

ABCDs

of Myxomatous Mitral Valve Disease (MMVD) in Dogs



MMVD

is the most common form of heart disease in dogs. Mitral valve thickening and prolapse cause ineffective closure, causing the valve to leak (regurgitation). Valvular regurgitation causes cardiac chamber enlargement and, in some patients, can progress to congestive heart failure (CHF).

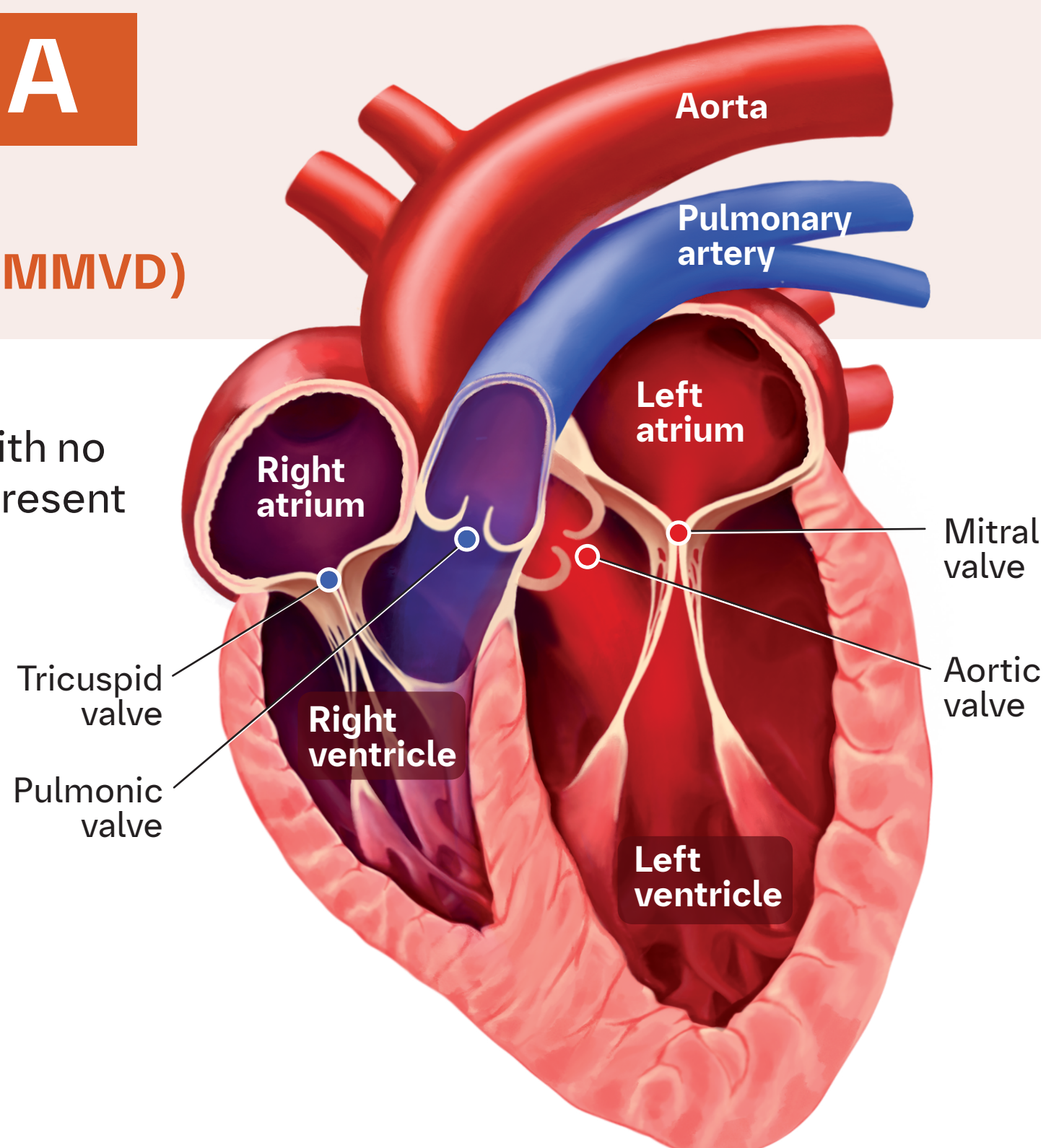


No Medication Indicated

Stage A

At Risk
(for developing MMVD)

