

# Lung and pleura ultrasound

Craig Morris  
Derby

A large, abstract graphic element consists of several overlapping, flowing blue and white curves that resemble liquid or energy waves. These waves are positioned behind the contact information and extend across the width of the slide.

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# BMUS Assume know consolidation



Dependent area  
Supine patient  
Organification  
Air + fluid bronchograms  
Minimal aeration  
Associated effusion

- Lung ultrasound should be considered as an accurate tool in ruling in lung consolidation when compared with chest radiography.

B-D3-S6 (strong: level B)

- Lung ultrasound may be considered as an accurate tool in ruling out lung consolidation in comparison with chest radiography.

B-D3-S7 (no consensus: level C)

- Use of lung ultrasound as an initial diagnostic strategy in the evaluation of lung consolidation improves outcomes in comparison with chest radiography.

B-D3-S3 (strong: level N/A)

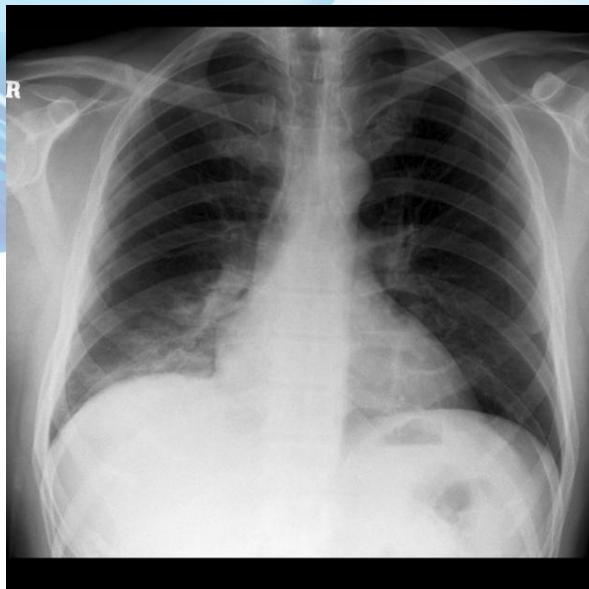
- Ultrasound diagnosis of lung consolidation may be considered as a basic sonographic technique with a steep learning curve.

B-D4-S6 (strong: level B)

- Lung ultrasound should be considered in the detection of radio-occult pulmonary conditions in patients with pleuritic pain.

# BMUS ☺ Don't have CAP “normal” CXR...

- We all know what CXR “misses”
- See on CT all time
- US comparable sensitivity to *PAL*



# Assume pleural effusions



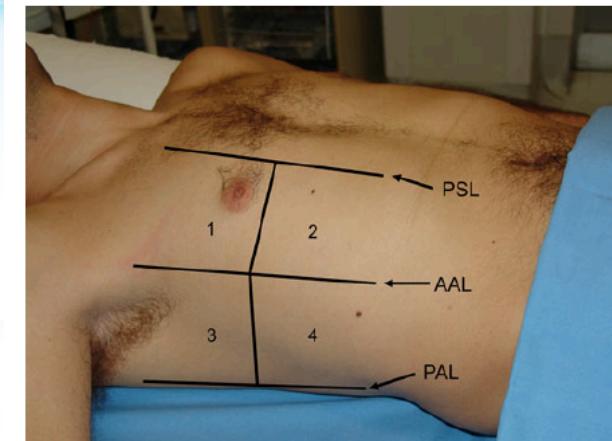
Black anechoic space  
Pleural thickening  
Associated consolidation  
Debris  
Fibrin stranding  
Jellyfish sign

## B-D4-S7 (strong: level A)

- In opacities identified by chest radiography, lung ultrasound should be used because it is more accurate than chest radiography in distinguishing between effusion and consolidation.

# BMUS Tips: effusion and consolidation

- White base CXR level 1 indication US
- Gravity: PLAPS
- Aeration and recruitment, PEEP
- All pneumococcus consolidation= lung abscess
- PE's are consolidation
- Can't say much more on effusion or consolidation without clinical info



**Fig. 2** The four chest areas per side considered for complete eight-zone lung ultrasound examination. These areas are used to evaluate for the presence of interstitial syndrome. Areas 1 and 2 denote the upper anterior and lower anterior chest areas, respectively. Areas 3 and 4 denote the upper lateral and basal lateral chest areas, respectively. *PSL* parasternal line, *AAL* anterior axillary line, *PAL* posterior axillary line (modified from Volpicelli et al. [19])

- Context to POC US
- Interstitial syd
- ARDS vs hydrostatic pulmonary oedema
- PTX
- PE
- Other applications



- Lichtenstein: BLUE FALLS protocols
- Volpicelli 2012 guidelines (No update?)
- RCR
- CUSIC FICE
- ACEP
- IFEM

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CONFERENCE REPORTS AND EXPERT PANEL

Giovanni Volpicelli  
Mahmoud Elbarbary  
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Lawrence Melniker  
Luna Gargani

**International evidence-based  
recommendations for point-of-care  
lung ultrasound**



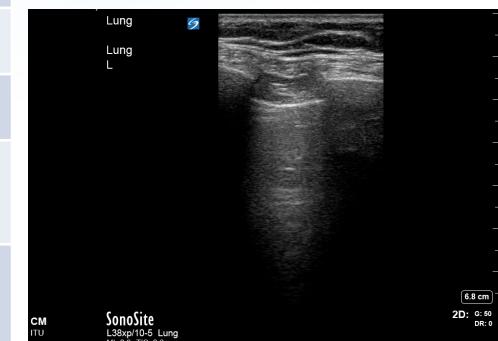
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<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22392031>  
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[https://www.rcr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/BFCR%2814%2917\\_Standards\\_ultrasound.pdf](https://www.rcr.ac.uk/sites/default/files/documents/BFCR%2814%2917_Standards_ultrasound.pdf)

# POC vs departmental

- Chest US a grey area?
- Evolving no clear referral pathway
- Adjuncts CXR, CT and biomarkers
- Most colleagues still want CXR!

