

# *Echo evaluation of valve prostheses*

- **stenosis / obstruction**
- **regurgitation**
- **endocarditis**
- **embolism / thrombosis without obstruction**

## 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

**2009**

# Primary parameters of obstruction to flow:

- max. (AVR) and mean gradients (AVR, MVR, TVR); see normal values table

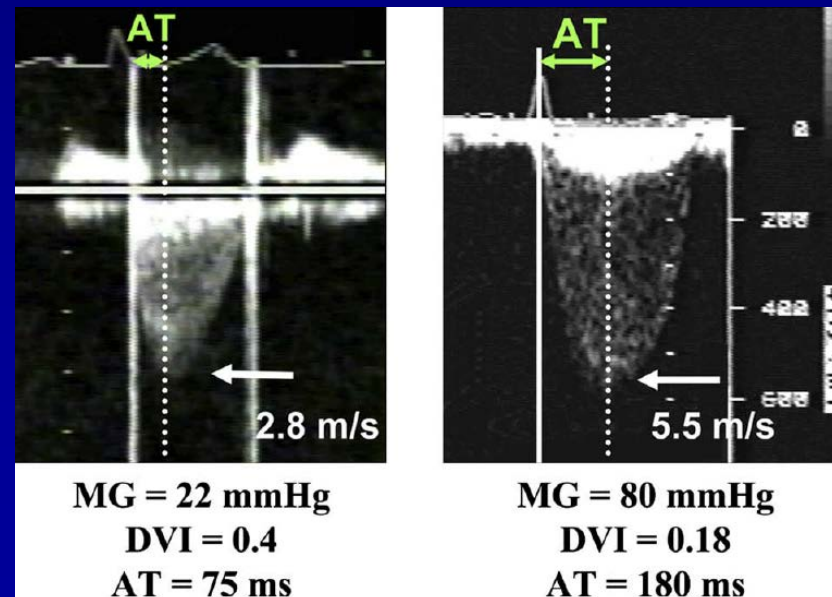
## Additional parameters (especially in AVR if gradients ↑):

- AVR: ratio  $VTI_{LVOT} / VTI_{prosth}$  (velocity index)

• „effective orifice area“  
= stroke volume /  $VTI_{prosth}$   
=  $\pi \cdot r^2 \cdot VTI_{LVOT} / VTI_{prosth}$   
(not from ring size !)

- AVR:  
acceleration time (> 100 ms ?)

ASE/EAE 2009



# Aortic prostheses:

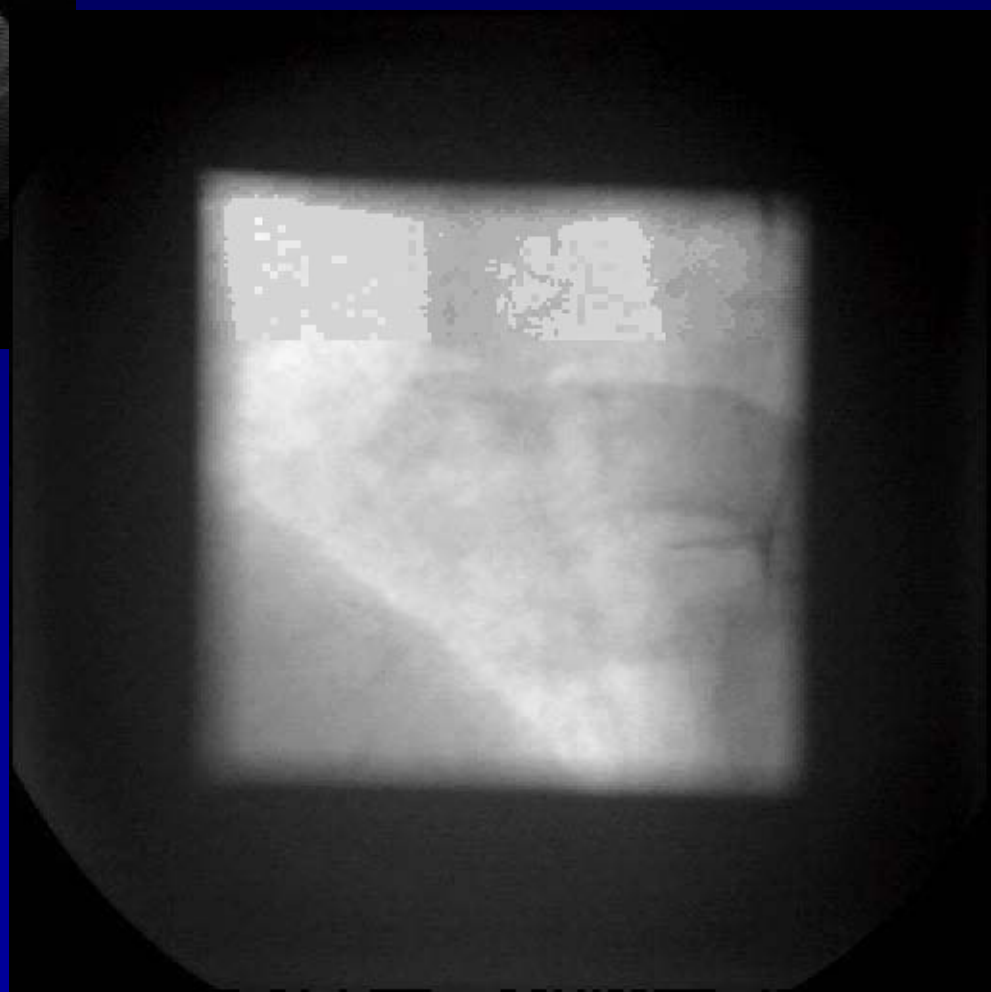
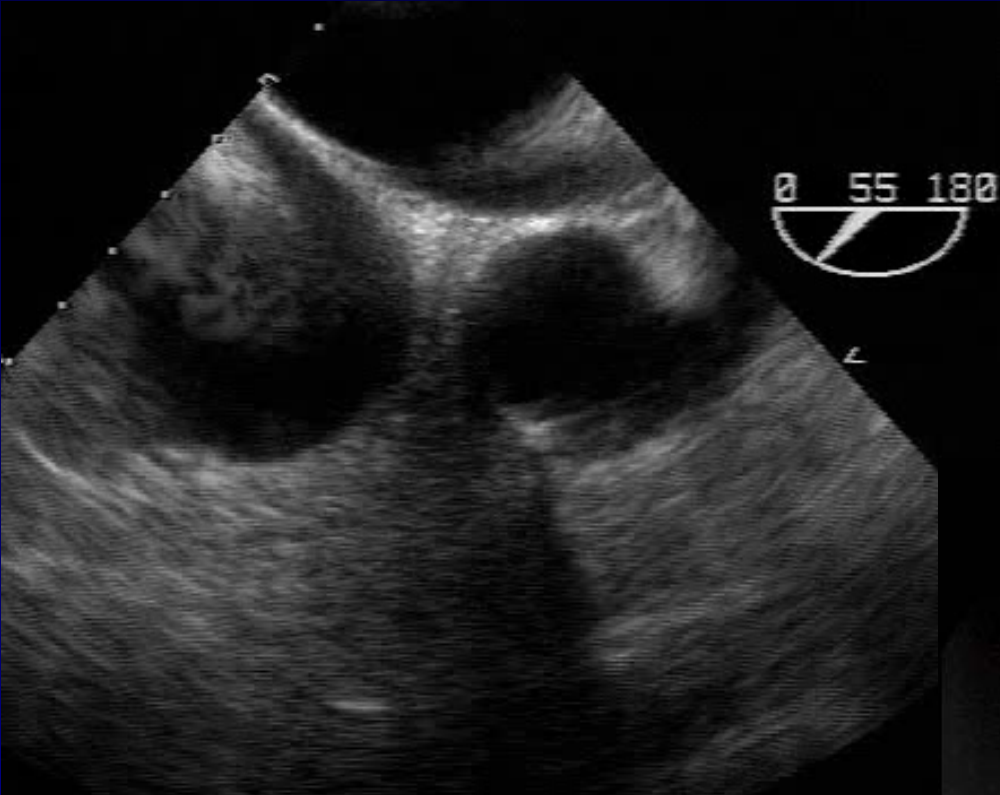
assessment of obstruction is often difficult