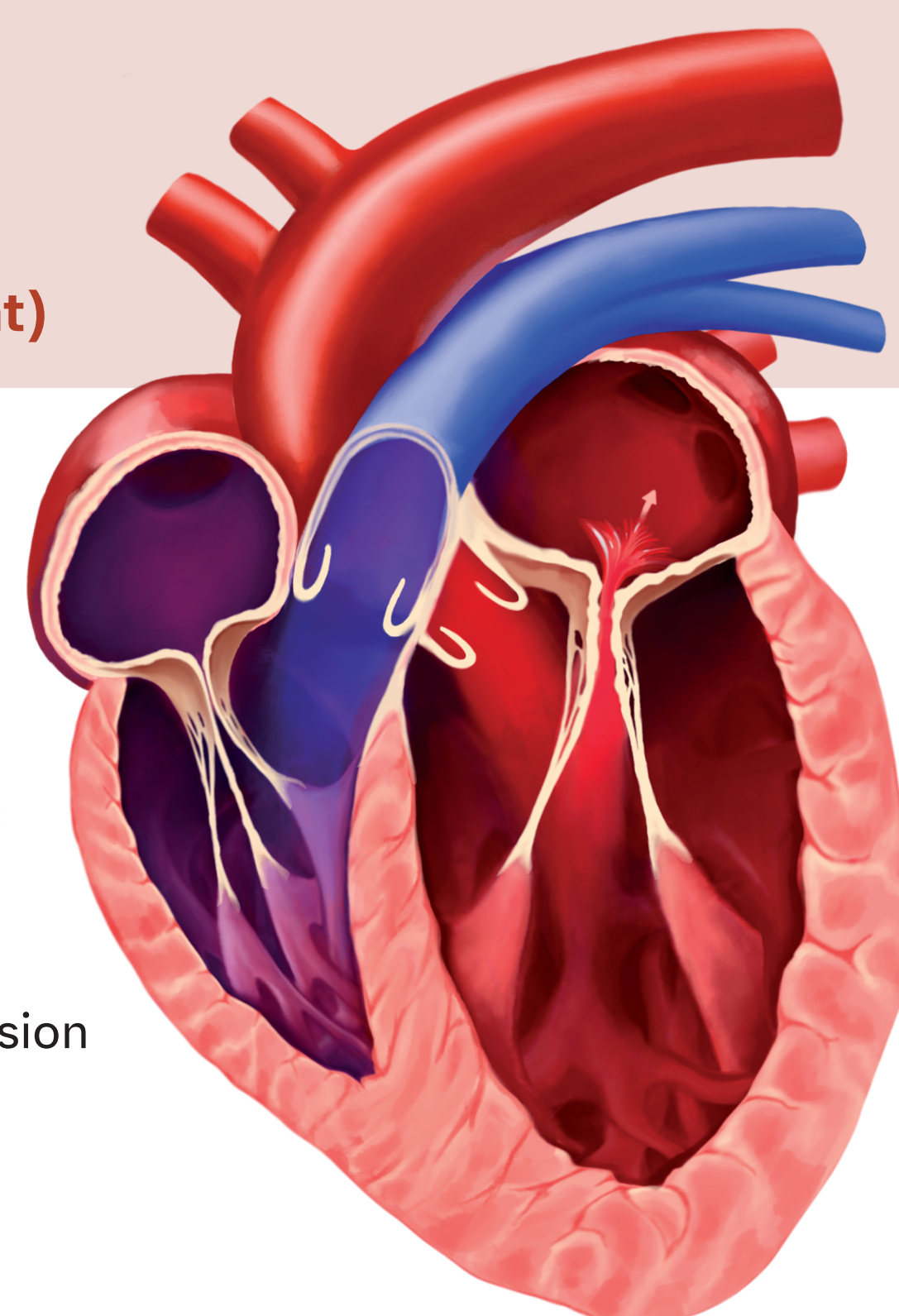
- Healthy dogs with no heart murmur present
- Re-evaluation recommended to monitor for development of a heart murmur



Stage B1

Mild MMVD
(with a heart murmur present)

- The heart is not large enough to benefit from medication
- Heart enlargement can be evaluated by radiographs (x-rays) or an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart)
- Re-evaluation recommended to monitor for disease progression