POC	Departmental
Clinician led	Visiting specialist
Clinical question	Often poorly clarified indication
Binary answer	Want comprehensive study
Time dependent	A delivered service
May be repeated	Generally a one off
Supported by sub-specialists	Delivered by specialty. “Definitive”.
Additional tests or imaging	Discussed beforehand, best shot at answer



# A “new” artifact: the B line

- Normal= slide and A lines
- B lines
- >3 in 2 adjacent intercostals= AIS
- Associated pleural change
- Thickening interlobular septae



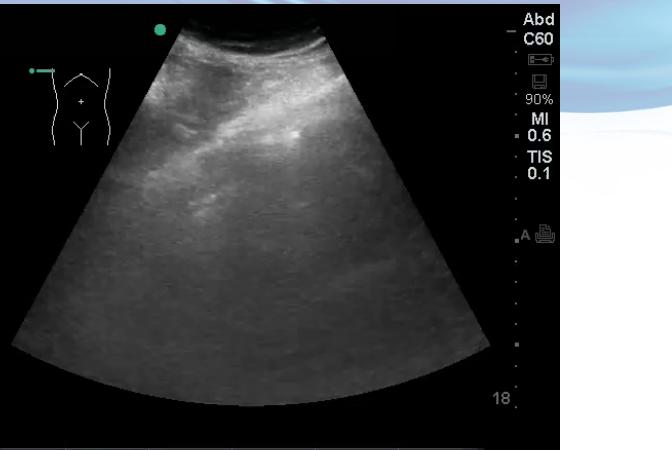
## B line: from the man himself

1. Comet tail artifact
2. Arises from pleural line
3. Hyperechoic
4. Well defined
5. Divergent
6. Dominant over A lines
7. Moves with lung sliding (if present)



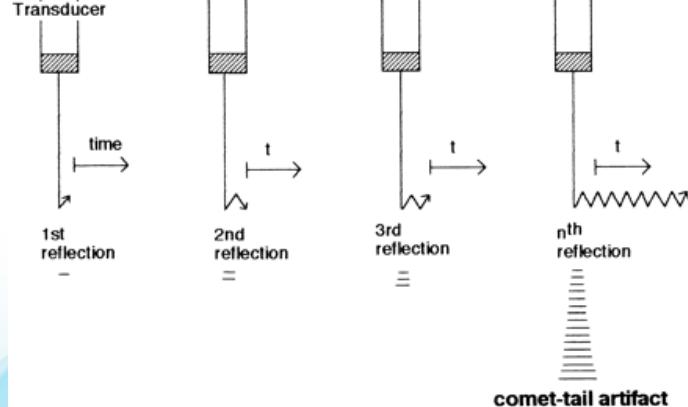
## Terminology

- B line one type comet tail artifact
- “Rockets” multiple B lines
- B7 7mm apart (moderate severity, interlobular septal thickening)
- B3 3mm apart (ground glass CT)
- Birolleau variant (severe, white out)



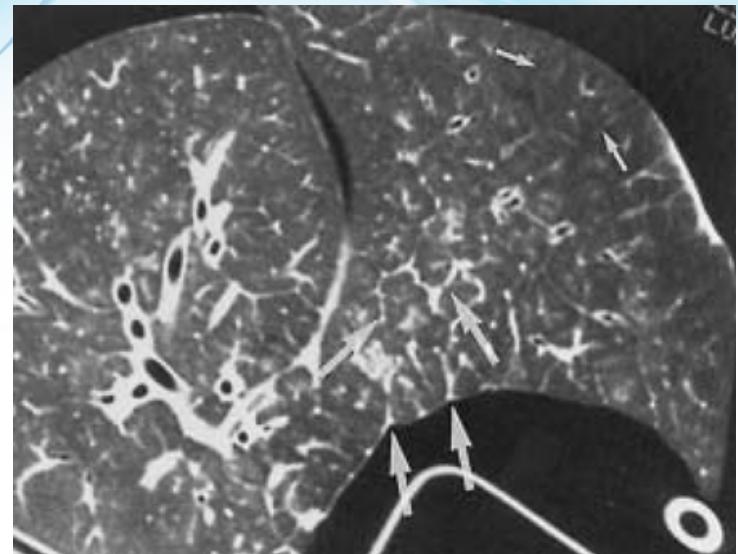
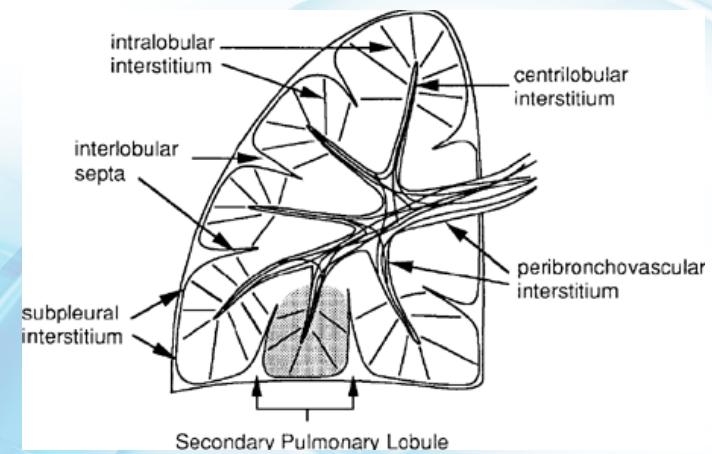
## Why do we get B lines?

- Not entirely sure!
- Not simply propagation (Z line)
- Don't fade distance
- US attenuated
- Likely resonance
- Variant ring down artifact
- “Streaks” off protein or crystals
- Telling us about pleura/ periphery?



