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# Cardiac MRI in Ischemic Heart Disease

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# Why We Need CMR in Ischemic Heart Disease



Ischemic heart disease is the leading cause of heart failure worldwide.



Up to 50% of patients with EF <35% do not recover function post-revascularization.



Standard tools like echocardiography and angiography often fail to distinguish viable from non-viable myocardium.

# Seeing Beyond the Ejection Fraction



Echo is a map – it shows us motion.

- **Echo Provides**

- EF and wall motion
- LV volumes
- Valve function



CMR is a microscope – it reveals tissue composition.

- **CMR Adds**

- Tissue characterization (scar, edema, fibrosis)
- Microvascular obstruction (MO)
- Myocardial salvage index (MSI)
- Viability assessment
- Prognostic information

**CMR Tells Us:**

- What is alive
- What is dead
- What can recover

# CMR Sequences in Ischemic Heart Disease

Sequence	Measures	Clinical Interpretation
<b>Cine SSFP</b>	Wall motion, volumes, EF	Systolic dysfunction
<b>T2-weighted (STIR)</b>	Edema	Acute injury, area-at-risk
<b>EGE (Early Gadolinium)</b>	Hyperemia, inflammation	Acute ischemia
<b>LGE (Late Gadolinium)</b>	Fibrosis, necrosis	Viability, transmural
<b>T1 Mapping / ECV</b>	Interstitial fibrosis	Chronic remodeling
<b>Stress perfusion</b>	Blood flow reserve	Ischemia detection
<b>Feature Tracking (Strain)</b>	Deformation analysis	Subclinical dysfunction



# Role of CMR in Viability Assessment

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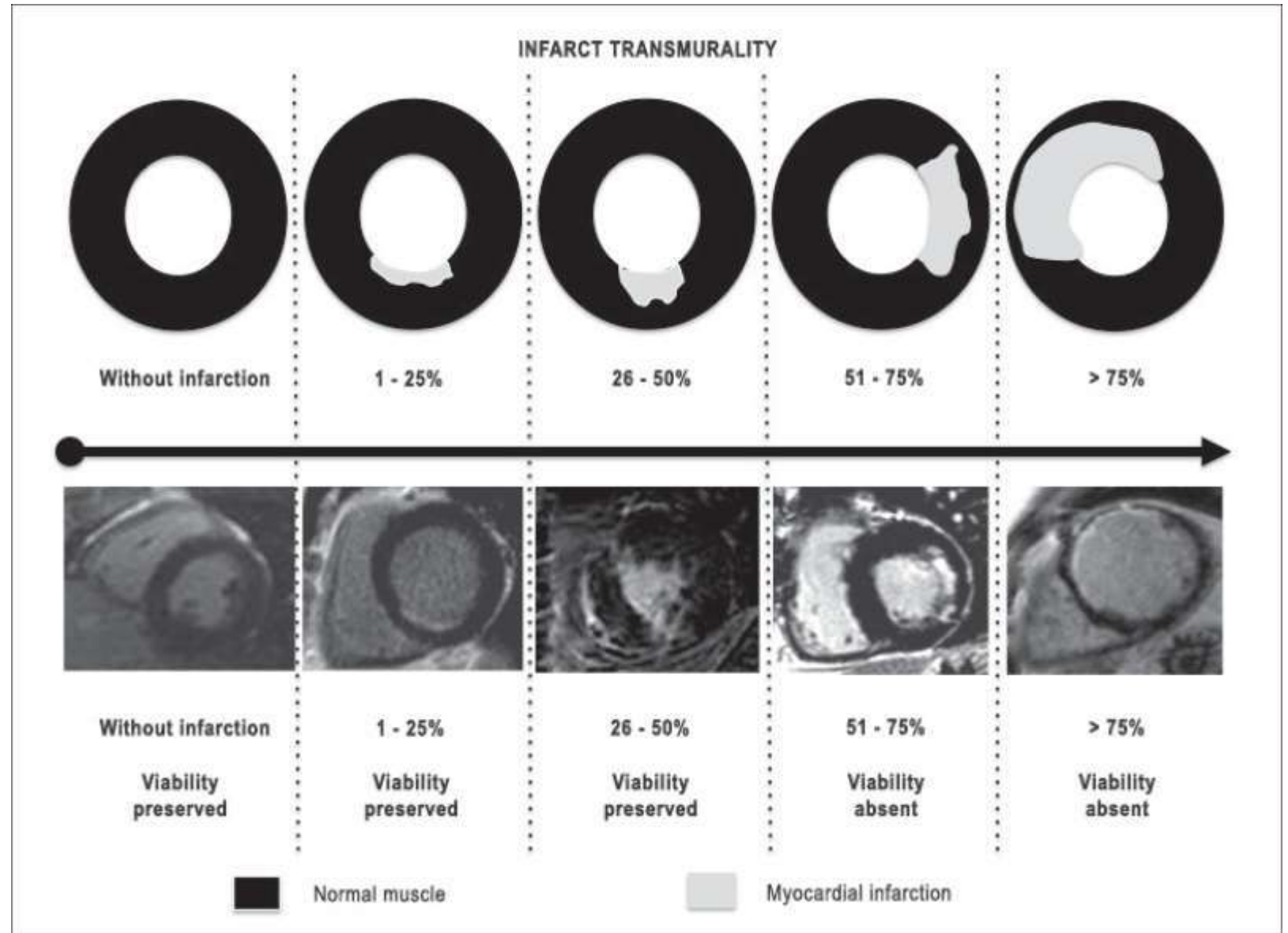
- **What is Viability Assessment?**

Selecting patients who will benefit from revascularization over optimal medical therapy

Markers of viability = presence of living myocytes

**Bright is Dead**

# Viability in Chronic ischemia



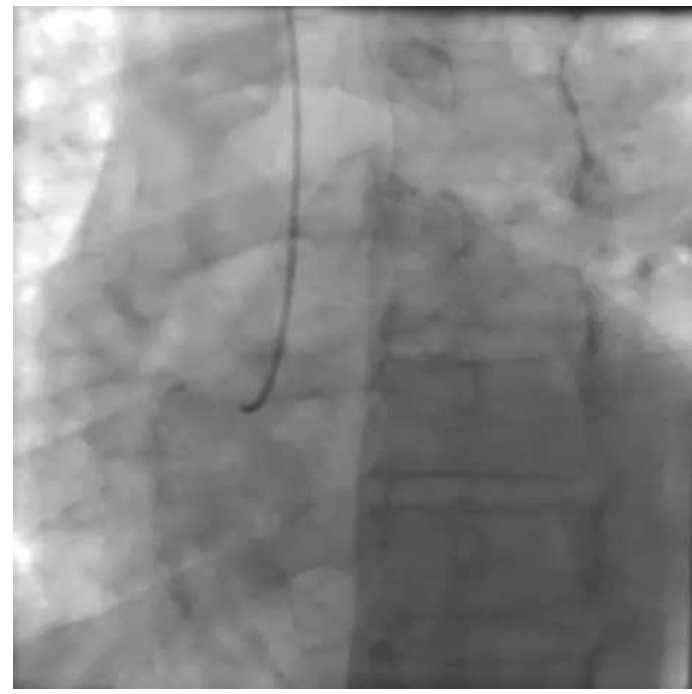
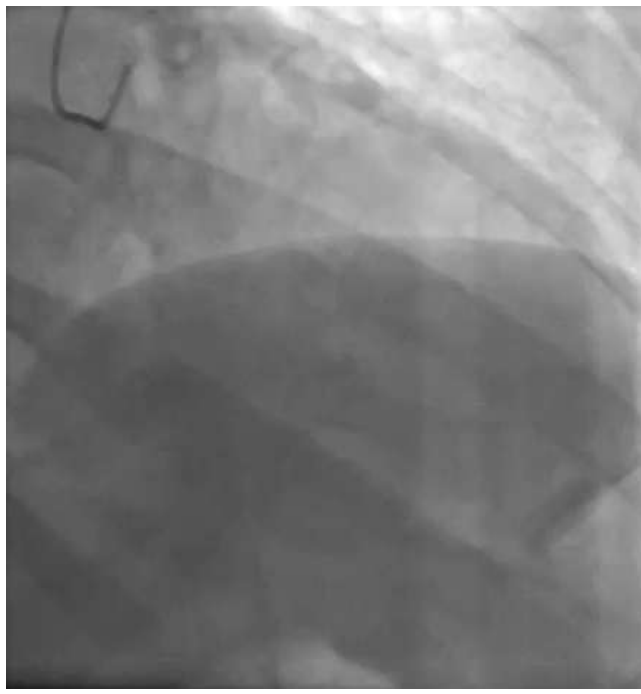
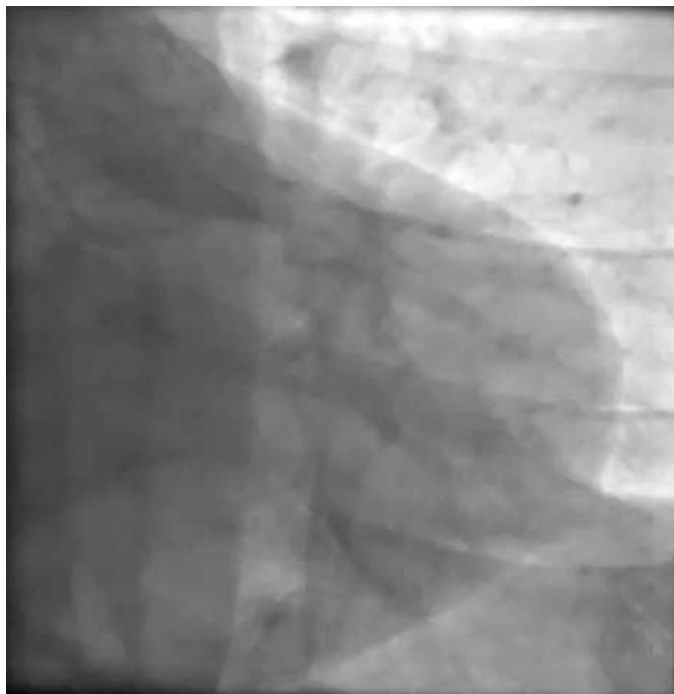




