Congestive Heart Failure  
Assessment Tools

New York Heart Association Functional Classification

Class I
No limitations of physical activity
Ordinary physical activity does not cause undue fatigue, dyspnea, or palpitations

Class II
Slight limitation of physical activity
Comfortable at rest
Ordinary physical activity results in fatigue, palpitations, dyspnea, or angina

Class III
Marked limitation of physical activity
Comfortable at rest
Less than ordinary activity will lead to symptoms

Class IV
Symptoms at rest
Inability to carry out any physical activity without discomfort
Without any physical activity, increased discomfort is experienced

New York Heart Association/Little Brown and Company, 1964

ACC/AHA Heart Failure Stage

Stage A
At high risk for heart failure but without structural heart disease or symptoms of heart failure (e.g., HTN, CAD, DM, family history of cardiomyopathy)

Stage B
Structural heart disease but without symptoms of heart failure (e.g., previous MI, LV systolic dysfunction, asymptomatic valvular disease)

Stage C
Structural heart disease with prior or current symptoms of heart failure (e.g., structural heart disease, shortness of breath and fatigue, reduced exercise tolerance)

Stage D
Refractory heart failure requiring specialized interventions (e.g., marked symptoms at rest despite maximal medical therapy)