

ASE/EACVI Guidelines: Basic Assessment of Normal Prosthetic Valve Function

Philippe Pibarot, DVM, PhD, FACC, FAHA, FASE, FESC
Canada Research Chair in Valvular Heart Diseases



**Université
LAVAL**

Disclosure: Philippe Pibarot

Financial relationship with industry:

- **Edwards Lifesciences: Echo CoreLab for PARTNER 2–SAPIEN 3, PARTNER 3, TAVR-UNLOAD, EARLY-TAVR trials**
- **V-Wave Ltd: Echo CoreLab for FIM Study**
- **Cardiac Phoenix: Echo CoreLab for BACE FIM Study**

Other financial disclosure:

- **Research Grants from Canadian Institutes of Health**
- **Research and Heart & Stroke Foundation of Quebec**

Off label Use: None

GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS

Recommendations for Evaluation of Prosthetic Valves With Echocardiography and Doppler Ultrasound

A Report From the American Society of Echocardiography's Guidelines and Standards Committee and the Task Force on Prosthetic Valves, Developed in Conjunction With the American College of Cardiology Cardiovascular Imaging Committee, Cardiac Imaging Committee of the American Heart Association, the European Association of Echocardiography, a registered branch of the European Society of Cardiology, the Japanese Society of Echocardiography and the Canadian Society of Echocardiography, Endorsed by the American College of Cardiology Foundation, American Heart Association, European Association of Echocardiography, a registered branch of the European Society of Cardiology, the Japanese Society of Echocardiography, and Canadian Society of Echocardiography

William A. Zoghbi, MD, FASE, Chair, John B. Chambers, MD,* Jean G. Dumesnil, MD,† Elyse Foster, MD,‡
John S. Gottdiener, MD, FASE, Paul A. Grayburn, MD, Bijoy K. Khandheria, MBBS, FASE,
Robert A. Levine, MD, Gerald Ross Marx, MD, FASE, Fletcher A. Miller, Jr., MD, FASE, Satoshi Nakatani, MD,
PhD,§ Miguel A. Quiñones, MD, Harry Rakowski, MD, FASE, L. Leonardo Rodriguez, MD,
Madhav Swaminathan, MD, FASE, Alan D. Waggoner, MHS, RDCS, Neil J. Weissman, MD, FASE,||
and Miguel Zabalgaitia, MD, *Houston and Dallas, Texas; London, United Kingdom; Quebec City, Quebec, Canada;
San Francisco, California; Baltimore, Maryland; Scottsdale, Arizona; Boston, Massachusetts; Rochester, Minnesota;
Suita, Japan; Toronto, Ontario, Canada; Cleveland, Ohio; Durham, North Carolina; St Louis, Missouri;
Washington, DC; Springfield, Illinois*

Zoghbi et al. J Am Soc Echocardiogr, 22:975-1014, 2009

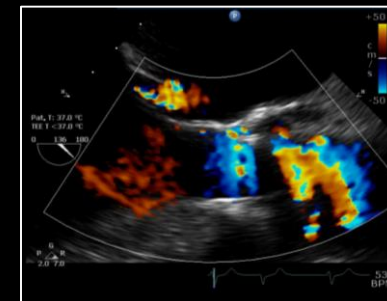
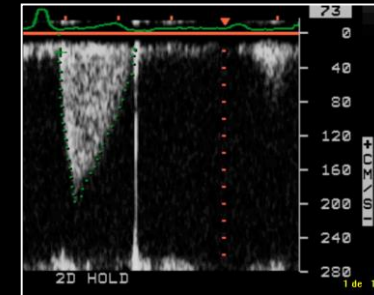
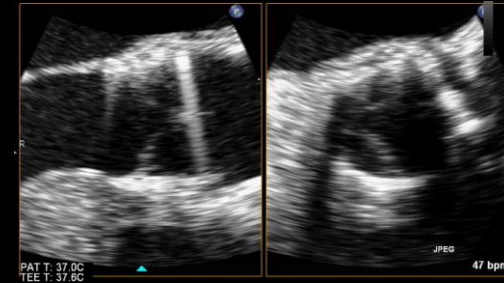


Recommendations for the imaging assessment of prosthetic heart valves: a report from the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging endorsed by the Chinese Society of Echocardiography, the Inter-American Society of Echocardiography, and the Brazilian Department of Cardiovascular Imaging[†]

Patrizio Lancellotti^{1,2*}, Philippe Pibarot^{3,4}, John Chambers⁵, Thor Edvardsen⁶, Victoria Delgado⁷, Raluca Dulgheru¹, Mauro Pepi⁸, Bernard Cosyns⁹, Mark R. Dweck¹⁰, Madalina Garbi¹¹, Julien Magne^{12,13}, Koen Nieman^{14,15}, Raphael Rosenhek¹⁶, Anne Bernard^{17,18}, Jorge Lowenstein¹⁹, Marcelo Luiz Campos Vieira^{20,21}, Arnaldo Rabischoffsky²², Rodrigo Hernández Vyhmeister²³, Xiao Zhou²⁴, Yun Zhang²⁵, Jose-Luis Zamorano²⁶, and Gilbert Habib^{27,28}

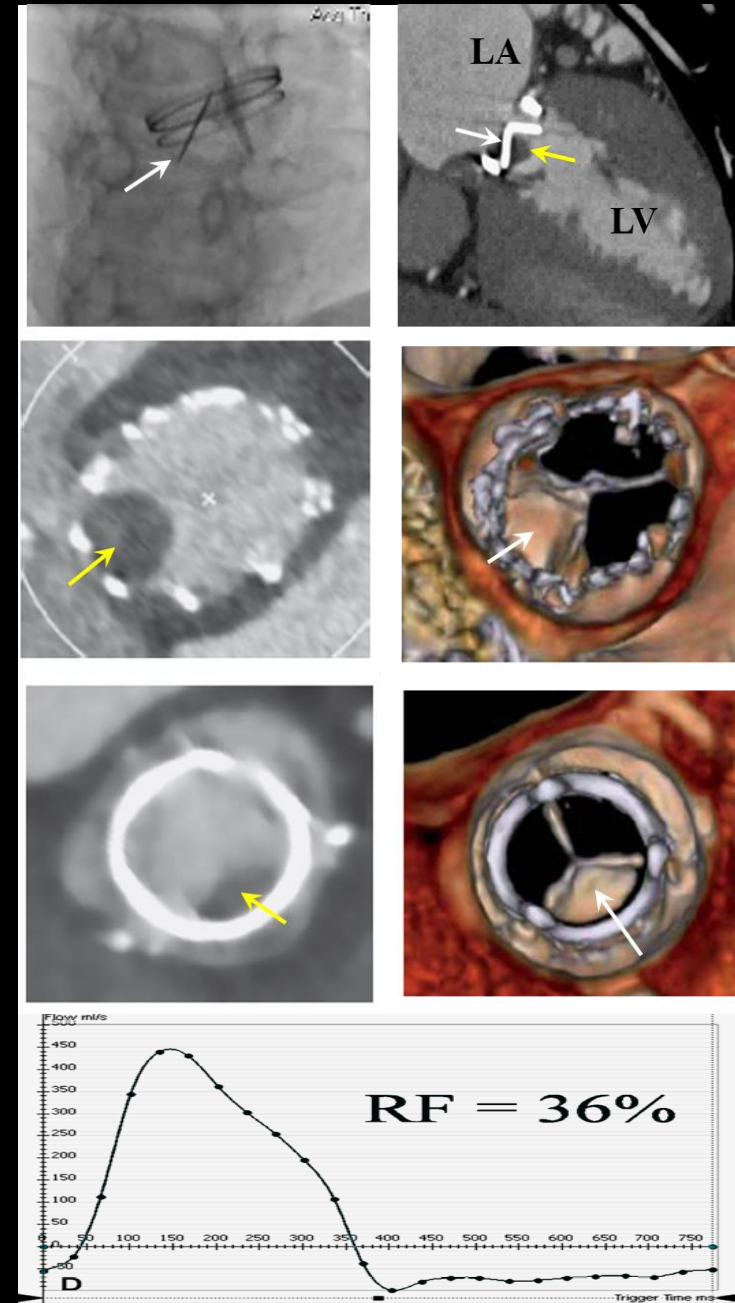
Doppler-Echo Evaluation of Prosthetic Valves

