

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2024

Aortic arches – Echo cases

Cesar Gonzalez de Alba, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatric Cardiology
University of Colorado



Case #1

- An 11-day old male infant presents to the PCP's office for a routine check
- PCP is unable to palpate femoral pulses, so infant is referred for a cardiology consultation and an echocardiogram
- What diagnosis are you mostly concerned about?



CHCO PED

S9-2
163Hz
6.0cm

2D
56%
C 50
P Off
HGen

TIS1.8 MI 1.1

- 0 M4

- 1

- 2

- 3

- 4

- 5

X2 6

155 bpm



CHCO PED

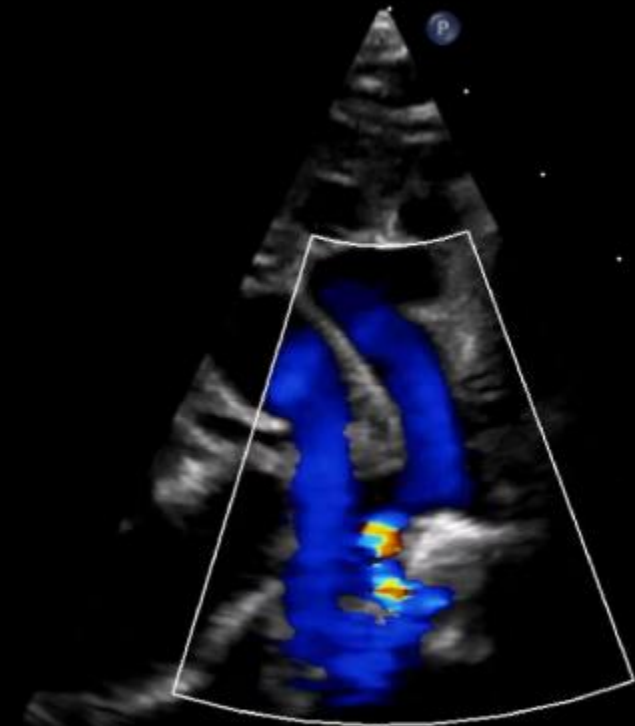
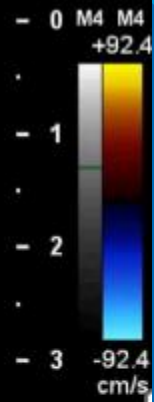
S9-2
31Hz
7.0cm

