



Echo assessment of congestion

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 **EACVI**
European Association of
Cardiovascular Imaging

Disclosures

- Nothing to disclose

Outline

- Physiology of venous return
- What is VeXUS?
- The role of VeXUS in intensive care.
- The role of VeXUS in acute heart failure.

Right atrial pressure (CVP)

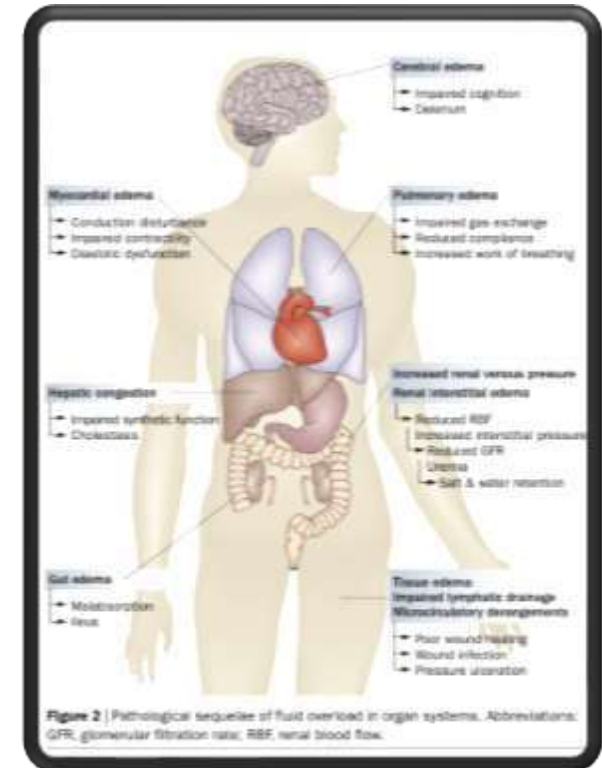
- Often used as a surrogate for RV ability to handle preload
- Not frequently thought of as 'a downstream afterload' component of flow across the capillary beds in the organs

$$CO = \frac{80 \times (MAP - CVP)}{SVR}$$



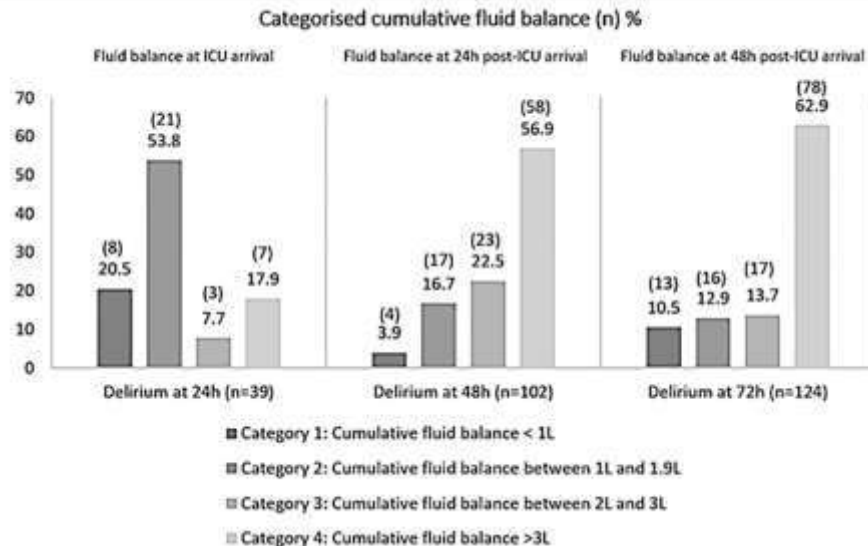
Why systemic venous congestion is |

- Excessive intravenous fluid therapy → +ve fluid balance and interstitial oedema → organ dysfunction and adverse outcomes in acute illness.
- Aggressive correction of congestion → can have negative haemodynamic implications



