

2026 SCAI SHOCK Classification Expert Consensus Update: Fine-Tuning the Stages and Incorporating Specific Patient Populations and Clinical Phenotypes

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2 Introduction

3 Since its introduction in 2019, the SCAI SHOCK stage classification system has seen
4 increased adoption across diverse clinical settings, valued for its simplicity, ease-of-use, and
5 ability to meaningfully discriminate patient risk across the spectrum of cardiogenic shock (CS).^{1,2}
6 Further, the SCAI SHOCK classification has been widely accepted and utilized in clinical,
7 regulatory, and research settings, including both observational studies and clinical trials. A
8 defining and essential feature of the SCAI SHOCK stage classification has been and must remain
9 that mortality increases incrementally as patients progress through advancing stages of CS,
10 reflecting a greater degree of shock severity and associated risk. Real-world experience,
11 however, has highlighted areas for refinement, balancing ease of use in real time clinical settings
12 and the rigor suitable to support research and regulatory applications, which may require
13 supplementary granular elements to facilitate comparability between data sets.

14 The goals of this document are as follows: (1) to clarify and add granularity to definitions
15 of SCAI SHOCK stages in response to practical questions encountered in varied clinical
16 environments, (2) to facilitate use of SCAI SHOCK staging across various disease states and
17 phenotypes by highlighting differences between these settings, and (3) to examine the
18 perspectives of differing clinicians that encounter CS across the spectrum of care. The overall
19 purpose of this document is to improve the classification system's usefulness for both clinical
20 practice and research and re-affirm consensus opinion across broad stakeholders after
21 evaluating the plethora of interim data, while preserving the classification system's consistency,
22 clarity and rapid usability.

23 Methods

24 This document has been developed according to SCAI Standards and Guidelines
25 Committee policies for writing group composition, disclosure and management of relationships
26 with industry (RWI), internal and external review, and organizational approval.³ The writing
27 group has been organized to prioritize diversity of perspectives and demographics, ensure
28 multi-stakeholder representation, and maintain an appropriate balance of RWI. Relevant author
29 disclosures are included in **Supplemental Table 1**. Before the appointment, members of the
30 writing group were asked to disclose financial and intellectual relationships from the 12 months
31 before their nomination. A majority of the writing group disclosed no relevant, significant
32 financial relationships. Financial and intellectual disclosure information was periodically
33 reviewed by the writing group during document development and updated as needed. SCAI
34 policy requires that writing group members with current, relevant financial interests be recused
35 from participating in related discussions or voting on recommendations. The work of the writing
36 committee was supported exclusively by SCAI, a nonprofit medical specialty society, without
37 commercial support. Writing group members contributed to this effort on a volunteer basis and
38 did not receive payment from SCAI.

39 Narrative literature searches were performed by group members designated to lead
40 each section and initial findings were synthesized in section drafts authored primarily by the
41 section leads in collaboration with other members of the writing group. The content of this
42 document was iteratively discussed by the full writing group in a series of five virtual meetings.

43 The draft manuscript was peer reviewed in July, 2026 and the document was revised to
44 address pertinent comments. The writing group **unanimously** approved the final document. The

45 SCAI Executive Committee and Standards and Guidelines Committee endorsed the document as
46 official society guidance in [MONTH, 2026].

47 SCAI statements are primarily intended to help clinicians make decisions about
48 treatment options. Clinicians also must consider the clinical presentation, setting, and
49 preferences of individual patients to make judgments about the optimal approach to treatment.

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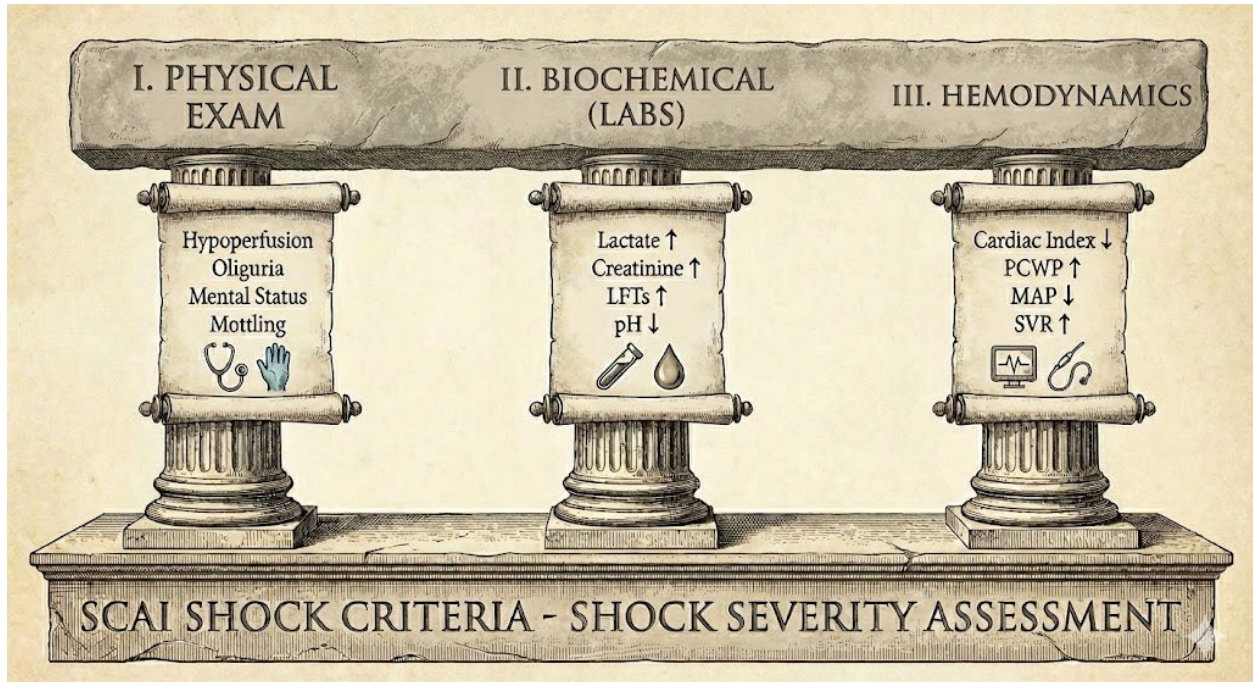
51 Updated SCAI Shock Stage Definitions

52 In pursuit of clarity and consistency, it is important to recognize that staging adaptations
53 which define SCAI SHOCK stages based primarily on the intensity of therapies used to achieve
54 hemodynamic stability introduce significant subjectivity. Variability in resources, clinical
55 expertise, team preferences, and institutional practices can influence treatment decisions
56 independent of patient-specific or disease-severity variables. In the absence of a standardized
57 escalation framework, differences in the timing, sequence, and selection of vasoactive-inotrope
58 therapies or mechanical circulatory support (MCS) alone or in combinations, therefore, should
59 not solely determine SCAI SHOCK stage assignment. Instead, a synthesis of objective patient-
60 level data including vital signs, physical exam, metabolic (biochemical) parameters, and
61 hemodynamic data should serve as the foundation for staging and subsequent treatment
62 decisions. **(Figure 1 and Tables 1 and 2)**. We further propose a basic core dataset for rapid
63 clinical assessment in cases of suspected CS that is broadly applicable to the clinical, research
64 and quality objectives of pre-hospital, emergency room (ER), intensive care unit (ICU), Cath Lab,
65 and operating room (OR) environments.⁴ This includes heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory
66 rate, oxygen saturation, physical assessment of pulmonary and systemic volume status and

67 perfusion (recognizing limitations), and a focused point-of-care cardiac ultrasound (POCUS),
68 lactate, and right heart catheterization as available.

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Figure 1: Central Figure SCAI SHOCK Objective Criteria in Context NOTE: STILL IN DEVELOPMENT. WILL INCLUDE 3 ADDITIONAL COMPONENTS 1) SHOCK pyramid, 2) dynamic nature of CS (reuse of Fig 3 from 2022 publication) and elements of Table 4 below.

76 **Table 1:** Pillars of Evaluation to Assess SCAI SHOCK Stage

Physical Exam	Biochemistry (Labs)	Hemodynamics / Supports
Cool extremities	Elevated lactic acid / anion gap	Narrow pulse pressure < 25% of SBP
Pale / cold / mottled skin	Elevated serum creatinine / BUN	Heart rate ≥ 100 bpm
Delayed capillary refill		Vasoactive drug requirement (VIS Score)
Mental status change	Elevated transaminases (AST/ALT)	Systolic blood pressure < 90 mmHg or > 30 mmHg drop from baseline
Oliguria	Elevated BNP	MAP < 60 mmHg
Tachypnea (increased respiratory rate)	Acidemia (low pH) on arterial blood gas analysis	Low cardiac index < 2.2 L/min/m ²
Lung congestion / low O ₂ saturation	Reduced serum bicarbonate / base excess	Elevated filling pressures PAWP / PADP > 15 CVP > 10 Cardiac Power Output ≤ 0.75

Weak pulses	Low central or mixed venous oxygen saturation	Requiring pressors or inotropes to maintain clinical stability
Edema / volume overload		Requirement for new mechanical circulatory support based on objective data of worsening severity

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Table 2--- Descriptors of Shock Stages: Physical Exam, Biochemical Markers, and Hemodynamics

Stage	Description	Physical Exam / Bedside Findings		Biochemical Markers		Hemodynamics	
		Typically Includes	May Include	Typically Includes	May Include	Typically Includes	May Include
A At Risk	A patient who is NOT currently experiencing signs or symptoms of CS, but is at risk for its development.	Normal JVP Warm and well-perfused <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong distal pulses 	Clear lung sounds	Normal lactate	Normal labs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal (or at baseline) renal function 	Normotensive (SBP \geq 100 mmHg or at baseline)	If invasive hemodynamics are assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiac Index \geq 2.5 L/min/m² (if acute) • CVP \leq 10 mmHg • PCWP \leq 15 mmHg