2D
58%
C 50
P Off
HGen

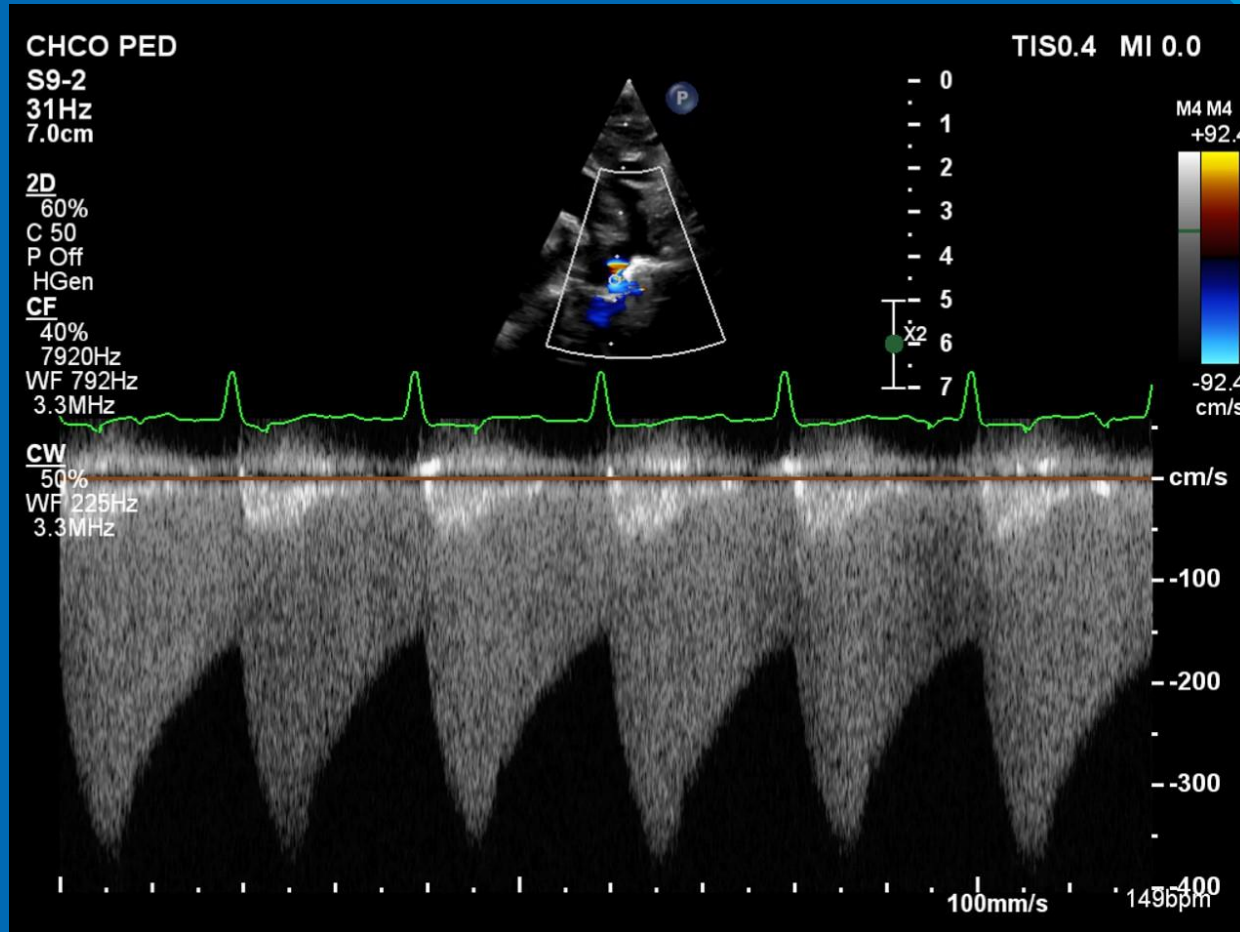
CF
40%
7920Hz
WF 792Hz
3.3MHz



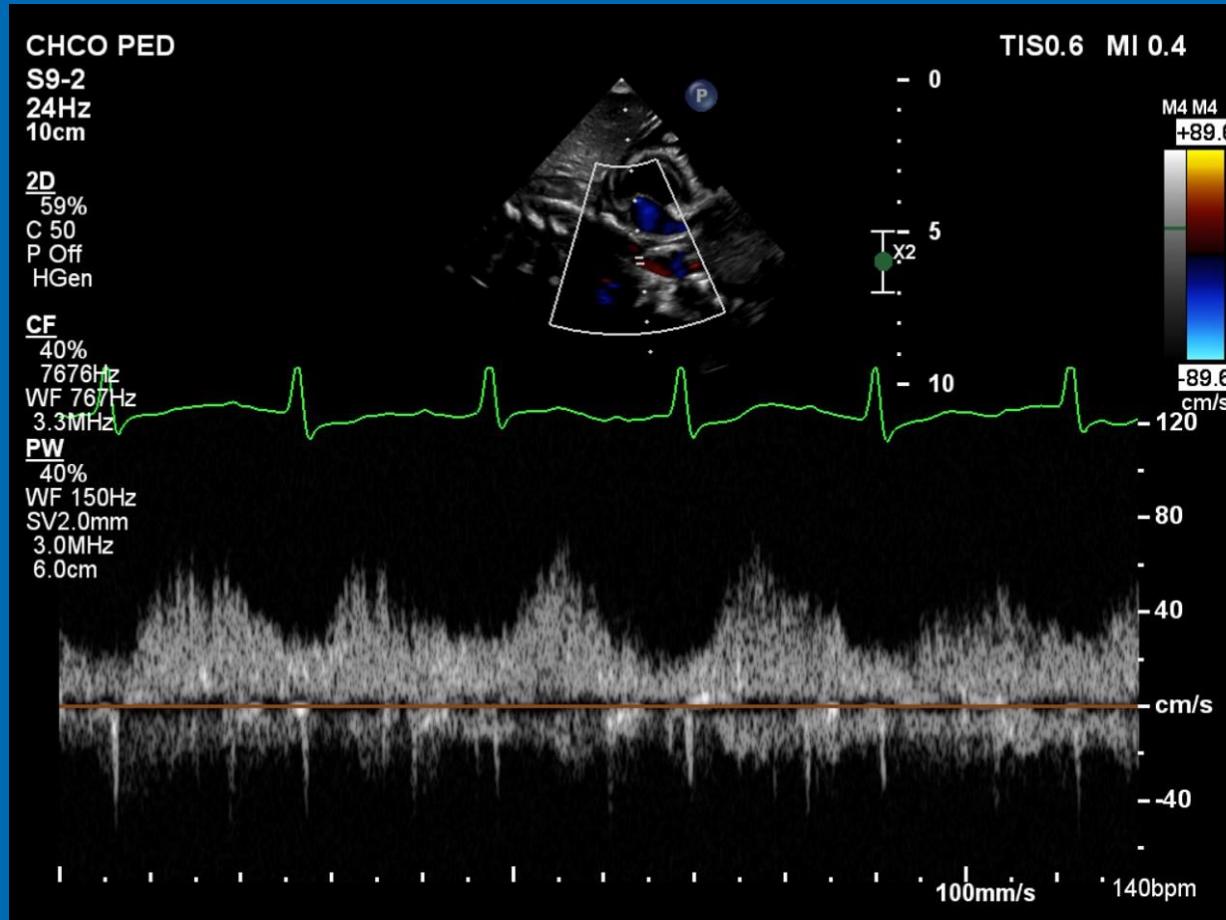
TIS2.1 MI 1.1



Sawtooth Doppler pattern



DAO Doppler



CHCO PED
S12-4
94Hz
7.0cm

TIS1.2 MI 0.5

2D
70%
C 50
P Off
Gen

- 7 M4

- 6

- 5

- 4

- 3

- 2

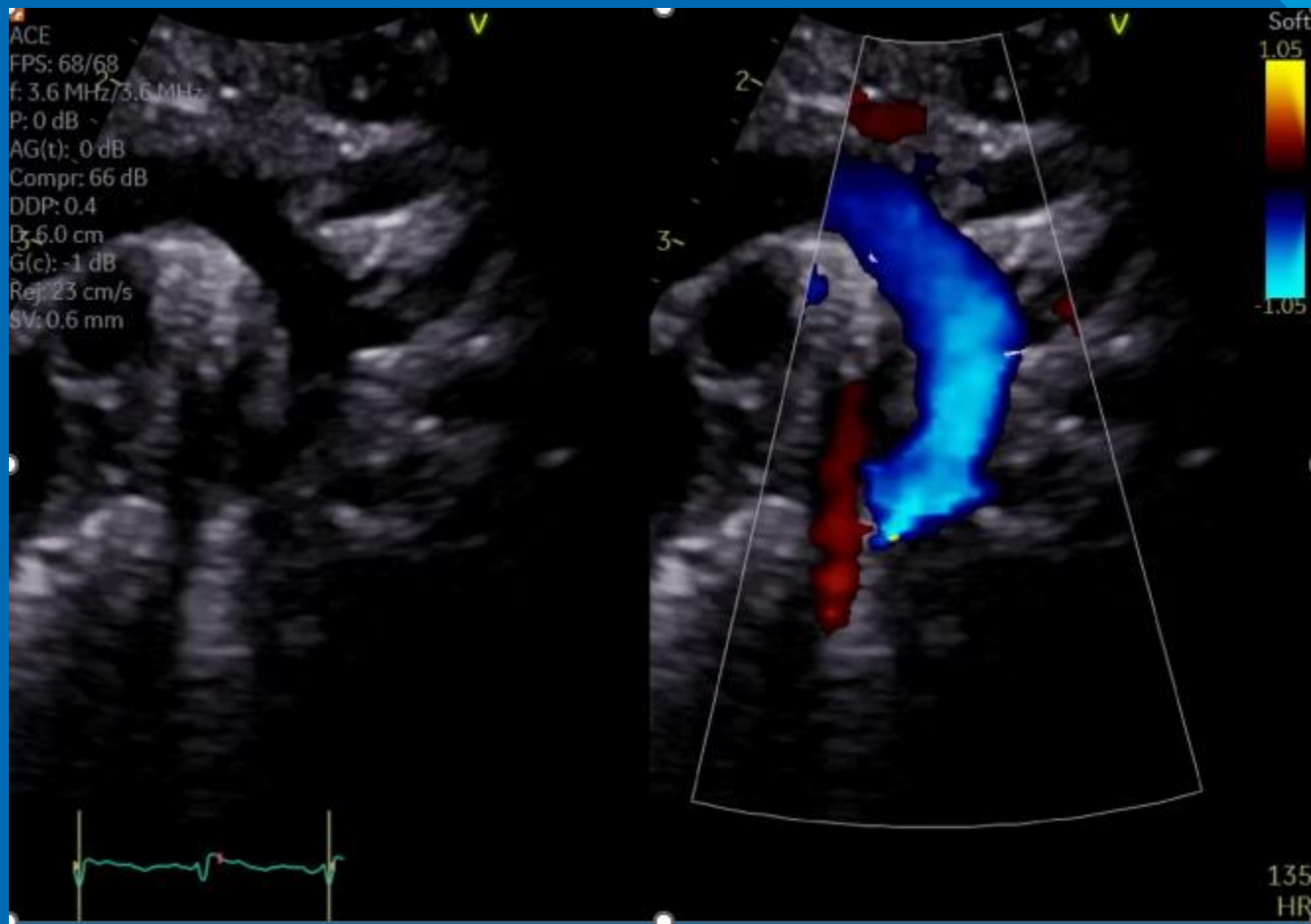
- 1

- 0

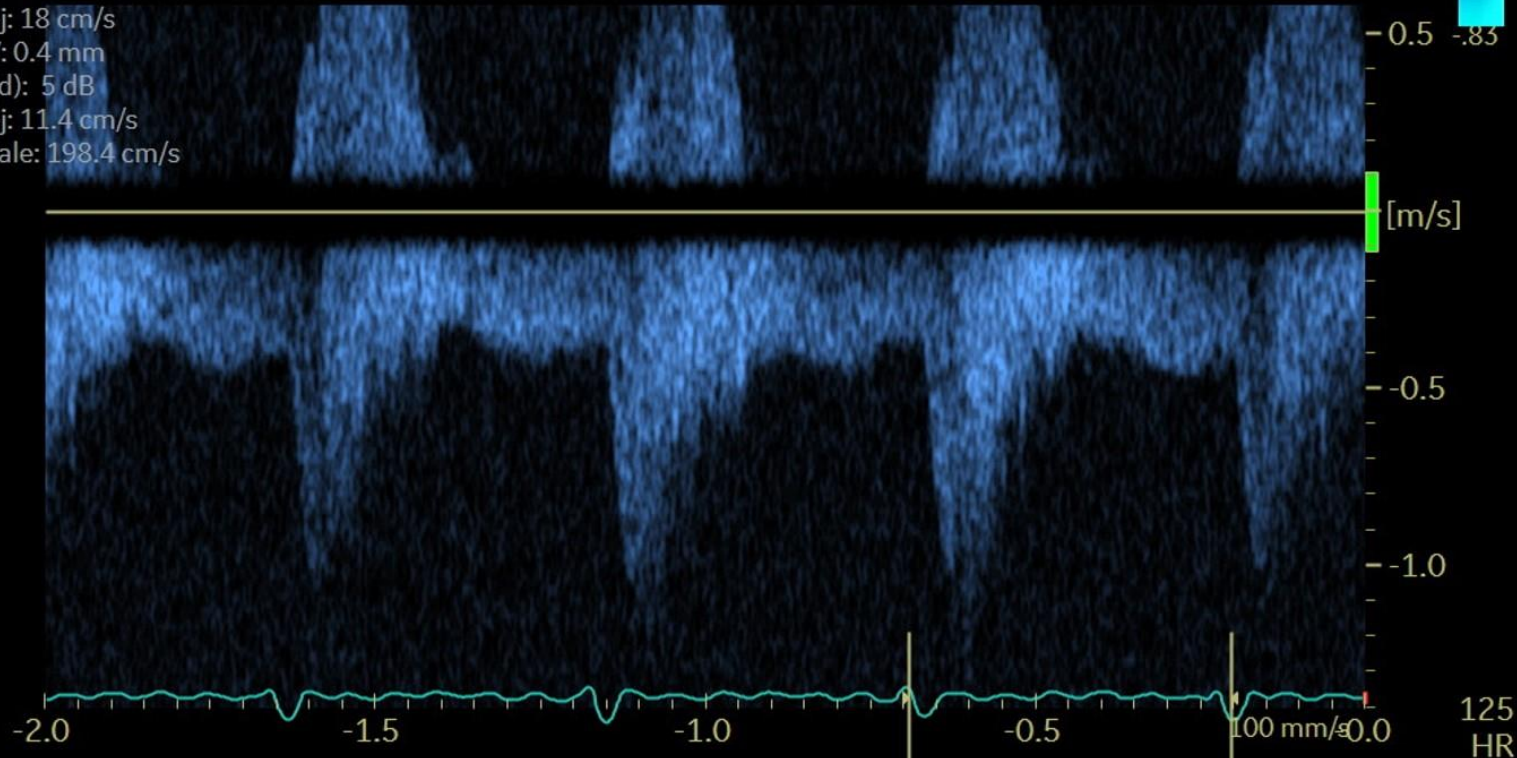
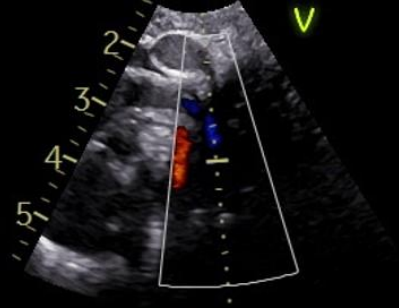
140 bpm