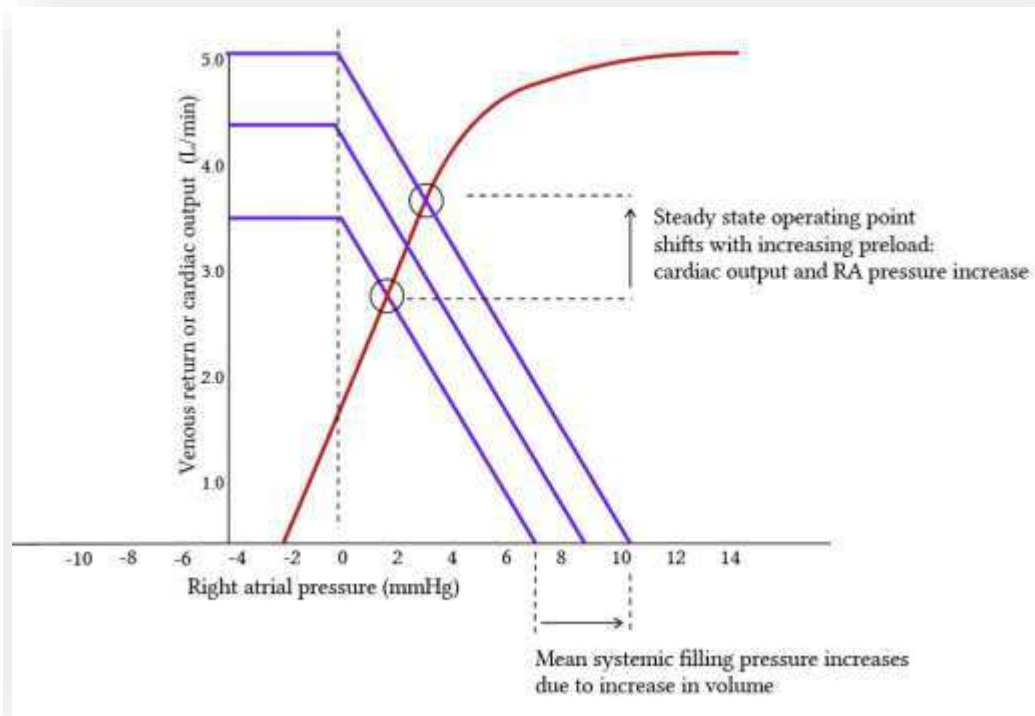
Original Article

Delirium After Cardiac Surgery and Cumulative Fluid Balance: A Case-Control Cohort Study



Retrospective case control – cohort study (1:1)

Frank-Starling and Guyton's curves



$$VR = \frac{P_{msf} - P_{ra}}{\text{Venous resistance}}$$

VeXUS Score



- 145 patients undergoing cardiac surgery
- Repeated daily measurements of IVC, hepatic vein, portal vein and renal vein Doppler during the first 72 hours after surgery
- Five prototypes of venous excess ultrasound grading system combining multiple ultrasound markers were developed.

VeXUS Score



- **Results:**
- In the post-operative period, the presence of severe congestion (Grade 3) was associated with the development of subsequent AKI. Severe congestion (Grade 3) was the most strongly associated with AKI (HR 3.69, CI 1.65 – 8.24, $p = 0.001$).



ESC

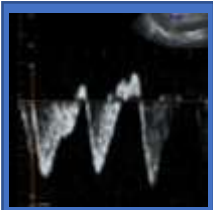
European Society
of Cardiology

European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Imaging (2022) 00, 1–4
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjci/jeac239>

HOW TO

How to assess systemic venous congestion with point of care ultrasound

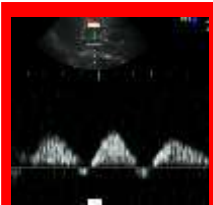
Hatem Soliman-Aboumarie ^{1,2*} and André Y. Denault ^{3,4}



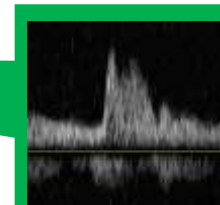
Hepatic vein



IVC



Portal vein



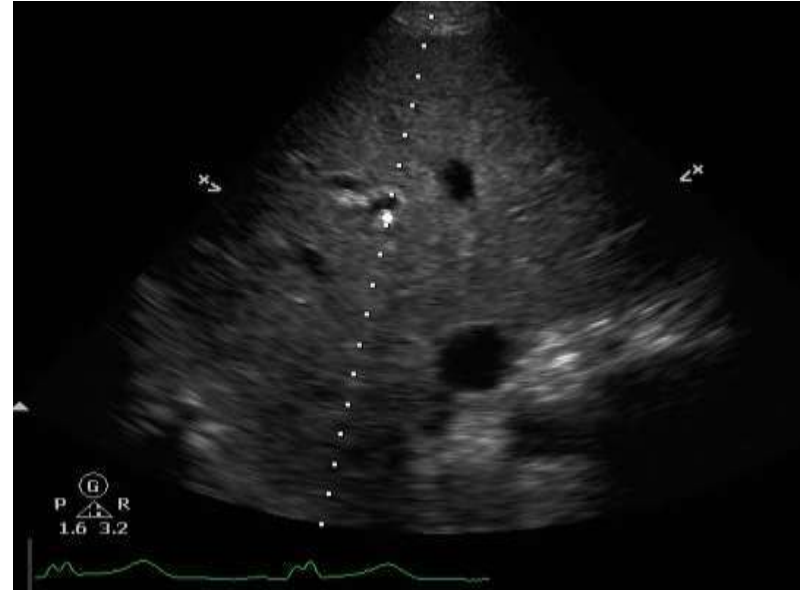
Renal vein



Inferior vena cava (IVC)



< 2 cm → no significant congestion



Inferior vena cava (IVC)



