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**Cardiovascular autonomic dysfunction – beyond the walls and valves**

The cardiovascular system, the living force of human body, is strictly controlled by the autonomic nervous system. The autonomic control of circulation depends on the fine tuning of the heart frequency and vascular tone in response to the changing environmental conditions and body position. Usually, we do not feel how the autonomic nervous system works but when the autonomic control of circulation fails, we may experience abnormal tachycardia, blood pressure falls, dizziness, palpitations, fatigue, various symptoms from different body zones and organs, and, in the worst case, we may even faint. But cardiovascular autonomic dysfunction is more than that. One of the most potent cardiovascular risk factors, hypertension, is a direct effect of autonomic dysregulation, whereas orthostatic hypotension is a major sign of autonomic failure. Our knowledge about cardiovascular autonomic dysfunction is still incomplete but recent advances have helped us understand it better. We will talk about it all and where we should go from here.