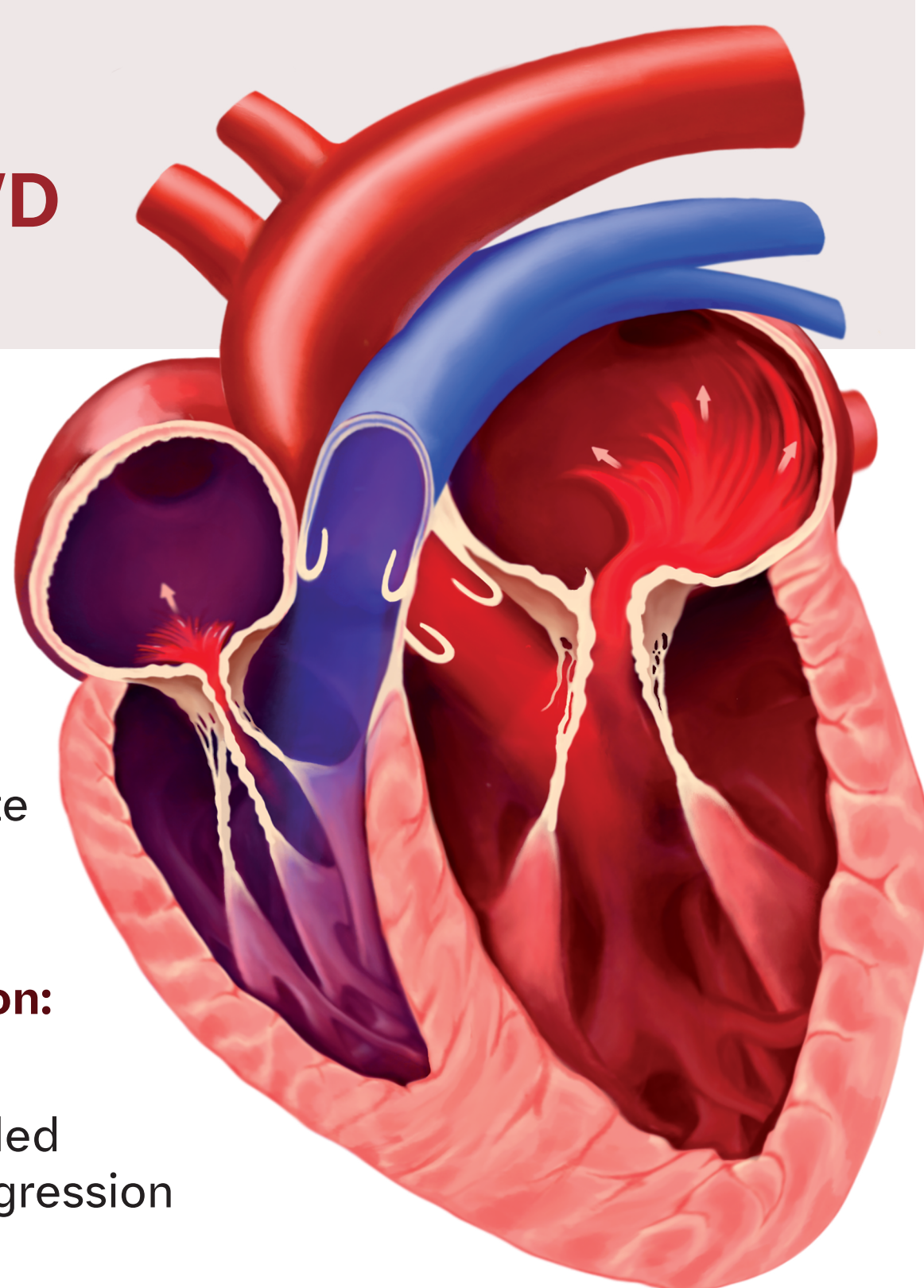


Medication(s) Indicated

Stage B2

Progressive MMVD

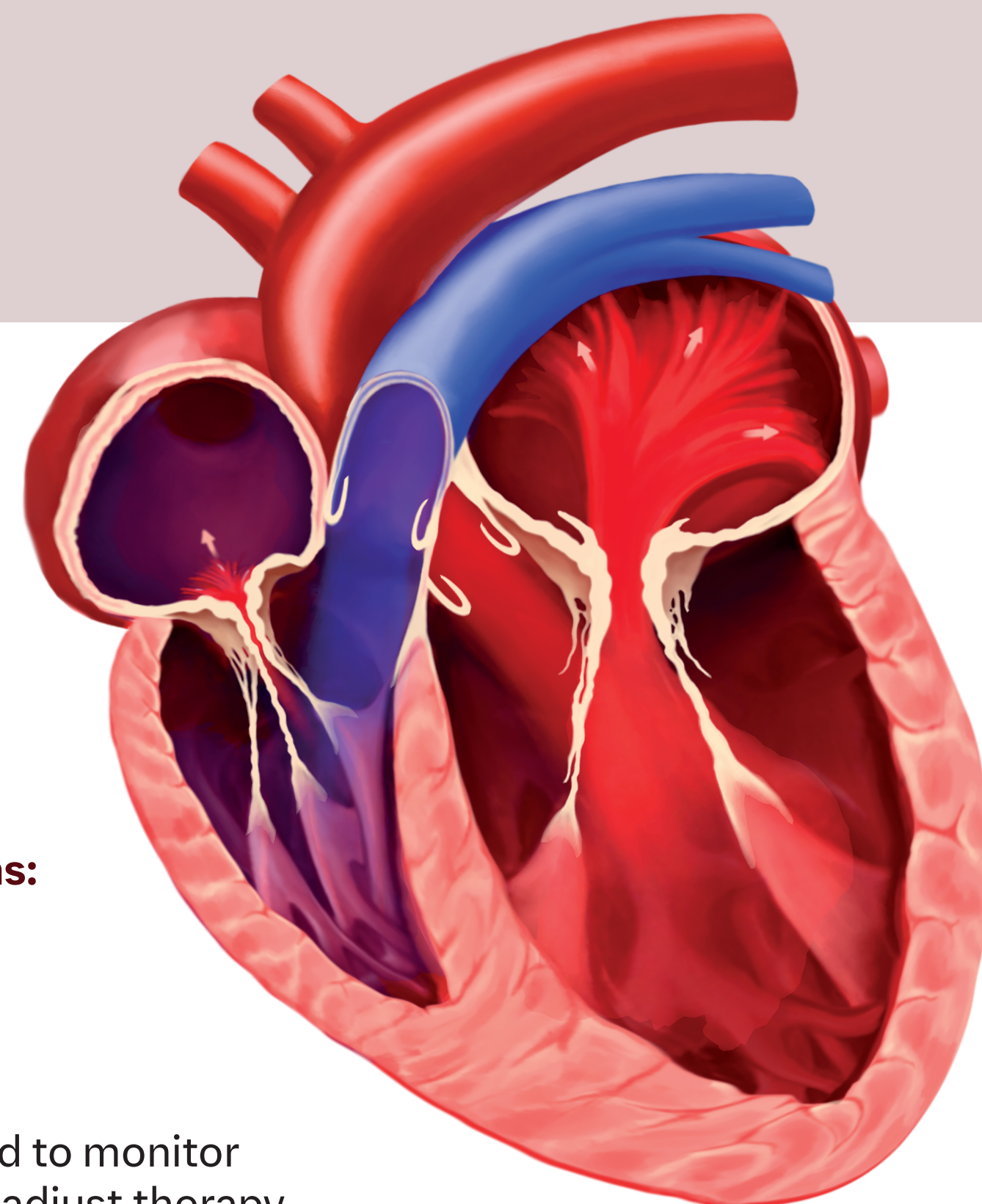
- The heart is large enough to benefit from pimobendan therapy
- An echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart) or radiographs (x-rays) are required to differentiate Stage B1 MMVD from Stage B2 MMVD
- **Recommended medication: pimobendan**
- Re-evaluation recommended to monitor for disease progression



Stage C

Advanced MMVD
(with CHF)

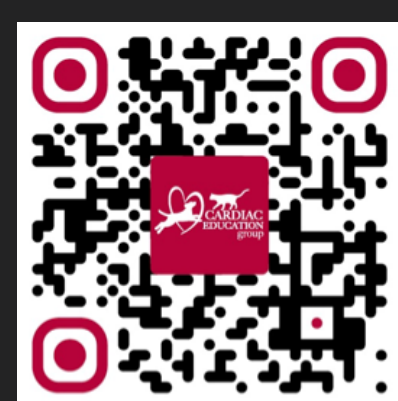
- The heart disease has become severe enough to cause symptoms of CHF (e.g., difficulty breathing)
- Radiographs (x-rays) and/or ultrasound of the heart and lungs help confirm the diagnosis
- **Recommended medications: pimobendan, furosemide, angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE)-inhibitor, spironolactone**
- Re-evaluation recommended to monitor for resolution of CHF and to adjust therapy as needed



Stage D

Refractory MMVD

- Persistent symptoms in dogs with advanced MMVD despite use of standard doses of recommended medications
- Dose changes or additional medications may be beneficial
- Consultation with a cardiologist is recommended



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