Other COA case

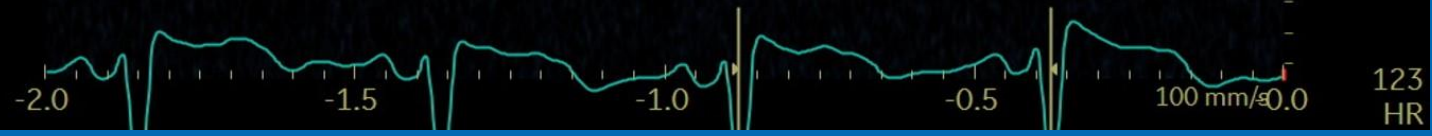
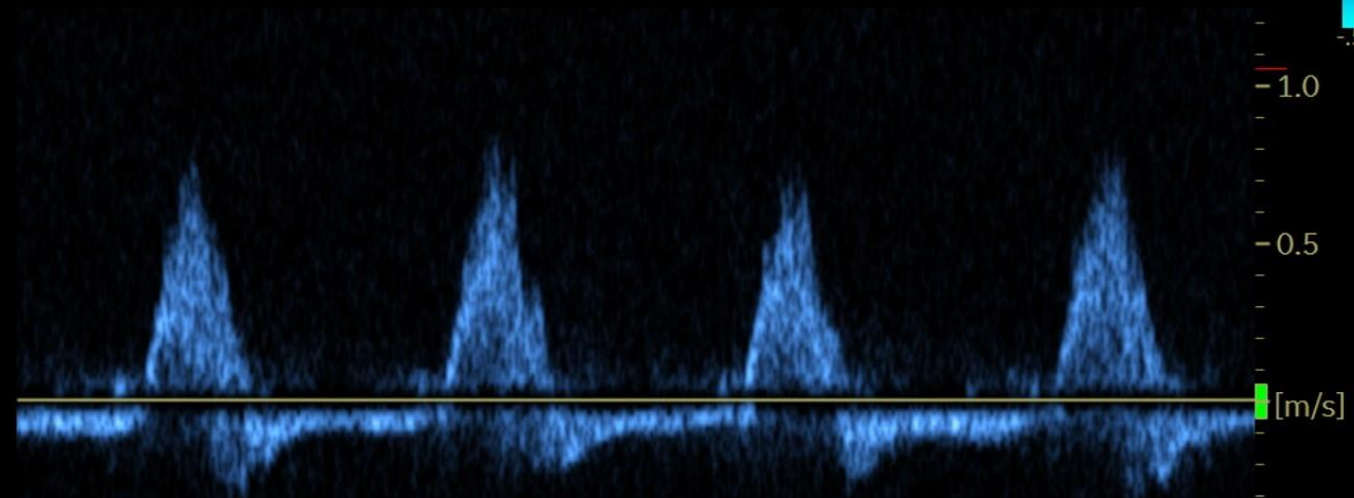


HD
FPS: 38/77
f: 4.2 MHz
P: 0 dB
AG(t): 11 dB
Compr: 60 dB
DDP: 1.4
D: 6.0 cm
G(c): 2 dB
Rej: 18 cm/s
SV: 0.4 mm
G(d): 5 dB
Rej: 11.4 cm/s
Scale: 198.4 cm/s

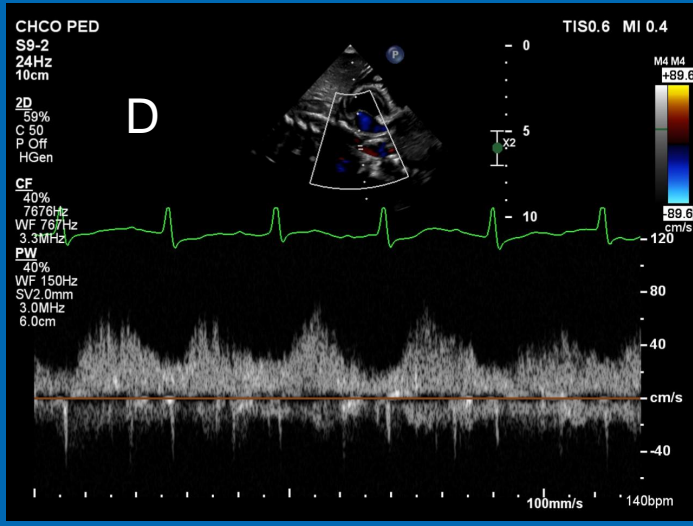
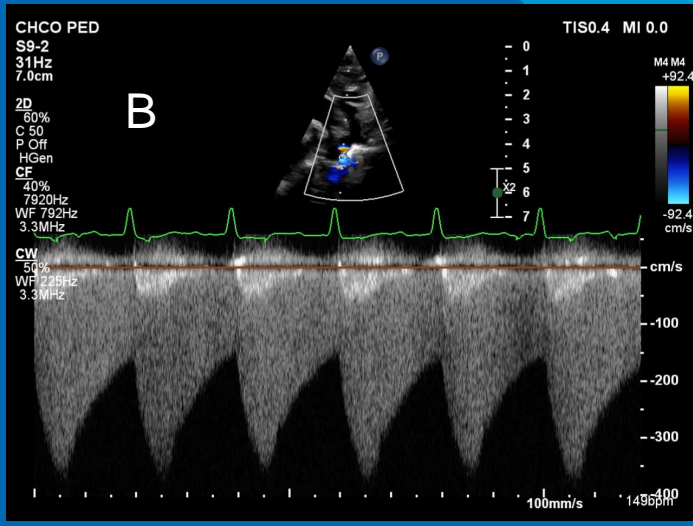
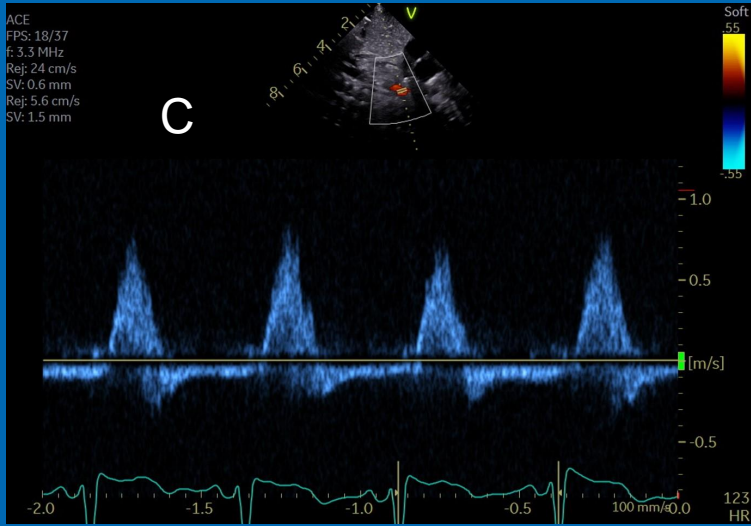
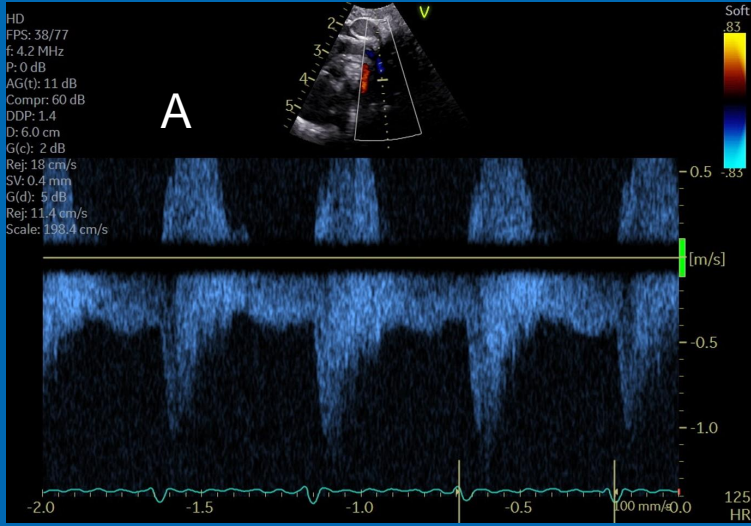