- small valve
- in mechanical valves disc motion is often impossible to assess
- pressure recovery
- „patient-prosthesis mismatch“



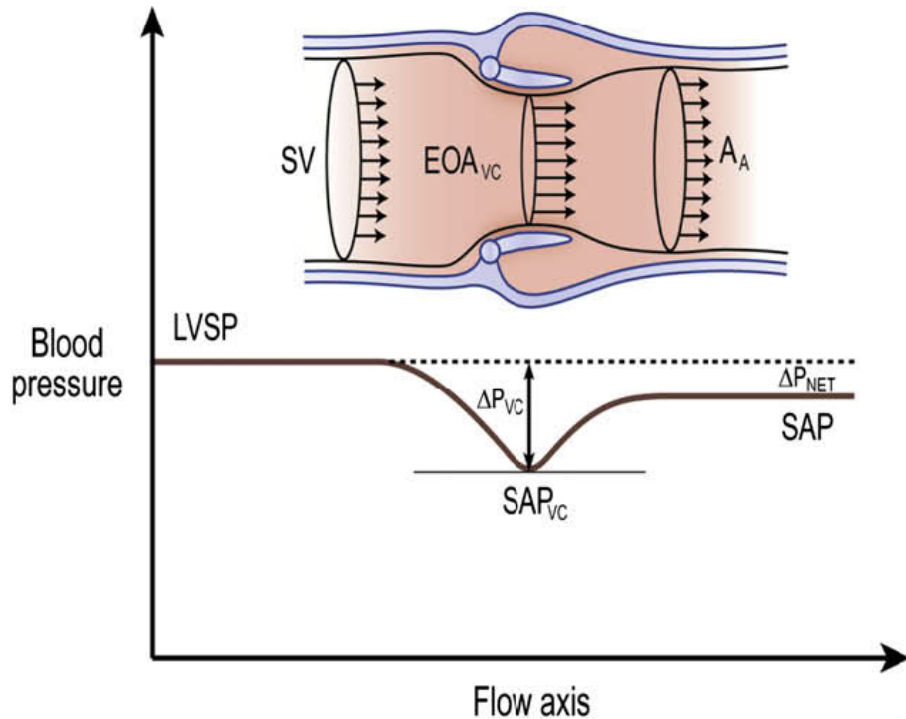
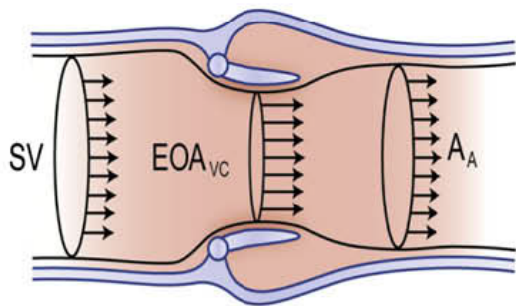
60yr old patient w bileaflet AVR  
max./mean 68 / 38 mmHg

Valve	Size	Peak gradient (mm Hg)	Mean gradient (mmHg)	Effective orifice area (cm <sup>2</sup> )
St Jude Medical Standard <i>Bileaflet</i>	19	42.0± 10.0	24.5± 5.8	1.5± 0.1
	21	25.7± 9.5	15.2± 5.0	1.4± 0.4
	23	21.8± 7.5	13.4± 5.6	1.6± 0.4
	25	18.9± 7.3	11.0± 5.3	1.9± 0.5
	27	13.7± 4.2	8.4± 3.4	2.5± 0.4
	29	13.5± 5.8	7.0± 1.7	2.8± 0.5

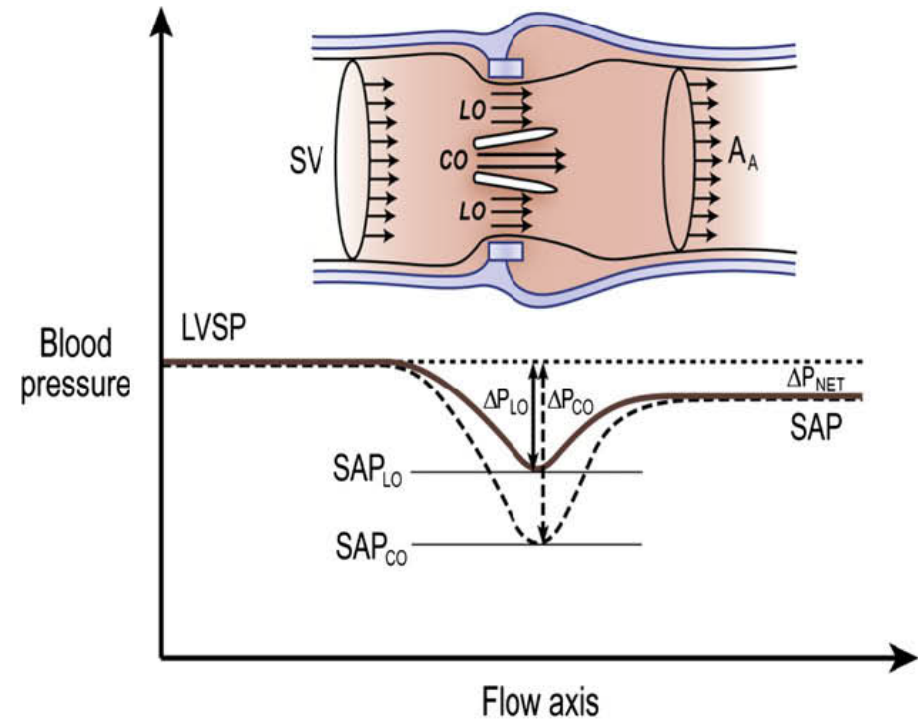
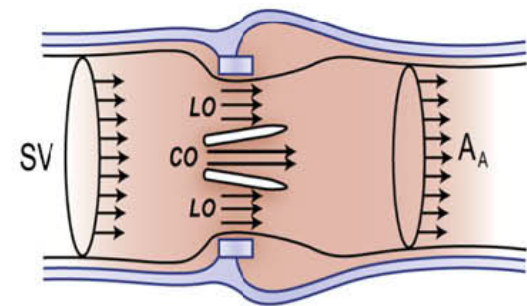


