



IMAGES IN INTENSIVE MEDICINE

VExUS: Severe systemic congestion with normal portal flow

VExUS: congestión sistémica severa con flujo portal normal

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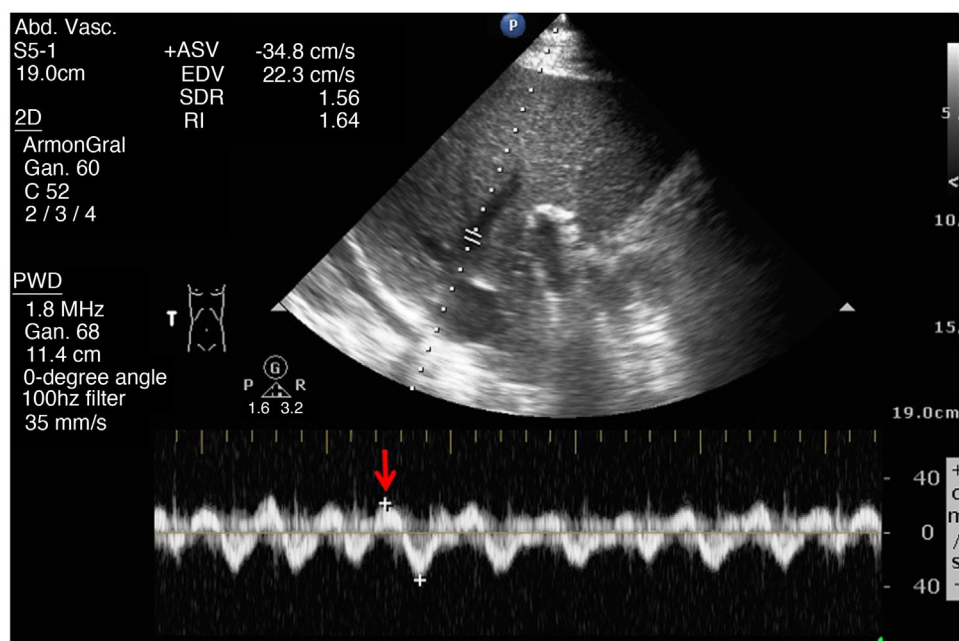


Figure 1

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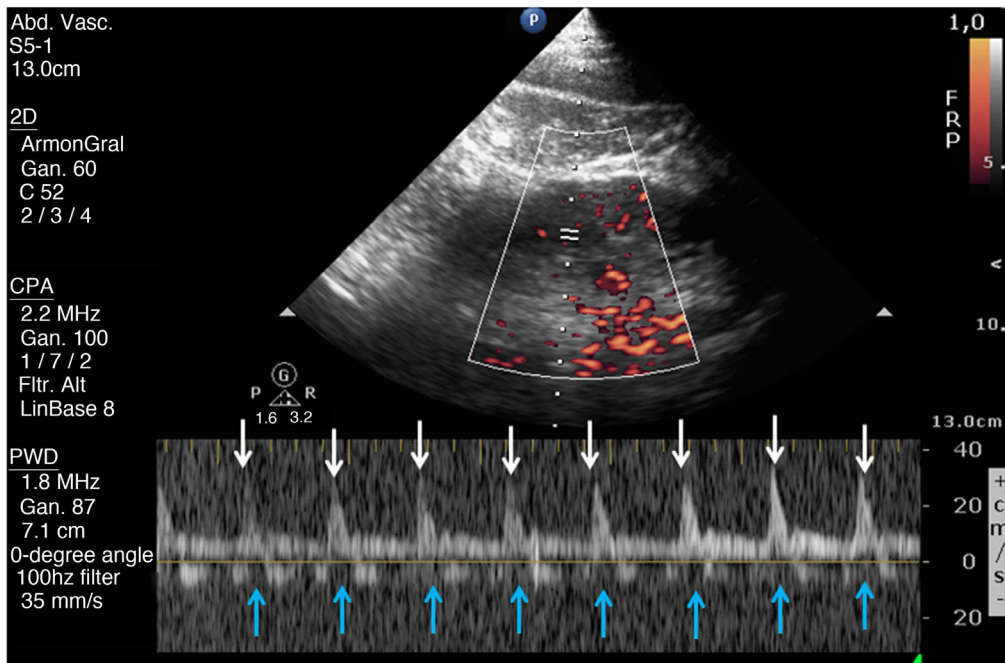


Figure 2

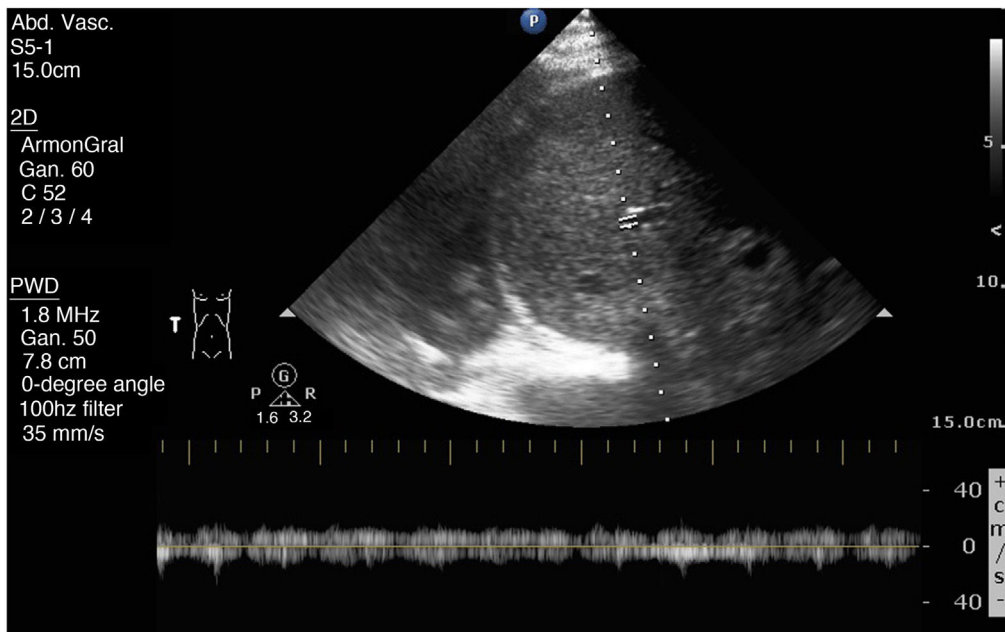


Figure 3

This is the case of an 86-year-old man admitted to the ICU due to right-sided heart failure (RSHF) after Mitraclip® implantation, severe chronic pulmonary hypertension, acute kidney injury, and elevated levels of transaminase and bilirubin. The VExUS (Venous Excess Ultrasound Score) system was used. Fig. 1 shows flow reversal during ventricular systole on the Doppler echocardiography of suprahepatic veins (red arrows). Fig. 2 shows the monophasic renal interlobar venous Doppler flow pattern (lack of venous flow [blue arrows] in systole [white arrows]). Both findings are suggestive of severe systemic venous congestion (SVC). However, portal vein Doppler (PVD) (Fig. 3) was not pulsatile (as it would have been expected in SVC). Cirrhosis-induced portal fibrosis (due to RSHF) prevents the transmission of pulsatility across venous flow being PVD, in this case, not assessable with the VExUS to diagnose SVC due to being a false negative outcome.