CLINICAL "SNIPPETS"

Direction of blood flow from the left ventricle during cardiopulmonary resuscitation in humans-its implications for mechanism of blood flow.

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Overview: This study explored the role of the left ventricle in generating forward blood flow during standard CPR in humans by observing the direction of blood flow during CPR.

Conclusions: Retrograde flow to the left atrium and forward blood flow onto the aorta on left ventricular contrast echocardiography during the compression phase suggests that extrinsic compression of the left ventricle by external chest compression acts as a pump in generating blood flow during standard CPR in humans.