# B line-thickening of interlobular septae

Arrows  
interlobular  
Septae enclosing  
a (secondary) lobule



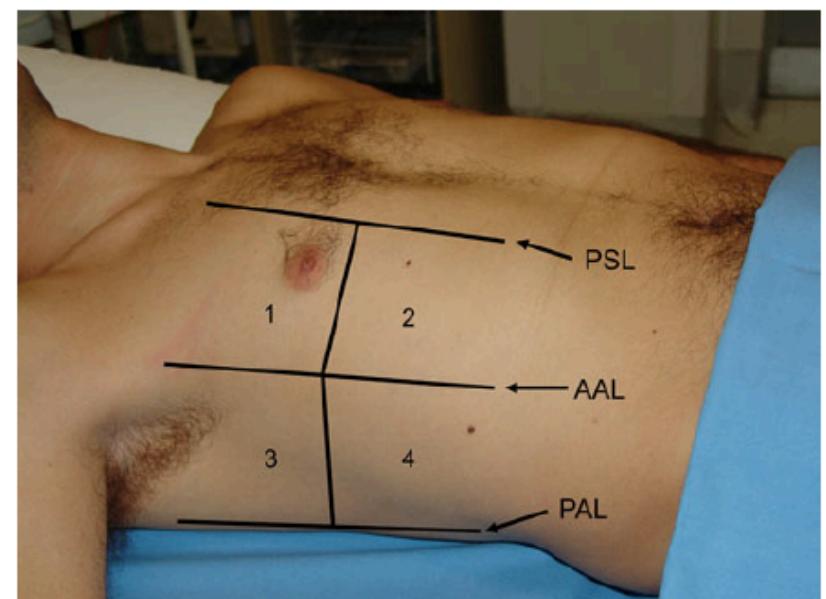
# What is a B line?

An idiot with a stethoscope is an idiot with US...



# Alveolar interstitial syndrome (AIS)

- 3 or more B lines
- 2 or more adjacent IC spaces



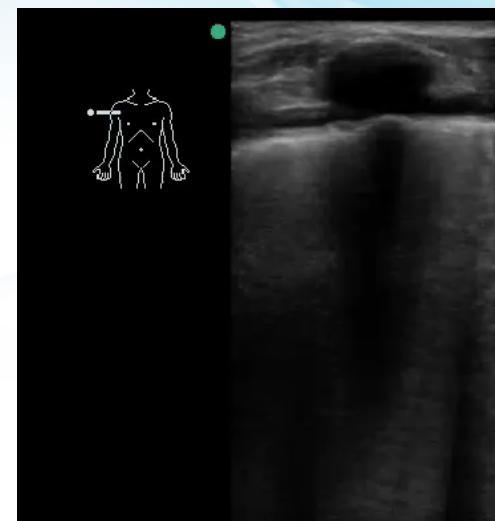
# BMUS Context: clinician advantage!

- Blines + 83 + CCF+ ST elevation= pulmonary oedema
- Blines + 25+ sepsis+ temp/WCC/CRP= CAP
- Lateralising and heterogenous
- +- consolidation/ PLAPS
- Echo findings
- Bloods



## B lines causes: interstitial changes

- Few “normal” esp dependent
- > 3 in >2 spaces AIS
- ARDS
- Pneumonia (+remote consolidation)
- LVF hydrostatic acute pulmonary oedema (HAPE)
- Lung fibrosis
- Malignancy
- Pneumonitis
- Atelectasis
- Contusion



## B lines non-specific sign AIS

Cath lab, IHD

Aspiration

O/P heart  
failure clinic

Confused  
Z line

Lung Ca  
RadioTx



Chest clinic  
Fibrosis  
Pleura disease

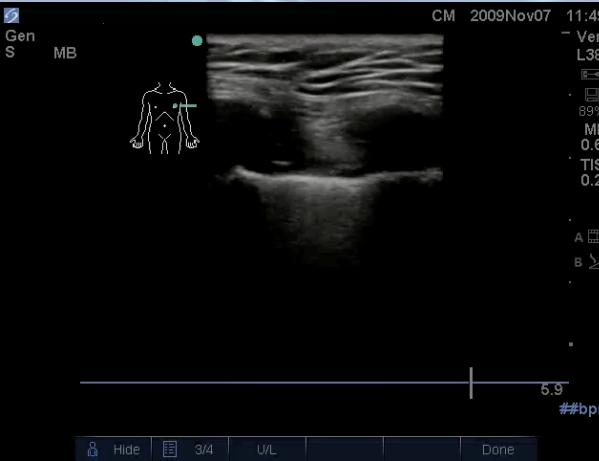
Few: normal

Failure to wean  
20l +ve

"ARDS"

VAP

- B lines exclude PTX
- Main differential LVF vs ARDS
- *Acute* SOB largely excludes resp cause  
(COPD/ asthma predominant A lines)
- Number= severity
- Disappear as get better
- Use linear array anteriorly
- Look worse low f probes



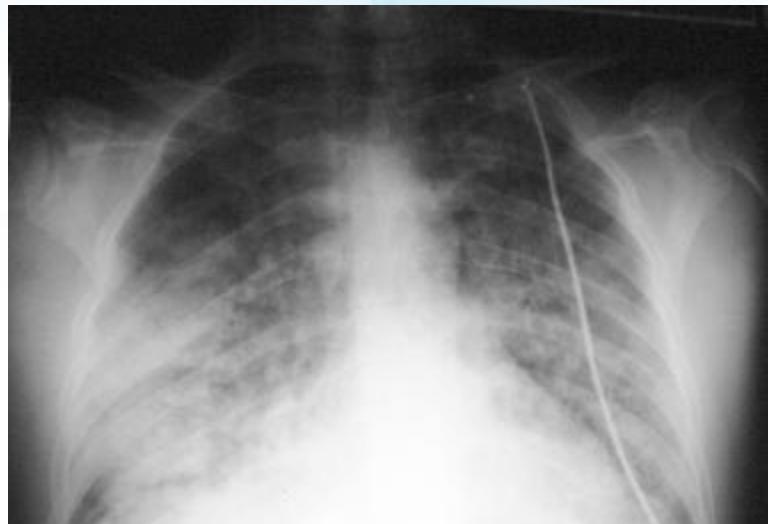
Z line



# HAPE vs ARDS

- Very difficult CXR
- Relatively easy US
- Interstitial syd and B lines
- Definition