	These patients may include those with large acute myocardial infarction or prior infarction and/or acute or acute-on-chronic heart failure symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal mentation 					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Saturation \geq 65%
B Beginning CS	A patient who has clinical evidence of hemodynamic instability (including relative hypotension or tachycardia) WITHOUT hypoperfusion.	Elevated JVP Warm and well-perfused <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong distal pulses • Normal mentation 	Rales in Lung Fields	Normal Lactate	Minimal acute renal function impairment Elevated BNP	Hypotension <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBP < 90 mmHg • MAP < 60 mmHg • > 30 mmHg drop from baseline Tachycardia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart rate \geq 100 bpm 	
C Classic CS	A patient that manifests with hypoperfusion that requires one intervention (pharmacological or mechanical) beyond volume resuscitation.	Volume Overload	Looks unwell Acute alteration in mental status Feeling of impending doom Cold and clammy	Lactate \geq 2 mmol/L	Creatinine increase to 1.5 x baseline (or 0.3 mg/dL) <i>OR</i> > 50% drop in GFR Increased LFTs Elevated BNP	If invasive hemodynamics assessed (strongly recommended) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiac Index < 2.2 L/min/m² • PCWP > 15 mmHg 	

	These patients typically present with relative hypotension (but hypotension is not required).		Extensive rales Ashen, mottled, dusky, or cool extremities Delayed capillary refill Urine Output < 30 mL/h				
D Deteriorating	A patient that is similar to category C but is getting worse. Failure of initial support strategy to restore perfusion as evidenced by worsening hemodynamics or rising lactate.	Any of Stage C AND: Worsening (or not improving) signs/symptoms of hypoperfusion despite initial therapy.		Any of Stage C AND: Lactate rising and persistently > 2 mmol/L	Deteriorating renal function Worsening LFTs Rising BNP	Any of Stage C AND: Requiring escalating doses or increasing numbers of pressors OR addition of a mechanical circulatory support device to maintain perfusion	
E Extremis	Actual or impending circulatory collapse	Typically unconscious	Near Pulselessness Cardiac	Lactate \geq 8 mmol/L*	CPR (A-Modifier) Severe acidosis	Profound hypotension despite maximal hemodynamic	Need for bolus doses of vasopressors

			Collapse Multiple Defibrillation s		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH \leq 7.2 • Base deficit > 10 mEq/L 	support	
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82 **BNP, B-type natriuretic peptide; CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation; CVP, central venous pressure; GFR, glomerular filtration rate;**
83 **JVP, jugular venous pressure; LFT, liver function tests; MAP, mean arterial pressure; PA, pulmonary artery; PCWP, pulmonary**
84 **capillary wedge pressure; SVP, systolic ventricular pressure.**

85 ***Stage E prospectively is a patient with cardiovascular collapse or ongoing CPR.**

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An important consideration is that the SCAI SHOCK stages are intended for patients presenting to the hospital with an acute cardiac event or for a defined high-risk cardiac procedure. The SCAI SHOCK classification is not intended to replace existing chronic HF classification systems for stable ambulatory patients such as Interagency Registry for Mechanically Assisted Circulatory Support (INTERMACS) or the New York Heart Association classification.

SCAI A

The 2022 SCAI SHOCK stage classification update defined stage A as “stable patients who have acute cardiac diagnoses that place them at risk for cardiogenic shock” and included patients “with large acute myocardial infarction or prior infarction and/or acute or acute-on-chronic HF symptoms”.² While extensive registry studies have validated and demonstrated the prognostic value of SCAI stages B through E, comparatively little evidence has focused on SCAI stage A. Often SCAI A is defined by the lack of criteria for SCAI B or higher, but with significant cardiac risk substrate. Available studies in unselected CICU populations have shown low overall risk of progression to shock or death in the SCAI A cohort, suggesting the need to better identify relevant risk factors to help classify which patients should be more appropriately assigned to SCAI SHOCK stage A. Given the dynamic nature of CS, including transitions between stages, it seems appropriate that SCAI A be refined to identify vulnerable patients at clear and actionable risk, as opposed to theoretical risk. By redefining SCAI A, we put forth the possibility of shifting the therapeutic paradigm from *reversing* established CS to *preventing* the onset of the CS cascade in some SCAI A patients. Such clearly defined SCAI A populations may well be suited for

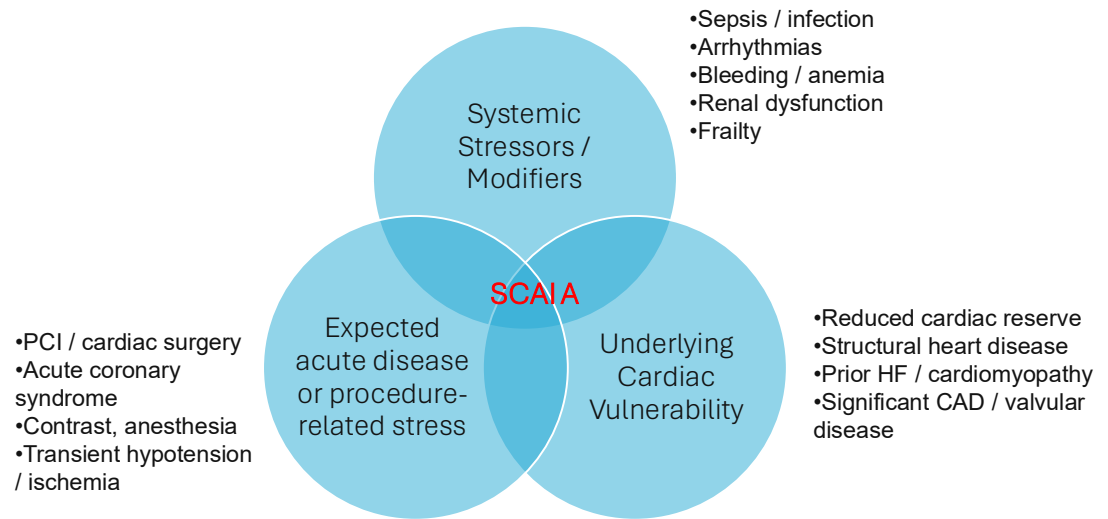
113 the investigation of strategies and technologies to prevent progression to SCAI B pre-shock or
114 SCAI C shock, or catastrophic decompensation to SCAI E.

115 Although the spectrum of potential SCAI A patients includes a broad array of cofactors as
116 outlined in **Table 3**, the essence of SCAI A is best conceptualized in **Figure 2**. SCAI A describes
117 patients with a baseline physiological state that is already compromised (“at risk”) or patients
118 with very poor cardiovascular reserve. **Figure 2** illustrates the intersection between a vulnerable
119 baseline state, the physiologic stress imposed by a disease state or invasive procedure and the
120 additional effect of unforeseen but not uncommon acute and procedural events. The patient
121 with preserved physiologic reserve might tolerate these combined stressors without
122 deterioration, whereas a SCAI A patient with limited reserve may be more likely to progress to
123 SCAI B or more advanced shock. Importantly, this definition does not rely on subjective or
124 treatment-based criteria but is instead grounded in objective patient physiology, which is a
125 recurring and central focus of this document.

126 The authors propose several key phenotypes of SCAI A patients, while recognizing that
127 additional categories will likely emerge over time. The phenotypes discussed below include
128 selected patients with coronary artery disease (CAD), atrial or ventricular tachyarrhythmias,
129 valvular heart disease, and acute or advanced HF.

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SCAI A: Intersections



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132 **Figure 2: SCAI SHOCK Stage A Intersections**

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135 **CAD Risk Group: Acute syndromes and chronic disease**

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As noted in prior SCAI SHOCK statements, patients with acute coronary syndromes with large territories at risk may have adequate perfusion and blood pressure immediately after intervention but be at risk of deterioration in the hours following the procedure. Risk scores for prediction of CS in patients with acute coronary syndromes can separate patients into high-risk (typically those with poor reperfusion, significant vital sign abnormalities, and evidence of HF) and low-risk (stable patients without the above features) groups.^{5,6}

The other subset of patients – typically termed high-risk PCI – is those with chronic significant CAD, reduced ejection fraction, adverse hemodynamics, and multiple significant cardiac and non-cardiac comorbidities, who may be particularly vulnerable to the development of CS or cardiac arrest from recurrent procedural ischemic insults.^{7,8} Further defining the

146 characteristics of the most vulnerable SCAI A CAD cohort and elucidating ways to reduce
 147 procedural risk has been the subject of intense investigation in registry analyses^{9,10} as well as
 148 the recent CHIP-BCIS3¹¹ and the ongoing PROTECT IV (NCT04763200) randomized trials.

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151 **TABLE 3:** Contributing Factors affecting the SCAI A Patient (examples, not exhaustive list)

Category	Examples
Non-Cardiac Comorbidities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Lung Disease • Kidney Disease • Vascular Disease • Anemia • Frailty
Procedural Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronary revascularization (PCI, CABG) • Arrhythmia ablation(s) • Catheter-based valvular heart interventions • Advanced heart failure interventions • Valvular and other cardiac surgery
Cardiac Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low LVEF • Reduced cardiac index • Pulmonary or systemic congestion • Pulmonary hypertension • Right heart failure • Severe valvular heart disease • Prior HF/cardiomyopathy • Critical multivessel CAD • ACS involving large myocardium at risk

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153 Clinical features that may indicate advanced disease progression or intolerance to invasive
154 procedures. These factors should be considered when evaluating candidacy for further
155 interventions or advanced therapies.
156 Abbreviations: PCI = percutaneous coronary intervention; CABG = coronary artery bypass
157 grafting; CAD = coronary artery disease; COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; HF =
158 heart failure; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction.

