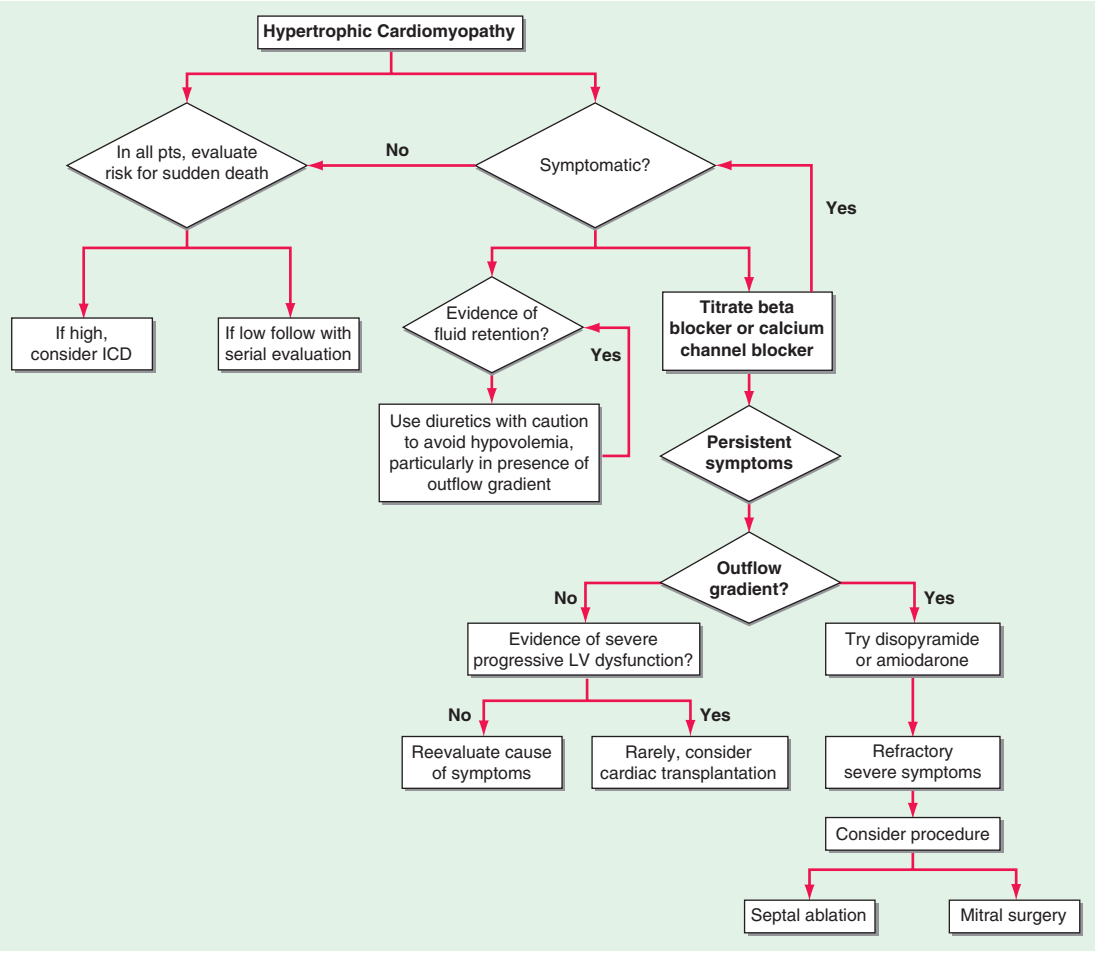

FIGURE 287-18 **Treatment algorithm for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy** depending on the presence and severity of symptoms and the presence of an intraventricular gradient with obstruction to outflow. Note that all patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy should be evaluated for atrial fibrillation and risk of sudden death, whether or not they require treatment for symptoms. ICD, implantable cardioverter-defibrillator; LV, left ventricular.

never receive an appropriate therapy. Long-term use of a defibrillator may be associated with serious device-related complications, particularly in young active patients. Refinement of sudden death risk through the application of contemporary technologies such as cardiac MRI is ongoing.

TABLE 287-6 RISK FACTORS FOR SUDDEN DEATH IN HYPERTROPHIC CARDIOMYOPATHY

Major Risk Factor		Screening Technique
History of cardiac arrest or spontaneous sustained ventricular tachycardia[a]		History
Syncope	Nonvagal, often with or after exertion	History
Family history of sudden cardiac death		Family history
Spontaneous nonsustained ventricular tachycardia[b]	>3 beats at rate >120	Exercise or 24- to 48-hour ambulatory recording
LV thickness >30 mm	Present in <10% of patients	Echocardiography
Abnormal blood pressure response to exercise[b]	Systolic blood pressure fall or failure to increase at peak exercise	Maximal upright exercise testing

[a]Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator advised for patients with prior arrest or sustained ventricular tachycardia regardless of other risk factors. [b] Prognostic value most applicable to patients less than 40 years old.

Abbreviation: LV, left ventricle.

Atrial fibrillation is common in patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and may lead to hemodynamic deterioration and embolic stroke. Rapid ventricular response is poorly tolerated and may worsen outflow tract obstruction. β-Adrenergic blocking agents and L-type calcium channel blockers slow AV nodal conduction and improve symptoms; cardiac glycosides should be avoided, as they may increase contractility and worsen obstruction. Symptoms exacerbated by atrial fibrillation may persist despite adequate rate control due to loss of AV synchrony and may require restoration of sinus rhythm. Disopyramide and amiodarone are the preferred antiarrhythmic agents, with radiofrequency ablation considered for medically refractory cases. Anticoagulation to prevent embolic stroke in atrial fibrillation is recommended.

PROGNOSIS The general prognosis for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is good, better than in early studies of referral populations. For patients diagnosed as adults, survival is comparable to an age-matched population without cardiomyopathy. The sudden death risk is less than 1% per year; however, up to 1 in 20 patients will progress to overt systolic dysfunction with a reduced ejection fraction with or without dilated remodeling ("burned out" or end-stage hypertrophic cardiomyopathy). These patients suffer from low cardiac output and have a high risk of death from progressive heart failure and sudden death unless they undergo cardiac transplantation.