What is HCM?

- HCM = Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy
- Affects 1 in 200 - 500 people worldwide
- HCM is a genetic heart condition that causes thickening of the heart muscle
- HCM can result in abnormal heart function, reduced blood flow out of the heart or an abnormal heart rhythm

Exercise and HCM

Exercise is encouraged for people with HCM, even in those with ICDs.1

Mild to moderate physical activities improve fitness, quality of life, and lowers traditional cardiac risk factors (high blood pressure, high cholesterol), even in those with HCM.2

High intensity activity/competitive sports may be possible after evaluation and guidance by an expert HCM cardiologist.

SAFE PERFORMANCE STRATEGIES

- See your doctor: Physician expert provides a personal exercise prescription
- Make AEDs accessible and usable within 3-5 min
- A comprehensive EAP is required to manage a possible cardiac emergency (including player gear removal such as football, hockey)
- CPR and AED training is imperative for coaches, officials, and athletic medical staff (all key stakeholders in athletics)
- Proper hydration and replenishment of electrolytes for exercise
- Increase hydration for hotter days and longer activities

WHEN TO WORRY

- Worsening shortness of breathe
- Dizziness or fainting
- Chest pain
- Heart palpitations or fluttering

5 Things to Remember For Your Student Athlete

1. Each HCM patient requires an individualized exercise program.
2. Some HCM patients may need a defibrillator.
3. Avoid dehydration and advise no medicines with stimulants and no exercise during viral illnesses.
4. Initiate and maintain communication with the patient and the treating cardiologist.
5. HCM patients’ 1st degree relatives are at risk to have HCM.

References:

Abbreviations:
- ICD: Implantable Cardioverter-Defibrillator
- EAP: Emergency Action Plan
- AED: Automated external defibrillators
- CPR: Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

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