

Right Side Heart Failure

Right dead heart

Pulmonary vasculature will undergo vasoconstriction due to chronic hypoxia, related to chronic bronchitis. This vasoconstriction can lead to pulmonary hypertension, and eventually, enlargement of the right ventricle of the heart (cor pulmonale). As the right ventricle enlarges, right-sided heart failure may also develop.

Jugular Venous Distention (JVD)

Jug Veins Bulging

When the right side of the heart fails, the ability to pump blood through the heart and into the lungs is reduced. As a result, blood begins to back up into the vasculature, and can cause neck vein distension or jugular venous distention (JVD).

Peripheral Edema

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Right heart failure leads to decreased cardiac pumping power, which ultimately affects the forward flow of blood. Remember, if the right side of the heart is unable to pump blood to the lungs, the blood will back up into the vasculature, causing peripheral edema.