# pressure recovery

## Bioprosthetic Valve



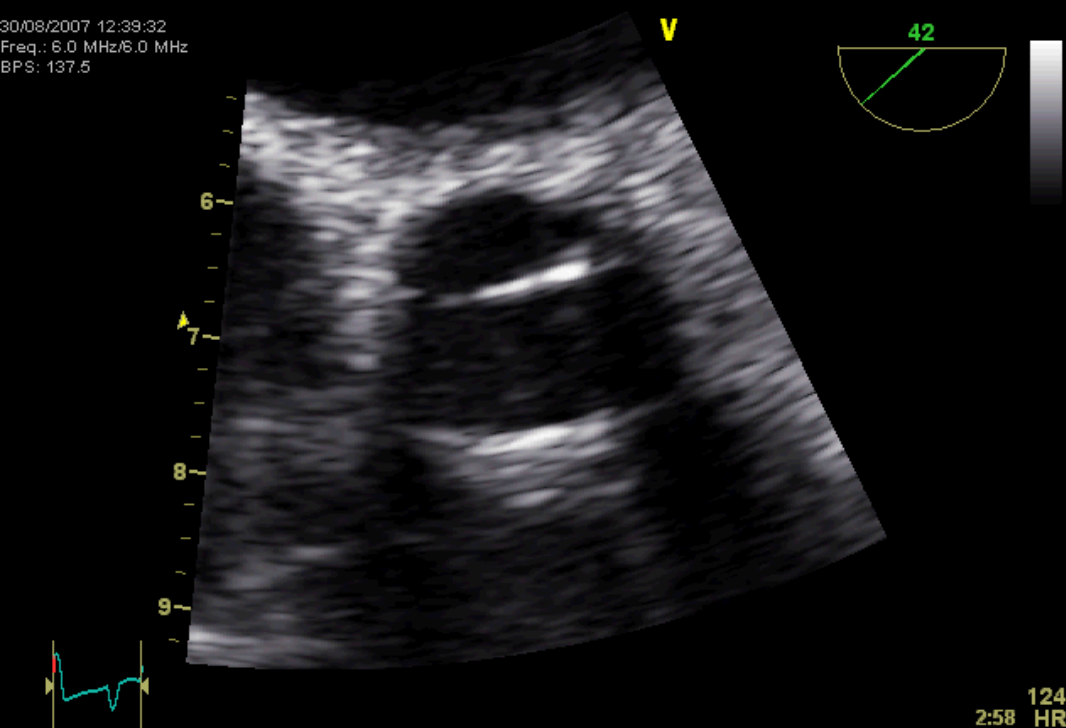
## Bi-leaflet Valve



**ASE/EAE recommendations 2009**

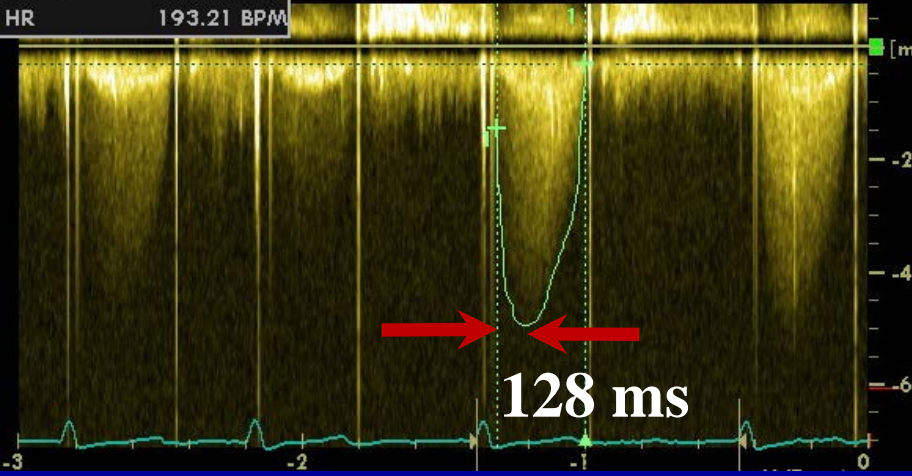
**most pronounced in small bileaflet aortic prostheses and with narrow aorta**

30/08/2007 12:39:32  
Freq.: 6.0 MHz/6.0 MHz  
BPS: 137.5

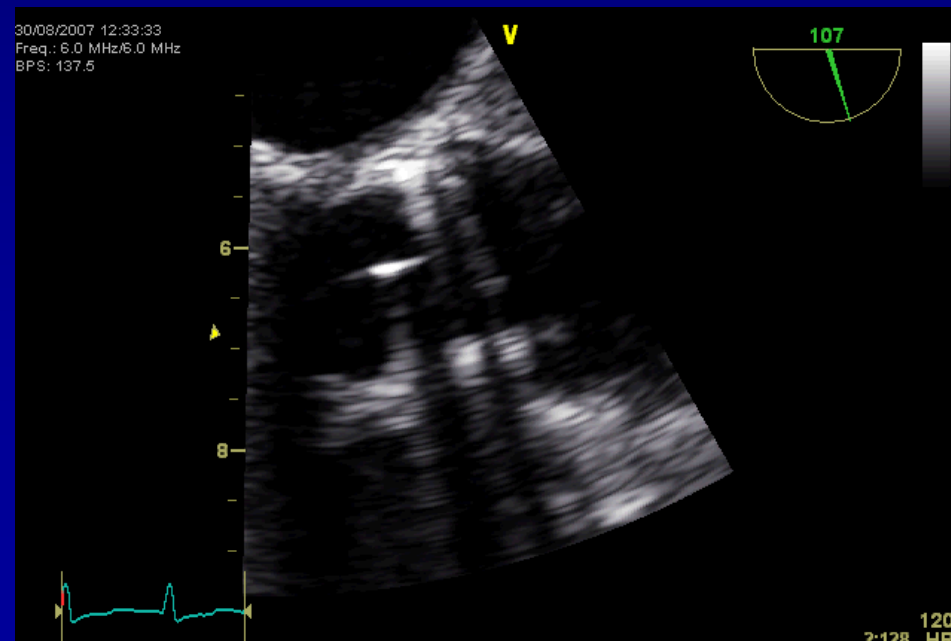


**55yr old woman with double valve replacement due to rheumatic disease**

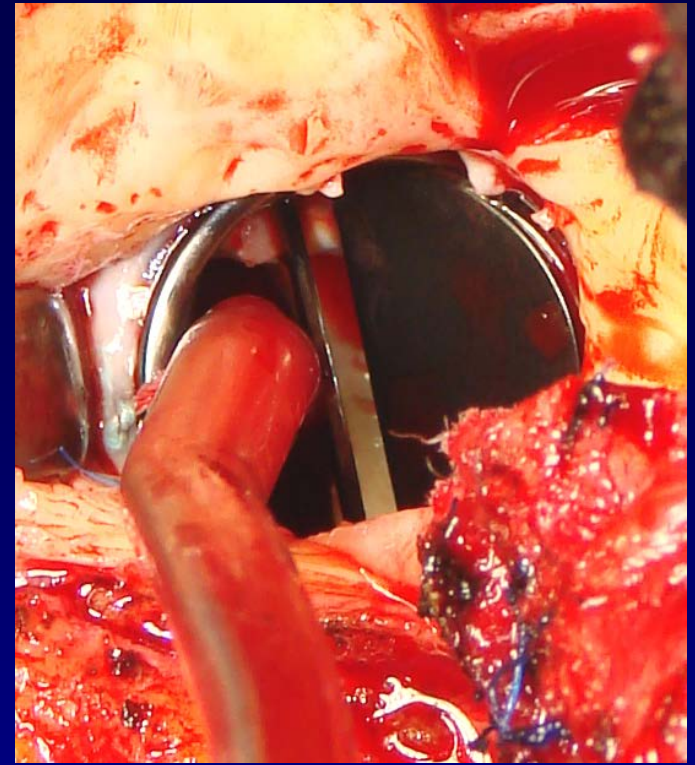
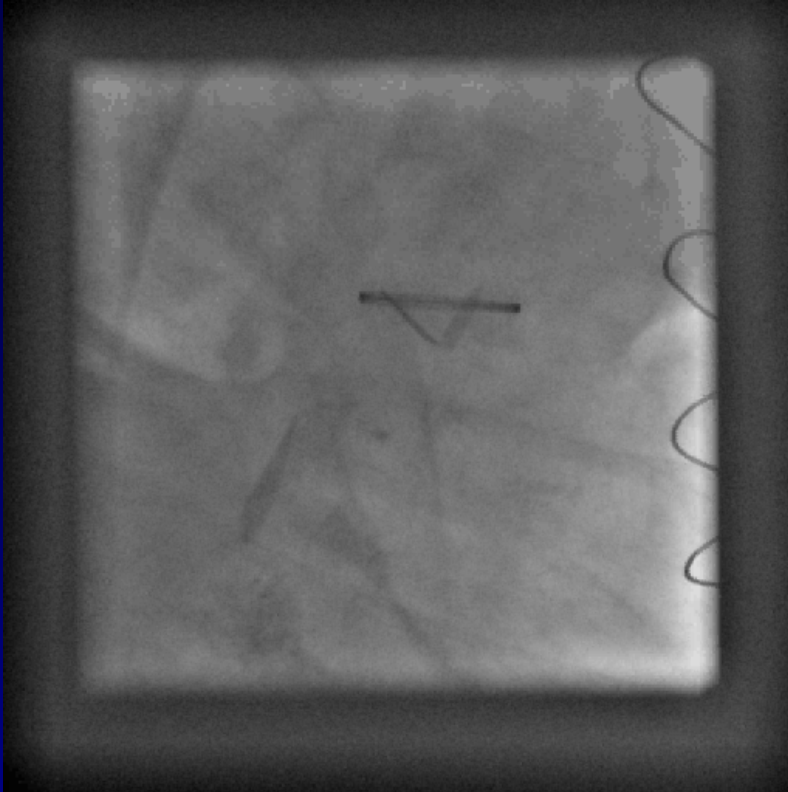
AV Vmax	4.96 m/s
AV Vmean	3.91 m/s
AV maxPG	98.44 mmHg
AV meanPG	65.99 mmHg
AV VTI	121.53 cm
HR	193.21 BPM