125
HR

ACE
FPS: 18/37
f: 3.3 MHz
Rej: 24 cm/s
SV: 0.6 mm
Rej: 5.6 cm/s
SV: 1.5 mm

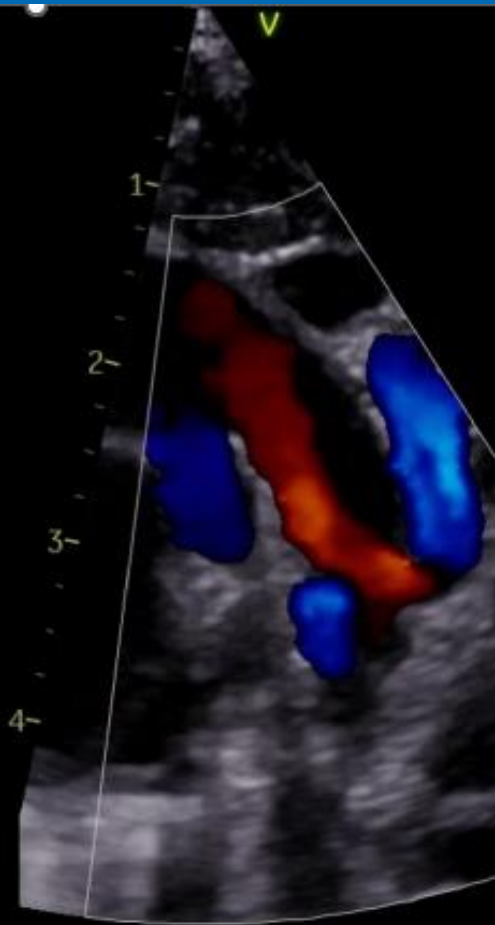
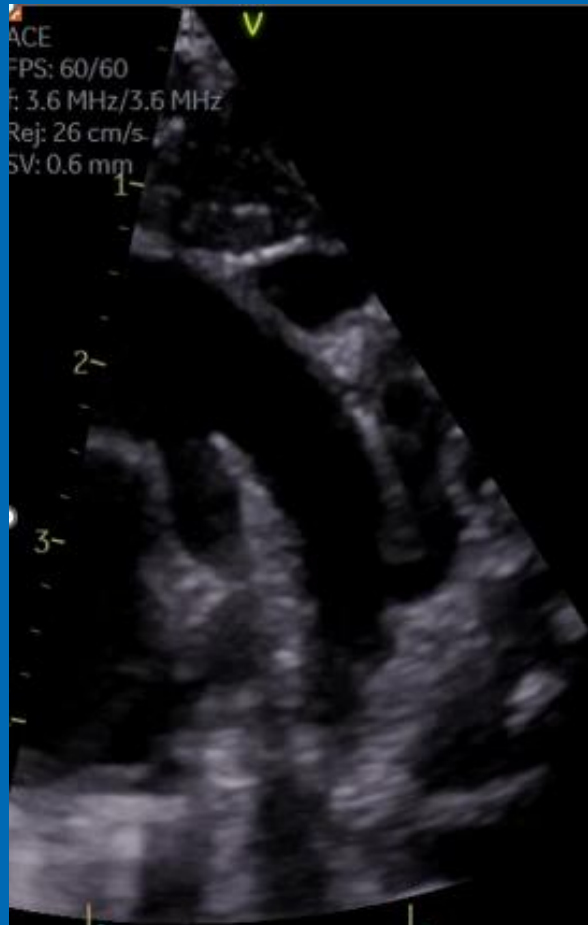


COA with a PDA



COA without a PDA





Coarctation of aorta – Summary

- Suspect coarctation of the aorta whenever someone mentions lower extremity pulses cannot be felt
- One left sided obstructive lesion present - strongly suspect there may be others
 - Mitral valve, aortic valve, VSD (among others)