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160 **Electrophysiology Risk Group**

161 Patients undergoing radiofrequency catheter ablation (RFA) for VT often have underlying
162 myocardial substrates and comorbid conditions, along with procedural factors such as use of
163 general anesthesia and the need for persistent time in the targeted arrhythmia, which render
164 them vulnerable to the development and/or delayed recognition of CS. The heart team, led by
165 the electrophysiologist, can assess when risk benefit ratio favors interventions to prevent
166 marked deterioration. Risk scores such as the PAINESD score have been developed to assess risk
167 in such situations.¹²

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169 **Structural Heart Disease Risk Group**

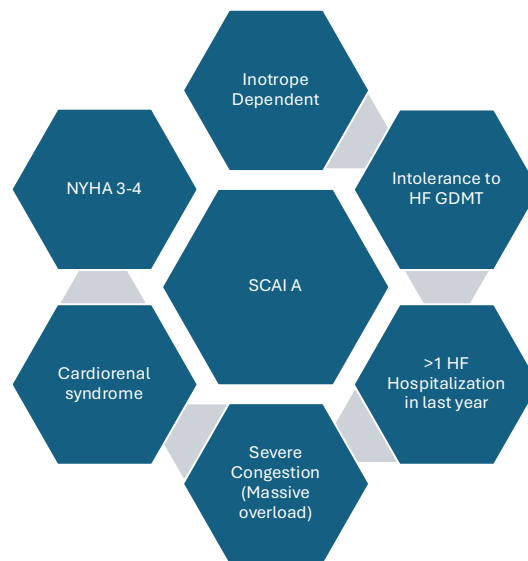
170 Patients with severe aortic stenosis or mitral, tricuspid, or aortic regurgitation
171 undergoing trans-catheter valvular intervention may be at elevated risk for CS, particularly in
172 the context of decompensated HF and/or right ventricular (RV) dysfunction, and likely merit
173 SCAI A designation.¹³ These patients frequently have multiple severe cardiovascular and non-
174 cardiovascular comorbidities, including pulmonary hypertension, renal insufficiency, frailty, and
175 hepatic dysfunction, that further elevate procedural risk.

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177 **Heart Failure Risk Group**

178 Heart failure is a very heterogeneous group with distinctions between acute *de novo*
179 heart failure CS, chronic heart failure (well compensated) as well as those with acute

180 exacerbations of chronic heart failure. While all patients with heart failure have some risk of
181 developing shock, we choose to limit SCAI A to patients with increased risk to avoid making the
182 category so broad that it loses utility. **Figure 3** illustrates groups of particularly high risk who
183 merit close observation and treatment. These factors overlap with the INEEDHELP mnemonic¹⁴
184 and the forthcoming PREVENT 2-LATE mnemonic (Mehra et al, under review). These patients
185 are admitted to the hospital for management of their condition but may appear deceptively
186 stable. Regardless of compensation, chronic heart failure often leads to physiologic adaptations
187 which allow normal or near-normal lactic acid and preserved blood pressure with significantly
188 abnormal cardiac filling pressures and depressed cardiac output. Importantly, SCAI A is reserved
189 for patients without hemodynamic instability (SCAI B) or hypoperfusion (which warrants SCAI
190 C).

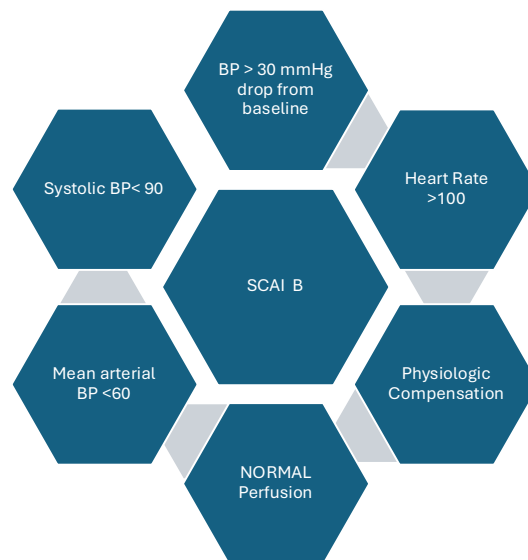


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192 **Figure 3:** Additional factors which identify the admitted heart failure patient as SCAI A CS.
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194 **SCAI B**

195 The hallmark of SCAI B shock is the activation of CS compensatory pathways which are
196 evidenced by findings such as resting hypotension (SBP < 90, MAP < 60, > 30 mmHg drop from
197 baseline blood pressure) and/or sinus tachycardia (heart rate > 100 beats per minute) due to
198 compromised stroke volume, decreased cardiac output and/or clinical congestion, but without
199 evidence of hypoperfusion as assessed by the integration of physical exam, hemodynamics and
200 biochemical indices. These features are illustrated in **Figure 4**. SCAI B represents a high risk of
201 progression to SCAI C and especially in the case of chronic HF, these compensatory mechanisms
202 may fail with little warning, with the patient subsequently progressing to frank hypoperfusion
203 which defines SCAI C.

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206 **Figure 4: SCAI B Shock criteria**

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208 **SCAI C**

209 The dividing line which indicates presence of SCAI C or higher CS is evidence of end-
210 organ hypoperfusion. Crucially, patients with SCAI C CS may transiently have normal or higher
211 blood pressure due to effective compensatory mechanisms, resulting in the phenomenon of
212 normotensive hypoperfusion which may later progress to hypotension all in the domain of SCAI
213 C shock.

214 This can be determined by evaluation of the 3 pillars of SCAI SHOCK CS assessment (**Figure 1,**
215 **Table 2**): physical, biochemical and hemodynamic assessments. There appears to be a dose-
216 response between the number and magnitude of hypoperfusion markers and the risk of
217 mortality, emphasizing the spectrum of shock that exists within SCAI Stage C. Oftentimes,
218 patients with SCAI stage C shock will be on inotropes and/or temporary MCS and retrospective
219 studies have used the presence of these therapies as an indicator of SCAI C shock. It is
220 imperative to note that the chosen therapy does not define the SCAI stage but is a marker of
221 clinician judgement that perfusion was inadequate prior to its use. Potential therapeutic options
222 to improve perfusion once Stage C is determined are listed in **Table 4**.

223 Recently, the Cardiogenic Shock Working Group (CSWG) published a granular construct
224 to allow assignment of SCAI stage via a computer or smartphone application.¹⁵ Notably, in this
225 interpretation of CSWG-SCAI stages, isolated normotensive hypoperfusion was included in SCAI
226 B, and the mortality of such patients was higher than SCAI C, in contrast to other studies which
227 uniformly observe progressive increases in mortality with advancing SCAI Stage. It is the opinion
228 of this writing group that normotensive patients with hypoperfusion are classified as SCAI C,
229 which is supported by their higher risk profile and mortality than those with hypotension and
230 normal perfusion (SCAI B). Maintaining the higher mortality with successive stages of shock, and

231 prioritizing hypoperfusion as an important binary marker of risk is a defining component of this
 232 update, and allows the SCAI SHOCK stages to be intuitively usable across the broad spectrum of
 233 stakeholders.

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235 **Table 4:** Potential Therapies to Improve Perfusion in Stages C through E

Noninvasive	Percutaneous	Surgical
Diuretics	PCI	Surgical Intervention
Fluid Resuscitation	Percutaneous MCS (LV, RV, Bi-V)	Central ECMO
Inotropes	Peripheral ECMO	Surgically placed catheter based mechanical circulatory support device
Vasopressors	Primary Structural Intervention	OHT
Vasodilators (afterload reduction)	IABP	Durable VAD
Anti-arrhythmics or Direct current cardioversion	RRT (CVVHD or HD)	
Antibiotics (mixed shock with sepsis component)		

Non-invasive ventilation / Intubation / Alteration of ventilator settings		
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238 **SCAI D**

239 SCAI D shock is identified when a patient is worsening in the composite of physical exam,
240 hemodynamics, and biochemical indices despite initial treatments and an aliquot of time. Often
241 such patients are on increasing doses of vasoactive medications or different temporary
242 mechanical support devices are placed in such patients. There is a critical distinction between
243 lack of improvement and worsening status. For example, a patient may have SCAI C shock and
244 treatment begins without significant improvement. The transition to SCAI D shock occurs when
245 the patient has worsening perfusion deficits as often evidenced by objective hemodynamic and
246 metabolic data and resultant additional therapies chosen by the treatment team. Both renal
247 and hepatic injury may reflect damage already done rather than ongoing hypoperfusion. This
248 distinction encompasses the risk profile for the patient who is deteriorating and requiring more
249 therapy and is consequently at higher risk than a patient who is not requiring escalation of
250 treatment. As with SCAI C, the chosen therapy does not define the SCAI stage but is a marker of
251 clinician judgement that perfusion was inadequate prior to its use.

252 Patients with SCAI D shock are heterogeneous by nature with various combinations of
253 drugs and devices, reflecting differences in regional availability, institutional preference and
254 regulatory limitations in the absence of any consistent evidence-based guidelines. For example,
255 microaxial flow pumps are preferred in some centers, particularly following emerging data in

256 selected AMI-CS patients.¹⁶ However, these devices are not licensed or readily available in all
257 countries, often due to cost constraints. Therefore, while it is simple to categorize patients
258 based on the burden of drugs and devices, it oversimplifies a complex situation and is most
259 suited for retrospective or research studies where fixed rules are necessary.

260 Time is an important aspect of management of CS. It is anticipated that patients will
261 transit between SCAI C and D as they are treated and thus serial monitoring is critical to the
262 clinical care of these individuals. Once shock is recognized and treatment (ideally of the
263 underlying cause) has begun, clinicians will observe and wait to assess patient response which is
264 appropriate. Although the optimal interval of serial assessment remains uncertain, the group
265 proposes that reassessment by 2-3 hours may be appropriate to identify clear worsening,
266 whereas up to 4-6 hours may better determine failure to improve.¹⁷ The recently introduced
267 Door to Lactate Clearance (DLC) initiative similarly recommends 2-3 hour lactate checks.¹⁸ This
268 has been further validated in a large population based study.¹⁹ Ultimately, the clinical team is
269 best positioned to assess the trajectory of such patients, integrating the multitude of
270 hemodynamic and laboratory data along with clinical bedside assessment.

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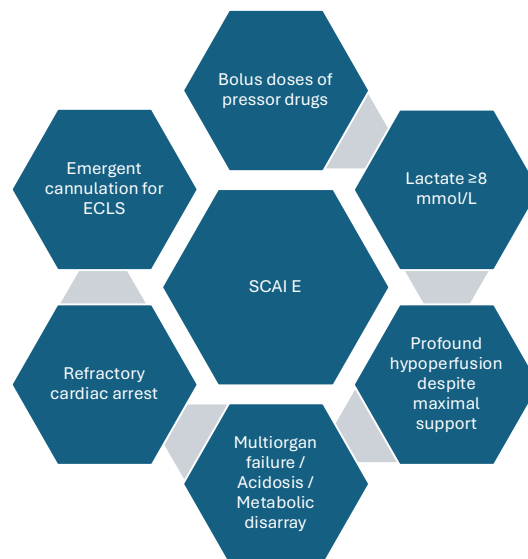
272 **SCAI E**

273 SCAI E represents patients in hemodynamic and often metabolic extremis who have an
274 imminent risk of mortality (minutes). **Figure 5** illustrates common findings in such patients.
275 Clinical trials such as ECMO-CS²⁰ have defined SCAI E patients as ones requiring large or
276 repeated bolus doses of vasoactive drugs (e.g., epinephrine or norepinephrine) to maintain

277 mean arterial pressure. Additional markers such as a lactate ≥ 8 mmol/L or severe multiorgan
278 failure contribute to the assessment of a patient as SCAI E shock.

