

# Stiffness & edema

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# Disclosure

**No conflicts of interest**



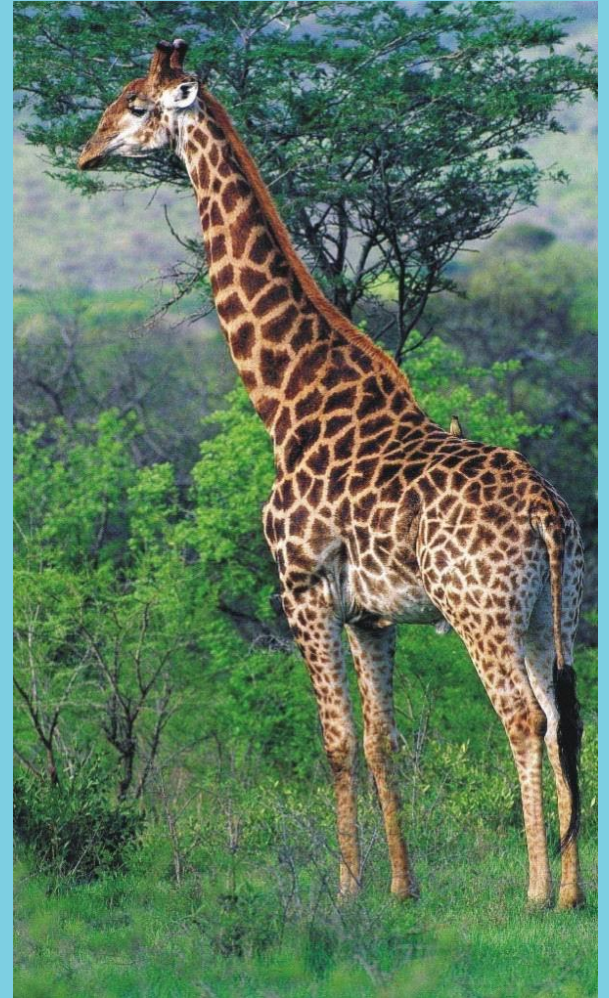
# Edema

- **Many courses**
  - **Cardiac: decompensation**
  - **Renal failure**
  - **Hypoproteinemia**
  - **Inflammation**
  - **Infection**
  - **Dependency**
  - **Lymphatic**
  - **etc**



# The human factor

- The Skin





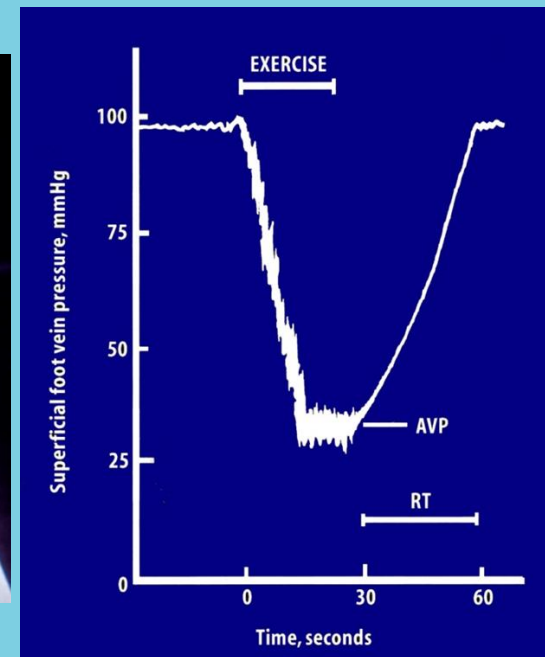
# Venous edema as example

- Venous edema = venous decompensation



**Gravity.**

It's not just a good idea.  
It's the Law.