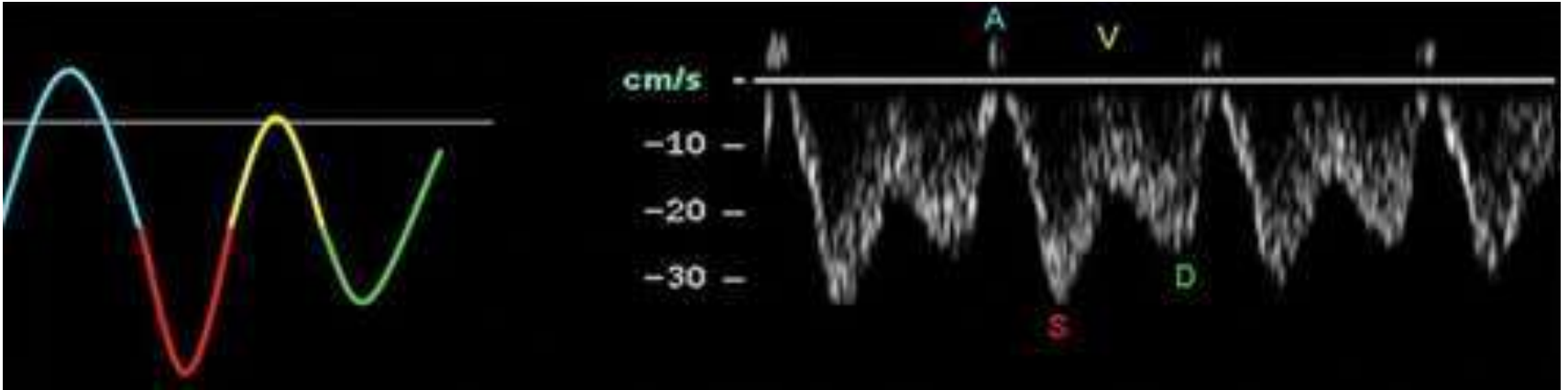
> 2 cm → could be congestion

Hepatic veins (2D)



