

# INTRODUCTION TO ABDOMINAL IMAGING: RIGHT IMAGE FOR THE RIGHT PATIENT

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Abdominal Imaging

# QUIZ PRE

## QUESTION:

T/F: Background radiation in the US is typically ~3 mSev/yr

## QUESTION:

Which is the correct order for least expensive to most expensive imaging?

I: CT

III: US

II: MRI

IV: Radiographs

A: I, II, III, IV

C: IV, III, I, II

B: IV, III, II, I

D: IV, II, III, I

## QUESTION:

Which of the following modalities is first line imaging for the reproductive system (ovaries, uterus, testicles)?

A: CT

C: US

B: MRI

D: Radiographs

## QUESTION:

For which indication would a noncontrast CT be appropriate?

A: Diverticulitis

C: Aortic dissection

B: Renal calculus

D: Concern for metastatic disease

## QUESTION:

T/F: NSF (nephrogenic systemic fibrosis) is associated with iodinated CT contrast.

# OVERVIEW

- Overutilization
- Review of general scan limitations
- Review of each modality, pros and cons, common indications

# GROWTH OF IMAGING

- In the past decade, imaging services and their cost have grown at twice the rate of other technologies in the health care industry
  - Radiation dose!
  - \$\$\$



# GROWTH OF IMAGING: DOSE CONCERNS

- Dose to the public
  - 1980: Medical radiation made up <25% of average total radiation dose to US residents<sup>1</sup>
  - 2010: Medical radiation made up >50% of average total radiation dose to US residents<sup>1</sup>
- “...we must ensure that patients undergoing CT receive the minimum radiation dose possible *to produce a medical benefit*”
- *LOWEST* dose for any given patient

1. Smith-Bindman, Rebecca. Is Computed Tomography Safe? N Engl J Med; 363:1-4

2. Hendee, W. et al. Addressing Overutilization in Medical Imaging. Radiology. August 2010.

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- “...we must ensure that patients undergoing CT receive the minimum radiation dose possible *to produce a medical benefit*”<sup>2</sup>
- ~~LOWEST~~ dose for any given patient
- *APPROPRIATE* dose for any given patient

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# GROWTH OF IMAGING: DOSE CONCERNS

- Radiology is measured in effective dose (millisieverts: mSv)
  - Refers to radiation risk averaged over the entire body
- Background radiation (cosmic radiation, radon): 3 mSv/year
- Effective dose may be used to estimate risk of cancer/cancer related death
- Risk levels: Additional risk of fatal cancer from an examination
  - Negligible: less than 1 in 1,000,000
  - Minimal: 1 in 1,000,000 to 1 in 100,000
  - Very low: 1 in 100,000 to 1 in 10,000
  - Low: 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 1,000
  - Moderate: 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 500
  - These risk levels represent a very small addition to the 1 in 5 chance we all have of dying from cancer

# GROWTH OF IMAGING: DOSE CONCERNS

Procedure	Effective dose	Comparable for natural background radiation for:	Additional life risk of fatal cancer
Intra-oral XR	0.005 mSv	1 day	Negligible
Extremity XR	0.001 mSv	3 hours	Negligible
Chest XR	0.1 mSv	10 days	Minimal
Spine XR	1.5 mSv	6 months	Very low
Head CT	2-4 mSv	8-16 months	Low
Chest CT	1.5-7 mSv	6 months-2years	Very low to low
Abdominopelvic CT	10-20 mSv	3-7 years	Low to moderate
PET-CT	25 mSv	8 years	Moderate

- New software and dose reduction protocols are continually evolving
- Doses vary with scan technique and patient size



# GROWTH OF IMAGING: COST OF EXAMS

- Conventional Radiography (X-ray): \$149-\$388
  - Two view chest x ray: \$207
  - 4 views of the knee: \$266
- Ultrasound: \$386-1360
  - Breast ultrasound: \$386
  - Abdominal ultrasound: \$783
  - Carotid Doppler: \$1360
- CT: \$1072- \$1832 per body part!
  - CT CAP w/wo contrast: \$5322!
- MR: \$1555 - \$4547
  - Brain MR: \$2189
  - Abdominal MRI w/wo contrast: \$4547



# GROWTH OF IMAGING: OVERUTILIZATION

- **Overutilization:** applications of imaging procedures where circumstances indicate that they are unlikely to improve patient outcome
- **Why does it happen?**
  - Self referral
  - Defensive medicine
  - Lack of comprehensive/accessible practice guidelines
  - Referring physicians
  - Radiologists
  - Patients

# YOUR OPTIONS...

X ray

Ultrasound

CT

MR

# YOUR OPTIONS...

X ray

Ultrasound

CT

MR

What  
views?

# YOUR OPTIONS...

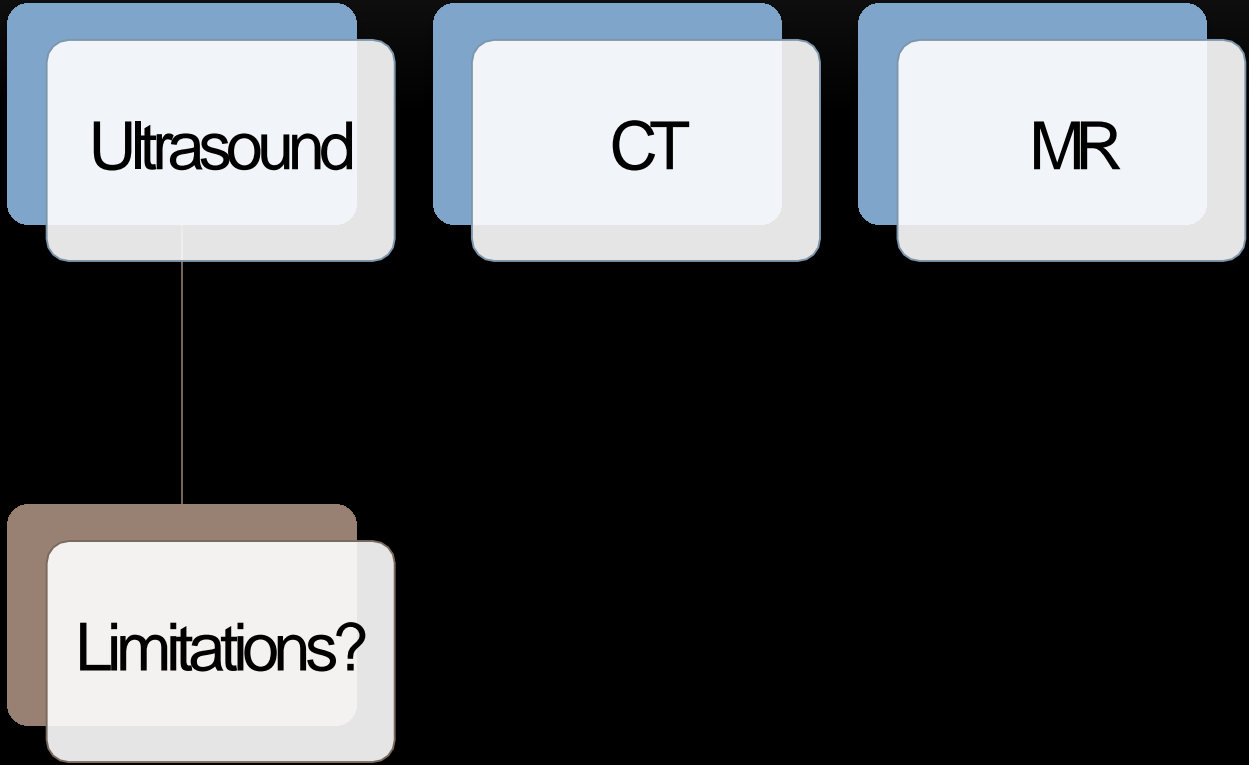
X ray

Ultrasound

CT

MR

Limitations?



# YOUR OPTIONS...

X ray

Ultrasound

CT

MR

IV  
Contrast?

PO  
Contrast?

What type  
of CT?

# YOUR OPTIONS...

X ray

Ultrasound

CT

MR

IV  
Contrast?

# YOUR OPTIONS...

X ray

Ultrasound

CT

MR

IV  
Contrast?

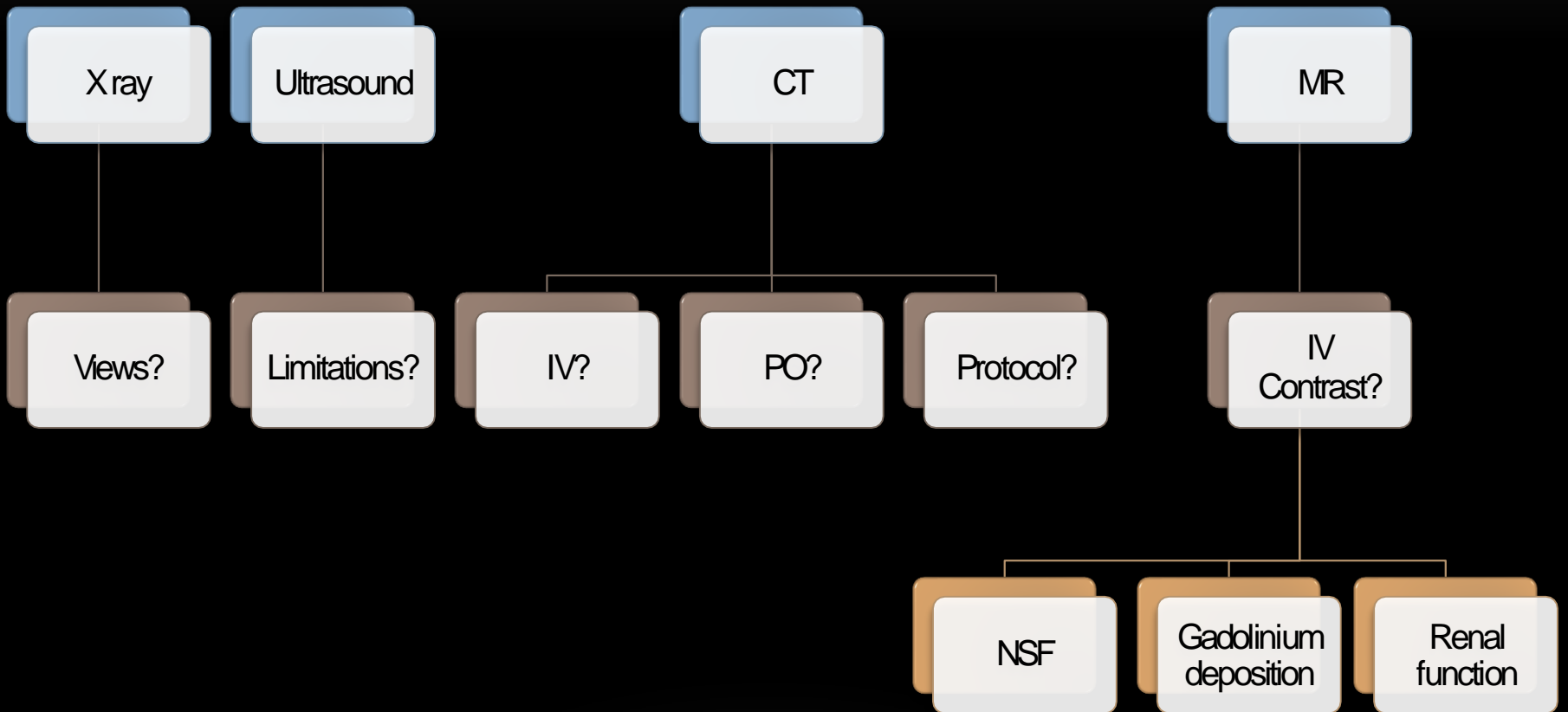
NSF

Gadolinium  
deposition

Renal  
function



# YOUR OPTIONS...



# RESOURCES AT YOUR DISPOSAL

- ACR Appropriate Criteria
  - <https://www.acr.org/Quality-Safety/Appropriateness-Criteria>

The screenshot shows the ACR Appropriate Criteria website. At the top is a navigation bar with links: HOME | ANNUAL MEETING | EDUCATION | QUALITY & SAFETY | ADVOCACY | MEMBERSHIP | RESEARCH | NE. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: Home / Quality & Safety / Appropriateness Criteria®. A left sidebar menu is titled 'QUALITY & SAFETY' and includes links for Accreditation, Appropriateness Criteria® (with sub-links for New & Revised, Topics under Development, and Topics to Be Developed), Practice Parameters, Quality Measurement, NRDR Data Registries, Radiology Safety, RADPEER™, Reporting and Data Systems, Additional Resources, eNews, and Contact Q&S. The main content area features a green header with 'ACR Appropriateness Criteria®'. Below this is a featured article titled '2017 ACR Appropriateness Criteria' with an image of a human torso. The text describes the criteria as evidence-based guidelines for imaging and treatment decisions. A 'Learn More »' link is provided. Below the article is a news item: 'NEW! ACR Named a Qualified Provider-Led Entity by CMS', explaining that ACR is now a qPLE under the Medicare program. Another 'Learn More »' link is present. At the bottom, there is an 'Updates – 2017' section stating that the latest release includes 178 diagnostic imaging and interventional radiology topics, with 8 new and 12 revised topics. An orange button labeled 'NEW & REVISED TOPICS' is located at the bottom of the page.

# RESOURCES AT YOUR DISPOSAL

- Your radiologist!!!!



# CONVENTIONAL RADIOGRAPH (X-RAY)



Pros

- Cheap
- Relatively low radiation dose
- Readily accessible
- Clinician friendly

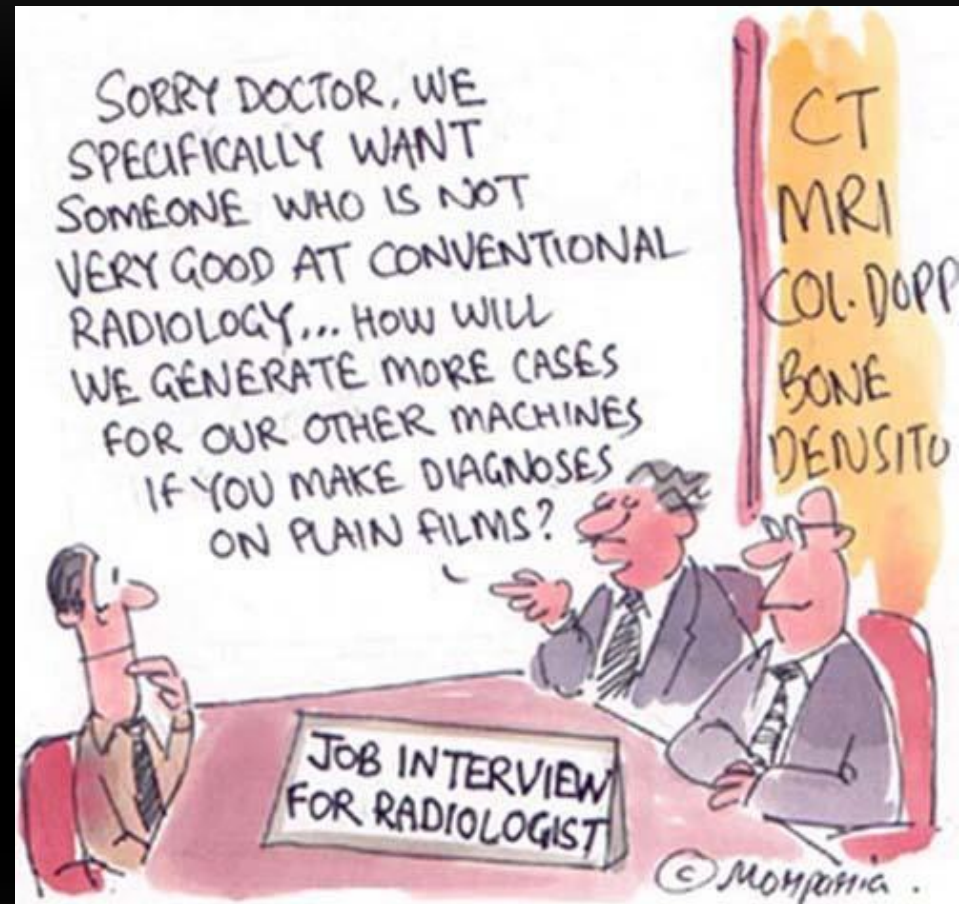
- Limited sensitivity
- Possibly over utilized
- False positives
- Unsatisfying reports!



Cons

# CONVENTIONAL RADIOGRAPHS

- Unsatisfying reports
  - “Thin lucency in the proximal tibia, possibly non displaced fracture. Correlate for point tenderness”
  - “Left lower lobe consolidation may represent atelectasis, pneumonia or edema; cannot exclude underlying mass lesion”
  - “Further evaluation with CT of the \_\_\_\_\_ is recommended”
  - “Non specific finding. Clinical correlation recommended....”

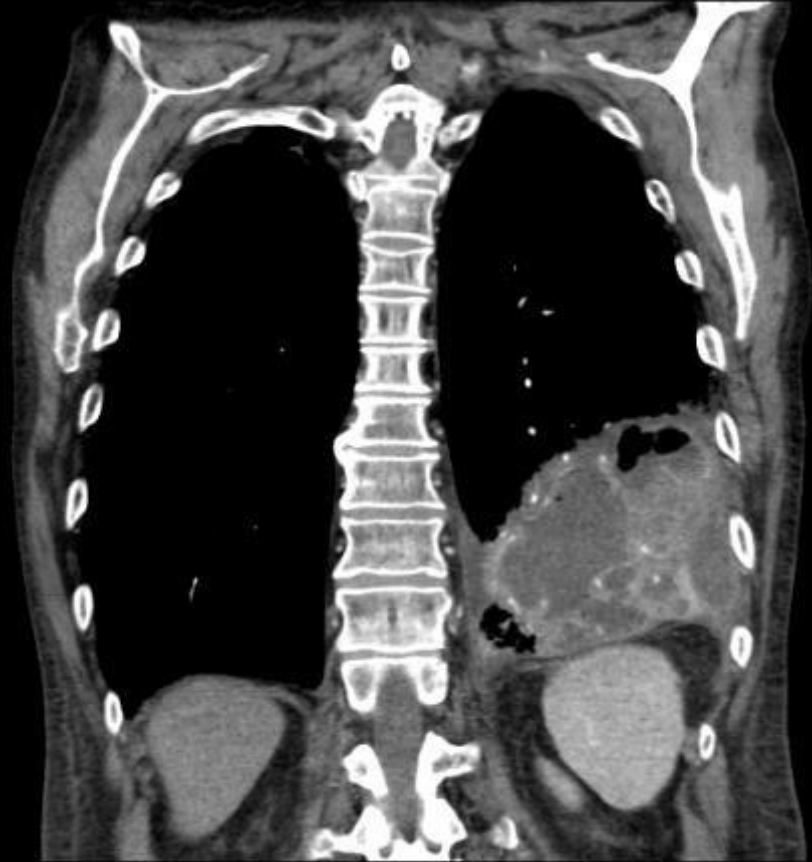


# CONVENTIONAL RADIOGRAPH



Non specific lobulated left lower lobe mass, possibly loculated fluid, pleural based mass, neoplasm, infection. . . . Recommend correlation with CT of the chest.