279 The use of extracorporeal life support (ECLS), or any other temporary MCS device(s) by
280 itself does not define SCAI stage E in the absence of consideration of the underlying
281 hemodynamics, physical findings and biochemical evaluation. As such, SCAI E should instead be
282 objectively defined by the hemodynamic and metabolic state independent of the specific
283 therapy selected by an individual operator or team. Often, emergent placement of ECLS is
284 selected for SCAI E patients given the rapidity of their clinical decline and the desire for full
285 hemodynamic and respiratory support. In this example, a patient receiving ECLS with
286 normalization of perfusion including markers such as arterial pH and lactate would subsequently
287 be classified as SCAI C shock.

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290 **Figure 5:** Markers of SCAI E cardiogenic shock

291 **Objective Measurements in Cardiogenic Shock Patients**

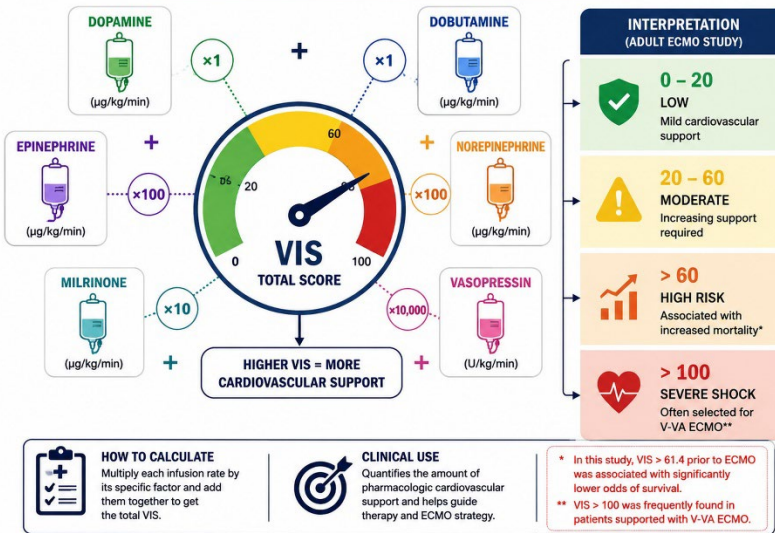
292 Intensity of Support

293 While the current framework of clinical, hemodynamic, and biochemical abnormalities
294 used to define SCAI stages of CS has been widely adopted in clinical practice, there is growing
295 interest in enhancing these classifications with objective measures. **Figure 6** shows the
296 calculation of the Vasoactive inotropic score (VIS), which uses vasoactive drug dose
297 equivalencies to objectively quantify the intensity of pharmacologic cardiovascular support
298 regardless of more subjective individual vasoactive agent selection, and has consistently
299 demonstrated correlation with morbidity and mortality across cardiogenic shock, cardiac
300 surgery, and post-cardiac arrest cohorts.²¹⁻²⁴ Both higher absolute VIS values and rising VIS
301 trajectories independently predict mortality, providing prognostic information beyond static
302 hemodynamic or laboratory parameters, but must be taken in the context of the achieved
303 hemodynamic goals.

304

VASOACTIVE-INOTROPIC SCORE (VIS)

A WEIGHTED SUM OF VASOACTIVE AND INOTROPIC INFUSIONS



VIS should be interpreted in the clinical context together with echocardiography, lactate, and organ function.

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306 **Figure 6:** Calculation of the Vasoactive-Inotropic Score (VIS)

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308 Trajectory of Shock

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Trajectory-based assessment of perfusion markers and hemodynamic parameters over time, such as lactate, cardiac filling pressures, and vasoactive medication requirements, further enhances the early identification of evolving CS. Serial lactate measurements, for example, demonstrate that both persistently elevated or rising values predict mortality more accurately than baseline levels, while improvements or clearance over time correlates with improved outcomes.^{18,25,26} SCAI Shock stage trajectory over time is preferred over single-time assessment given the dynamic nature of these patients.²⁷ Hemodynamic and metabolic trajectories show stronger associations with survival than single time point measurements, emphasizing the importance of repeated assessments at frequent intervals to detect progression from compensated states to overt hypoperfusion.^{26,28} These observations led to the recent SCAI “door-to-lactate clearance” call-to-action aimed at early assessment, frequent reassessment,

320 and optimization of end-organ perfusion (assessed in part via lactate measurement) within the
321 first 24 hours of diagnosis of Stage C or higher shock.¹⁸

322

323 Cardiac Arrest

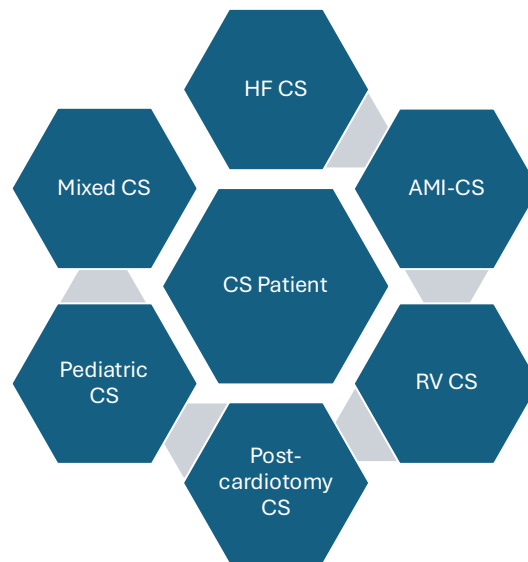
324 There is only one modifier in the SCAI Shock construct and that is “A” for cardiac arrest,
325 in recognition of the critical importance of this event. The modifier may be applied across all
326 SCAI stages. Cardiac arrest does not determine SCAI SHOCK stage—it modifies risk across the
327 spectrum with greater incremental impact on mortality in the lower stages versus the higher
328 stages. The “A” modifier notably applies to cardiac arrest with uncertain neurologic recovery
329 status. A patient who has an arrhythmia requiring electrical cardioversion or brief
330 cardiopulmonary resuscitation who is neurologically intact, conversant, and protecting their
331 own airway should not be assigned the “A” modifier. Cardiac arrest adds additional complexity
332 to both the management and outcomes of CS.^{29–31} Post-arrest physiology often reflects a
333 combined state of myocardial dysfunction, global ischemia-reperfusion injury, vasodilatory
334 shock, temporary or permanent neurologic injury, and sometimes superimposed systemic
335 inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS).^{32,33}

336

337 Phenotypes of CS: Pathology Matters

338 CS arises from diverse etiologies, making accurate identification critical for both
339 treatment and prognostication. Indeed, while prognosis worsens with each SCAI SHOCK stage,
340 the absolute mortality tracks as much with phenotype as it does with stage. In addition, each
341 predominant phenotype carries distinct pathophysiologic features that influence response to
342 therapy. Recognizing the underlying etiology enables targeted interventions, improving survival

343 and quality of care for this high-risk population. **Figure 7** graphically illustrates some of the most
344 common phenotypes of CS. Thorough assessment and individualized management remain
345 cornerstones of effective care in critical care settings.
346



347

348 **Figure 7-** Phenotypes of CS

349

350 **AMI-CS**

351 CS following an acute coronary syndrome reflects the acuity of the cardiac dysfunction
352 and the degree of impaired myocardial function, some of which might be pre-existing from prior
353 MI or other cardiac disease. Unlike some patients with acute exacerbations of chronic heart
354 failure CS (HF-CS) where chronic myocardial dysfunction is present, the AMI-CS patient often has
355 no or few compensatory mechanisms already activated. In addition, while PCI is often
356 associated with rapid improvement in myocardial function, interrupting the developing cascade

357 of CS, in some patients, post-reperfusion myocardial dysfunction may predominate instead. The
358 length of time in shock prior to intervention as well as the severity of shock both contribute to
359 the outcome after coronary intervention and are important for the clinical team to assess
360 beyond simply treating the acute coronary occlusion. It is also not uncommon for the patient to
361 initially stabilize with coronary artery intervention but develop worsening CS after leaving the
362 catheterization laboratory due to the complex cascade unleashed by the initial myocardial insult
363 with ischemia-reperfusion injury.

364
365 **Heart Failure-related CS**

366 Heart failure-related cardiogenic shock (HF-CS) represents a distinct pathophysiologic
367 entity within the shock spectrum.³⁴ These patients can be further divided into multiple
368 subcategories including *de novo* acute HF-CS, acute on chronic decompensated HF, and those
369 receiving continuous inotropic therapy for treatment of advanced HF. Patients in each group are
370 meaningfully different with different physiological reserve, different recovery potential, and
371 different downstream decisions. Recent publications review these complex issues in great
372 detail.³⁵⁻³⁸

373 Patients with acute exacerbation of chronic HF often have chronic adaptations to
374 impaired cardiac output including skeletal muscle tissue oxygen extraction which allows them to
375 be minimally symptomatic with chronic poor cardiac performance. Patients may have
376 hemodynamics that meet the definition of CS in their compensated state, but this is dissociated
377 from normal or near normal end organ function/perfusion in these patients due to existing
378 compensatory mechanisms.