# From vein to skin

**Macro-circulation**  
*GSV / SSV / deep veins*



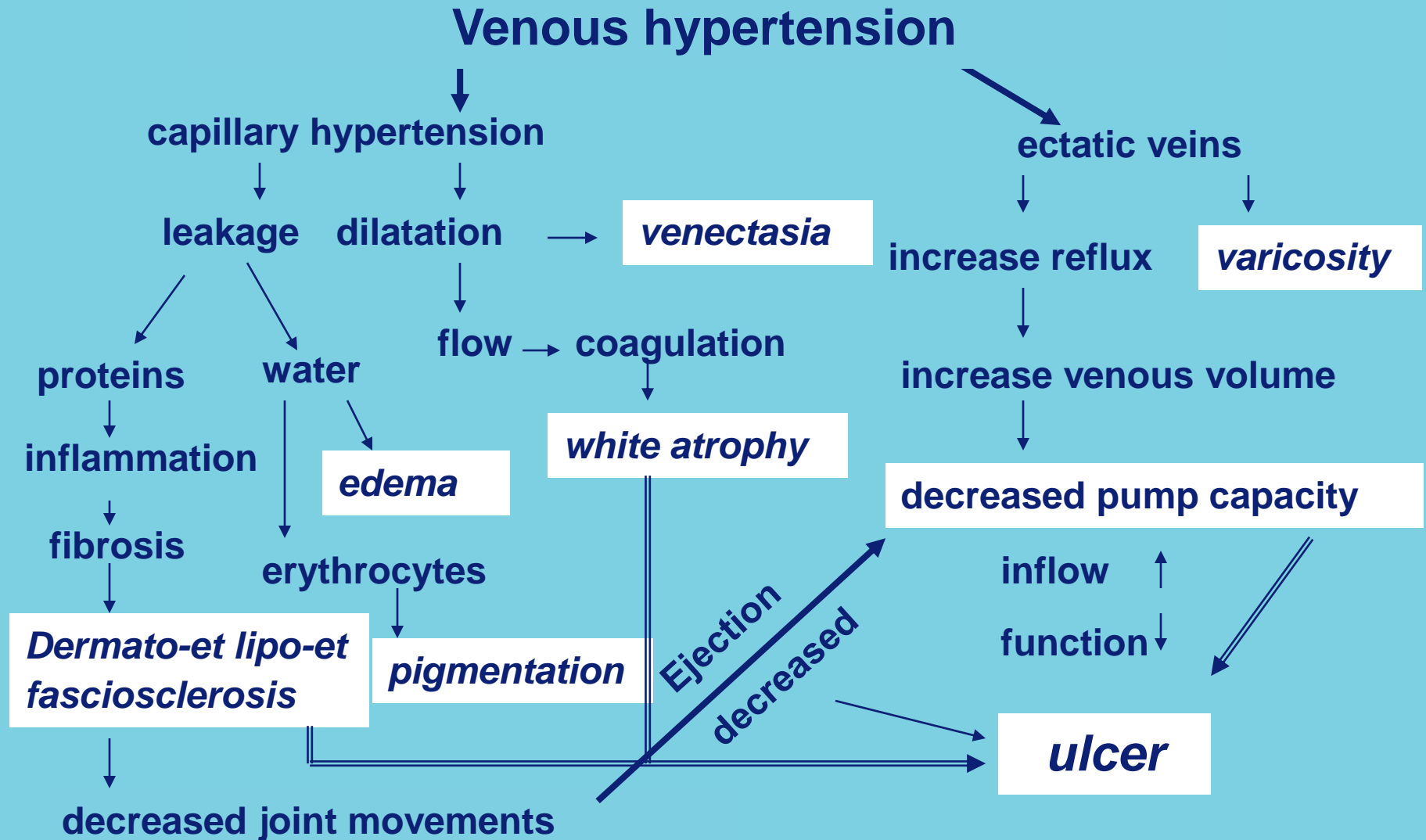
**Micro-circulation**



**Skin**



# Rotterdam model



**Cardiovascular Research (2010) 87, 198–210**

## **SPOTLIGHT REVIEW**

# **Microvascular fluid exchange and the revised Starling principle**

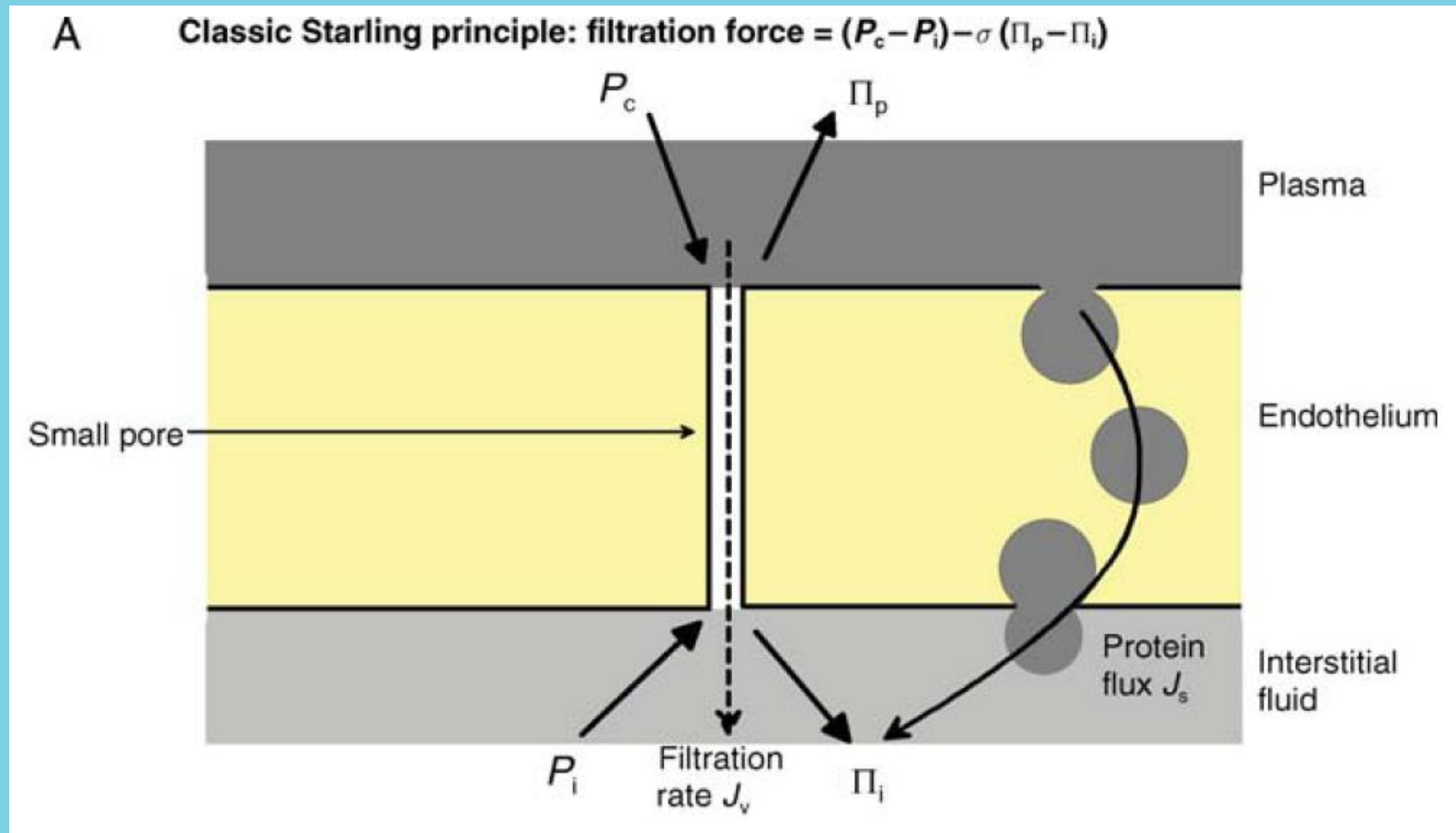
**J. Rodney Levick<sup>1</sup> and C. Charles Michel<sup>2\*</sup>**

**1**Physiology, Basic Medical Sciences, St George's Hospital Medical School, London SW17 0RE, UK; and **2**Department of Bioengineering, Imperial College, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2AZ, UK

Received 30 November 2009; revised 4 February 2010; accepted 18 February 2010; online publish-ahead-of-print 3 March 2010

