

European Association  
of Cardiovascular Imaging  
Teaching Course



# Imaging the Tricuspid Valve

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Leuven, Belgium



# Tricuspid Valve

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## Anatomy & Function

# Anatomy & Function

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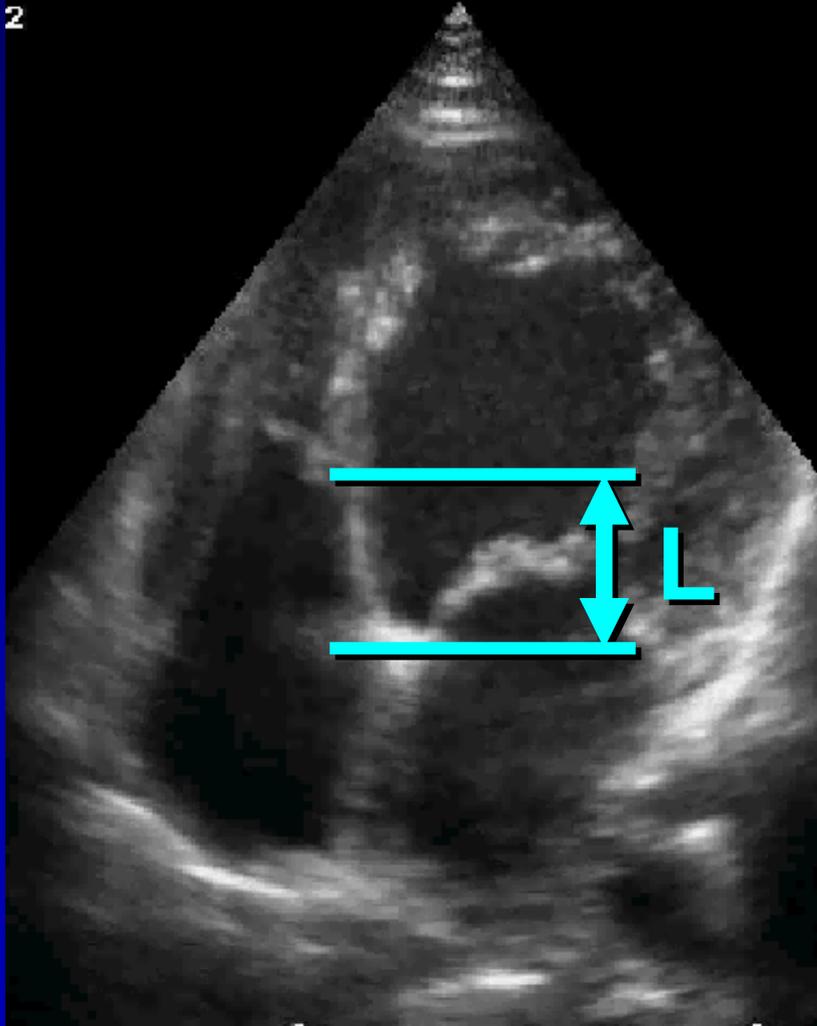


**position**

„slightly more apical“  
than the mitral valve

# Anatomy & Function

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**position**

**Ebstein Anomaly**

**$L > 8\text{mm/m}^2$**

# Anatomy & Function

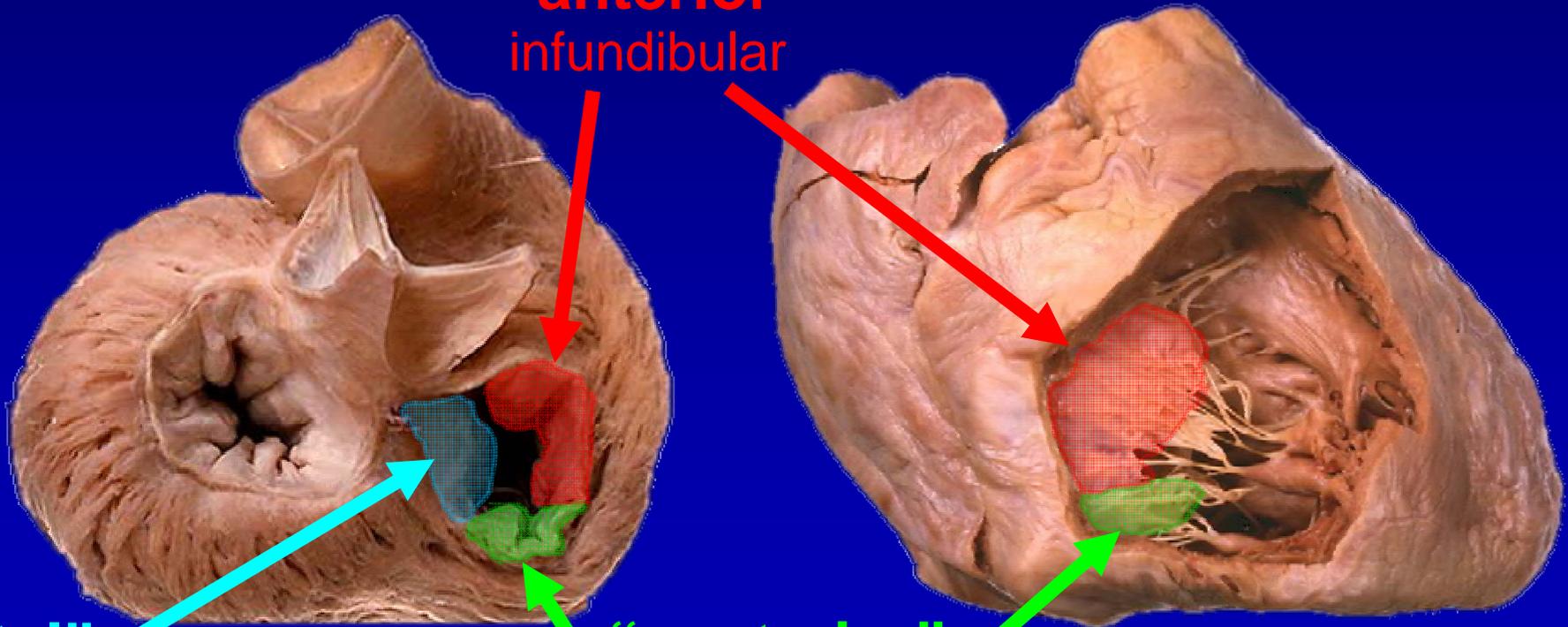
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3 leaflets

“anterior”  
infundibular

“septal”  
medial

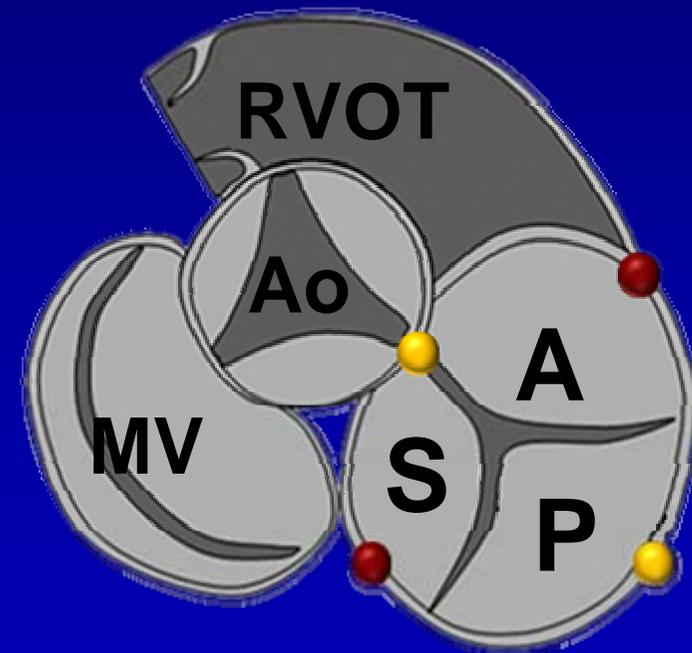
“posterior”  
inferior, marginal



# Anatomy & Function

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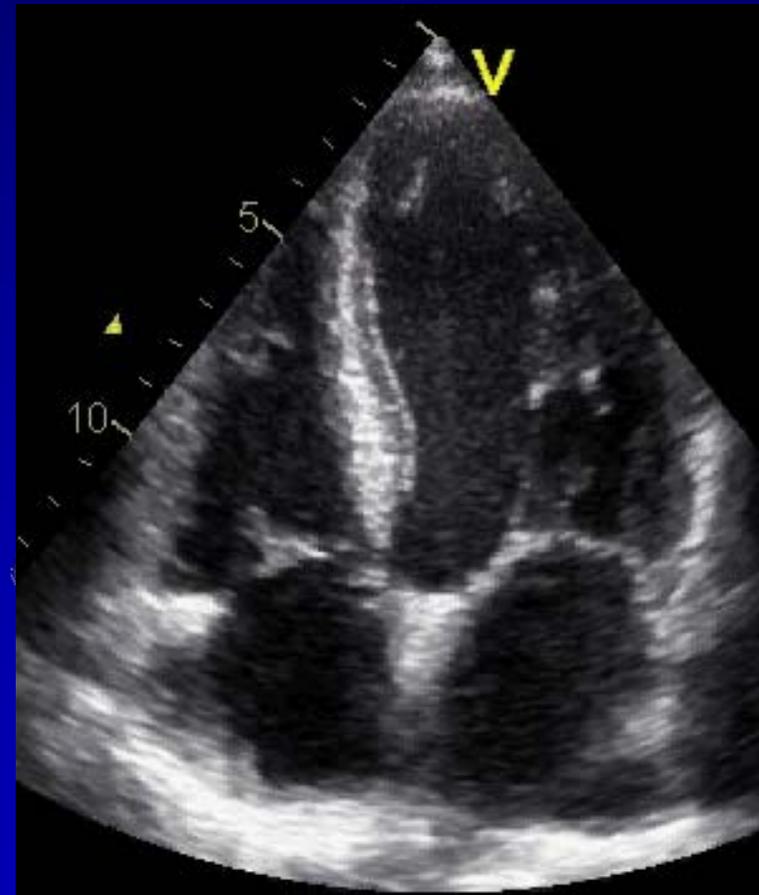
## atrial view



# Anatomy & Function

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## ventricular view



# Anatomy & Function

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leaflets



# Variable Leaflet Morphology

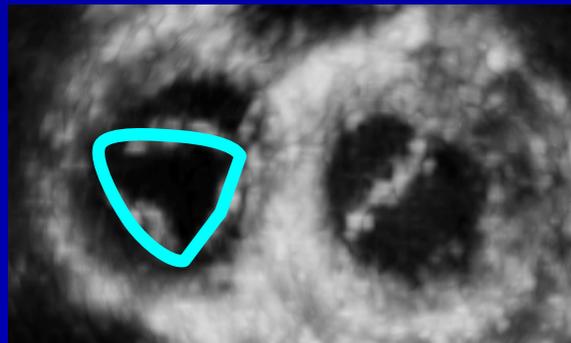
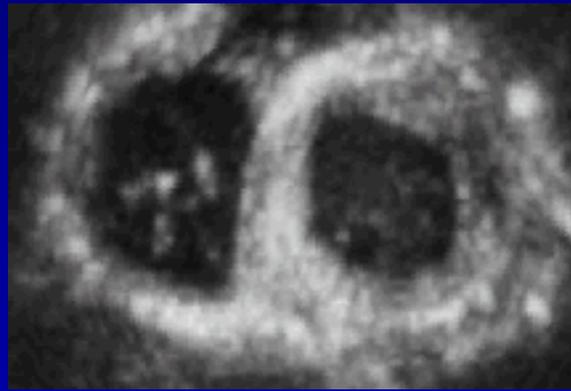
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How many leaflets ?

8%



90%



2%



# Anatomy & Function

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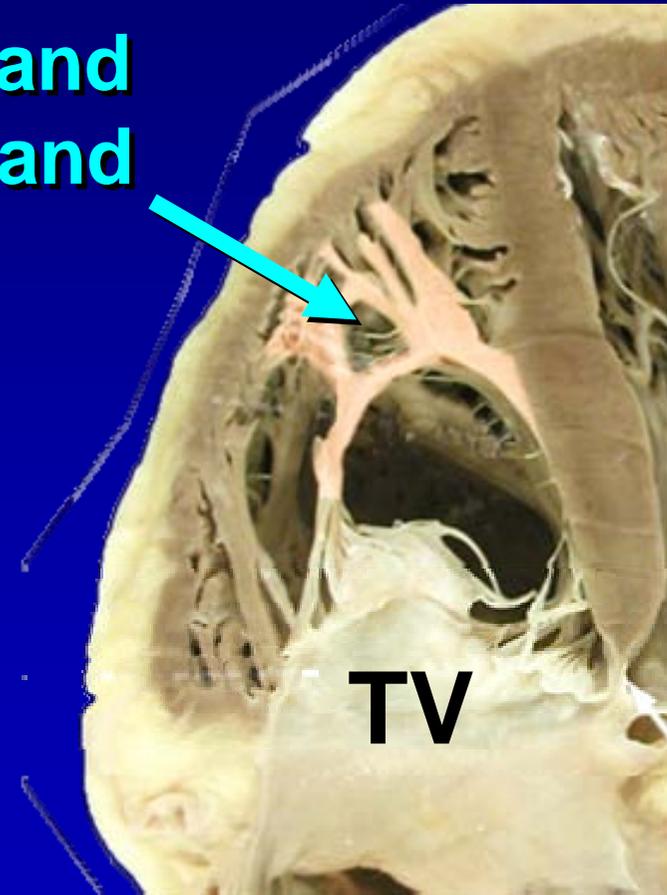
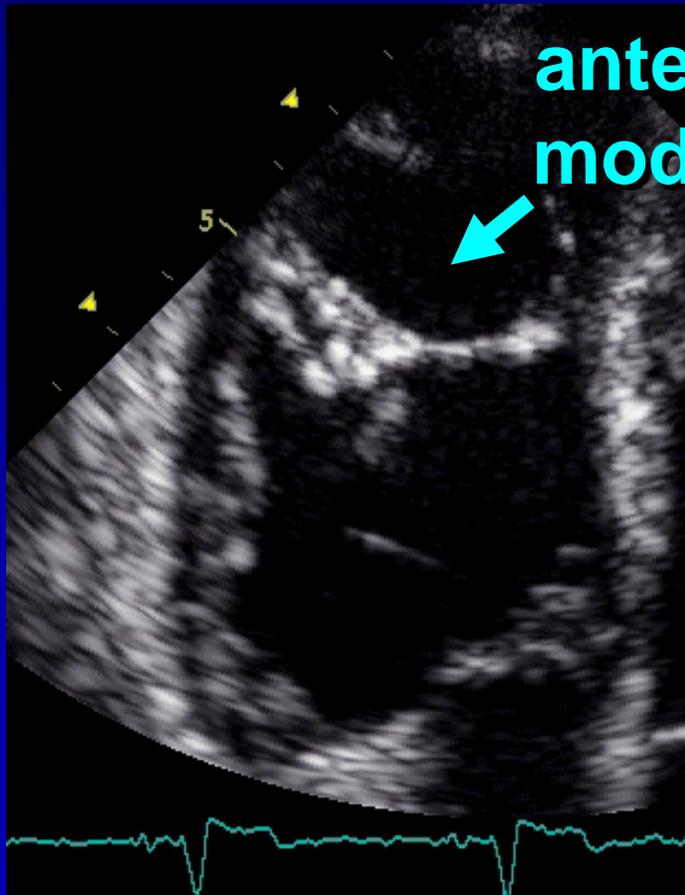
## papillary muscles and cordae