- Sub-xyphoid
- Mid-axillary line (recommended) → tile probe tail up

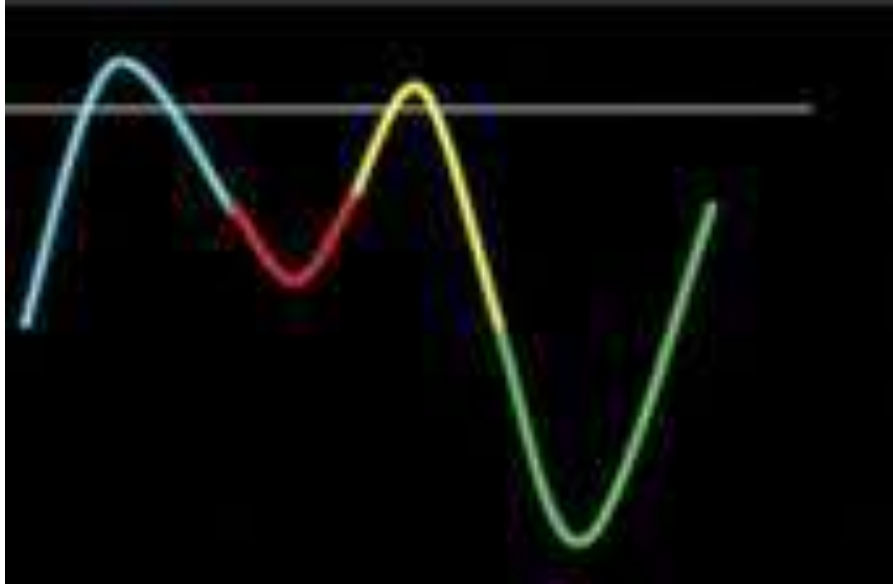
Hepatic veins Doppler



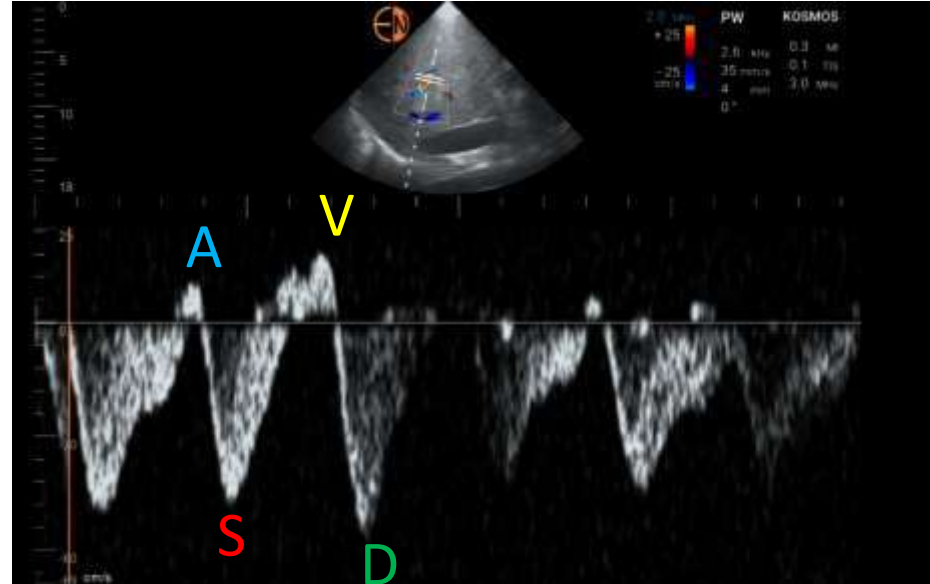
$S > D$

Normal

Hepatic veins Doppler

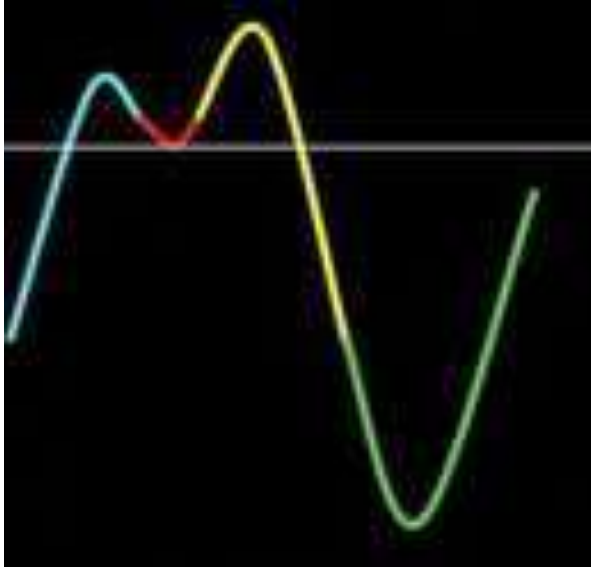


$S < D$

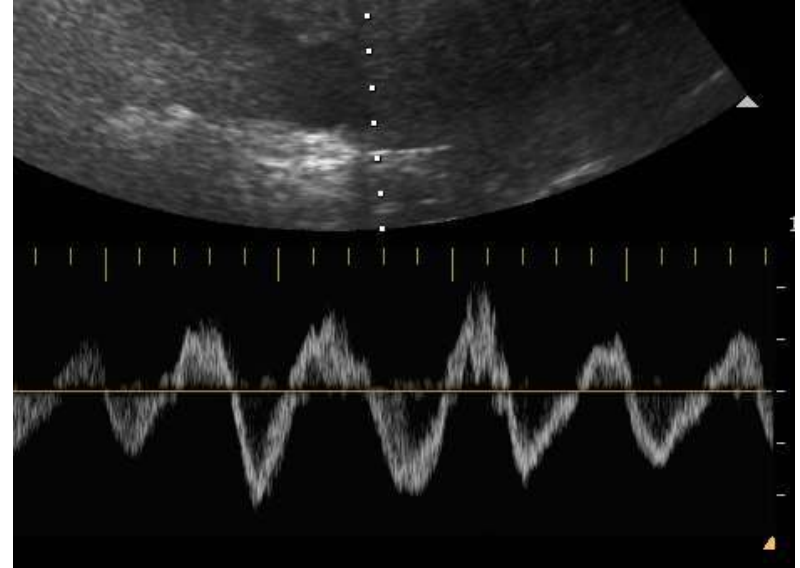


Mildly abnormal

Hepatic veins Doppler



S reversed = retrograde



Severely abnormal

Portal vein (2D)



- Sub-xyphoid
- Mid-axillary line (recommended) → tilt probe tail down

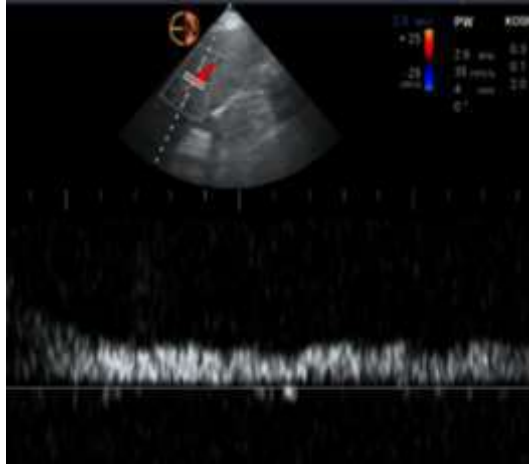
Portal vein Doppler (Colour Doppler)

- *Step 1:* 2D image of the right portal vein
- *Step 2:* Colour Doppler over the portal vein (**RED** flow = towards probe)
- *Step 3:* PW Doppler sample volume on the right portal vein

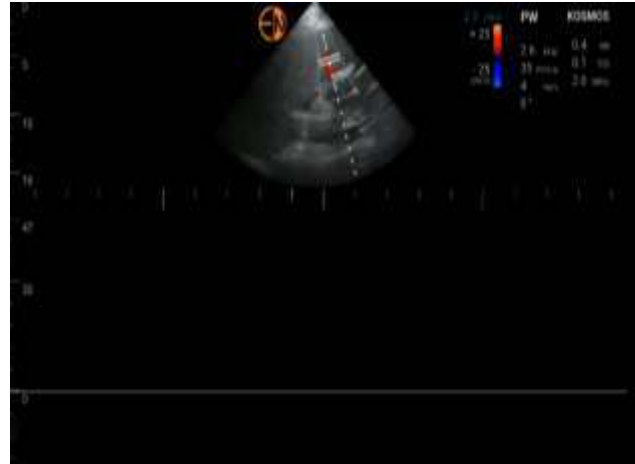


Monophasic flow (non-pulsatile)

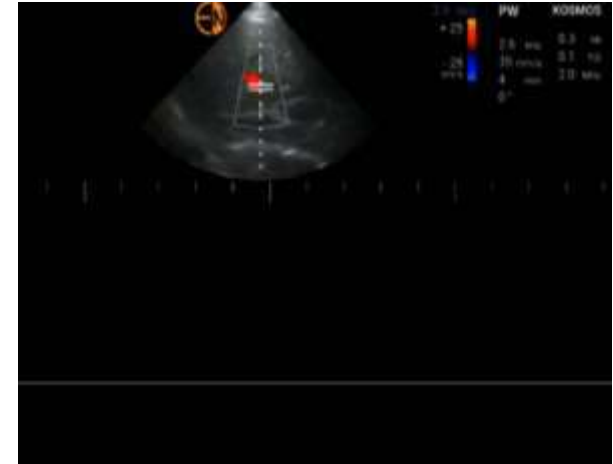
Portal vein (PWD)