# CONVENTIONAL RADIOGRAPH



Multiloculated collection in the pleural space consistent with empyema

# CONVENTIONAL RADIOGRAPH

- Specific views and patient positioning may be helpful
  - Upright chest x ray:  
Pneumoperitoneum
  - Expiratory upright film:  
Pneumothorax
  - Decubitus films: Layering  
effusion,  
pneumoperitoneum
  - Upright abdominal x ray:  
Small bowel obstruction





# CONVENTIONAL RADIOGRAPH

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  - Upright chest x ray: Pneumoperitoneum
  - Expiratory upright film: Pneumothorax
  - Decubitus films: Layering effusion, pneumoperitoneum
  - Upright abdominal x ray: Small bowel obstruction

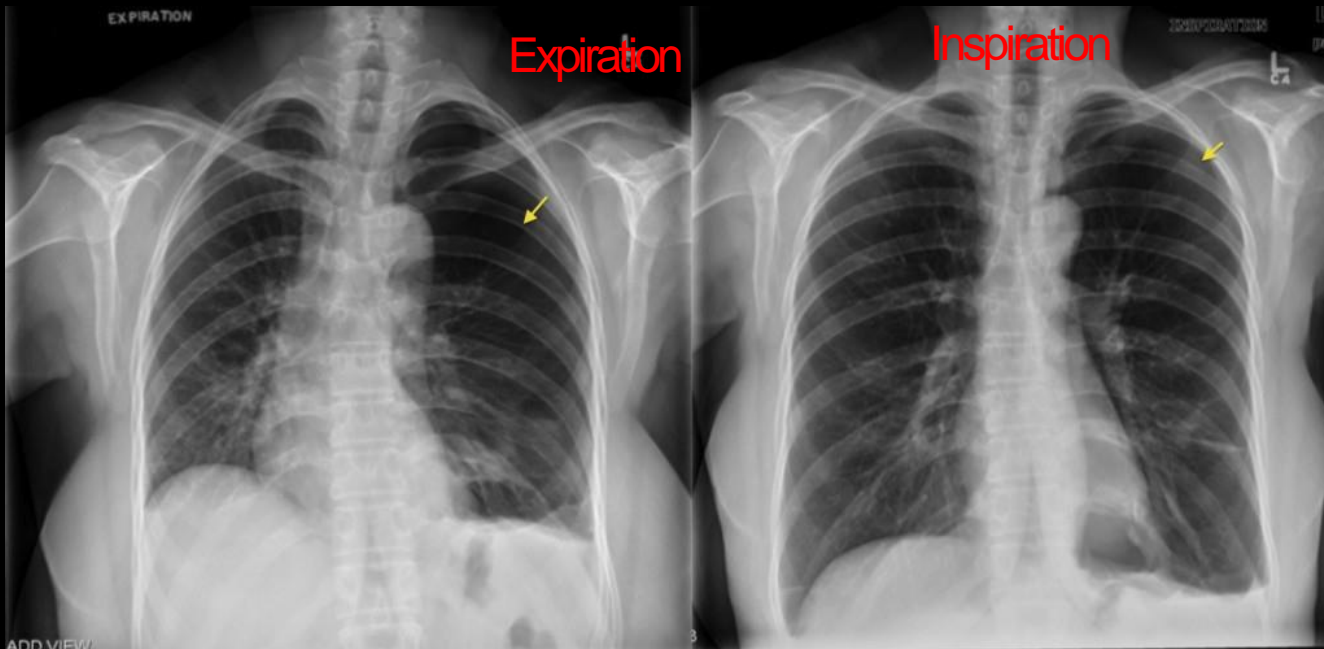
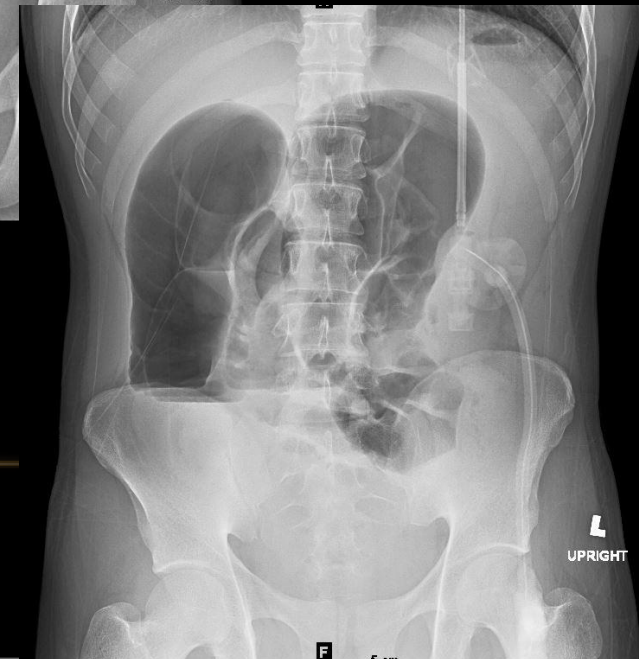


Image courtesy of Saint Vincent's University Hospital

# CONVENTIONAL RADIOGRAPH

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  - Upright chest x ray:  
Pneumoperitoneum
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  - Decubitus films: Layering  
effusion
  - Upright abdominal x ray:  
Small bowel obstruction



# CONVENTIONAL RADIOGRAPH

- Easily accessible
- Not always sensitive or specific
- Specific views may answer specific clinical questions
- You get what you pay for!

# ULTRASOUND



Pros

No radiation  
“Real time”  
imaging- blood  
flow, peristalsis, etc  
Cheap (relatively  
speaking)

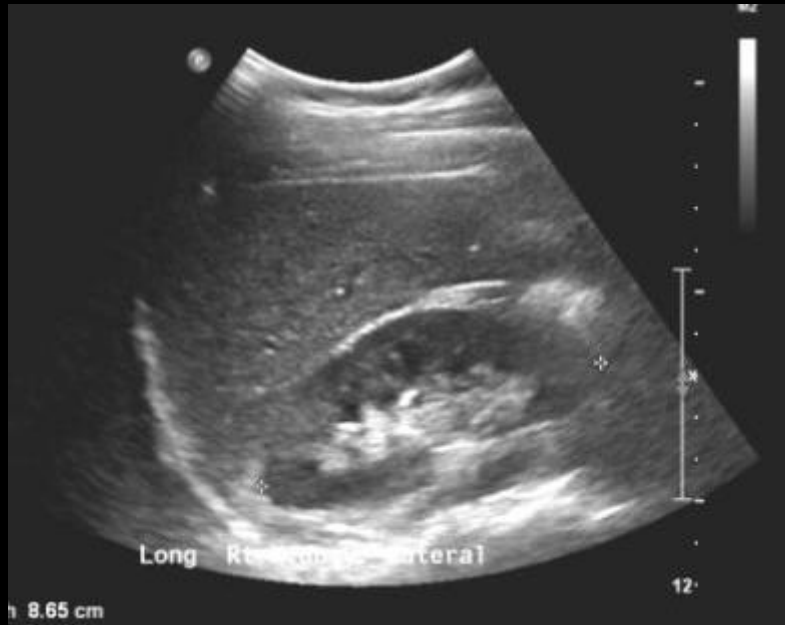
Operator  
dependent  
Patient dependent

- Body habitus
- Positioning
- Breath hold



Cons

# ULTRASOUND LIMITATIONS: BODY HABITUS



BMI 24



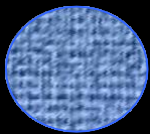
BMI 49

# ULTRASOUND LIMITATIONS: BOWEL GAS



# ULTRASOUND: LIMITATIONS

## High Frequency ultrasound



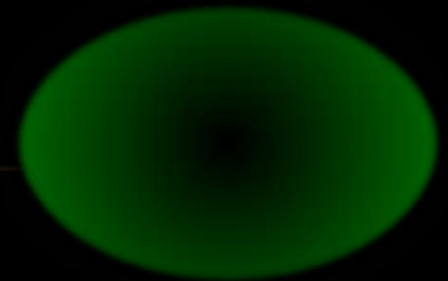
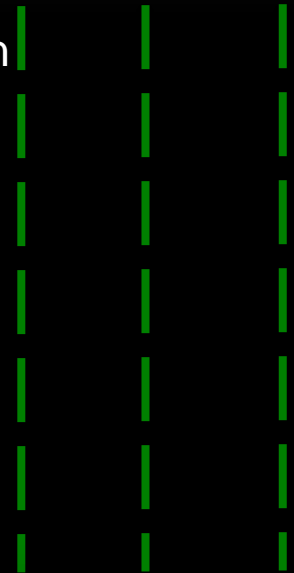
- Good spatial resolution
- Superficial penetration

### Superficial structures

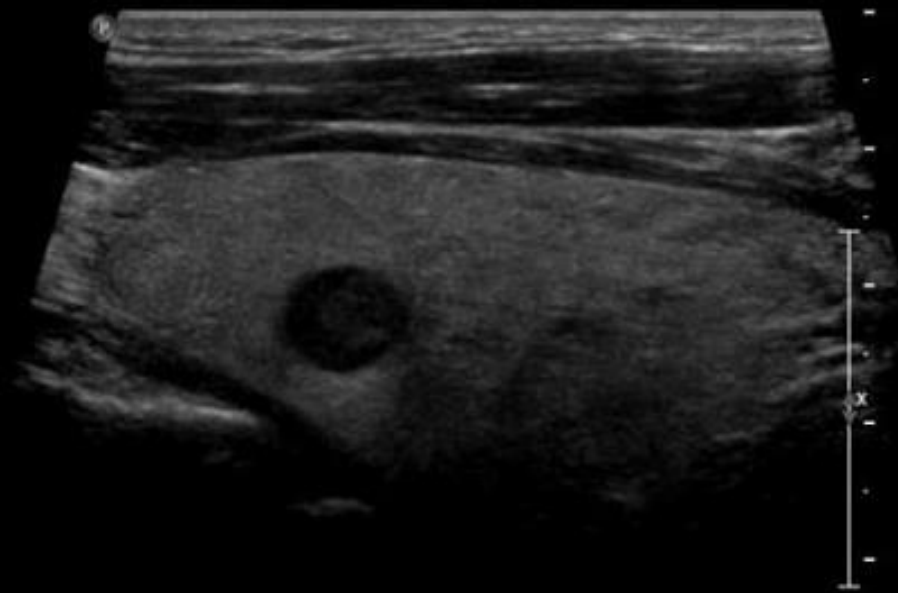
- Thyroid
- Subcutaneous
- Breast
- Lymph nodes
- Superficial vessels

## Low Frequency ultrasound

- Worse spatial resolution
- Deep penetration
- Deeper structures
- Abdominal organs