ARDS sower onset and resolution  
More homogenous, CCF perihilar  
CCF “predominance” upper zones  
CCF cardiomegaly  
Often supine patient  
Pleural effusion universal in CCF



# The Radiologic Distinction of Cardiogenic and Noncardiogenic Edema

Improvement in the ability to determine the specific cause of any given case of pulmonary edema would lead to more rapid and definitive treatment. "Wedge" pressures and measurements of cardiac output derived from Swan-Ganz catheterization assist in making this determination, but the procedure is invasive, expensive, associated with complications, and not infrequently inaccurate. A plain chest film is, however, almost invariably available in all patients with pulmonary edema, and as shown in this study, the cause of the edema can be determined with a high degree of accuracy by careful attention to certain radiographic features. An independent two-observer study was performed on 216 chest radiographs of 61 patients with cardiac disease, 30 with renal failure or overhydration, and 28 with capillary permeability edema. Three principal and seven ancillary features have been identified, all of which are statistically significant and permit the cause of the edema to be determined correctly in a high percentage of cases. The three principal features are distribution of pulmonary flow, distribution of pulmonary edema, and the width of the vascular pedicle. The ancillary features are pulmonary blood volume, peribronchial cuffing, septal lines, pleural effusions, air bronchograms, lung volume, and cardiac size. Differing constellations of these features occur, each of which is characteristic of a specific type of edema. Overall accuracy of diagnosis in this study ranged from 86% to 89%. The highest accuracy was obtained in distinguishing capillary permeability edema from all other varieties (91%), and the lowest in distinguishing chronic cardiac failure from renal failure (81%).

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Massimo Pistolesi<sup>2</sup>  
Massimo Miniati<sup>2</sup>  
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AJR 144:879-894, May 1985  
0361-803X/85/1445-0879  
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**TABLE 3: Radiographic Features of Pulmonary Edema**

	Cardiac	Renal	Injury
Heart size . . . . .	Enlarged	Enlarged	Not enlarged
Vascular pedicle . . . . .	Normal or enlarged	Enlarged	Normal or reduced
Pulmonary blood flow distribution . . . . .	Inverted	Balanced	Normal or balanced
Pulmonary blood volume . . . . .	Normal or increased	Increased	Normal
Septal lines . . . . .	Not common	Not common	Absent
Peribronchial cuffs . . . . .	Very common	Very common	Not common
Air bronchogram . . . . .	Not common	Not common	Very common
Lung edema, regional distribution (horizontal axis) . . . . .	Even	Central	Peripheral
Pleural effusions . . . . .	Very common	Very common	Not common

Note.—Each factor listed has been shown to have statistical significance in determining which type of edema is present.

- Common acute dilemma
- “Impossible” CXR!
- ARDS requires absent ↑ LAP + acute infiltrates
- Acute infiltrates LVF + ARDS very similar
- ↑ LAP depends on circumstances
- Could US help?



*How can there be a biomarker for what is  
imaginary?*

**Table 1.** ARDS Berlin definition.

The Berlin definition of acute respiratory distress syndrome	
Timing	Within 1 week of a known clinical insult or new or worsening respiratory symptoms
Chest imaging <sup>a</sup>	Bilateral opacities — not fully explained by effusions, lobar/lung collapse, or nodules
Origin of edema	Respiratory failure not fully explained by cardiac failure or fluid overload. Need objective assessment (e.g., echocardiography) to exclude hydrostatic edema if no risk factor present
Oxygenation <sup>b</sup>	
Mild	$200 \text{ mmHg} < \text{PaO}_2/\text{FIO}_2 \leq 300 \text{ mmHg}$ with PEEP or CPAP $\geq 5 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}^c$
Moderate	$100 \text{ mmHg} < \text{PaO}_2/\text{FIO}_2 \leq 200 \text{ mmHg}$ with PEEP $\geq 5 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$
Severe	$\text{PaO}_2/\text{FIO}_2 \leq 100 \text{ mmHg}$ with PEEP $\geq 5 \text{ cmH}_2\text{O}$

Abbreviations: CPAP, continuous positive airway pressure; F<sub>i</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, fraction of inspired oxygen; PaO<sub>2</sub>, partial pressure of arterial oxygen; PEEP, positive end-expiratory pressure; <sup>a</sup>Chest radiograph or computed tomography scan; <sup>b</sup>If altitude is higher than 1,000 m, the correction factor should be calculated as follows: [PaO<sub>2</sub>/FIO<sub>2</sub>—(barometric pressure/760)]; <sup>c</sup>This may be delivered noninvasively in the mild acute respiratory distress syndrome group.

## Radiography

Chest radiograph findings of ARDS vary widely depending on the stage of the disease. The most common chest radiograph findings are bilateral, predominantly peripheral, somewhat asymmetrical consolidation with air bronchograms. Septal lines and pleural effusions, however, are uncommon. Differential diagnosis considerations include pneumonias such as those due to aspiration, diffuse alveolar hemorrhage, and pulmonary edema of any cause. (See the images below.)<sup>[10, 11, 12]</sup>

findings are an integral part of the diagnosis. In fact, the Berlin definition statement underlined the limits of chest radiographs, recommending that chest radiograph criteria should be better clarified by creating a set of example radiographs [1, 3].