379 These compensatory adaptations help explain why traditional indicators of
380 hypoperfusion—such as rising lactate, cool extremities, or altered mental status—often emerge
381 late, after compensatory reserves have been exhausted. Consequently, some acute on chronic
382 HF-CS patients may remain well perfused (SCAI stage B) for prolonged periods before
383 progressing to stage C. This underscores the slower, congestion-dominant and right heart–
384 involved nature of HF-CS. Because compensation can mask severity, accurate assessment
385 requires serial hemodynamic monitoring, serial assessment, and interpretation of trends rather
386 than reliance on isolated/single measurements of CI, MAP, or lactate. In HF patients, a near
387 normal lactate does not rule out hypoperfusion as lactate cut-points are not absolute. Neither
388 does preserved blood pressure, as these patients may be significantly hypoperfused (SCAI C)
389 despite unremarkable vital signs. When managing HF-CS patients, trends matter far more than
390 any single value, and a confluence of perfusion markers may be better suited to determine
391 perfusion than an isolated lactate alone.

392 On the other hand, such patients may improve dramatically and clear markers of
393 hypoperfusion with decongestion alone, afterload reduction, and/or minimal hemodynamic
394 support, highlighting the role of chronic compensatory mechanisms being reinstated and once
395 again sufficient, and reinforcing that there is no “one-size-fits-all” therapy for HF-CS.

396

397 **RV Predominant Failure**

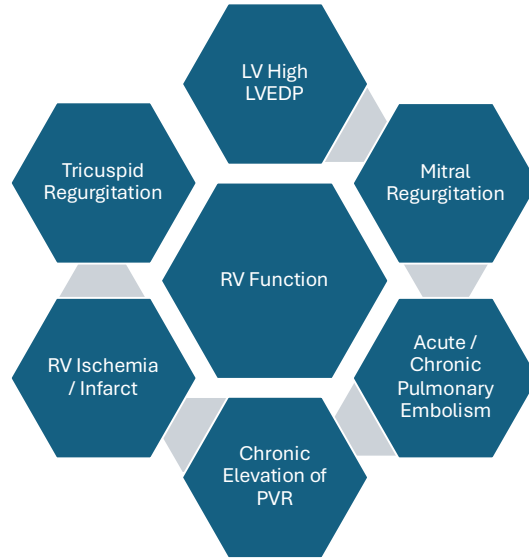
398 The right ventricle is often challenging to assess in terms of function, anatomy, and
399 hemodynamics. In settings of CS, biventricular HF (right and left) is not uncommon and often
400 more difficult to manage. It is important to assess both right and left ventricular contributions to
401 the hemodynamics of CS patients, including both HF-CS (in all its forms) and AMI-CS as well as

402 non-cardiac conditions such as pulmonary embolism (PE). The latter create acute strains on the
403 right ventricle, leading to effects on the left ventricle due to ventricular independence mediated
404 by the interventricular septum. **Figure 8** illustrates multiple factors which are relevant to
405 consideration of RV function in CS.

406 RV predominant failure may be precipitated by multiple pathophysiologic processes
407 including primary pump failure or high RV afterload states, particularly in acute onset
408 syndromes such as PE. These concepts are illustrated by **SUPPLEMENTAL FIGURE 1**. In the
409 SHOCK trial registry of acute coronary syndrome patients, RV failure was the predominant
410 phenotype in only 5% of patients. However, mortality risk was similar compared to those with
411 predominant LV dysfunction; other studies have shown worse outcomes in patients with RV-
412 predominant CS.³⁹

413 Recently, the AHA and ACC published new guidelines on the management of acute PE
414 and have adopted a SCAI-like schema of categories from A to E with increasing risk of mortality.
415 The PE stages, which are defined differently than the SCAI stages, reflect clinical severity as well
416 as imaging of the right ventricle with PE Category D reflecting normotensive shock and PE
417 Category E reflecting cardiogenic shock.⁴⁰

418



419

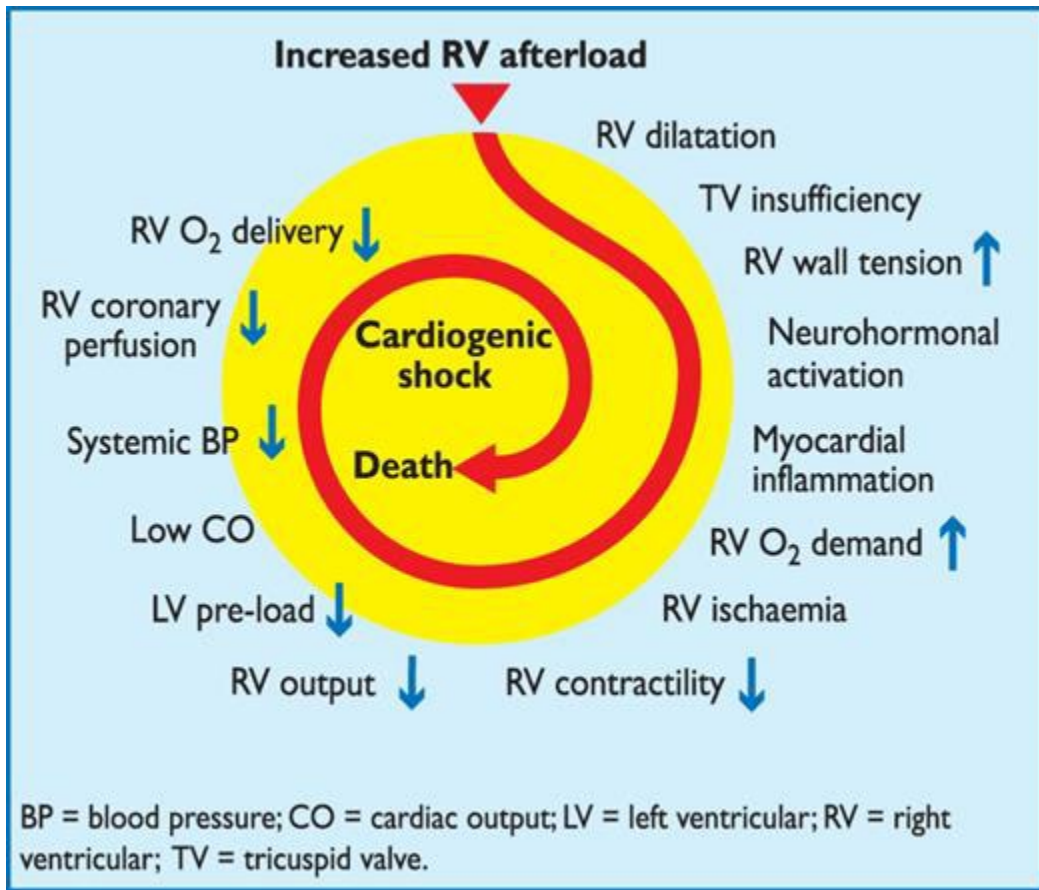
420 **Figure 8:** Pathologic factors affecting RV function

421

422

DRAFT

423 **SUPPLEMENTAL Figure 1:** Graphical schematic of the effects of increased RV afterload



424

425

426 **Mixed CS**

427 Mixed CS is among the leading causes of CS in contemporary CICUs, accounting for 20%

428 of CS admissions.⁴¹ Primary cardiogenic with secondary vasodilatory shock is likely the most

429 common mixed shock state managed in CICUs. The seminal “Should we emergently

430 revascularize Occluded Coronaries for cardiogenic shock” (SHOCK) trial reported that 18% of all

431 AMI-CS patients had reduced systemic vascular resistance (SVR), among whom 80% had a sterile

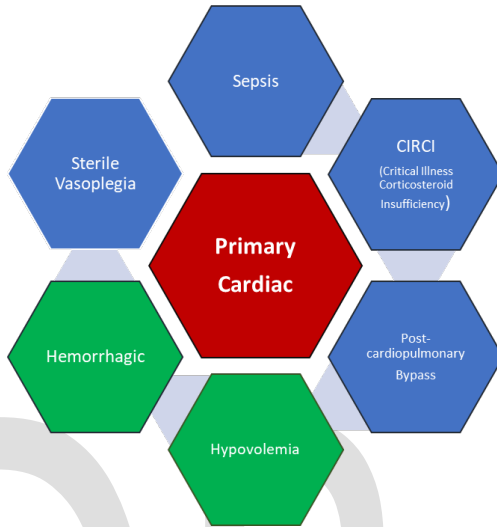
432 (e.g., culture-negative) vasodilated state^{42–45}; this phenomenon has been attributed to a

433 cytokine-mediated systemic inflammatory response syndrome triggered by myonecrosis.

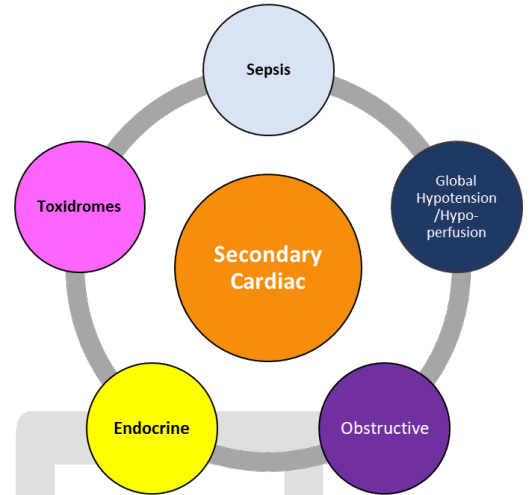
434 The SCAI writing group endorses previously published definitions of mixed CS as CS with
435 at least one additional shock etiology (e.g., vasodilatory, hypovolemic/ hemorrhagic, and/or
436 obstructive) contributing to hypotension and hypoperfusion.⁴⁶ Among these, cardio-
437 vasodilatory shock can be conceptualized as an inappropriate compensatory hemodynamic
438 response to a reduced cardiac output (CO). Although no absolute hemodynamic threshold
439 exists, a low or inappropriately normal SVR (<1000–1200 dynes*sec/cm⁵; or SVR index <2000–
440 2400 dynes*sec/cm⁵/m²) supports a mixed cardio-vasodilatory shock state. Similarly, in patients
441 with a primary vasodilatory shock, a low or inadequately compensatory CO (e.g., < 6L/min)
442 despite adequate preload as assessed by central venous and/or pulmonary capillary wedge
443 pressure) should raise consideration of a secondary cardiac component to mixed-CS.
444 Importantly, all invasive hemodynamics must be interpreted in the context of concurrent
445 vasoactive therapies, which may influence both CO and SVR.