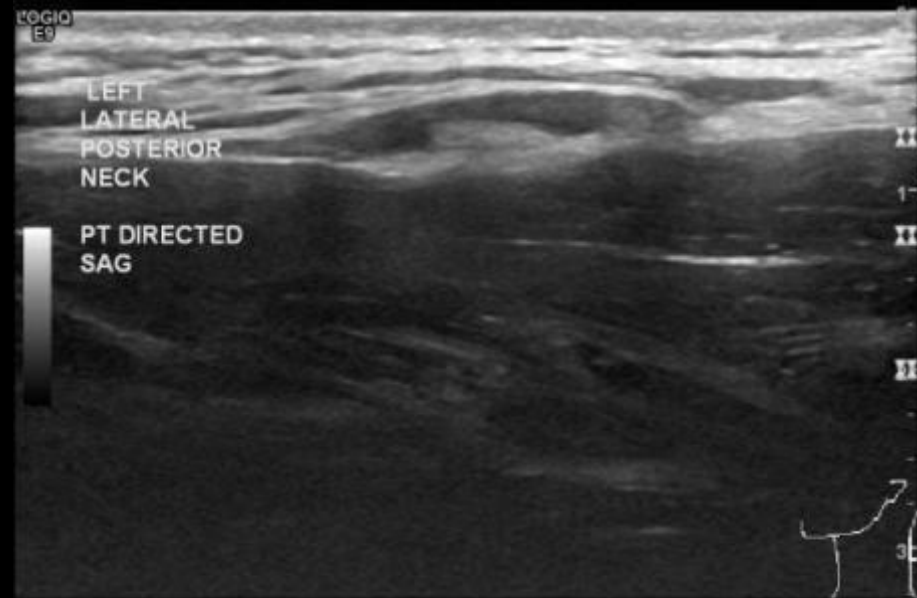


# ULTRASOUND: SUPERFICIAL STRUCTURES



LONG THYROID RT LOBE MEDIAL

4.5

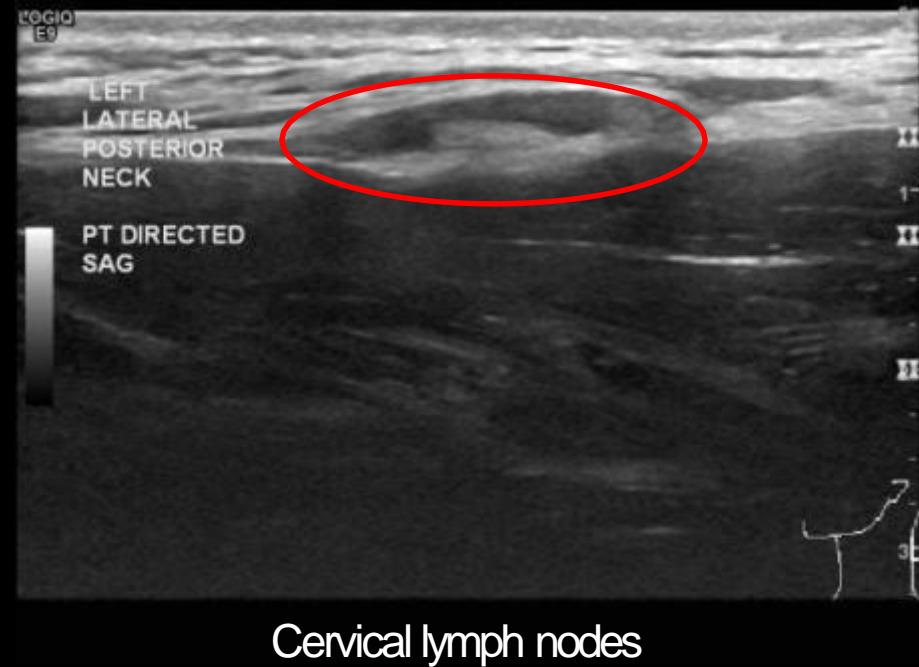


Cervical lymph nodes

THYROID NODULE



# ULTRASOUND: SUPERFICIAL STRUCTURES



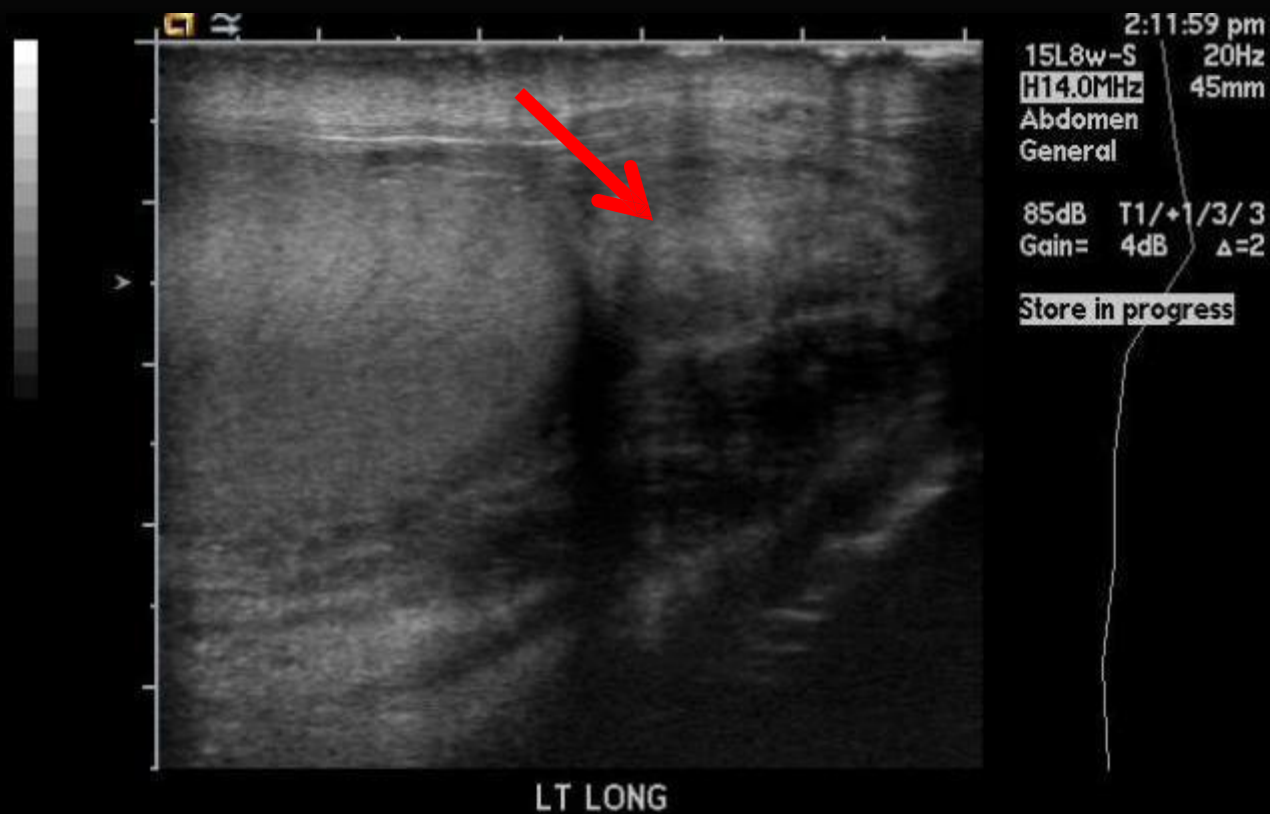
THYROID NODULE

# ULTRASOUND: DYNAMIC IMAGING



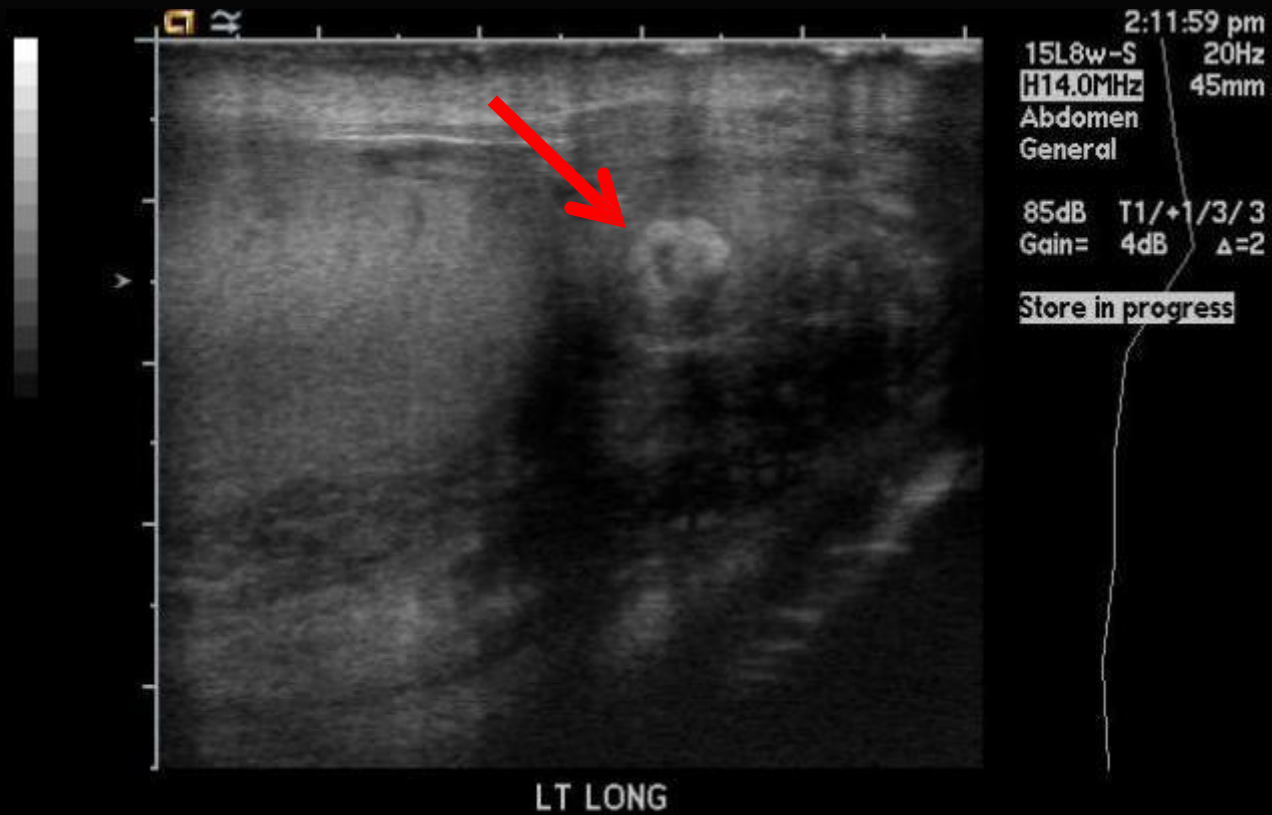
Left inguinal hernia with Valsalva

# ULTRASOUND: DYNAMIC IMAGING



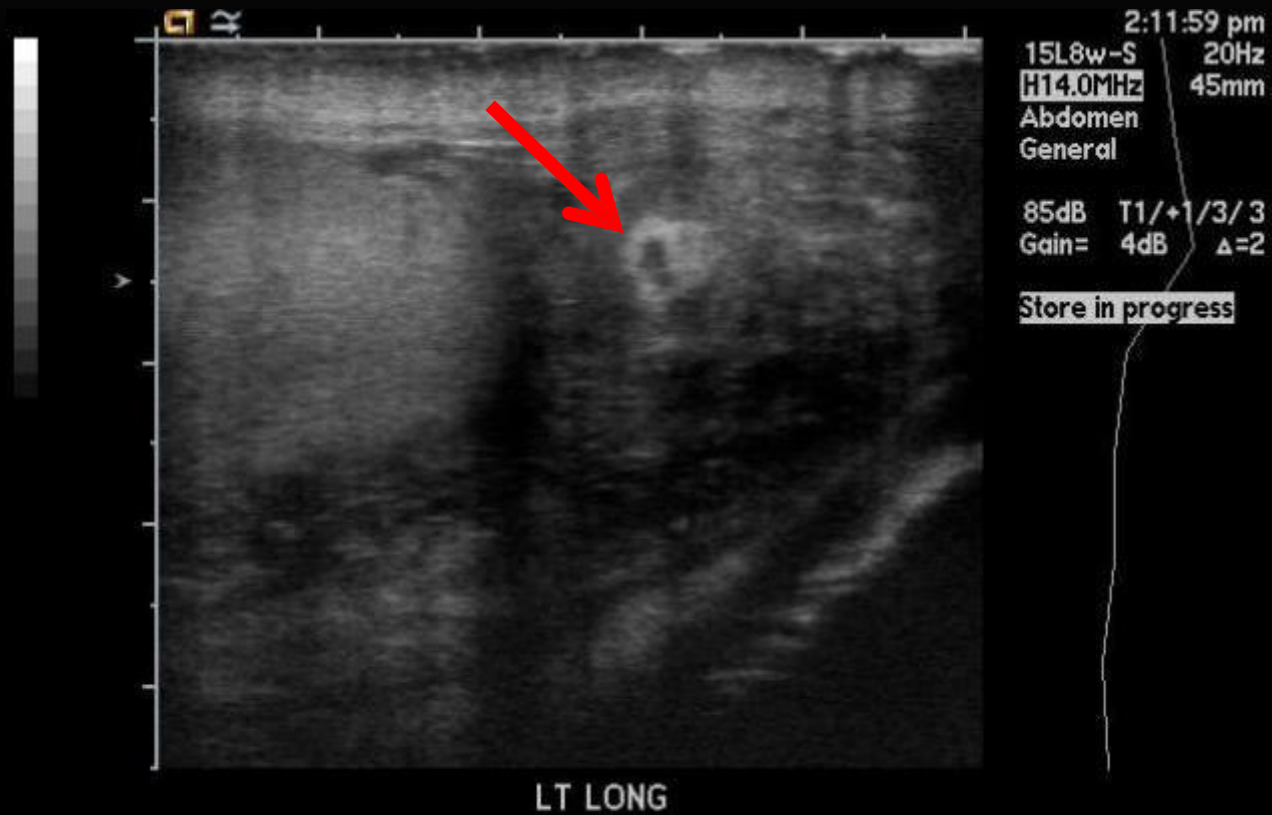
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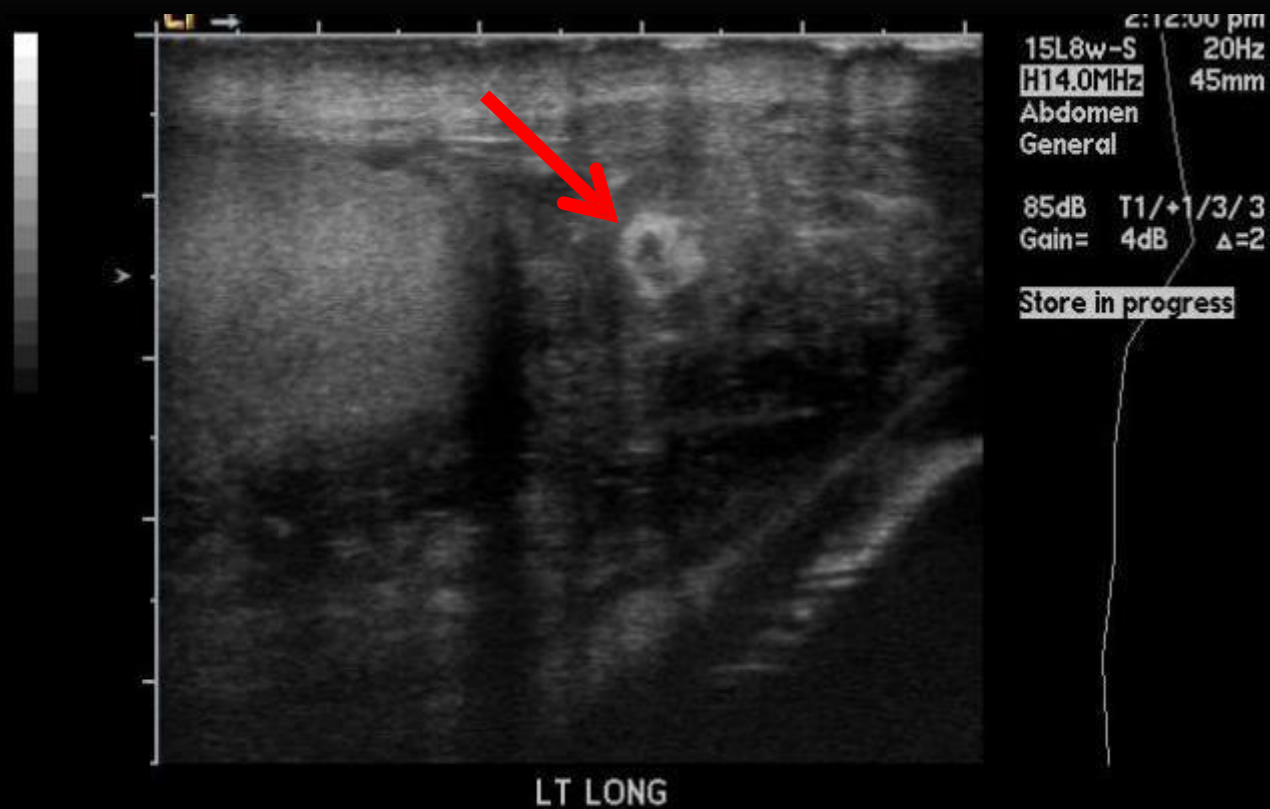
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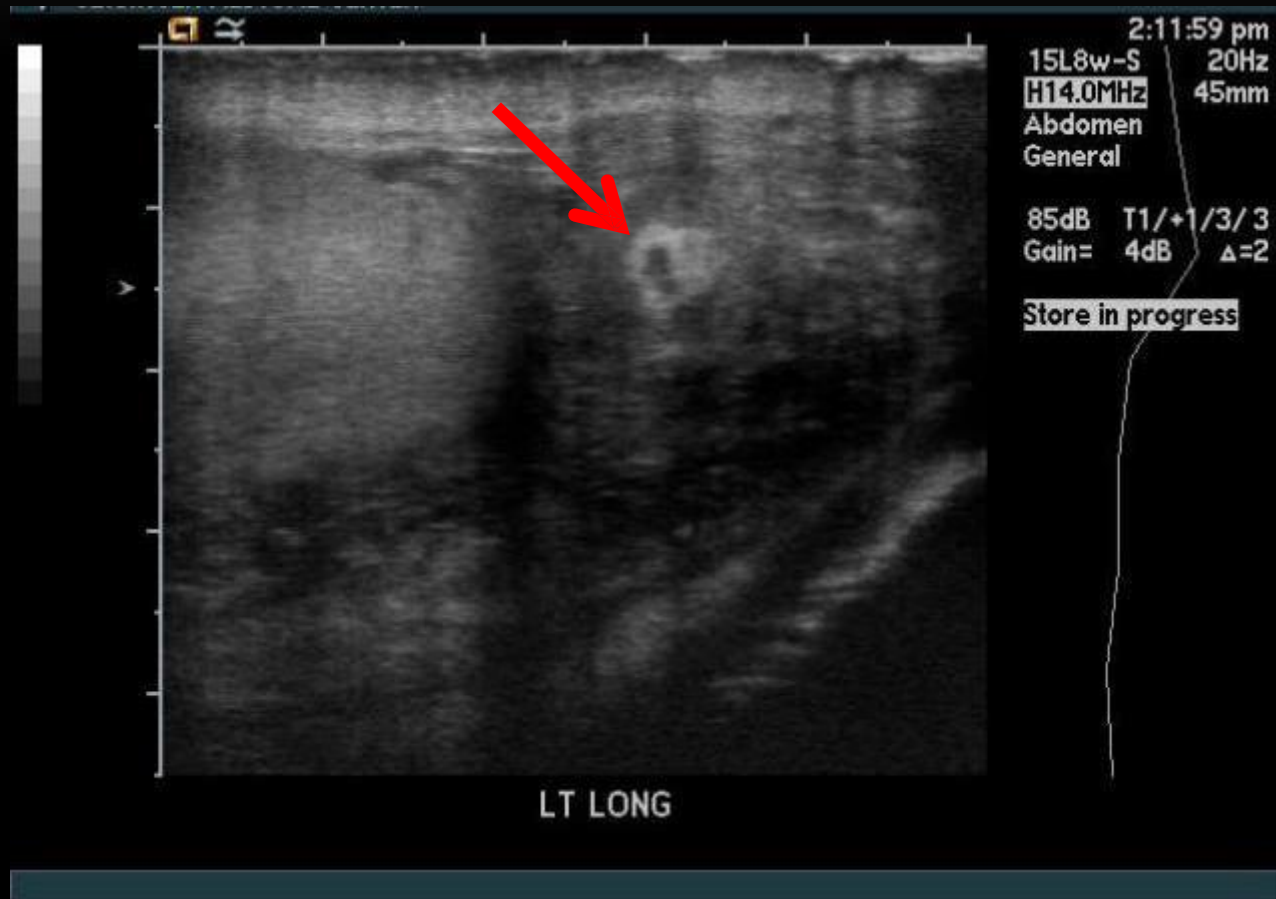
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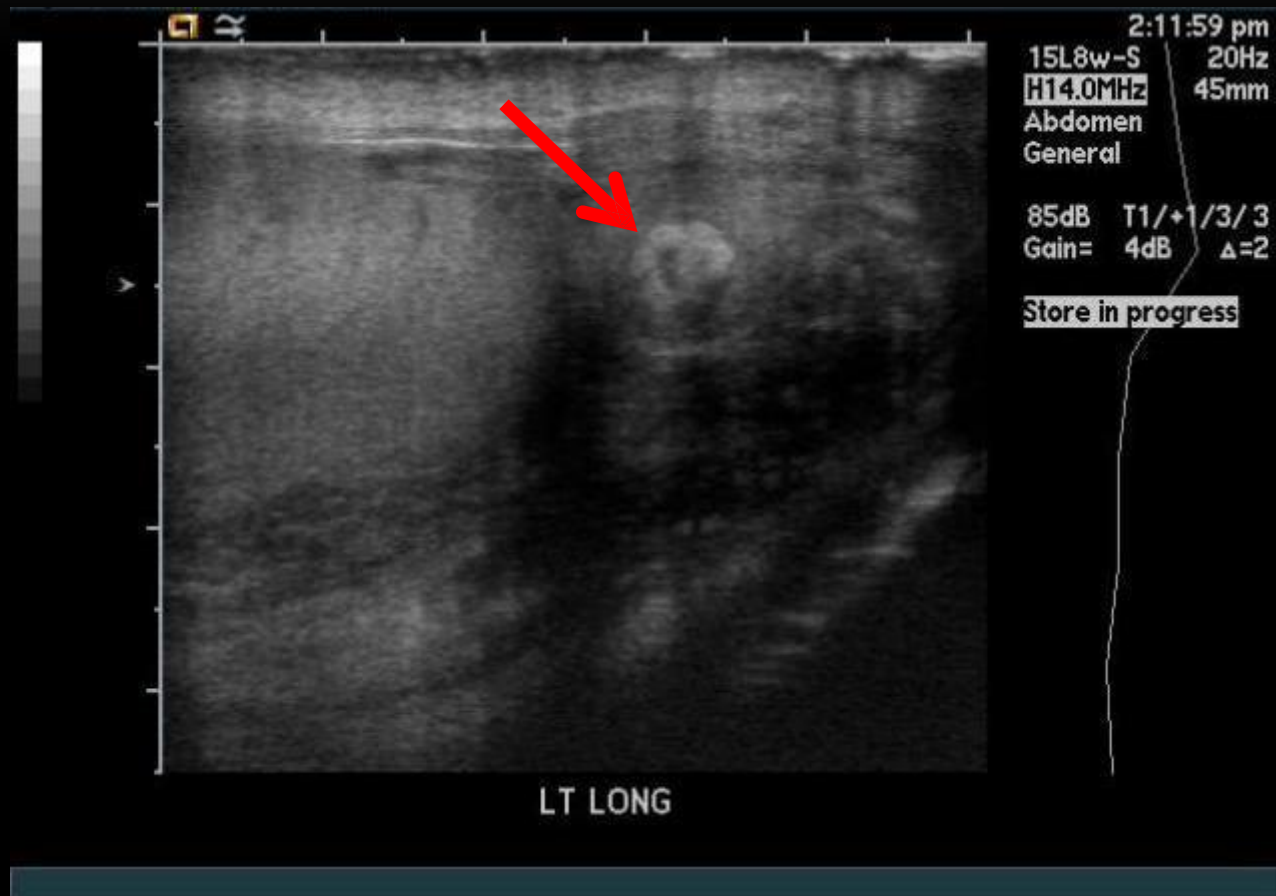
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Left inguinal hernia with Valsalva

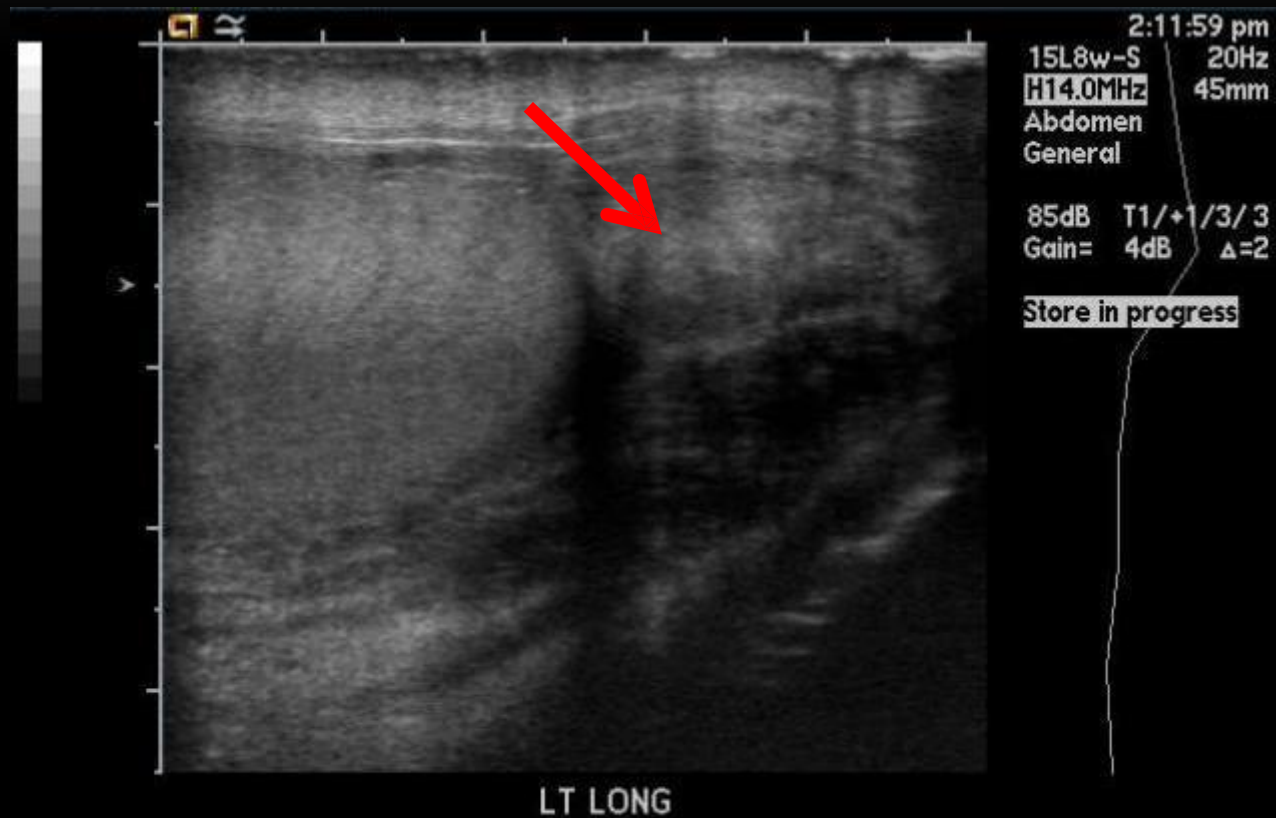
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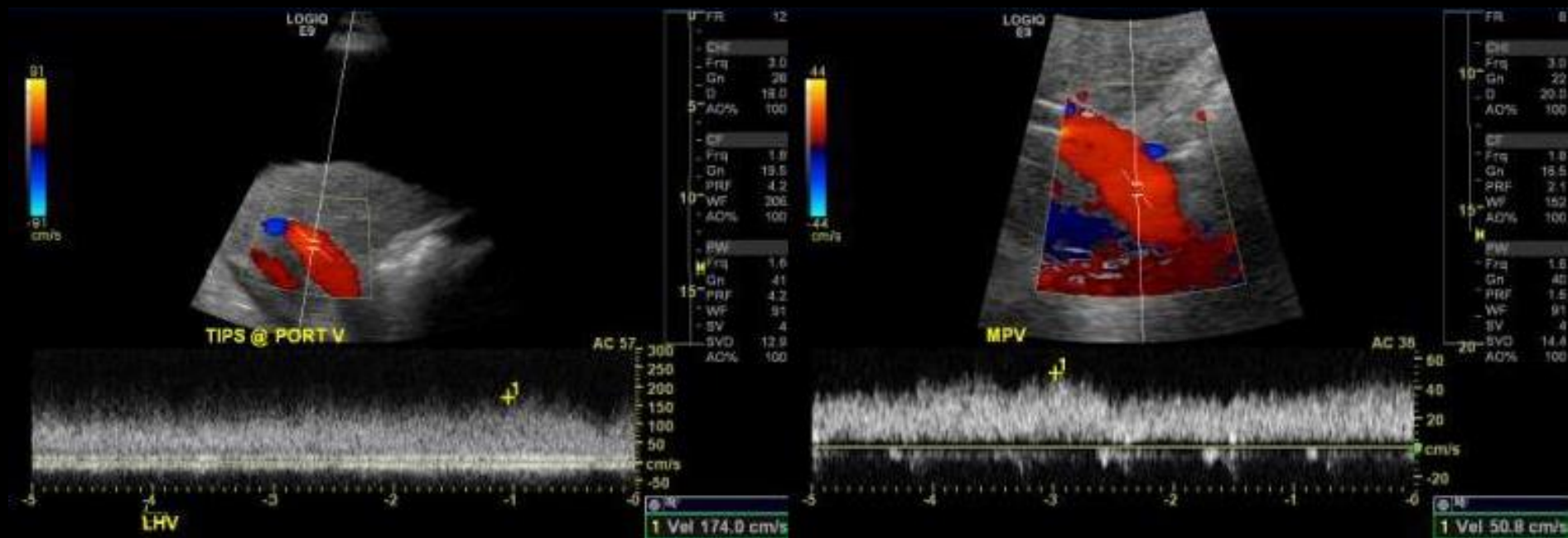
# ULTRASOUND: DYNAMIC IMAGING