- **Doppler-echocardiography is the primary imaging modality to evaluate prosthetic valve function**
- **Structural evaluation (TTE and TEE)**
 - Valve position and shape
 - Leaflet morphology and mobility
 - Paravalvular region
- **Functional evaluation**
 - Transprosthetic gradients, EOA, and DVI
 - Localization (central vs. para) and degree of regurgitation
- **LV/RV size and function, Pulmonary Arterial Pressure**



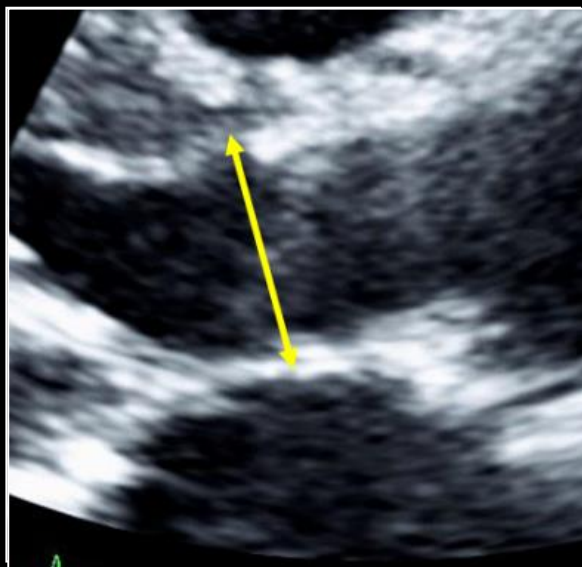
Non-Echo Imaging Modalities

- Not performed routinely for the evaluation of PHVs
- Can provide incremental information on valve integrity and valvular / paravalvular pathology
- Cinefluoroscopy: leaflet mobility of mechanical PHVs
- Cardiac CT: leaflet thickening / calcification, thrombus vs. pannus
- CMR: quantitation of AR and MR
- Nuclear imaging: PHVs endocarditis

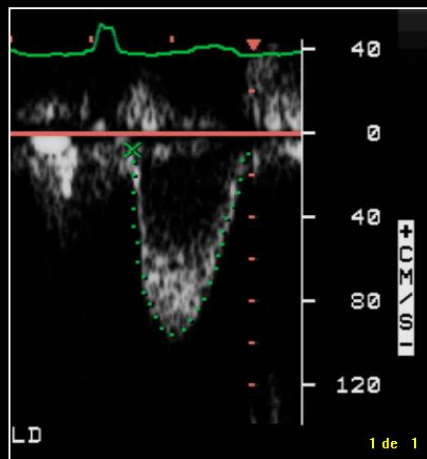


Measurement of Prosthetic Aortic Valve EOA

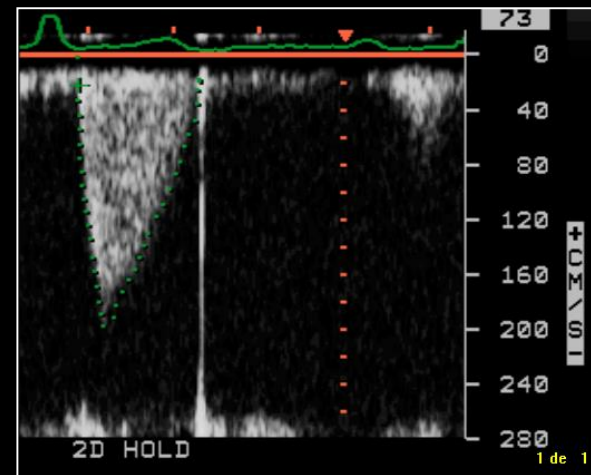
LVOT Diameter



PW Doppler
LVOT



CW Doppler
Prosthetic Aortic
Valve Flow

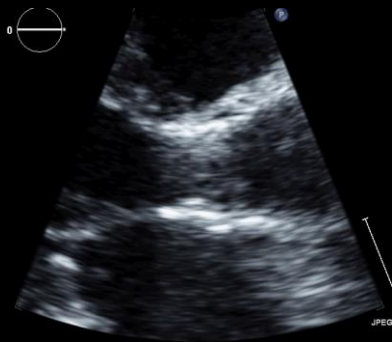


$$\text{Effective orifice area} = \frac{\text{CSA}_{\text{LVOT}} \times \text{VTI}_{\text{LVOT}}}{\text{VTI}_{\text{PrAv}}}$$

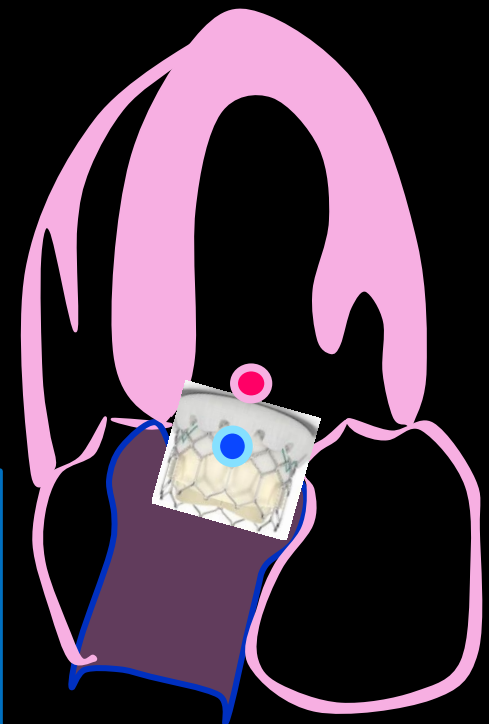
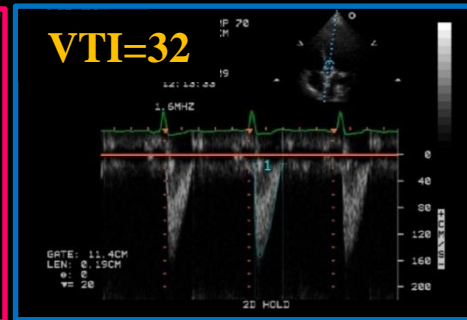
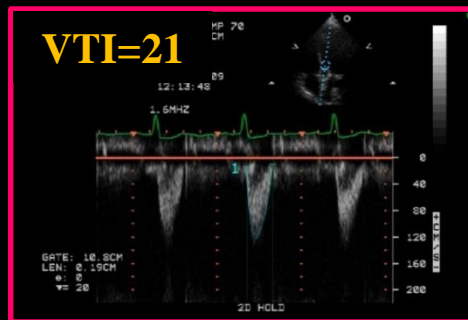
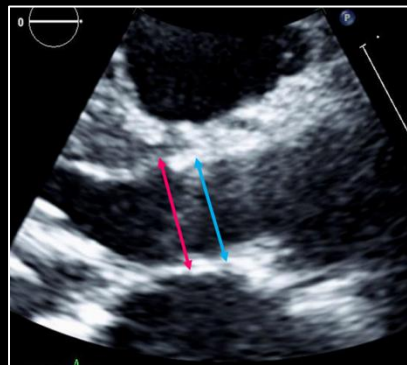
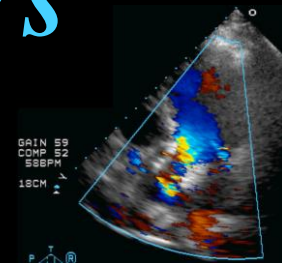
$$\text{Doppler Velocity Index} = \frac{\text{VTI}_{\text{LVOT}}}{\text{VTI}_{\text{PrAv}}}$$

