



CENNZ 2018

THE 27TH ANNUAL COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY NURSES NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE

NAPIER CONFERENCE CENTRE
26-27 October 2018, Hawke's Bay

Bias in our Thinking

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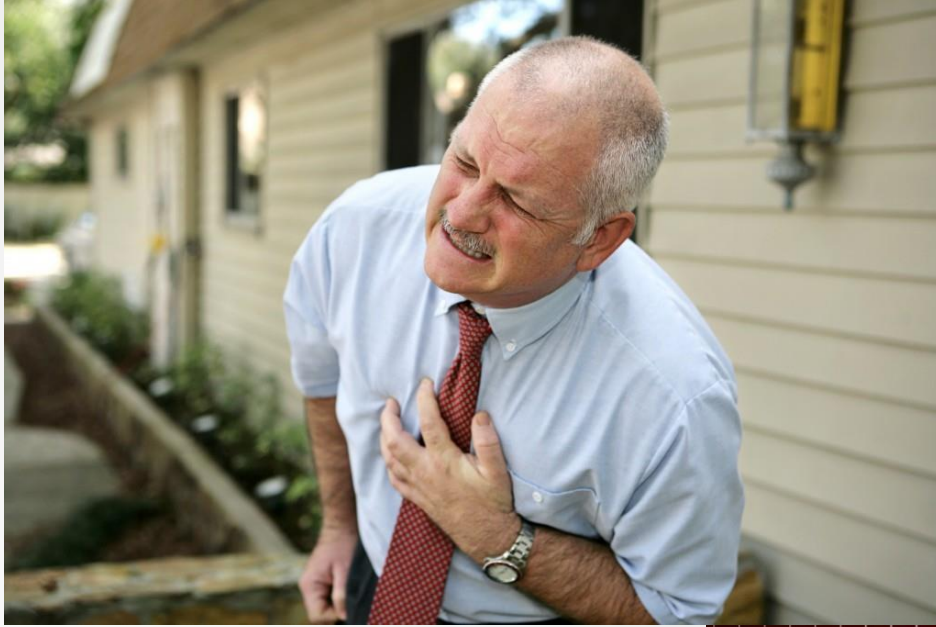