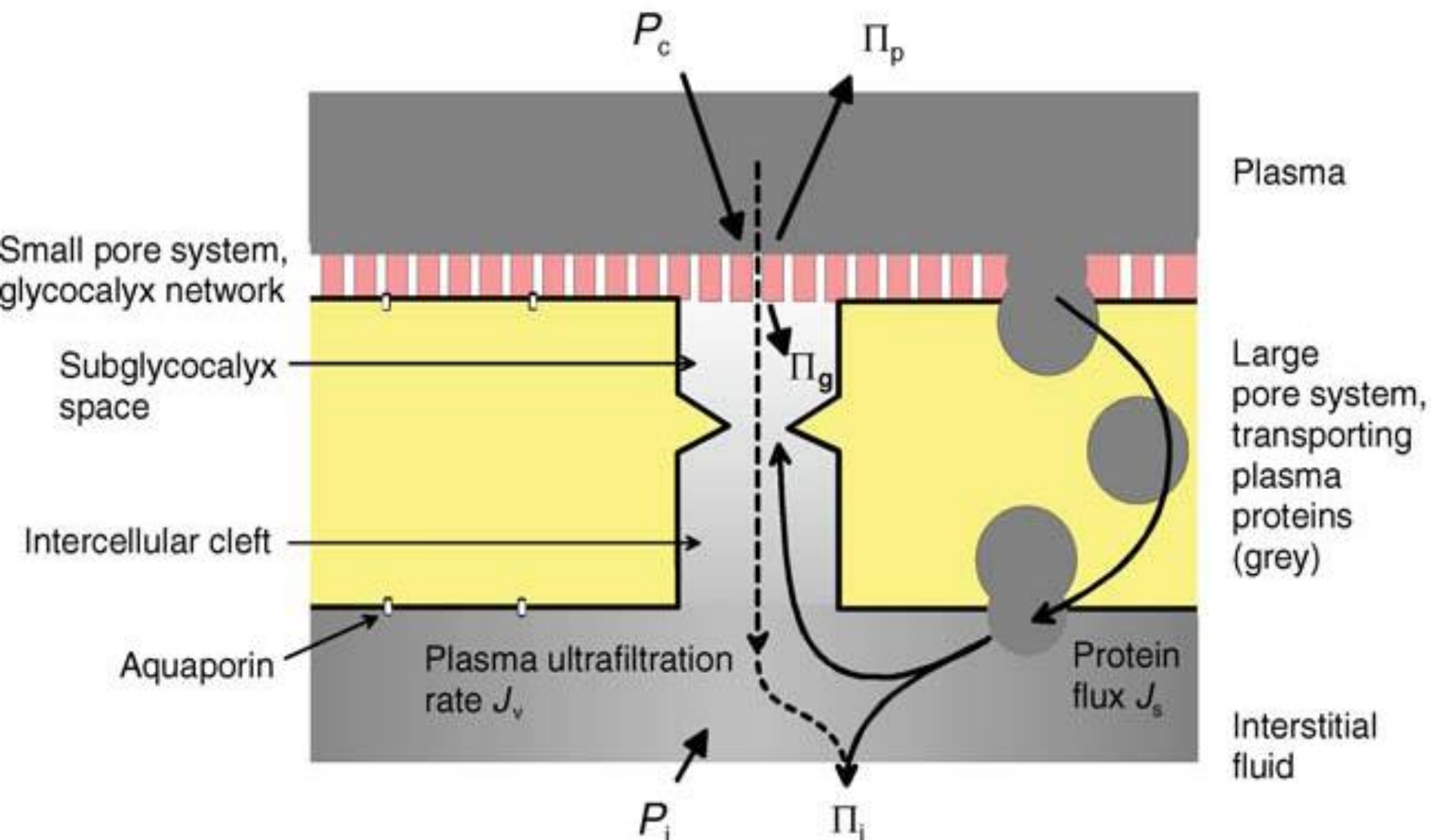


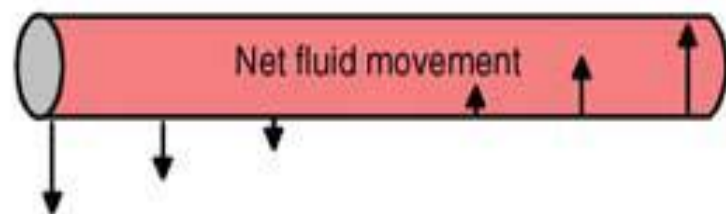
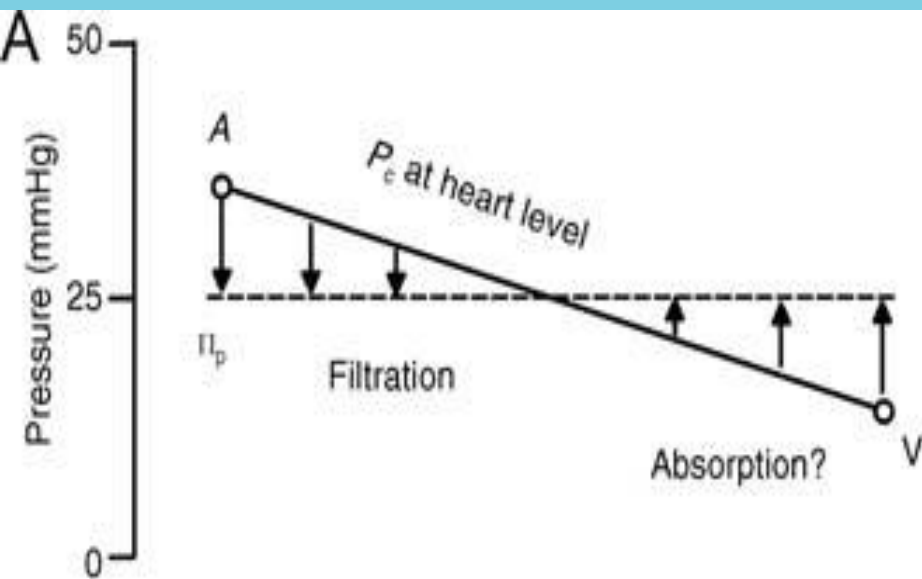
# Staverman's osmotic reflection coefficient



B

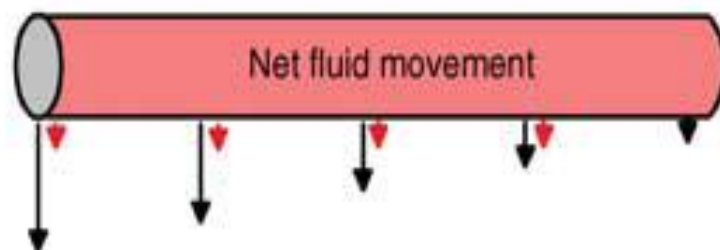
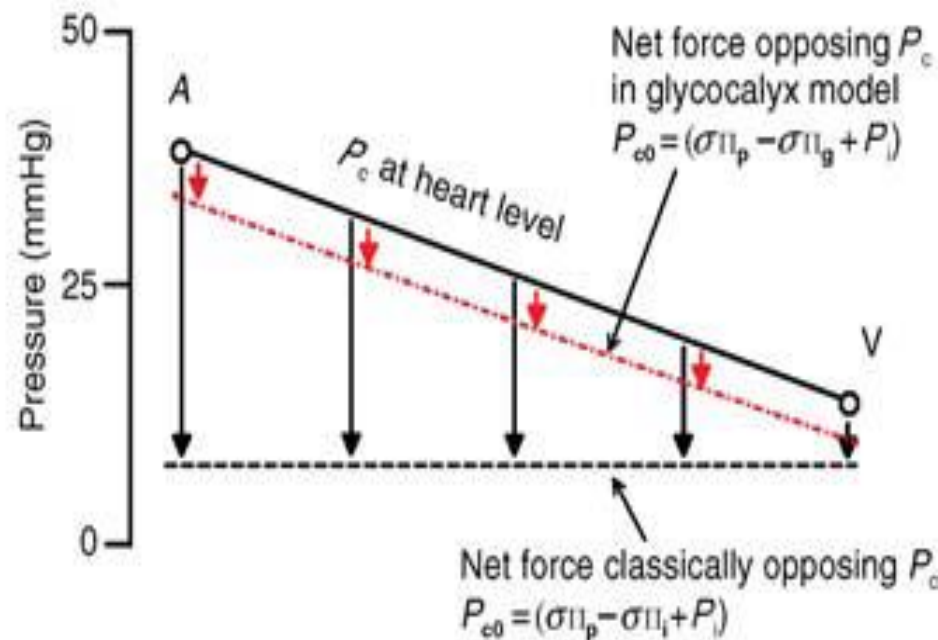
Revised Starling principle: filtration force =  $(P_c - P_i) - \sigma(\Pi_p - \Pi_g)$