Left inguinal hernia with Valsalva

# ULTRASOUND: VASCULAR EVALUATION

- Cirrhotic patient: TIPS evaluation



Elevated velocities through TIPS indicative of stent malfunction

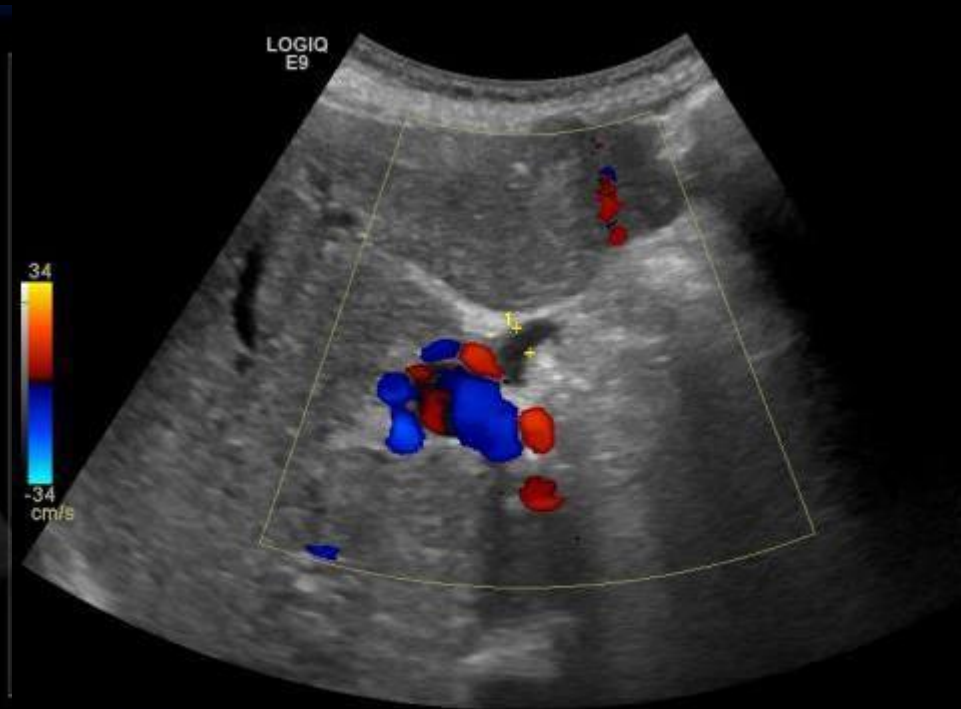
# ULTRASOUND: BILIARY TREE

Intrahepatic biliary ductal dilatation

Normal caliber common bile duct



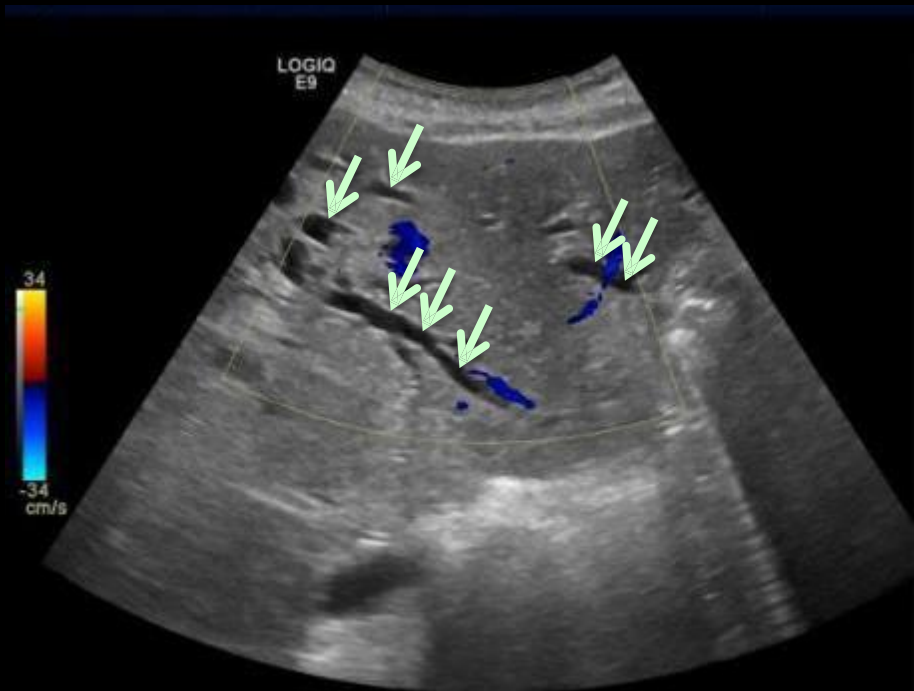
TRANS LIVER LEFT



LONG CBD

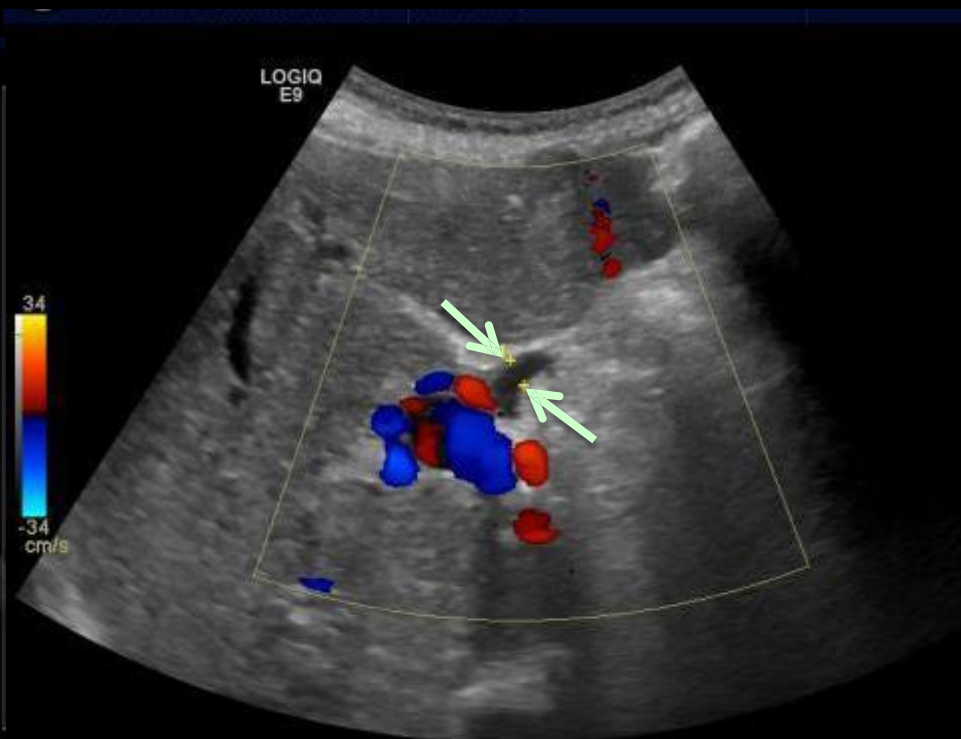
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Intrahepatic biliary ductal dilatation



TRANS LIVER LEFT

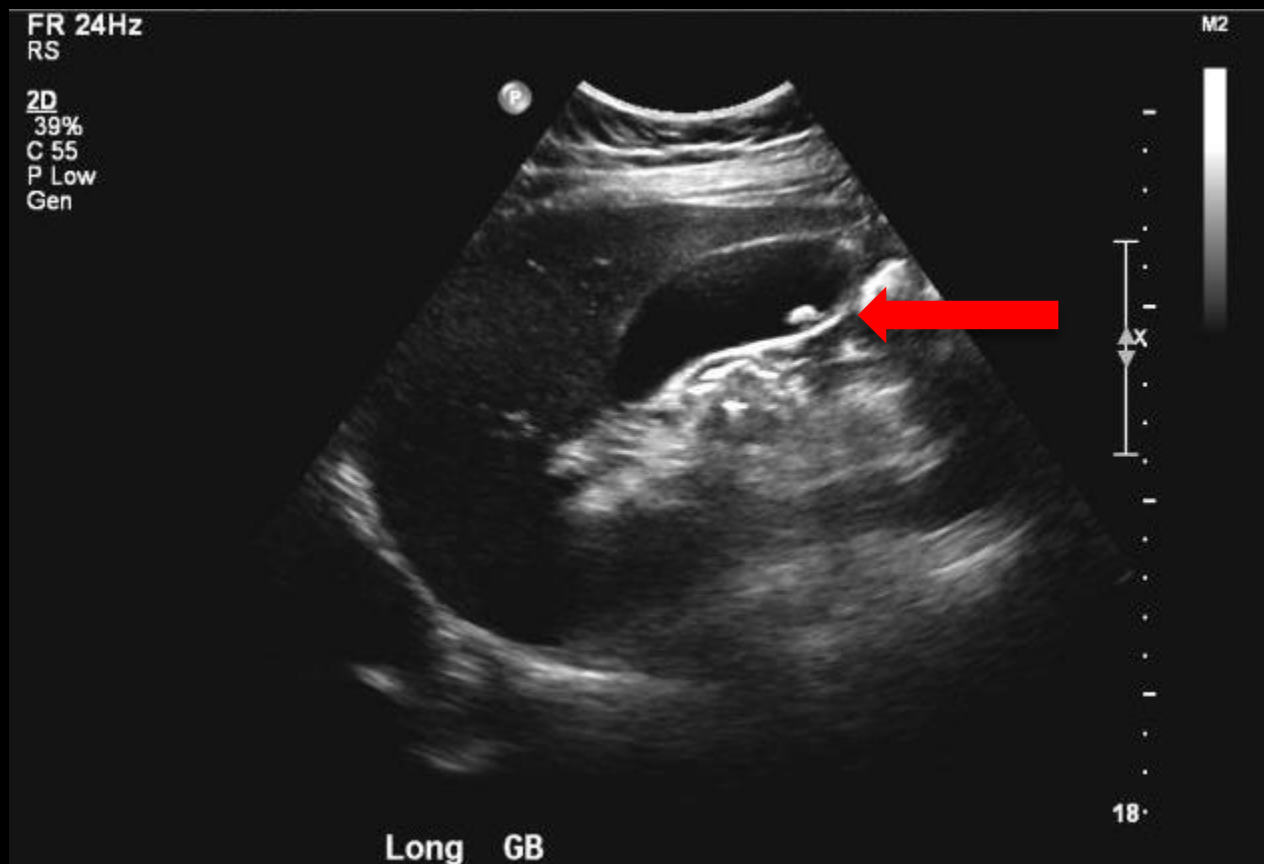
Normal caliber common bile duct



LONG CBD

# ULTRASOUND: GALLBLADDER/BILIARY TREE

- Incidental gallstone



# ULTRASOUND: GU IMAGING

- First line modality:
  - Uterus
  - Ovaries
  - Testicles
  - Superficial structures
- Why?
  - Good soft tissue contrast
  - No radiation

# ULTRASOUND: GU EVALUATION: UTERUS

- Post menopausal bleeding



Ill defined uterine mass, possibly leiomyoma although neoplasm cannot be excluded:  
Recommend ultrasound for further evaluation. . .



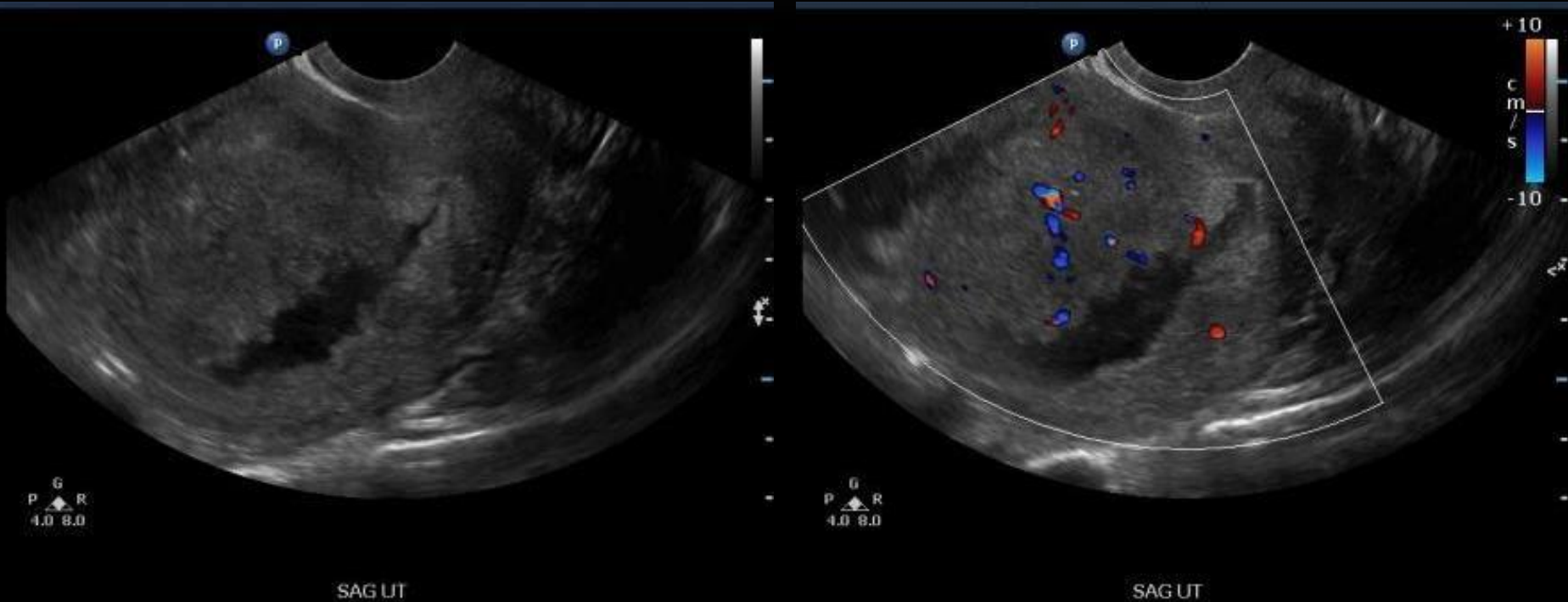
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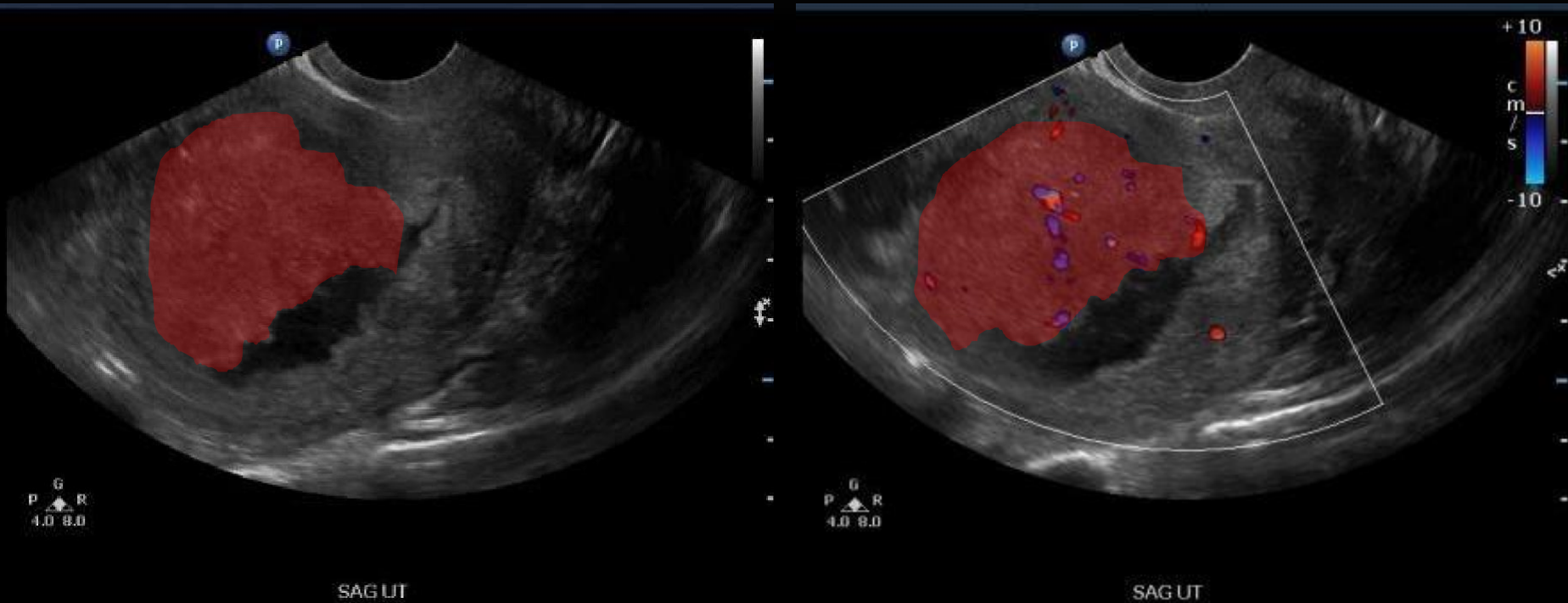
Ill defined uterine mass, possibly leiomyoma although neoplasm cannot be excluded:  
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# ULTRASOUND: GU EVALUATION: UTERUS