# Clinical presentation 1

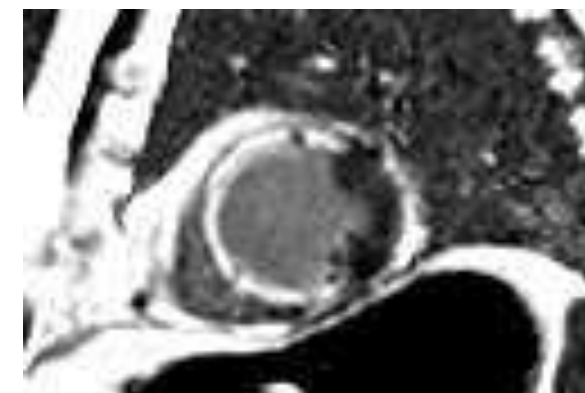
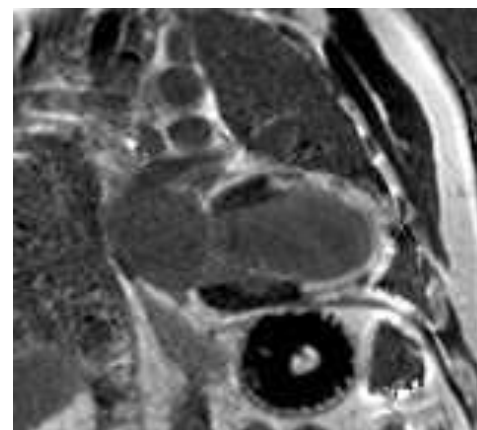
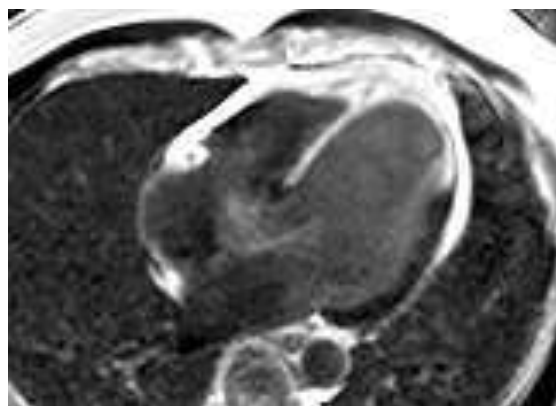
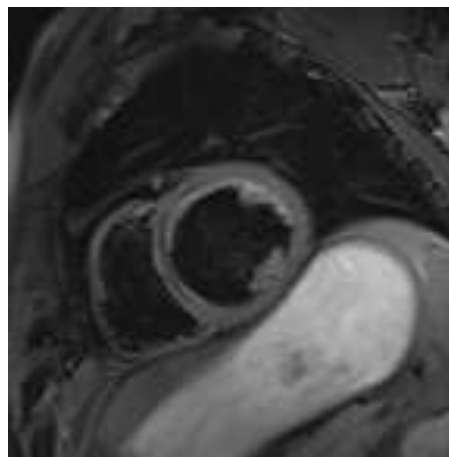
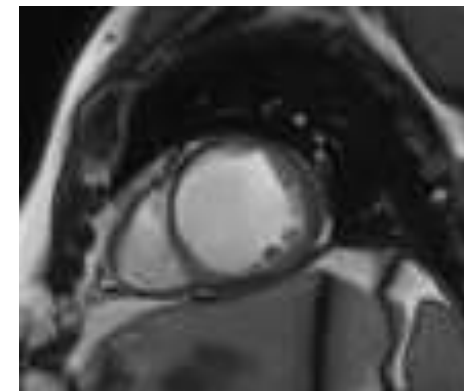
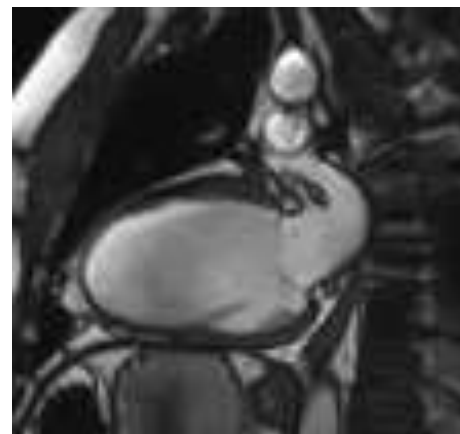
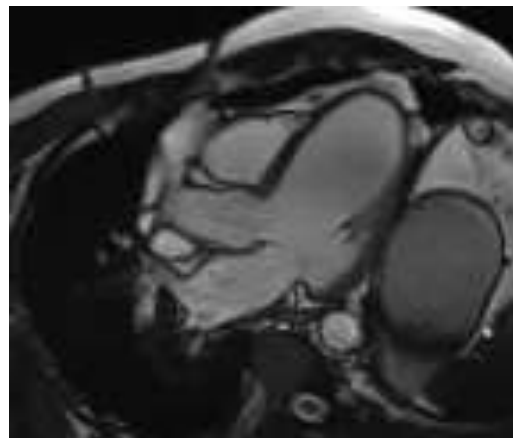
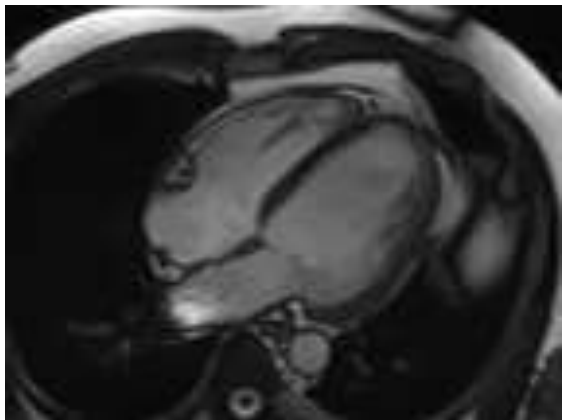
- 58-year-old male
- Prior STEMI and multivessel CAD
- EF 30%

***Revascularization?***





# Clinical presentation 1



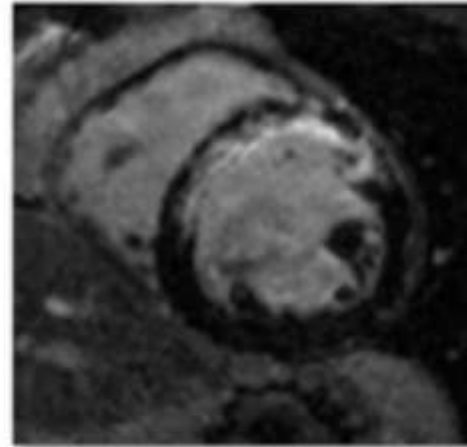
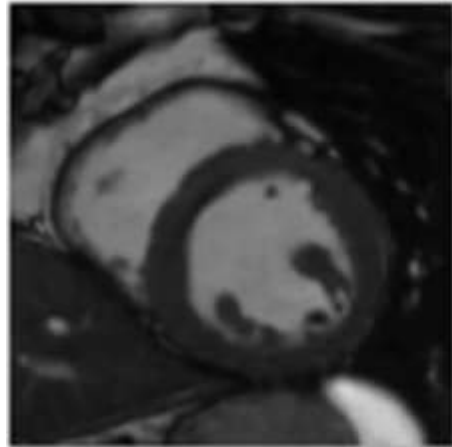
- **LGE:**
  - Transmural (>75%) LGE in septal, anterior, inferior walls
- **No microvascular obstruction**
- **T2-weighted imaging: No edema (chronic infarct pattern)**

***Would you consider revascularizing in this patient?***

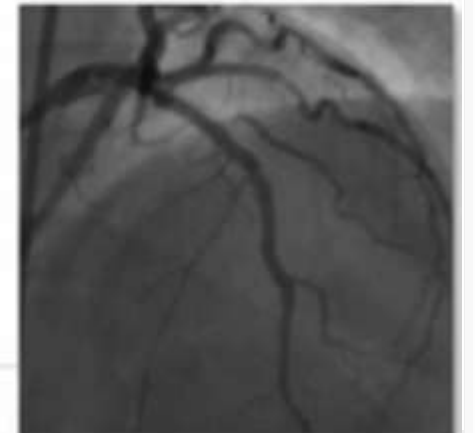
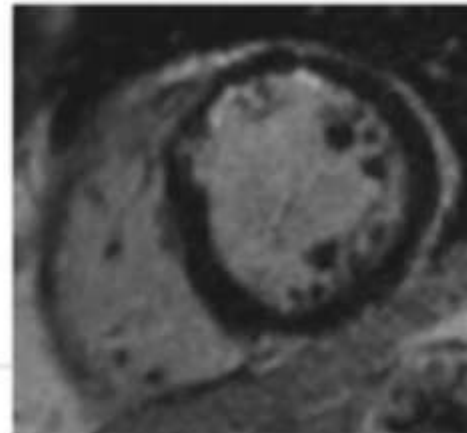
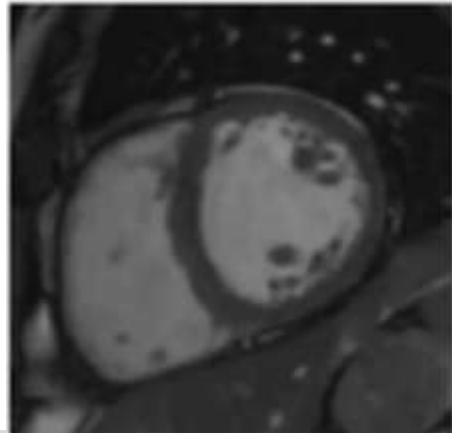