Diagnostic Failure Risk Factors

- **Fatigue**
- **Sleep deprivation**
- **Cognitive overload**

Case





Thinking about Chest Pain

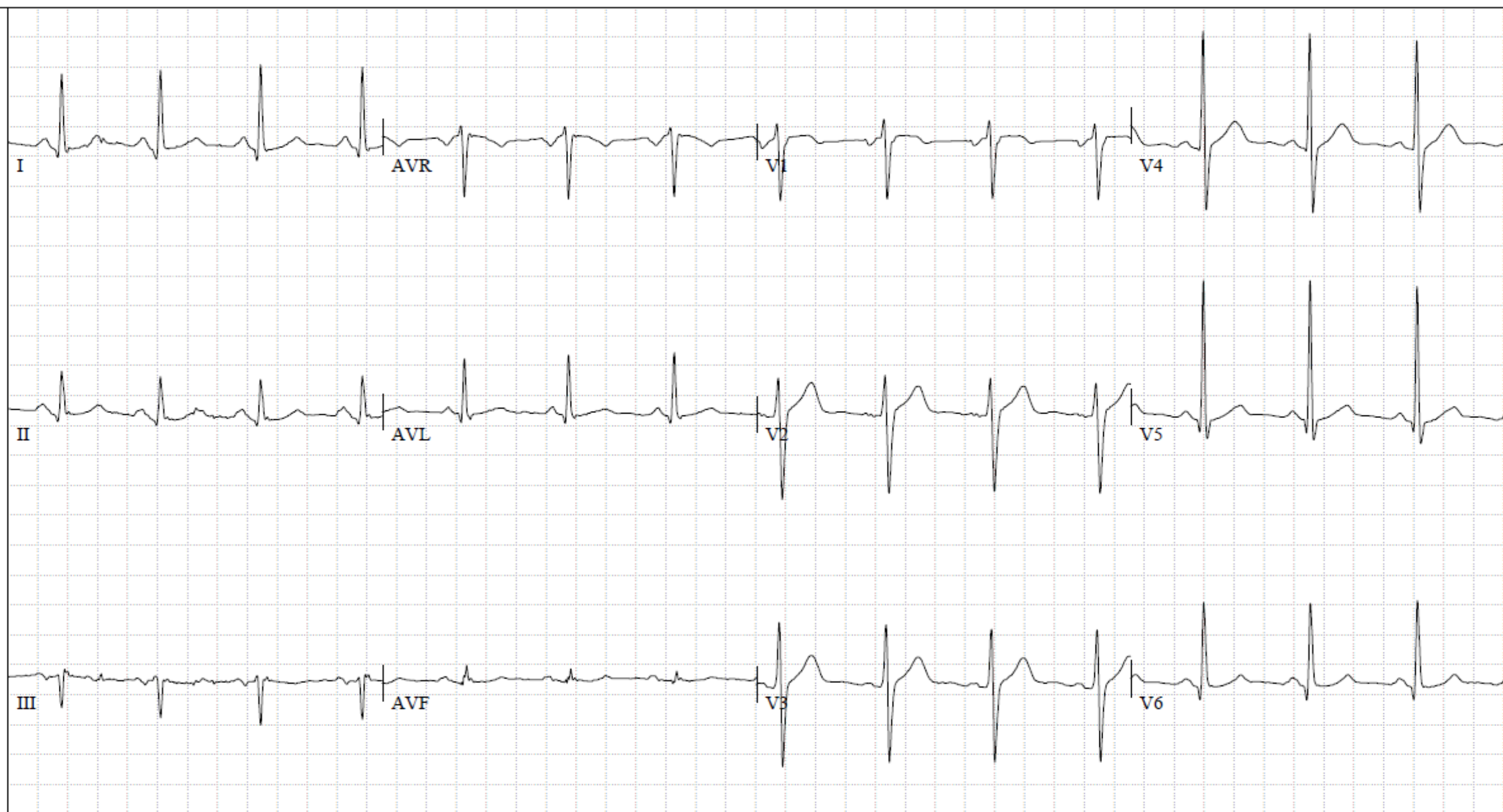


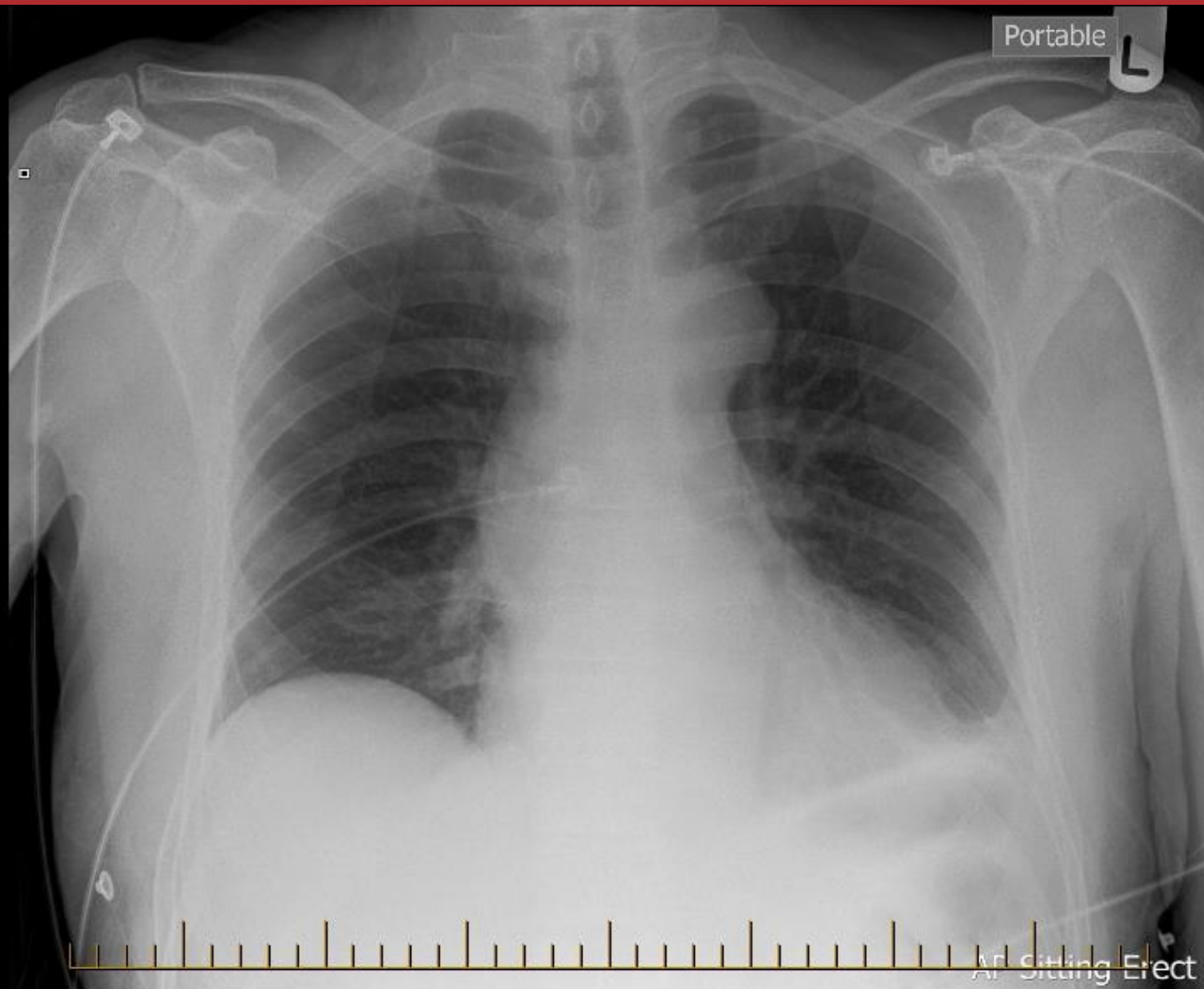
Case

Male, 65

- Central chest pain
 - Onset 0200
 - Retrosternal
 - No radiation
 - Worse on deep inspiration
- No SOB/collapse/palpitations