FIGO grade II endometrial adenocarcinoma involving 81% of the myometrium

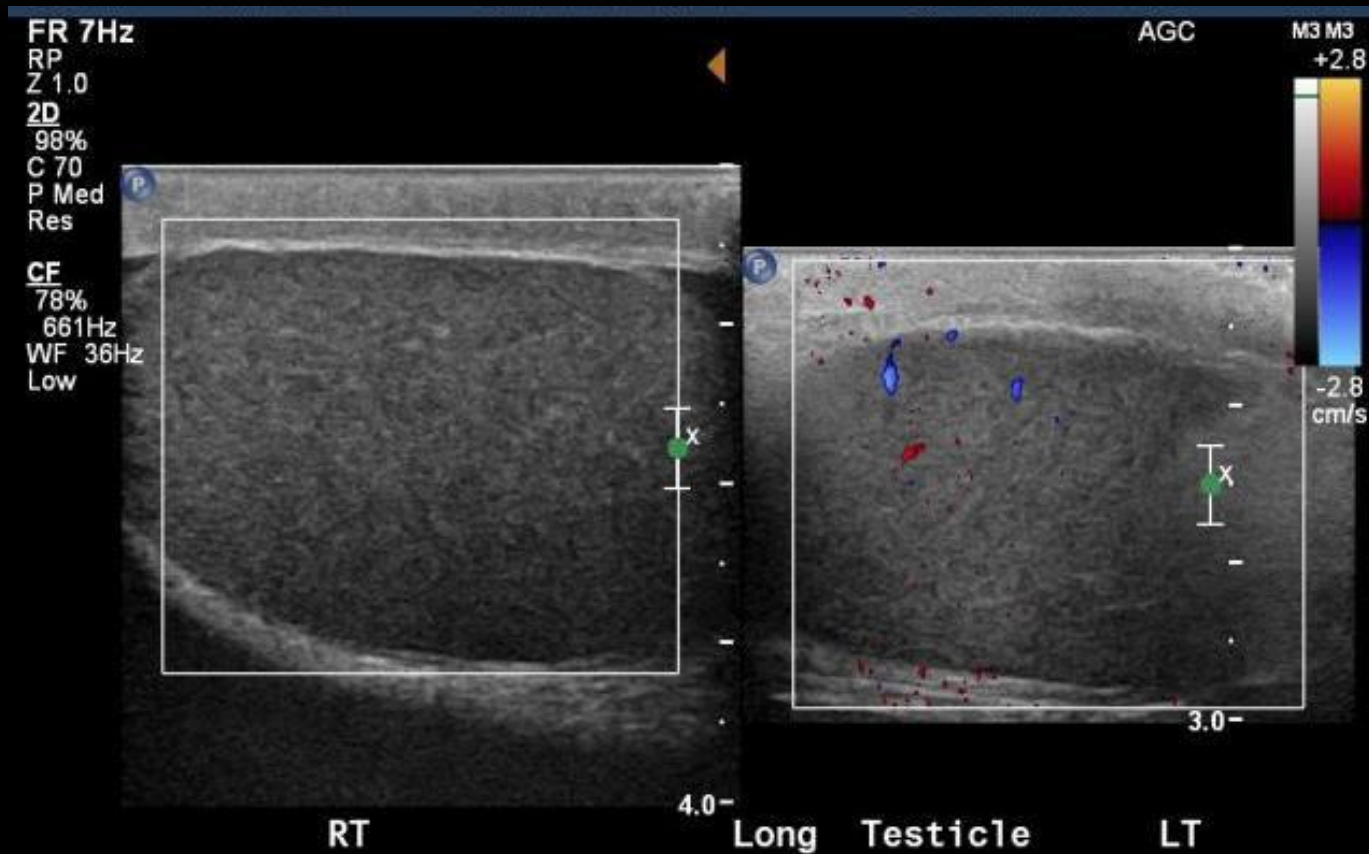
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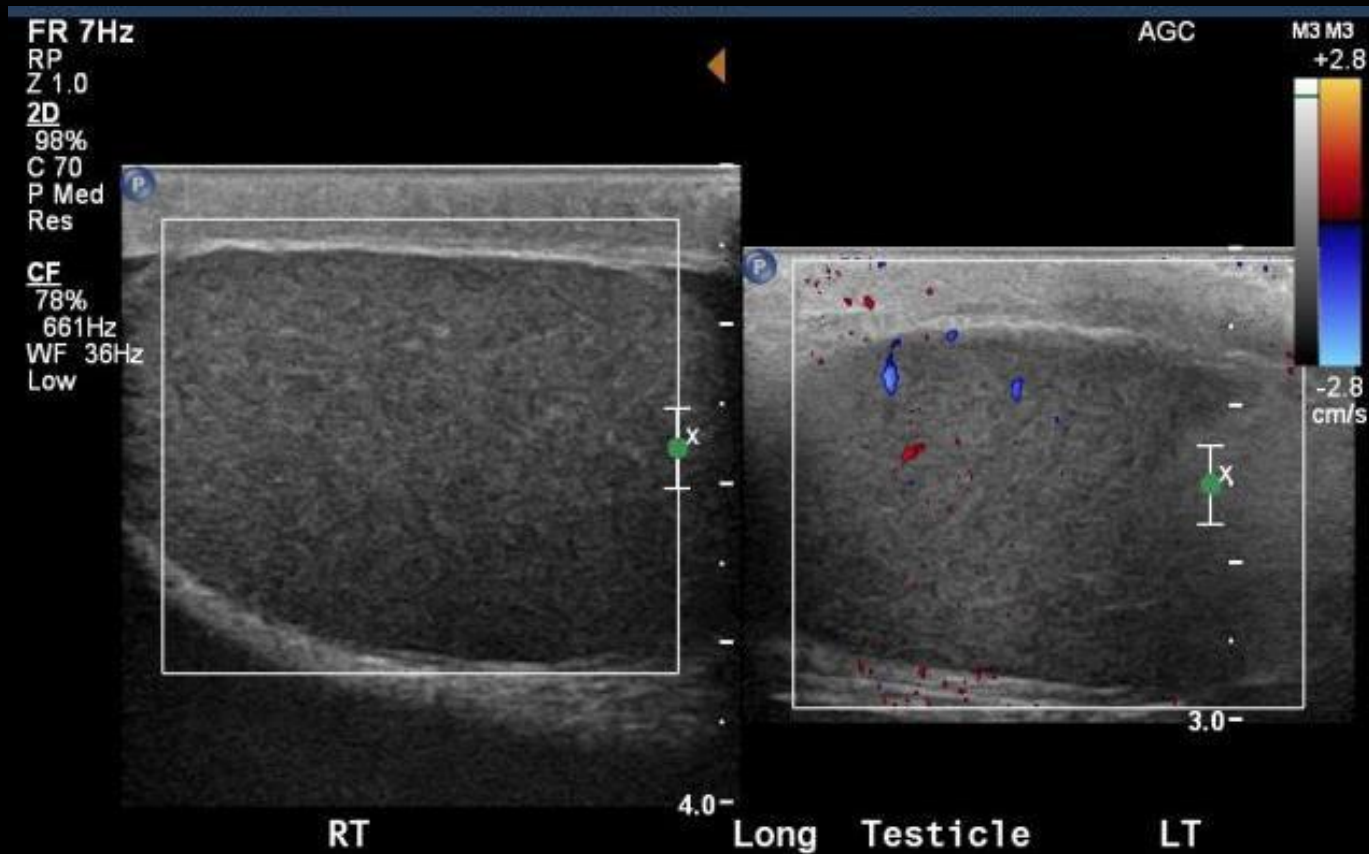
# ULTRASOUND: GU EVALUATION: TESTICLES

- 13 year old male with testicular pain



# ULTRASOUND: GU EVALUATION: TESTICLES

- 13 year old male with testicular pain



Right sided testicular torsion

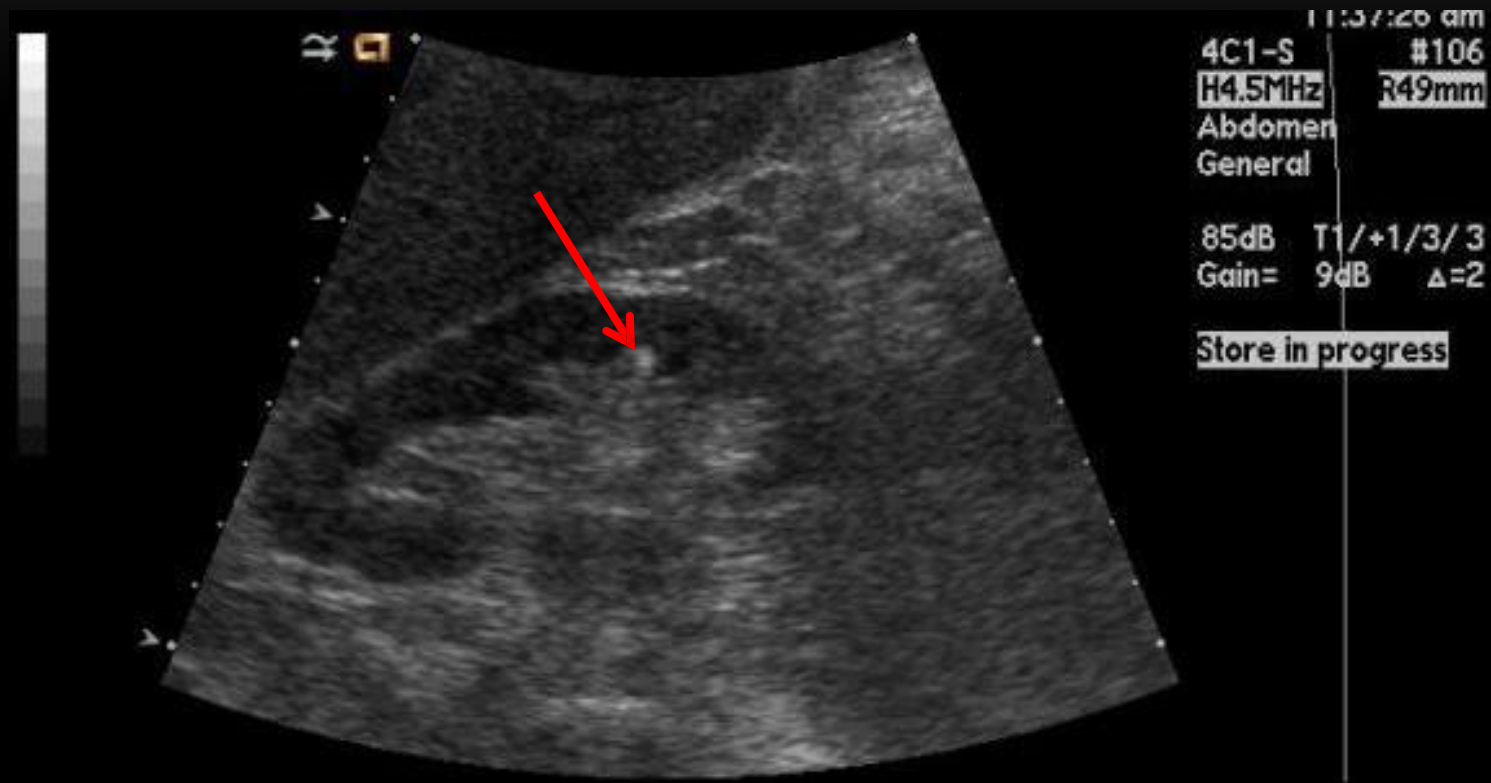
# ULTRASOUND: GU EVALUATION: KIDNEYS

- Useful:
  - Stones (sometimes)
  - Hydronephrosis
  - Cysts (sometimes)
- Not useful:
  - Characterizing solid renal masses (except CEUS)
  - Ureteral stones (sometimes)

# ULTRASOUND: HYDRONEPHROSIS



# ULTRASOUND: NEPHROLITHIASIS



RT KID LONG



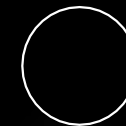
# ULTRASOUND: SOLID VERSUS CYSTIC



Multiple simple renal cysts

## Characteristics of a cyst

1. Anechoic = "black"
2. Posterior acoustic enhancement = "bright shadow"
3. No blood flow
4. Nothing in it



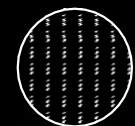
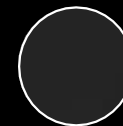
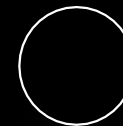
Simple cyst

# ULTRASOUND: SOLID VERSUS CYSTIC



## Characteristics of a cyst

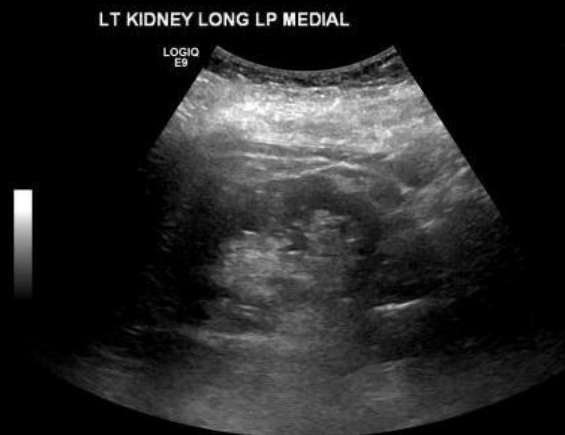
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*Simple cyst*    Mildly complex cysts

# ULTRASOUND: GU: KIDNEYS

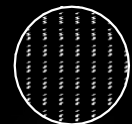
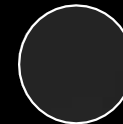
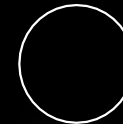
- 79 year old female with acute kidney injury



LT KIDNEY LONG

## Characteristics of a cyst

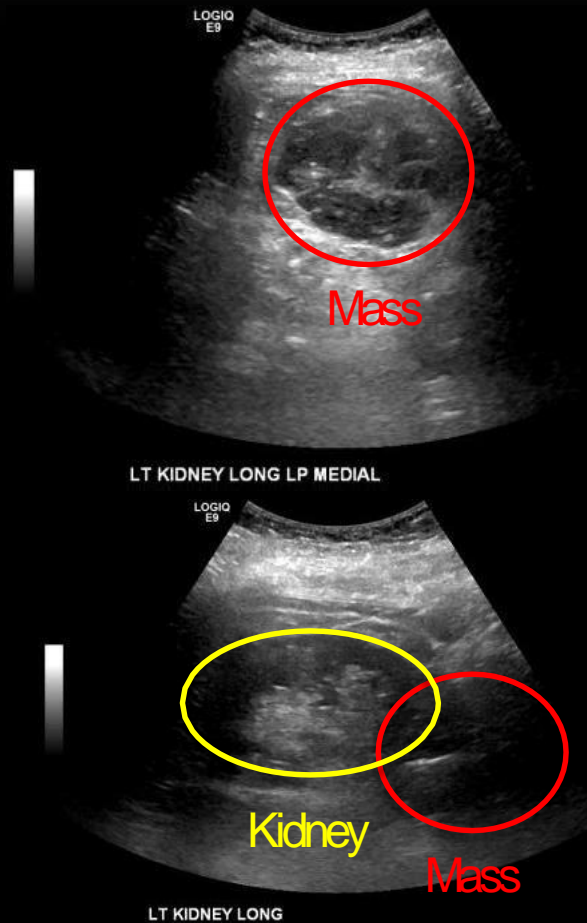
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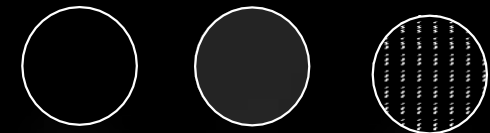
# ULTRASOUND: GU: KIDNEYS

- 79 year old female with acute kidney injury



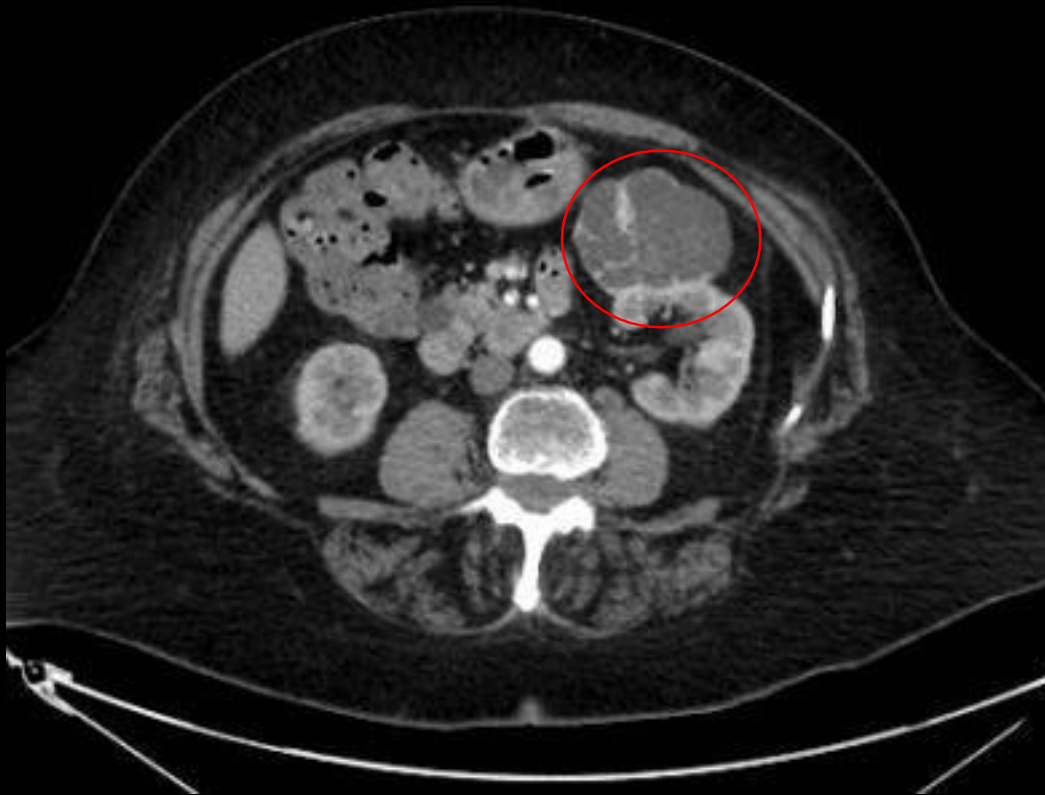
## Characteristics of a cyst

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# ULTRASOUND: GU: KIDNEYS

- 79 year old female with AKI



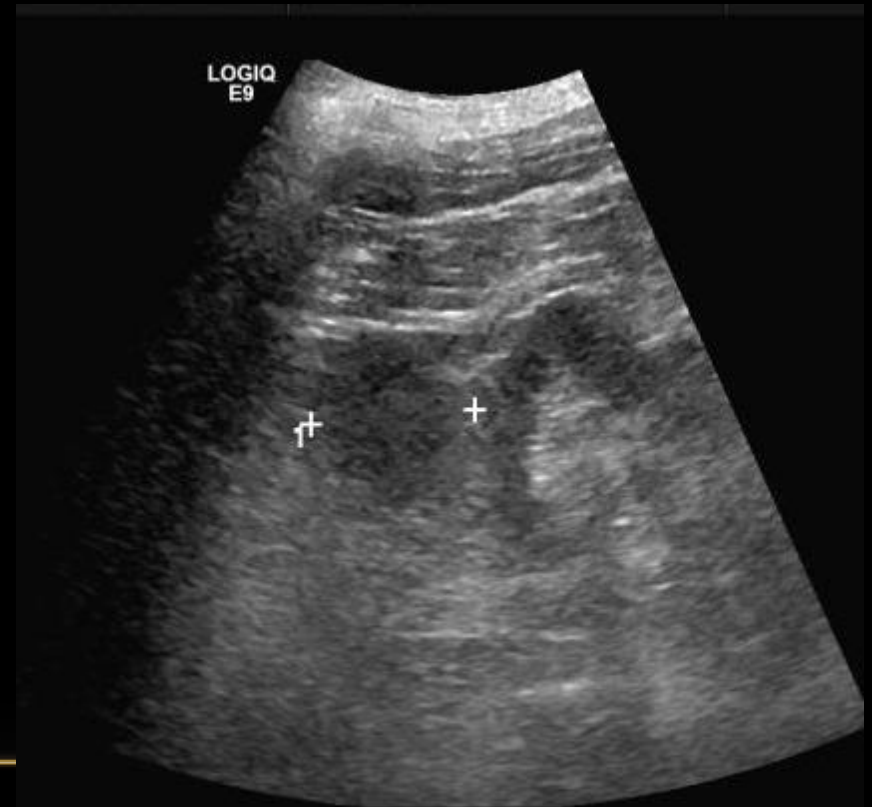
Renal cell carcinoma

# ULTRASOUND: GU: EVALUATION OF KIDNEY

- 71 year old male with right upper quadrant pain



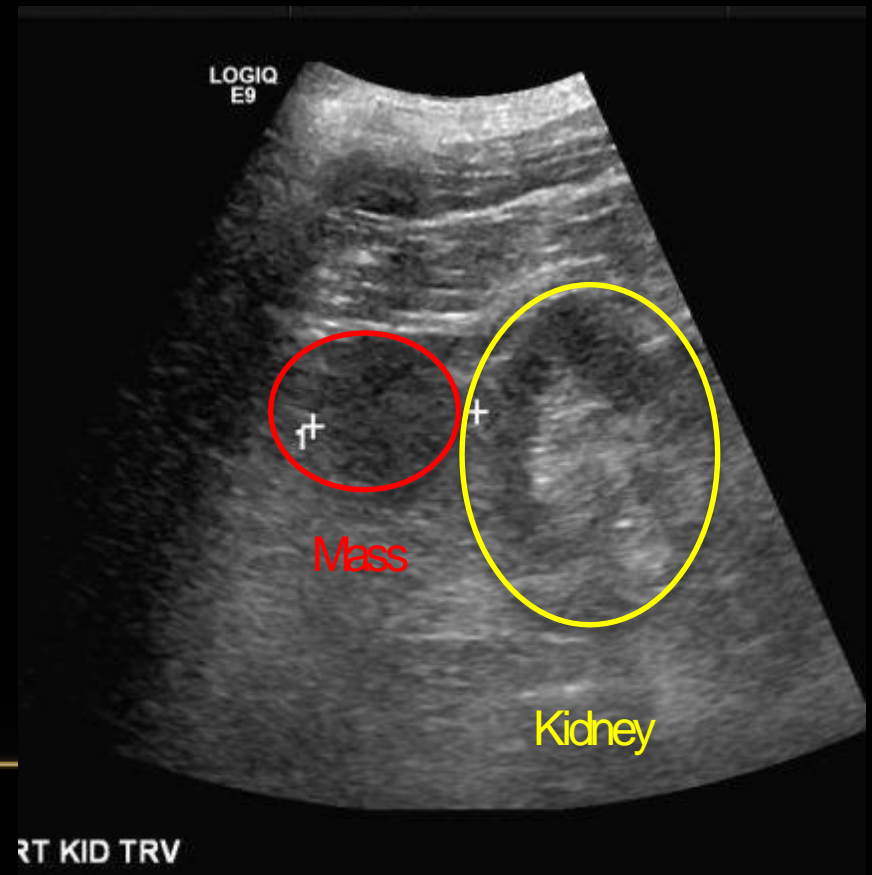
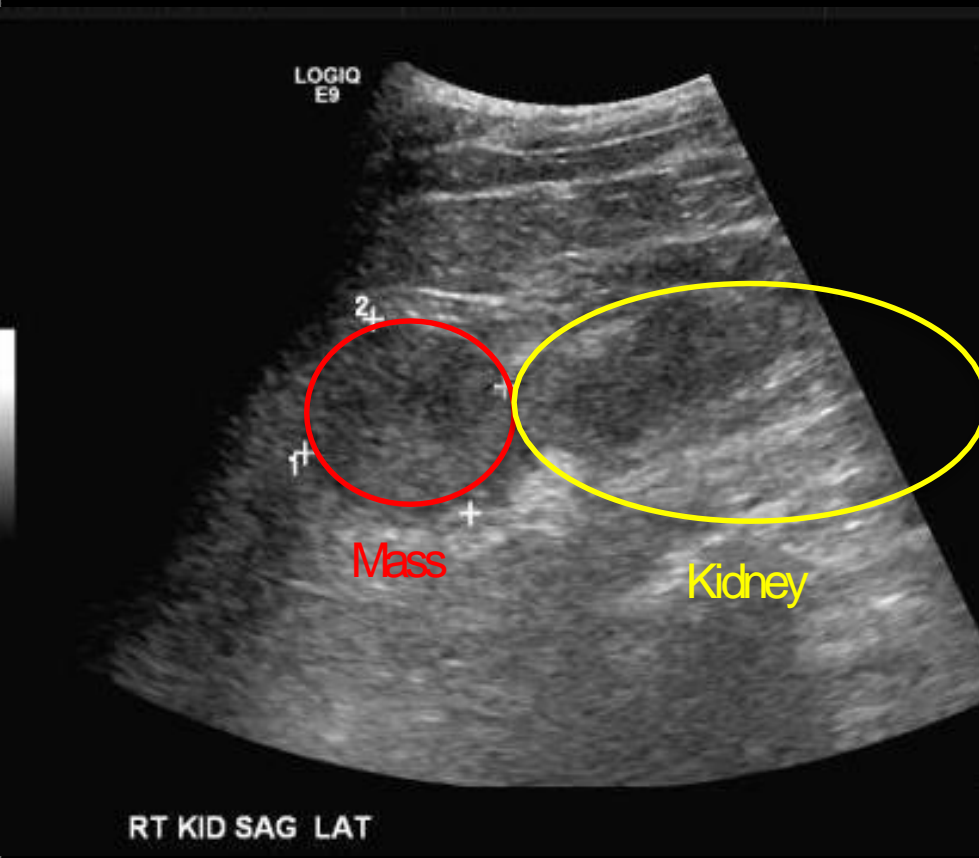
RT KID SAG LAT