LVOT Diameter and Velocity in Balloon-Expandable THVs

PLAX View



5-Chamber View

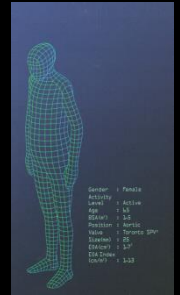


Shames et al. JASE 2012

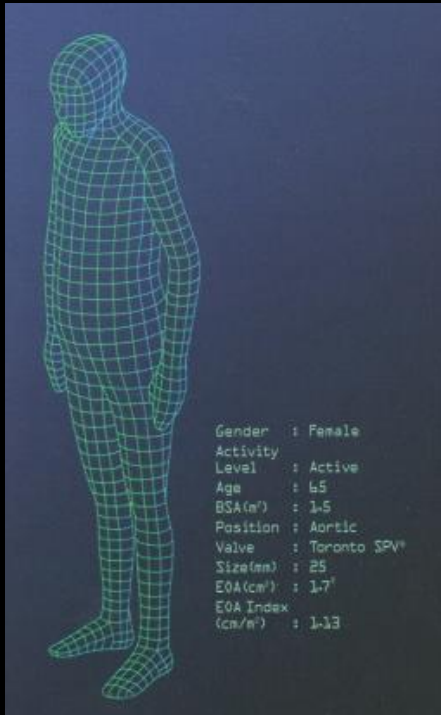
Clavel et al. JACC Img;4:1053-62, 2011

Etiology of High Doppler Gradients in Prosthetic Heart Valves

- **Prosthesis-patient mismatch i.e. too small a prosthesis in too large a patient**
- **Prosthesis dysfunction due to an acute (e.g. thrombus) , subacute (e.g. endocarditis) or chronic process (e.g. pannus, calcific degeneration in bioprosthesis)**



BSA



**PATIENT'S
CARDIAC OUTPUT
REQUIREMENTS**

**PROSTHESIS-PATIENT
MISMATCH**



**PROSTHETIC
VALVE EOA**

PPM occurs when the EOA of the prosthesis is too small in relation to patient's body size / cardiac output requirements

Criteria for Definition of Aortic Prosthesis-Patient Mismatch

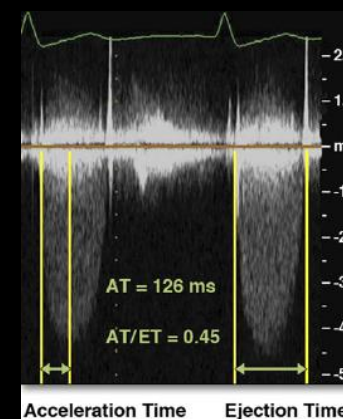
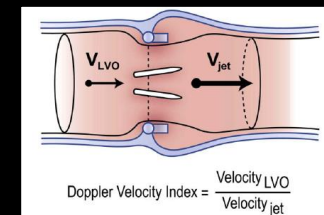
PPM definition: prosthesis functioning normally but too small for patient's body size

Normal EOA but small indexed EOA

	None/Mild	Moderate	Severe
Valve structure and motion	Usually normal	Usually normal	Usually normal
Difference (Normal reference EOA – Measured EOA) (cm²)	<0.30	>0.30	>0.30
Indexed EOA (cm²/m²)	>0.85	0.85-0.65	<0.65
Indexed EOA (cm²/m²) in obese patients (BMI ≥30 kg/m²)	>0.70	0.70-0.55	<0.55

Doppler-Echo Criteria to Assess the Severity of Prosthetic Aortic Valve Stenosis

	Normal	Possible Stenosis	Significant Stenosis
2D/3D TTE/TEE / Cinefluoroscopy / CT			
Valve structure / leaflet mobility	Normal	Often abnormal	Abnormal
Doppler quantitative parameters			
Peak velocity (m/s)	<3	3-4	≥4
Mean gradient (mmHg)	<20	20-35	≥35
Doppler velocity index	≥0.35	0.25-0.35	<0.25
Effective orifice area (cm ²)	>1.1	0.8-1.1	<0.8
Difference (Normal EOA - Measured EOA)	<0.30	0.30-0.59	>0.60
Doppler semi-quantitative parameters			
Acceleration time (ms)	<80	80-100	>100
Acceleration time / LV ejection time	<0.32	0.32-0.37	>0.37
Changes in echo parameters during FU			
Increase in mean gradient (mmHg) + concomitant decrease in EOA	<10	10-19	≥20



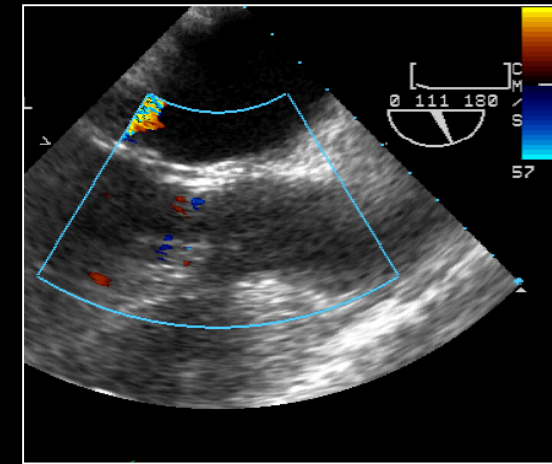
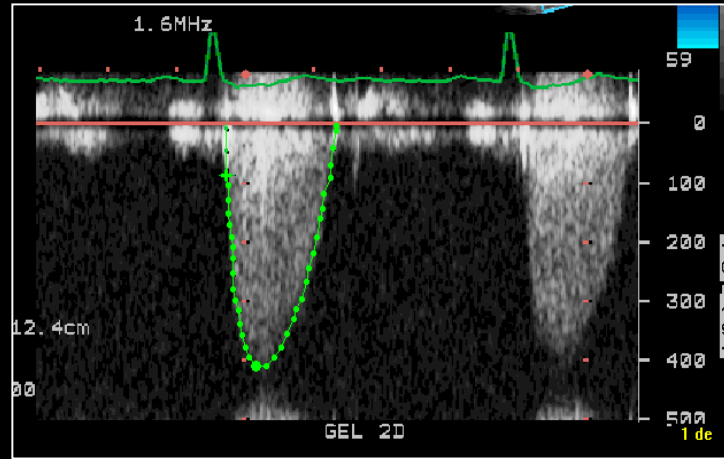
Prosthesis-Patient Mismatch after SAVR