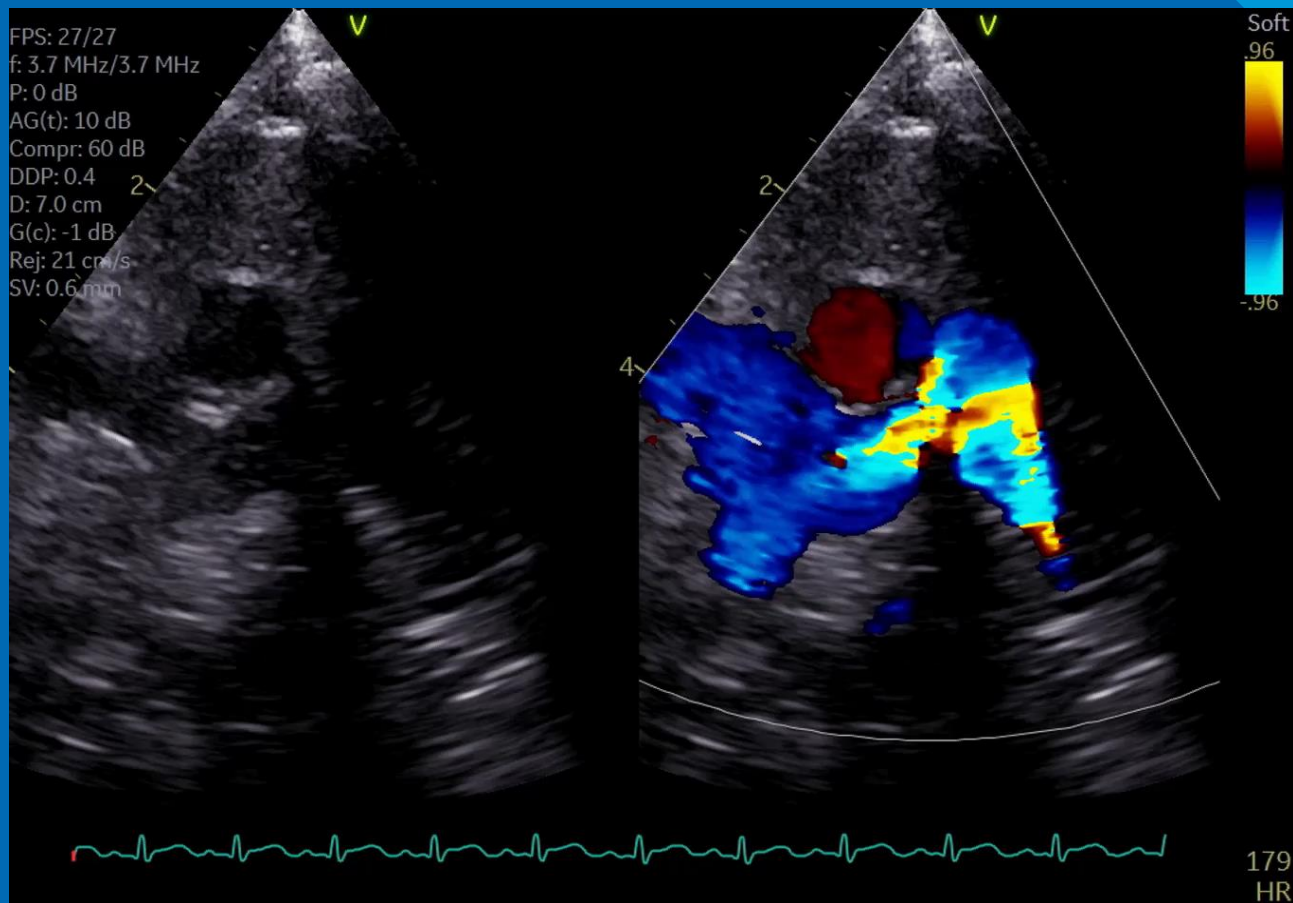


Cases #2 & #3

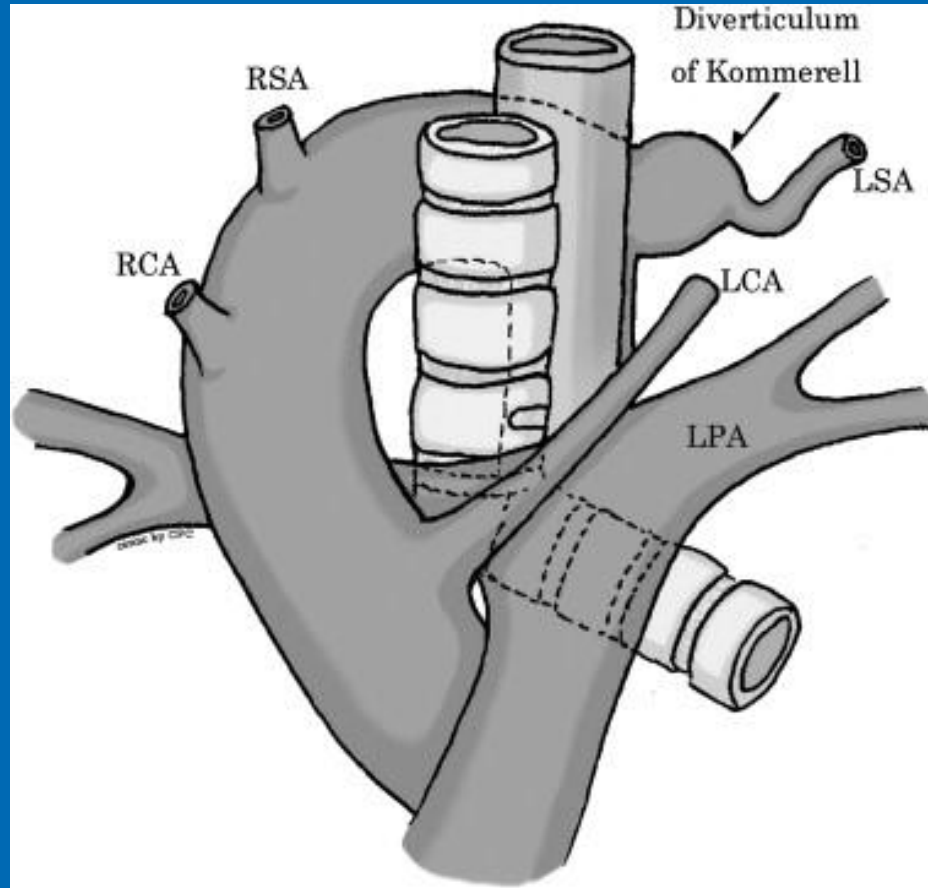
- A 6-month-old infant was referred for an echocardiogram by the PCP for concern that the infant has recurrent upper respiratory tract infections and now appears to choke with solid foods.
- What is the major differential diagnosis that needs to be assessed by echo?