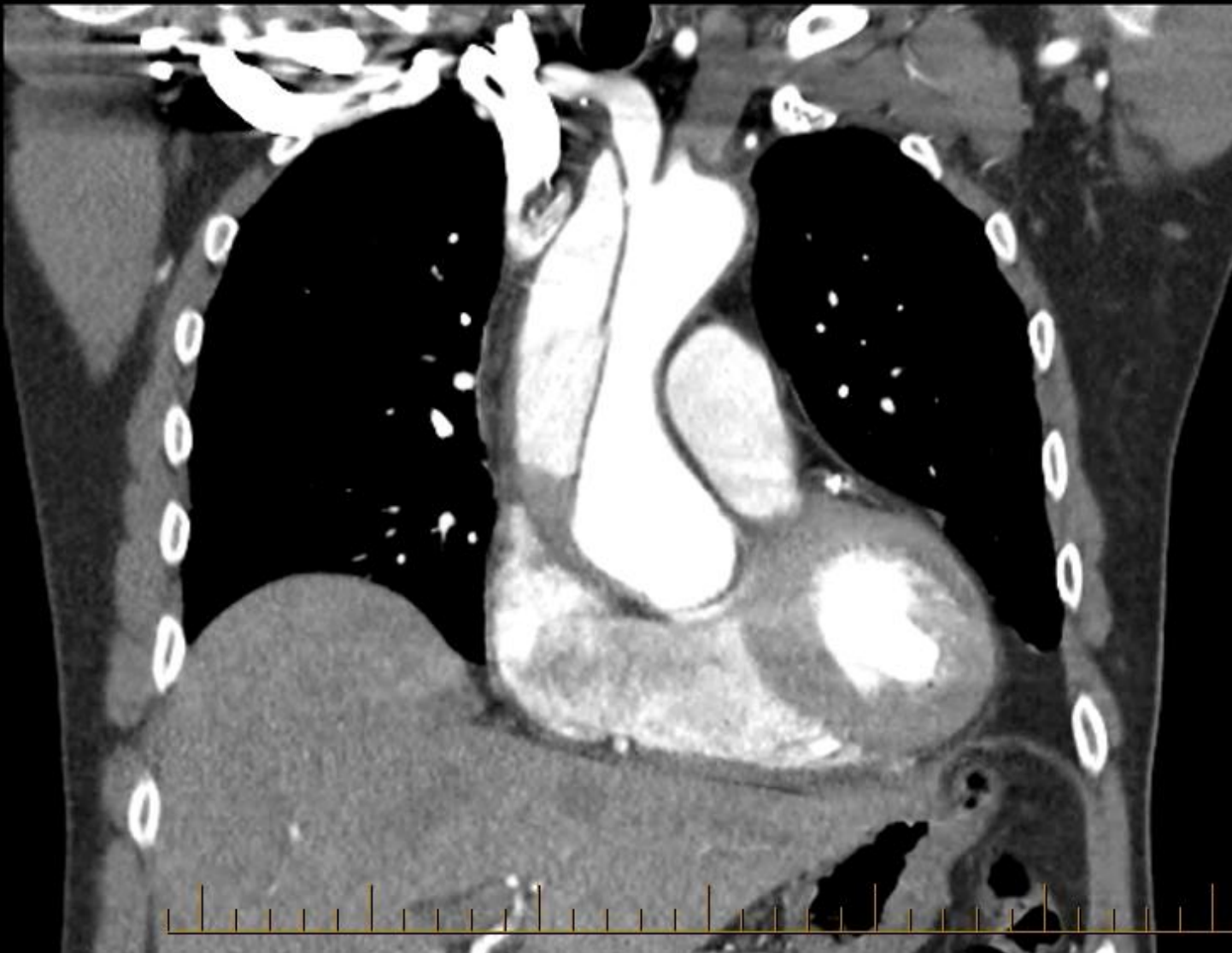






Clues







Aortic Dissection

1. Uncommon -> 2-3/100,000/yr
(ACS = 400/100,000/yr)

2. Deadly - 1-2%/hr

Acute Type A mortality = 50% in the first 48 hours if not operated
90% 1 month mortality

3. Difficult to diagnose

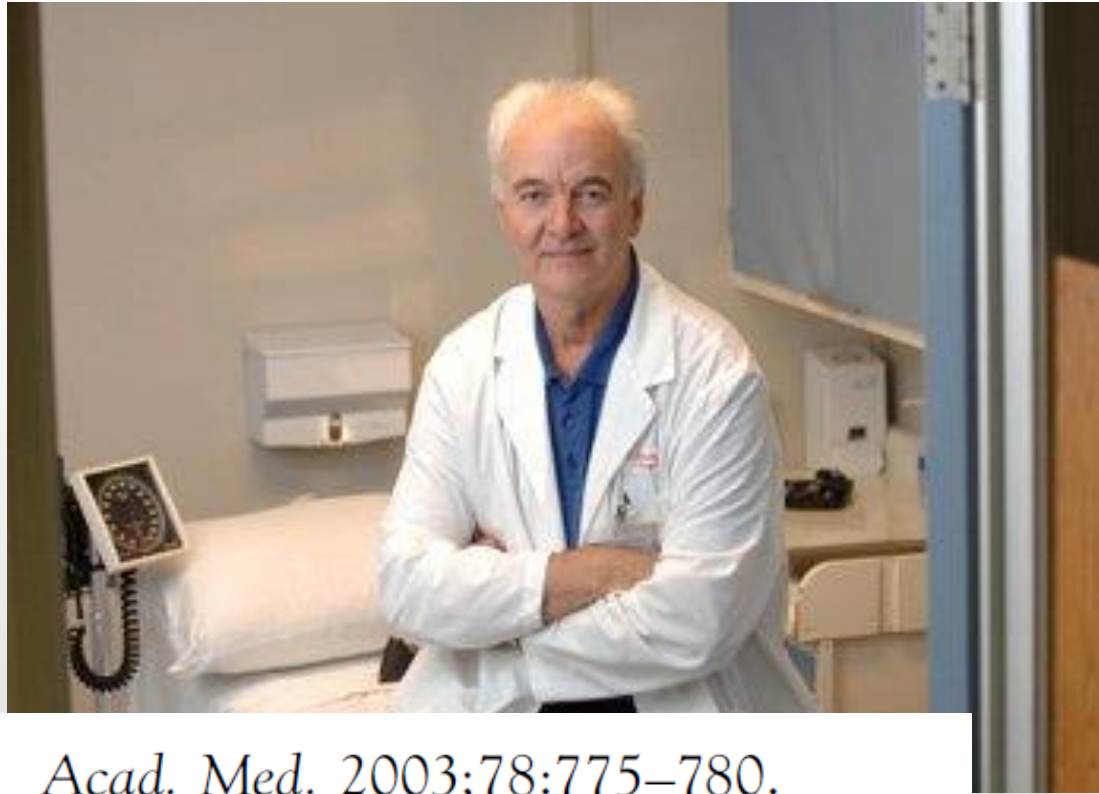
it is '*almost the standard of care to miss this diagnosis*'

John Elefteriades (chief of CT surgery at Yale)

38% missed on initial evaluation

28% only diagnosed at autopsy





Acad. Med. 2003;78:775–780.