68 y.o. patient, NYHA 3
3 Years post AVR
Carbomedic # 19 mm



Reference EOA

1.0 ± 0.4



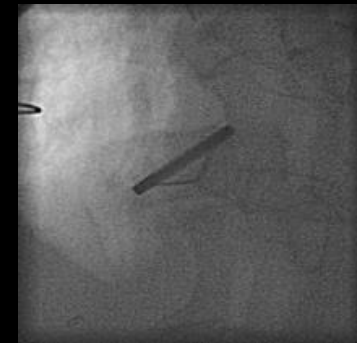
Peak / Mean Gradients = 69/40 mm Hg

Measured EOA = 1.06 cm^2

BSA = 1.95 m^2



Measured
Indexed EOA:
 $0.55 \text{ cm}^2/\text{m}^2$

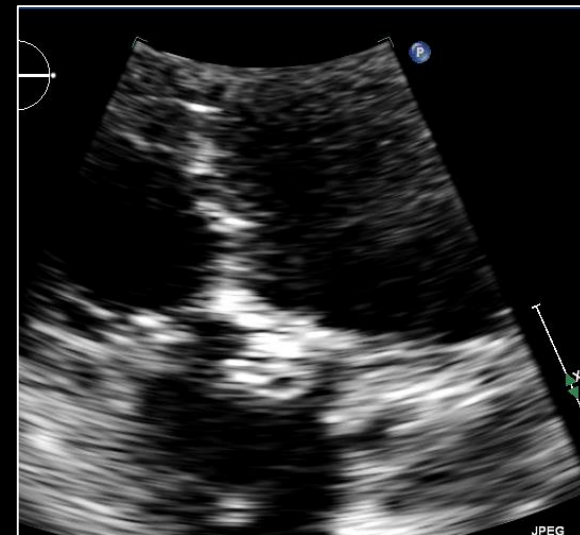
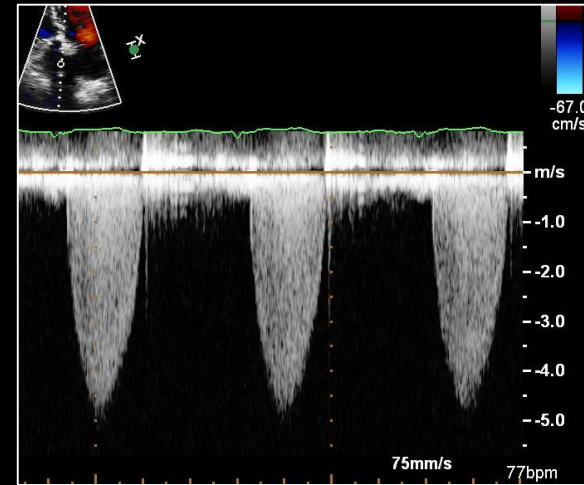


Valve Stenosis due to SVD after SAVR

Case: 78 y.o. man, 13 year post SAVR with CEP # 23 mm

Echo 13 years post SAVR:

- Gradients: 93/57 mmHg
(vs. 30/18 at discharge)
- EOA: 0.7 cm² DVI: 0.16
(vs. 1.7 cm² DVI: 0.42)
- AT/LVET: 0.38



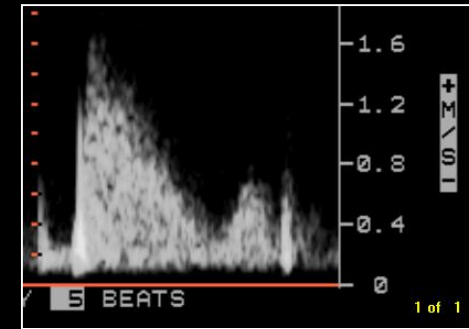
Doppler-Echo Evaluation of Mitral Prosthesis - Specifics

- **EOA calculated using continuity equation as follows :**
 $EOA = SV_{lvot} / VTI_{mvp}$
(Not valid if significant aortic or mitral regurgitation)

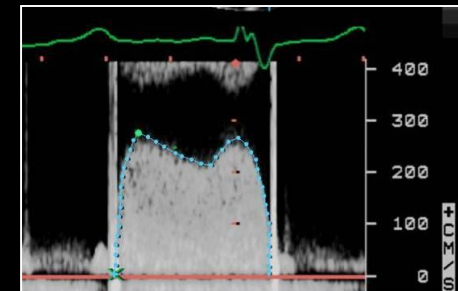
- **Doppler Velocity Index: VTI_{mvp} / VTI_{lvot}**

- **Pressure half-time not valid to calculate EOA (grossly overestimates) but may be useful for serial comparisons or if delayed**

Non-Obstructed



Obstructed



Criteria for Definition of Mitral Prosthesis-Patient Mismatch

PPM is defined as: normal EOA but small indexed EOA

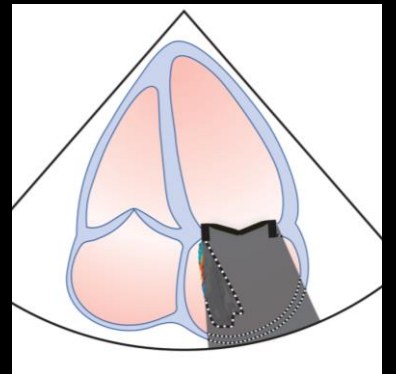
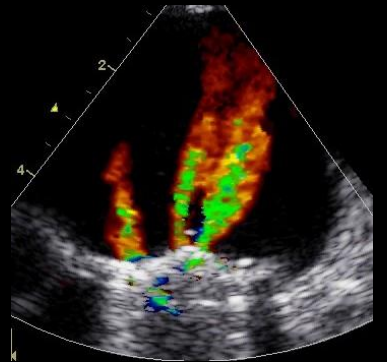
	None/Mild	Moderate	Severe
Valve structure and motion	Usually normal	Usually normal	Usually normal
Difference (Normal reference EOA – Measured EOA) (cm²)	<0.30	>0.30	>0.30
Indexed EOA (cm²/m²)	>1.2	0.9-1.2	<0.90
Indexed EOA (cm²/m²) in obese patients (BMI ≥30 kg/m²)	>1.0	1.0-0.75	<0.75

Doppler-Echo Criteria to Assess the Severity of Prosthetic Mitral Valve Stenosis

	Normal	Possible Stenosis	Significant Stenosis
2D/3D TTE / TEE / Cinefluoroscopy / CT			
Valve structure / leaflet mobility	Normal	Often abnormal	Abnormal
Doppler quantitative parameters			
Peak velocity (m/s)	<1.9	1.9-2.5	≥2.5
Mean gradient (mmHg)	≤5	6-10	≥10
Doppler velocity index	<2.2	2.2-2.5	>2.5
Effective orifice area (cm²)	≥2	1-2	<1
Difference (Normal EOA - Measured EOA)	<0.30	0.30-0.60	>0.60
Doppler semi-quantitative parameters			
Pressure half time (ms)	<130	130-200	>200
Changes in echo parameters during FU			
Increase in mean gradient (mmHg) + concomitant decrease in EOA	<5	5-9	≥10

Doppler-Echo Evaluation of Prosthetic Valve Regurgitation

- **Mild regurgitations, central or paravalvular are frequent, sometimes transient and rarely progressive**
- **Mechanical prostheses usually show small regurgitation due to normal closing volume**
- **Mitral regurgitation may be underestimated by TTE due to acoustic shadowing**
- **If significant regurgitation suspected, look for underlying pathology and proceed to TEE**