# Hibernation vs Stunning – Myocardial Viability Phenotypes

hibernation  
=  
viability



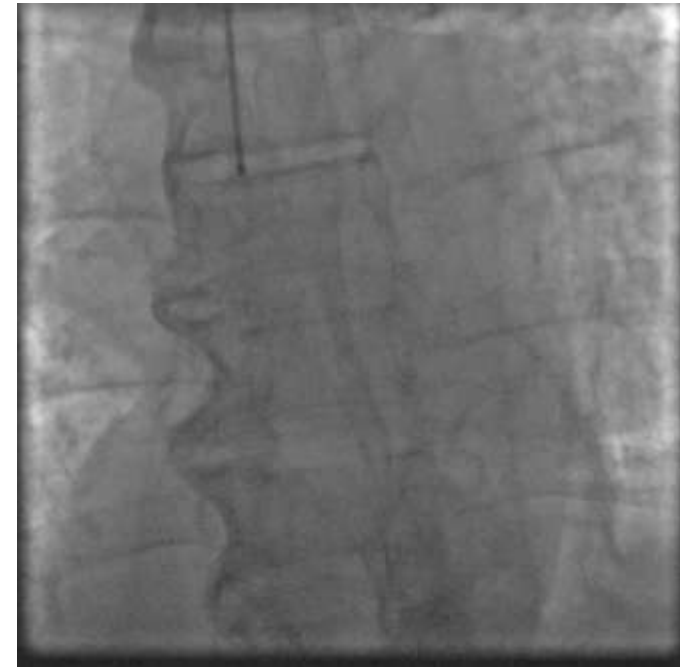
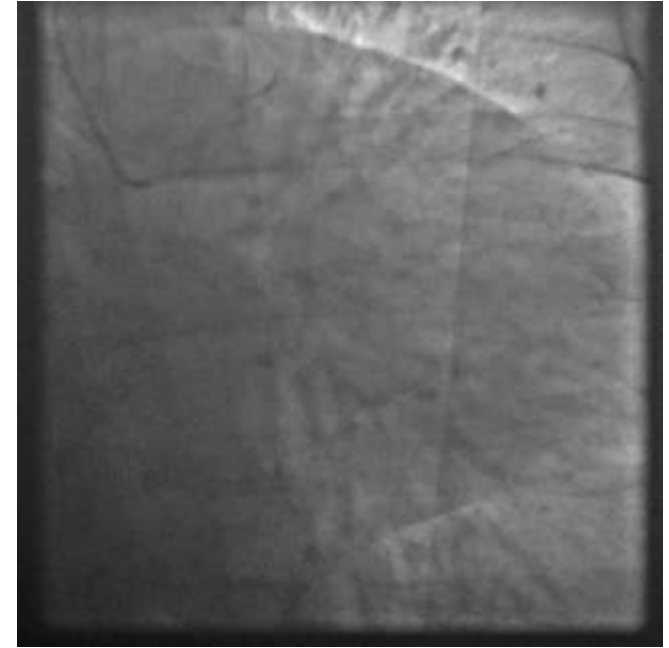
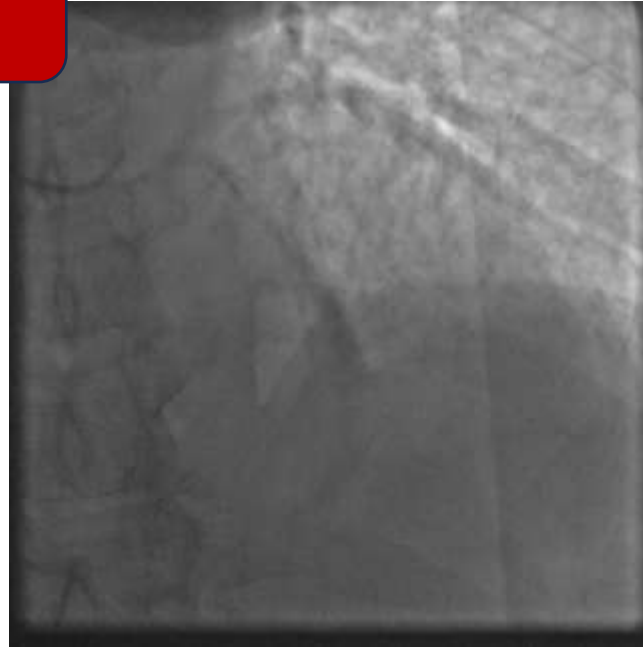
stunning  
=  
recovery  
after ischemia





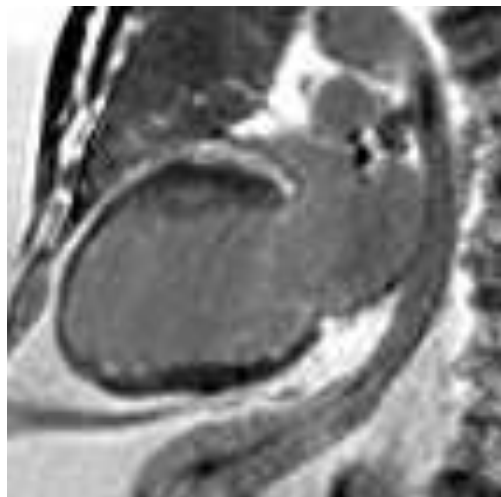
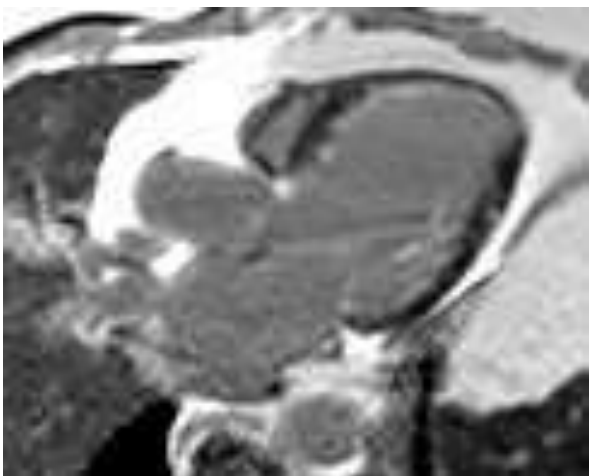
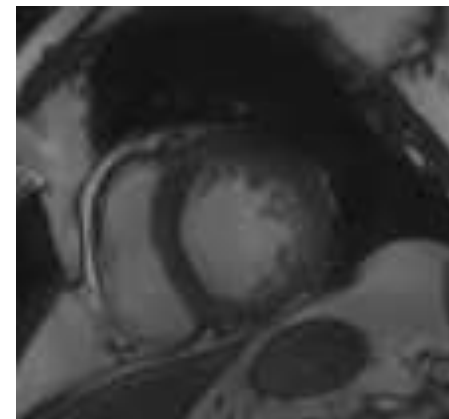
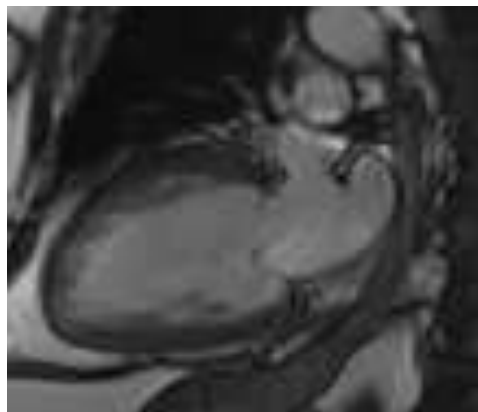
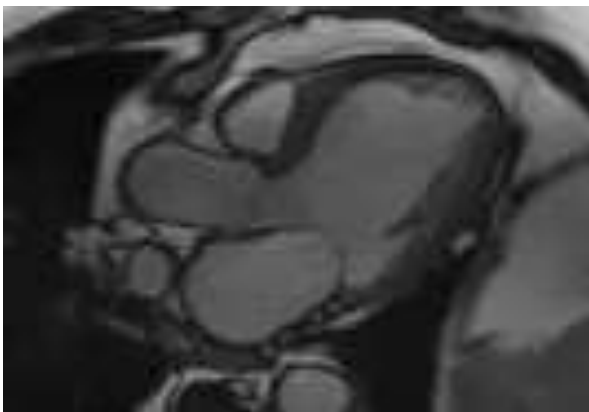
## Clinical presentation 2

- 66-year-old male with prior NSTEMI and multivessel CAD: LAD-100%, CX-95%, RCA-99%
- EF: 35%
- Being evaluated for revascularization vs device therapy





