

The Aorta And IVC

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Objectives

- Clinical application of each scan ultrasound
- Recognize the Anatomy: normal vs not normal
- Identify Pitfalls



The Abdominal Aorta



Epidemiology of AAA

- Incidence 36.2/10000 and increasing
- Asymptomatic until they rupture
- 62% die before reaching hospital
- Mortality of 85-90% after rupture

Survival

Mortality

Powell JT, Greenhalgh RM. Small ab- dominal aortic aneurysms. N Engl J Med 2003;348:1895-901. Brown LC, Powell JT. Risk factors for aneurysm rupture in patients kept under ultrasound surveillance. Ann Surg 1999; 230:289-96.

Epidemiology

- Risk Factors
 - Male
 - Smoker,
 - Hypertensive
 - Family History
- AAA must be on your ddx for
 - renal colic, ab pain
 - GI bleeding
 - Neurological complaints
 - Undifferentiated hypotension

Why ultrasound?

- Minimal delay
- No radiation
- Easy to learn



Well substantiated by literature

How good is ultrasound for diagnosing AAA?

- 4 studies, n=535 Patients
 - Sensitivity: 94-100%
 - Specificity: 98-100%
 - 0.5cm +/- compared to CT



Limitations to u/s AAA

- User experience matters
- I0% non-diagnostic
- DOES NOT diagnose rupture as it is retroperitoneal
- If you see peritoneal fluidnot a good sign



Anatomy



Xiphoid

6"

Umbilicus

"Celiac to lliacs"

Celiac Axis

Iliac Bifurcation

Superior Mesenteric Artery

95% aaa infrarenal

"Celiac to lliacs"

> 3cm is abnormal

Celiac Axis

Iliac Bifurcation

Prox Superior Mesenteric Artery

Mid

Distal

Transverse Aorta





Proximal Aorta



Distal Aorta



Transverse Aorta



Longitudinal Aorta





Longitudinal Aorta

Longitudinal









Measuring the Aorta

- Abnormal > 3cm
- 3 measurements: proximal, mid, distal aorta
- Outside wall to outside wall!! Always Overestimate





Pitfalls



Pitfalls Measuring the Aorta

 Mistaking IVC or SMA as aorta (Always identify the spine landmark)

IVC

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Failing to measure full aorta including clot

Spi

Troubleshooting AAA Scans

Bowel Gas



Obesity



Abdominal Aorta Pressure & Time



Abdominal Aorta Pearls

- Additional views to try:
 - Liver window (Morison's pouch)
 - Splenic/renal window
 - Left lateral decubitus position



Abdominal Aorta ive and aorta









No good studies, but experience shows poor sensitivity, good specificity

Volume 32, Issue 2, Pages 191-196 (February 2007) Journal of Emergency Medicine

The diagnosis of aortic dissection by emergency medicine ultrasound

Presented at the First AAEM International Conference of Emergency Medicine, Stresa, Italyk, September 2001.

John P. Fojtik, MD, Thomas G. Costantino, MD12, Anthony J. Dean, MD1

IMAGES IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Aortic Dissection Diagnosed by Ultrasound

Jessa Williams, DO Jason D. Heiner, MD Michael D. Perreault, MD Todd J. McArthur, MD Madigan Army Medical Center, Department of Emergency Medicine, Fort Lewis, WA

Western Journal of Emergency Medicine Volume XI, NO. 1 : February 2010

Abdominal Aortic Dissection

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Transverse

Luminal flap

Abdominal Aortic Dissection



One case- LUQ view with pleural effusion



Take Home Points

- High level of suspicion for >50yo back pain, abdominal pain, neuro complaints
- Find the spine first (use appropriate depth)
- Outside wall to outside well
- Celiac to Iliacs
- >3cm is NOT NORMAL

Questions?

The IVC



Background: IVC

- Use similar technics in finding the aorta to locate the IVC
- IVC used as part of exam to evaluate fluid status
- Don't use the IVC alone, put in clinical scenario

IVC - Technique 1

Indicator toward chin Aim towards BACK



IVC

















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Beginning of Resuscitation

2 L Normal Saline





Gross IVC collapsibility

50% Collapsibility

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- Empties into heart
- Flows through liver
 - Hepatic Vein

- Flows deep to heart
- Flows deep to liver
- No Hepatic Vein

Fan IVC/Aorta/IVC



IVC and CVP...

Correlations Between IVC Size and CVP

NEWS

SEVIER GLOBAL MEDICAL

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Inferior vena cava size (cm)	Respiratory change	Central venous pressure (cm H ₂ 0)
<1.5	Total collapse	0-5
1.5-2.5	>50% collapse	6-10
1.5-2.5	<50% collapse	11-15
>2.5	<50% collapse	16-20
>2.5	No change	>20

IVC and CVP

- Most accurate in extremes
- Use to track fluid resuscitation/determine whether someone is fluid responsive
- Don't use the IVC alone to determine fluid status



IVC Take Home Points

- Measure 2-3 cm away from the Diaphragm
- Make sure it's not the aorta
- Track for dynamic changes
- Use IN CONJUNCTION with other clinical data

Questions?

References

- 1. Dipti A, Soucy Z, Surana A, Chandra S. Role of inferior vena cava diameter in assessment of volume status: A meta-analysis. Am J Emerg Med. 2012;30(8):1414-1419.e1. doi:10.1016/j.ajem. 2011.10.017.
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- 3. Ng, L; Khine, H; Taragin, BH; Avner, JR; Ushay, M; Nunez D. Does bedside sonographic measurement of the inferior vena cava diameter correlate with central venous pressure in the assessment of intravascular volume in children?. Pediatr Emerg Care. 2013;29(3):337-341. doi: 10.1097/PEC.0b013e31828512a5.
- 4. Saul T, Lewiss RE, Langsfeld A, Radeos MS, Del Rios M. Inter-rater reliability of sonographic measurements of the inferior vena cava. J Emerg Med. 2012;42(5):600-605. doi:10.1016/ j.jemermed.2011.05.095.
- 5. Wallace DJ, Allison M, Stone MB. Inferior vena cava percentage collapse during respiration is affected by the sampling location: An ultrasound study in healthy volunteers. Acad Emerg Med. 2010;17(1):96-99. doi:10.1111/j.1553-2712.2009.00627.x.