# Anatomy & Function

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## papillary muscles and cordae

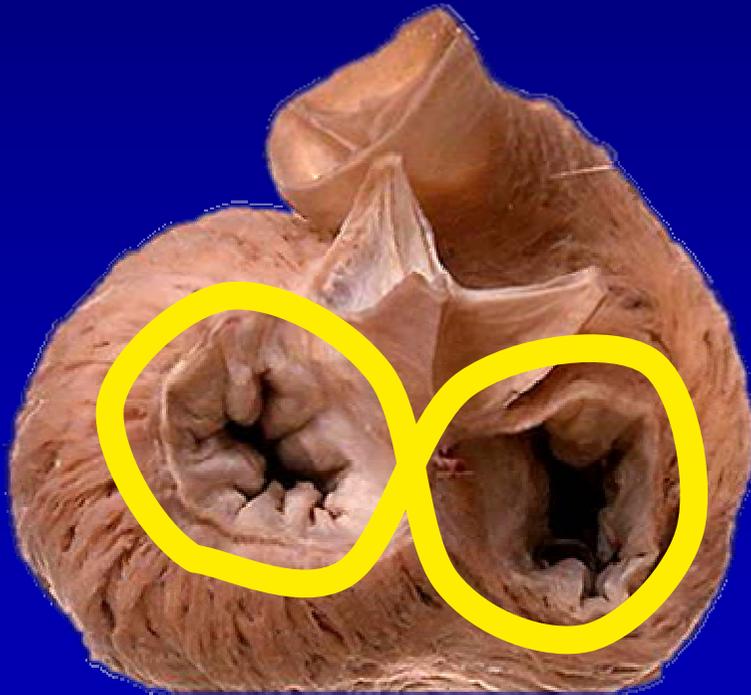


# Anatomy & Function

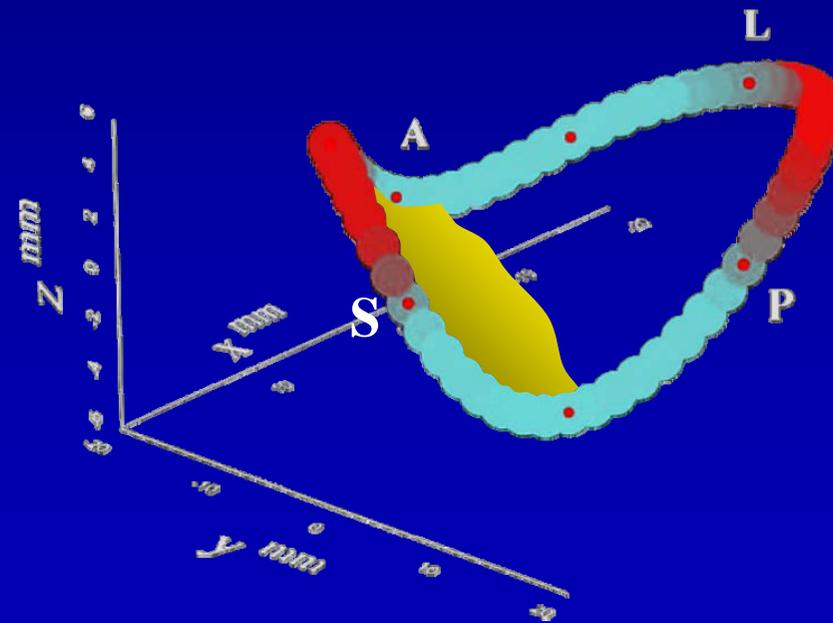
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## annulus

interlinked with MV



saddle shaped

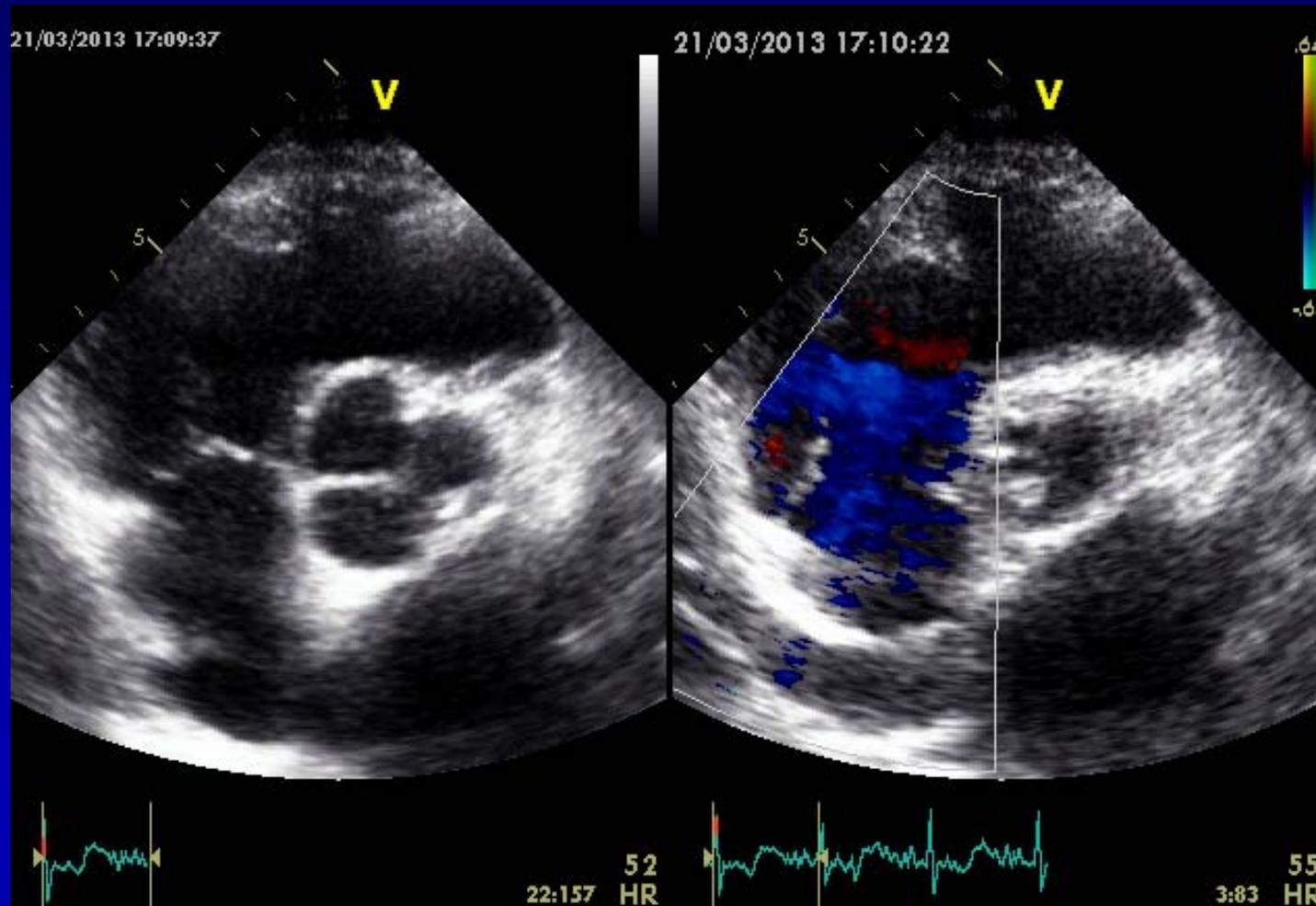


# Tricuspid Valve

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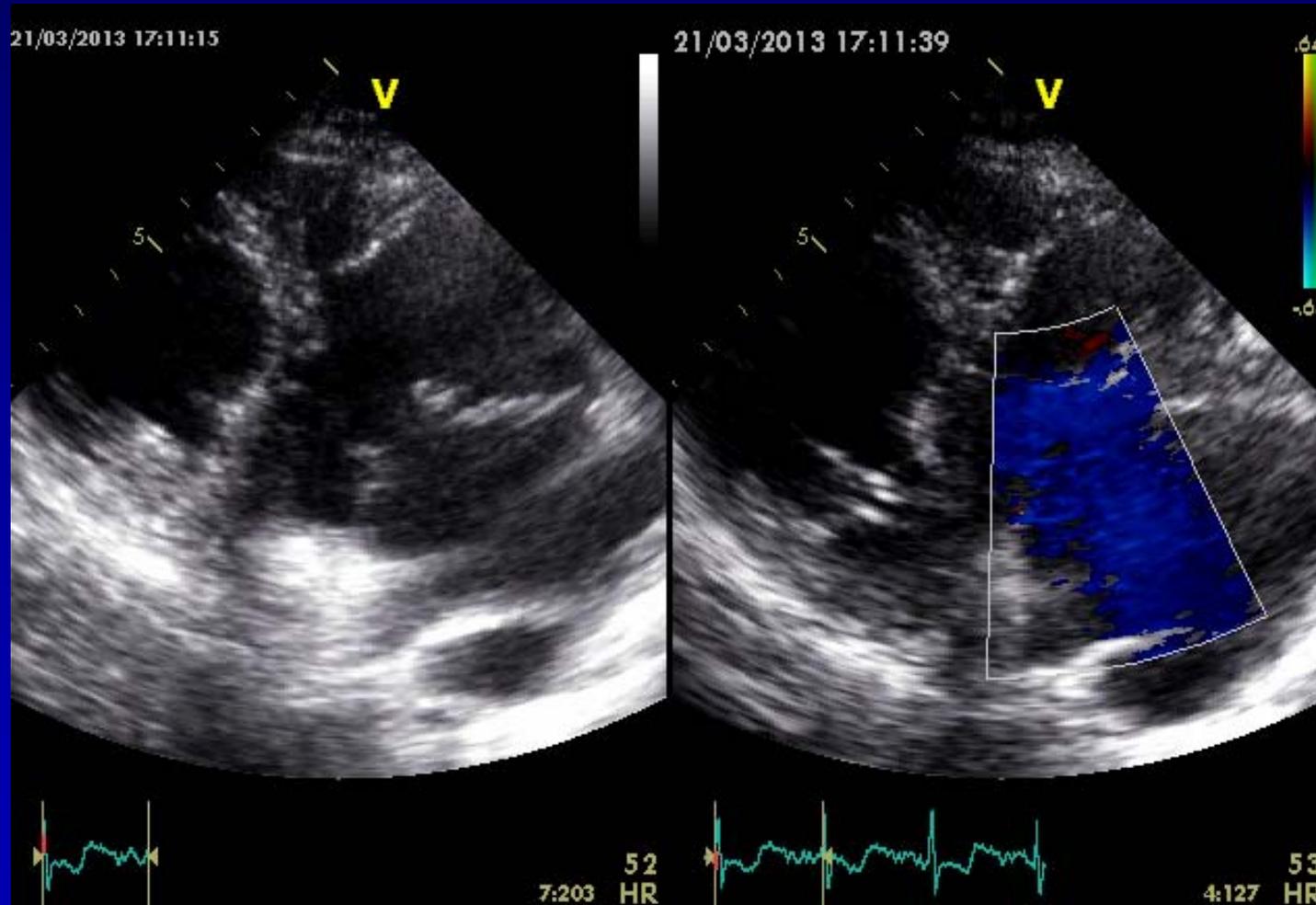
## Imaging the Tricuspid Valve