RT KID TRV

# ULTRASOUND: GU: EVALUATION OF KIDNEY

- 71 year old male with right upper quadrant pain



# ULTRASOUND: GU: EVALUATION OF KIDNEY

- 71 year old male with right upper quadrant pain



Clear cell renal cell carcinoma: 5 cm



# ULTRASOUND: GU EVALUATION: KIDNEYS

- Uses
  - Hydronephrosis: Very good
  - Calculi: Good (renal calculi, not necessarily ureteral calculi)
  - Cysts: Okay (simple cysts, non obese patient)
  - Masses (detection and characterization): Poor

# ULTRASOUND

- **First line imaging modality**
  - Vascular pathology
  - Dynamic "real time" imaging
  - Biliary pathology
  - Uterus, ovaries, testicle
  - Kidneys (sometimes)
- **NOT useful for**
  - Characterizing solid lesions
  - Detection of occult pathology outside of the probe's range
  - Penetrating extensive fat/gas

# COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY



Pros

Quick  
Easily accessible  
“Screening test”

Radiation: doses  
are 100-500x  
those of  
conventional  
radiograph  
IV contrast



Cons

# CT CONTRAST AGENTS

- At risk patients: BUN/Creatinine recommended within 30 days of the exam IF...
  - >60 year old
  - History of renal disease
    - Dialysis
    - Renal transplant
    - Single kidney
    - Renal cancer
    - Renal surgery
  - Hypertension requiring medical therapy
  - History of diabetes
  - Metformin use
- No universal cutoff- will vary with institution
  - Range of serum creatinine 1.5-2.0 , we go by GFR

We use GFR cutoff of 30 at UNC

# CT CONTRAST AGENTS: WHEN TO AVOID IT

- Risk factors for contrast induced nephropathy...
  - Repeated doses (20 hours to clear contrast from system)
  - Acute renal injury
  - Dehydration
  - Radiologist is consulted to determine if contrast is needed or if situation can be optimized
- DIALYSIS
  - If the patient is on hemodialysis AND anuric, IV contrast can be given
  - If the patient is still making urine, proceed cautiously
- PREVENTION
  - Hydration: oral or IV, no ideal rate
  - Sodium bicarbonate and Nacetylcysteine (mucomyst) not validated
- *Acute renal failure is a contraindication to IV contrast*

# CT CONTRAST AGENTS: PREMEDICATION

- Reactions to contrast agents
  - **Mild** (no treatment): 5-8% of patients (flushing, nausea, vomiting)
  - **Moderate** (require treatment): 1% of patients (severe nausea/vomiting, hives, swelling)
  - **Severe** (require treatment): 0.1% of patients (anaphylaxis)
    - Expected death rate of 1 in 75,000<sup>1</sup>
- “Pseudo-allergy”: No allergic antibody- IV contrast causes histamine release from mast cells

# CT CONTRAST AGENTS: PREMEDICATION

- Contrast reaction: At risk patients
  - Prior reaction
  - Shellfish allergy does not necessitate premedication<sup>1</sup>
- Premedication:
  - 13 hours prior: Prednisone 50 mg (IV or po)
  - 7 hours prior: Prednisone 50 mg (IV or po)
  - 1 hour prior: Prednisone 50 mg (IV or po) and Diphenhydramine (Benadryl) 50 mg po<sup>2</sup>
- “Emergency” premedication
  - Q4 hours until injection: 40 mg Methylprednisolone sodium succinate (Solu-medrol) or 200 mg hydrocortisone sodium succinate (Solu-Cortef)
  - 1 hour prior: 50 mg diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
  - **Steroid less effective when given less than 4-6 hours prior to exam**

1. M. Saijoughlan. Intravenous Radiocontrast Media: A review of Allergic Reactions. US Pharm. 2012;37 (5): HS-14-HS-16

2. ACR Manual on Contrast Media, Version 10.2, 2016

# CT CONTRAST: METFORMIN, BREASTFEEDING

- **Metformin**
  - Acute renal failure caused by IV contrast can lead to an accumulation of metformin, resulting in lactate accumulation/lactic acidosis
  - Hold metformin for 48 hours post injection
- **Breastfeeding**
  - >1% of the dose is excreted in breast milk
  - >1% of the contrast in breast milk is absorbed from the GI tract
  - 0.01% of dose ingested by infant
  - If the mother is concerned, she may abstain from breast feeding for 24 hours



# CT: WHEN AND WHY OF CONTRAST AGENTS

- **Principle:** Increased attenuation (brightness) from the iodine atom in contrast = “enhancement”
  - Magnitude of enhancement is related to amount of contrast deposited in a target organ or in the intravascular blood pool
- **Variables in enhancement**
  - Rate of injection
  - Cardiac output of the patient
  - Organ perfusion (i.e. single versus dual blood supply)
  - Timing of imaging
- **When do we use it?**
  - Vascular imaging
  - Infectious/inflammatory processes
  - Neoplasm

# CT: WHEN AND WHY OF CONTRAST AGENTS

- Getting a diagnostic scan...
  - Appropriate *use* of IV contrast
  - Appropriate *timing* of IV contrast
- Based on clinical history, a scan protocol is chosen to optimize the diagnostic yield
  - Precontrast imaging?
  - Multiple phases of imaging?

## ADULT BODY CT PROTOCOLS

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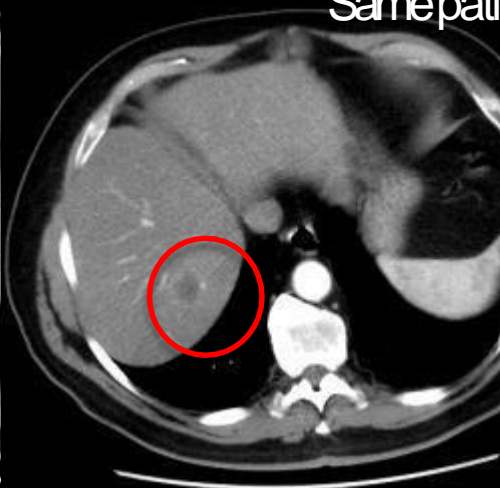
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# CT CONTRAST AGENTS: TIMING IS EVERYTHING

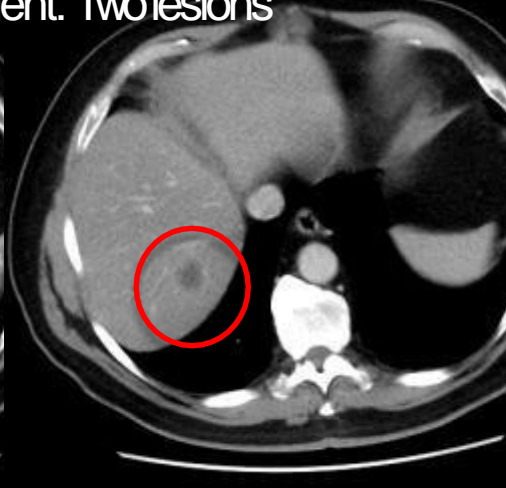
Same patient: Two lesions



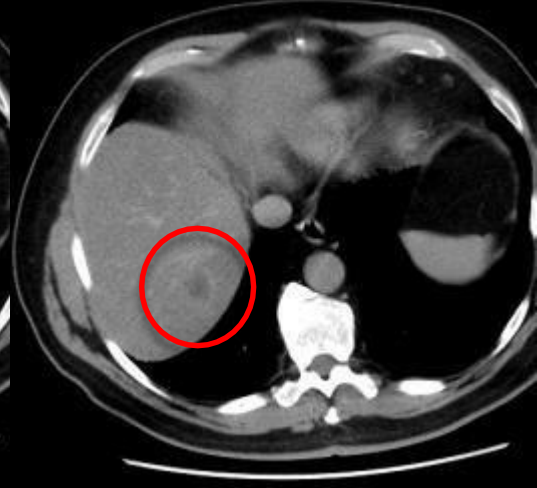
Precontrast



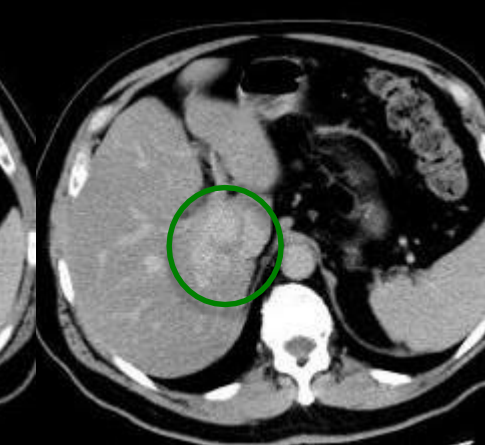
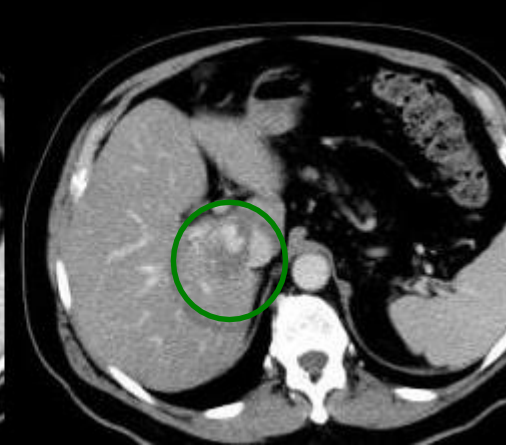
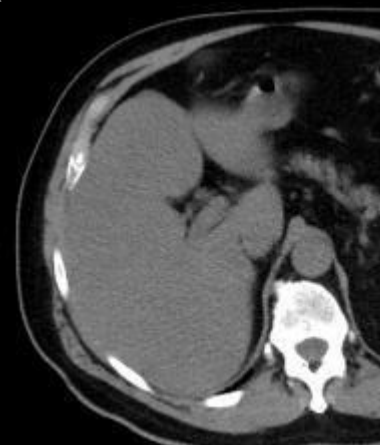
Late arterial



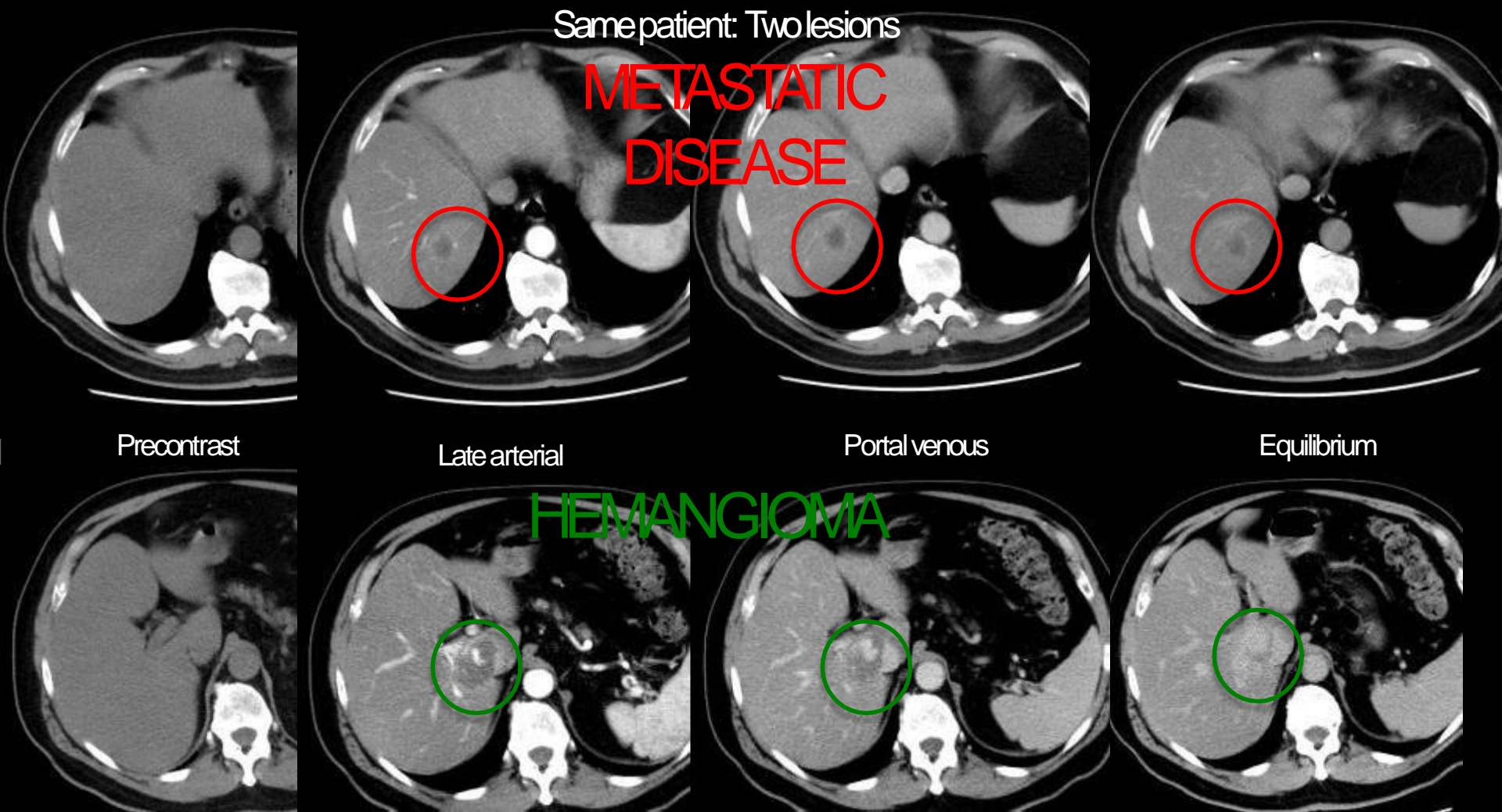
Portal venous



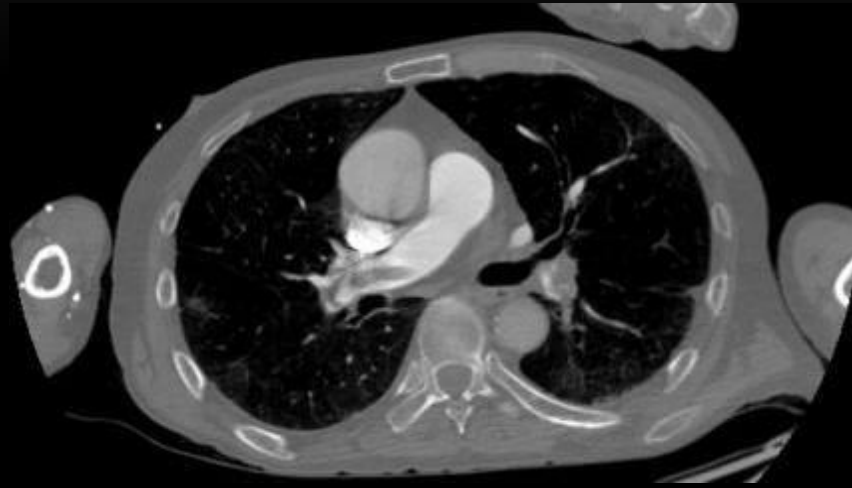
Equilibrium



# CT CONTRAST AGENTS: TIMING IS EVERYTHING

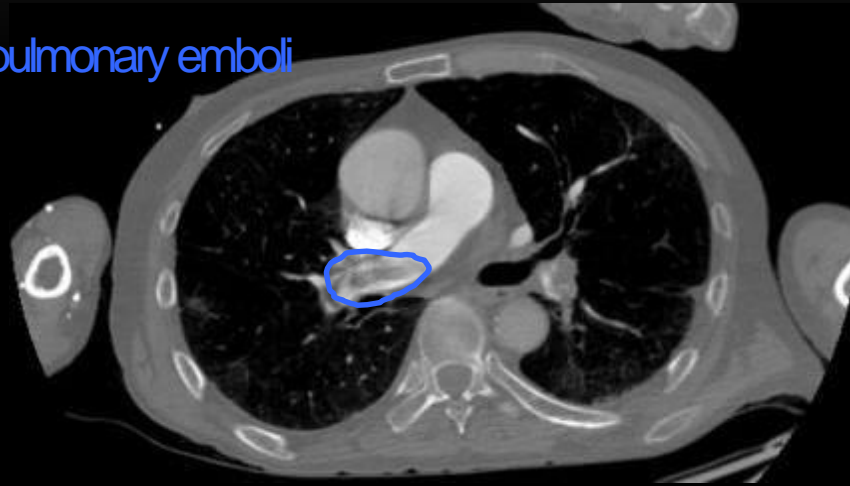


# CT CONTRAST: VASCULAR IMAGING



# CT CONTRAST: VASCULAR IMAGING

Filling defect = pulmonary emboli



Bowed interventricular septum = Right heart strain



# CT CONTRAST: INFECTION/INFLAMMATION

- With contrast: Diverticulitis with intramural abscess



# CT CONTRAST: NEOPLASM

- Pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor: Without and with contrast



No contrast: No tumor!



Pancreatic protocol CT: TUMOR



# CT: IV CONTRAST: WHEN DON'T WE WANT IT?

- What is bright on CT?
  - Blood
  - Calcium
  - Iron
  - Foreign bodies

# CT: IV CONTRAST: WHEN DON'T WE WANT IT?

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# CT: IV CONTRAST: WHEN DON'T WE WANT IT?