	ALI/ARDS	APE
AIS	100%	100%
Pleural line abnormalities	100%	25%
Reduction or absence of lung sliding	100%	0%
"Spared areas"	100%	0%
Consolidations	83.3%	0%
Pleural effusion	66.6%	95%
"Lung pulse"	50%	0%

**Conclusion:** Pleuroparenchimal patterns in ALI/ARDS do find a characterization through ultrasonographic lung scan. In the critically ill the ultrasound demonstration of a dyshomogeneous AIS with spared areas, pleural line modifications and lung consolidations is strongly predictive, in an early phase, of non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema.

TABLE 3: Radiographic Features of Pulmonary Edema

	Cardiac	Renal	Injury
Heart size . . . . .	Enlarged	Enlarged	Not enlarged
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Lung edema, regional distribution (horizontal axis) . . . . .	Even	Central	Peripheral
Pleural effusions . . . . .	Very common	Very common	Not common

Note.—Each factor listed has been shown to have statistical significance in determining which type of edema is present.

Linear array probe  
Harsh settings  
5-6 cm

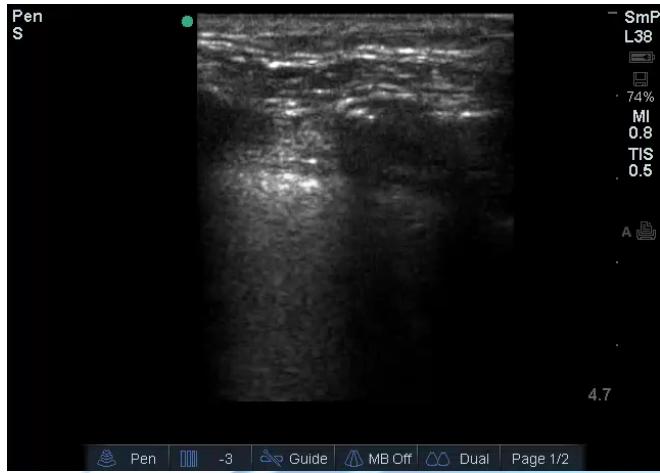
AIS  
? Hydrostatic APE  
? ARDS

### ARDS

Pleural abnormalities  
Spared patches  
Subpleural consolidation  
PLAPS  
2/3 pleural effusion  
Lung pulse  
Dependent preference

### Hydrostatic APE

Homogenous  
No sparing  
All areas  
95% pleural effusion  
No consolidation



## ARDS

- Pleural abnormalities
- Spared patches
- Subpleural consolidation
- PLAPS
- 2/3 pleural effusion
- Lung pulse
- Dependent preference



## Hydrostatic APE

- Homogenous
- No sparing
- All areas
- 95% pleural effusion
- No consolidation

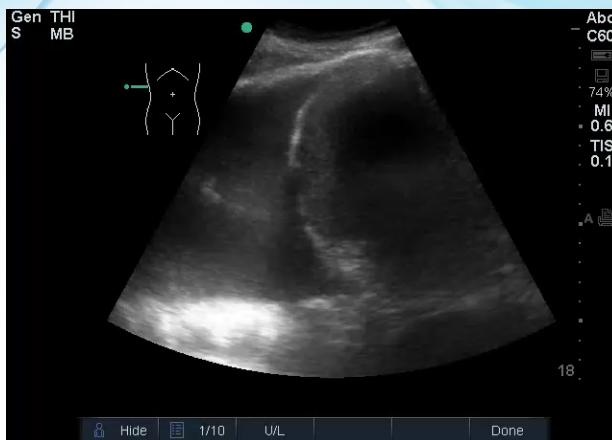
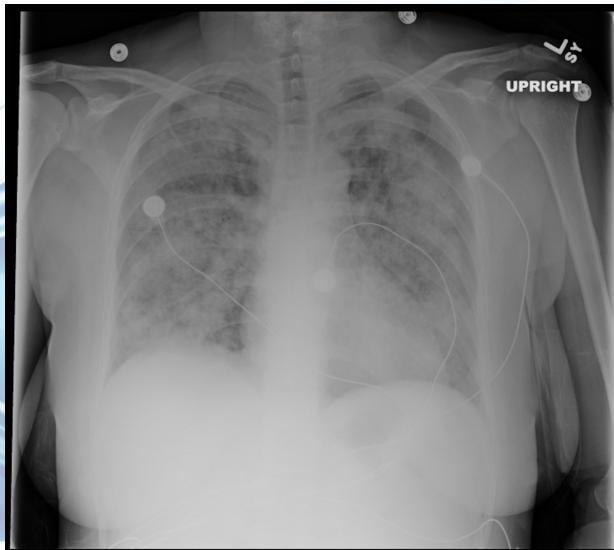
CXR looks “wet”



