarin should be switched to heparin (unfractionated or LMWH) immediately upon pregnancy confirmation to avoid teratogenicity • Extended thromboprophylaxis (up to 6 weeks after delivery) for high-risk patients • Indefinite anticoagulation for APS patients with prior thrombotic events

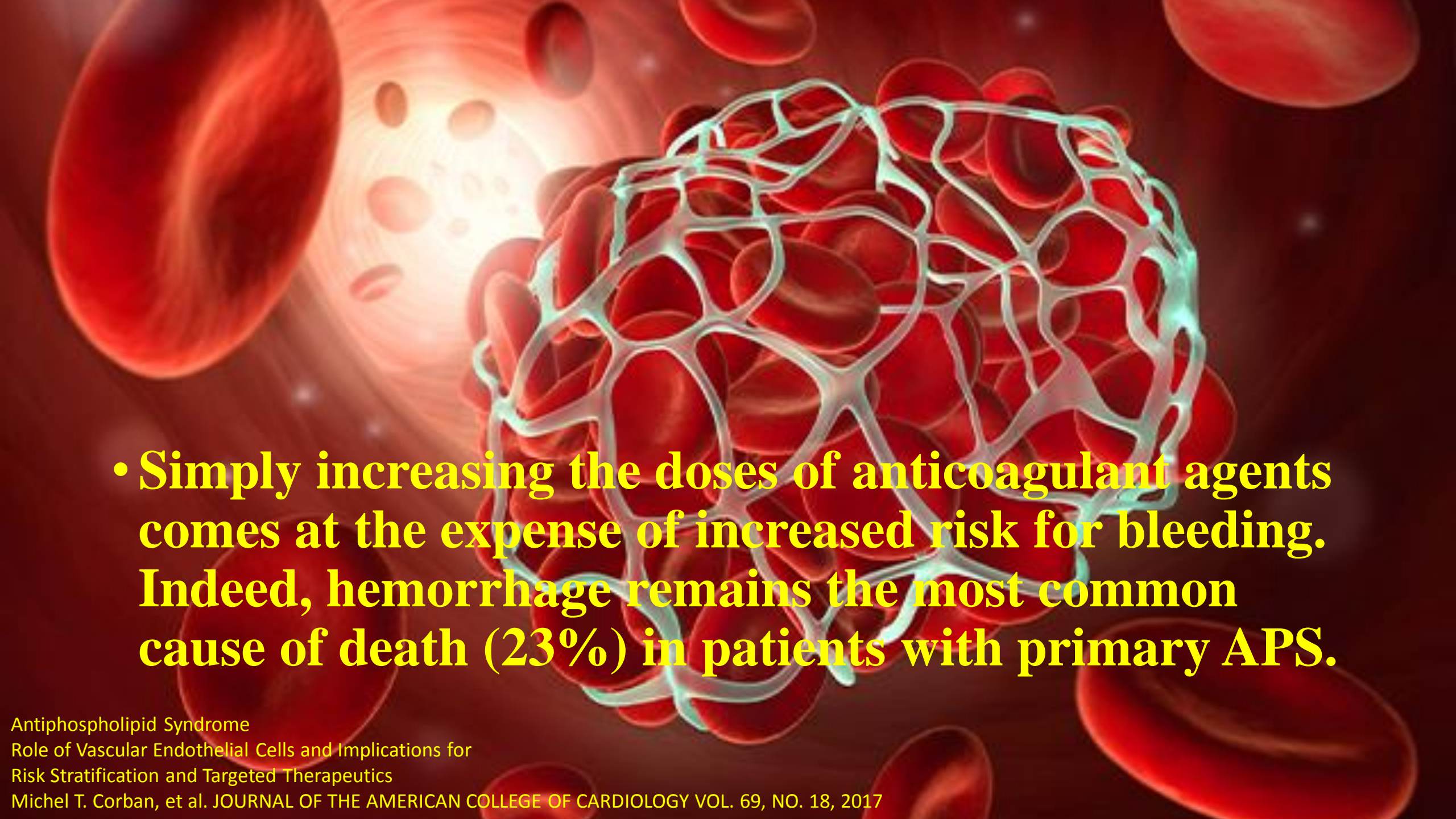
CAPS = catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome; IVIG = intravenous immunoglobulin; NOAC = new oral anticoagulant; other abbreviations as in Table 1.

- 
- **Although anticoagulation is the mainstay therapy for secondary thromboprophylaxis in patients with APS, a significant number of those patients develop recurrent thrombosis despite conventional therapeutic anticoagulation targets.**

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- **Simply increasing the doses of anticoagulant agents comes at the expense of increased risk for bleeding. Indeed, hemorrhage remains the most common cause of death (23%) in patients with primary APS.**

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Thanks for your attention!