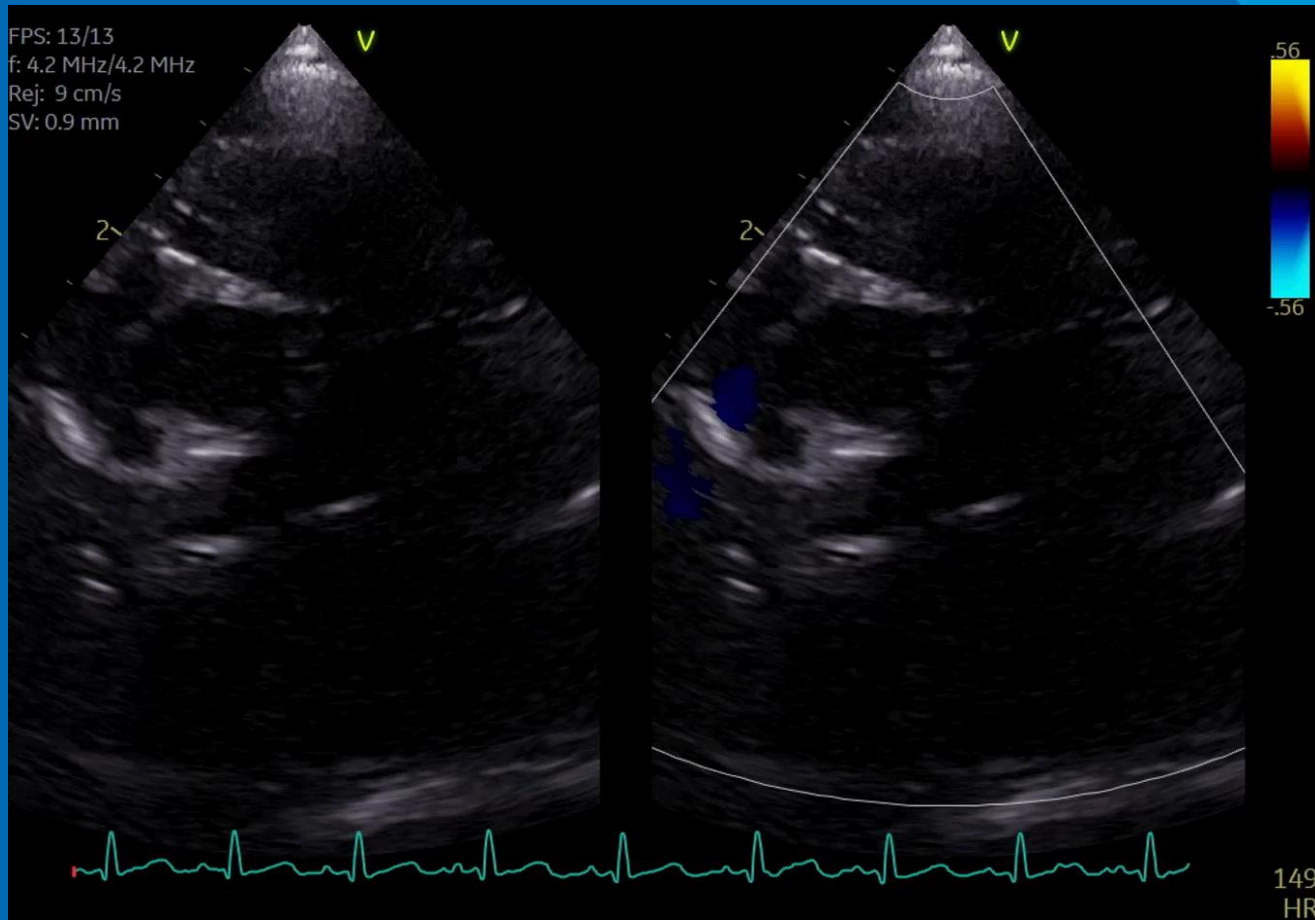
Case #2



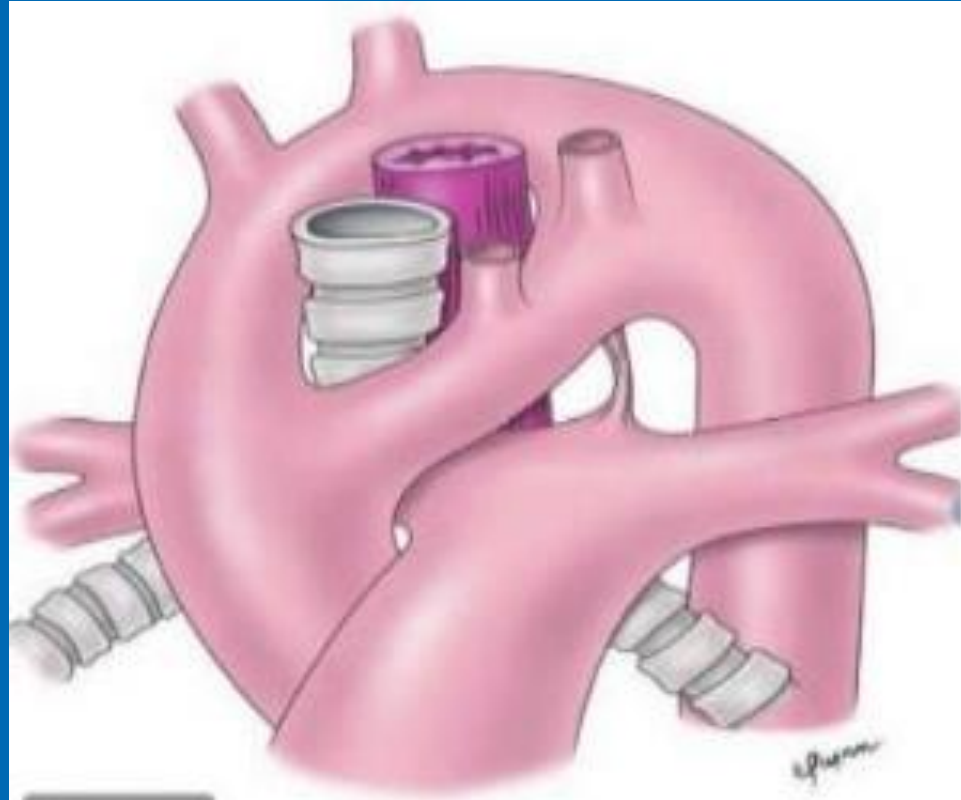
Case #2 – Right aortic arch with aberrant left subclavian artery



Case #3



Case #3 – double aortic arch



Vascular rings – Summary

- Double aortic arch (most common)
- Right aortic arch with aberrant left subclavian artery (2nd most common)
- Other (rare)
 - Circumflex aorta
 - Cervical arch
 - Left pulmonary artery sling (NOT a true ring)