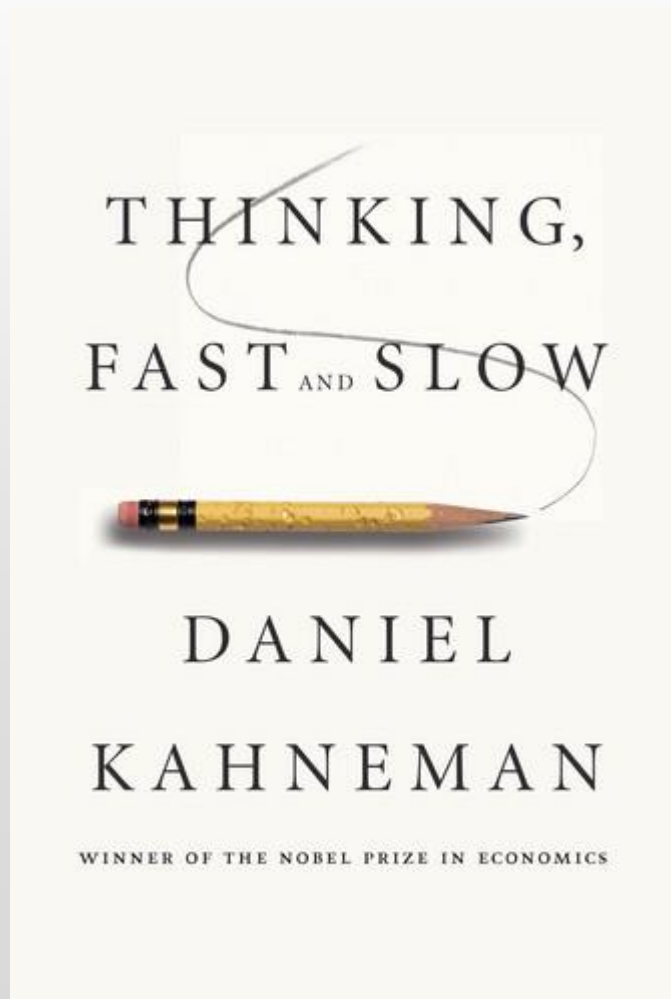
The Importance of Cognitive Errors in Diagnosis and Strategies to Minimize Them

Pat Croskerry, MD, PhD

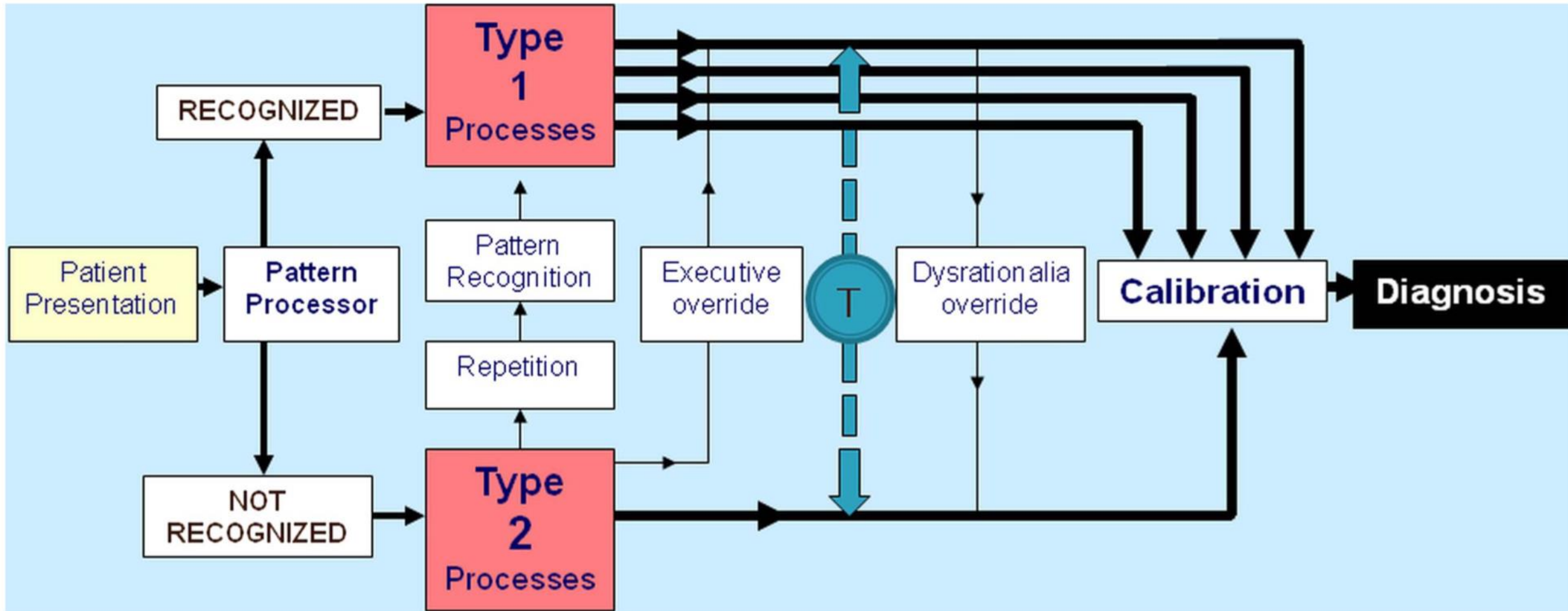
Why do we make diagnostic errors?