- What is bright on CT?
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  - Calcium
  - Iron
  - Foreign bodies



Retroperitoneal hematoma

# CT: IV CONTRAST: WHEN DON'T WE WANT IT?

- What is bright on CT?
  - Blood
  - Calcium
  - Iron
  - Foreign bodies



# CT: IV CONTRAST: WHEN DON'T WE WANT IT?

- What is bright on CT?
  - Blood
  - Calcium
  - Iron
  - Foreign bodies



Left UVJ stone

# CT: IV CONTRAST: WHEN DON'T WE WANT IT?

- What is bright on CT?
  - Blood
  - Calcium
  - Iron
  - Foreign bodies



# CT: IV CONTRAST: WHEN DON'T WE WANT IT?

- What is bright on CT?
  - Blood
  - Calcium
  - Iron
  - Foreign bodies



# CT: SUMMARY

- IV contrast useful...
    - Vascular imaging
    - Infection/inflammation
    - Neoplasm
  - IV contrast not useful...
    - Calcium (renal stones)
    - Blood (RP hematoma)
    - Iron/Foreign body
  - A specific clinical history aids with scan protocolling
-



# MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING



Pros

No radiation

Highly diagnostic  
modality

Excellent soft tissue  
contrast

Histologic information:  
fat, water, iron, fibrosis

Functional information:  
perfusion, peristalsis,  
cardiac output

Cons

Long scan times

Limited  
accessibility

IV contrast



Cons

# MRI: PROS AND CONS

- **Limitations: Patient**
  - Enclosed space for up to one hour?
  - Lying on their back
  - Loud noises
- **Limitations: Radiologist and system**
  - Subspecialized reading
  - Longer scan times
  - Limited availability/varying magnets
- **Solutions**
  - Stereovision
  - Gentle use of anxiolytics
  - More MR trained radiologist/subspecialized reads



# MRI: CATEGORIES AND CONTRAST AGENTS

- Multiple types of MRI
  - Neurologic: Brain, neck and spine
  - Abdominopelvic
  - Musculoskeletal
  - Vascular imaging
  - Cardiac imaging
  - And more!
- Pelvic MRI: Be specific!
  - Prostate MRI?
  - Rectal MRI?
  - MSK MRI?



All three are ordered  
as a pelvic MRI

# MRI CONTRAST AGENTS: NEPHROGENIC SYSTEMIC FIBROSIS

- “Fibrosing disease, predominantly of the skin and subcutaneous tissue, but also other organs, which may develop and progress rapidly, possibly causing death”
- Occurs with ESRD in association with gadolinium based IV contrast materials
  - *Amount of gadolinium given (per scan and accumulated dose)*
  - eGFR <30 have a 1-7% chance of developing NSF
- Has developed in patients with AKI even if renal function returned to normal
- Declining incidence with use of macrocyclic contrast agents
- **Controversial topic!** Be alert for changing literature



# MRI CONTRAST AGENTS: NSF

- When can we give contrast?
  - ESRD on chronic HD:
    - Is CT possible instead of MR?
    - If MR must be performed, we choose least offensive contrast agent and lower dose
    - Consider hemodialysis ASAP
  - ESRD (GFR <15), not on HD
    - Avoid both MR and CT contrast agents if at all possible
    - If must be given, lower dose, etc

# MRI CONTRAST AGENTS: NSF

- **Screening requirements:** require BUN/Creatinine within 30 days of exam<sup>1</sup>
  - Age >60 years
  - Hypertension
  - Renal disease
- **GFR Guidelines**
  - GFR <15: No IV contrast
  - GFR 15-30: Use a lower risk contrast agent (Doderone, Multihance)
  - GFR >30: No problem!
- **Certain contrast agents have few, if any reported cases of NSF**
  - Multihance
  - Dotarem
  - Gadavist
  - Prohance

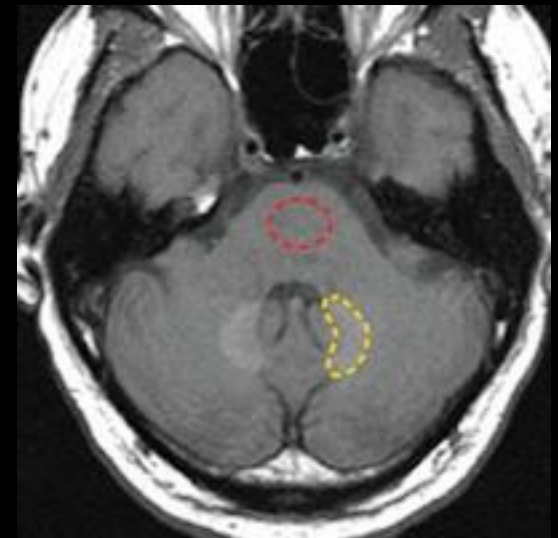
# MRI CONTRAST AGENTS: NSF

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- **Certain contrast agents have few, if any reported cases of NSF**
  - Multihance
  - Dotarem
  - Gadavist
  - Prohance

Used at UNC

# GADOLINIUM DEPOSITIONAL DISORDER

- High signal in brain tissue in patients with normal renal function
  - Associated w repeated doses of gadolinium
  - No known adverse effects
- Certain contrast agents not associated with this
  - Dotarem (used at UNC)
  - Prohance
- However, as led to a more cautious use of gadolinium contrast agents



## Deposition

- Dentate nucleus
- Globus pallidus



# MRI CONTRAST AGENTS: PREGNANCY AND BREASTFEEDING

- **Pregnancy:**
  - “Present data has not conclusively document any deleterious effects of MR imaging on the developing fetus”<sup>1</sup>
  - Avoid in first trimester (not evidence based)
  - IV contrast DOES cross the placenta and is not given at our institution in pregnancy
- **Breastfeeding:**
  - > 0.04% of the IV dose in breast milk <sup>2</sup>
  - > 1% of the contrast in breast milk is absorbed across the GI tract<sup>2</sup>
  - Expected dose to infant <0.0004% of IV dose<sup>2</sup>
  - If the mother is concerned, she may abstain from breastfeeding for 24 hours

1. Kanal et al. ACR Guidance Document on MR Safe Practices: 2013. JMRI 37: 501-530 (2013)

2. ACR Manual on Contrast Media. Version 10.2, 2016

# MRI CONTRAST AGENTS: WHEN AND WHICH ONE

- Varying contrast agents available
  - Dotarem
  - Multihance
  - Eovist
- Indications: similar to CT
  - Vascular imaging
  - Infection
  - Inflammation
  - Neoplasm

# MR- BODY IMAGING

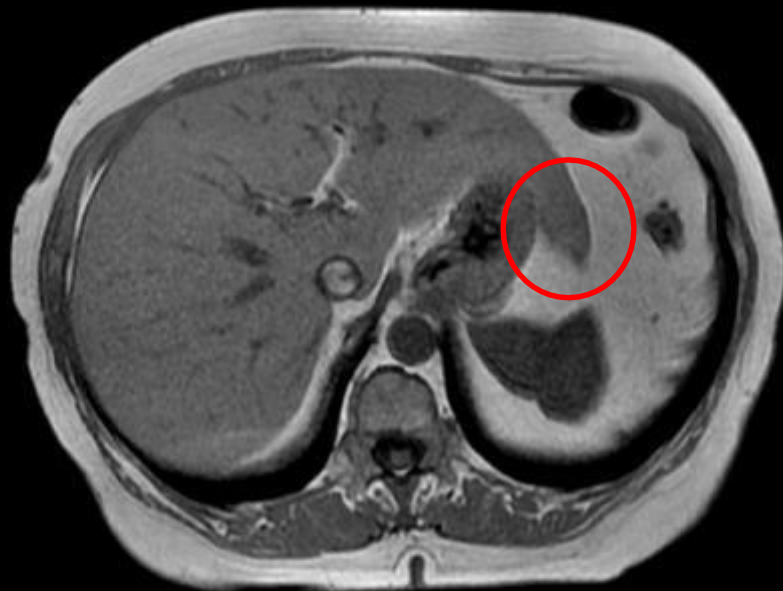
- Please keep in mind that this is *problem solving* modality, not a screening modality
- The more specific the clinical history, the better the exam will be!
- **Common indications**
  - *Because the radiologist told you needed one*
  - Characterization of a lesion
  - Evaluation of the biliary tree
  - Follow up of treated disease
  - GU: Female pelvis, prostate (NOT CT!)
  - Imaging the bowel (small bowel, rectum)
- **Emerging indications**
  - Tissue composition (iron, fat, fibrosis)

# MRI: LESION CHARACTERIZATION



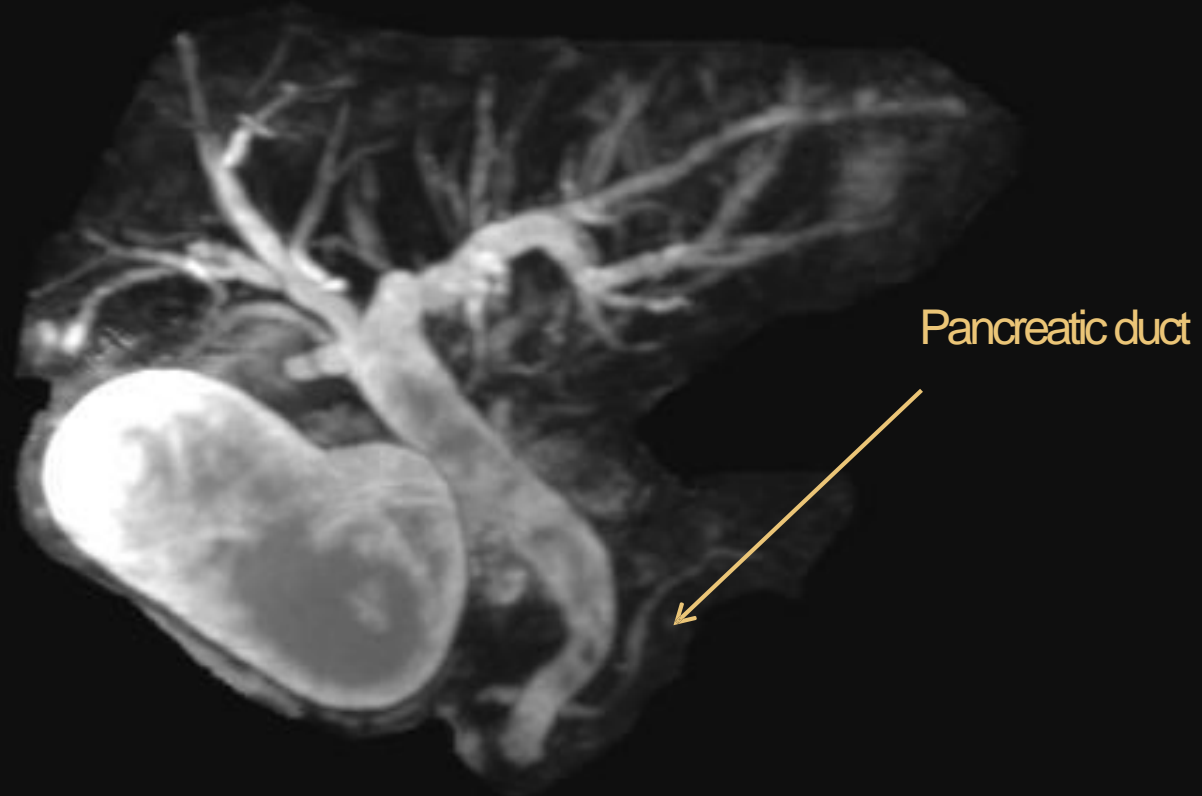
Indeterminate hepatic lesion

# MRI: LESION CHARACTERIZATION



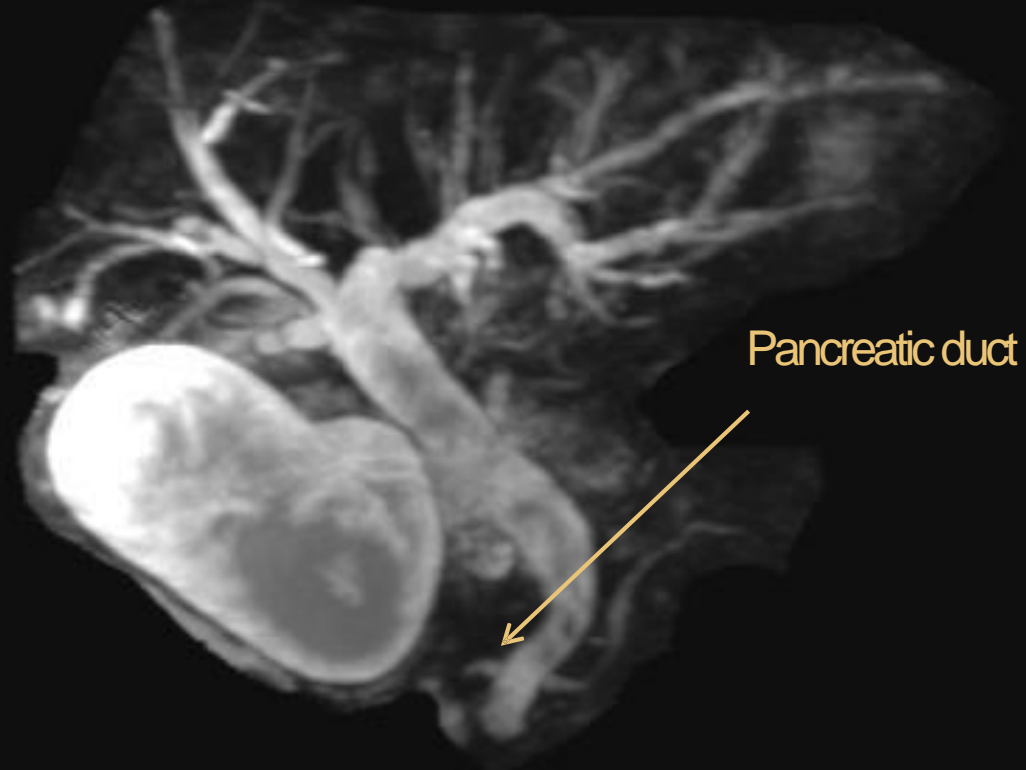
Focal steatosis

# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE



Pancreatic divisum

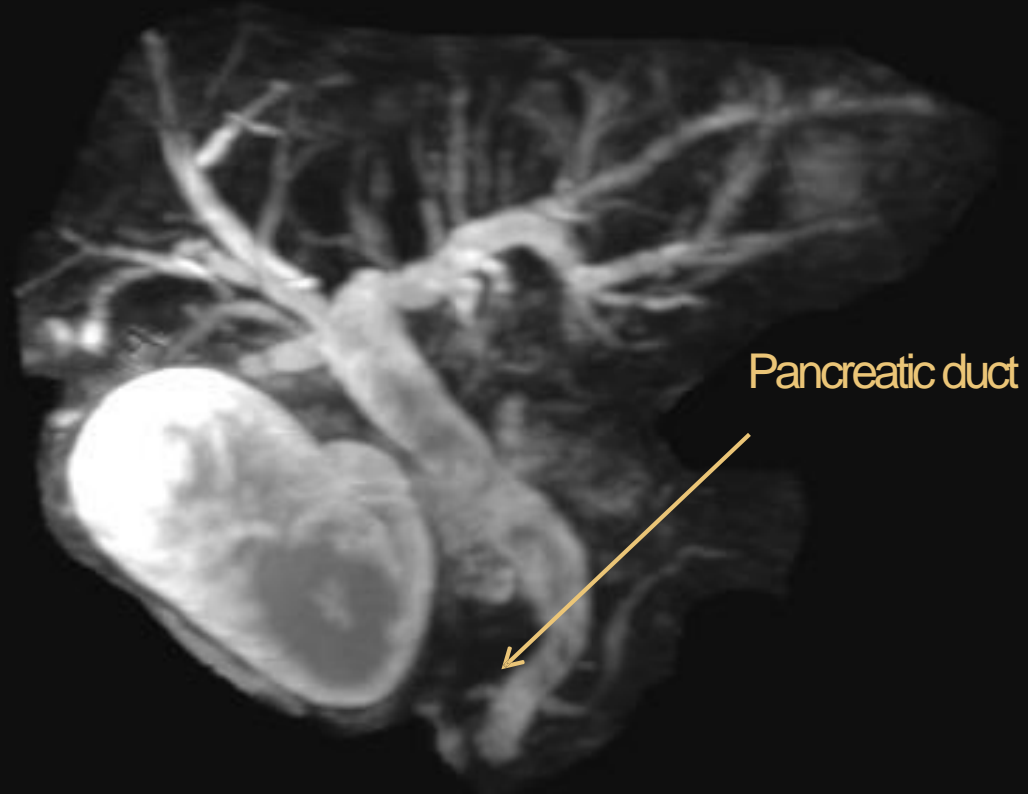
# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE



Pancreatic duct

Pancreatic divisum

# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE

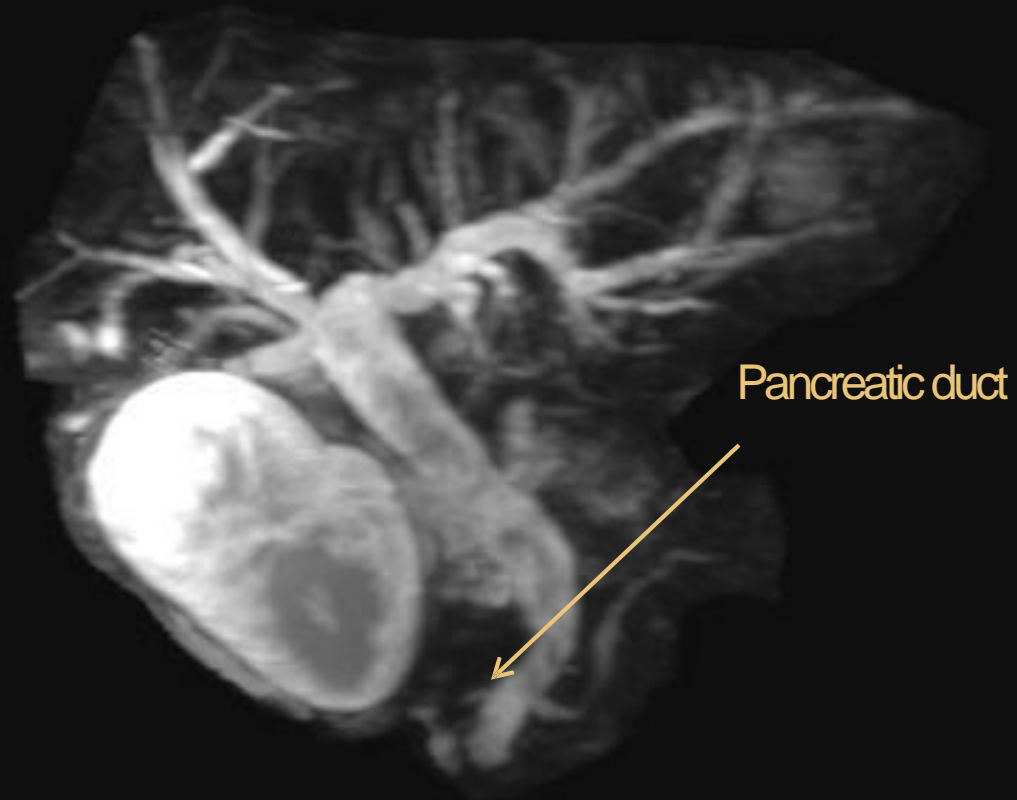


Pancreatic duct

Pancreatic divisum



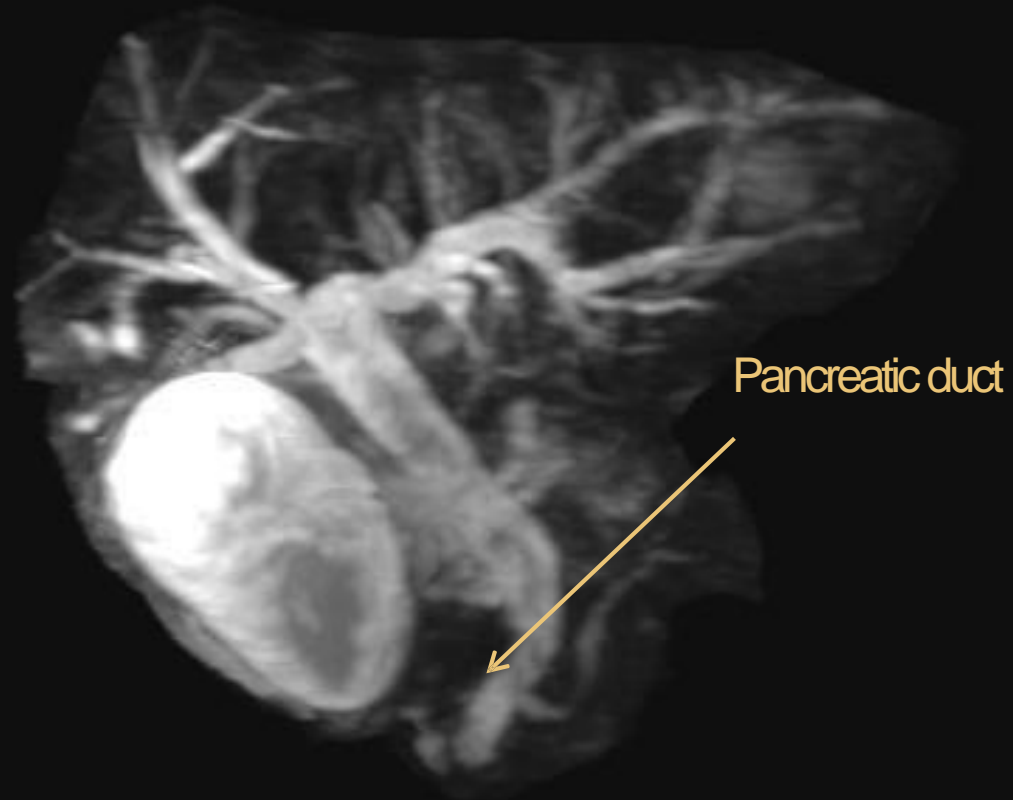
# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE