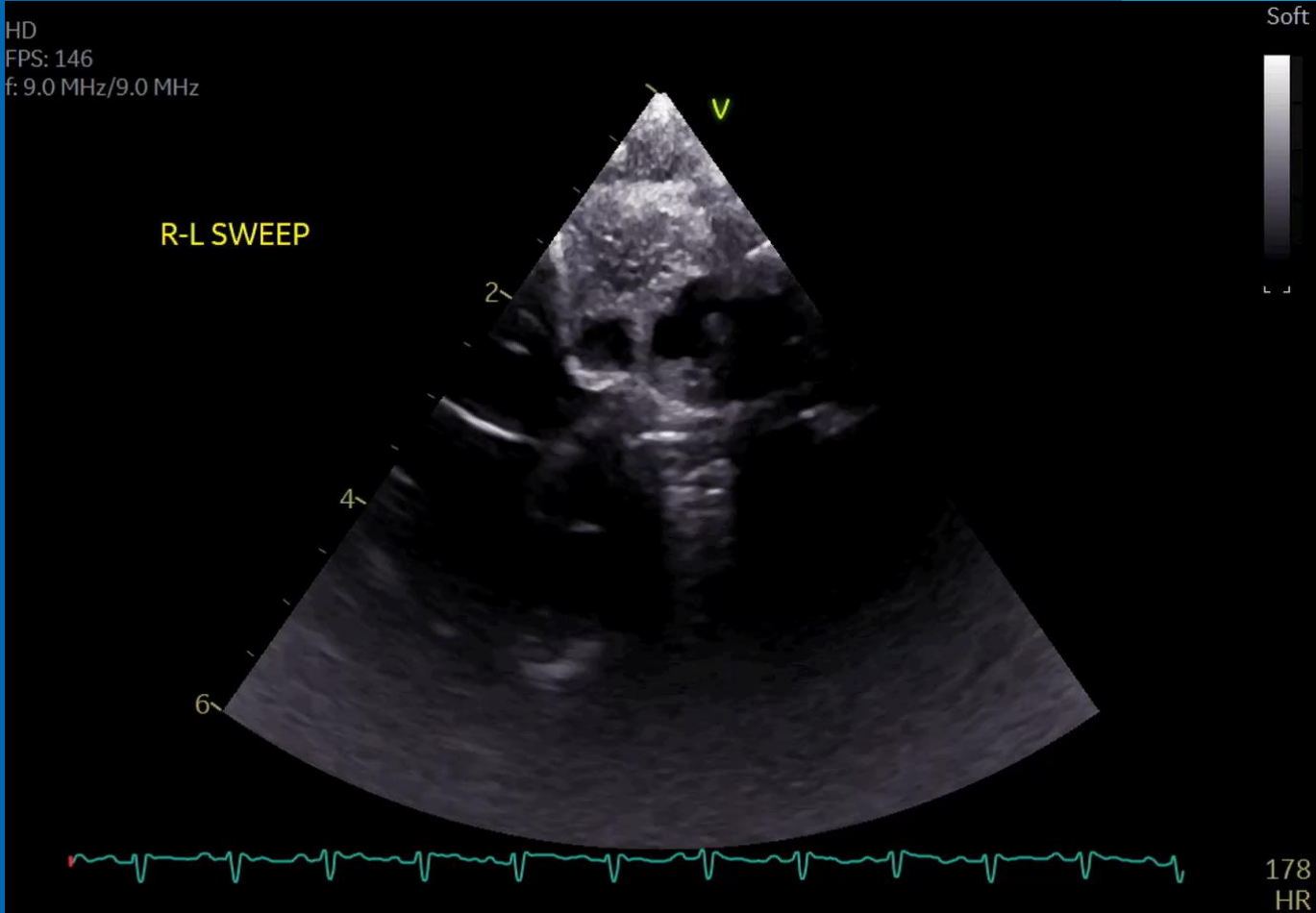


Case #4

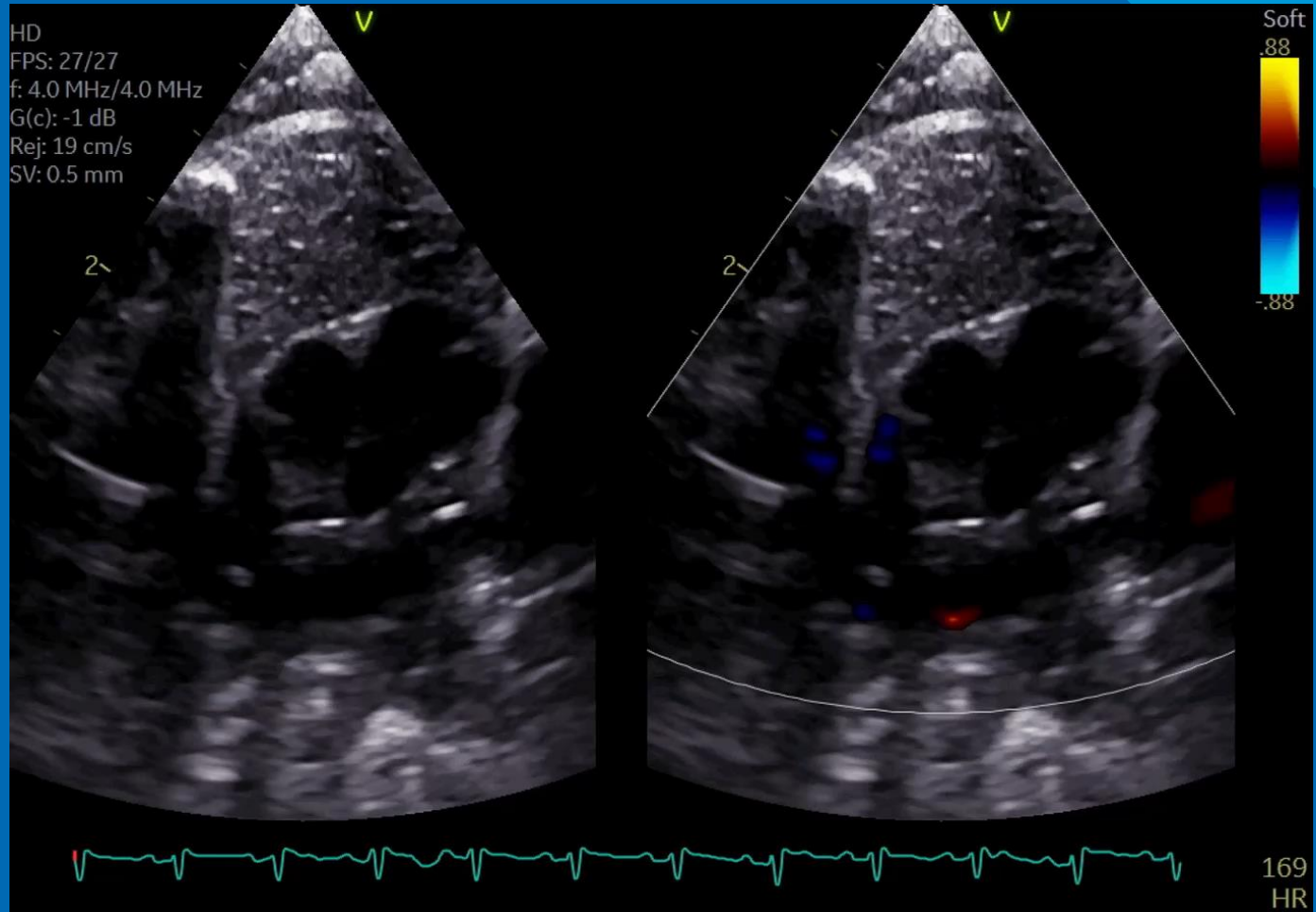
- You're called to the NICU to perform a TTE on a newborn who's only a couple of hours old
- Baby had an abnormal fetal echo that showed double outlet right ventricle
- The fetal cardiologist is concerned that the arch looks abnormal and suspects at least a severe coarctation of aorta
- ...At least?



