ANGINA vs. MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION

Angina- Symptoms related to reduced oxygen supply to heart muscle
Myocardial Infarction- “Heart attack”, interrupted blood supply to a part of the heart

Angina cases can often look like cases of Myocardial Infarction

Findings that match (R/I) both Angina and Myocardial Infarction.
- Sudden onset of chest pain
- Location of chest pain substernal/left precordial
- Over 40
- Chest pain dull/pressure/squeezing
- Gradual dyspnea

Findings that discriminate (R/I) Angina from (R/O) Myocardial Infarction.
- Chest pain lasting less than 20-30 minutes
- Chest pain altered by exertion

Example Case for Angina vs. Myocardial Infarction

1. HX: A 43 year old male presents with a chief complaint of chest discomfort described as gradual in onset. The patient relates that it occurred while outdoors, was present about 4 minutes and resolved prior to arrival. The discomfort is described as dull. The patient describes the location as left precordial. There was no radiation. Associated findings: unremarkable. Factors affecting the pain: rest seemed to alleviate the discomfort. No risk factors are noted.

PE: Respiratory findings: unremarkable. Cardiovascular findings: unremarkable. Abdominal findings are unremarkable. Extremity findings are unremarkable. Musculoskeletal findings: unremarkable. Dermal findings are unremarkable.

In this case, Angina and Myocardial Infarction share the following features:

Location of chest pain substernal/left precordial, Over 40, Chest pain dull/pressure/squeezing.

The following feature(s), (rank ordered from highest to lowest), distinguish Angina from its significant competitor Myocardial Infarction:

Chest pain altered by exertion.