- **Availability**
- **Anchoring**
- **Confirmation Bias**
- **Premature Closure**
- **Representativeness Restraint**

How do we make a diagnosis



How do we make a diagnosis



H

Table 4 Main clinical presentations and complications of patients with acute aortic dissection

	Type A	Type B
Chest pain	80%	70%
Back pain	40%	70%
Abrupt onset of pain	85%	85%
Migrating pain	<15%	20%
Aortic regurgitation	40–75%	N/A
Cardiac tamponade	<20%	N/A
Myocardial ischaemia or infarction	10–15%	10%
Heart failure	<10%	<5%
Pleural effusion	15%	20%
Syncope	15%	<5%
Major neurological deficit (coma/stroke)	<10%	<5%
Spinal cord injury	<1%	NR
Mesenteric ischaemia	<5%	NR
Acute renal failure	<20%	10%
Lower limb ischaemia	<10%	<10%

NR = not reported; NA = not applicable. Percentages are approximated.

present?

“Classical” Presentation *is* Atypical

5 Tips to *reduce* your miss rate

Tip 1

Symptoms above and below the diaphragm

5 Tips to *reduce* your miss rate

Tip 2

**The “chest pain and....”
syndrome**

5 Tips to *reduce* your miss rate

Tip 3

**Acute, Severe,
Unexplained chest pain**

5 Tips to reduce your miss rate



5 Tips to *reduce* your miss rate

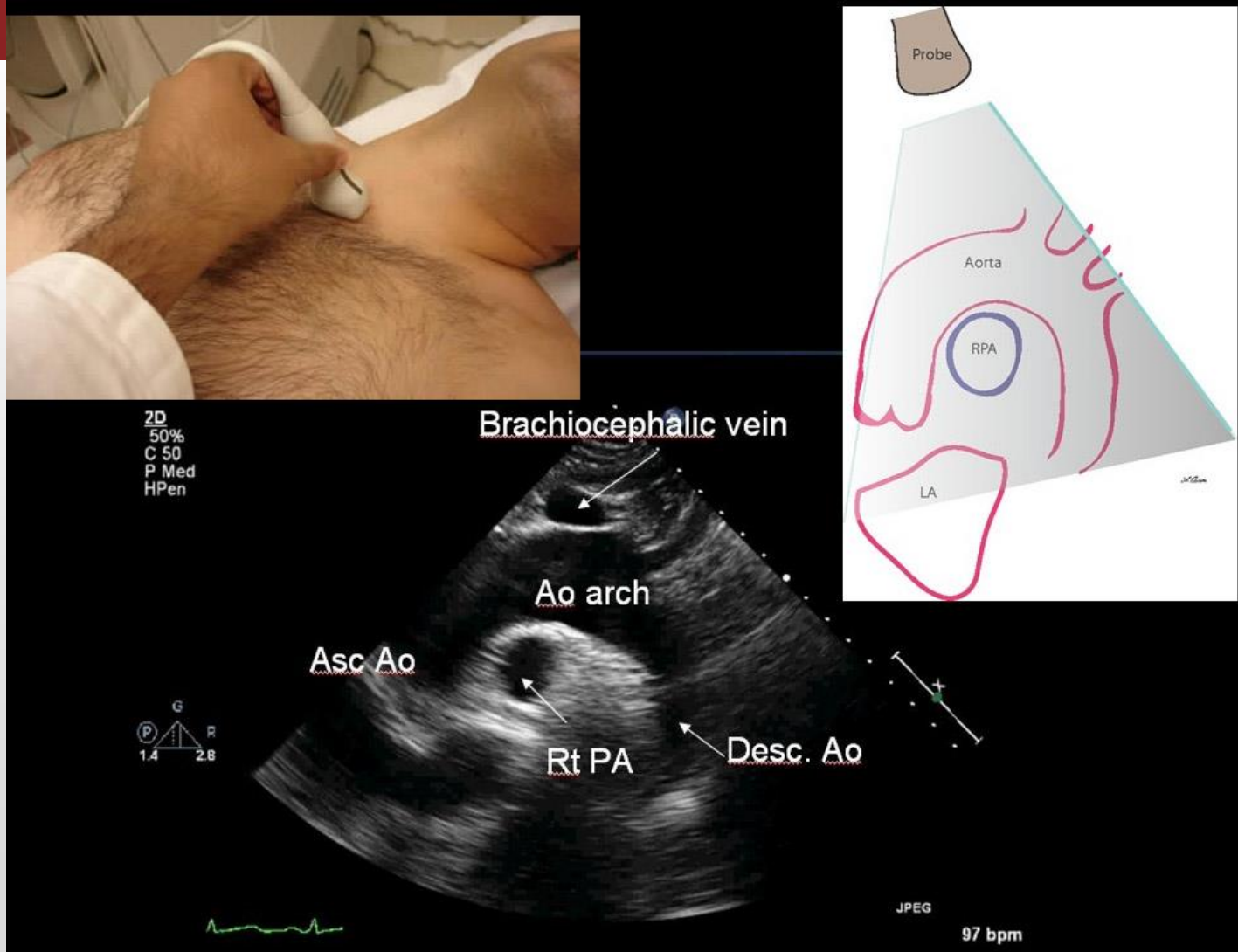
Tip 5

The patient who “looks bad”

D-dimer

- 220 patients with initial suspicion of having acute aortic dissection
- Sensitivity 96.6% (95% CI, 90.3 to 99.3)
- Specificity was 46.6% (95% CI, 37.9 to 55.5)

Bedside USS



Case resolution

- Rx:
 - Fentanyl/Morphine
 - Labetalol
- Transferred to Wellington
- Surgery same day
- Discharged 5 days post-op



