

Point-of-care echocardiography

RECOGNIZING ENDOCARDITIS

In high-risk patients (intravenous drug use, known valvular disease, recent bacteremia), point-of-care echo can help diagnose endocarditis.

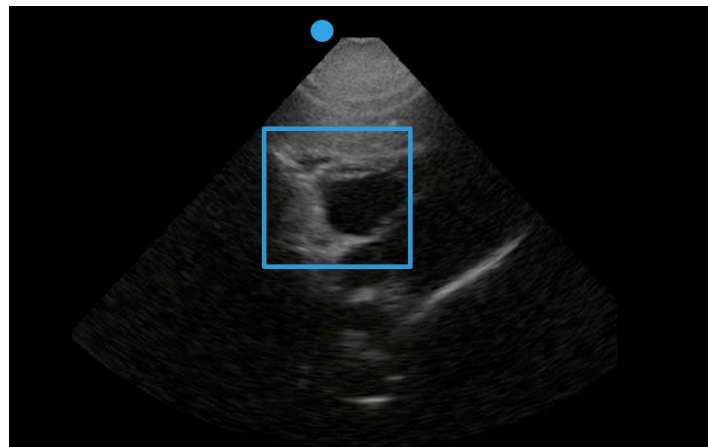
The sensitivity of transthoracic echocardiography is not adequate to exclude endocarditis. High-risk patients will need further testing.

Technique

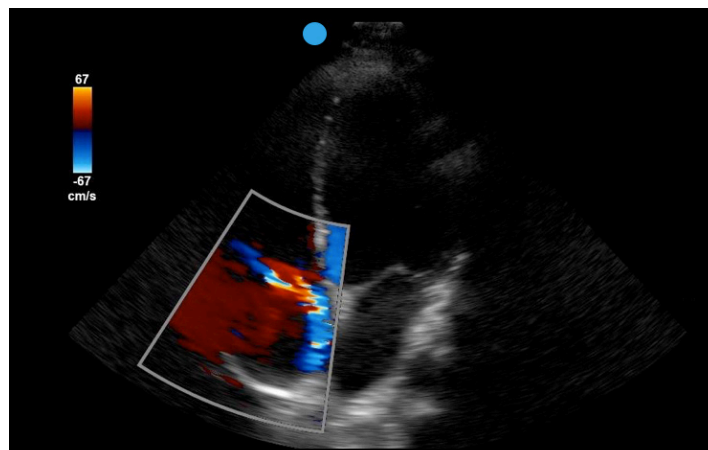
Use all of the parasternal, apical, and subxiphoid windows to increase sensitivity.

Look for

- presence of vegetation on a valve
- abnormal valve coaptation
- regurgitation with color Doppler



Vegetation



Regurgitation