

## IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

## An uncommon echocardiographic finding in the inferior vena cava after decannulation of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation

### Un hallazgo ecocardiográfico infrecuente en la vena cava inferior tras la decanulación de la oxigenación por membrana extracorpórea

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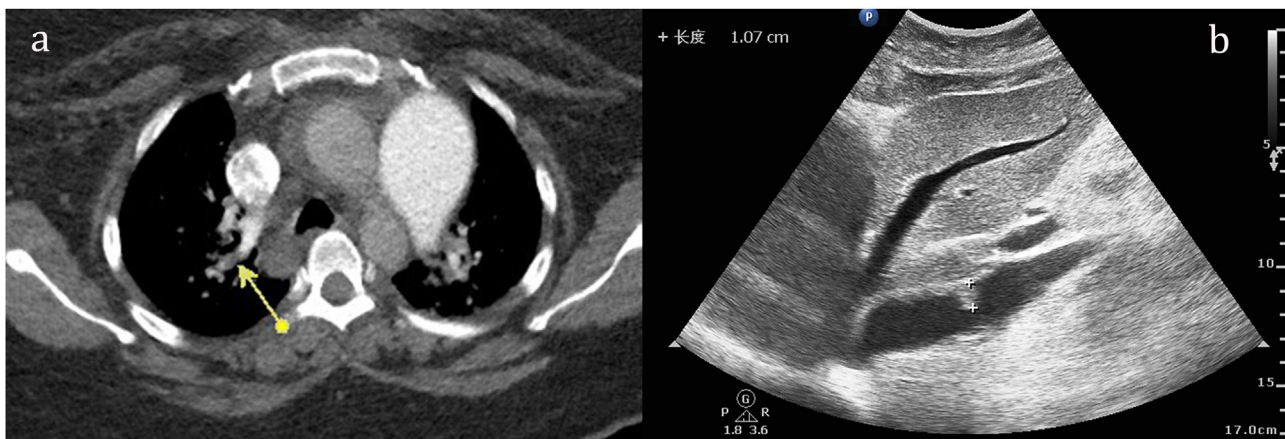


Figure 1

A 35-year-old woman presented to the emergency department with dyspnea and chest tightness lasting for 1 day. Computed tomographic pulmonary angiography confirmed the diagnosis of acute pulmonary embolism (Fig. 1a,

yellow arrow). Venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO) was implanted due to severe hypoxemia (a P/F ratio of 64mmHg). Three days later, VV-ECMO was successfully decannulated, and an immediate ultrasound examination detected a rare morphology of ECMO-related thrombus in the inferior vena cava (IVC): a pedunculated, polypoid mobile thrombus floating with a heartbeat (Video 1 and Fig. 1b). The IVC thrombus dissipated after a 3-week

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standard anticoagulant treatment ([Video 2](#)). The case indicated the necessity of routine IVC ultrasound examination after the decannulation of ECMO.

### **Contribution of the authors**

Zhou X, Pan J, and Chen B participated in the care of the patient. Zhou X and Chen B drafted the manuscript and revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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### **Conflicts of interest**

The authors declare that they have no potential conflict of interest.

### **Consent for publication**

Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this article and any accompanying images.

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### **Appendix A. Supplementary data**

Supplementary material related to this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.medicine.2023.10.013>.