TETROLOGY OF FALLOT

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Hypercyanotic attacks are sudden spells of arterial hypoxemia associated with worsening cyanosis, tachypnea, and sometimes loss of consciousness seizures, CVA, and even death. These attacks can occur without any provocation, but are often associated with crying or exercise. This is most likely due to a sudden decrease in pulmonary blood flow due to spasm of infundibular cardiac muscle or decrease in systemic vascular resistance.

Treatment of these spells is influenced by the cause of pulmonary outflow obstruction. When spells are due to infundibular obstruction the treatment is to administer a beta-antagonist i.e. esmolol or propranolol. If the cause is decreased SVR, treat with fluids and phenylephrine. Recurrent attacks may indicate the need for surgical correction.

Reference: