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CLINICAL QUIZ

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An 11-month-old male infant presented at the Emergency Room with worsening laboured breathing after a loud bout of crying while playing with an older sibling. Thereafter, his lips turned blue and have remained so. He was sweaty with bilateral conjunctival plethora and Grade II finger clubbing. He weighed 7kg and measured 73cm in length. He was put on intranasal oxygen at 4 litres/minute via nasal prongs. His SPO₂ at presentation was 78%, and 30 minutes after admission, it was 81%. That was the third admission for the same complaints within six months. The chest radiograph of the child is shown below.



Figure 1: Chest radiograph of the 11-month-old boy with laboured breathing

1. Which of the following best explains the failure of oxygen therapy to correct hypoxia?
 - a. Diffusion defect at the alveolar-capillary membrane
 - b. Ventilation-perfusion mismatch
 - c. Right-to-left intracardiac shunting
 - d. Reduced haemoglobin affinity for oxygen
 - e. Pulmonary oedema
2. Suppose the attending physician recorded the disappearance of a previously documented systolic murmur. What is the most valid explanation for the observation?
 - a. Increased pulmonary blood flow causes laminar flow
 - b. Reduced RVOT gradient due to decreased obstruction

- c. Markedly reduced flow across the RVOT due to near-total obstruction
 - d. Closure of the ventricular septal defect
 - e. Development of pulmonary hypertension
3. Which of the following best explains the desirability of 8.4% Sodium bicarbonate therapy in the management of the child?
- a. It reduces haemoglobin oxygen affinity
 - b. It prevents pulmonary vasodilation, increasing pulmonary flow
 - c. Directly inhibits myocardial contractility only
 - d. It prevents a left-to-right shunting
 - e. It increases systemic vascular resistance and decreases right-to-left shunt
4. Which of the following is the primary mechanism by which propranolol will relieve the breathlessness in the child?
- a. It decreases infundibular spasm and heart rate
 - b. It increases systemic vascular resistance

- c. It reduces pulmonary vascular resistance
 - d. It enhances myocardial contractility
 - e. It increases preload significantly
5. Which of the following additional therapeutic steps may the child benefit from?
- a. Increase the dose of diuretics
 - b. ACE inhibitors
 - c. Long-term oxygen therapy
 - d. Urgent systemic-to-pulmonary shunt
 - e. Anticoagulant therapy

KEY

Question	Answer
1	C
2	C
3	E
4	A
5	D