446 The writing group endorses the use of SCAI SHOCK stages outlined in this manuscript as
447 a practical and prognostication framework for both isolated CS and mixed CS states including
448 those associated with sepsis.^{44,47} In addition, the writing group endorses previously proposed
449 mixed CS clinical classification framework of either *primary* or *secondary* CS (**Figure 9**).⁴⁶
450 Standardizing this clinical reporting framework may allow communication of etiologies,
451 hemodynamic dominance, and sub-phenotyping within mixed CS states. In primary mixed CS,
452 the cardiac pathology (e.g., AMI-CS or HF-CS) represents the primary or hemodynamically
453 dominant shock in mixed CS, followed by the secondary cause of shock (e.g., sterile vasoplegia,
454 sepsis, or hemorrhage). In secondary CS, the primary non-cardiac shock state (e.g., sepsis)
455 precedes and precipitates cardiac dysfunction (e.g., septic cardiomyopathy).

Primary cardiogenic with a secondary shock etiology



Primary non-cardiac with secondary cardiogenic shock



457

458

459 **Figure 9.** Common causes of mixed cardiogenic shock states managed in contemporary
460 cardiac intensive care units.

461

462 **Post-Cardiotomy CS**

463 Post-Cardiotomy shock (PCCS) or Post-Cardiotomy Low Output Syndrome (PCLOS)

464 continues to be a serious complication in patients undergoing cardiac surgery. It is an important

465 peri-operative challenge due to the increasing prevalence of risk factors including previous

466 surgeries, older age, and more advanced stages of HF. Although frequently seen in high-risk

467 patients undergoing cardiac surgery, it can also develop unexpectedly due to intraoperative

468 complications. In these cases, PCCS can develop because of inadequate myocardial protection,

469 prolonged cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB) and aortic cross clamp time, technical complications,

470 persistent ischemia, or progressive myocardial dysfunction in patients with poor pre-operative

471 cardiac function or reserve.

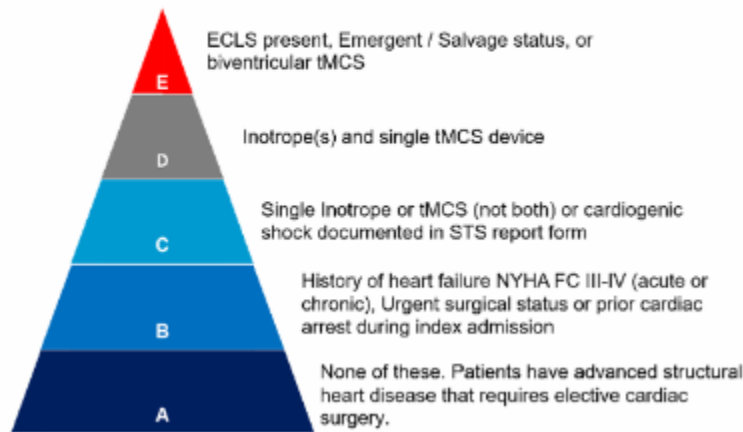
472 Reported incidence ranges from 2-20% with mortality rates approaching 50-70% in high-
473 risk patients requiring ECLS.⁴⁸ A recent guideline statement from the European Association for
474 Cardio-thoracic Surgery (EACTS) addresses the use of temporary MCS (tMCS) in patients with
475 PCCS and PCLOS and provides a diagnostic algorithm.⁴⁹ Traditionally, PCCS has been defined as
476 the inability to separate from CPB requiring ECLS or tMCS, or progressive post-operative CS
477 despite high doses of inotropes and/or vasopressors. However, this binary construct does not
478 include many patients with transient and evolving stages of “low CO” or CS that may or may not
479 recover with standard therapeutic options.

480 Two large single-center retrospective analyses of cardiac surgical patients evaluated
481 outcomes based on the presence of “standard” postoperative SCAI SHOCK Stages.^{50,51}
482 Postcardiotomy SCAI-derived criteria for CS severity showed a good correlation with in-hospital
483 mortality. The adapted SCAI staging can be found in **Supplemental Figure 2**. These findings
484 indicate that SCAI SHOCK classification effectively risk-stratifies postoperative CSICU patients for
485 mortality, postoperative complications, and organ dysfunction. The analyses also examined
486 outcomes by surgery type and time of PCCS onset (early vs. delayed), suggesting the use of SCAI
487 staging as a triage and prognostic tool in preoperative planning of postoperative care as well.
488 Finally, applying SCAI staging in the perioperative setting may improve risk stratification, support
489 earlier consideration of tMCS, to include prophylactic use, and more accurately reflect the full
490 spectrum of PCCS severity. Moreover, dynamic assessment of shock progression, rather than a
491 binary definition based on ECLS use, provides better prognostic discrimination.

492

493 **Supplemental Figure 2:** SCAI staging adapted to cardiac surgical patients from Brozzi et al.
494 [PMID: 40644812]

Shock Severity in Cardiac Surgical Patients: CS-SCAI



495

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497

498 Perspectives Across Specialties

499 The management of CS by necessity involves many specialties, and it is helpful to outline

500 the differences in perspective to better allow team members to understand each other's

501 approach. **Table 5** outlines the varied perspectives of the different members of the clinical team.

502 It is organized into areas of focus, primary tools utilized and goals for each practice area. It is not

503 meant to be exhaustive, but instead to highlight the varying perspectives with the goals often

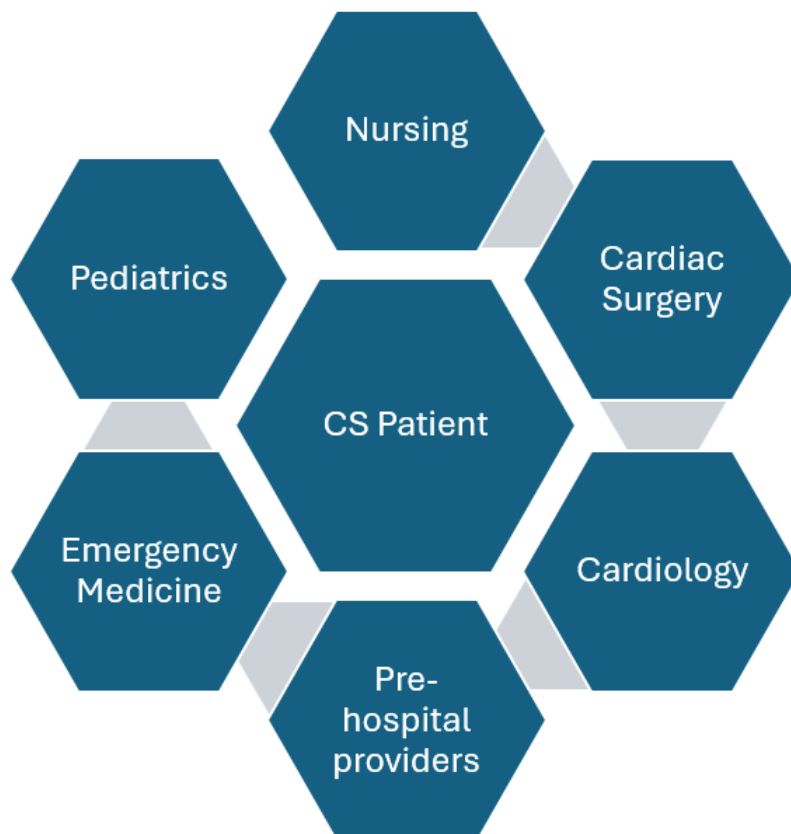
504 being aspirational and subject to future development. **Figure 10** illustrates the varied lenses of

505 clinician viewpoints through which CS is seen and managed.

506

507 *Pediatric CS: Unique patients*

508 CS in children has traditionally been studied in etiologic or therapeutic silos such as post-
509 cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, or multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children or according to the
510 use of ECLS or MCS.⁵² The etiologies of CS in children are quite different than those of adults
511 and the thresholds for abnormal vital signs vary by significantly by age. The SCAI SHOCK staging
512 has recently been adapted for pediatric use and validated in a large retrospective single center
513 study of pediatric HF-CS, demonstrating increasing hospital mortality across stages (6% for stage
514 A, 13% for stage B, 26% for stage C, and 39% for stage E).⁵² As the study of pediatric CS grows, a
515 specific adaptation of SCAI stages to pediatrics and multicenter validation of CS will be needed
516 to improve risk stratification and outcomes.



517
518 **Figure 10:** The varied lenses of clinician viewpoints through which CS is seen and managed.

519 **TABLE 5:** Interdisciplinary clinical perspectives

Practice Area	Focus	Primary Tools	Goals
Prehospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage • Assessment • Stabilization • En-route care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stethoscope • Vital signs • Skin examination • ECG/Telemetry • Vasoactive Drugs • Intubation • CPR • POCUS where available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of perfusion along with other vital signs • Identification of CS • Reduce disparities in the delivery of pre-hospital care across geographic settings
Emergency Medicine/ Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage • Identification of etiologies • Initial Treatment • Stabilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labs • Imaging—Xray, POCUS, CT scan • Vasoactive Drugs • Ventilatory support • Consult Shock team if available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid identification of shock • Earlier call for shock / ECLS team • Serial assessment
Critical Care Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of etiologies • Initial Treatment • Stabilization • Assess response to therapies delivered prior to ICU • Trajectory assessment • Short term planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labs • Continuous monitoring • Invasive hemodynamic monitoring • Multimodality imaging • Ventilatory support • Shock Team support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully define SCAI SHOCK stage • Prediction of trajectory • Early decisions regarding support requirements
Interventional Cardiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revascularization for AMI-CS • Assessment of feasibility of tMCS and device selection • Placement of tMCS devices and ongoing device site management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catheterization lab imaging • Echocardiography • Invasive hemodynamic assessment (including indwelling PA catheter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronary revascularization • Assessment of structural causes of CS • Appropriate tMCS function • Reduction of complications of tMCS

