

Vascular ultrasound

VISUALIZING THE AORTIC ARCH

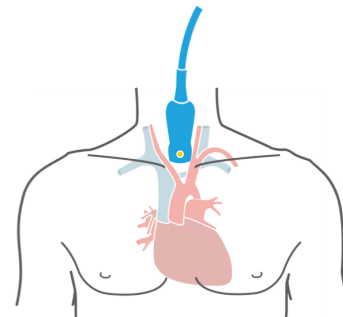
Point-of-care ultrasound can allow an immediate bedside diagnosis of an aortic dissection. This is especially helpful in an unstable patient who cannot be transported for other imaging.

In addition to standard transthoracic and abdominal views of the aorta, images of the aortic arch and ascending aorta can be obtained using the suprasternal and right parasternal windows.



Suprasternal window

Position the cardiac transducer in the suprasternal notch above the sternum and tilt the transducer anteriorly to obtain an image. Extending the patient's neck can improve the image.



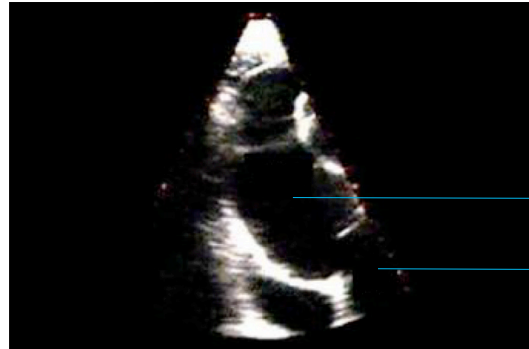
Long-axis view



Short-axis view

Right parasternal window

This window can allow greater visualization of the ascending aorta. It cannot be obtained in all patients. The transducer is placed to the right of the sternum in a long-axis orientation.



Ascending aorta

Left ventricle