Clinical + CXR +  
Lung US=  
powerful combination

Hydrostatic or non-hydrostatic pulmonary oedema  
VAP? US helps

# Comets Pneumonia PLAPS= ARDS, not HAPE

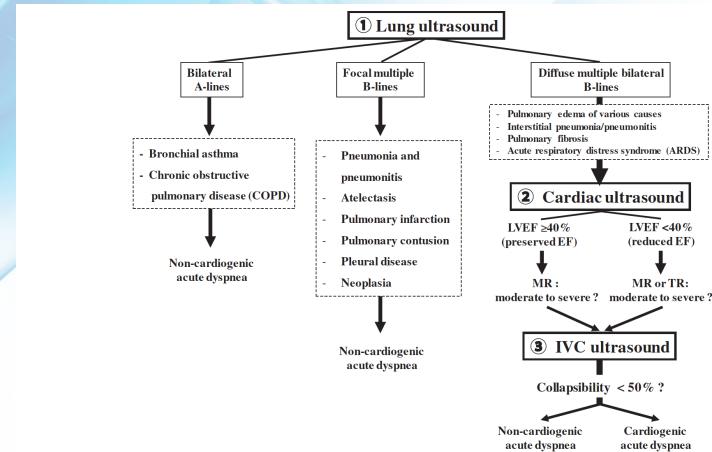


RESEARCH

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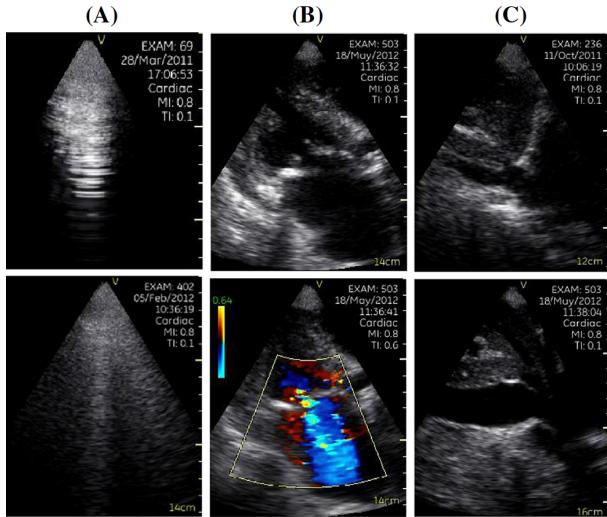
## Rapid evaluation by lung-cardiac-inferior vena cava (LCI) integrated ultrasound for differentiating heart failure from pulmonary disease as the cause of acute dyspnea in the emergency setting

Katsuya Kajimoto<sup>1\*</sup>, Keiko Madeen<sup>1</sup>, Tomoko Nakayama<sup>2</sup>, Hiroki Tsudo<sup>3</sup>, Tadahide Kuroda<sup>1</sup> and Takashi Abe<sup>3</sup>



**Figure 1** Algorithm for the diagnosis of acute dyspnea based on the lung-cardiac-inferior vena cava integrated ultrasound. LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; MR = mitral regurgitation; TR = tricuspid regurgitation; IVC = inferior vena cava.

The duration of LCI-integrated ultrasound examination was always less than 3 minutes (Figure 1) [14]. The images



**Table 2 Plasma BNP, lung ultrasound alone or combined with BNP, cardiac findings, and the LCI integrated ultrasound for diagnosis of AHFS**

	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	NPV (%)	PPV (%)	Accuracy (%)
BNP ≥100 pg/ml	92.4	35.1	76.4	67.1	68.8
Framingham criteria*	79.2	56.7	65.6	64.6	70.0
Lung ultrasound alone	96.2	54.0	90.9	75.0	78.8
Both Lung ultrasound and BNP (≥100 pg/ml)	88.6	67.6	80.6	79.8	80.0
Reduced EF (LVEF <40%)	26.4	86.5	45.1	73.7	51.1
MR or TR ≥ moderate	92.4	81.0	88.2	87.5	87.7
IVC collapsibility <50%	83.0	81.1	76.9	86.3	82.2
Both preserved EF and MR ≥ moderate	56.7	100.0	61.6	100.0	67.0
Both reduced EF and either MR or TR ≥ moderate	30.1	94.5	48.6	88.9	56.7
Lung-cardiac-inferior vena cava (LCI) integrated ultrasound	94.3	91.9	91.9	94.3	93.3

\* Two major or one major and two minor criteria. BNP = brain natriuretic peptide; LCI = lung-cardiac-inferior vena cava; AHFS = acute heart failure syndromes; NPV = negative predictive value; PPV = positive predictive value; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; IVC = inferior vena cava; MR = mitral regurgitation; TR = tricuspid regurgitation.

- Not my area chest disease
- HRCT at diagnosis
- Serial assessment
- Resource poor settings (strong level B)
- In cardiogenic pulmonary oedema semi-quantitative severity may be obtained by evaluating number of B lines... and response to therapy (strong level A)
- In critically ill 4 signs identify progression consolidation, coalesced B lines, spread out B lines, normal (strong level A)

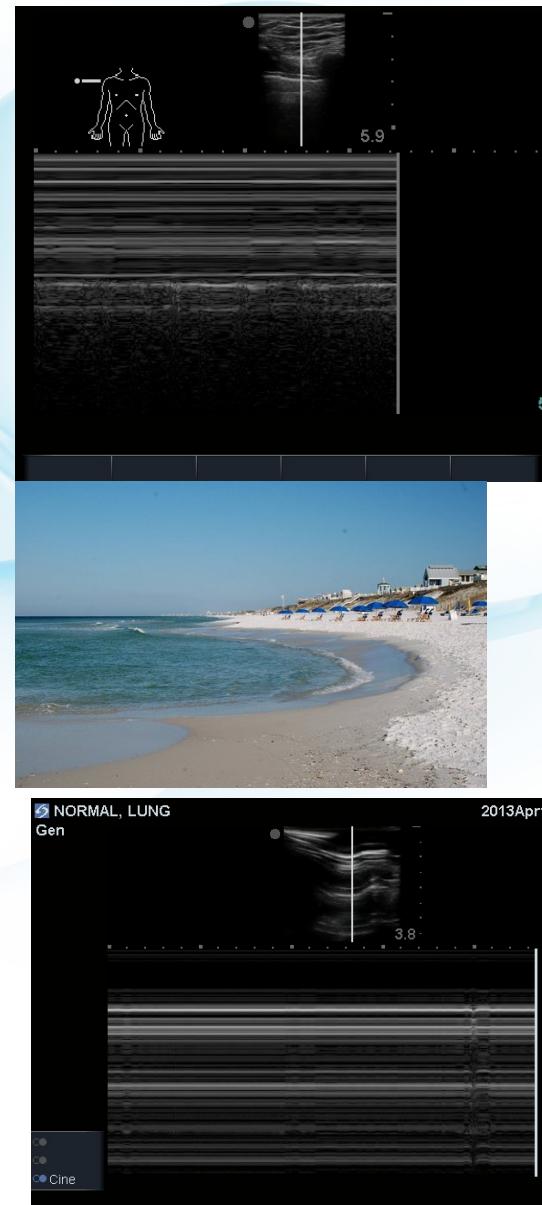
- This is tricky!
- Rule out test
- Seen more cock ups than I'd like
- Most people with reduced pleural slide have reasons other than PTX...
- ... and are patients who typically might have PTX
- Still role clever use CXR and or CT