## Clinical presentation 2

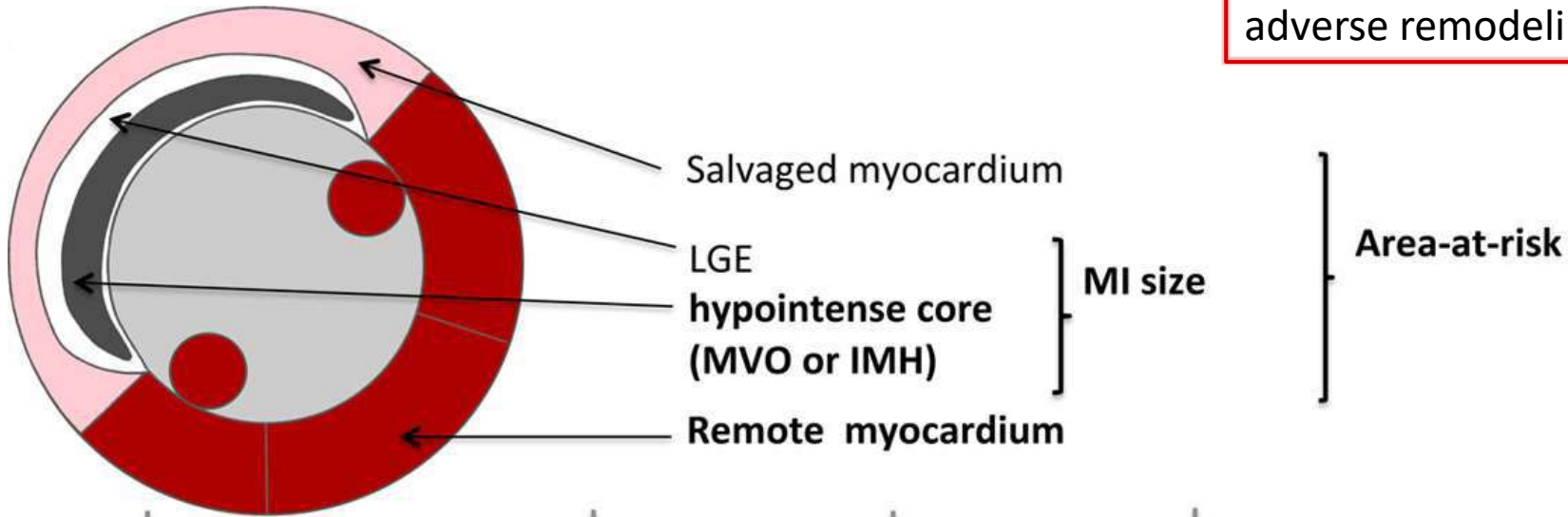


- **LGE:** Subendocardial LGE <50% in septal, anterior and inferior segments
- **No microvascular obstruction, no acute edema**

***Would you recommend revascularization in this case?***

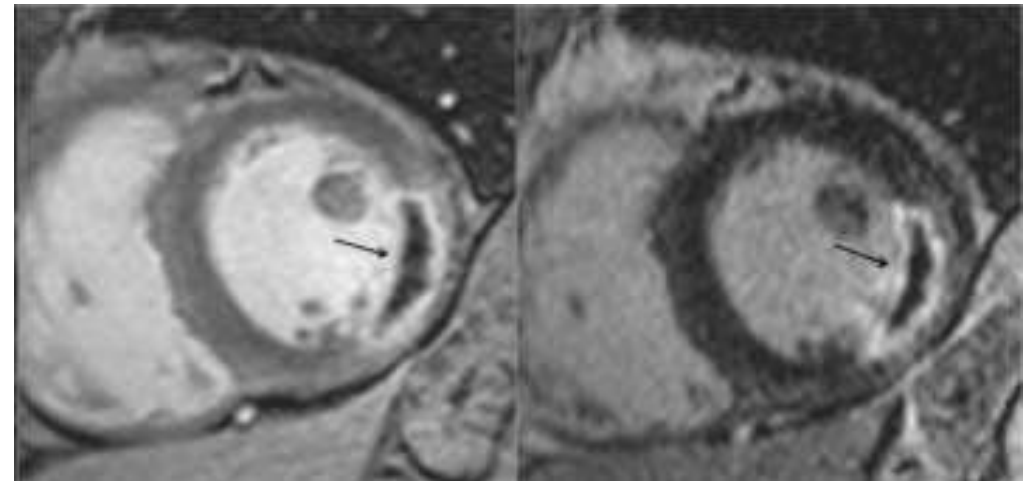
# CMR in Acute Myocardial Infarction

MVO strongly associated with worse outcomes, including adverse remodeling and increased risk of arrhythmia



$$\text{MSI} = \frac{\text{Area at Risk (AAR)} - \text{Infarct Size}}{\text{Area at Risk (AAR)}} \times 100\%$$

MSI above 40% is typically associated with better long-term recovery.



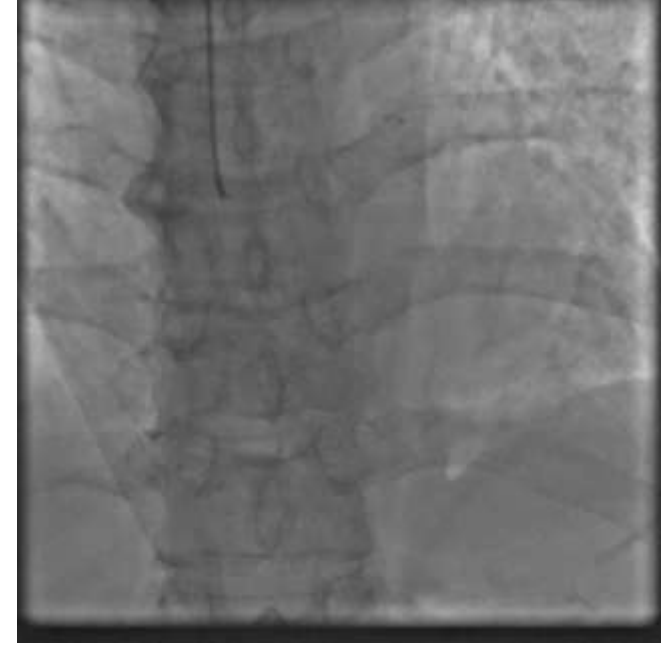
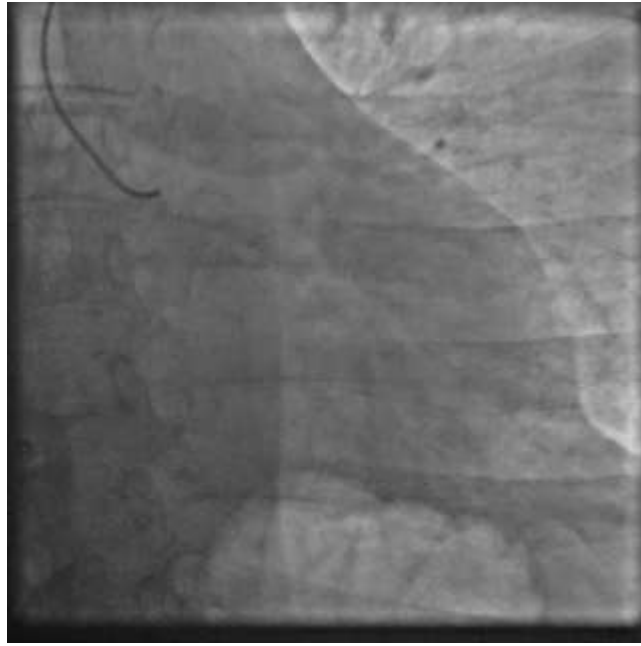
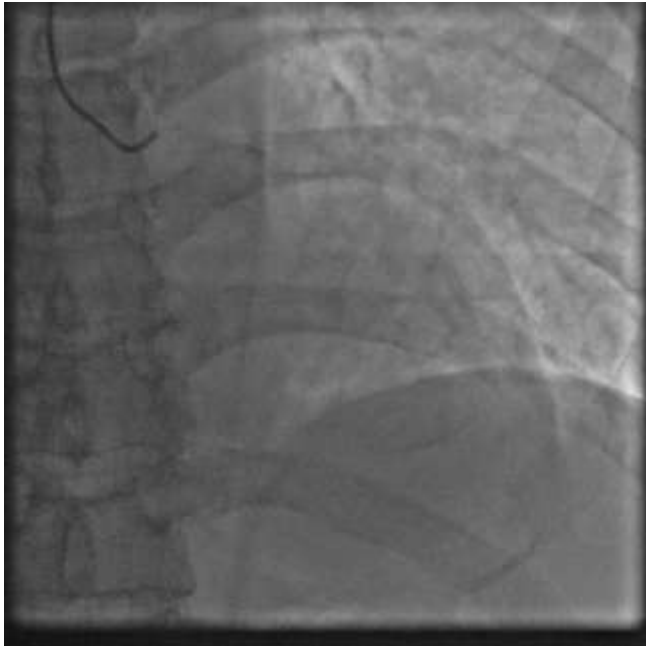
EGE

LGE



# Clinical presentation 3

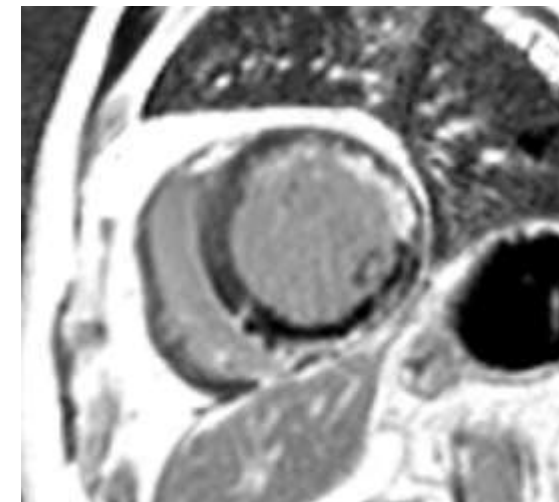
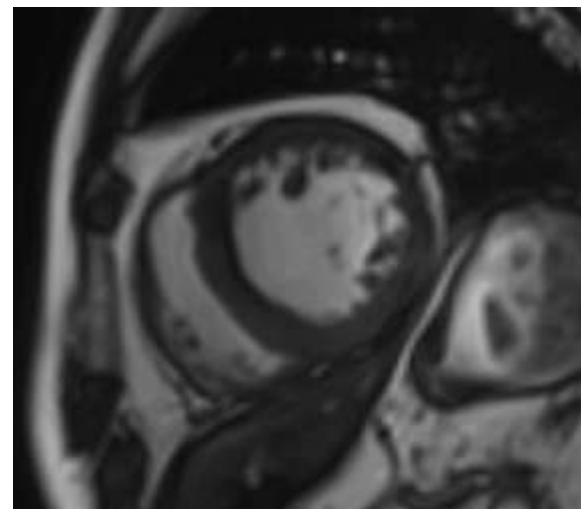
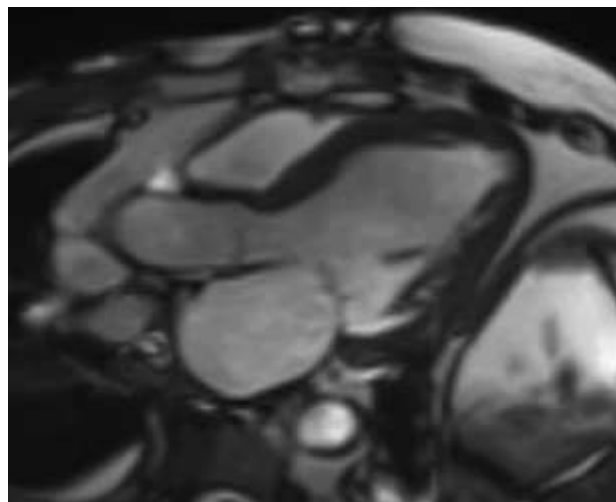
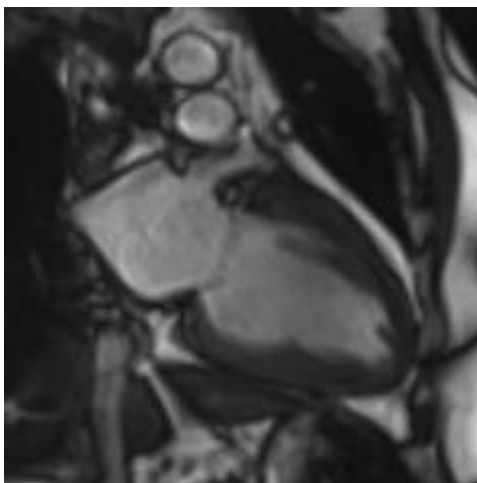
- 58-year-old male with **inferior STEMI**, LAD – 95%, CX-100%
- Primary PCI performed within 2 hours of symptom onset
- EF: 40% post-PCI
- Undergoing early CMR on day 4





