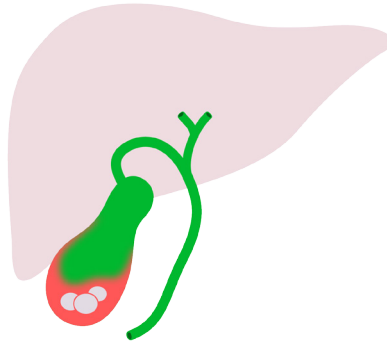
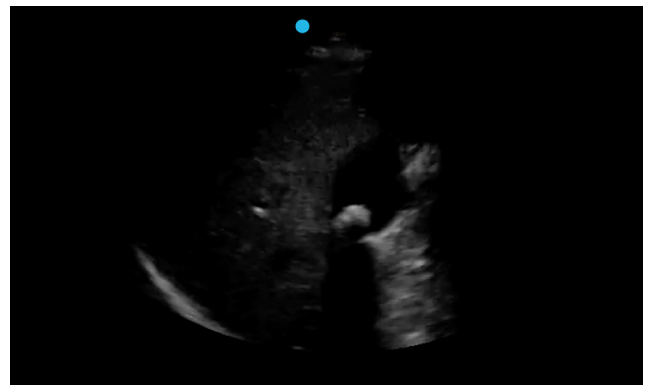


HEPATOBIILIARY

Evaluating for acute cholecystitis



Acute cholecystitis is most often caused by gallstones: bright, white, hyperechoic structures within the gallbladder, that will cast an anechoic shadow.



Signs of cholecystitis

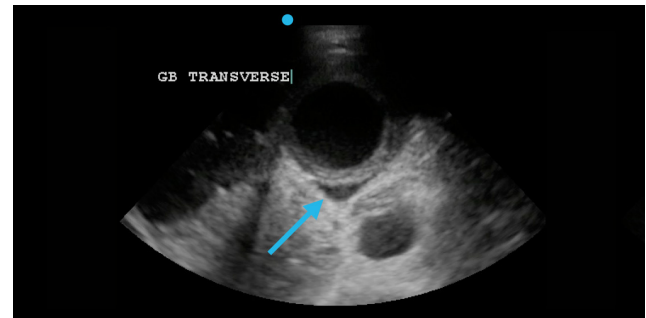
Sonographic Murphy sign

With your probe over the gallbladder, push on it; if it causes the most pain over the abdomen, this is positive sonographic Murphy sign.



Pericholecystic fluid

This is (often subtle) inflammatory fluid around the gallbladder.



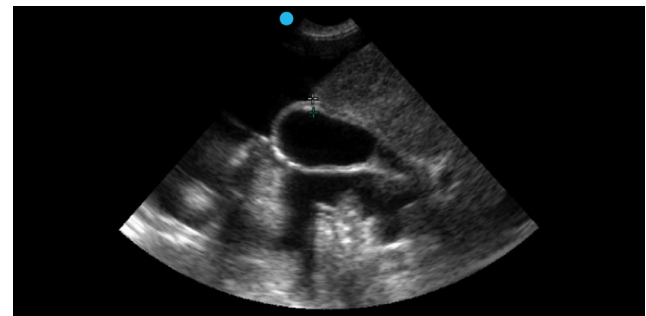
Pericholecystic fluid, short-axis view



Pericholecystic fluid, long-axis view

Anterior wall thickening

An anterior gallbladder wall thickness of less than 4 mm is normal.



Anterior gallbladder wall, acute cholecystitis

WES sign

The wall echo shadow (WES) sign indicates acute cholecystitis. Here, the gallbladder is full of stones, such that all you see is a large anechoic shadow.



WES sign, acute cholecystitis