Normal
< 30 %



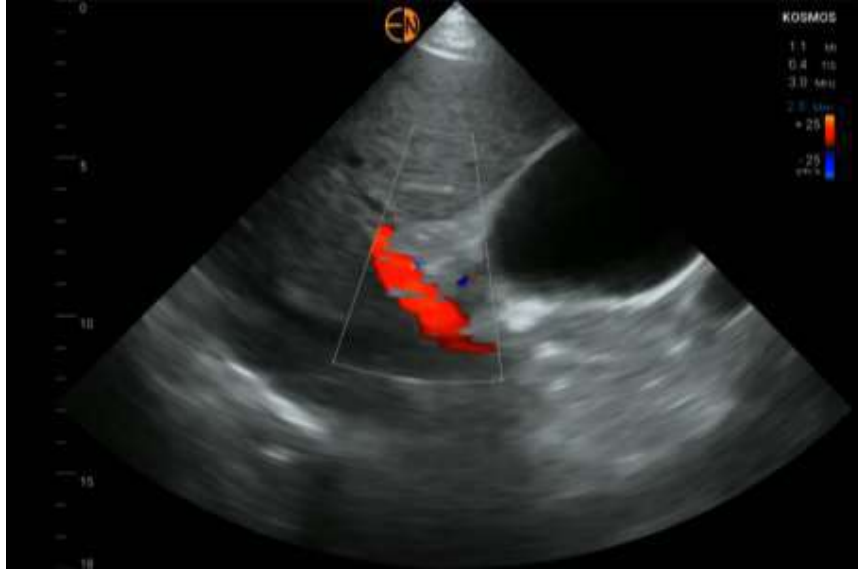
Mildly abnormal
30 - 50 %



Severely abnormal
> 50%

$$\text{Pulsatility Index (PI)} = \frac{V_{\text{max}} - V_{\text{min}}}{V_{\text{max}}}$$

Portal vein (Colour Doppler)



Monophasic = Normal



Pulsatile = abnormal

Portal vein Doppler Pitfalls

- Doppler findings of congestion may be absent in cirrhosis or fatty liver.
- Conversely, in young healthy thin individuals, a falsely positive pulsatile hepatic arterial flow can often be seen.
- Hepatic arterial flow can be seen



Renal vessels Doppler



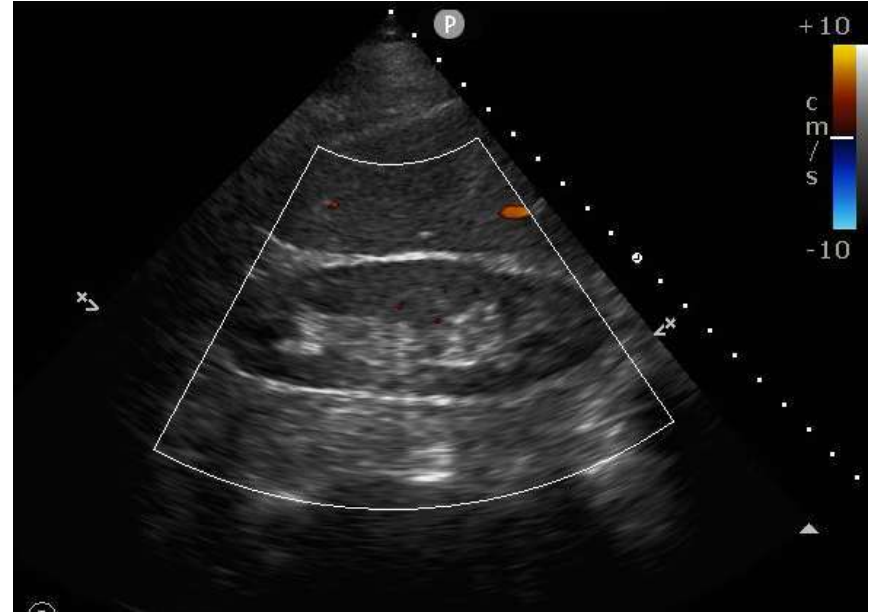
- Post-axillary line (either side)
- Interlobar vessels (avoid hilar vessels)



Renal vessels Doppler



- Post-axillary line (either side)
- Interlobar vessels (avoid hilar vessels)



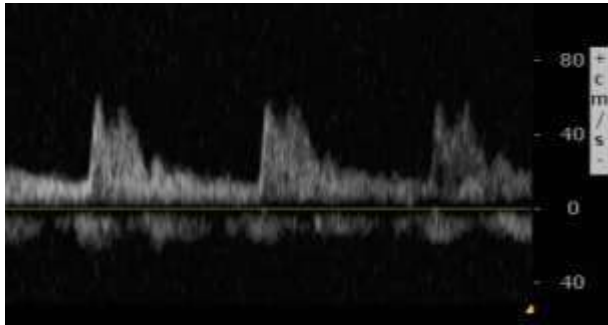
Renal vessels Doppler

- *Step 1:* 2D image of the kidney
- *Step 2:* Colour Doppler over the kidney, reduce CD gain to 10-25 cm/sec
- *Step 3:* PW Doppler sample volume on the interlobar vessels (vein and artery together)

Renal vessels Doppler

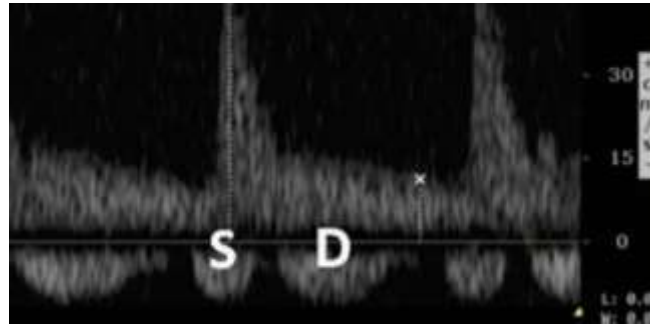
- Most challenging component due to the small size of the vessels.
- More central vessels → flow patterns closer to the hepatic vein profile even without venous congestion
- Interlobar branches are located in between the medullary pyramids and usually offer good Doppler angles for interrogation.