Interstitial forces considered small & negligible  
 $P_{co} = \pi_p = 25 \text{ mmHg}$   
 $P_v = 7.7 \pm 1.9 \text{ mmHg}$  (human arm, heart level)

i



Interstitial forces measured in human subcutis  
 $P_i = -2.1 \pm 2.2 \text{ mmHg}$ ,  $\pi_i = 15.7 \pm 2.8 \text{ mmHg}$   
 $P_{co} = 6.3 \text{ mmHg}$  (classic Starling sum)  
 $P_v = 7.7 \pm 1.9 \text{ mmHg}$  (human arm, heart level)

ii

# Starling: yesterday & today

- 1896 Starling: equilibrium between plasma and interstitium
- 2010 Rodley (*Cardiovasc Research*):  
Tissue colloid osmotic pressure too low to refill the capillaries

# Treatment of edema

- Treat the course first
- Compression second

**Veins and Lymphatics 2017; volume 6:6627**

**An innovative compression system providing low, sustained resting pressure and high, efficient working pressure**

**Josefin Damm,<sup>1</sup> Torbjörn Lundh,<sup>2</sup>  
Hugo Partsch,<sup>3</sup> Giovanni Mosti<sup>4</sup>**

# Compression Therapy

## Pressure exerted by compression:

- Reduction of the diameter of veins
- Increase in the speed of the venous blood flow
- Improvement of the filtration / reabsorption ratio in the capillaries
- Improved oxygenation of the skin
- Reduction of edema



# Compression and edema

[Ann Vasc Dis](#). 2012; 5(4): 416–422.

Published online 2012 Nov 15. doi: [10.3400/avd.ra.12.00068](https://doi.org/10.3400/avd.ra.12.00068)

## Compression Therapy: Clinical and Experimental Evidence

[Hugo Partsch](#), MD, PhD 

- Normally expressed as *interface pressure*  
*depending on Laplace law*
- This pressure is conducted to deeper structures  
(subcutaneous tissue / muscles / veins, etc)  
*depending on Pascal law*

# Three mayor characteristics: 1

## Elasticity:

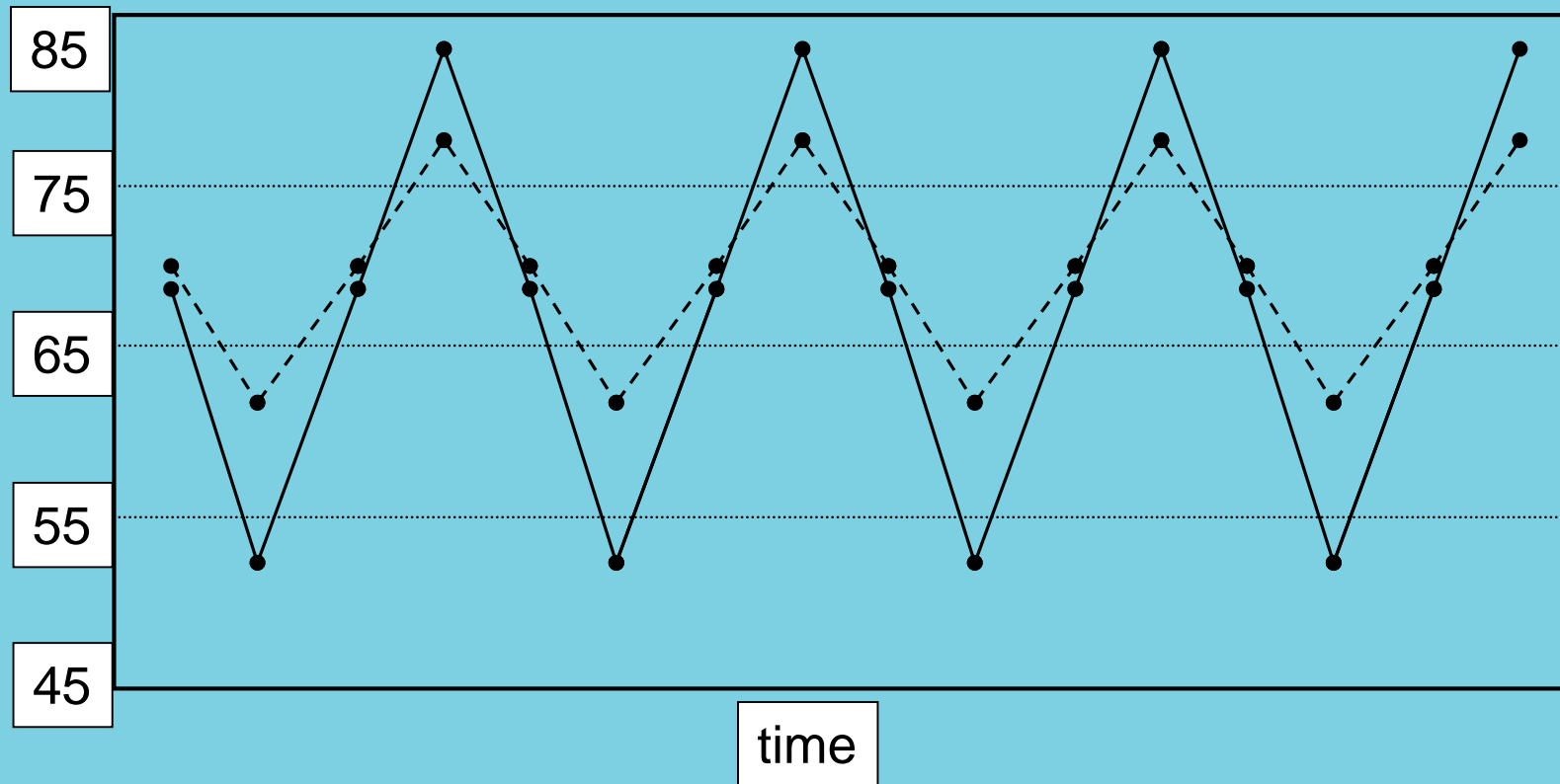
- Naturel or synthetic rubber
- Elasticity is the capacity of material / fabric to return to its original dimension and shape after is has been stretched/elongated.