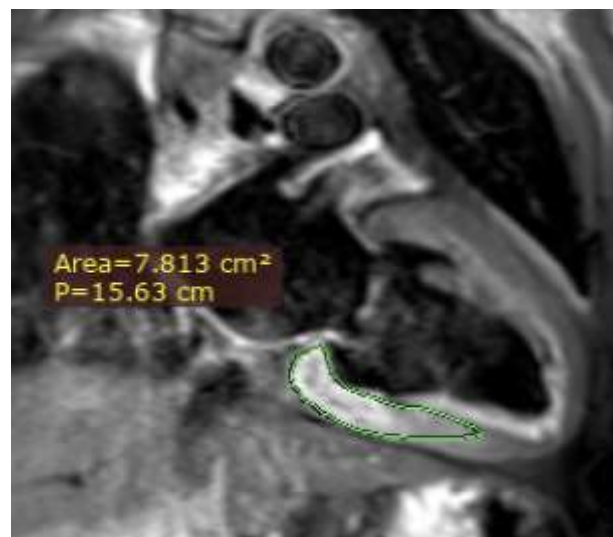


# Clinical presentation 3



$$\text{MSI} = (\text{AAR} - \text{infarct size}) / \text{AAR}$$

$$\text{MSI} = (7.8 - 5.2) / 7.8 = 33\%$$



T2w



LGE



Microvascular damage

Higher risk of worse outcomes despite reperfusion

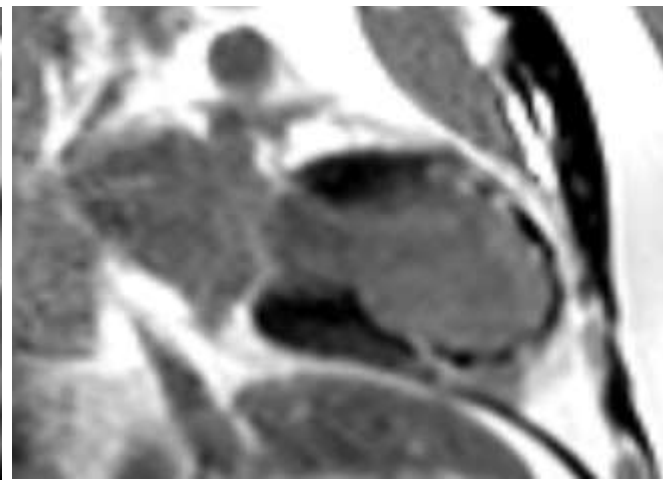
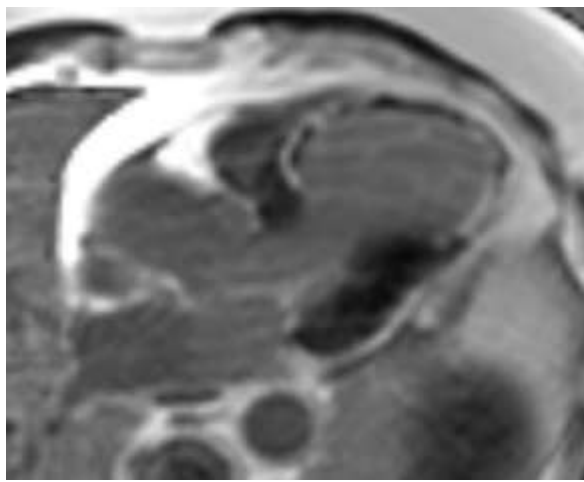
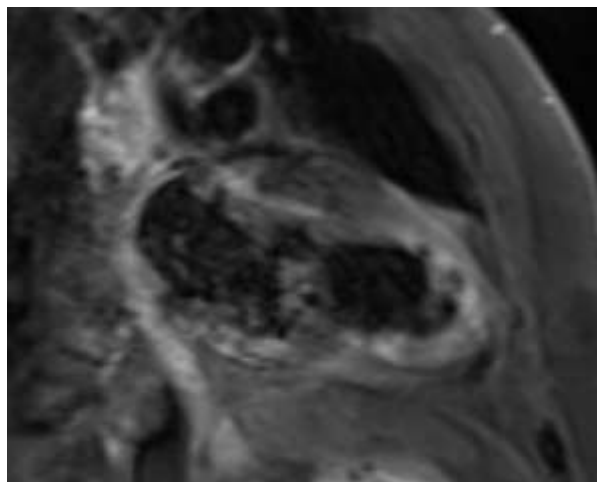
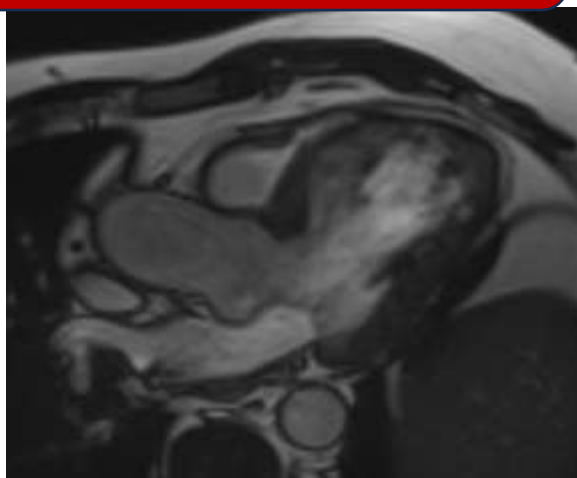
*What does the presence of MO and MSI tell you in this case?*





# Clinical presentation 4

- 59-year-old male with anterior STEMI 3 days ago
- Delayed PCI performed
- EF: 35% post-PCI
- Undergoing early CMR on day 4