Renal vessels Doppler (PWD)



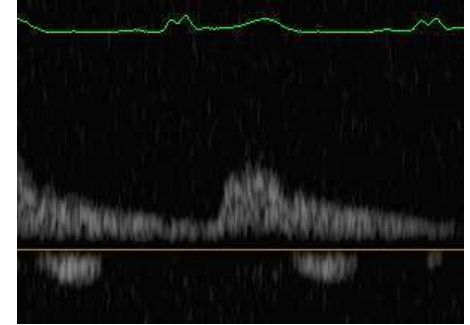
Normal

Monophasic



Mildly abnormal

Distinct S and D waves



Severely abnormal

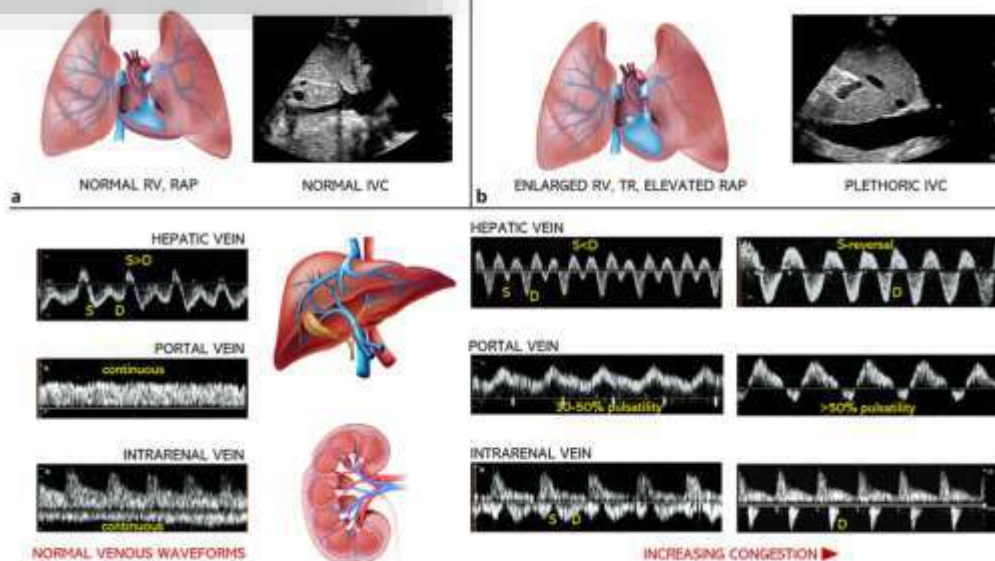
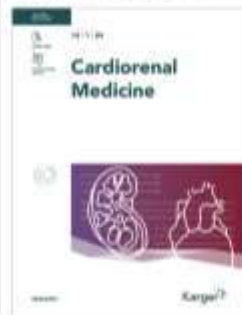
Only D wave



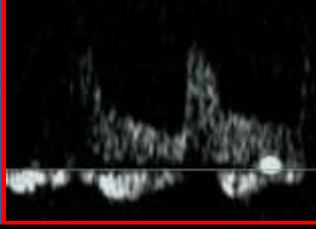
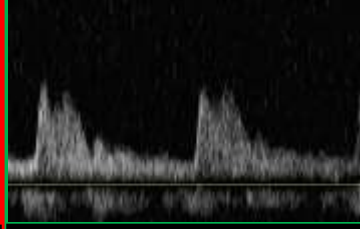
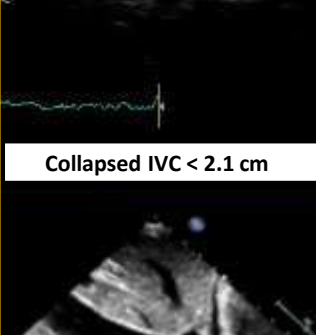
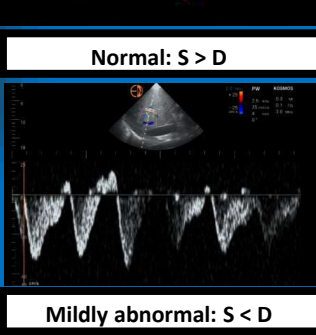
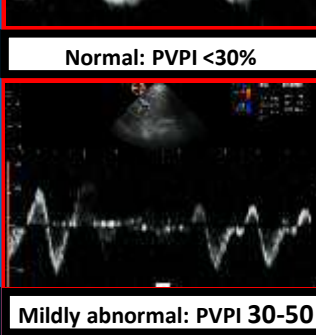
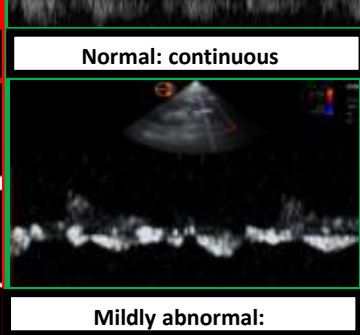