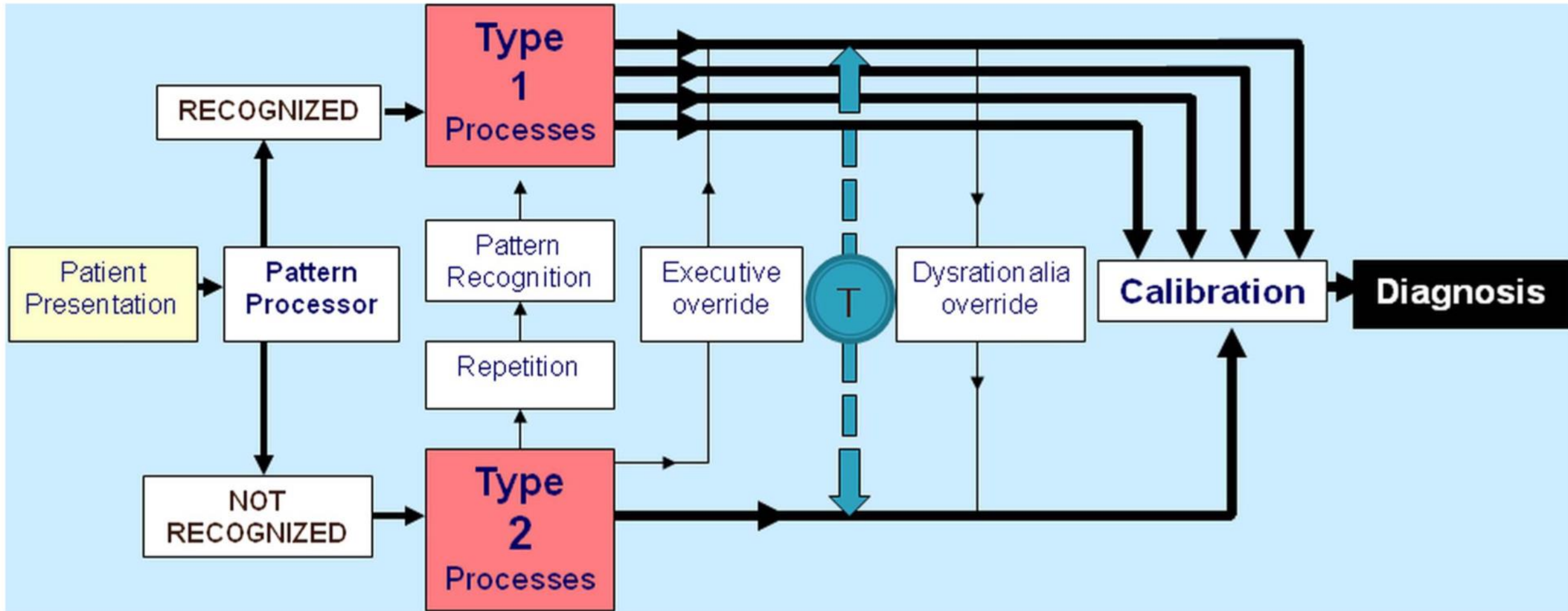
Summary

1. Chest pain = Aortic dissection
 2. Don't CT every chest pain patient!
 3. Be aware of your cognitive biases and develop strategies to check them
 4. Have insight into your thinking
- Chest pain = ?aortic dissection
 - Collapse = ?aortic dissection
 - Back pain = ?aortic dissection
 - Symptoms above and below diaphragm = ?aortic dissection