# Imaging the TV: Standard Views



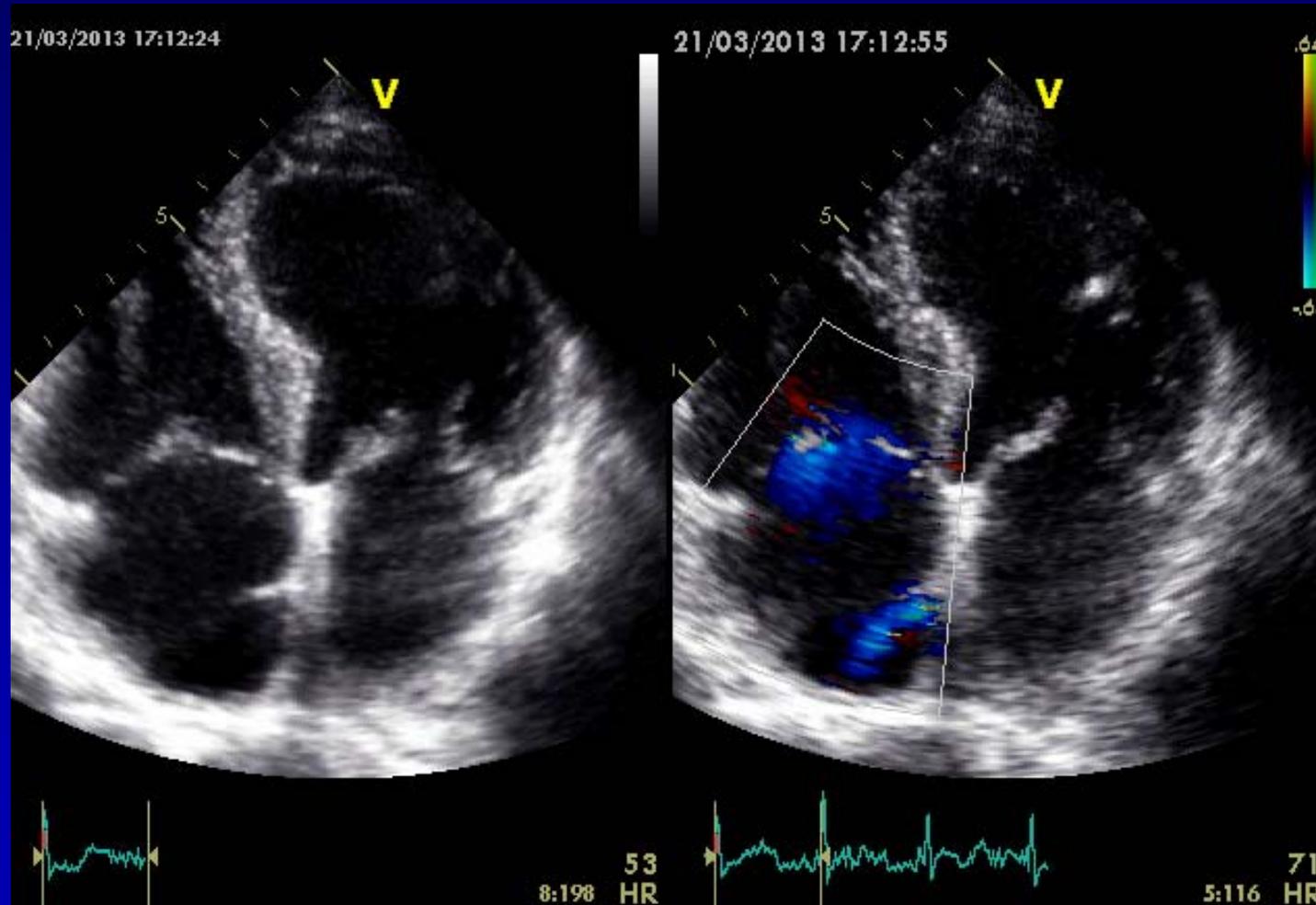
parasternal  
short axis

# Imaging the TV: Standard Views



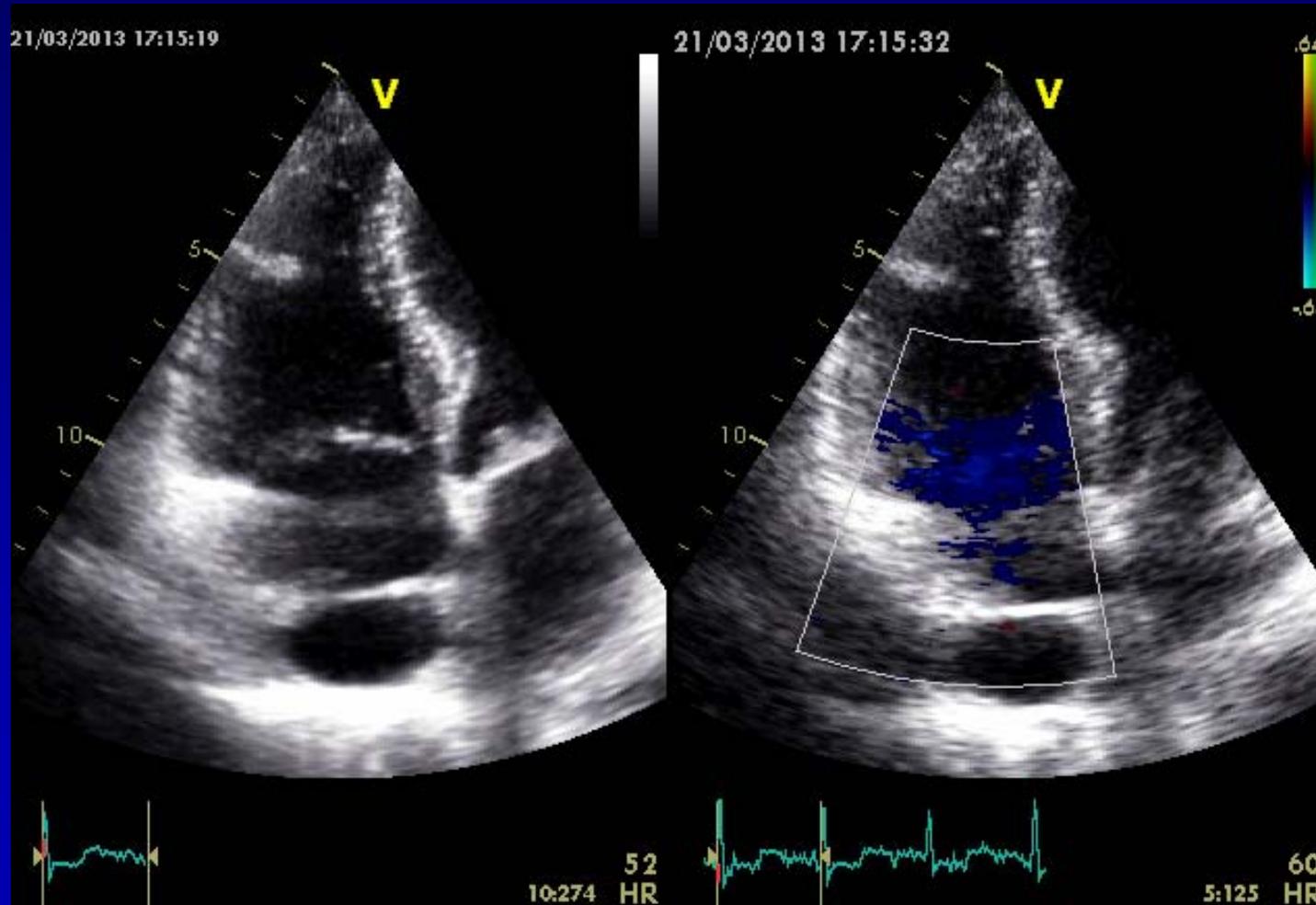
**RV Inflow  
view**

# Imaging the TV: Standard Views



**apical  
4 chamber  
view**

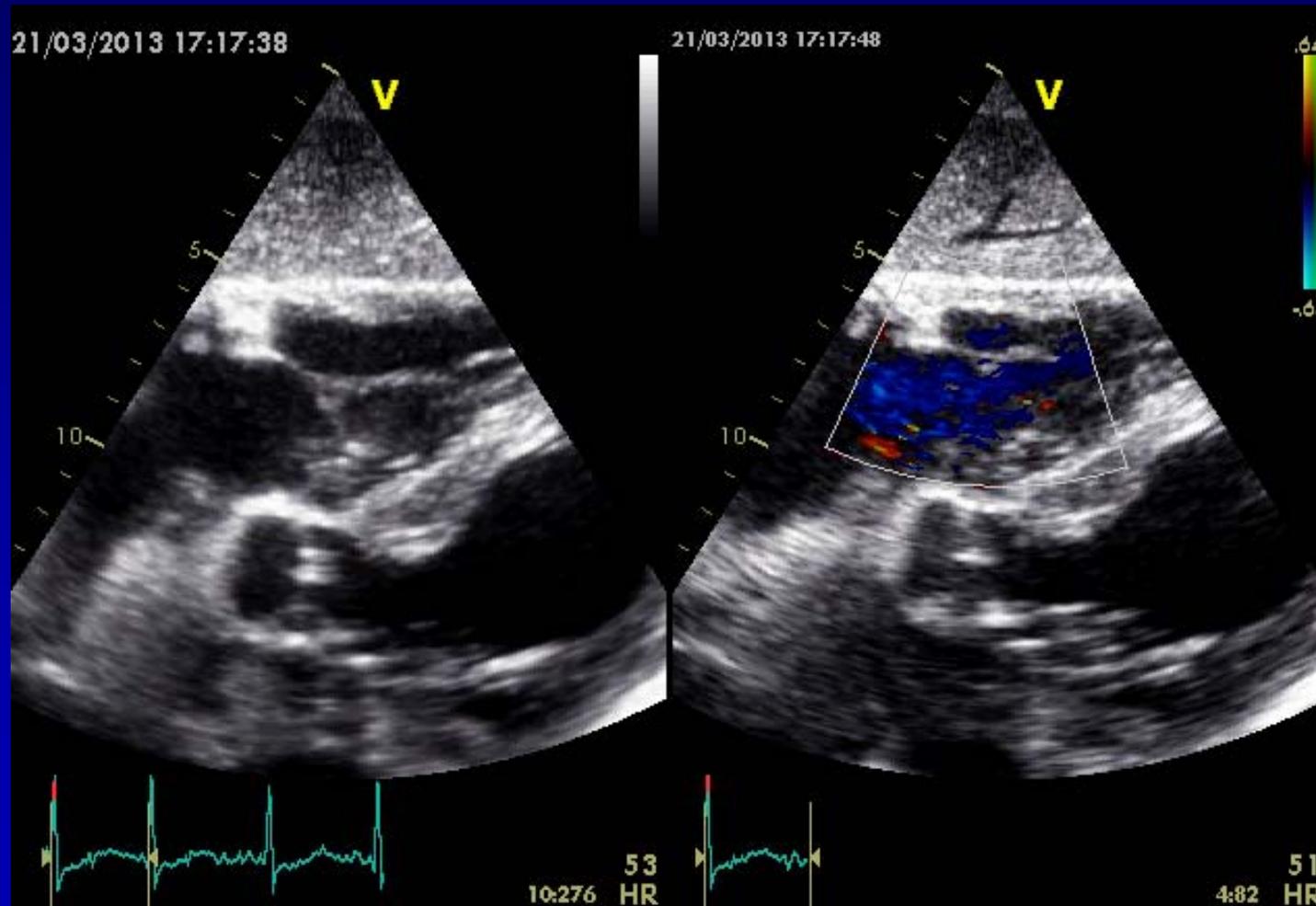
# Imaging the TV: Standard Views



**apical  
4 chamber  
view**

**RV only**

# Imaging the TV: Standard Views



**subcostal  
4 chamber  
view**

# Simultaneous Visualization of 3 Leaflets

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## Impossible ?

the anterior, septal and posterior TV cusps were described [2, 3]. Unlike the aortic and mitral valve **it is not possible to visualize all TV cusps simultaneously** in one cross-sectional view by standard transthoracic two-dimensional echocar-

Anwar et al., Int J Cardiovasc Imaging 2007

# Simultaneous Visualization of 3 Leaflets

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equally good with 2D and 3D



study:

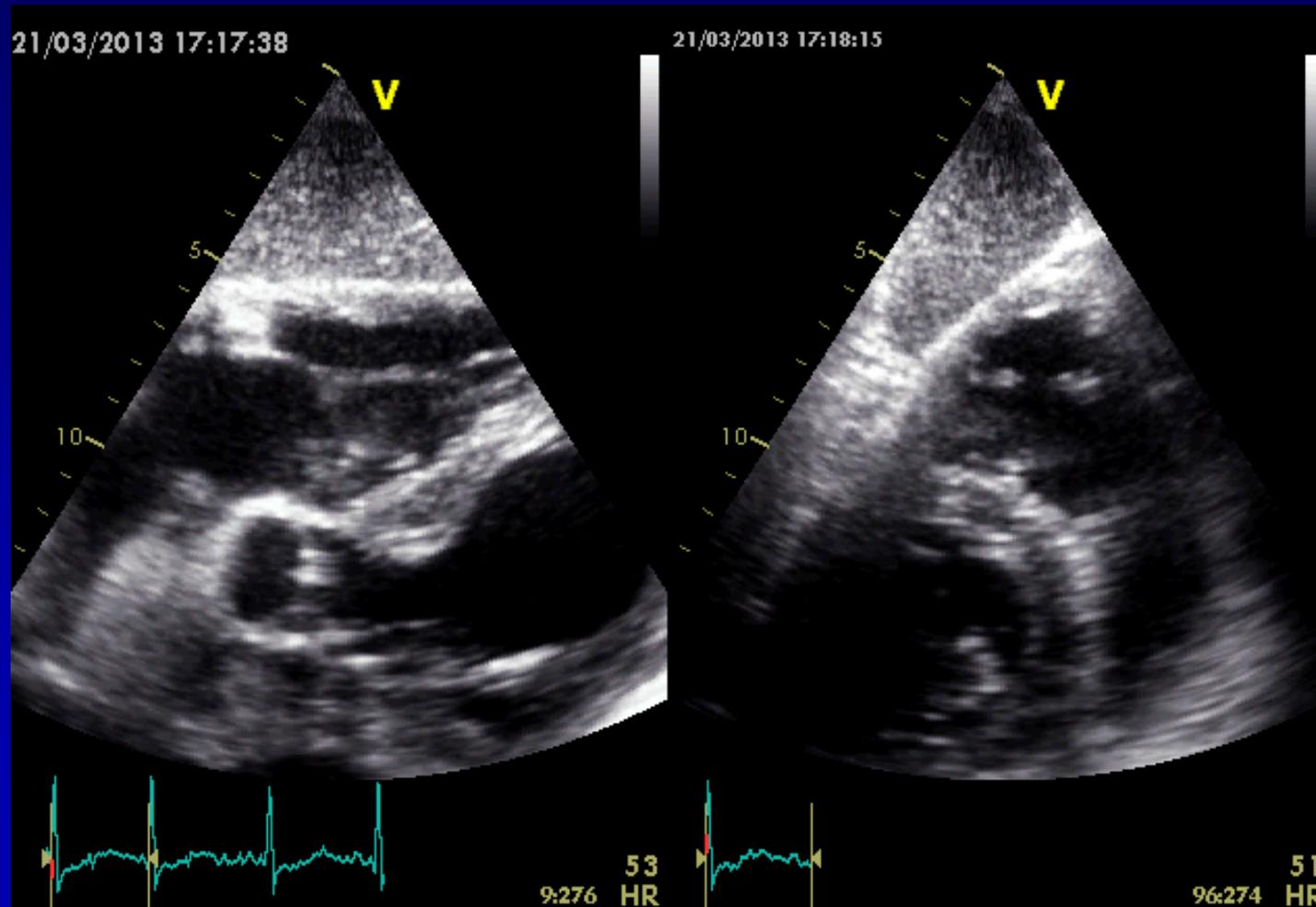
155 consecutive patients  
from clinical routine

all 3 leaflets visible:

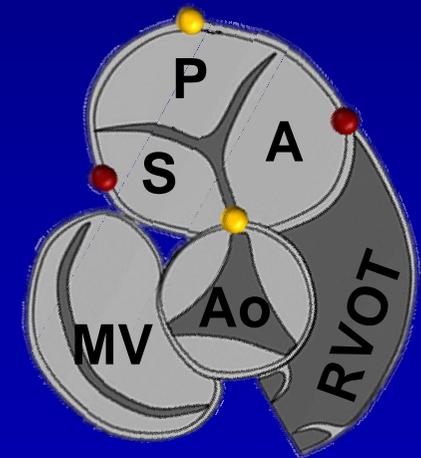
58% with 2D subcostal view

56% with 3D reconstruction

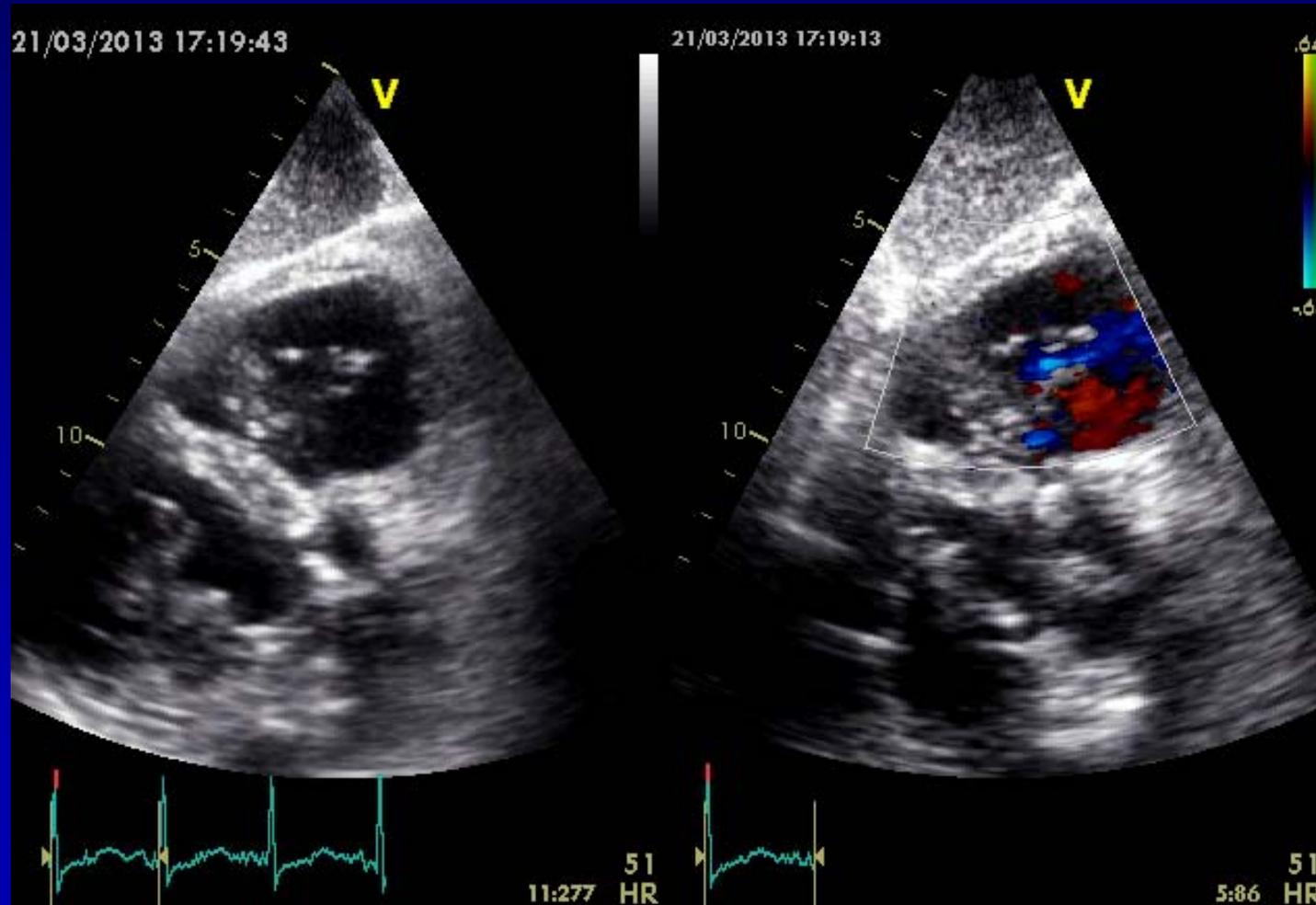
# Imaging the TV: Standard Views



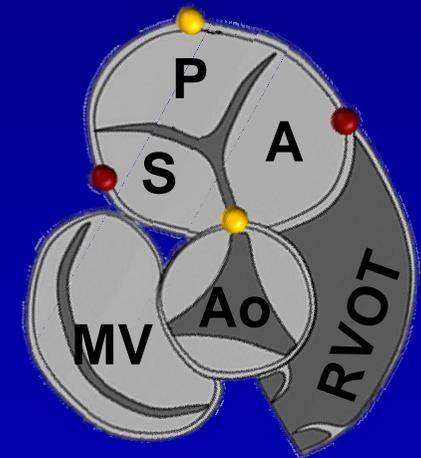
subcostal  
4CV und  
SAX



# Imaging the TV: Standard Views



**subcostal  
SAX**

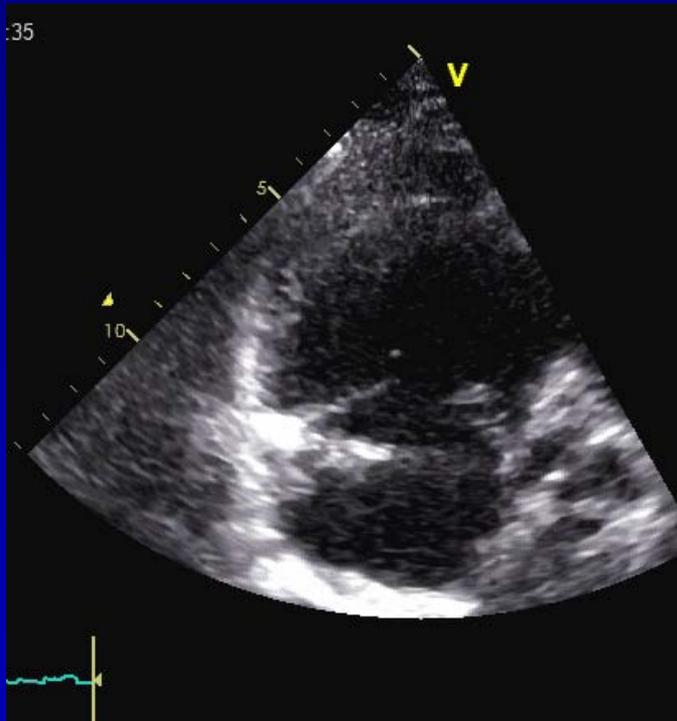


# Leaflet Identification

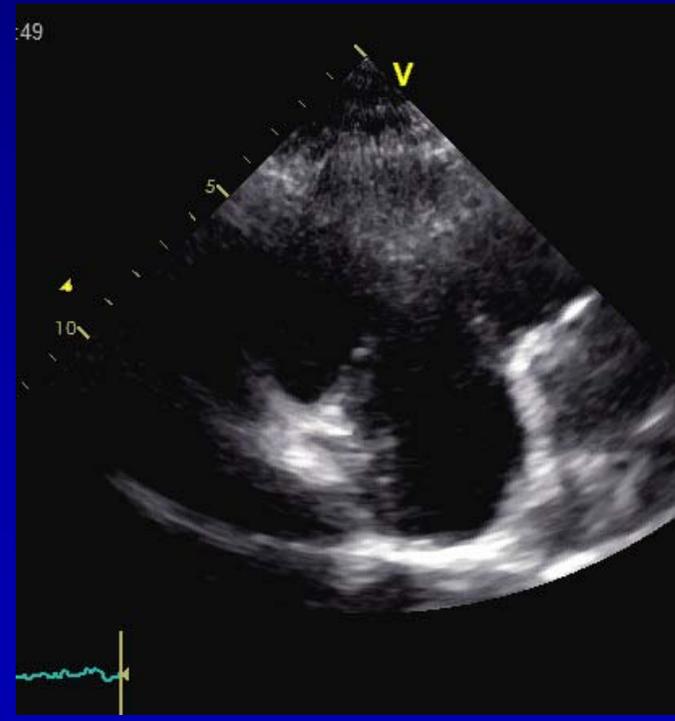
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relevant to describe pathology

prolaps not visible



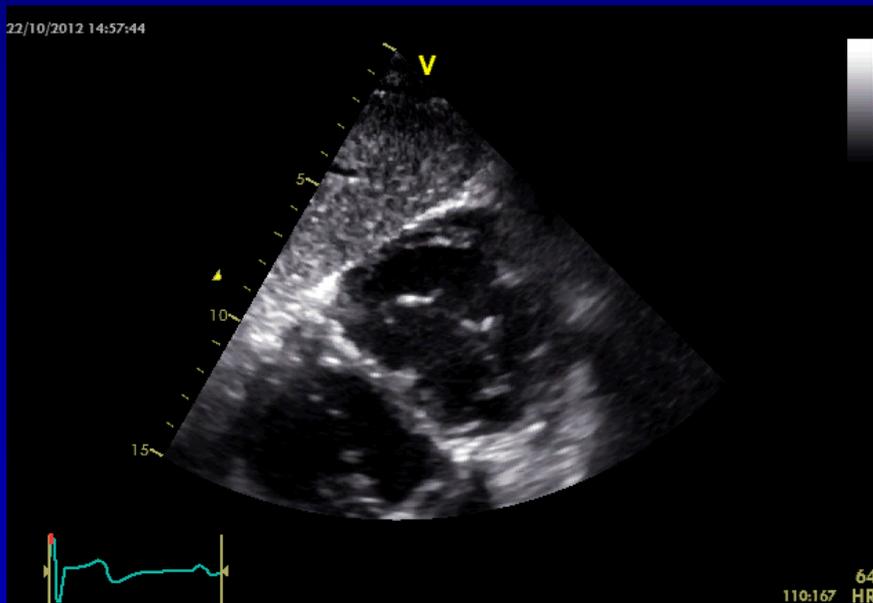
prolaps visible



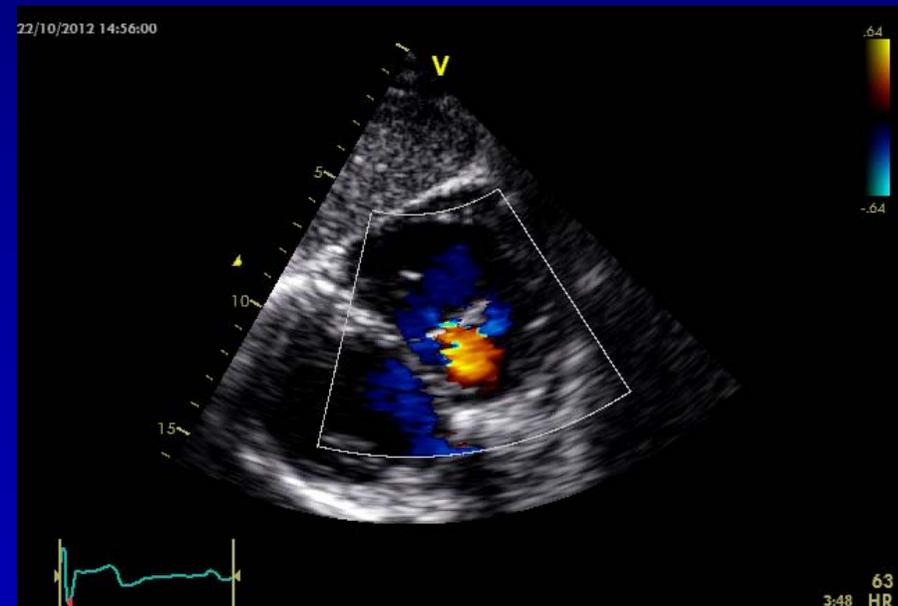
# Leaflet Identification

... using the subcostal view

leaflet identification



regurgitation assessment

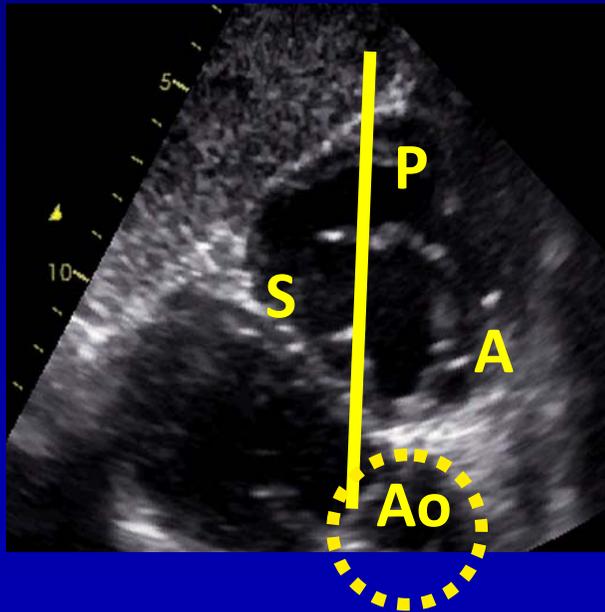


# Leaflet Identification

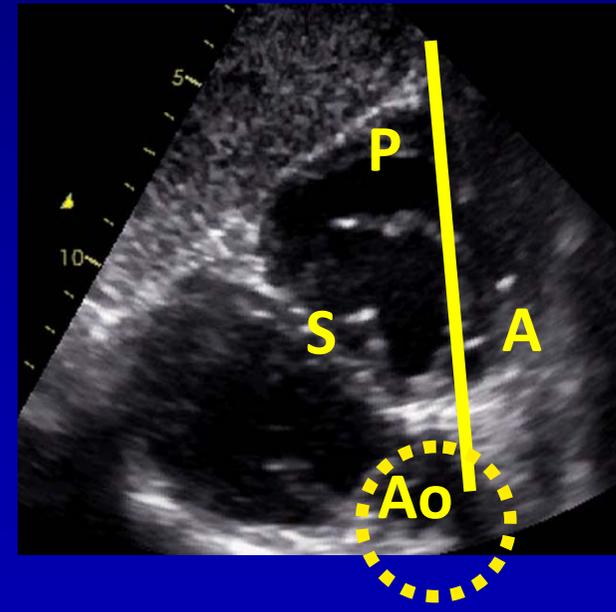
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... using the subcostal view

prolaps not visible

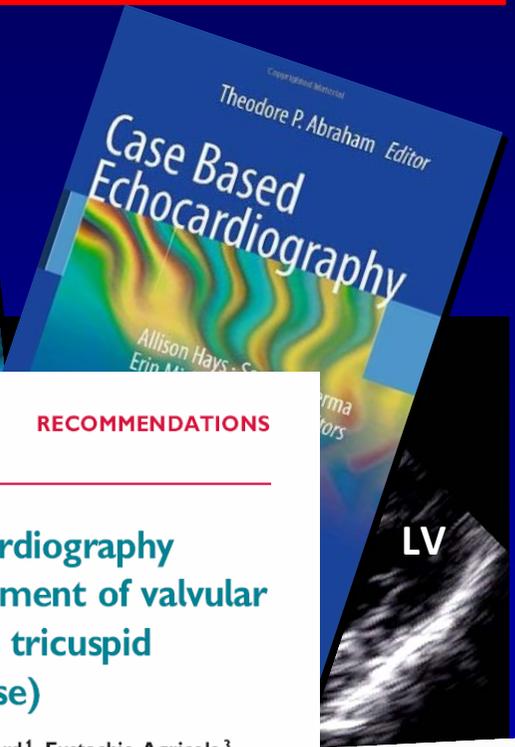
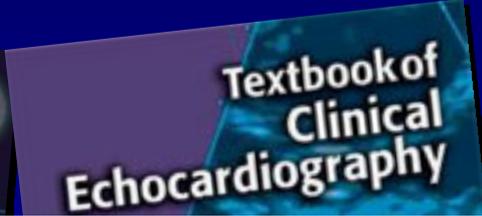
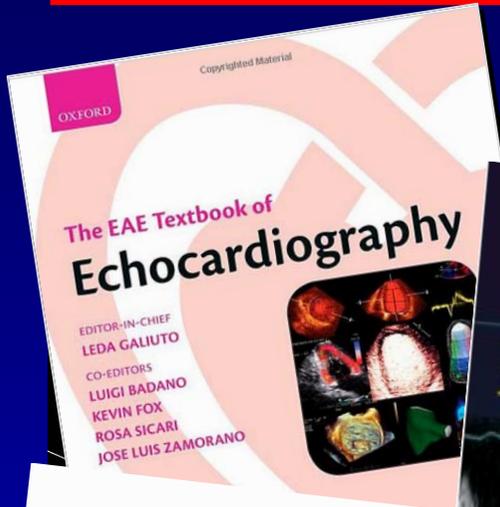


prolaps visible



# Imaging the TV

Which leaflet is which ?



**GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS**

**Guidelines for the Echocardiographic Assessment of the Right Heart in Adults: A Report from the American Society of Echocardiography, a branch of the European Association of Echocardiography, and the Canadian Society of Echocardiography**

Lawrence G. Rudski, MD, FASE, Chair, Wyman W. Lai, MD, MPH, FASE, Jonathan Afilalo, MD, Msc, Lanqi Hua, RDCS, FASE, Mark D. Handschumacher, BSc, Krishnaswamy Chandrasekaran, MD, FASE, Scott D. Solomon, MD, Eric K. Louie, MD, and Nelson B. Schiller, MD, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; New York, New York; Boston, Massachusetts; Phoenix, Arizona; London, United Kingdom; San Francisco, California

(J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2010;23:685-713.)

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY  
 European Journal of Echocardiography (2010) 11, 307–332  
 doi:10.1093/ije/echocard/jeq031

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**European Association of Echocardiography recommendations for the assessment of valvular regurgitation. Part 2: mitral and tricuspid regurgitation (native valve disease)**

Patrizio Lancellotti (Chair)<sup>1\*</sup>, Luis Moura<sup>2</sup>, Luc A. Pierard<sup>1</sup>, Eustachio Agricola<sup>3</sup>, Bogdan A. Popescu<sup>4</sup>, Christophe Tribouillet<sup>5</sup>, ...  
 Luigi Badano<sup>8</sup>, et al.  
 Int J Cardiovasc Imaging (2007) 23:717–724  
 DOI 10.1007/s10554-007-9210-3

**ORIGINAL PAPER**

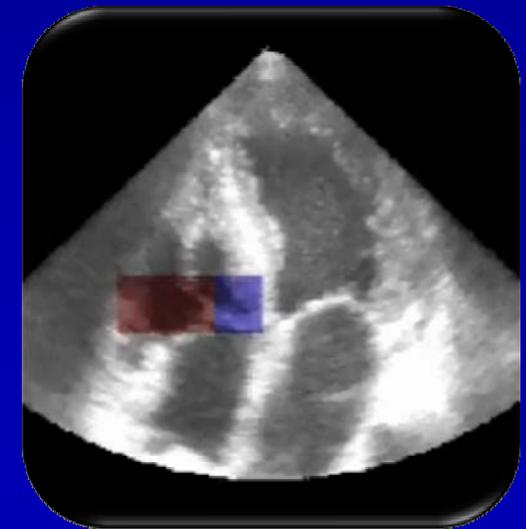
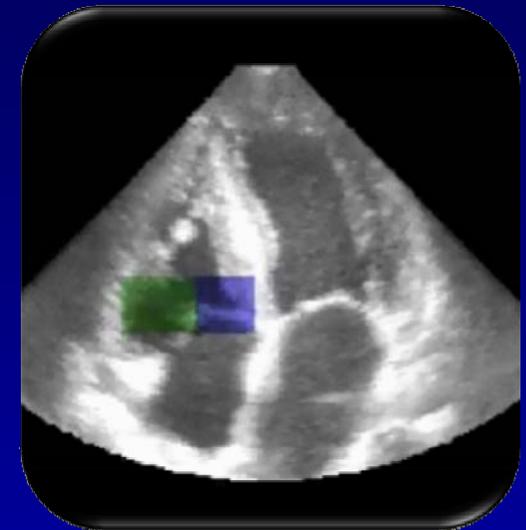
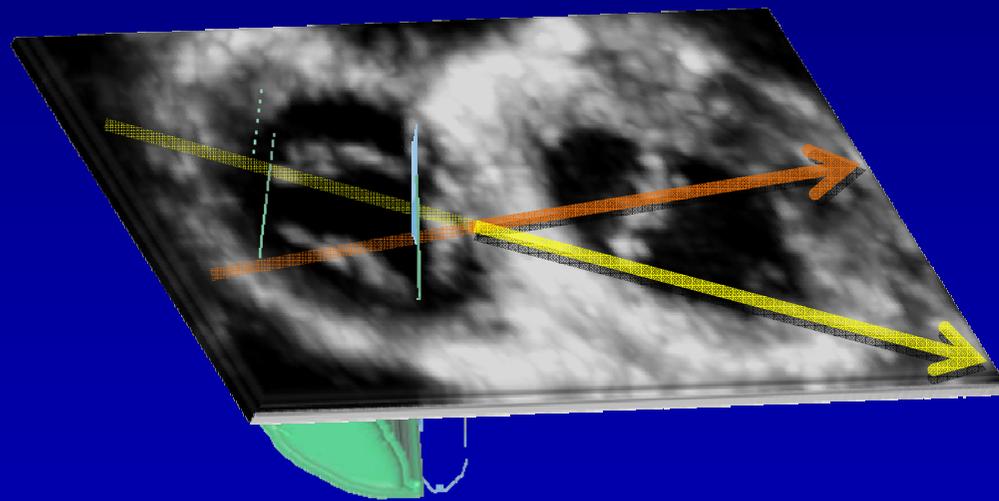
**Assessment of normal tricuspid valve anatomy in adults by real-time three-dimensional echocardiography**

Ashraf M. Anwar · Marcel L. Geleijnse · Osama I. I. Soliman · Jackie S. McGhie · René Frowijn · Attila Nemes · Annemien E. van den Bosch · Tjebbe W. Galema · Folkert J. ten Cate

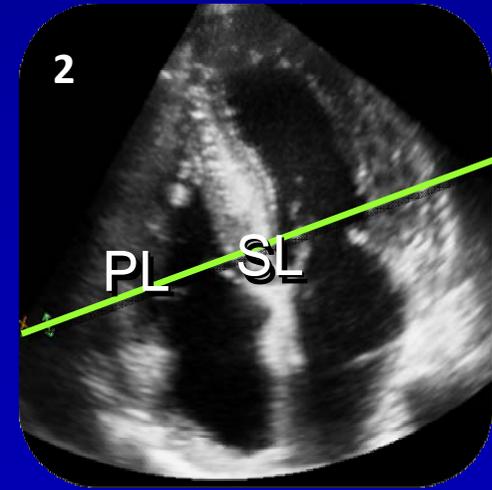
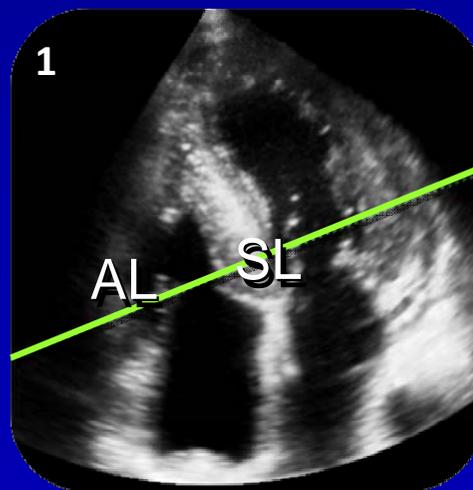
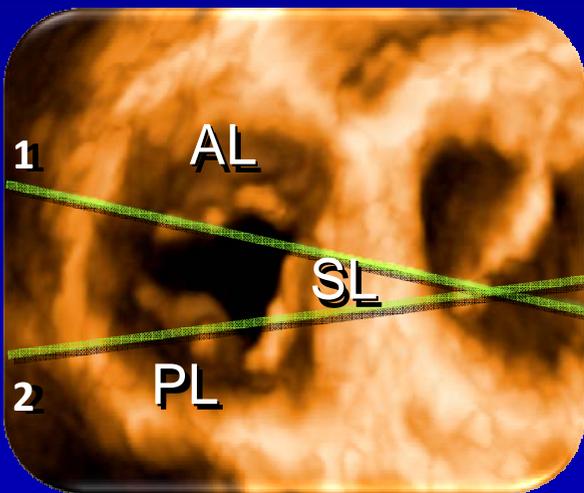
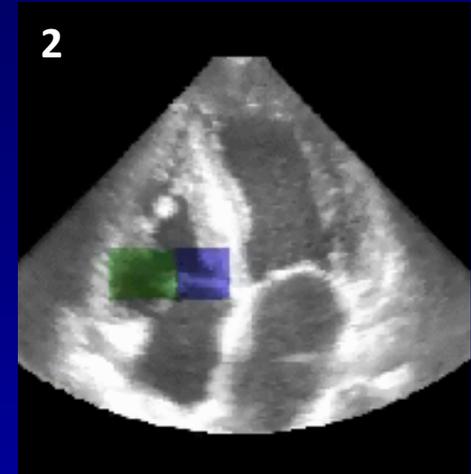
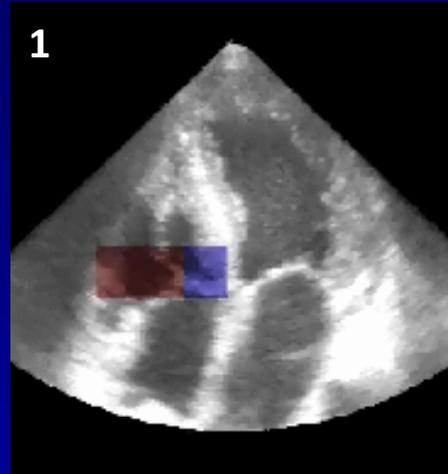
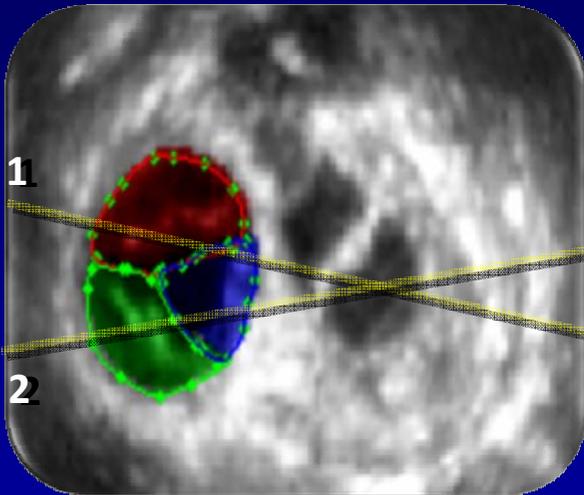
# Leaflet Identification

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... using  
dedicated software

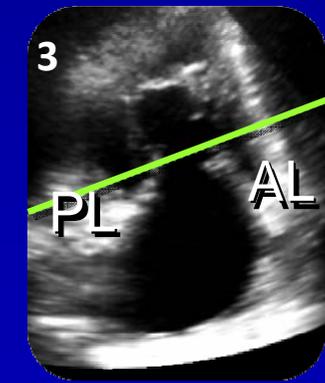
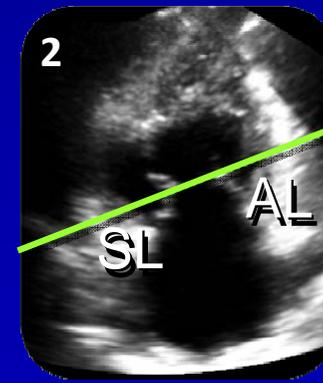
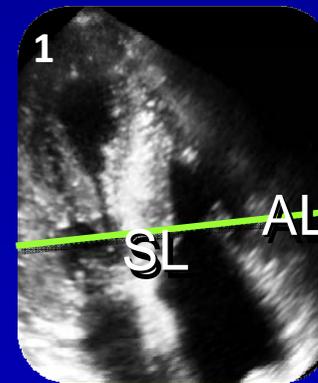
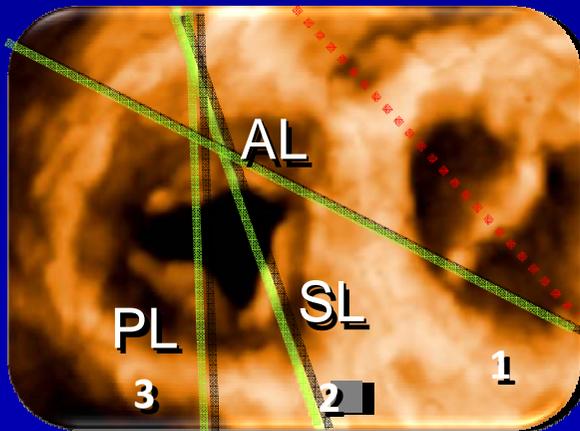
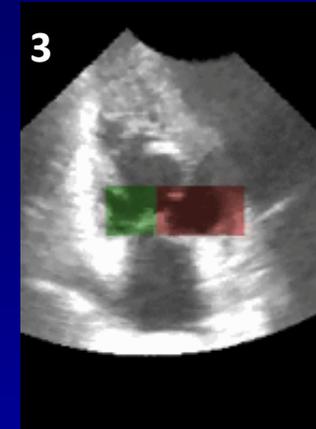
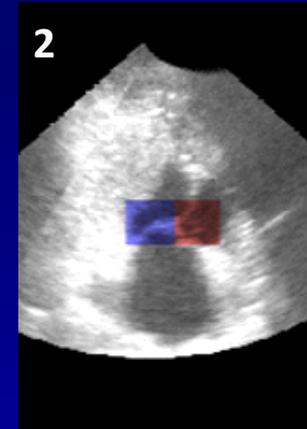
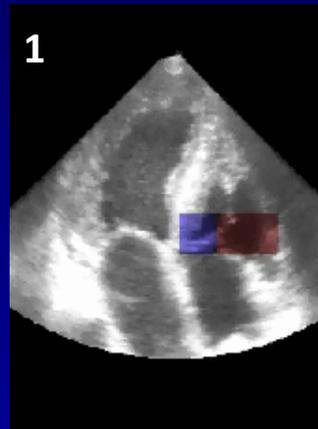
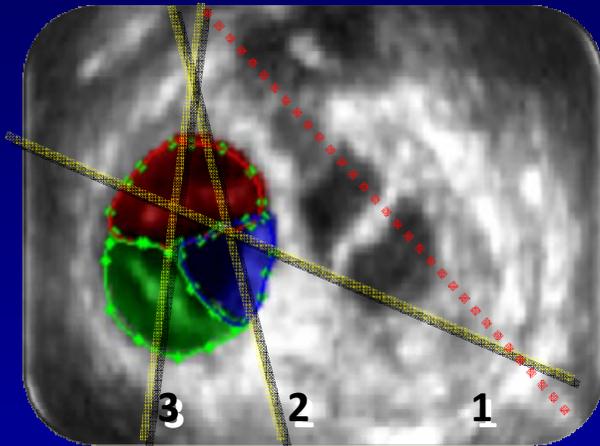