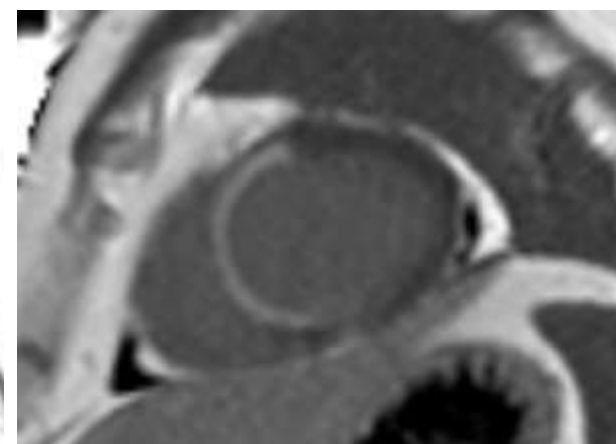
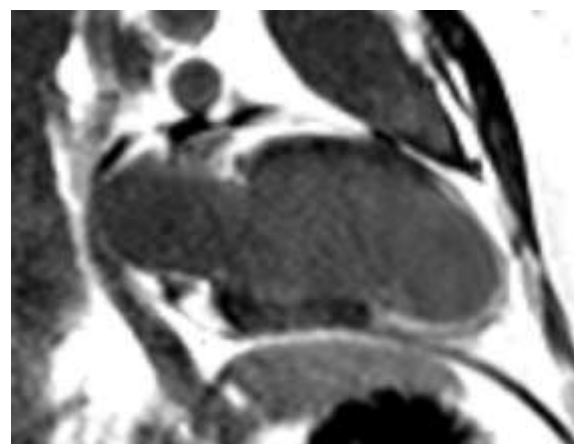
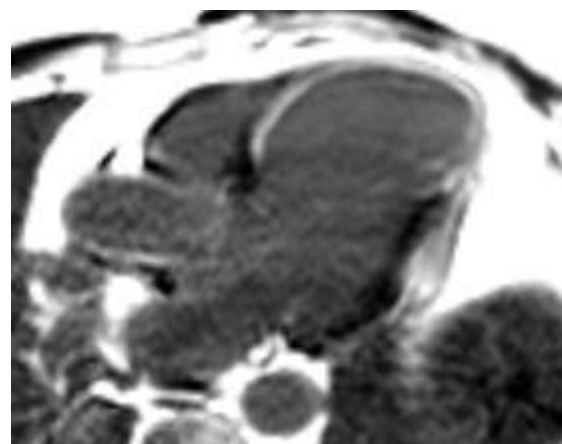
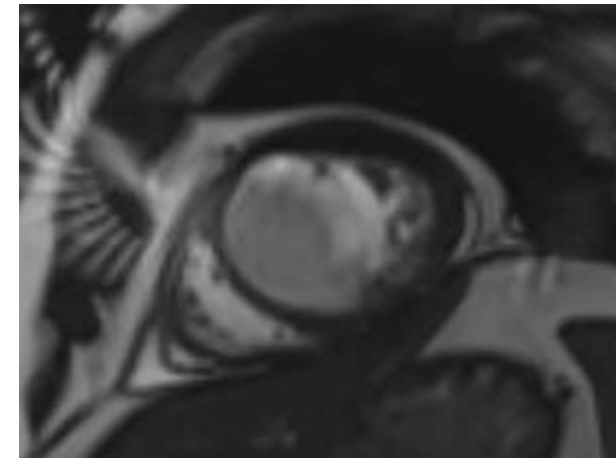
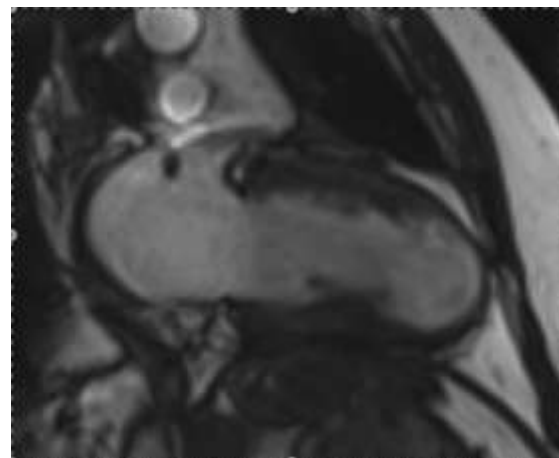
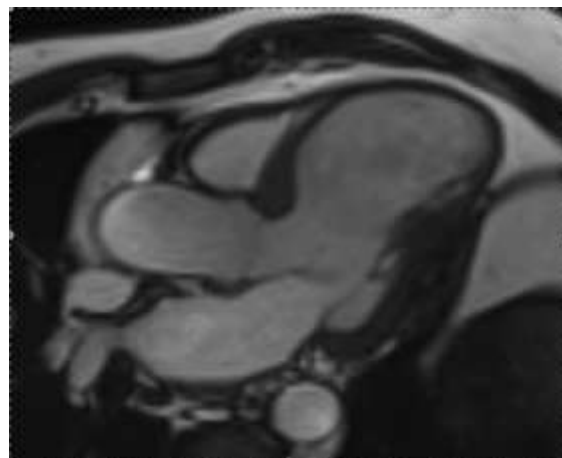
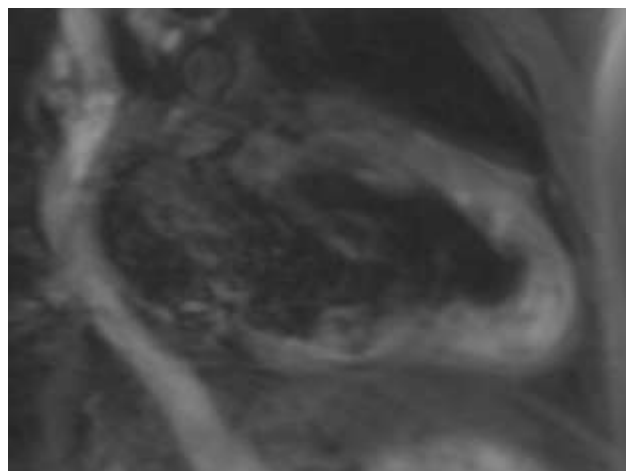
- Cine SSFP: Hypokinesis\akinesis in septum, anterior wall, apical segments
- T2-weighted imaging: High signal intensity in anterior segments
- LGE: transmural enhancement in mid\apical septum, anterior wall, apical segments and apex
- Central hypoenhancement (MO) within LGE area

**most of the myocardium at risk had already undergone irreversible injury prior to revascularization**



## Clinical presentation 4

After 3 months



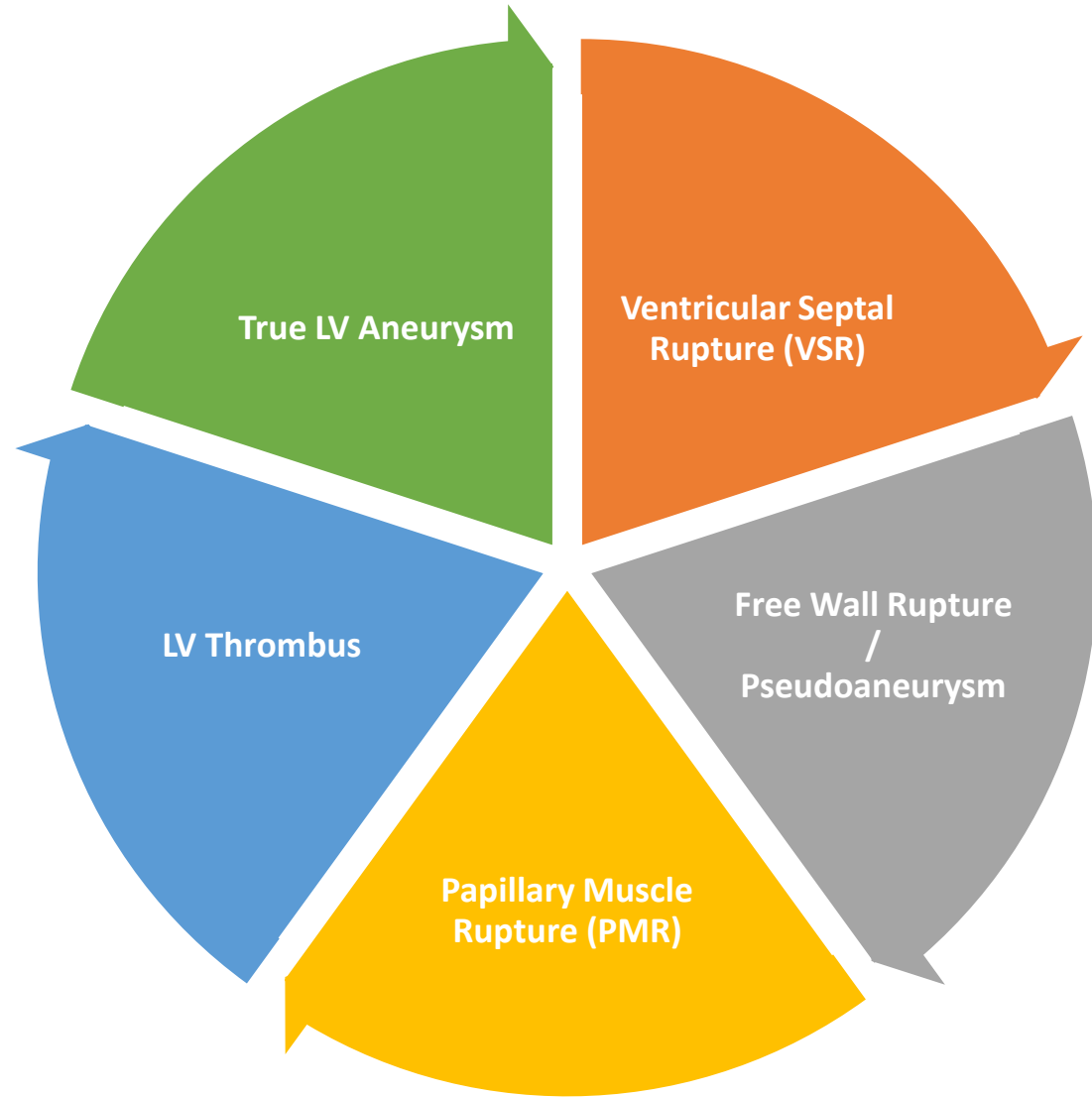
- Cine SSFP: Hypokinesia\akinesia in septum, anterior wall, apical segments and apex
- LGE: transmural enhancement in mid\apical septum, anterior wall, apical segments and apex

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So when we look at acute MI on MRI, we're not just asking **'how much damage was done?'** – we're also asking **'how much was saved?'**