30/08/2007 12:33:33  
Freq.: 6.0 MHz/6.0 MHz  
BPS: 137.5



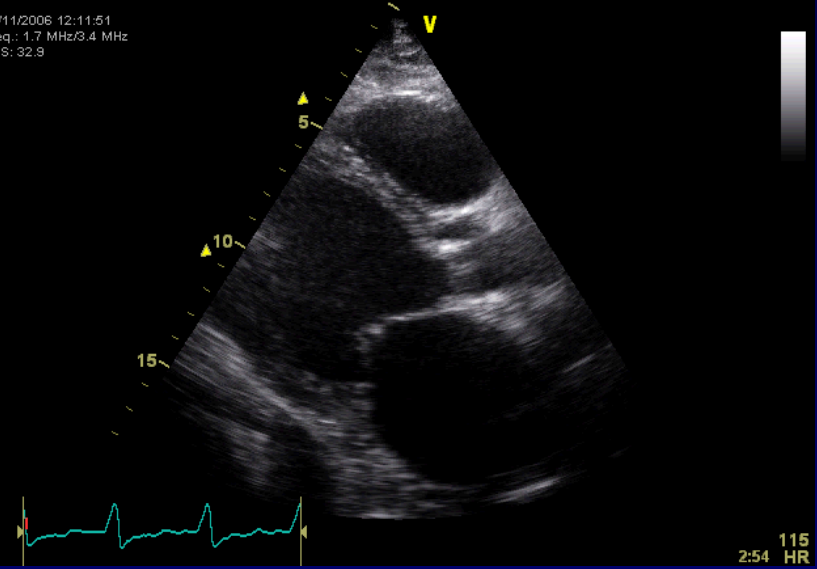
**AVR**



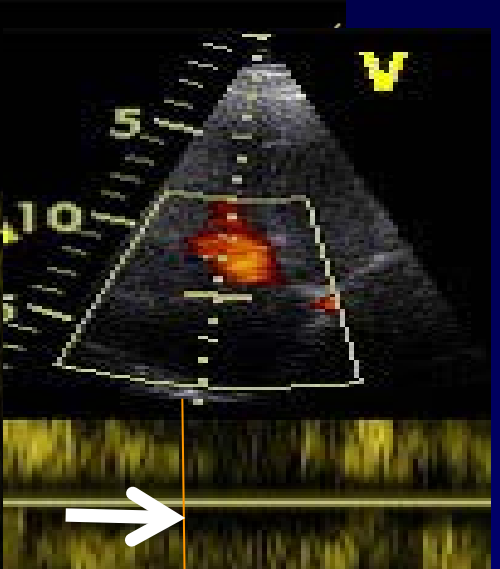
**AVR**



28/11/2006 12:11:51  
Freq.: 1.7 MHz/3.4 MHz  
BPS: 32.9



4 MHz  
v 3.56 m/s  
p 50.6 mmHg

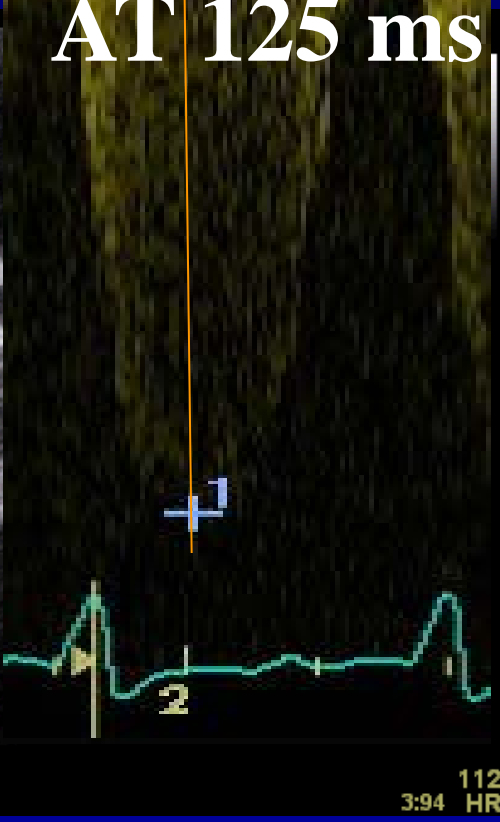
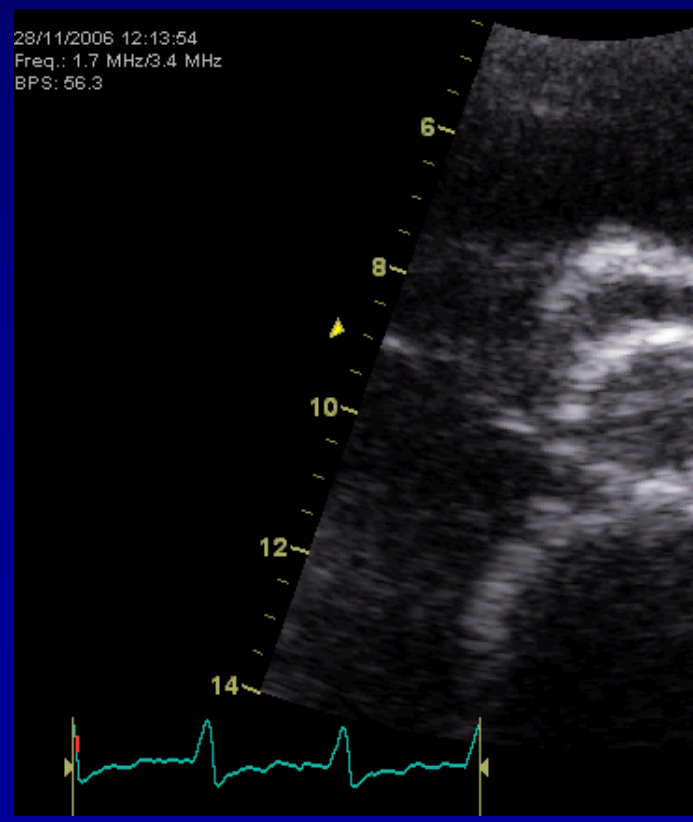