# Apical 4 Chamber View



81%

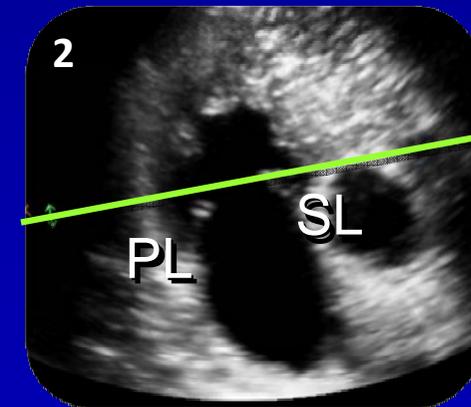
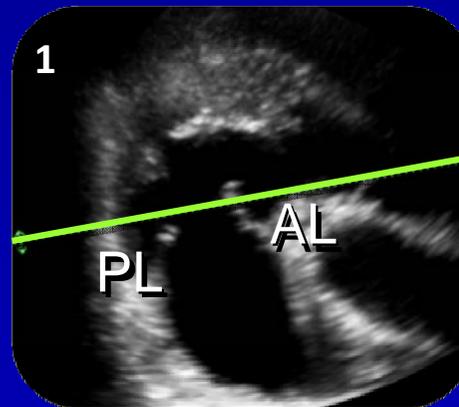
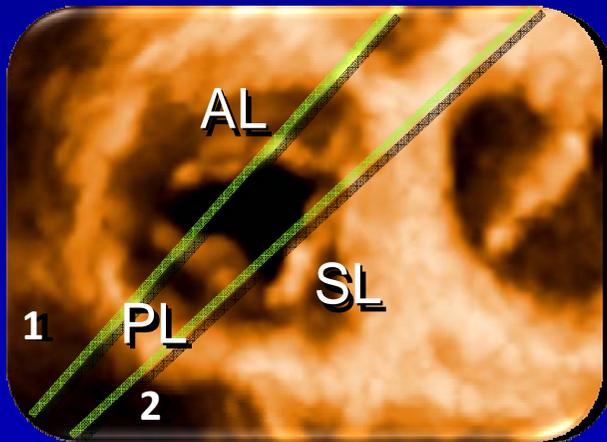
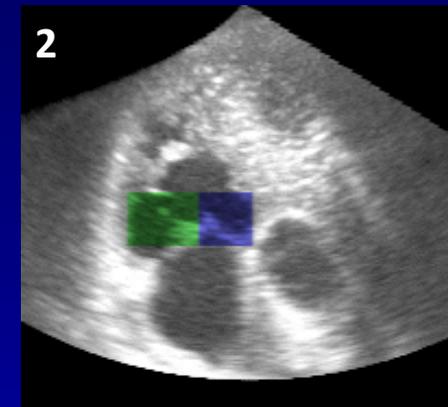
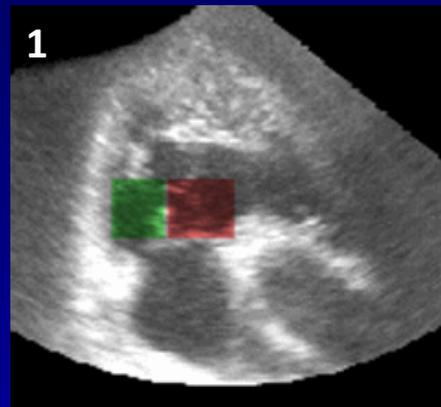
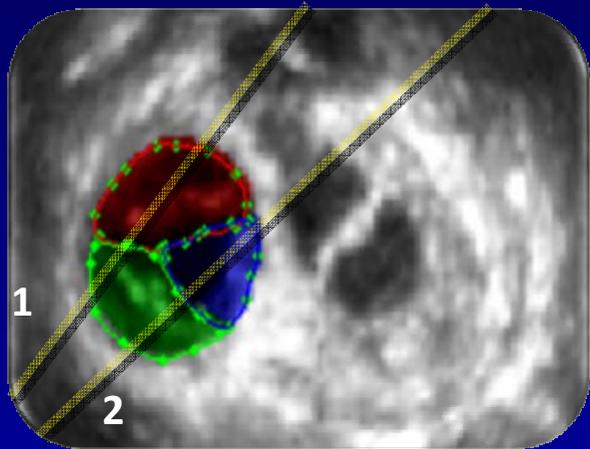
# RV Inflow View



100%

77%

# Parasternal Short Axis View



62%

# Tricuspid Valve

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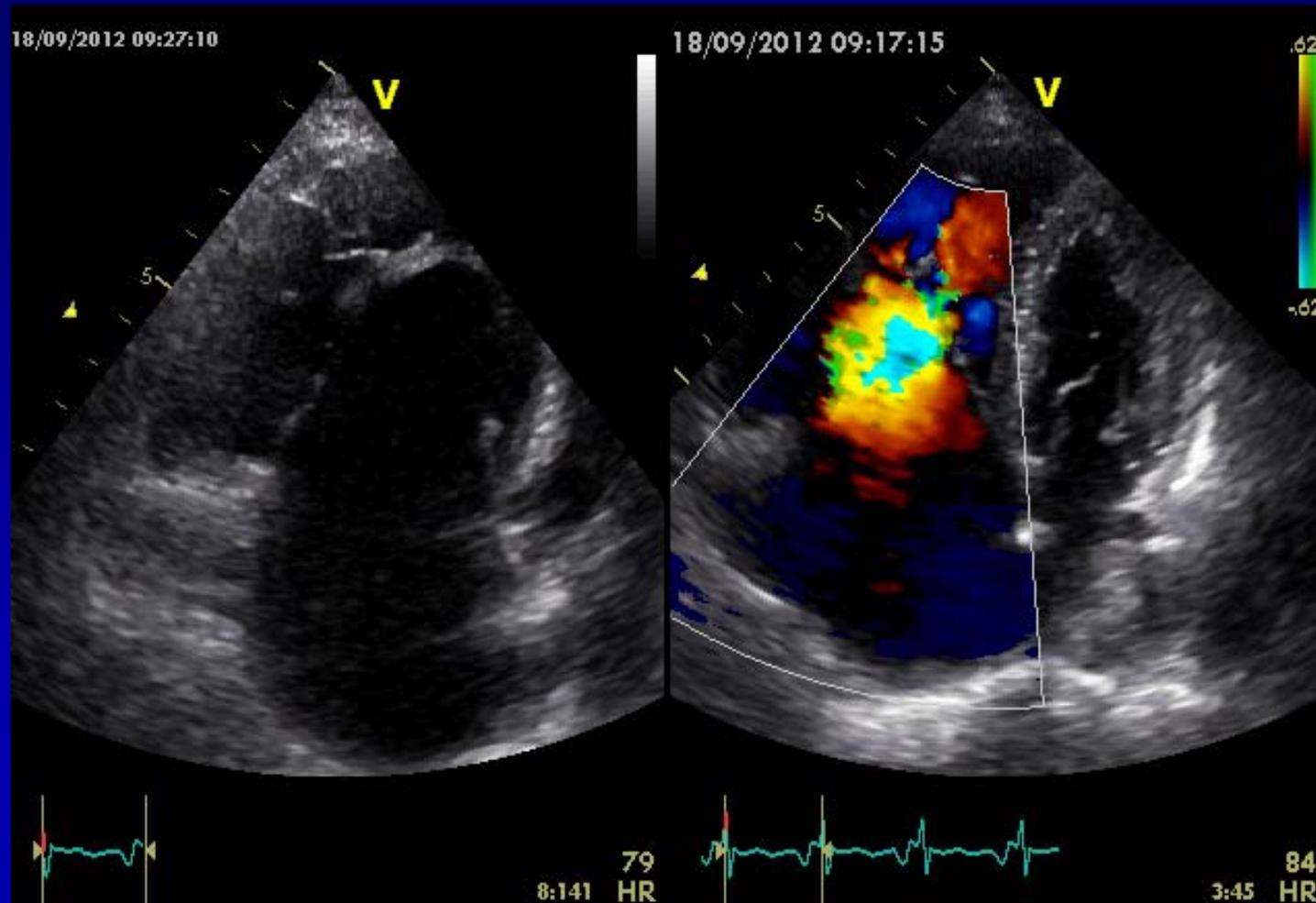
## Assessing Tricuspid Valve Pathology

# Primary Tricuspid Regurgitation

pacemaker lead endocarditis



# Primary Tricuspid Regurgitation



**carcinoid**

# Primary Tricuspid Regurgitation

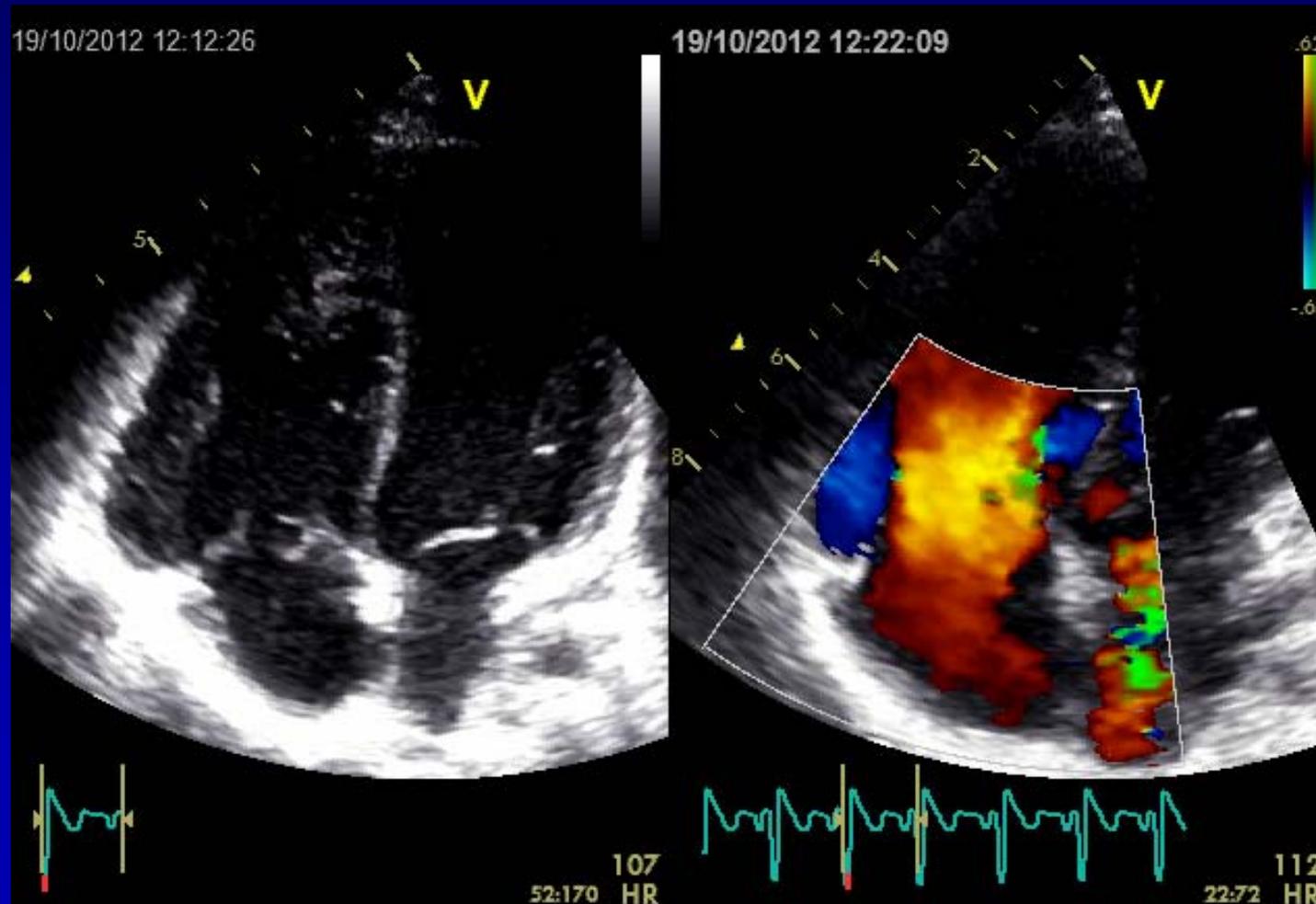
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**trauma**

cordarupture  
and flail  
after  
chest trauma  
in childhood

# Primary Tricuspid Regurgitation



**iatrogenic**  
anterior flail  
after  
pulmonary  
valve stenting

# Tricuspid Valve Regurgitation

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**secondary (functional) TR is frequent**