Diagnostic Processing



How do we make a diagnosis



A Universal Model of Diagnostic Reasoning

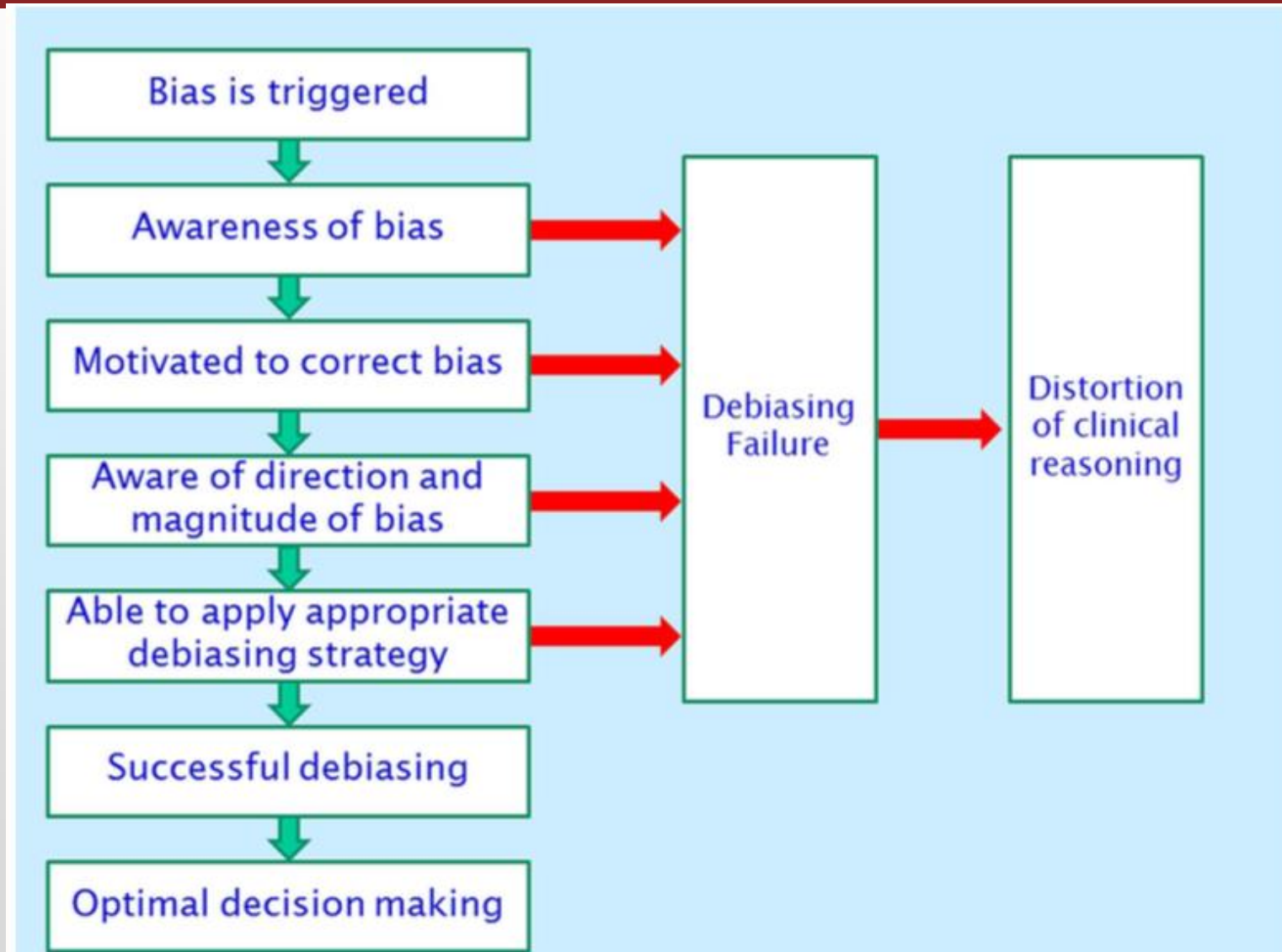
Pat Croskerry, MD, PhD

Acad Med. 2009; 84:1022-1028.

Debiasing



Successful Steps in Cognitive Debiasing



Case 1



Case 1

- **55 yr old male**
- **Constipation**

Case 2



Case 2

- 19 yr old female
- Depression
- Anxiety

Quality of Decision Making Influenced by

- **Ambient conditions**
- **Individual factors**

High Risk for Bias Situations

High-risk situation	Potential biases
1. Was this patient handed off to me from a previous shift?	Diagnosis momentum, framing
2. Was the diagnosis suggested to me by the patient, nurse or another physician?	Premature closure, framing bias
3. Did I just accept the first diagnosis that came to mind?	Anchoring, availability, search satisficing, premature closure
4. Did I consider other organ systems besides the obvious one?	Anchoring, search satisficing, premature closure
5. Is this a patient I don't like, or like too much, for some reason?	Affective bias
6. Have I been interrupted or distracted while evaluating this patient?	All biases
7. Am I feeling fatigued right now?	All biases
8. Did I sleep poorly last night?	All biases
9. Am I cognitively overloaded or overextended right now?	All biases
10. Am I stereotyping this patient?	Representative bias, affective bias, anchoring, fundamental attribution error, psych out error
11. Have I effectively ruled out must-not-miss diagnoses?	Overconfidence, anchoring, confirmation bias

Other Cases



Case 3



- 23 yr old male
- Odd behaviour
- Never really fit in



Case 4





Case 5





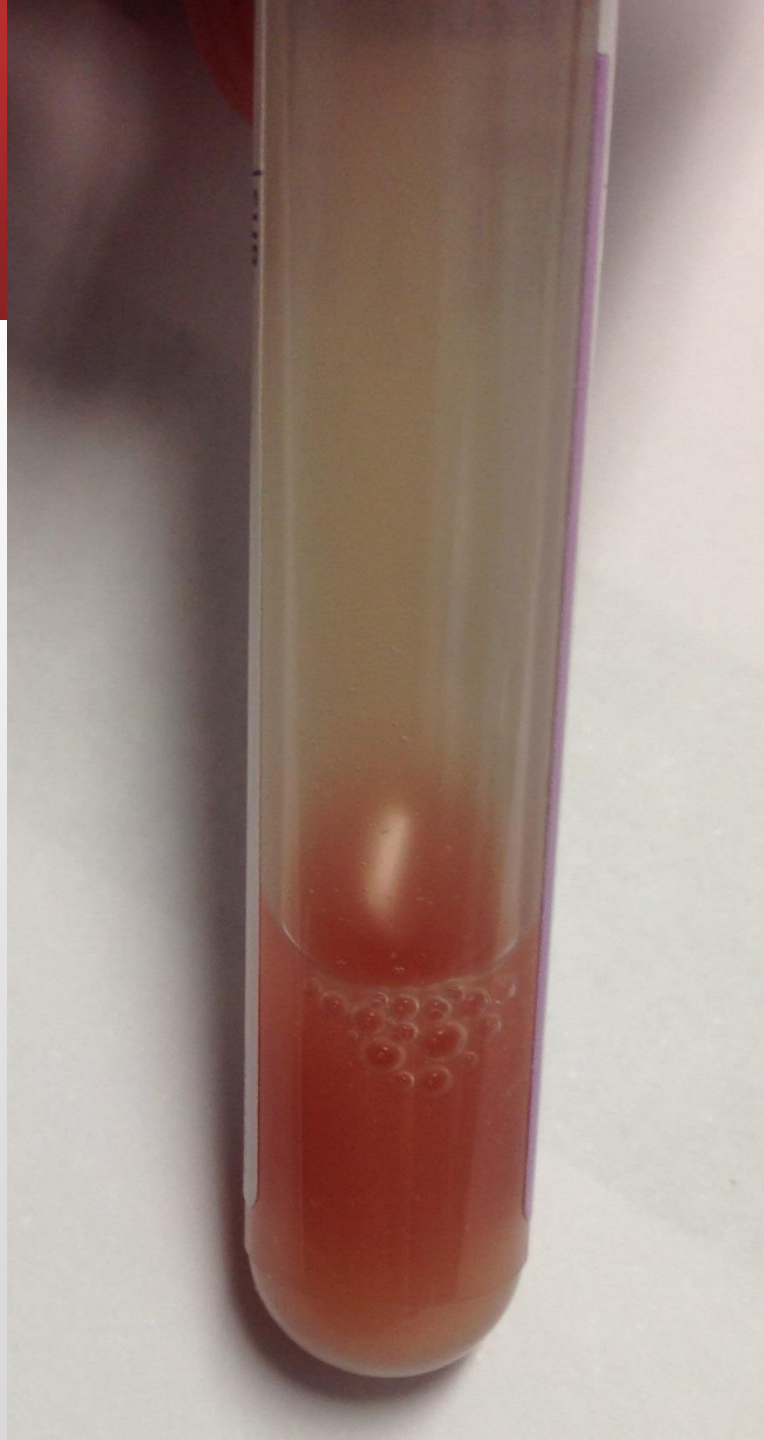




Case 6







Case 7





Summary

- Bias is common
- Types of processing
 - Type 1 / Fast
 - Type 2 / Slow
- High risk bias situations
- Debiasing techniques