# Elastic / Non-elastic compression

- Elastic: *High* working and *high* resting pressure
- Non-elastic: *High* working but *low* resting pressure



# Short stretch versus elastic bandage



**Maximum and minimum pressures measured underneath a short-stretch (unbroken line) and elastic bandage (dotted line) at the B-area during walking on a treadmill**

# Compression & Pressure

**Working pressure**: upright position / walking  
+ *gravitation*

**Resting pressure**: supine position  
- *gravitation*

Ratio of maximum working and (low) resting pressure

correlates with improvement in venous refill time ( $p < 0,001$ )



# Three mayor characteristics: 2

**Elasticity coefficient / stiffness:**

**normal tension at  $B_1 + 1 \text{ cm}$**

**Increase in pressure due to the elastic material measured in static condition**



# Three mayor characteristics: 3

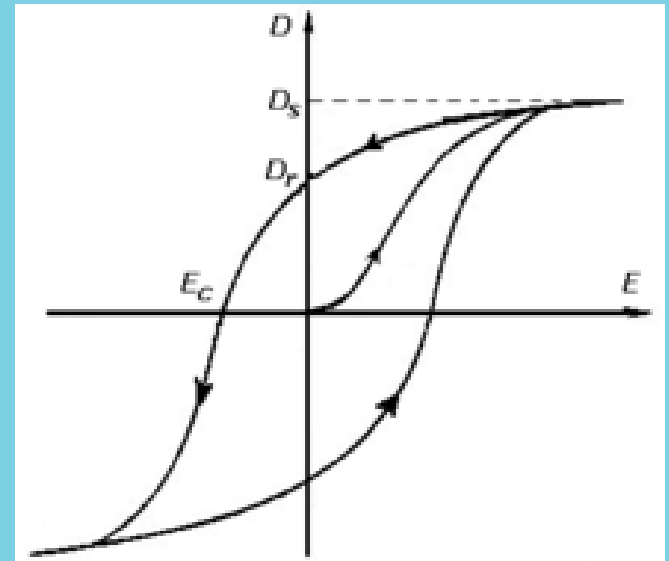
**Hysterisis:**

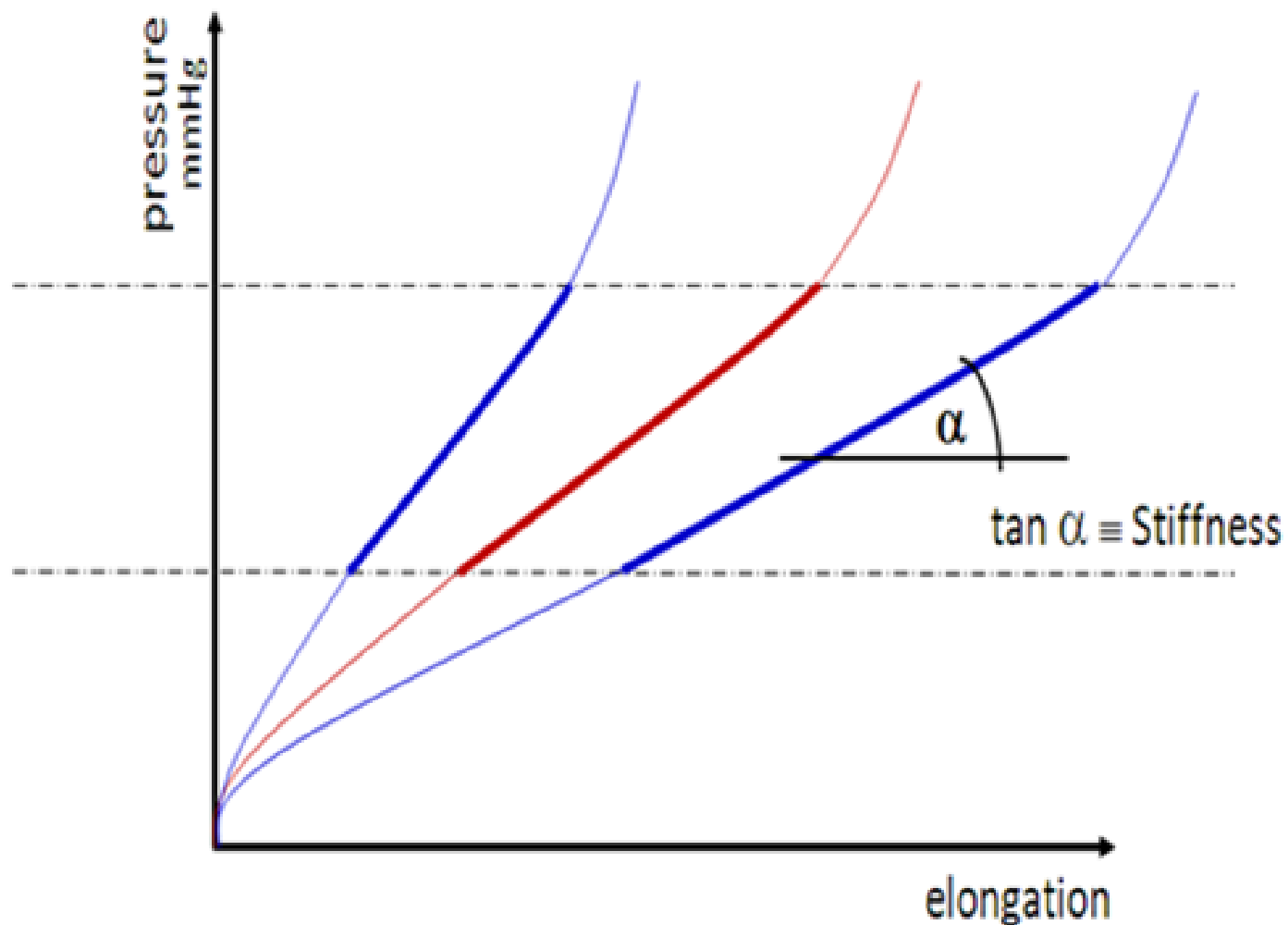
**Retardation of the knitted material  
measured in dynamic condition**



# Hysteresis

- Greek: lagging / to be detained
- Characteristic of material
- Result of internal friction
- Force-elongation curve





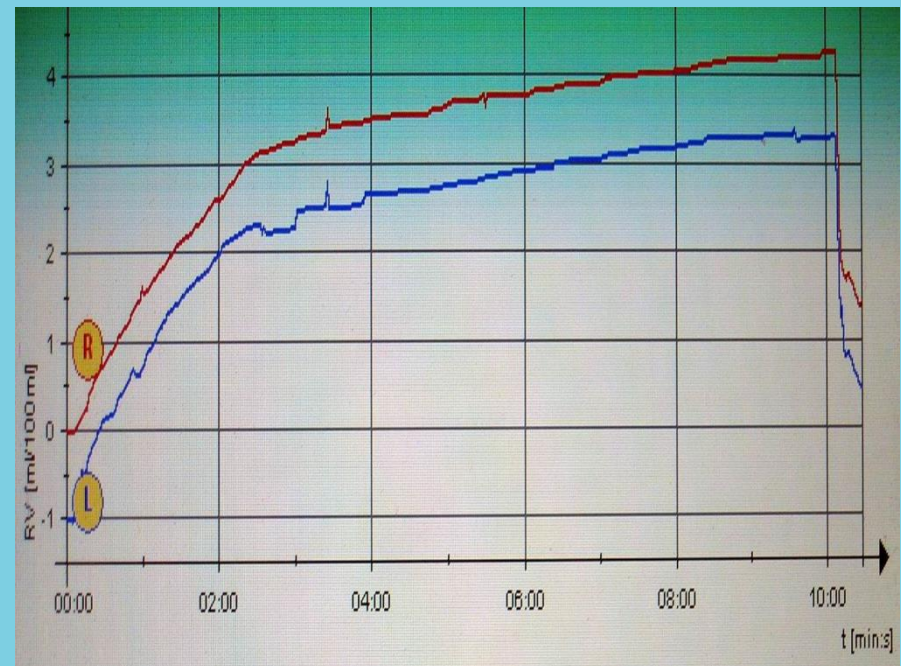
**Figure 3:** One way hysteresis curves from 3 different stockings. The steepness of the curves (pressure /elongation, corresponding to the tangent of the angle  $\alpha$ ) characterizes different degrees of stiffness: high (left), medium (middle) and low stiffness (right). (Courtesy of HJ Thomae, Bauerfeind AG)