→  
**AT 125 ms**

**50 yr old pt 4 years  
after AVR with stentless  
pericardial valve**

**now new LV dysfunction  
(EF 10%), severe MR,  
max.gradient 40 mmHg,  
cardiogenic shock**

28/11/2006 12:13:54  
Freq.: 1.7 MHz/3.4 MHz  
BPS: 66.3



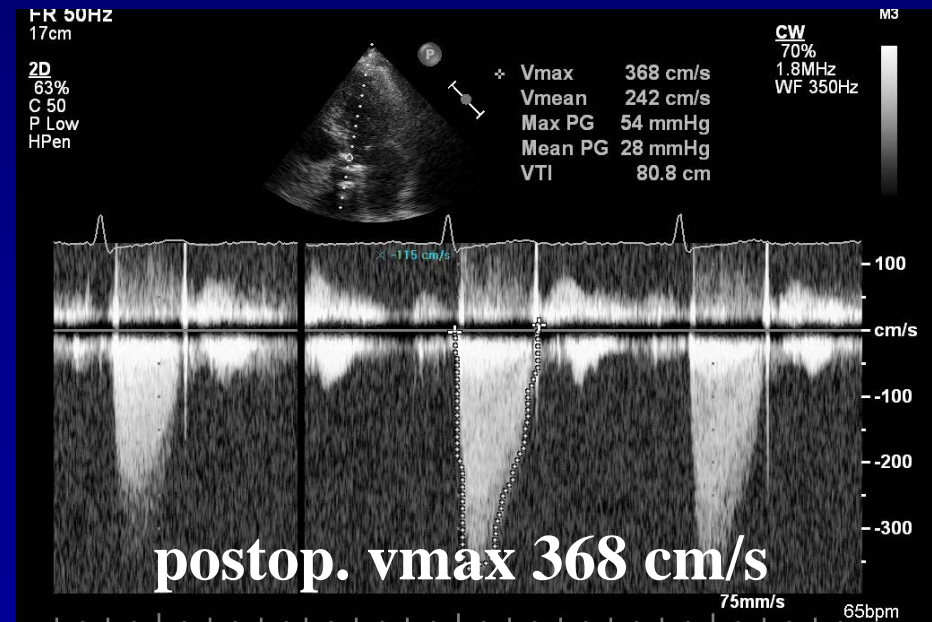
112  
3:94 HR



# „Patient-prosthesis mismatch“

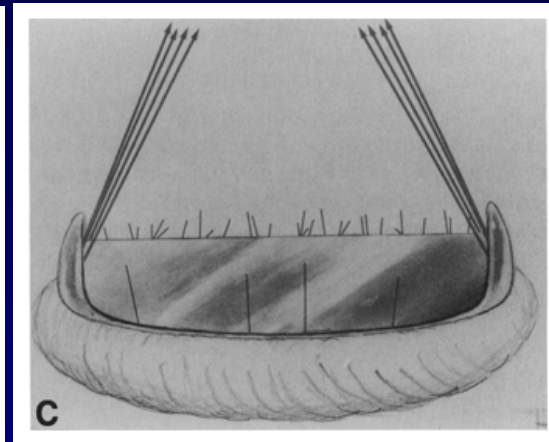
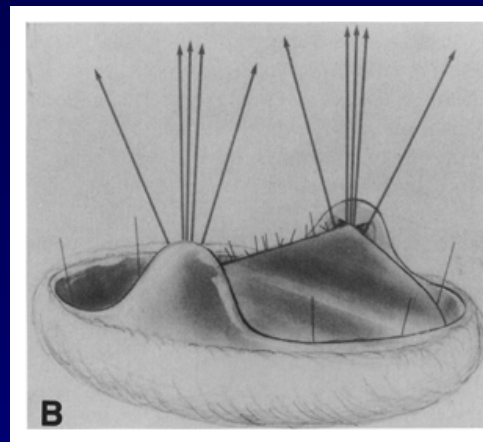
- prosthesis functions normally but is too small for patient
- effective orifice area  $< 0.85 \text{ cm}^2/\text{m}^2$
- relevant only in AVR
- unclear prognostic significance

AS  $\rightarrow$  AVR (Nr.21 bioprosthesis) morphologically good function

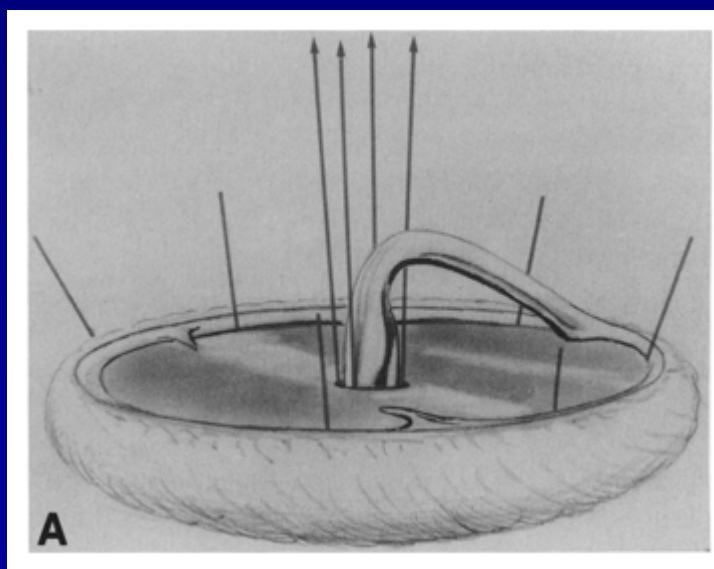
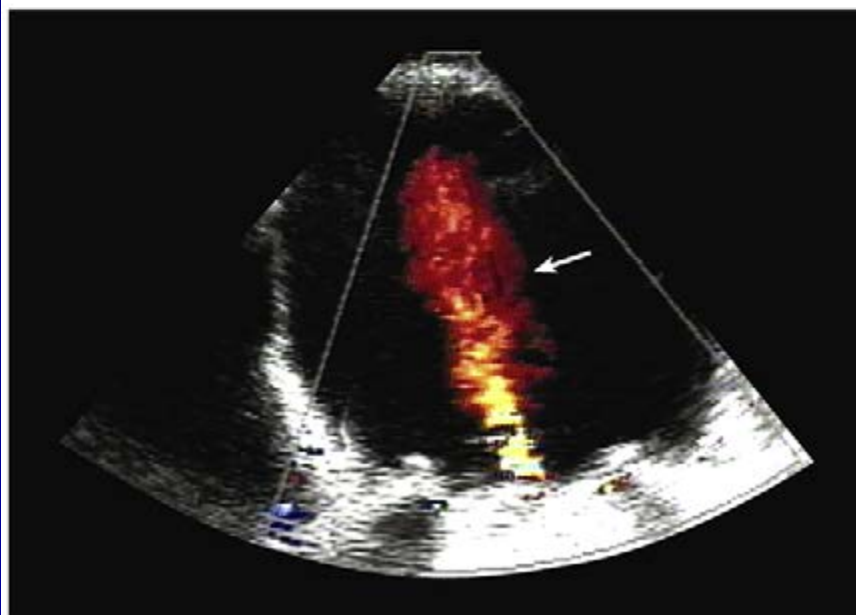


$$\text{eff.orifice area} = 3,14 \cdot 35 / 81 = 1.4 \text{ cm}^2; \rightarrow \text{EOI} = 0.67 \text{ cm}^2/\text{m}^2$$