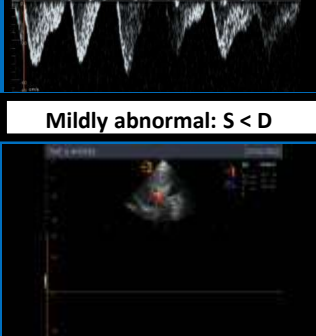

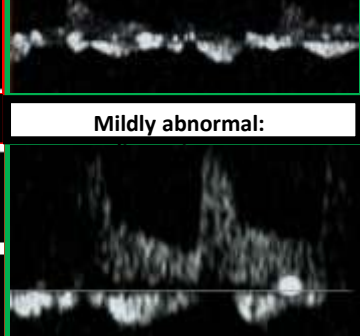
Unlocking the Potential of VExUS in Assessing Venous Congestion: The Art of Doing It Right

Subject Area; Cardiovascular System, Endocrinology, Further Areas, Nephrology

Abhilash Koratala ; Gregorio Romero-González; Hatem Soliman-Aboumarie; Amir Kazory

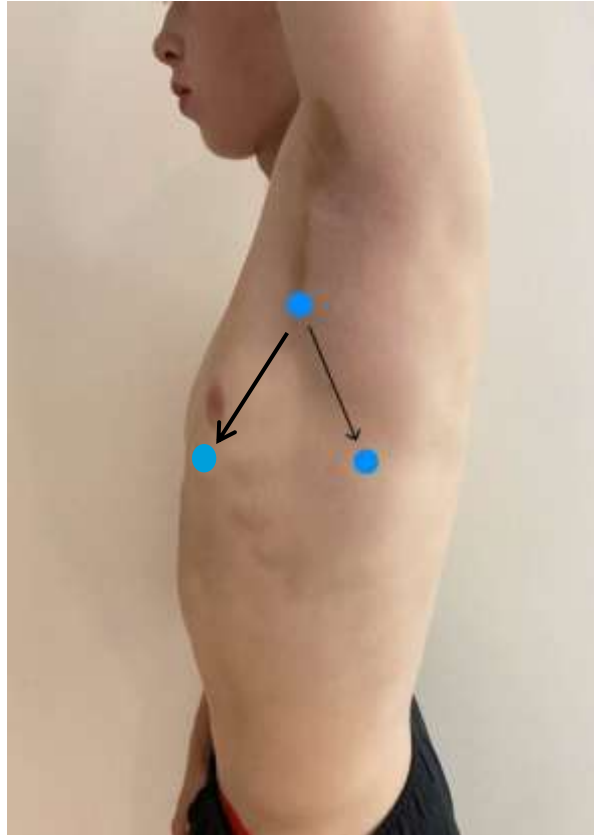
Cardiorenal Med (2024) 14 (1): 350–374.



VeXUS Score	Inferior vena	Hepatic vein	Portal vein	Renal vein
<p>Grade 0 (No congestion) IVC < 2.1 cm</p>	 <p>Collapsed IVC < 2.1 cm</p>	 <p>Normal: S > D</p>	 <p>Normal: PVPI < 30%</p>	 <p>Normal: continuous</p>
<p>Grade 1 (Mild congestion) IVC > 2.1 cm + any combination of normal or mildly abnormal pattern</p>		 <p>Mildly abnormal: S < D</p>	 <p>Mildly abnormal: PVPI 30-50</p>	 <p>Mildly abnormal:</p>
<p>Grade 3 (Severe congestion) IVC > 2.1 cm + two or more severely abnormal patterns</p>	 <p>Dilated IVC > 2.1 cm</p>	 <p>Severely abnormal: S reversal</p>	 <p>Severely abnormal: PVPI > 50%</p>	 <p>Severely abnormal: only D wave</p>



Lung ultrasound Scanning



A-lines

Horizontal reverberation of the pleural line

Can be found in pneumothorax as well!