- Pleural slide
- Sparks
- A lines
- B lines
- Cardiac pulsation
- M mode seashore sign
- RULE OUT

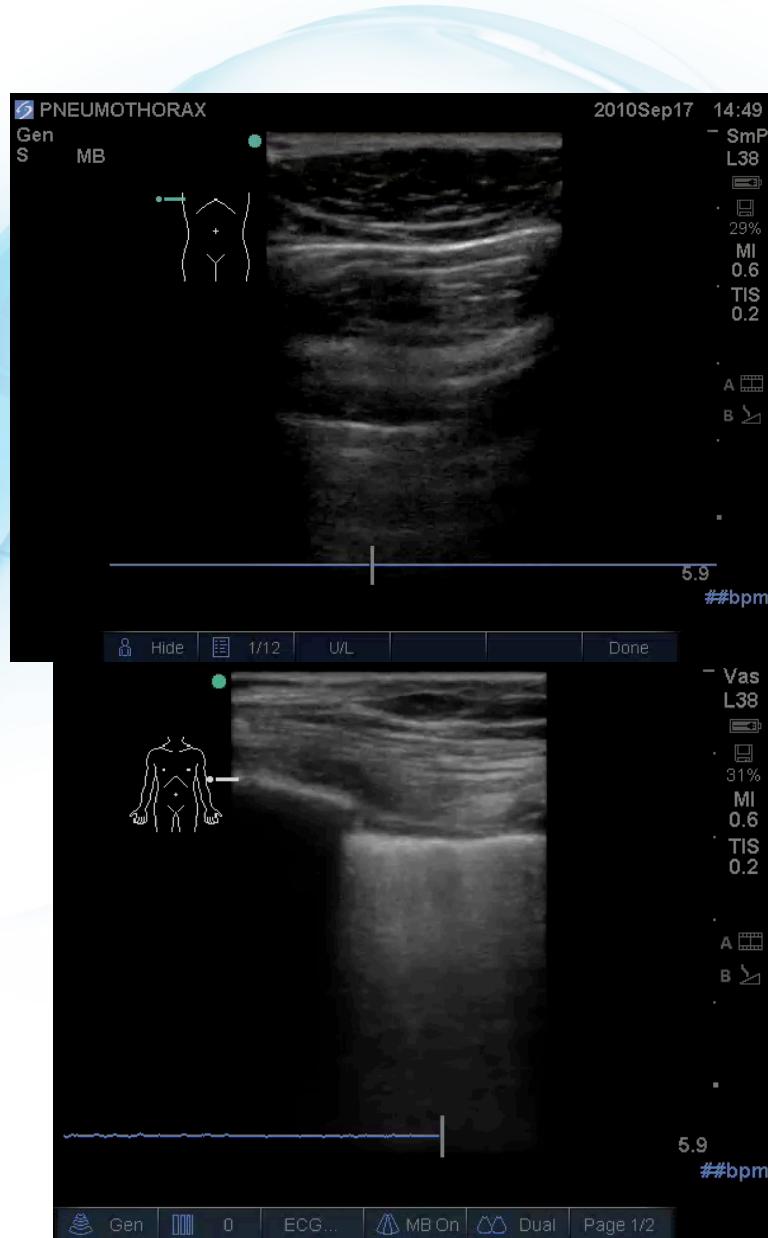


# BMUS M mode normal: the seashore

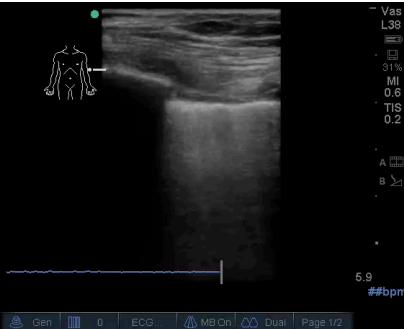
- Not a “solution”
- Visual enhancement of normal
- I much prefer 2D
- New machines ambiguous
- Everything below pleura is artifact
- Scatter



- All signs are -ve: rule out test
- No slide
- No B lines
- No pulsation
- (apart from lung point)

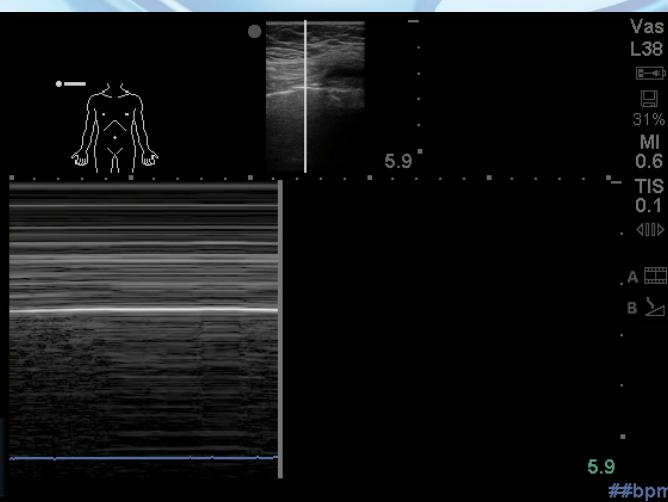


- High reflection
- Reverberation
- A lines (no B lines)