# Normal prosthetic regurgitation

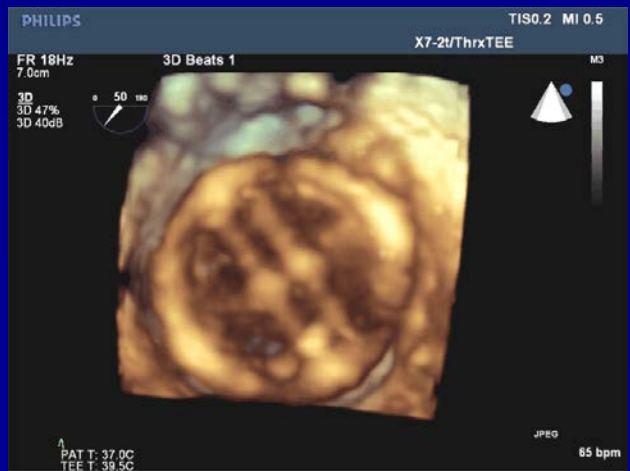
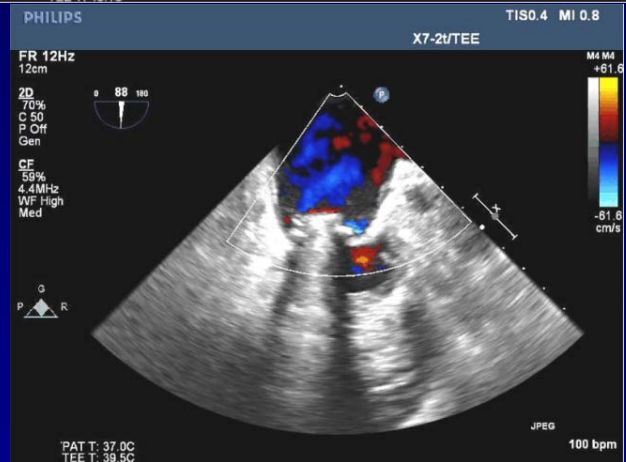
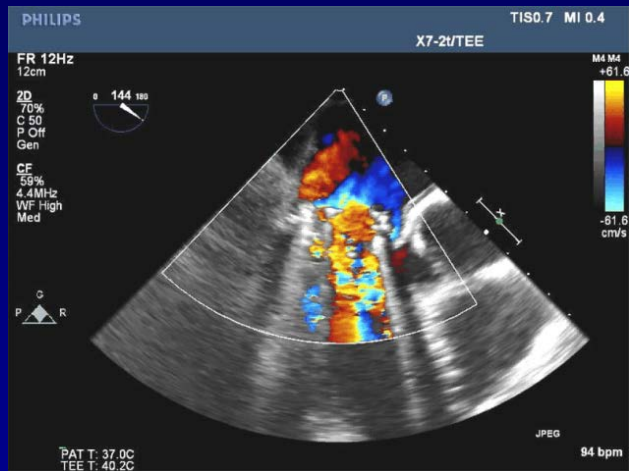
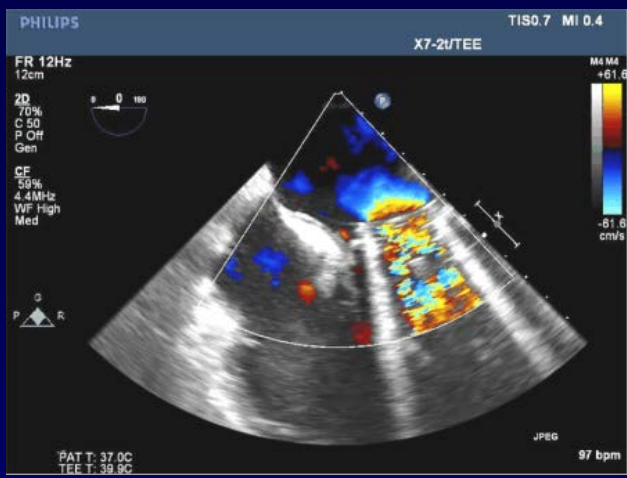


