

# ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

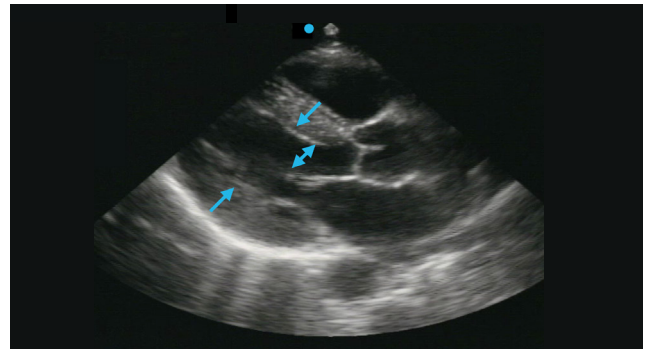
## Understanding contractility

### Contractility

You will characterize contractility as normal, hypodynamic, hyperdynamic, or absent.

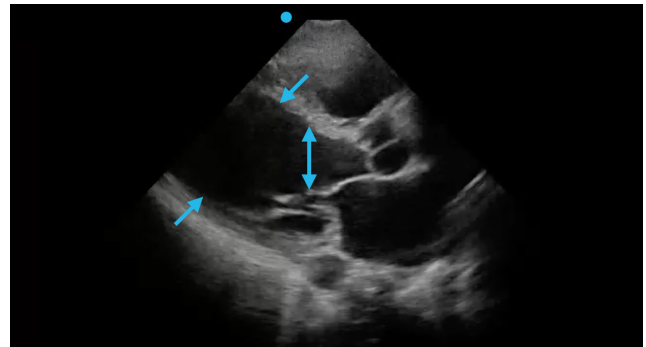
#### Normal

Evaluate by looking at the walls of the left ventricle (they should approach each other very closely in systole), and the anterior leaflet of the mitral valve (in parasternal long-axis view they should lift up towards the septum very closely in diastole).



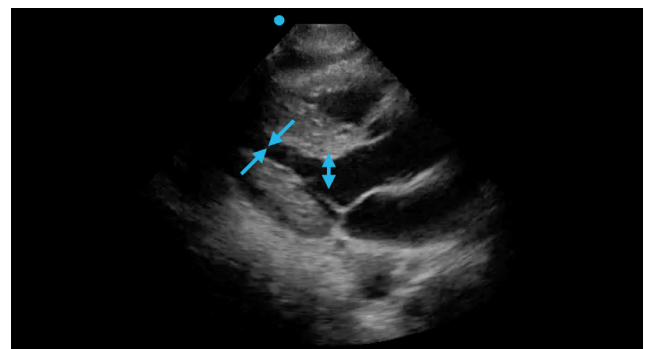
#### Hypodynamic

Notice how the walls of the left ventricle are far apart during systole, and the anterior leaflet of the mitral valve does not come close to the septum when it's open at its widest during diastole.



#### Hyperdynamic

Notice how the walls of the left ventricle touch each other during systole, and the anterior leaflet of the mitral valve comes up very close/touches the septum above as it opens.



#### Absent

There will not be organized movement of the ventricles or atria.