**mechanisms:** annulus dilatation

- RV dilatation
- RA dilatation

tethering / tenting

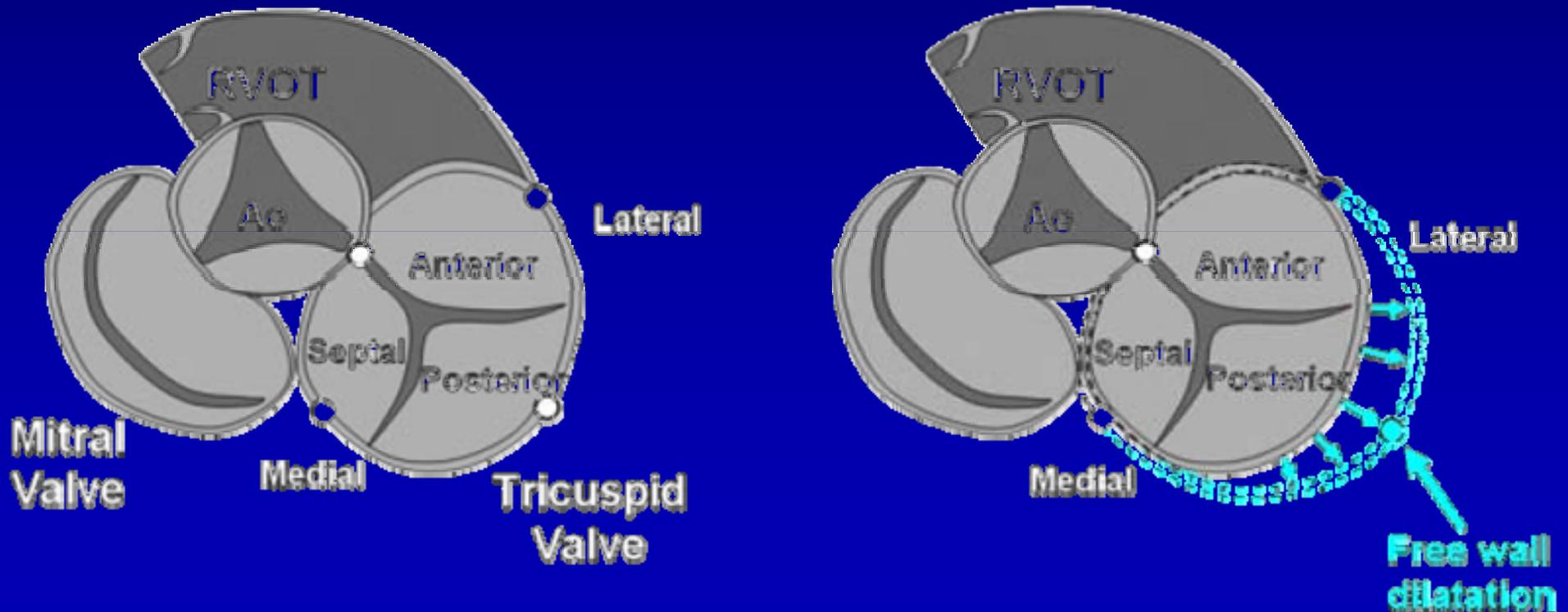
- RV dilatation
- papillary muscle displacement

