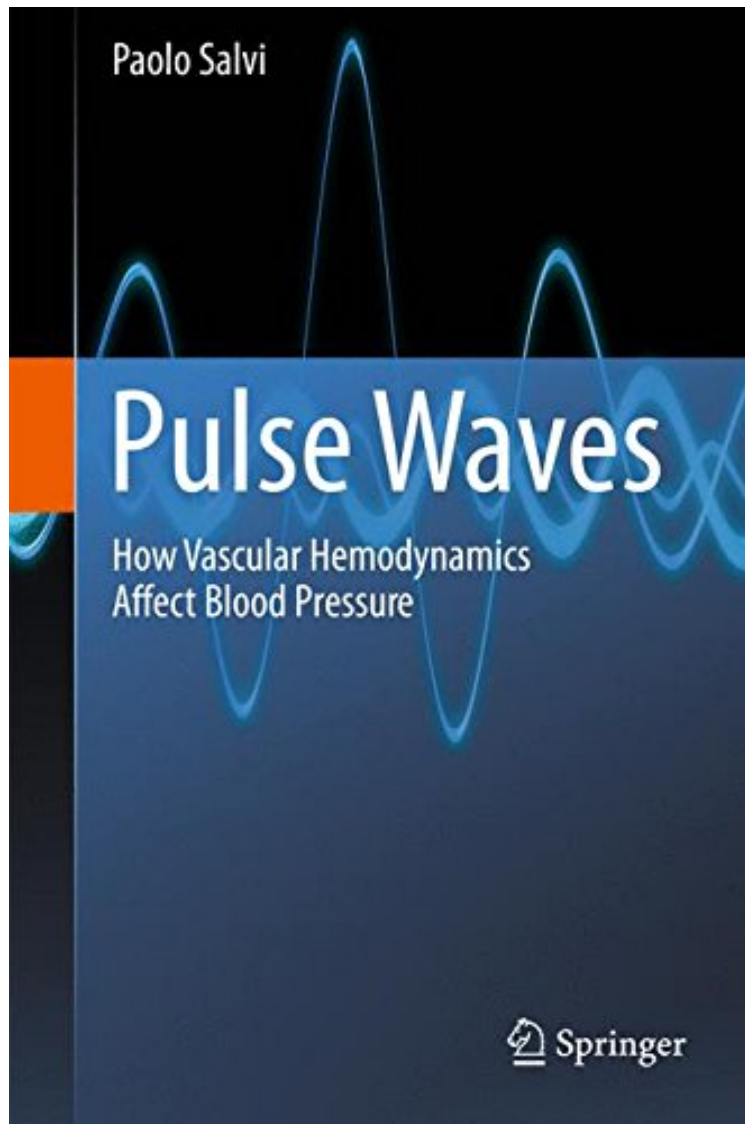


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# Pulse Waves: How Vascular Hemodynamics Affects Blood Pressure

Paolo Salvi

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Recently, several studies have shown the crucial role of viscoelastic properties of the aorta and large arteries in determining blood pressure values. A good knowledge of cardiovascular pathophysiology and vascular hemodynamics is necessary to understand these phenomena. However, available texts on this topic are very complex and difficult for medical practitioners to understand. The aim of this book is to enable the reader to comprehend the relation between cardiovascular pathophysiology and vascular hemodynamics and to become familiar with the more recent guidelines. While very complex physical concepts are involved, care has been taken to ensure that the explanations are as straightforward as possible. Complex analyses are presented separately and can be skipped by the reader without impairment of understanding. It is envisaged that the knowledge imparted will prove invaluable in improving the approach to hypertensive patients.

From the Back CoverHow is blood pressure generated? How can blood pressure values be interpreted? Is systolic blood pressure of greater importance than diastolic? These are some of the commonest questions a physician facing the problem of arterial hypertension must answer in everyday clinical practice. The aim of this book is to present the complex basic principles of vascular hemodynamics and its physiopathology in a direct and effective way, stressing the importance of the mechanical properties of large arteries in the origin of blood pressure. With the help of several images and an easy language, the reader is led to discover the elements defining blood pressure, getting used to the concepts of arterial stiffness, pulse wave velocity, central blood pressure, reflected waves, pulse pressure amplification.