# Relation stiffness and CFR

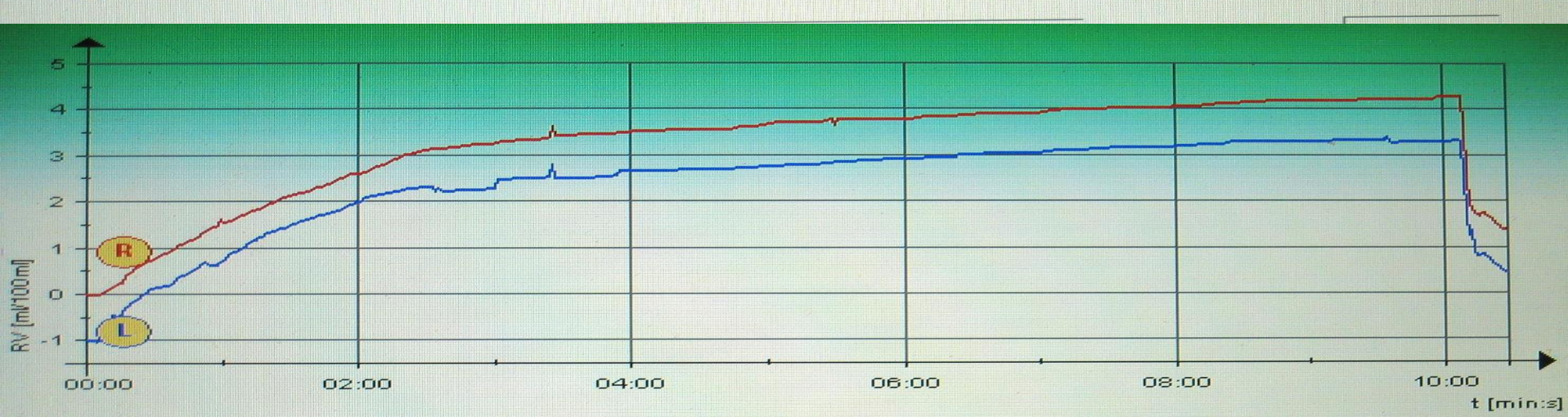
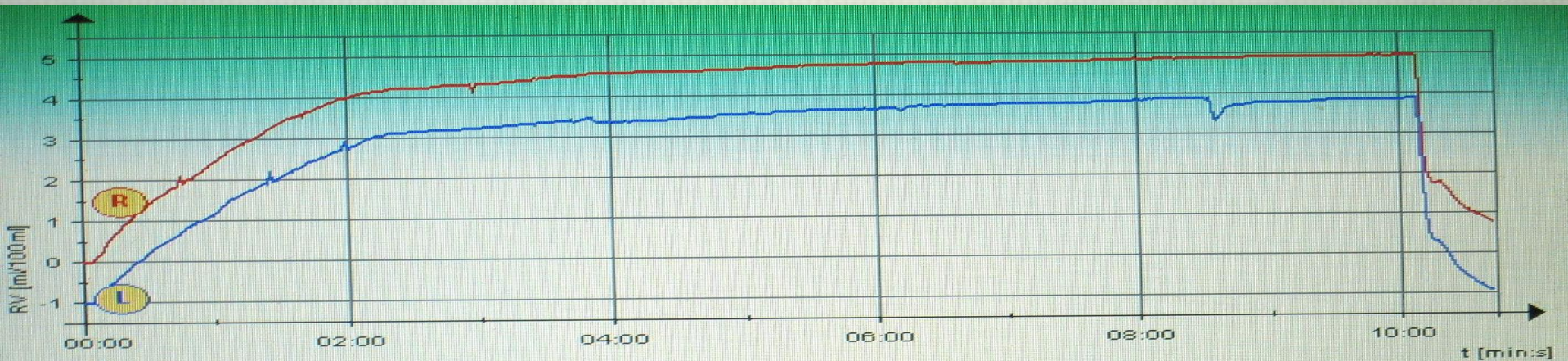
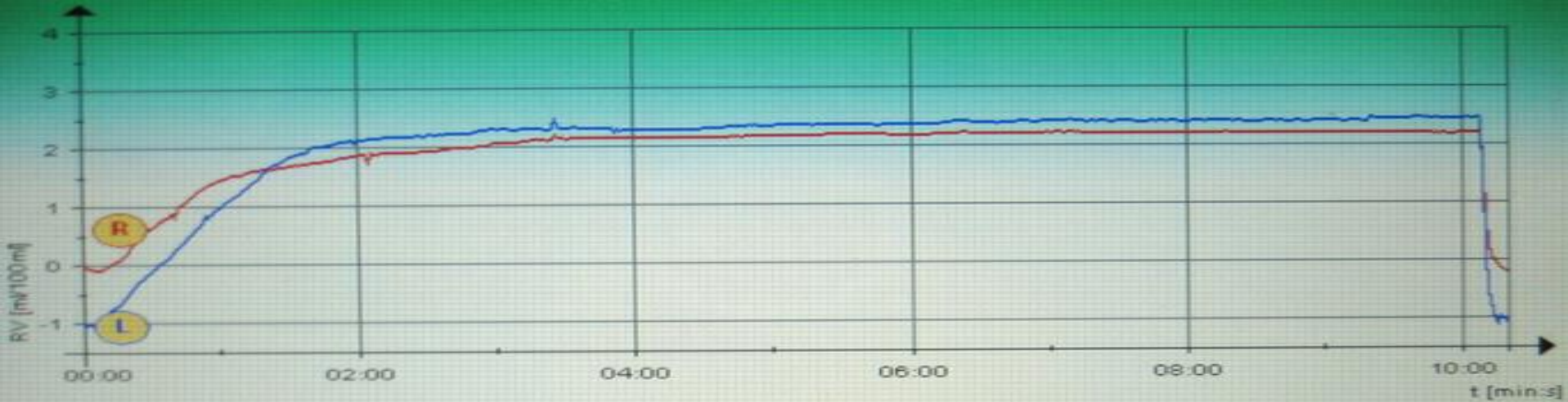
## Oedema prevention of MECS depends on stiffness

Van Geest A et al., *Dermatol. Surg.*  
26:244-247, 2000

Wolff O, Wentel D, Reeder SWI,  
Neumann HAM. The effect of  
compression ulcer stockings on the  
capillary filtration rate and the  
formation of edema. *Phlebologie*  
2011; 40:245-250.









