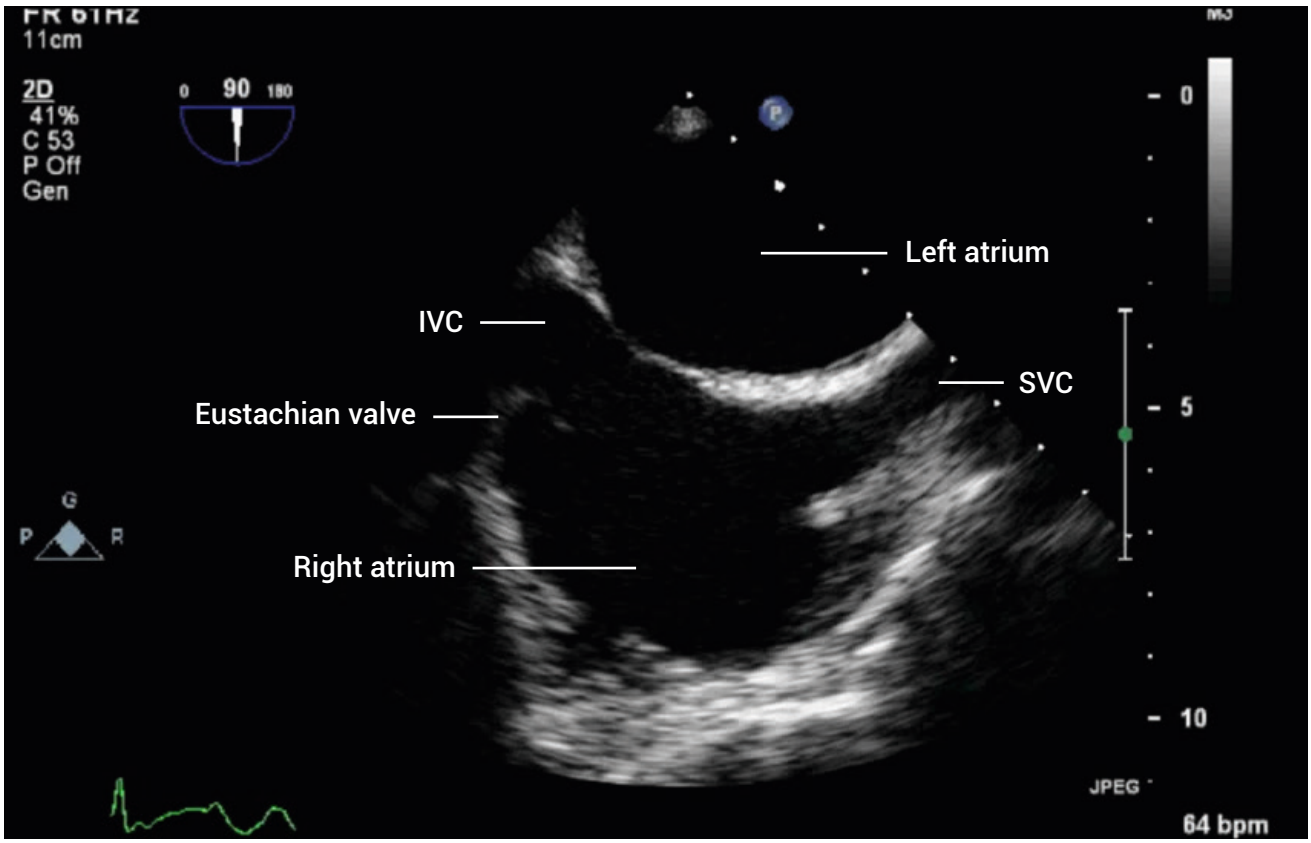
TEE ESSENTIALS

Assessment of the interatrial septum: Mid-esophageal bicaval view

This TEE view is obtained at the mid-esophageal level, using a transducer angle of 90–110°. This view shows the left atrium (near field) and right atrium (far field), the interatrial septum, and both the superior vena cava (SVC) and inferior vena cava (IVC) as they enter the right atrium.



Assess the structure of the interatrial septum and check for any abnormalities such as a patent foramen ovale, an atrial septal defect, or an atrial septal aneurysm. Use color Doppler to look for an interatrial shunt and to assess SVC and IVC inflow.

The Eustachian valve may be prominent—beware of mistaking this normal variant for a thrombus or vegetation.

Further reading

Silvestry FE, Cohen MS, Armsby LB, et al. 2015. Guidelines for the echocardiographic assessment of atrial septal defect and patent foramen ovale: From the American Society of Echocardiography and Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr*. **28**: 910–958.