# CMR in Post-MI Mechanical Complications

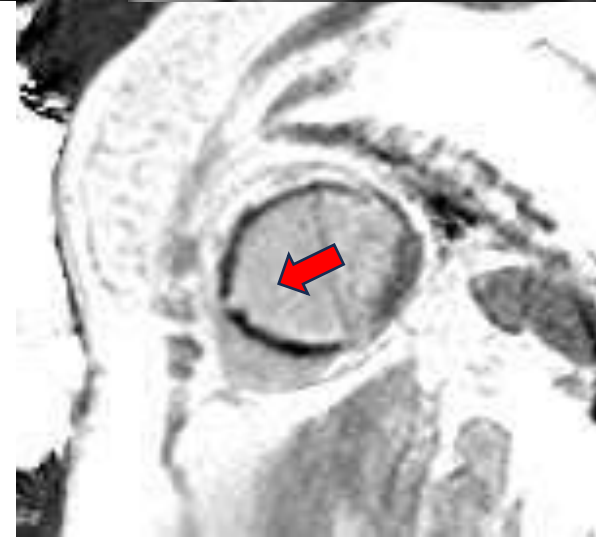
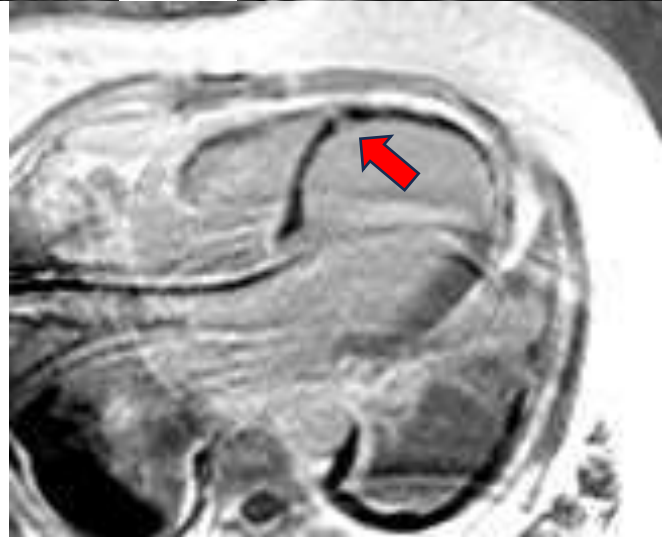
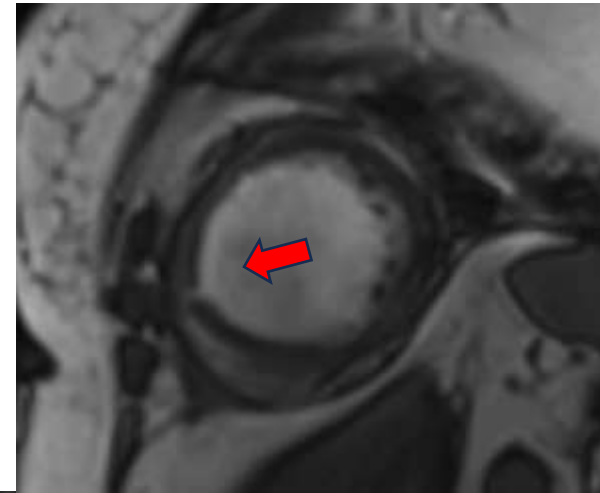
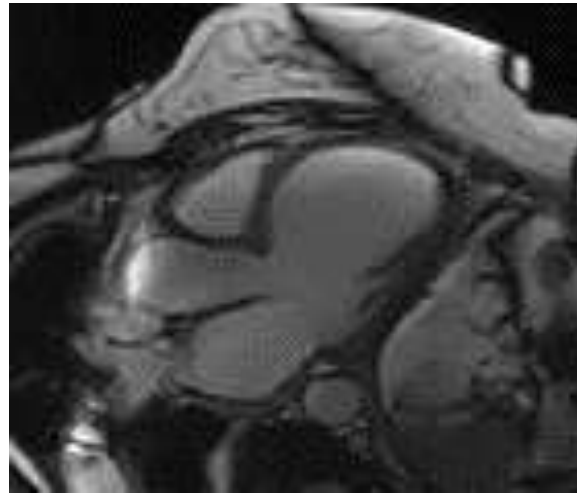
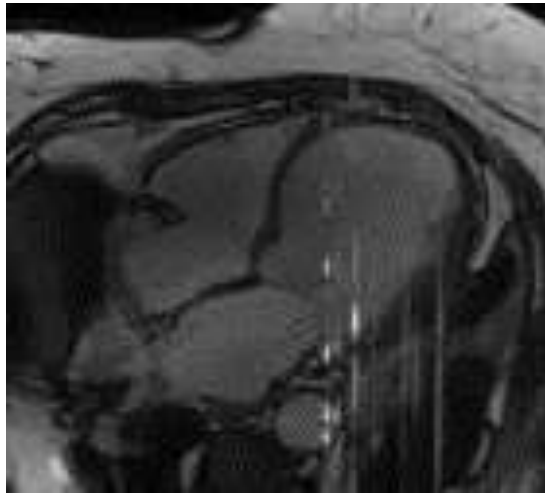


# CMR-Based Summary Table of Mechanical Complications:

Complication	CMR Clues	Clinical Implications
<b>Ventricular Septal Rupture (VSR)</b>	Septal discontinuity, turbulent flow, transmural LGE	Hemodynamic collapse, urgent surgery
<b>Free Wall Rupture / Pseudoaneurysm</b>	Contained rupture, narrow neck, pericardial LGE/thrombus	Risk of tamponade, emergency repair
<b>Papillary Muscle Rupture (PMR)</b>	Hypermobile or absent papillary muscle, severe MR	Acute heart failure, surgical correction
<b>LV Thrombus</b>	Low signal, non-enhancing apical mass on EGE, LGE	Embolic stroke risk, anticoagulation
<b>True LV Aneurysm</b>	Wide neck, transmural LGE, dyskinetic motion	Surgical vs conservative decision

# Ventricular septal rupture

- 69-year-old female with anterior STEMI 5-6 days ago
- EF 18%



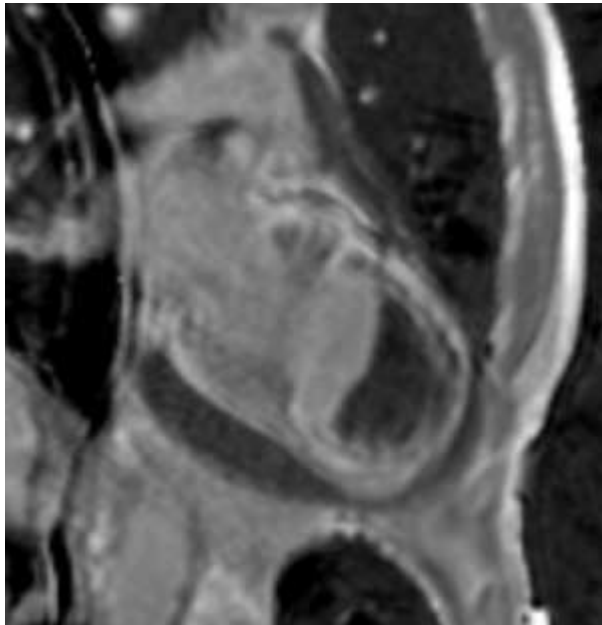
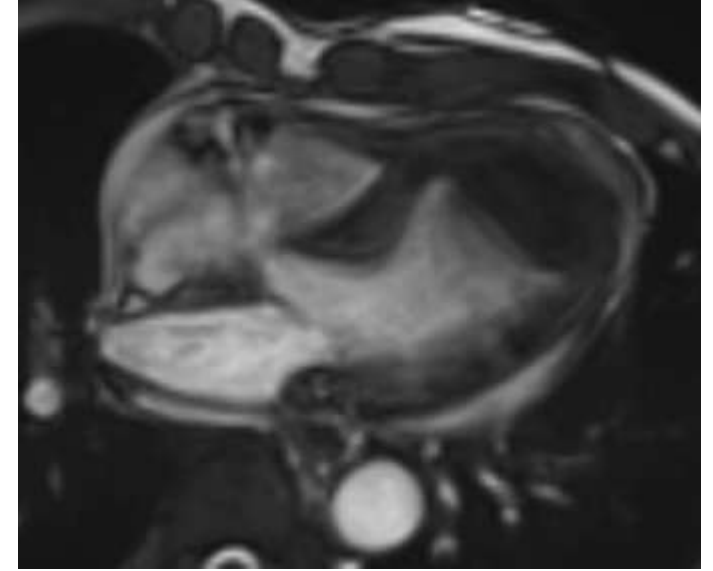
- Septal discontinuity
- transmural LGE, MVO



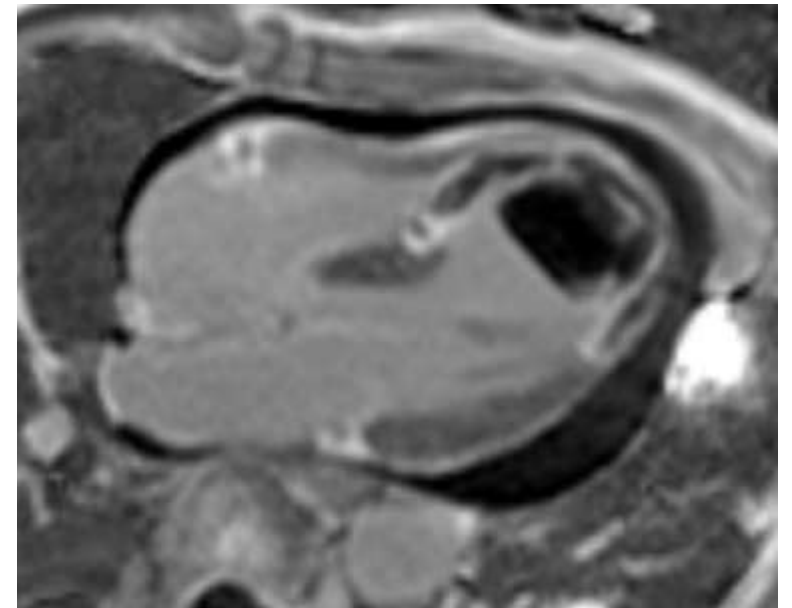
# Thrombus



- 63-year-old male, 1 month ago anterior STEMI
- LVEF 20%
- TTE giant mass in apex