Case 8

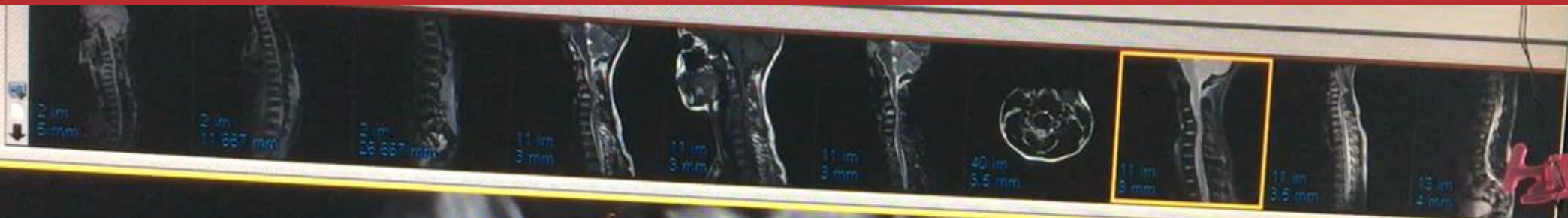


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18 X-ray C SPINE
18 MR MRI SPINE CERV
18 CT CTA ARCH CARC
18 X-ray CHEST C SPINE

Show More



3 PM

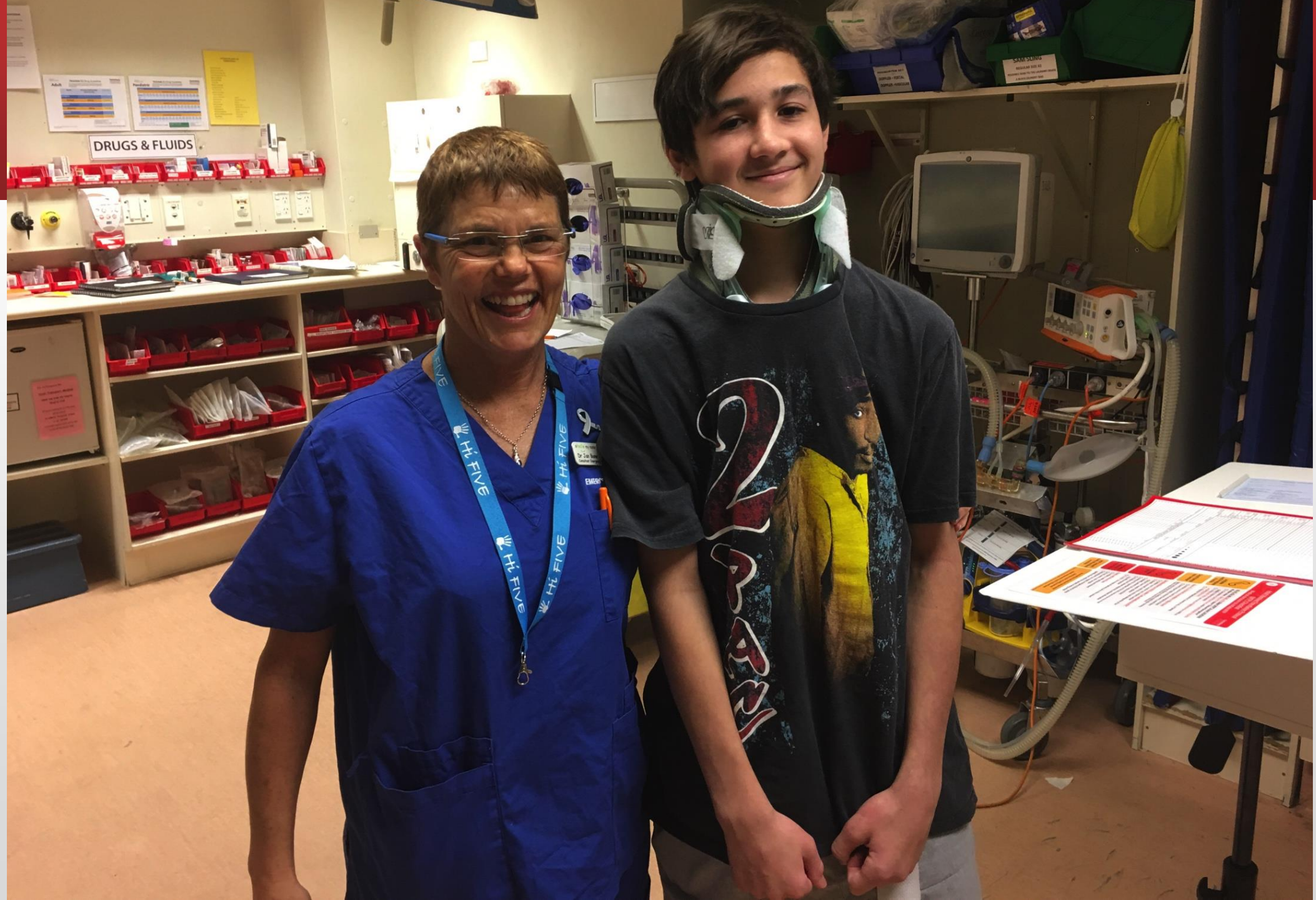


Christchurch Hospital
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Zoom: 264
Compression: 6:1 (lossless)
W: 494 L: 208









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