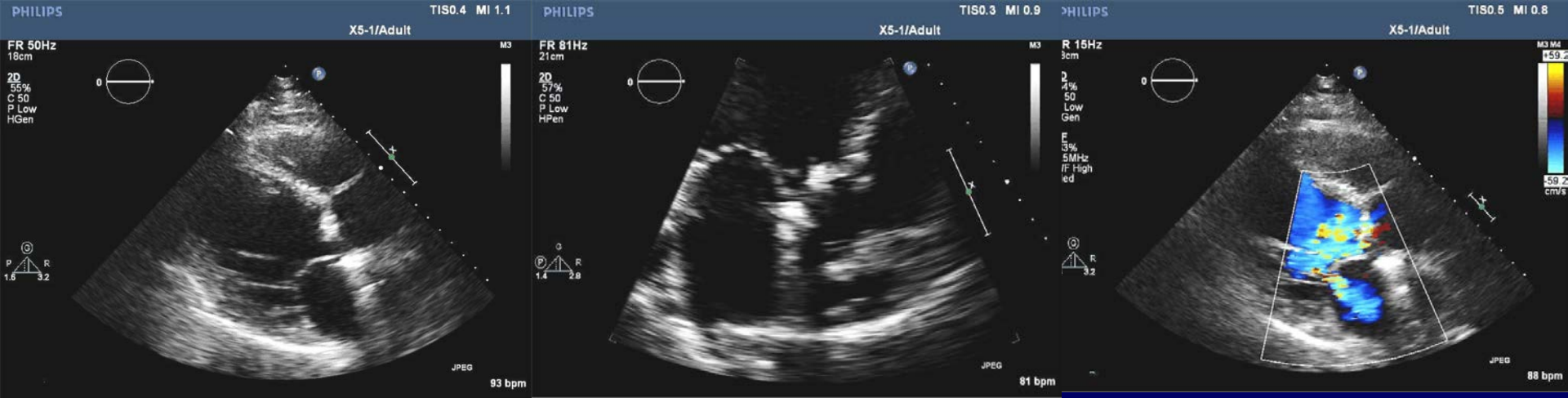
**bileaflet**



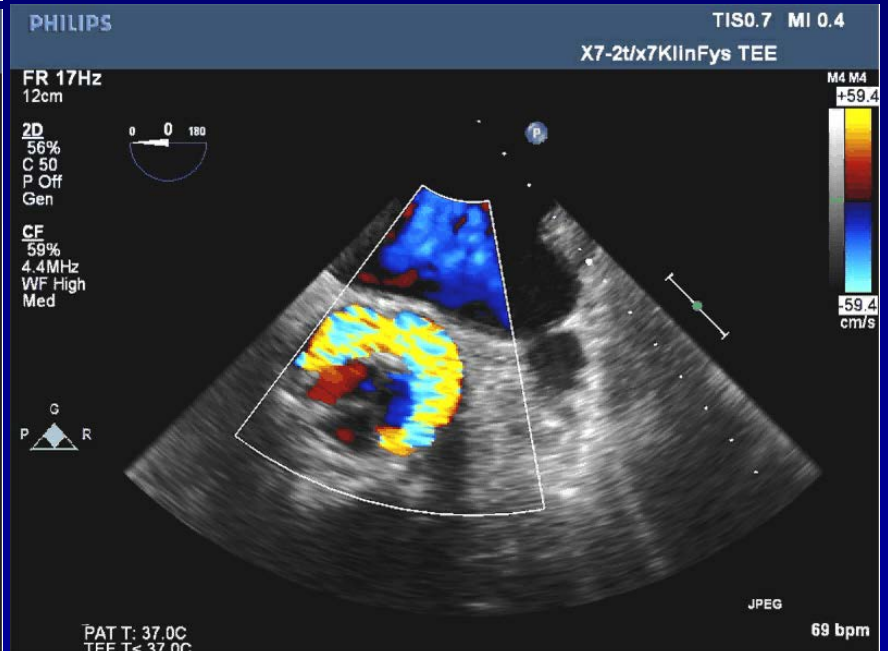
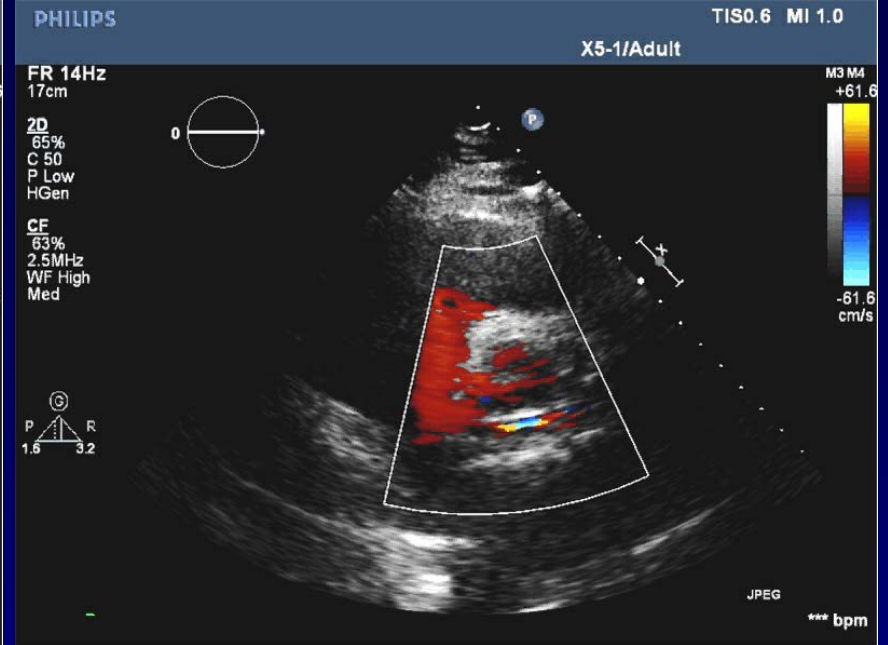
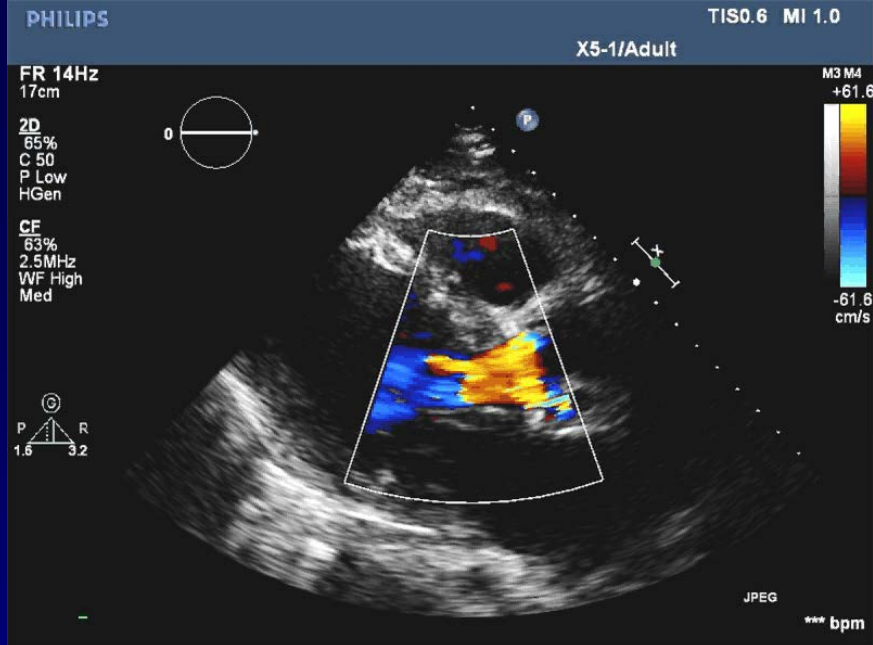
**Medtronic-Hall**

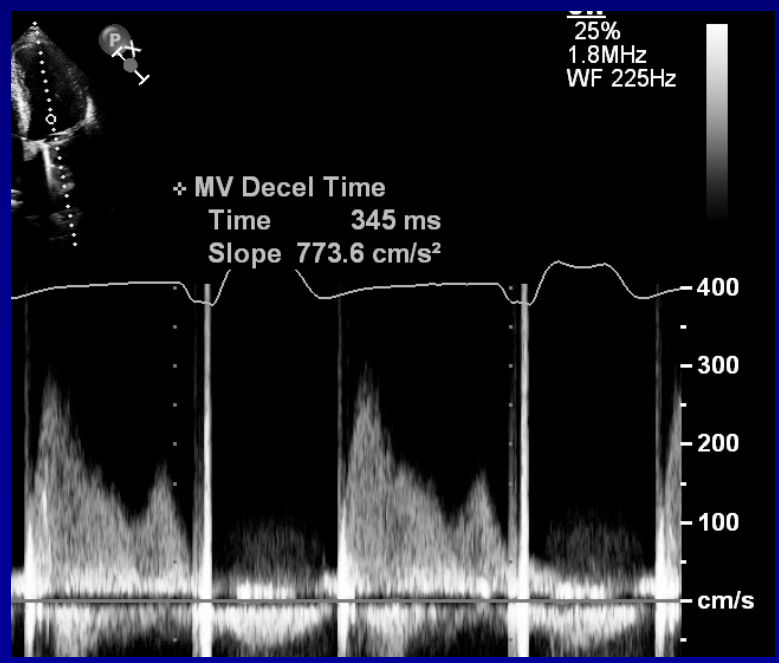
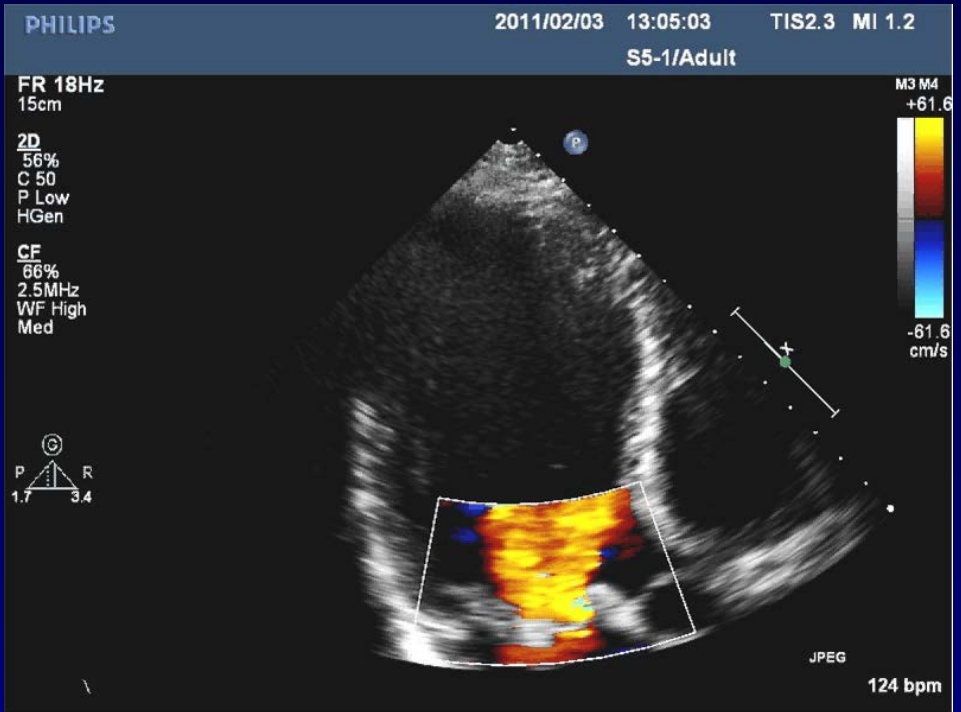
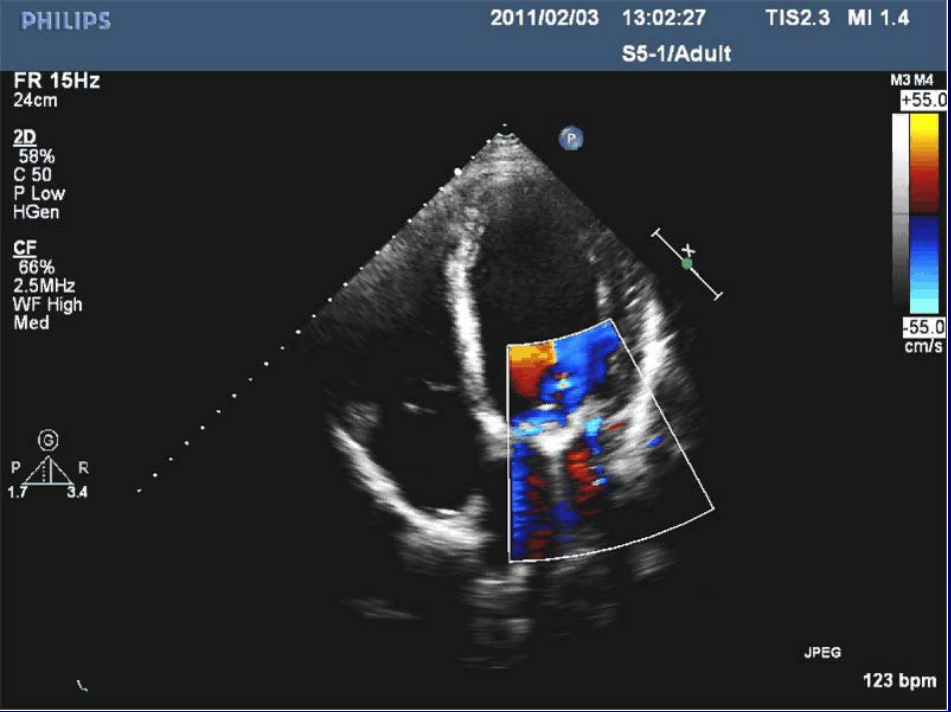
**Flachskampf JACC 91; 18:1493**