<p>Heart Failure Cardiology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of SCAI SHOCK stage • Consideration of options if myocardial recovery does not recur • Management of vasoactives and tMCS in coordination with team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labs • Continuous monitoring • Invasive hemodynamic monitoring (including indwelling PA catheter) • Multimodality Imaging • Ventilatory support • Shock Team support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discriminate between advanced heart failure and temporary hemodynamic disturbance • Assess for tMCS, as well as candidacy for heart replacement therapy
<p>CT surgery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of SCAI SHOCK stage • Define candidacy for surgical options • Management of vasoactives and tMCS in coordination with team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labs • Continuous monitoring • Invasive hemodynamic monitoring • Multimodality imaging • Ventilatory support • Shock Team support • Surgical risk assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess for surgically treatable causes of CS • Define feasibility of surgical tMCS and durable options • Assess role of valvular interventions to treat CS
<p>Nursing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical assessment including vitals • Review of clinical reports • Trending results of bloodwork • Trending hemodynamics • Early identification of deterioration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital signs • Invasive hemodynamics • Physical assessment / pulses, Input /output • Infusions (based on orders) • Response to therapies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include SCAI SHOCK assessment as part of shift summary • Routine use of VIS to quantitate degree of pressor support • Empower nurses to recognize transitions of SCAI stage and alert team
<p>Pediatrics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique presentation of pediatric patients who are on a spectrum based on age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Echo-guided surveillance • Physical exam • Inotropes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a pediatric adaptation of SCAI SHOCK criteria • Define outcomes of pediatric CS on

		• Mechanical ventilation as tool for cardiac support	the spectrum of patient age and severity
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520

521

522 **Implementation of SCAI SHOCK Classification — How do we**
 523 **operationalize SCAI SHOCK more broadly?**

524

525 **Clinical implementation**

526 Bedside application of the SCAI SHOCK Classification is inherently simple when experienced
 527 clinicians use the SCAI SHOCK pyramid and guidance table⁵³ as well as the core clinical data set,
 528 and can succeed even without the need for detailed granular criteria.⁵⁴ The writing group
 529 advocates for maintaining the simplicity of SCAI SHOCK staging as much as possible for more
 530 widespread local pre-hospital and in-hospital implementation, with a greater focus on
 531 increasing awareness, early identification (and rapid detection of deterioration), and education
 532 than on precision. A key question when applying any algorithm for disease detection or
 533 diagnosis relates to the balance between sensitivity (avoiding underdiagnosis) and specificity
 534 (avoiding overdiagnosis)—for a disease as dangerous as CS, the authors prefer approaches that
 535 optimize sensitivity at the expense of specificity (although specificity may improve with
 536 increasing individual and team use and experience). The common language of SCAI SHOCK
 537 should facilitate communication across centers, disciplines and care settings.

538 Clinically indicated laboratory data should be combined with physical assessment, vital
 539 signs and other metabolic and hemodynamic data to assess clinical trajectory. Point-of-care
 540 lactate measurements are a useful tool for early CS recognition in multiple settings from
 541 prehospital and ED to the cardiac catheterization laboratory and ICU environment. POCUS may

542 be similarly useful in multiple settings. Despite its ubiquity, lactate has important limitations and
543 should not be used as a standalone marker of perfusion. The response to treatment must be
544 considered (e.g., washout from ischemic tissues with reperfusion causing transient elevation,
545 nonischemic lactic acidosis due to medications such as epinephrine and albuterol, compartment
546 syndrome or gut ischemia, and alternate clearance through hemodialysis), so integration with
547 hemodynamics and other markers of perfusion is essential when lactate levels fail to improve as
548 expected.⁵⁵ Likewise, biochemical markers of kidney and liver injury may have a significantly
549 delayed rise and/or fall in response to the development and resolution of shock, often in excess
550 of 12-24 hours, making serial values less closely tied to ongoing hypoperfusion.

551 User-friendly checklists, whether paper-based, mobile App-based, or embedded within
552 the EMR, can promote earlier and more consistent staging and restaging.⁵⁶ However, these
553 efforts alone are unlikely to improve outcomes unless integrated into structured shock team
554 models, consensus-based treatment protocols, and education about the importance of early
555 recognition and treatment of CS.⁵⁷⁻⁵⁹ An effective EMR based detection system should be
556 transparent, reproducible, simple, user-friendly, publicly available, and integrate both clinical
557 decision support and research capabilities.^{19,56,60} An EMR-based SCAI SHOCK tool alone is
558 unlikely to provide a substantial benefit without integration into clinical pathways of care that
559 integrate rapid assessment, evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment.

560 For CS to be fully evaluated and managed by all stakeholders, the classification should be
561 incorporated into clinical care at all critical junctures. This includes the pre-hospital setting, ER,
562 catheterization laboratory, OR, and ICU. A proposal for utilization and education around this
563 topic for broader incorporation is represented in **Table 6**.

565 **TABLE 6:** Recommendations for the future to enhance the earlier detection of shock

Recommendation	Details
Implement SCAI Shock stage assessment as part of EMS pre-hospital assessment	May include vital signs, physical exam findings, and preliminary lactate levels, need for simple prehospital perfusion monitors POCUS dependent on training and availability
Optimize assessment of CS by SCAI SHOCK Criteria in the emergency department	Emphasize routine use of point of care cardiac ultrasound and point of care lactate in the emergency department
Assess intravascular volume status	Avoid large fluid bolus for patients with CS who have compromised cardiac function and are not volume depleted
Implement SCAI Shock stage assessment part of serial nursing shift assessment	Broaden education to Nursing academic meetings and CME symposia
Adopt SCAI Shock stage assessment as a fundamental part of Cath lab operations	Including initial and final lactate levels for selected patients and/or hemodynamics, part of cardiac catheterization laboratory assessment of all relevant procedures (SCAI A) or presentations (AMI, decompensated HF). Low threshold to leave PA catheter indwelling to monitor serial hemodynamics.
Adopt SCAI Shock stage assessment as part of the routine provider description of (C)ICU patients each shift	Accomplish via collaboration with professional societies and training program leaders, and incorporate SCAI DLC methodology in all patients diagnosed with CS

Support research into non-invasive correlates of reduced perfusion—the “pulse oximeter” of shock	Identify shock earlier—before the ICU, before the PAC is placed, before the arterial line
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566

567

568 **Research implementation**

569 While SCAI SHOCK staging of CS was developed primarily as a pragmatic bedside tool, it
570 has also proved valuable in observational studies and clinical trials to characterize severity,

571 define prognosis and facilitate interpretation within and between research populations.^{15,16,54,61–}

572 ⁶³ In clinical research, SCAI staging can be used to define eligibility criteria (e.g., enrolling stages

573 C and D but excluding stage E), support stratified analyses based on initial stage, evaluate

574 heterogeneity of treatment effect, serve as a serial outcome measure to quantify therapeutic

575 response, and improve matching of illness severity when comparing practice patterns and

576 outcomes. Ideally, SCAI stage should be assigned prospectively by clinicians at the point of

577 enrollment in trials using prespecified criteria.

578 To date, applications of SCAI SHOCK staging within clinical datasets have used diverse

579 algorithms.² A recent analysis by Jentzer and colleagues compared six methodologies for

580 retrospectively assigning SCAI stage and evaluating in-hospital mortality.⁶⁴ The best predictive

581 value was observed with the original approach, which incorporated blood pressure, heart rate,

582 lactic acid, kidney injury, and use of vasopressors as quantified by VIS.⁶³

583 For use in clinical practice, the criteria for each stage leverage the clinician’s integrated

584 assessment of physical findings (which are rarely available in research data sets), biochemical

585 markers, hemodynamics and, importantly, trajectory to classify the patient with CS. Notably,

586 clinician-assigned SCAI SHOCK stage has performed as well for risk stratification as more
587 complex research definitions.⁵⁴ However, reproducible application in clinical investigation
588 necessitates discrete evidence-based quantitative thresholds (e.g., biochemical markers and
589 hemodynamics) and clearly defined clinical elements (e.g., congestion) to determine SCAI stage
590 algorithmically as well as to support consistent clinician assessment across providers and sites.

591 Lastly, research is needed to connect SCAI SHOCK staging to guidance for specific
592 treatment approaches. There is tremendous heterogeneity inherent in all forms of CS,
593 combined with institutional specific approaches with significant diversity and varying resource
594 utilization. Ultimately, providing simplified diagnostic and treatment algorithms to medical
595 teams based on SCAI SHOCK stage and trajectory would be of tremendous utility.

596

597 Conclusion

598 The rapid adoption of the SCAI Shock classification system since 2019 has led to greater
599 recognition of CS and a greater appreciation of the dynamic nature of CS. By developing and
600 refining stages rather than a binary shock / no shock schema, the classification has facilitated a
601 deeper understanding of the disease state and trajectory, even though treatment choices
602 remain relatively limited. This updated consensus document further refines and sharpens
603 definitions to clarify distinctions between stages while adding greater granularity within stages.
604 It also emphasizes additional diverse pathologies that lead to shock including pediatric CS, post-
605 cardiomy CS, and mixed CS in addition to HF-CS and AMI-CS and highlights the different
606 perspective of various clinicians. In doing so, this document serves to reinforce the necessity for
607 a broad multidisciplinary team to achieve better outcomes for this high mortality condition.

608 In the future, it is hoped better outcomes for CS patients will be observed by virtue of
 609 improved prevention, detection and more effective and timely interventions. If this is realized,
 610 then the SCAI Shock construct will have achieved one of its foundational goals: transforming the
 611 care and outcome of patients with CS.

612

613

614 Supplemental Materials

615 **Supplemental Table 1: Author COI disclosure summary**

Group Member	Description of Relevant Relationship(s)	Management Strategy and Rationale
Srihari Naidu, MD, MSCAI (Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Advisory and Speaker: Bristol Meyers Squibb, ZollTherox (<\$10,000) •Advisory: Cytokinetics (<\$10,000) 	All relationships with industry fall below the \$10,000 threshold for significance. This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
David Baran, MD, FSCAI (Vice-Chair)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Nirsense: Consulting (\$5,000), Stock Options (50 shares starting Jan. 2026) •Site PI, REVAMP 	Nirsense manufactures vital sign monitoring equipment which is not relevant to the scope of the document. This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Babar Basir, DO, FSCAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abiomed (consulting) •Boston Scientific (consulting) •Chiesi (consulting) •Zoll (consulting) 	This relationship is significant because the amount received in the prior 12 months is >\$10k and may represent a COI.
Edmund Bermudez, MD, MPH, FACC, FSCAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abiomed/Breethe (unpaid medical advisor) 	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Phyllis Billia, MD, PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •PI: Nitric Oxide in Venoarterial Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (VA ECMO) (NOVICE), sponsored by Abbott. Linked clinical trial information. •PI: Proteomic profiling of RV failure, sponsored by SEER Bio (\$320,000) 	National PI for two industry-funded research studies in Canada. This relationship is significant because the amount received in the prior 12 months is >\$10k and may represent a COI.
Vanessa Blumer, MD	No reported relationships with industry.	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.