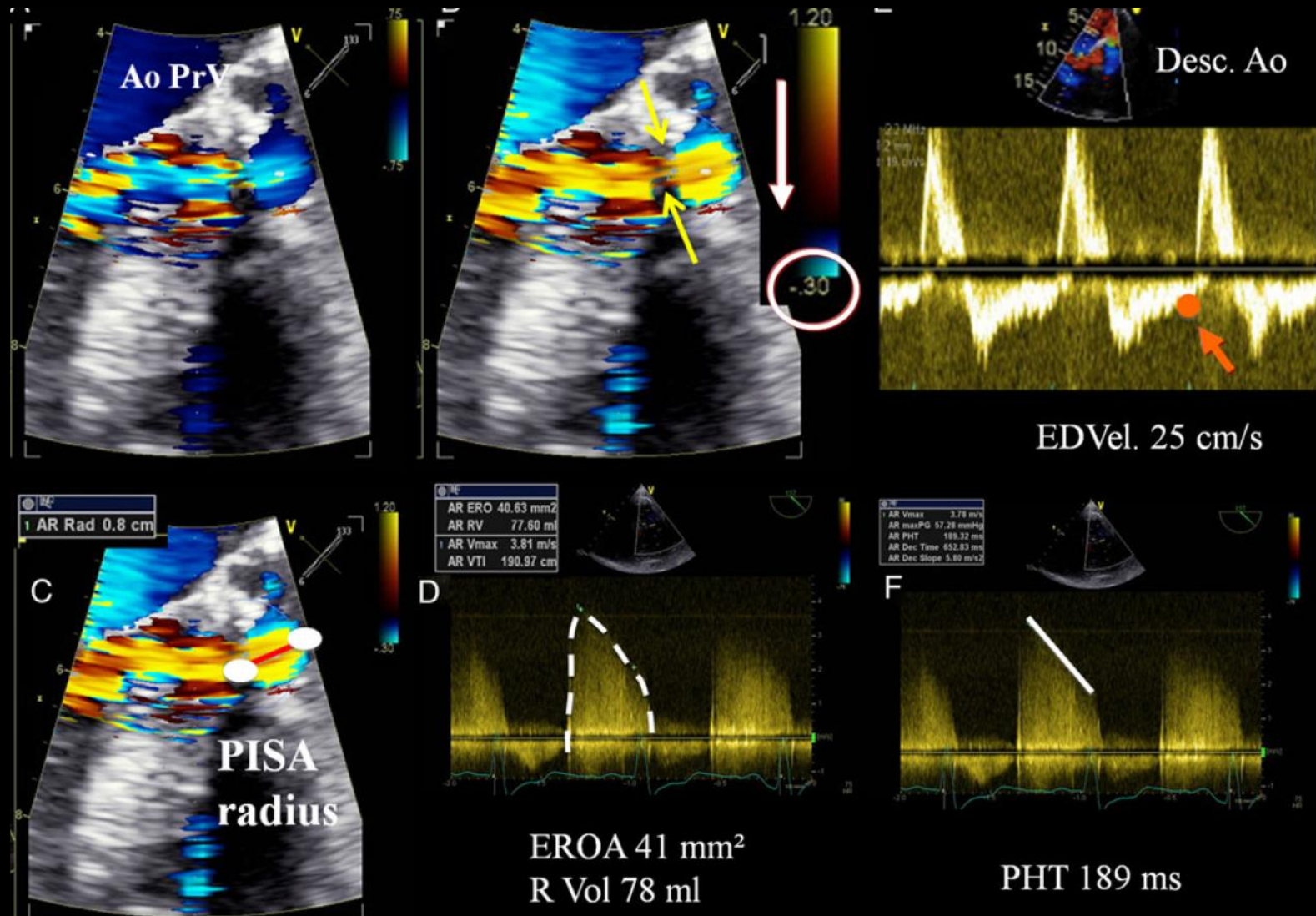
Doppler-Echo Criteria to Assess the Severity of Prosthetic Aortic Valve Regurgitation

	Mild	Moderate	Severe
2D/3D TTE / TEE / Cinefluoroscopy / CT			
Valve structure / leaflet mobility	Normal	Often abnormal	Abnormal
Doppler qualitative or semi-quantitative parameters			
Vena contracta width	<3	3-6	>6
Jet width in central jets (% LVOT diameter)	≤25	26-64	≥65
Pressure half time (ms)	Slow >500	200-500	Steep <200
Diastolic flow reversal in descending aorta	Absent- brief	Intermediate	Holodiastolic
Circumferential extent (paravalvular) (%)	<10	10-29	≥30
Doppler / CMR quantitative parameters			
Regurgitant volume (ml)	<30	30-59	≥60
Regurgitant fraction (%)	<30	30-49	≥50

Zoghbi JASE 2009

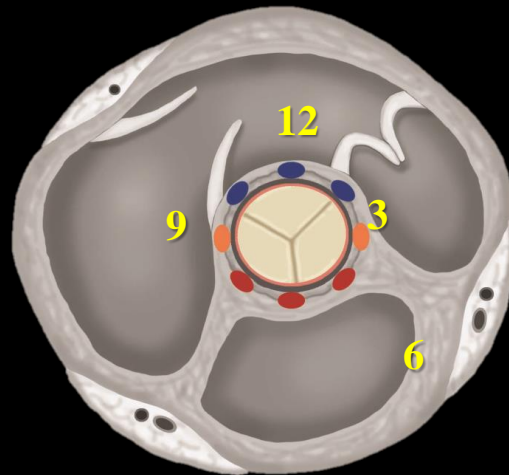
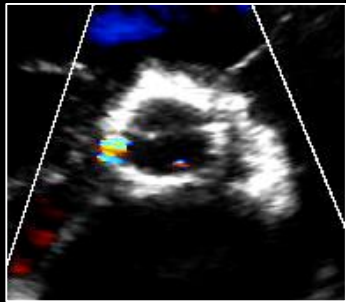
Lancellotti EHJ CV Img 2016