# From static to dynamic





# The 4<sup>th</sup> Character of CT

**Compression most effective during walking**

**Walking changes static into dynamic**

**Interface pressure depending on movements**



**Dynamic elasticity / stiffness coefficient**

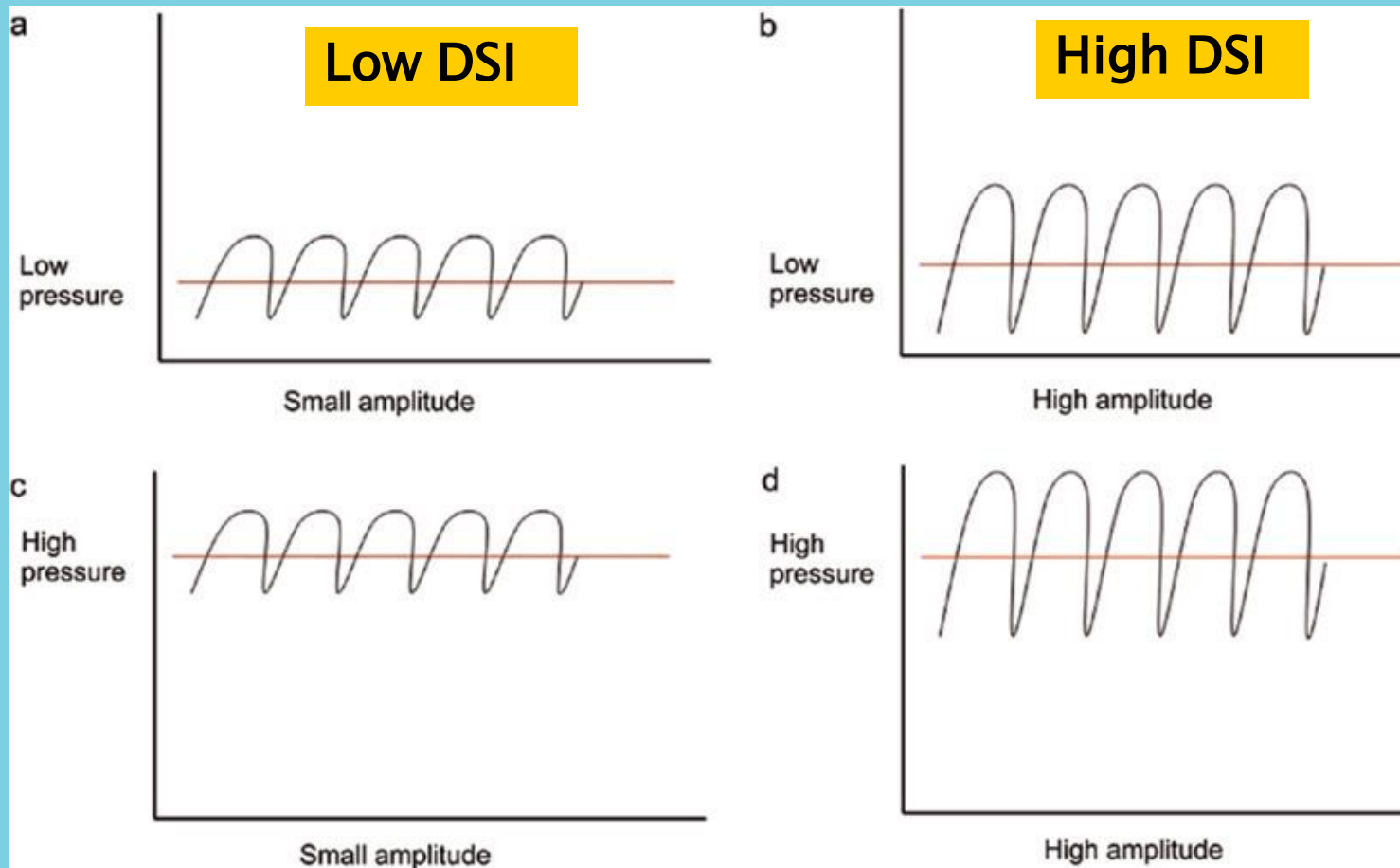
# Dynamic stiffness index (DSI)

DSI up to tenfold higher than static stiffness index

	Circumference variation of the MCH in cm	Pressure changes in the air-filled drum in mmHg	Calculated DSI in mm Hg / cm
Exp.#150 MCH	2.82 % x 25.0 cm = 0.70 cm	From 10.8 to 51.2 mm Hg, this is 40.4 mm Hg	40.4 / 0.70 = 58 mm Hg / cm
Exp.#151 MCH with non-elastic material	2.75 % x 25.0 cm = 0.69 cm	From 1.5 to 57.3 mm Hg, this is 55.8 mm Hg	55.8 / 0.69 = 81 mm Hg / cm

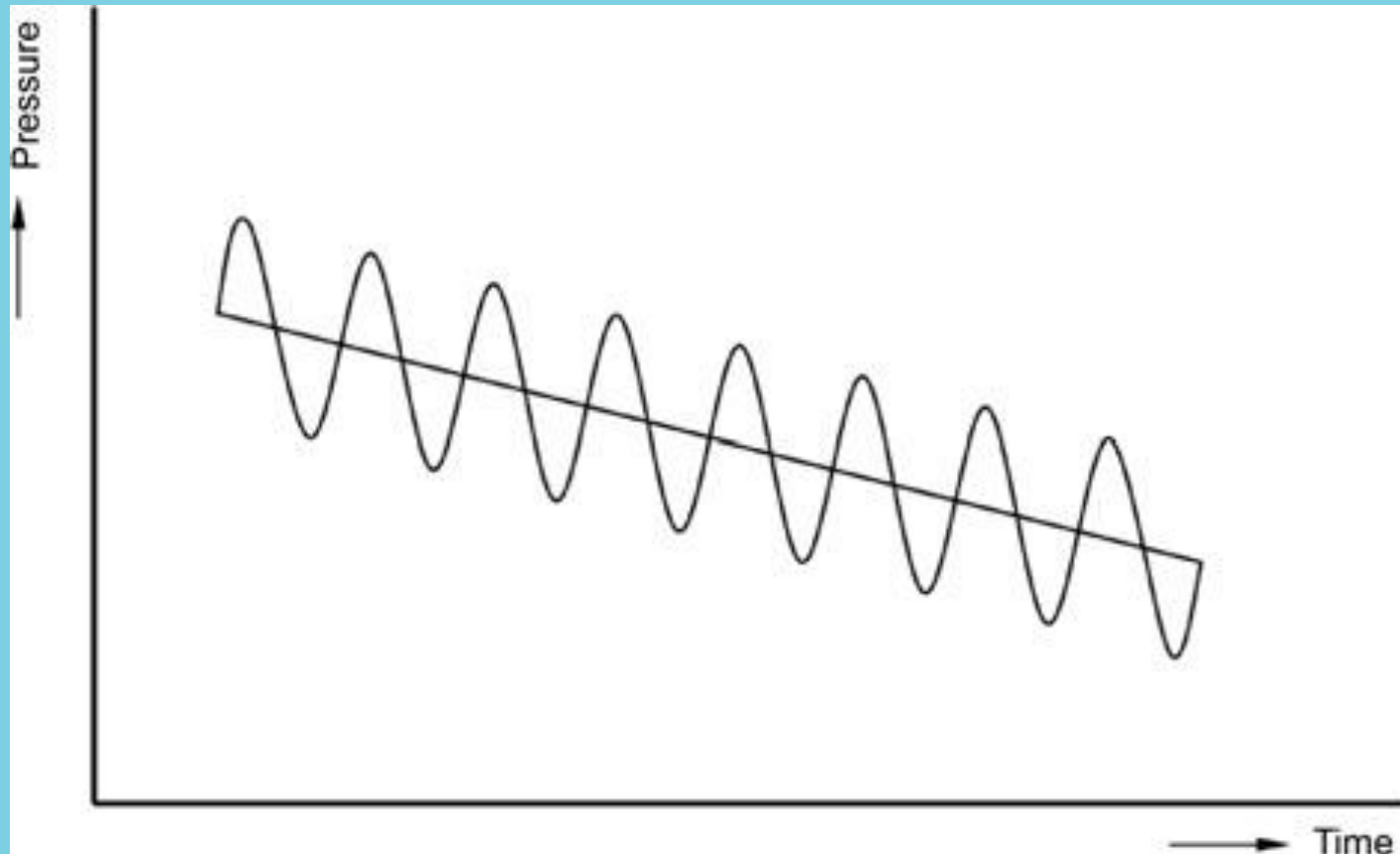
Stolk R et al., Dermatol. Surg 30:729-36, 2004