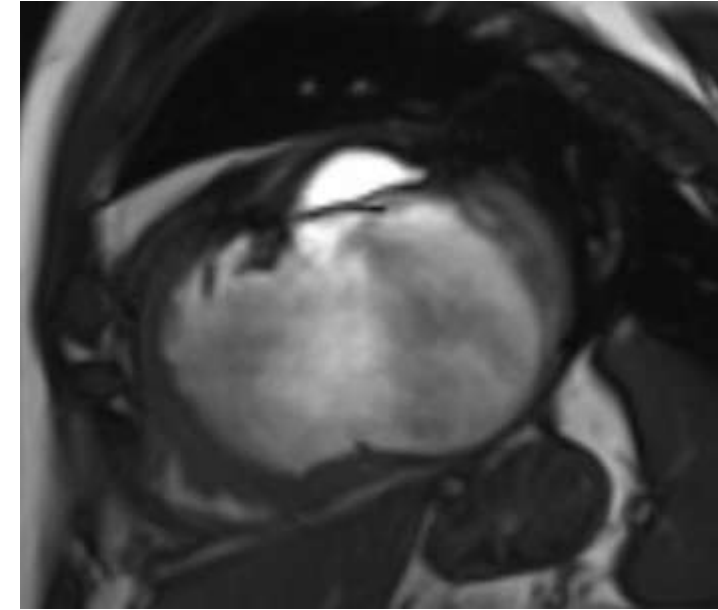
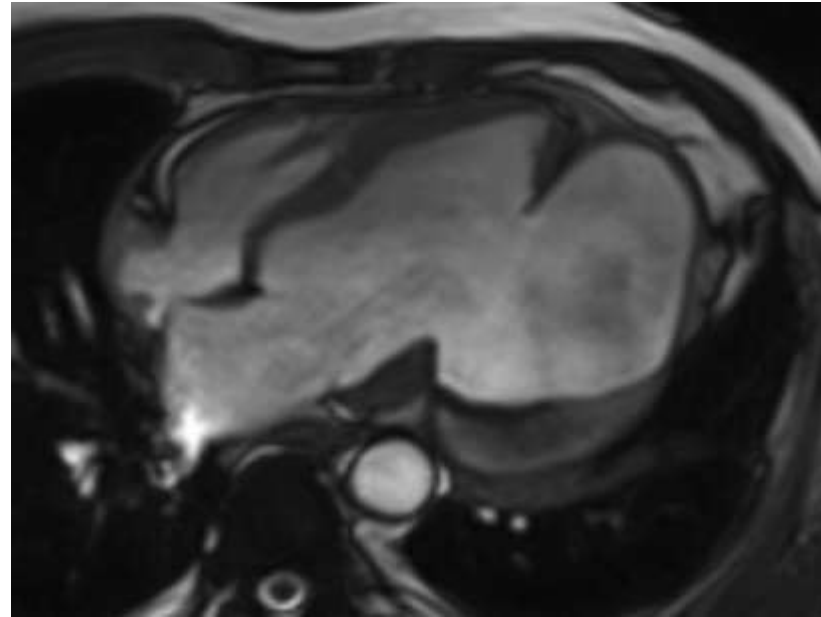


- Low signal
- non-enhancing apical mass on LGE

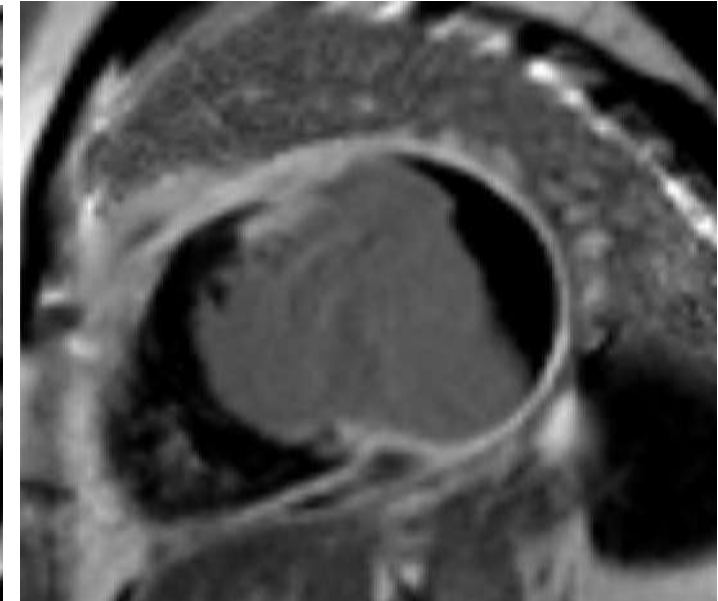
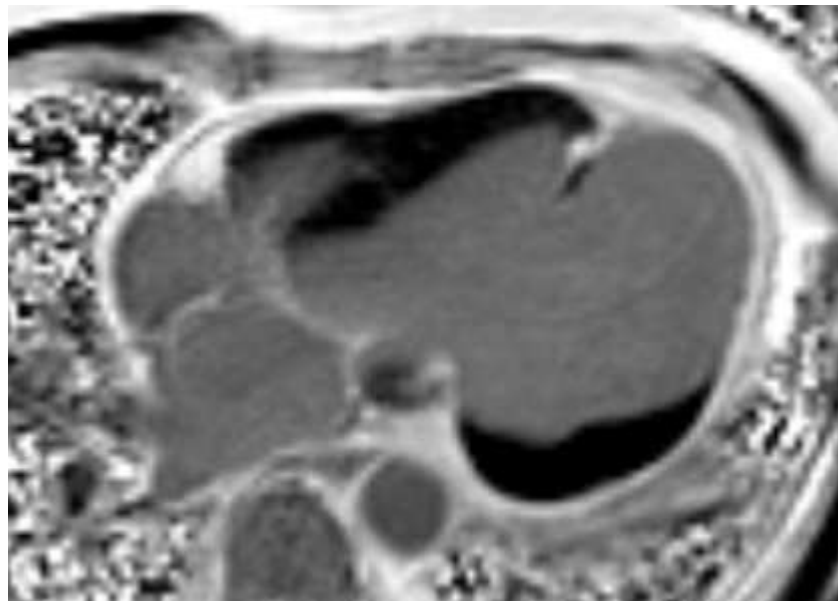


# Pseudoaneurysm

- 54-year-old male, anterior STEMI 20 days ago
- Persistent chest discomfort, hypotension
- Echo: suspicious outpouching near lateral wall

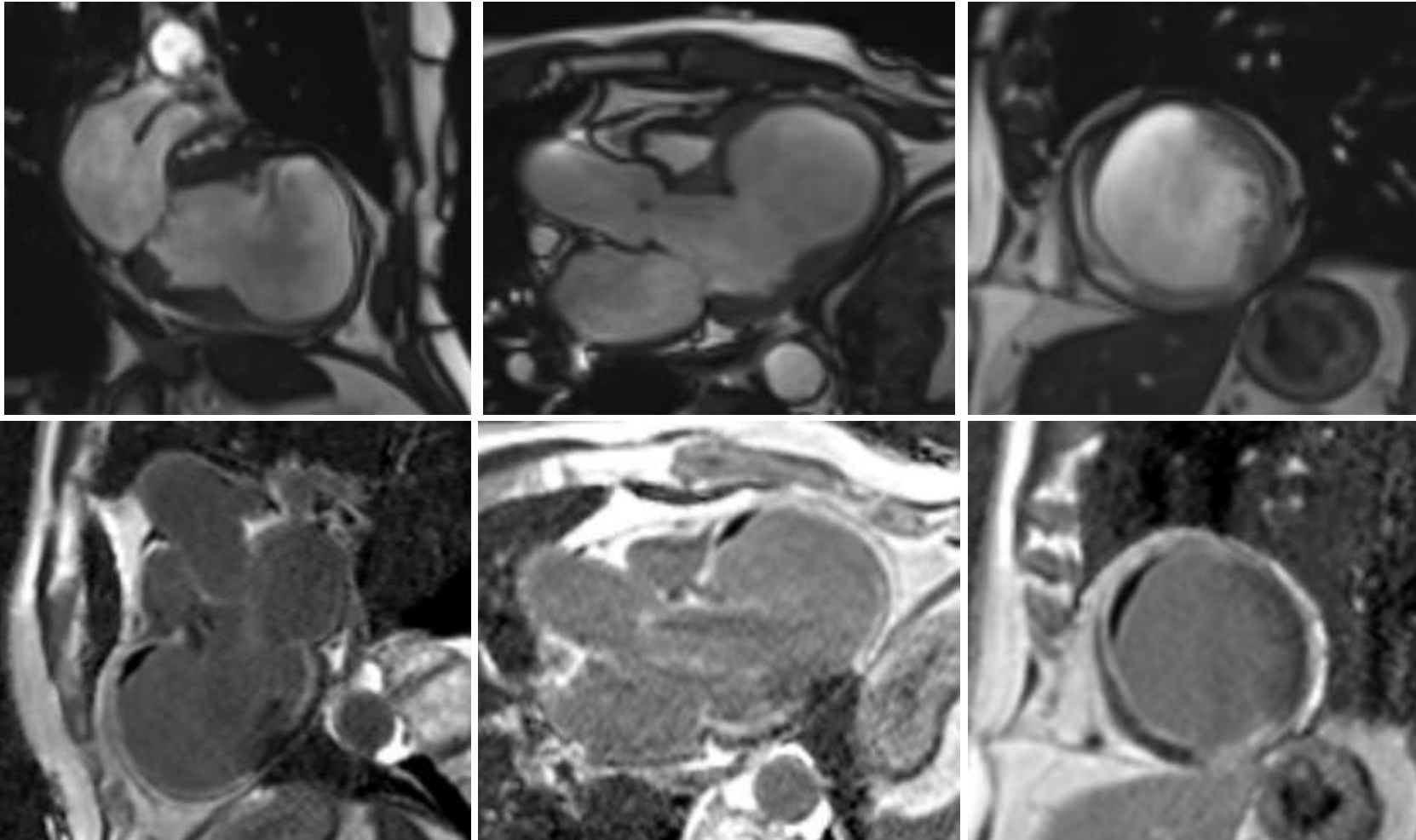


- **Cine:** Dyskinetic outpouching
- **LGE:** Transmural scar + pericardial enhancement + thrombus



# Aneurysm

- 66-year-old female with prior anterior STEMI (4 months ago)
- Dyspnea on exertion, EF 30%
- Echo: akinetic bulge in anterior wall



- **Cine:** Dyskinetic motion, wide neck
- **LGE:** Transmural infarction, intact wall



“CMR doesn't just show the heart—it tells its story.”

Thank you for your attention!

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