Doppler-Echo Assessment of Prosthetic Aortic Valve Regurgitation

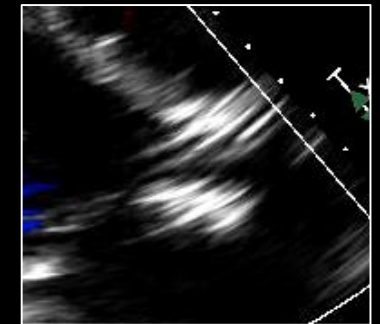
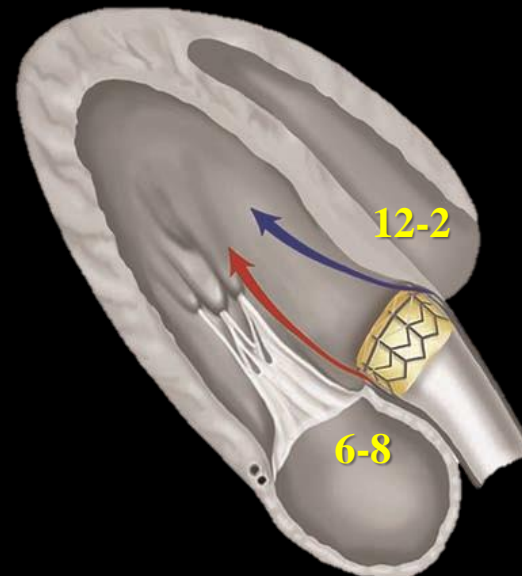
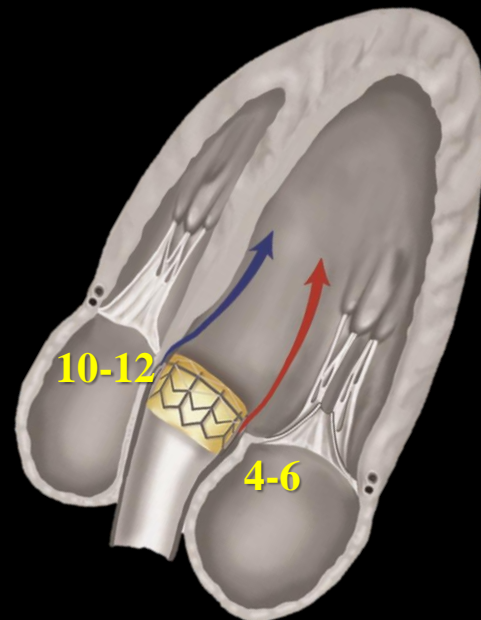
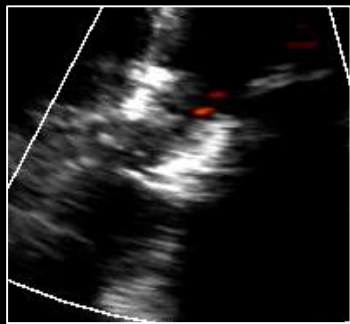
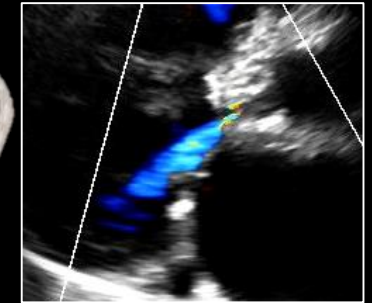
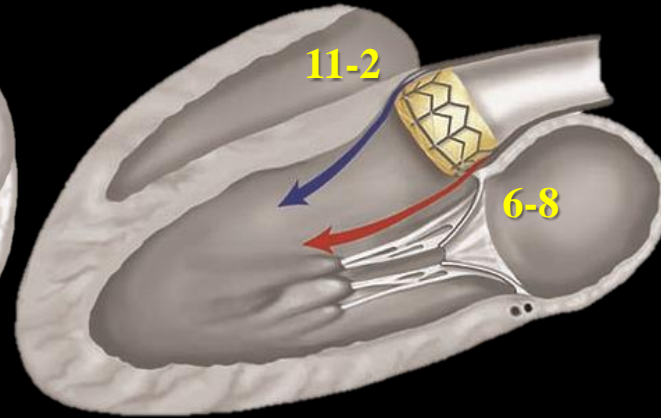


Assessment of PVR by Echo: Multi-window Imaging is Key!

PSAX



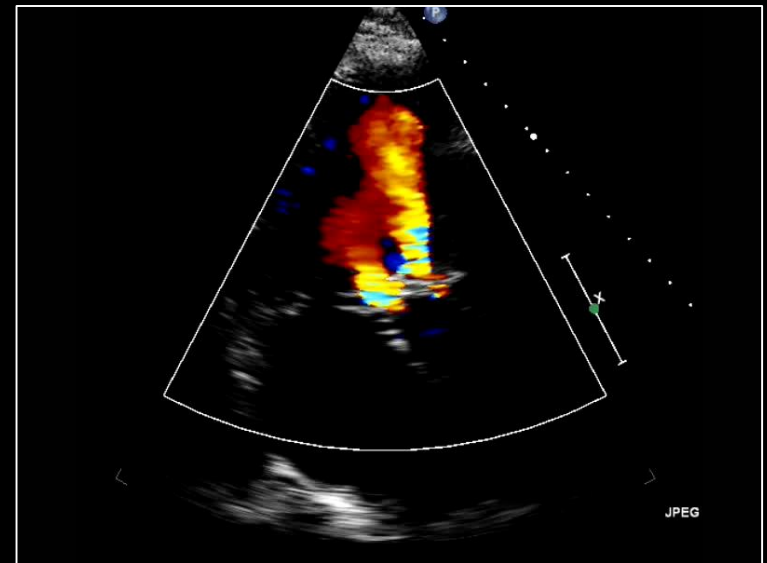
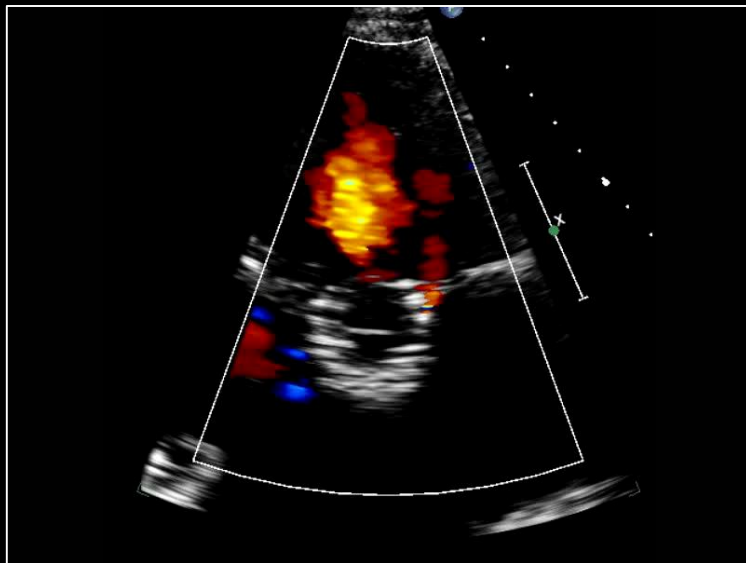
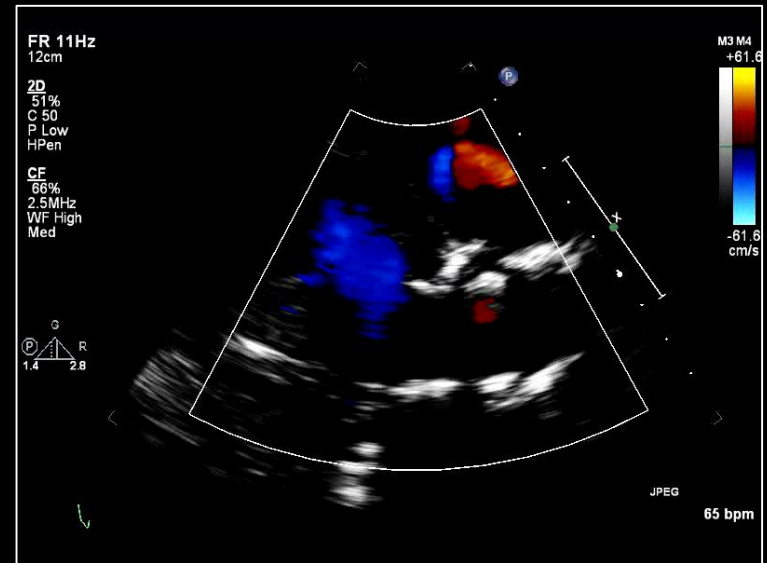
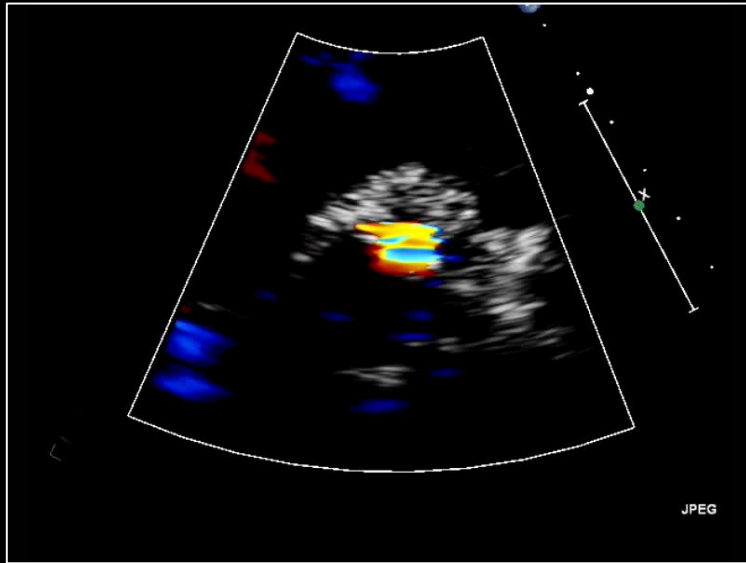
PLAX