Group Member	Description of Relevant Relationship(s)	Management Strategy and Rationale
Deborah B. Diercks, MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbott (unpaid Scientific Advisory Board member) • Celecor (unpaid Scientific Advisory Board member) • Tosoh (research study adjudicator for BNP test) • Site PI: PGY2 inhibitor drug, Celecor • Site collaborator: Cardiac troponin, Siemens 	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Allison Dupont, MD, FSCAI, FACC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getinge (consulting) • Medtronic (speaker) 	All relationships with industry fall below the \$10,000 threshold. This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Jason Grady, FSCAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abiomed (speaker) 	All relationships with industry fall below the \$10,000 threshold. This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Timothy D. Henry, MD, MSCAI	No reported relationships with industry in the past 12 months.	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Steven Hollenberg, MD, FACC, FCCM, FAHA	No reported relationships with industry in the past 12 months.	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Abhishek Jaiswal, MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bristol Myers Squibb (consulting, speaker) • Cytokinetics (consulting) • Site PI: Astrazeneca, Alleviant Medical, Outcome Sciences LLC, Medtronic, Novartis, Tenax, Endotronix 	This relationship is significant because the amount received in the prior 12 months is >\$10k and may represent a COI.
Jacob C. Jentzer, MD	No reported relationships with industry in the past 12 months.	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Jason N. Katz MD, MHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abiomed (speaker) • Zoll (speaker) 	All relationships with industry fall below the \$10,000 threshold. This member is part of the unconflicted majority.

Group Member	Description of Relevant Relationship(s)	Management Strategy and Rationale
Mitchell W. Krucoff MD, FSCAI, FACC, FAHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abbott Vascular (consulting) •Boston Scientific (consulting) •Johnson & Johnson (consulting) •Medtech (consulting) •Medtronic (consulting) •Nipro (consulting) •PercAssist (consulting) •Terumo (\$0) •Industry-Sponsored research: Abbott Vascular), Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Johnson & Johnson, Medtech (Abiomed, Shockwave) 	This relationship is significant because the amount received in the prior 12 months is >\$10k and may represent a COI.
David A. Morrow, MD, MPH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abbott Laboratories (consulting) •Merck & Co (consulting) •Regeneron (consulting) •Roche Diagnostics (consulting) •UpToDate (honoraria) •Industry-Sponsored research: Abbott Laboratories- Biomarkers in CV disease (PI); Abiomed- MCS in shock (Steering Committee Member); Anthos- FXI inhibitor in atrial fib (Coordinating Center Co-investigator); AstraZeneca-SGLT2i in CV disease & anti-inflamm rx in ASCVD (Coordinating Center Co-investigator); Daiichi Sankyo- Biomarkers in atrial fib (Co-PI); 4TEEN4- Biomarkers in CV disease (Steering Committee Member); Novartis- Lipid lowering in ASCVD (Steering Committee Member); Pfizer- GDF-15 inhibition in heart failure (Co-PI); Regeneron- Biomarkers in CV disease (PI); Roche Diagnostics- Biomarkers in CV disease (PI) 	While the amounts received to the individual are below the \$10,000 threshold, this member is the primary investigator of industry-funded research which may represent a COI.
Sandeep Nathan, MD, MSc, FSCAI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abbott (consulting) •Magenta Medical (consulting) •Merit Medical (consulting) 	This relationship is significant because the amount received in the prior 12 months is >\$10k and may represent a COI.
Evjenij Potapov, MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abbott (advisory and speaker) •Johnson & Johnson (speaker) •Recovery Therapeutics (speaker) •Industry-Sponsored research: Johnson & Johnson (Site Investigator); Abbott (PI & Site Investigator) 	While the amounts received to the individual are below the \$10,000 threshold, this member is the primary investigator of industry-funded research which may represent a COI.

Group Member	Description of Relevant Relationship(s)	Management Strategy and Rationale
Susanna Price, MBBS, BSC, FRCP, PhD, FFICM, FESC	No reported relationships with industry in the past 12 months.	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Kriti Puri, MBBS, FAAP, FACC	No reported relationships with industry in the past 12 months.	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Saraschandra Vallabhajosyula, MD MSc	No reported relationships with industry in the past 12 months.	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.
Sanjum S. Sethi MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Boston Scientific (advisory and consulting) •Conavi (consulting) •Penumbra (honoraria) •Terumo (consulting) • NAMS (Data Safety Monitoring Board) 	This relationship is significant because the amount received in the prior 12 months is >\$10k and may represent a COI.
Shashank Sinha, MD, MSc, FACC, FAHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CardiacBooster (consulting) •Industry-Sponsored research: J&J Med Tech/Abiomed- OASIS AMICS (National PI) 	While the amounts received to the individual are below the \$10,000 threshold, this member is the primary investigator of industry-funded research which may represent a COI.
Alexander G. Truesdell, MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abiomed (consulting, speakers Bureau, and honoraria) •Getinge (honoraria) •Zoll (consulting and honoraria) 	This relationship is significant because the amount received in the prior 12 months is >\$10k and may represent a COI.
Sean van Diepen, MD, MSc, FAHA	No reported relationships with industry in the past 12 months.	This member is part of the unconflicted majority.

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618 **Supplemental Table 2:** Study definitions of SCAI SHOCK stage B, as explicitly described in

619 published studies

Study	Definition
Jentzer, et al. 2019 ²	<p>Any CICU patient meeting ALL of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One or more criterion for hypotension and/or tachycardia during first 1 hour after admission* <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Minimum systolic BP <90 mmHg b. Minimum mean BP <60 mmHg c. Maximum heart rate >100 BPM d. Admission heart rate > admission systolic BP e. Mean heart rate > mean systolic BP 2. No criteria for hypoperfusion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Admission lactate <=2 mmol/L b. 24-hour urine output >=720 ml c. 24-hour creatinine increase <0.3 mg/dL

	* A subsequent study ⁹ using similar criteria defined the use of vasoactive drugs as a criterion for hypotension
Schrage, et al. ⁴	<u>Signs/symptoms of cardiogenic shock OR large MI with heart rate > systolic BP plus ALL of the following:</u> 1. No vasoactive drugs 2. Arterial lactate <2 mol/L (or venous lactate <2.5 mmol/L)
Thayer, et al. ⁶ <i>If lactate NOT available</i>	<u>Cardiogenic shock patients NOT receiving any vasoactive drugs or MCS devices</u>
Thayer, et al. ⁶ <i>If lactate available</i>	<u>Cardiogenic shock patient meeting ALL of the following:</u> 1. No vasoactive drugs or MCS devices 2. Lactate <2 mmol/L
Pareek, et al. ⁸	<u>OHCA patient meeting ALL of the following:</u> 1. Either of the following criteria for Hypotension and/or tachycardia a. Systolic BP >90 mmHg and heart rate >100 BPM b. Low-dose bolus vasopressor to maintain systolic BP >90 mmHg 2. GFR >60 ml/min
Lawler, et al. 2021 ¹⁰	<u>CICU patient with acute coronary syndrome or heart failure meeting ALL of the following:</u> 1. Hypotension 2. GFR >60 ml/min 3. Normal lactate
Kapur, et al. 2022	1. EITHER mild hypotension or hypoperfusion a. SBP 60-90 mmHg or MAP 50-65 mmHg b. Lactate 2-5 mmol/L or ALT 200-500 IU/L 2. No drugs/devices

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622 **Supplemental Table 3:** Study definitions of SCAI SHOCK stage C, as explicitly described in
 623 published studies.

Study	Definition
Jentzer, et al. 2019 ²	<p><u>Any CICU patient meeting ALL of the following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One or more criterion for hypoperfusion <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Admission lactate >2 mmol/L b. 24-hour urine output <720 ml c. 24-hour creatinine increase >=0.3 mg/dL 2. No criteria for deterioration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Admission lactate = maximum lactate b. Maximum # vasoactive drugs during first 1 hour = maximum # vasoactive drugs during first 24 hours c. Maximum total vasoactive drugs dosage during first 1 hour = maximum total vasoactive drugs dosage during first 24 hours
Schrage, et al. ⁴	<p><u>Signs/symptoms of CS with EITHER of the following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need for vasoactive drugs 2. Arterial lactate >=2 mmol/L (or venous lactate >=2.5 mmol/L)
Thayer, et al. ⁶ <i>If lactate NOT available</i>	<u>Cardiogenic shock patient receiving only one vasoactive drug OR one MCS device</u>
Thayer, et al. ⁶ <i>If lactate available</i>	<p><u>Cardiogenic shock patient with ALL of the following criteria:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One vasoactive drug OR one MCS device 2. Lactate <5 mmol/L
Pareek, et al. ⁸	<p><u>OHCA with ALL of the following criteria:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requiring low-dose bolus vasopressor or one vasopressor infusion to maintain systolic BP >90 mmHg 2. GFR <60 ml/min
Lawler, et al. 2021 ¹⁰	<p><u>Cardiogenic shock patient with ALL of the following:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requiring either a single vasoactive drug or MCS support 2. Abnormal lactate, GFR (<60 ml/min) or LFT's 3. No criteria for deterioration <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <50% increase from admission lactate to peak lactate b. No new or escalating MCS >24 hours after admission 4. No criteria for refractory shock <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worst pH >7.2 2. Highest lactate <5
Kapur, et al. 2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EITHER mild hypotension AND hypoperfusion WITH no drugs/devices <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. SBP 60-90 mmHg or MAP 50-65 mmHg b. Lactate 2-5 mmol/L or ALT 200-500 IU/L 2. One drug/devices WITHOUT hypotension/hypoperfusion

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626 TBD, placeholder: Supplement 4: Updated checklist, based on prior:

627 <https://scai.org/sites/default/files/2023->

628 [04/SCAI%20SHOCK%20Bedside%20Checklist%202022.pdf](https://scai.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/SCAI%20SHOCK%20Bedside%20Checklist%202022.pdf)

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