Lab 4 Heart Rate & Blood Pressure

I. Attendance – Cards

II. Heart Rate?

What? # beats per min
- < 60 (slow) bradycardia
- 60-100 normal
- > 100 (fast) tachycardia

Where? heart or peripheral arteries
How? palpation to feel vs. auscultation to hear vs. EKG...
Why? vital sign "Vital signs are vital!" Pilar Bradshaw, MD

III. Blood Pressure?

What? force exerted by blood on large systemic arteries
Where? peripheral/systemic, large arteries
How? direct (cannula) vs. indirect (external cuff, P meter=
- sphygmomanometer + stethoscope/sensor
Why? vital sign + CVD risk indicator low < 120/<80 mm Hg
- Hypertension ≥140/90 mm Hg. See LLM pp 4-5, 4-6

IV. Practice Tests

V. High Blood Pressure at Time of Diagnosis Time-Life
Factors that Influence Heart Rate (HR, b/min) & Blood Pressure (BP, mm Hg)

Short list of individual, exercise & environmental variables (superimposed upon genetics) that alter HR & BP:

1. arousal state (asleep, awake, drowsy, unconscious...BI 121 lecture!)
2. bladder and/or bowel distention (if > semi-filled, higher BP!)
3. exercise (mode, frequency, intensity, duration, distribution)
4. illness (type, current, past...)
5. menstrual phase (follicular, ovulatory, luteal)
6. nutritional status (alcohol, caffeine, H₂O, meal composition & time)
7. pets (on lap? may lower BP!)
8. posture (supine, seated, standing)
9. sleep (less elevates!)
10. smoking status (# & time)
11. temperature (ambient & body)
12. white-coat effect or white-coat syndrome,...
Where is BP measured?

Here! Large, systemic arteries!
Pressure-recording device

Inflatable cuff

Stethoscope

LS 2006 fig 10-7a p 282.
When cuff pressure is between 120 and 80 mm Hg:

Blood flow through the vessel is **turbulent** whenever blood pressure exceeds cuff pressure.

Intermittent sounds are heard as blood pressure fluctuates throughout the cardiac cycle.
Personal Measurements

Heart Rate (HR): Record on p 4-3, Q 1.

- 6-sec → add 0 to end or multiply by 10
- 15-sec → multiply by 4
- 60-sec → record as is; seated resting HR

Each of you place stethoscope over your heart to detect lub-dup, lub-dup...

Blood Pressure (BP): Record on p 4-3, Q 2.

- R arm x 2 → SBP/DBP & HR
- L arm x 2 → SBP/DBP & HR

Try to detect Korotkoff sounds w/stethoscope during a few automated BP measurements.

Evaluate values & answer Q 3, p 4-3 @ later time.
Where does your pressure fall?
What can I do if I have prehypertension or hypertension?

1. See your doctor & have your BP checked regularly.
   Also, see if it's safe to start an exercise program.

2. Exercise, exercise, exercise!
   20-60 min of aerobic exercise on most days.

3. Lose weight, if overweight.
   Exercise, exercise, exercise!

4. Add spice to your life, not salt.
   Garlic, cilantro, oregano, pepper & onion instead of salt!

5. Do the DASH, don't over-dine!
   Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, plant-based
   Mediterranean diet w/plenty of vegetables, fruits, whole grains
   & non-/low-fat dairy to ensure much Ca²⁺, K⁺ & Mg²⁺ intake.

   No more than 1-2 drinks/d for ♀, 2-3 drinks/day for ♂.
High Blood Pressure at the Time of Diagnosis

Time-Life Educational Videos