Ap-5Ch

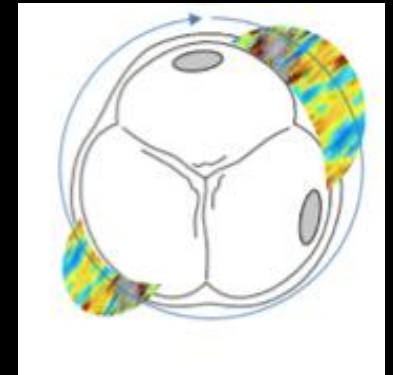
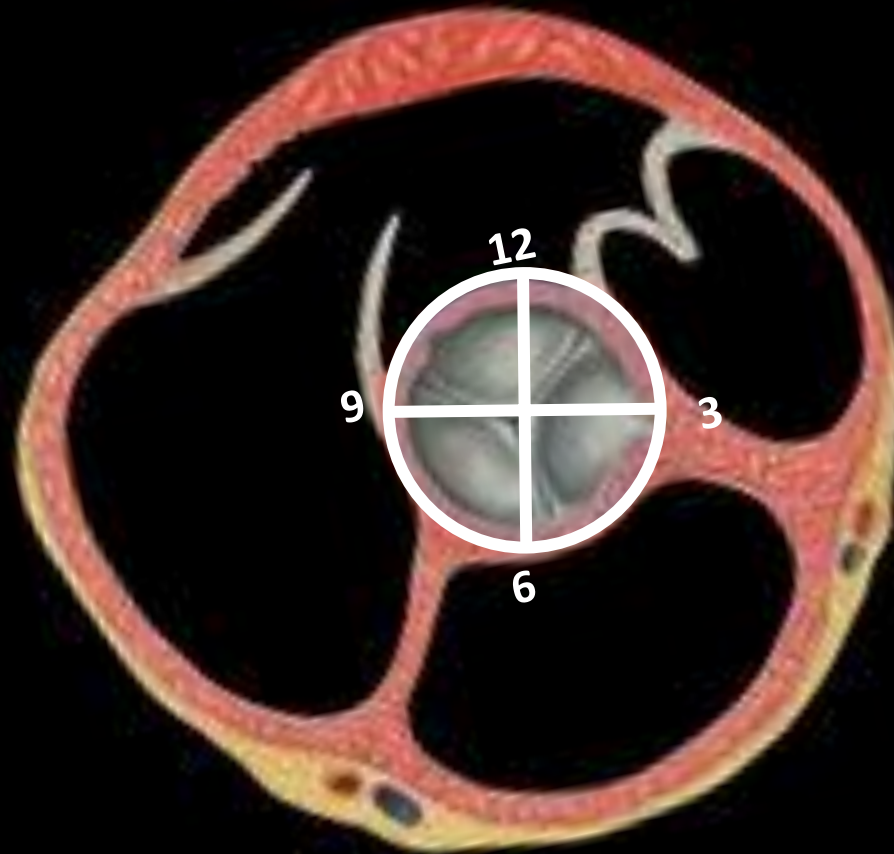
Ap-3Ch

Moderate-to-Severe PVR



Semi-Quantitation and Location of Paravalvular Regurgitation on PSAX

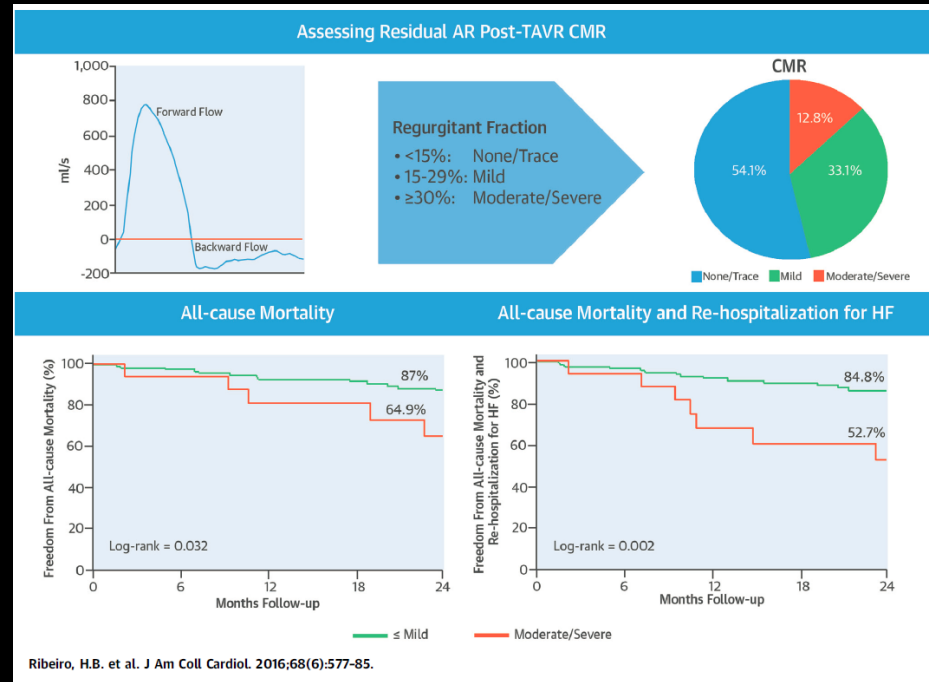
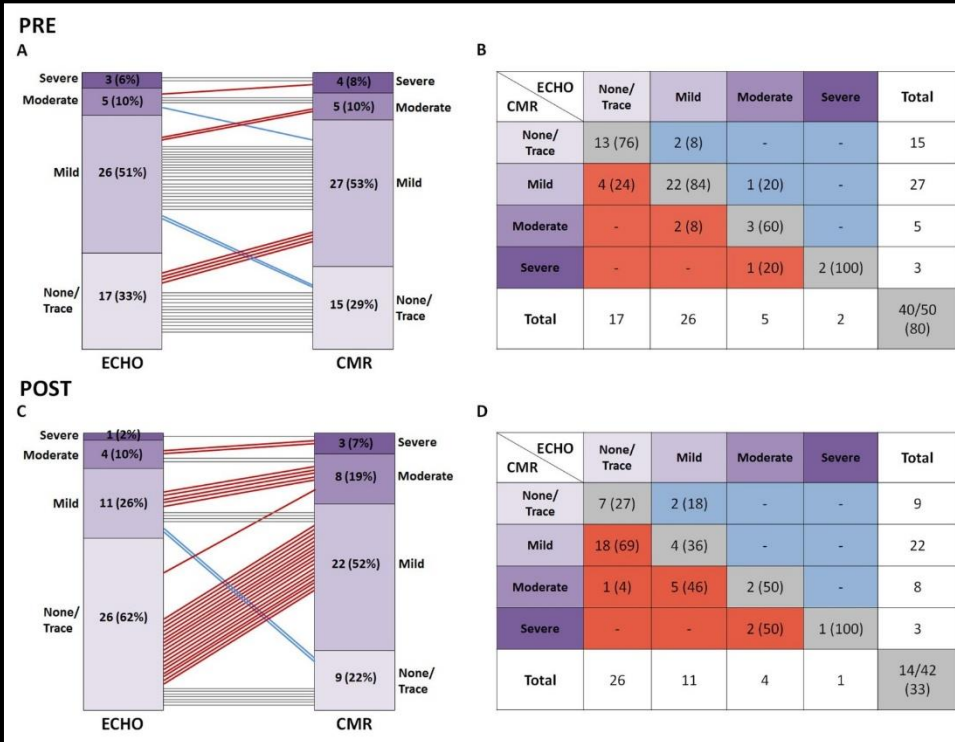
Using the TV septal leaflet insertion as 9 o'clock, locate the position of the paravalvular jets.