# Functional Tricuspid Regurgitation

## TV annulus dilatation

normal

dilated

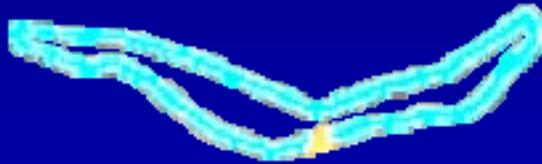


# Functional Tricuspid Regurgitation

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## TV annulus flattening

normal



dilated



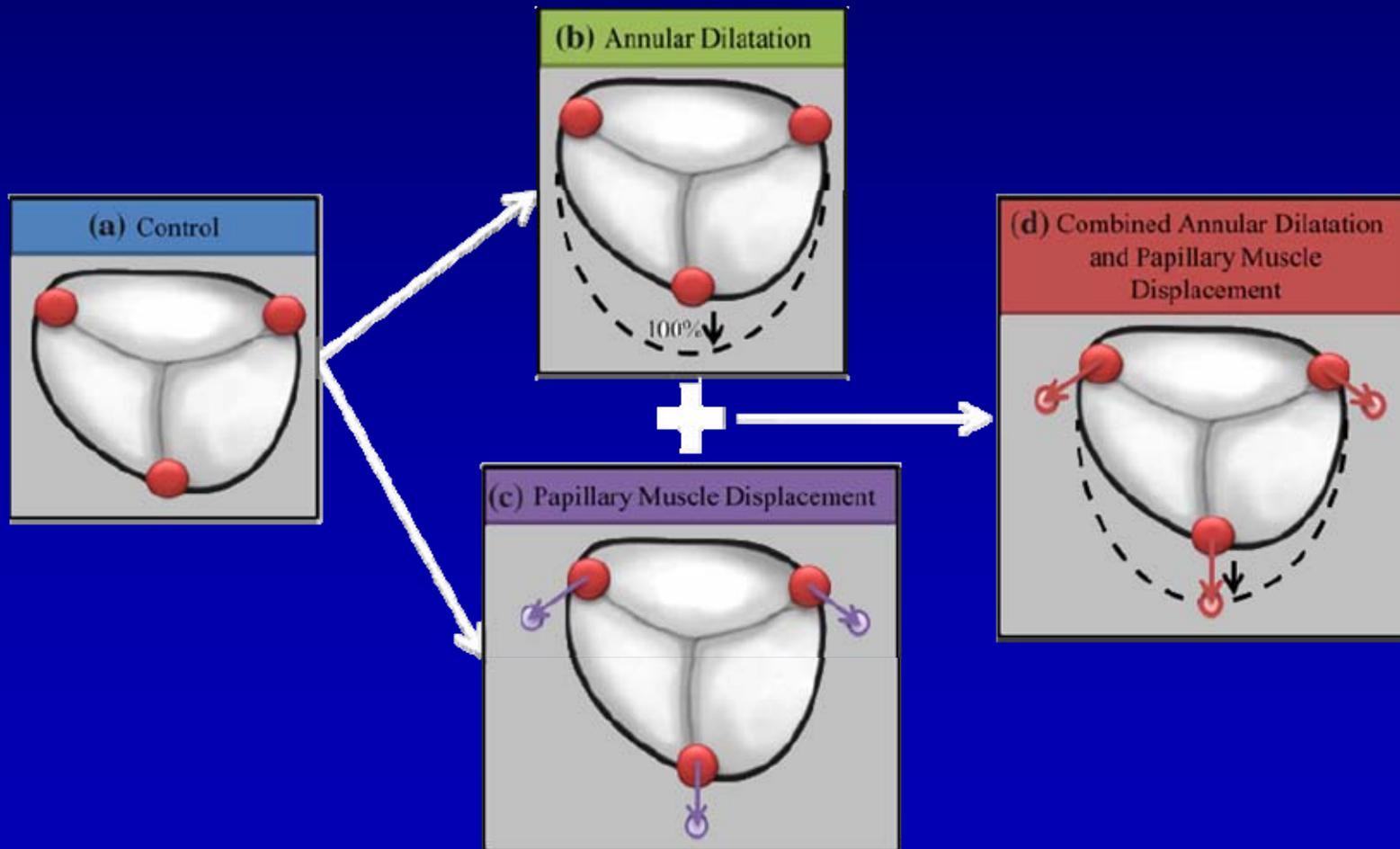
RA



RV

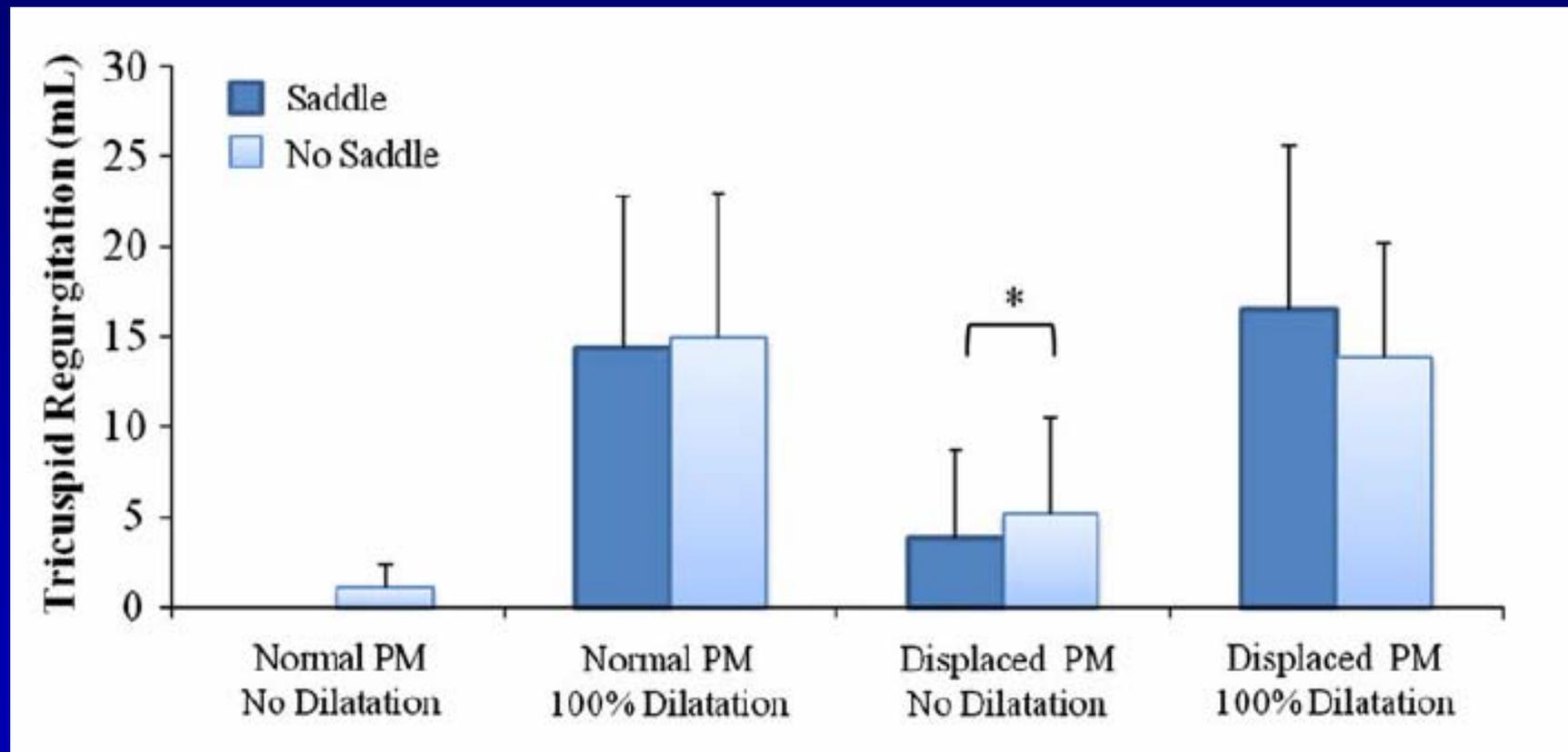
# Functional Tricuspid Regurgitation

annulus dilatation + papillary muscle displacement

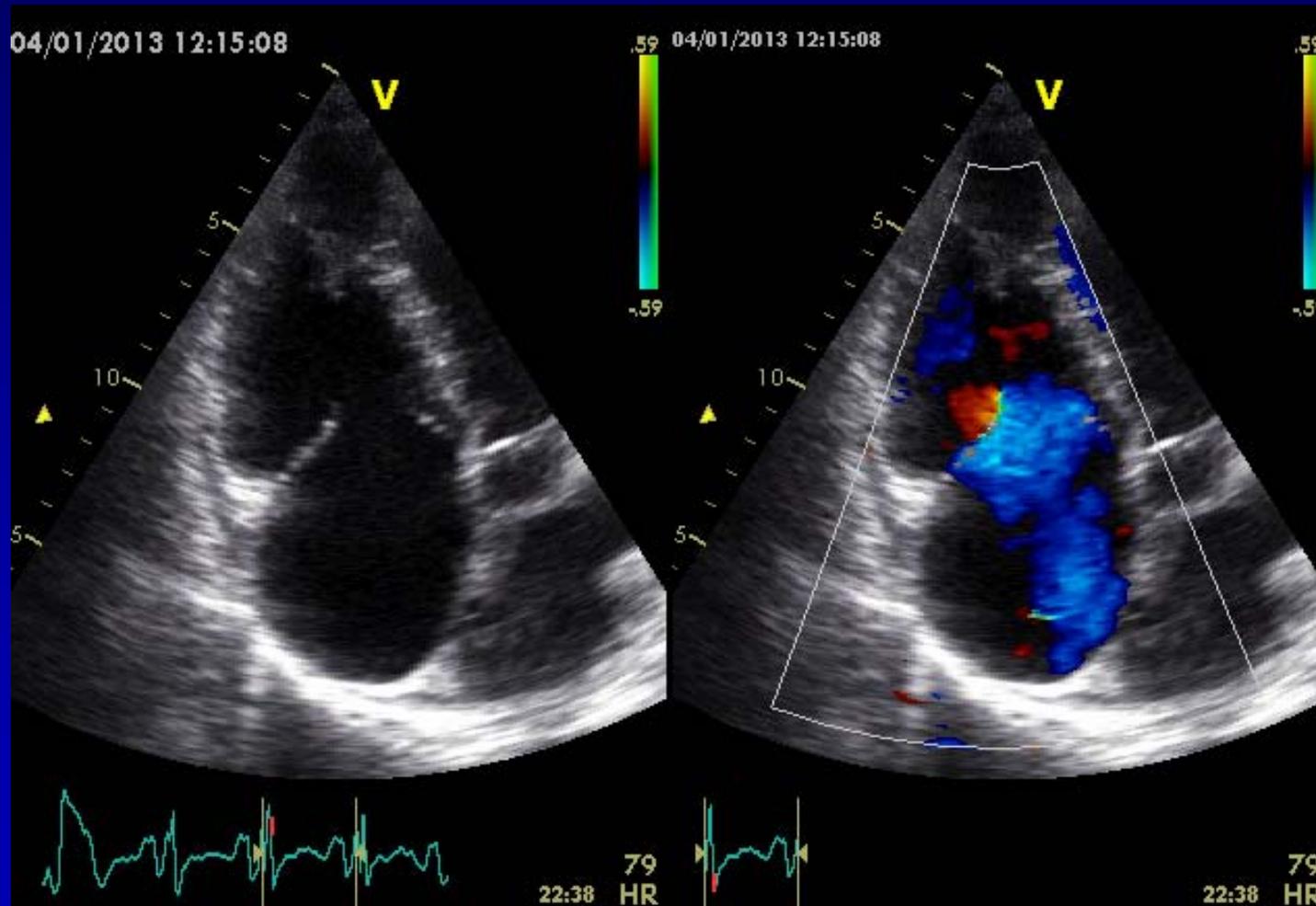


# Functional Tricuspid Regurgitation

annulus dilatation + papillary muscle displacement



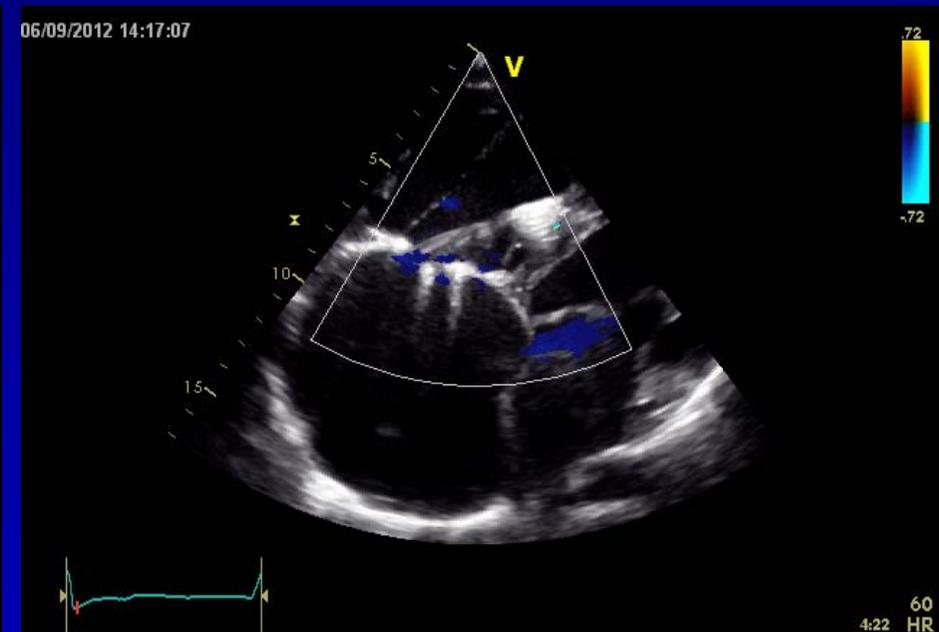
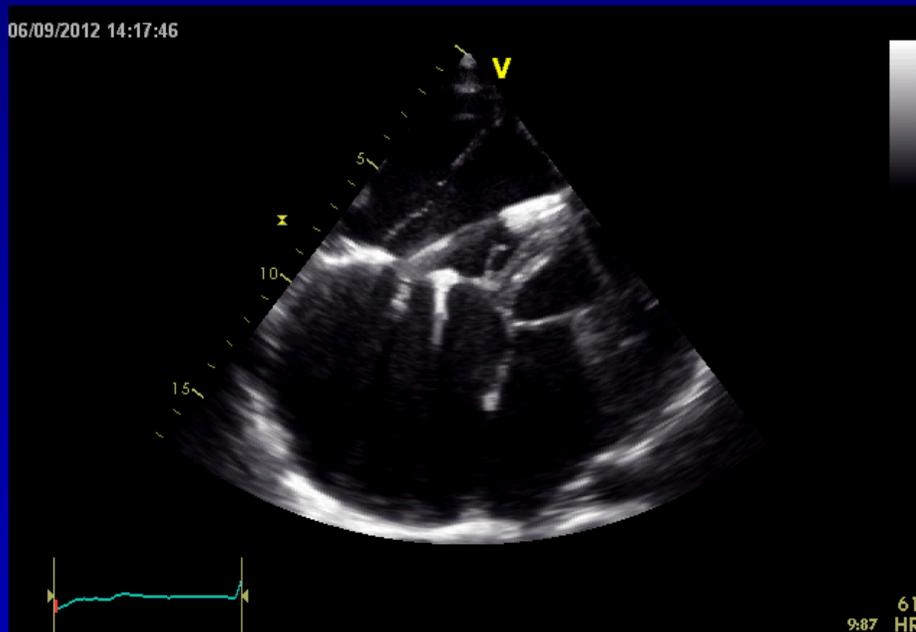
# Functional Tricuspid Regurgitation



**tethering  
(tenting)  
+  
annulus  
dilatation**

# Functional Tricuspid Regurgitation

failed repair: recurrent TR



# Tricuspid Valve

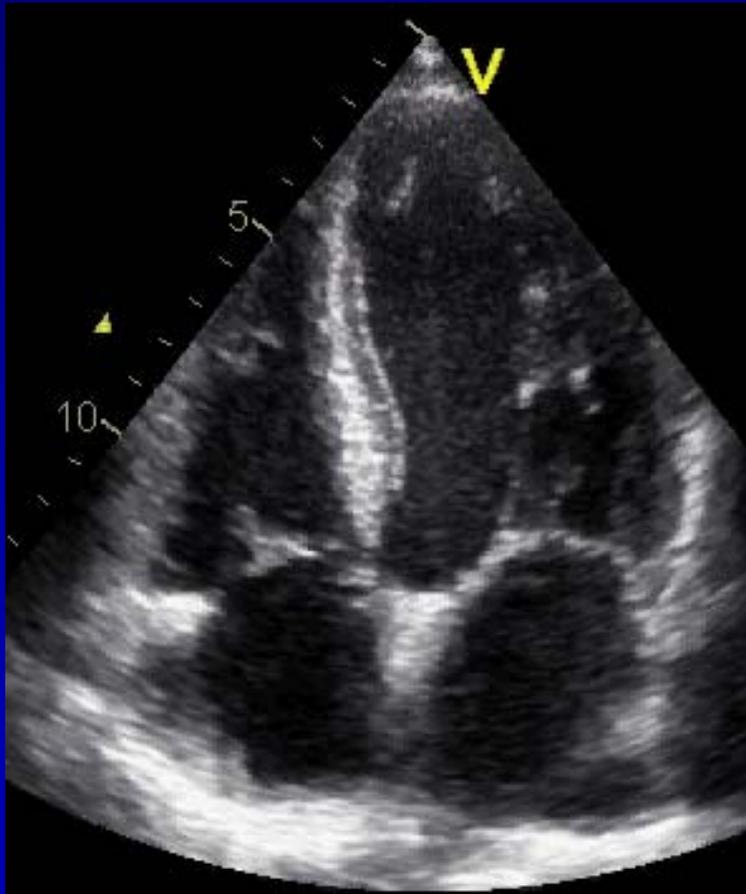
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## Tricuspid Valve Work-Up

# RV Geometry & Function

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normal

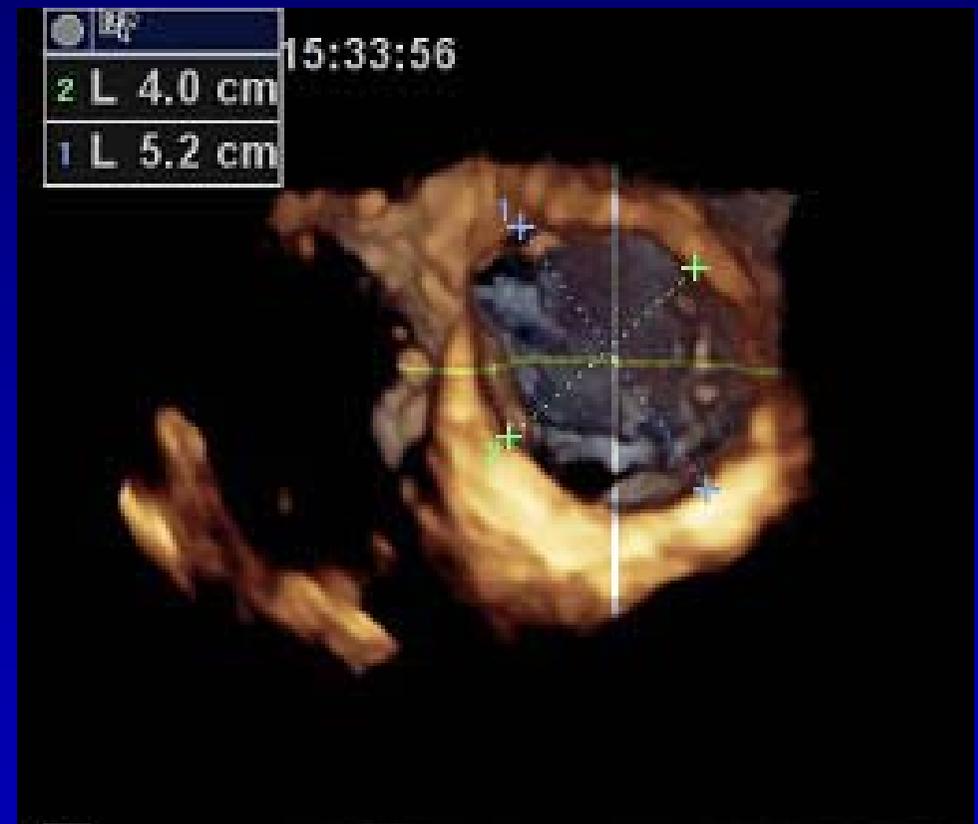
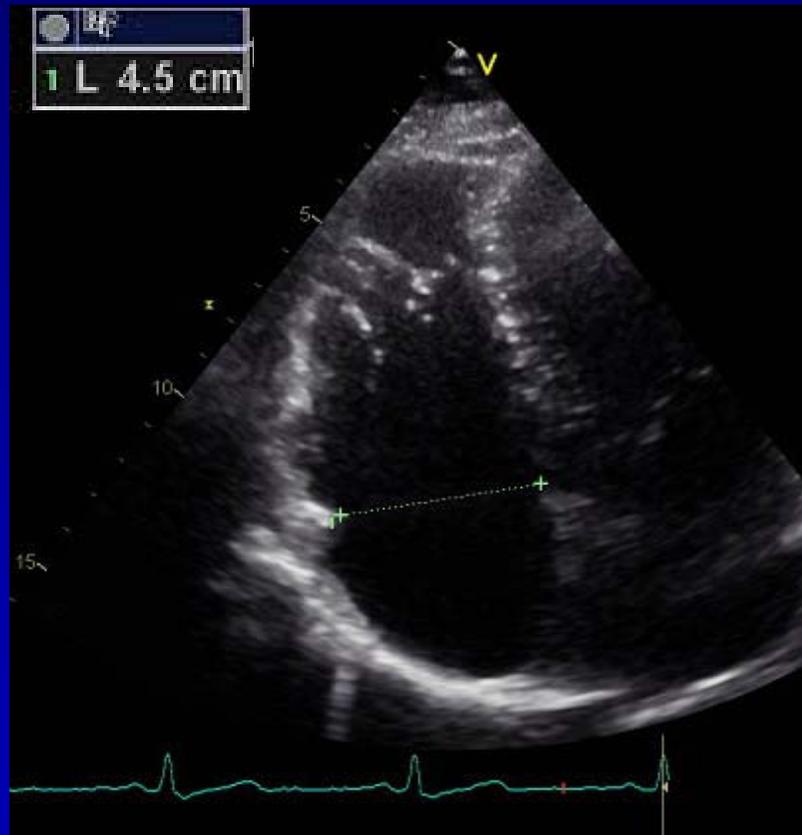


dilated RV + annulus



# Annulus Sizing

3D has advantageous

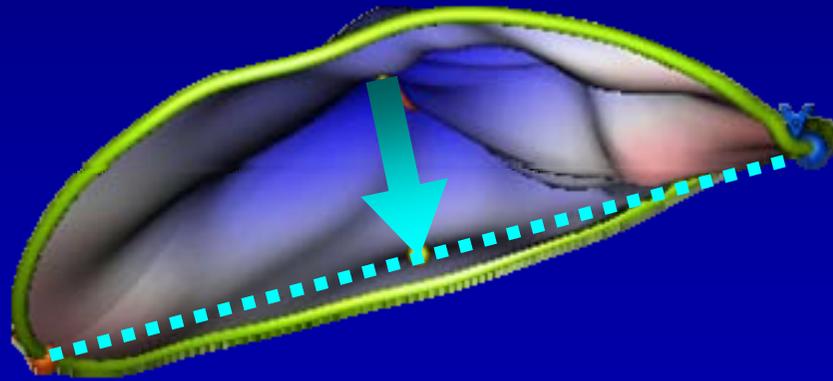


# Assessing Tenting

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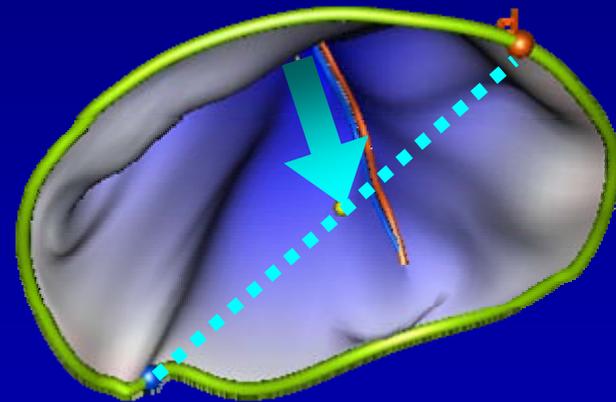
tenting indicates severity of valve dysfunction

mild TR



annulus area = 11.0 cm<sup>2</sup>  
tenting Height = 3.3 mm

severe TR



annulus area = 11.2 cm<sup>2</sup>  
tenting height = 8.8 mm

# Morphology Assessment

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## relevant abnormality of TV

TV annulus diameter	>40mm (21mm/m <sup>2</sup> )
coaptation height (tenting)	>8mm

## relevant abnormality of RV

RVed Area	>20cm <sup>2</sup>
excentricity Index	>2

## relevant RV dysfunction

TAPSE	<15mm
Vpeaksys	<11cm/s

# Grading TR Severity

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## qualitative

TR jet signal density (CW)  
hepatic veins  
systolic inflow

dens  
syst. flow reversal  
dominat E wave

## quantitative

vena contracta width  
Reg Vol (PISA)

>7mm  
>45ml

# Significant Tricuspid Stenosis

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## qualitative

right atrium  
IVC

severely enlarged  
dilated

## quantitative

mean pressure gradient

>5mmHg

PHT

<190ms

valve area (cont. equation)

< 1cm<sup>2</sup>

# Summary

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**Tricuspid valve function is complex and depends on size and function of RV, RA, papillary muscles, leaflets and cordae.**

**Echocardiography is the method of choice to assess TV function.**

**Grading of TV dysfunction is difficult due to a lack of reproducible parameters and reliable normal values.**

**Assessment of TV function must therefore integrate all available (clinical & technical) information.**