# DSI and pressure



Four types of registration curves: (a) MECS with low compression and low DSI; (b) MECS with low compression and high DSI; (c) MECS with high compression and low DST; (d) MECS with high compression and high DSI (vd Wegen, et al)

# DSI and pressure in time



Example of a stocking that shows a decrease in pressure and continuous pressure pulsations (dynamic stiffness index) during the day (vd Wegen, ed. al)

# Dynamic Stiffness

- **Correlates with static stiffness**

*(vd Wegen)*

- **Correlates with density = hysteresis**

*(vd Wegen)*

# Edema reduction

Alternating interface pressure (**Laplace**)



Increases tissue pressure (**Pascal**)



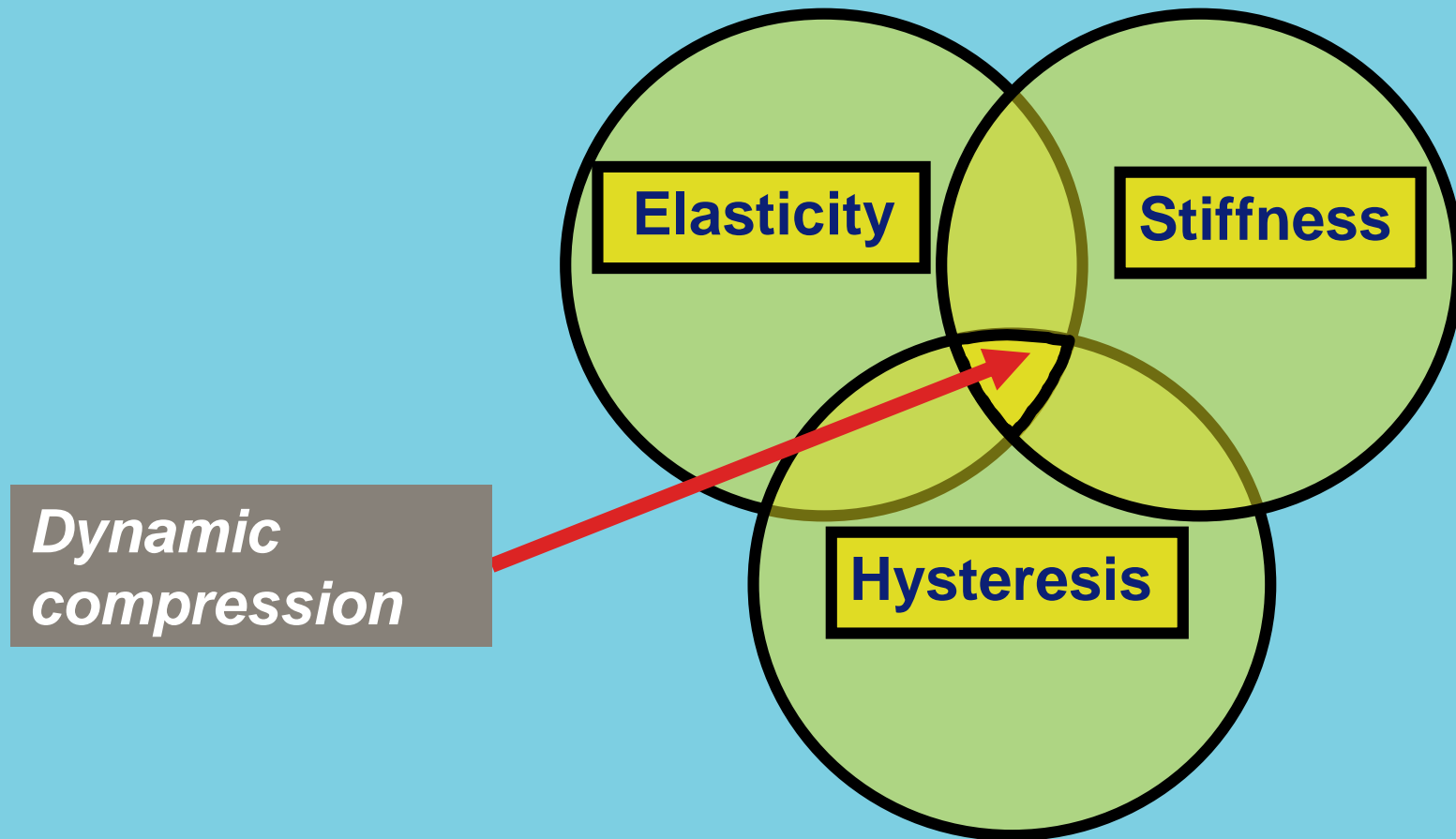
Shifts **Starling** equilibrium: reduce edema by microcirculation



# Stiffness or pressure ?

- Effectiveness of ambulatory compression is highly determined by dynamic stiffness
  - Massage effect
  - Starling shift
- Non-ambulatory (dependency) is depending on interface pressure only
  - Counter-pressure only
  - And therefore less effective by the same interface pressure as in ambulatory conditions

# The magic triangle



**As stockings are ....**



# Conclusions

1. The DSI defines the quality of compression expressed as interface pressure: Laplace low
2. The composition of the tissue defines the final effect *in* the leg: Pascal low
4. Stiffness is the major factor for ambulatory reduction of edema
5. Interface pressure is the major factor of edema reduction in dependency