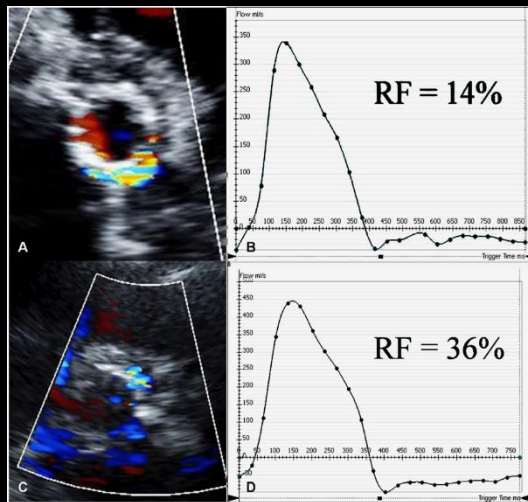
12 min + 6 min = 18 min
CE: $(18/60) \times 100 = 30\%$

Moderate-to-Severe PVR

Assessment of PVR by CMR



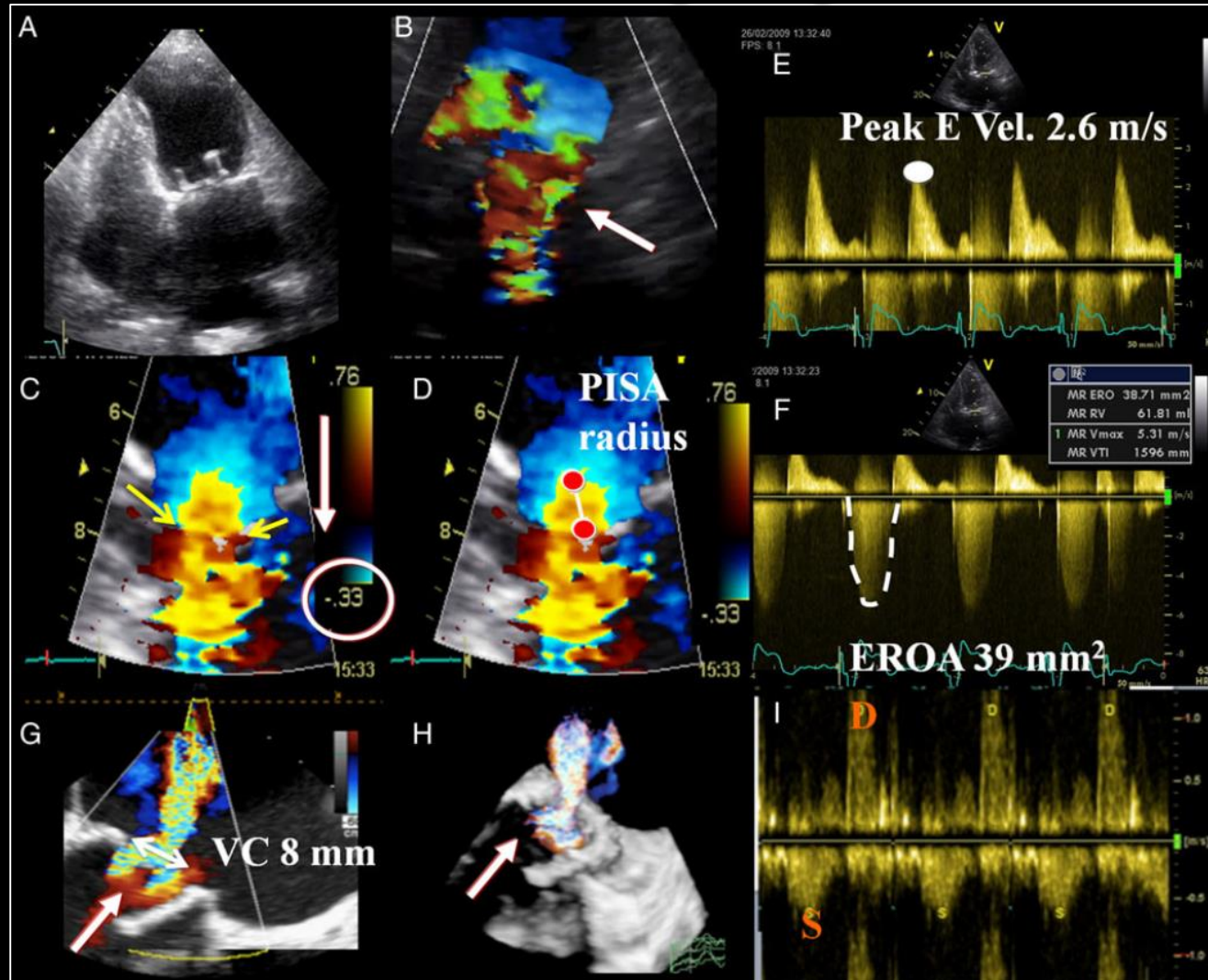
Ribeiro et al.
Heart 2016



Doppler-Echo Criteria to Assess the Severity of Prosthetic Mitral Valve Regurgitation

	Mild	Moderate	Severe
2D/3D TTE / TEE / Cinefluoroscopy / CT			
Valve structure / leaflet mobility	Normal	Often abnormal	Abnormal
Doppler qualitative or semi-quantitative parameters			
Vena contracta width	<3	3-6	>6
Mitral E Velocity	Variable	Variable	≥65
Doppler velocity index	<2.2	2.2-2.5	>2.5
CW Doppler signal of MR jet	Faint Parabolic	Dense Parabolic	Dense Triangular
Circumferential extent (paravalvular) (%)	<10	10-29	≥30
Doppler quantitative parameters			
Regurgitant volume (ml)	<30	30-59	≥60
Regurgitant fraction (%)	<30	30-49	≥50

Doppler-Echo Assessment of Prosthetic Mitral Valve Regurgitation



Conclusions

- **Doppler-echo is the first line imaging modality to assess PHV function.**
- **Multiple-views and multiple planes imaging is key to ensure complete visualization of the valvular and paravalvular region.**
- **Multi-parameter integrative approach is needed for grading prosthetic valve dysfunction**
- **Other imaging modalities such as 3D TEE, cinefluoroscopy, CT, and CMR can provide some additional information for the assessment of aortic valve morphology, function, and related complications.**

Differential Diagnosis Aortic Prostheses

PPM

- **High Gradient**
- **No change in gradient during FU**
- **EOA ~ normal (± 0.3)**
- **Small indexed EOA (< 0.85)**
- **Normal/Intermediate DVI**
- **Variable AT/LVET**
- **Normal leaflet morphology / mobility**

Stenosis

- **High Gradient**
- **Increase in gradient during FU (> 10 mmHg)**
- **EOA \ll normal ($\Delta > 0.3$)**
- **Small indexed EOA (< 0.85)**
- **Small DVI (< 0.35)**
- **High AT/LVET (> 0.37)**
- **Abnormal leaflet morphology / mobility**

Winter in Canada



Summer in Canada