Case #4a

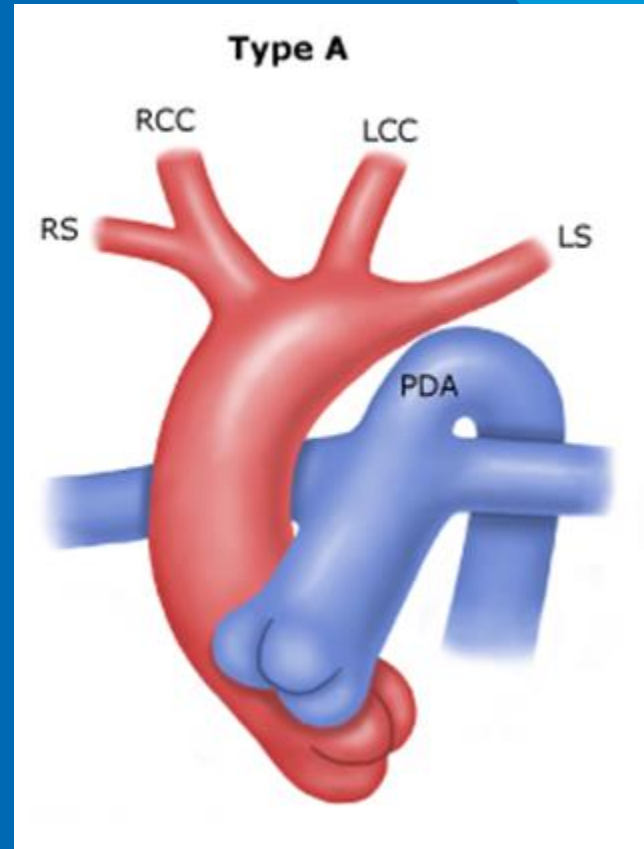


Case #4a

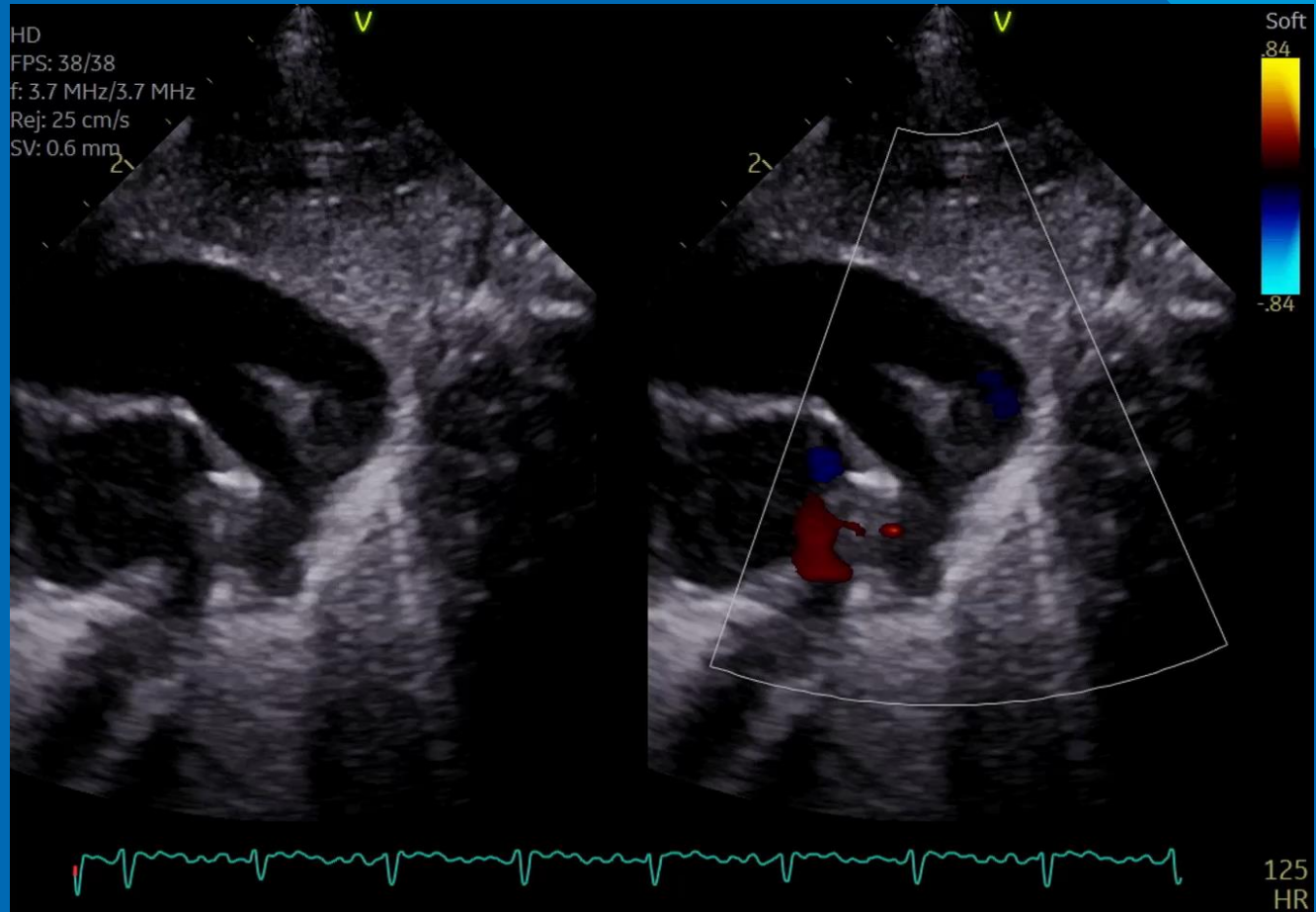


Case #4a

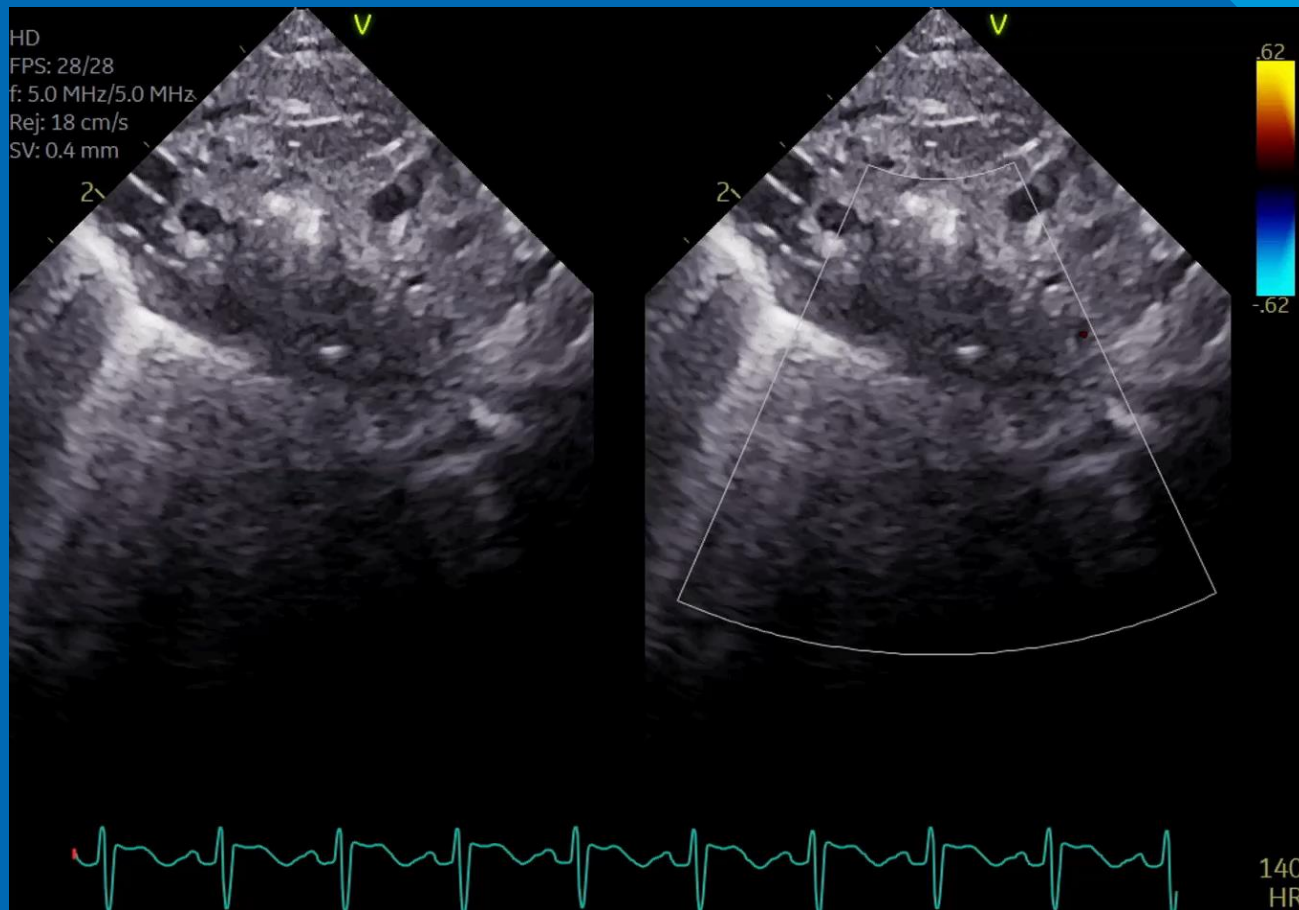
- Interrupted aortic arch type A1



Case #4b

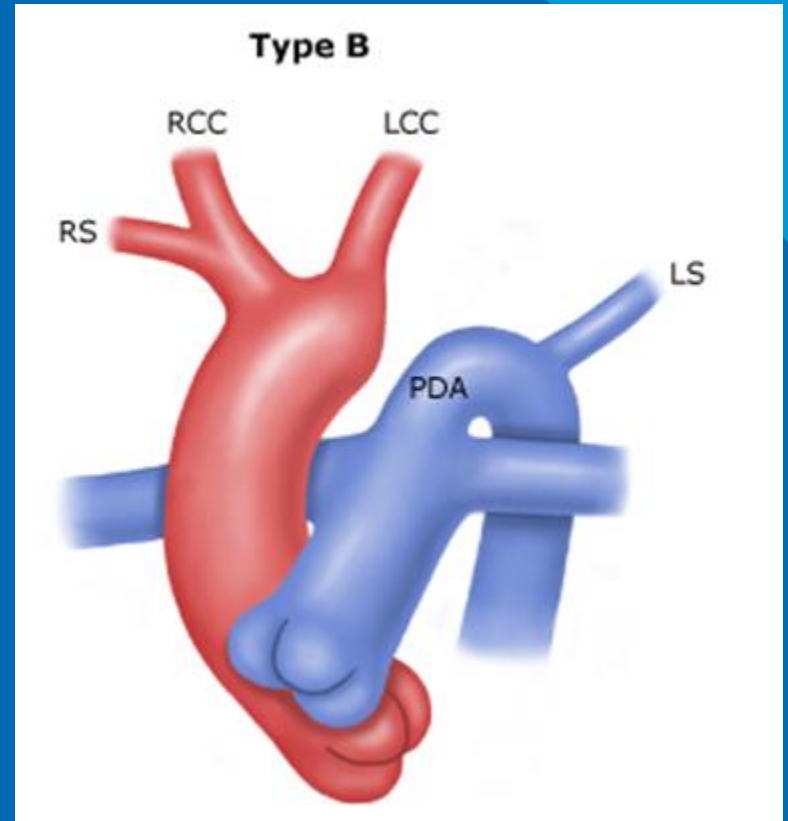


Case #4b



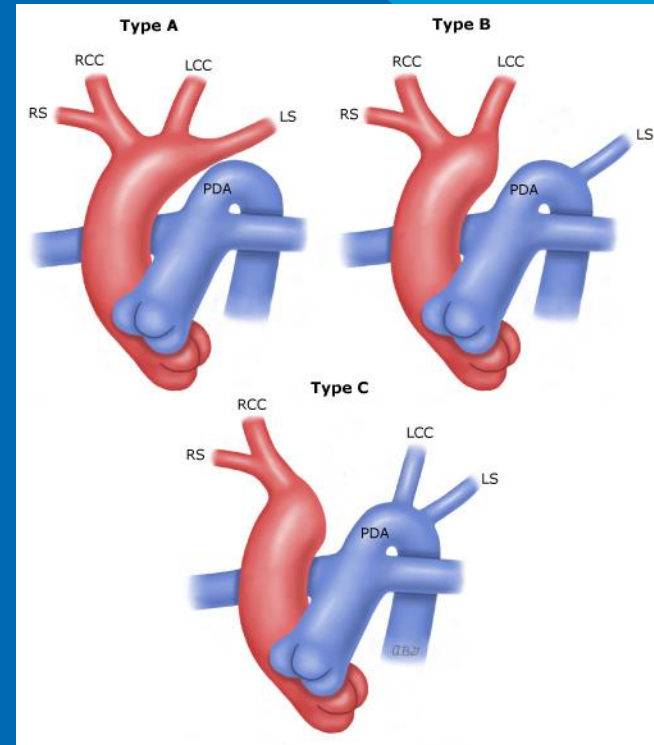
Case #4b

- Interrupted aortic arch type B1



Case #4 - Summary

- Interrupted aortic arch types:
 - **Type A:** distal to the left subclavian artery (2nd most common)
 - **Type B:** Between left common carotid and left subclavian artery (most common, ~50%)
 - **Type C:** Between innominate artery and left common carotid (very rare)
- **Subtypes:**
 - 1 - normal subclavian artery
 - 2 - aberrant subclavian artery
- Interrupted aortic arches are typically associated with complex intracardiac anatomy but not always



<https://www.uptodate.com/contents/image?imageKey=PEDS%2F103748>
Modified from: Celoria GC, Patton RB. Congenital absence of the aortic arch. *Am Heart J* 1959; 58:407.



Words of advice

- Evaluation of the aortic arch can be tricky
- Sweep, sweep, sweep - 2D and color
 - Long axis
 - Short axis (i.e. notch at 3 o'clock)
 - PDA sweep
- Newborn/infant with a large right heart and a PDA - COA until proven otherwise.
 - Important differential diagnoses: TAPVR and PH



Thank you!