B Lines

The sonographic biomarker of EVLW

Longitudinal artifacts

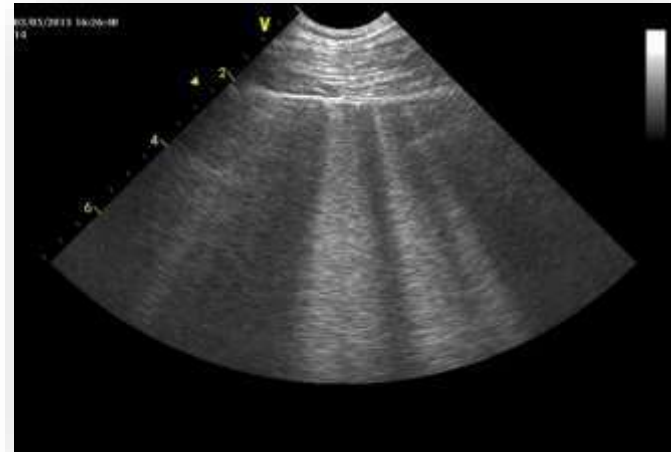
Well defined

Arising and moving from the pleural line

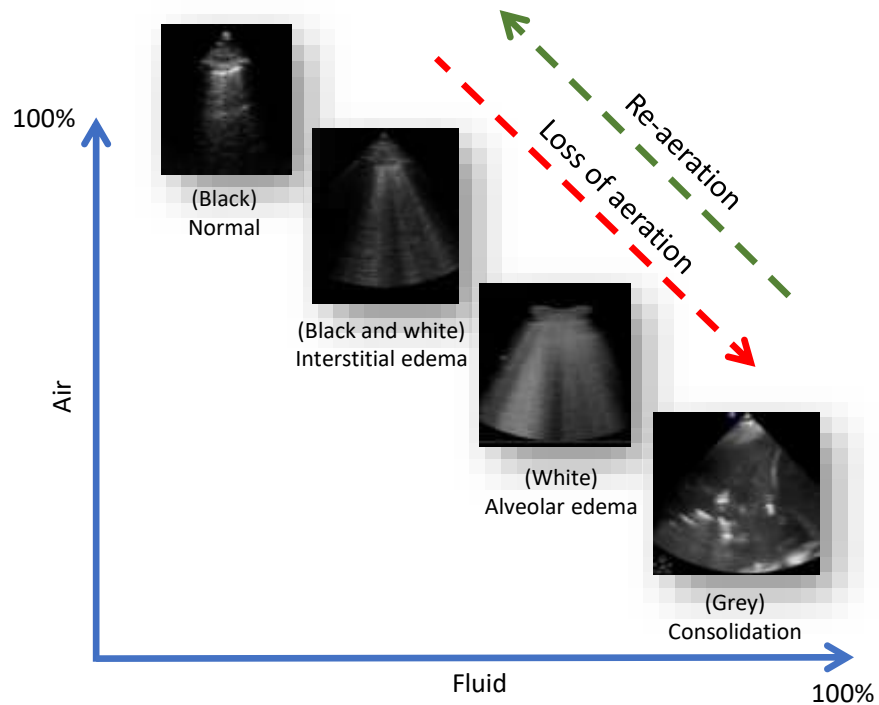
Erases A lines.

Extends to the far field

Normally < 3 lines in a longitudinal scan



Shades of grey (lung water)



Lung ultrasound in acute and chronic heart failure. A Clinical Consensus Statement of the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging (EACVI) ^{FREE}

Luna Gargani , Nicolas Girerd, Elke Platz, Pierpaolo Pellicori, Ivan Stankovic, Alberto Palazzuoli, Emanuele Pivetta, Marcelo Haertel Miglioranza, Hatem Soliman-Aboumarie, Eustachio Agricola, Giovanni Volpicelli, Susanna Price, Erwan Donal, Bernard Cosyns, Aleksandar N Neskovic

European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Imaging, jead169,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/ehjci/jead169>

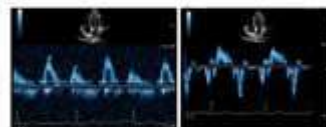
Published: 14 July 2023 Article history ▾

Table 4 How to integrate echocardiographic and pulmonary findings to assess congestion status

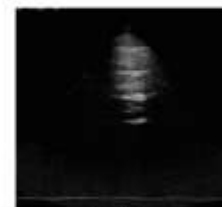
E/e' and other echocardiographic signs of increased left ventricular filling pressures

B-lines

Normal



No B-lines



No congestion

Increased



No B-lines

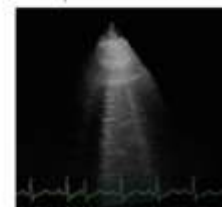


Haemodynamic congestion

Increased

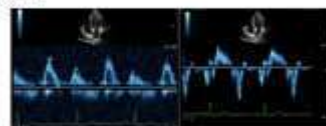


Multiple diffuse bilateral B-lines



Haemodynamic and pulmonary congestion

Normal



Multiple diffuse bilateral B-lines



Pulmonary congestion without haemodynamic congestion (check for ALI/ARDS or other causes of B-lines)

Just published!

"This is the most up-to-date POCUS
textbook of the 21st century"

Dr. Andre Denault, Montreal Heart Institute, Canada

Cardiopulmonary Point of Care Ultrasound

Hatem Soliman-Aboumarie
Marcelo Haertel Miglioranza
Luna Gargani
Giovanni Volpicelli
Editors

SCAN ME

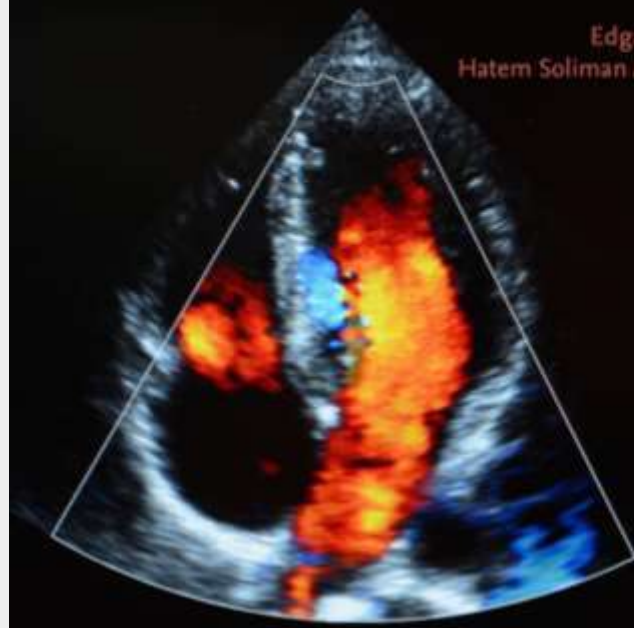


 Springer

MOREMEDIA 

Clinical Applications of
**ECHO DOPPLER
HAEMODYNAMICS**

Edited by
Edgar Argulian
Hatem Soliman Aboumarie



Take home messages

- VeXUS should part of RV assessment (preload)
- Should be cautious regarding pitfalls of each parameter
- Integrated multimodal echo in cardiac intensive care
- Further future validation and integration into guidelines



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