**Rule of thumb:**  
 leakage > 20% of circumference (> 72°) → severe





mean gradient 9 mmHg, PHT ca. 90 ms

# *Practical summary*

- **low threshold for TEE**
- **document postoperative gradients for comparison**
- **use fluoroscopy if obstruction of mechanical AVR is suspected; look at acceleration time ( $> 100$  ms ?)**
- **regurgitation: get best possible pictures (TEE); compare forward VTI / stroke volume with earlier exams; in paravalvular leakage, assess circumferential extent ( $>20$  % ?)**

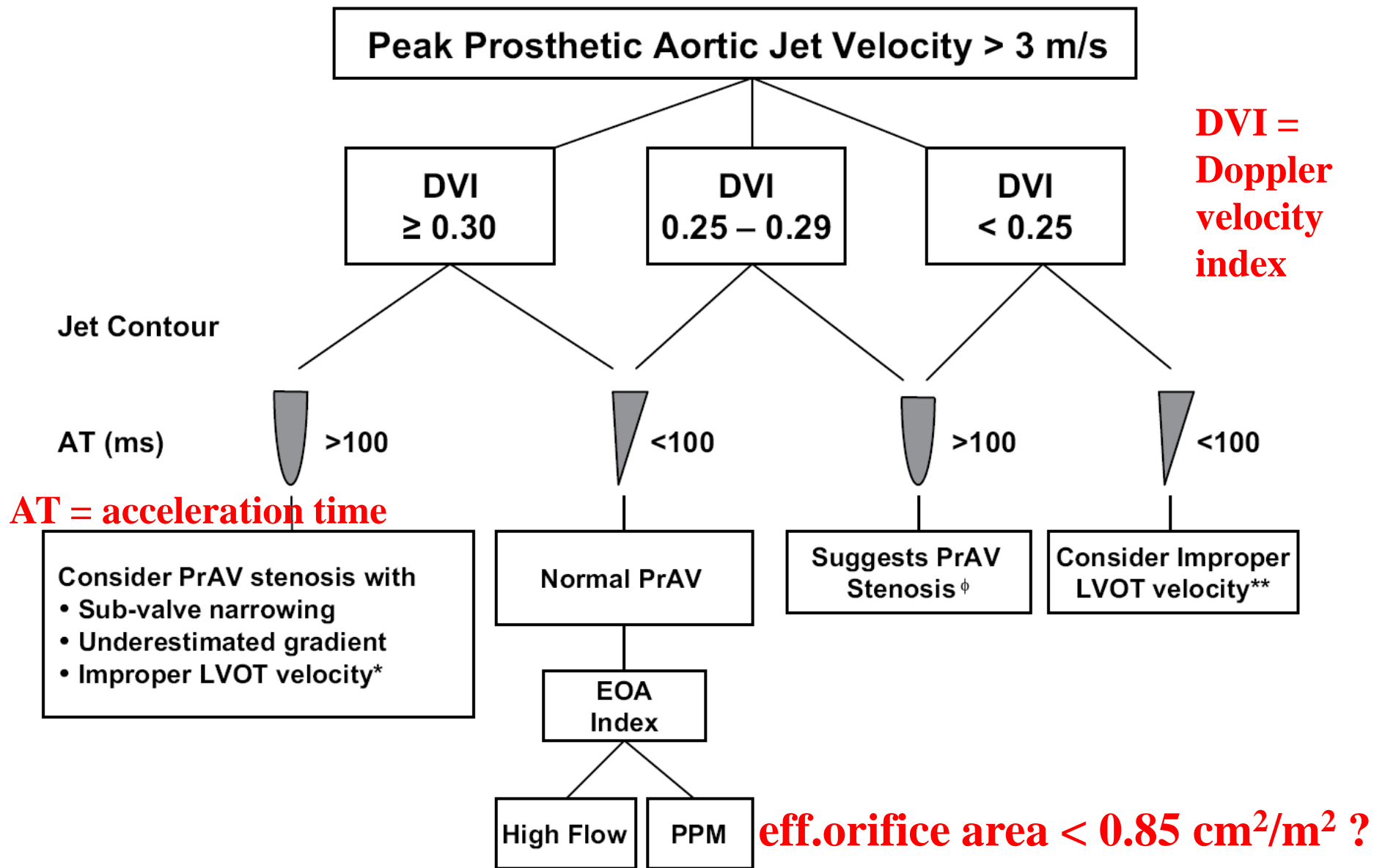


Figure 10 Algorithm for evaluation of elevated peak prosthetic aortic jet velocity incorporating DVI, jet contour, and AT. \*PW Doppler sample too close to the valve (particularly when jet velocity by CW Doppler is  $\geq 4$  m/s). \*\*PW Doppler sample too far (apical) from the valve (particularly when jet velocity is 3-3.9 m/s).  $\phi$  Stenosis further substantiated by EOA derivation compared with reference values if valve type and size are known. Fluoroscopy and TEE are helpful for further assessment, particularly in bileaflet valves. AVR, Aortic valve replacement.