Pancreatic duct

Pancreatic divisum

# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE



Pancreatic duct

Pancreatic divisum

# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE



Pancreatic divisum

# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE



Pancreatic divisum

# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE



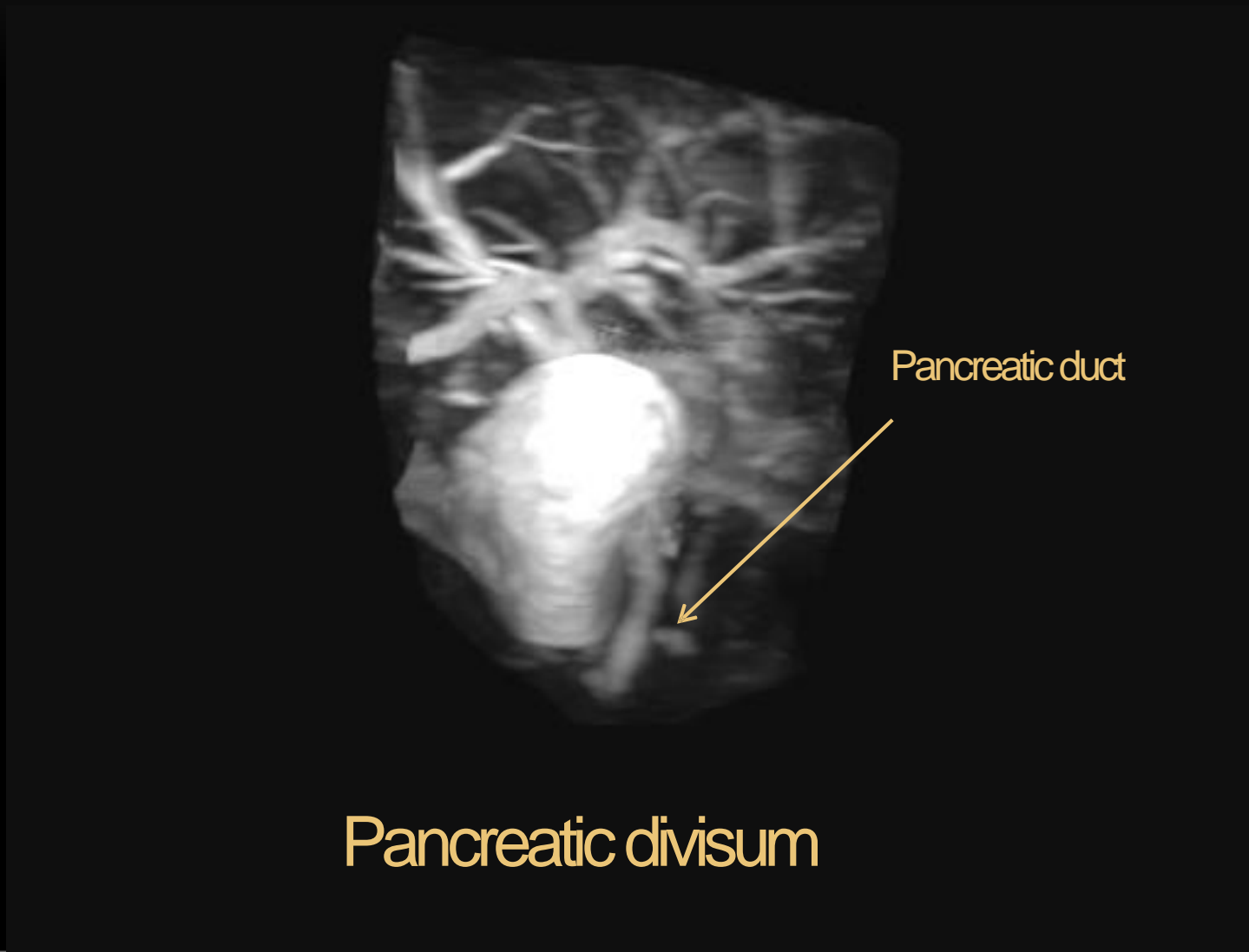
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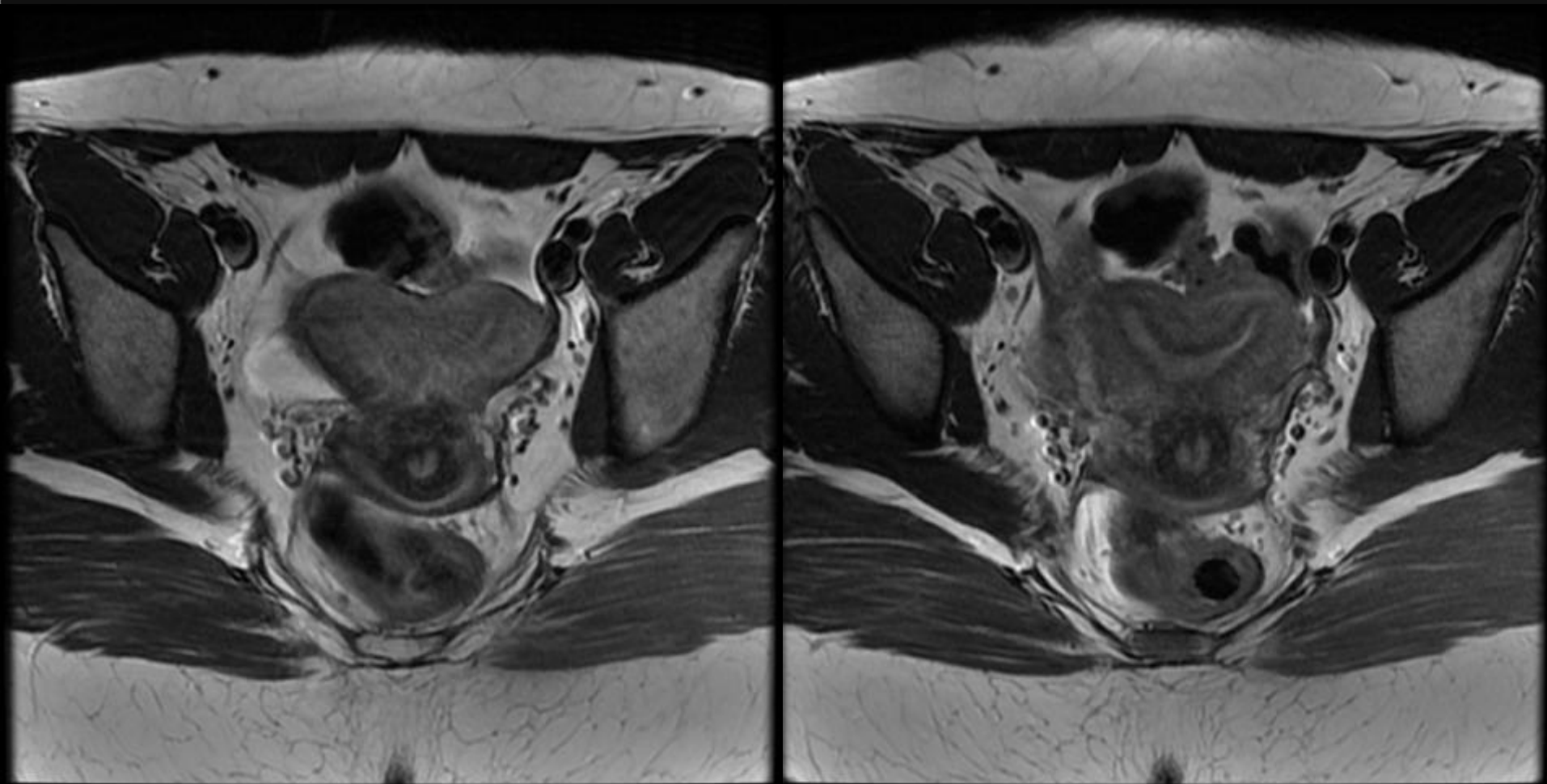
Pancreatic duct

Pancreatic divisum

# MRI: IMAGING THE BILIARY TREE



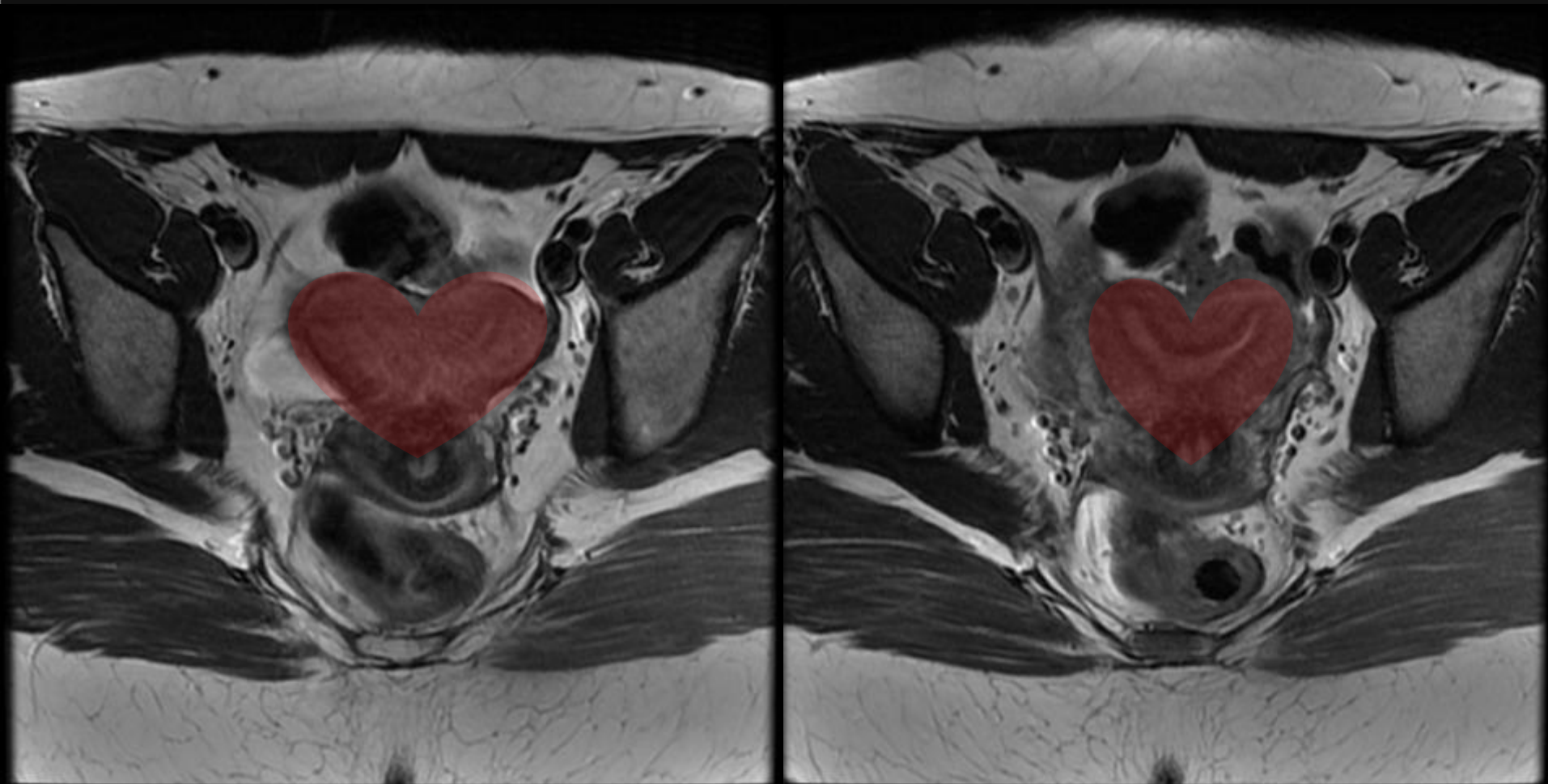
# MRI: IMAGING THE FEMALE PELVIS



Bicornuate uterus

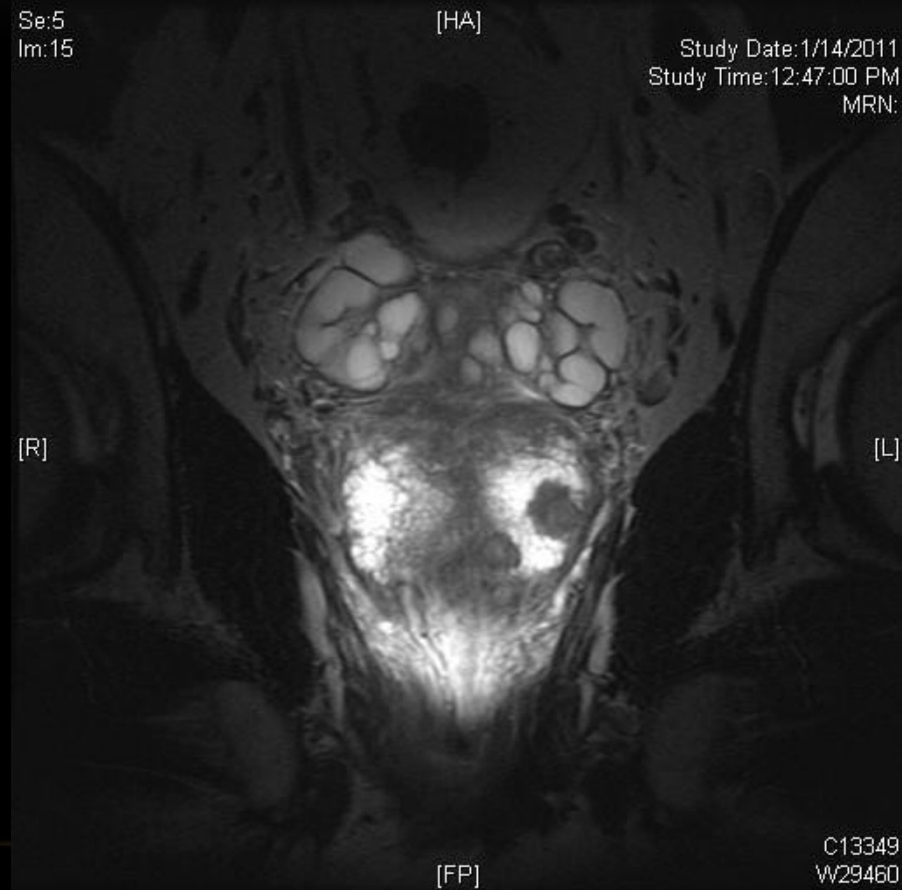


# MRI: IMAGING THE FEMALE PELVIS



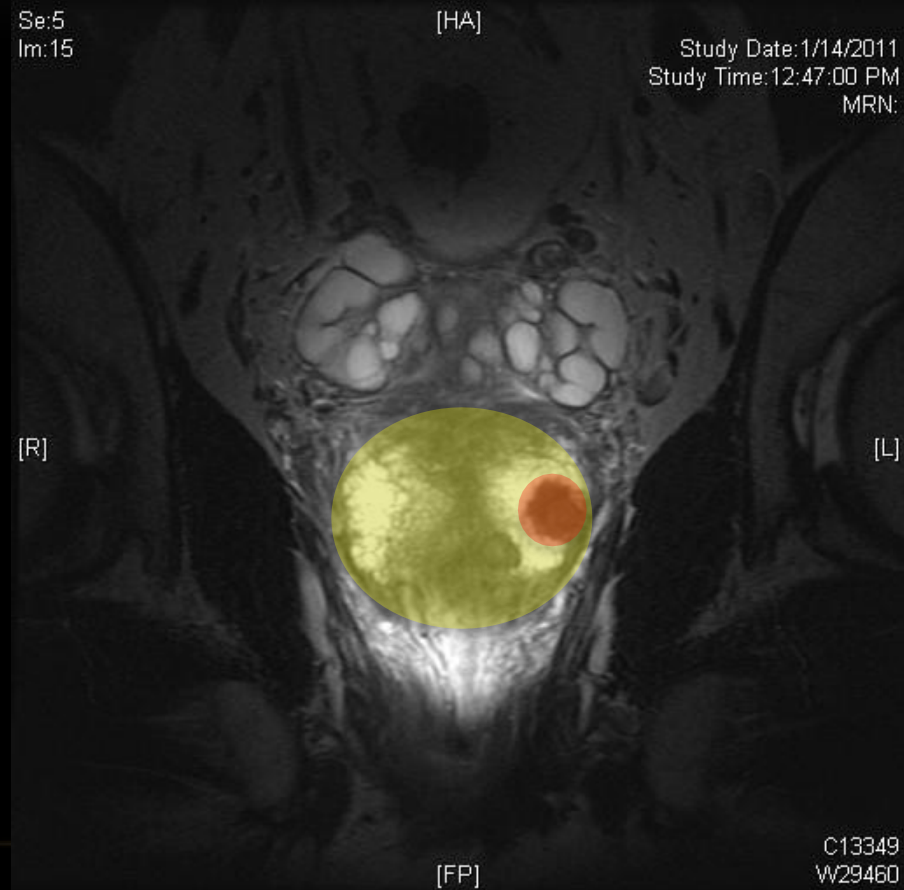
Bicornuate uterus

# MRI: IMAGING THE MALE PELVIS



PROSTATE CANCER

# MRI: IMAGING THE MALE PELVIS



PROSTATE CANCER

# MRI IMAGING: TISSUE COMPOSITION

- **Liver**
    - Fat content
    - Iron content
    - Fibrosis
  - **Bowel**
    - MR enterography
    - Rectal MR
  - MRI is a rapidly expanding and changing field. If you want to know if we can do it- *just ask!!!*
-

# QUICK NOTE ABOUT FLUOROSCOPY

- Contrast agents:
  - Concern for intraperitoneal leak? → Use water soluble contrast
  - Routine, outpatient? → Barium “double contrast” with air
- Bowel:
  - Esophagram
  - UGI
  - UGI + SBFT
  - Barium enema
  - Defecogram
- Urinary tract:
  - VCUG
  - RUG
  - Loopograms

# YOUR RADIOLOGIST

- Clinician feedback
  - Reports
    - Relevant? Unclear?
  - Imaging problems
    - Patient complaints?
    - Didn't give you an answer
  - Pathology and/or clinical follow up
    - Were we right or wrong?
- You are our target population with our imaging and reports- let us know how we can improve and make your life easier!

# TAKE HOME POINTS

- Overutilization is a real but solvable problem if a partnership exists between the clinician and radiologist
- There are many different imaging modalities at your disposal with varied resources to help advise you
  - ACR appropriateness criteria
  - Radiologist
- When considering appropriate scan for each patient
  - Appropriate radiation dose
  - Scan limitations
  - Patient limitations
- Clinician feedback is critical for imaging and service improvement.

# QUIZ POST

QUESTION:

T/F: Background radiation in the US is typically ~3 mSev/yr

TRUE!

QUESTION:

Which is the correct order for least expensive to most expensive imaging?

I: CT

III: US

II: MRI

IV: Radiographs

A: I, II, III, IV

C: IV, III, I, II

B: IV, III, II, I

D: IV, II, III, I

QUESTION:

Which of the following modalities is first line imaging for the reproductive system (ovaries, uterus, testicles)?

A: CT

C: US

B: MRI

D: Radiographs

QUESTION:

For which indication would a noncontrast CT be appropriate?

A: Diverticulitis

C: Aortic dissection

B: Renal calculus

D: Concern for metastatic disease

QUESTION:

T/F: NSF (nephrogenic systemic fibrosis) is associated with iodinated CT contrast.

FALSE! MRI agents



THANK YOU!

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