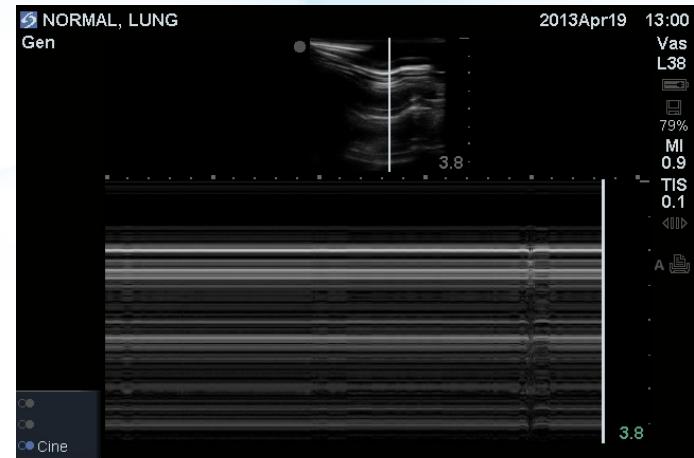
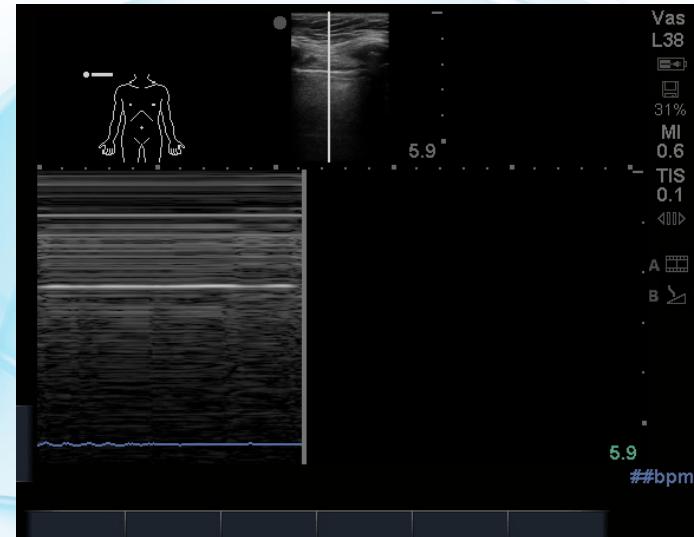


# PTX and reverberation

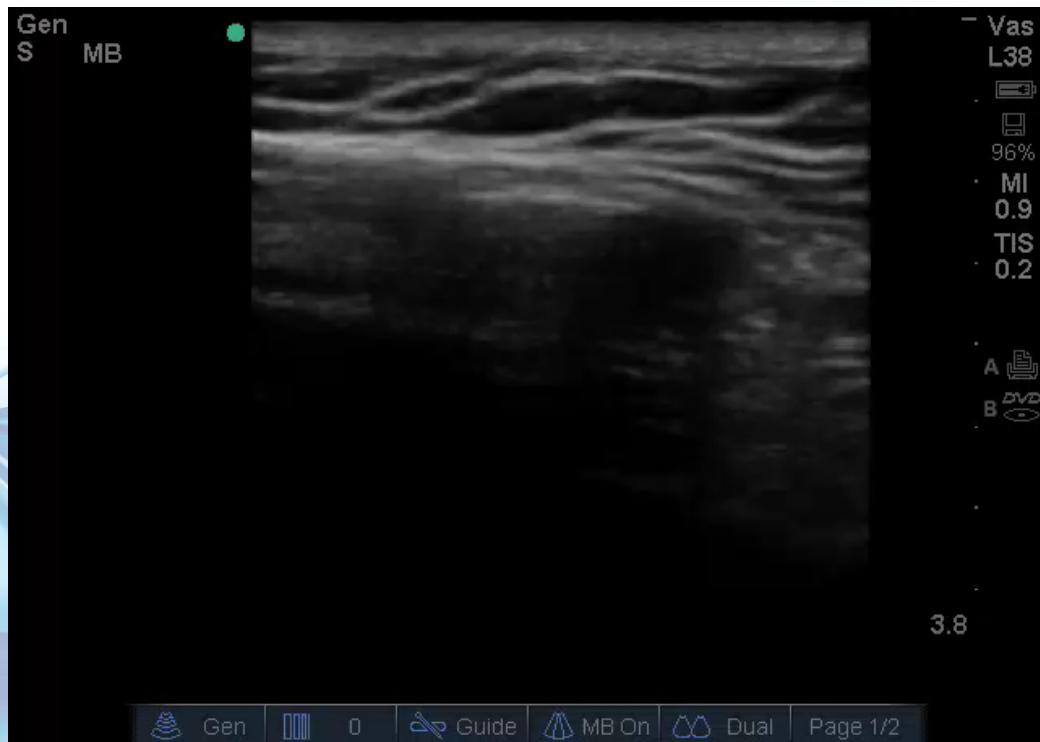
- M-mode
- Sea
- Compare with normal



Believe me  
Known PTX  
Not lung point  
Varies



- Use your eyes: watch and wait
- Manual ventilation
- M mode little use
- Forget power Doppler
- US often equivocal= rule out test!
- Surgical emphysema ruins everything
- Considering impact of bronchopleural fistula... the adage that there shouldn't be a CXR of a tension PTX is questionable...



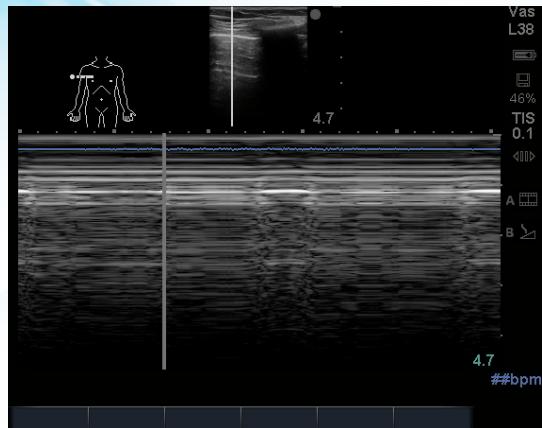
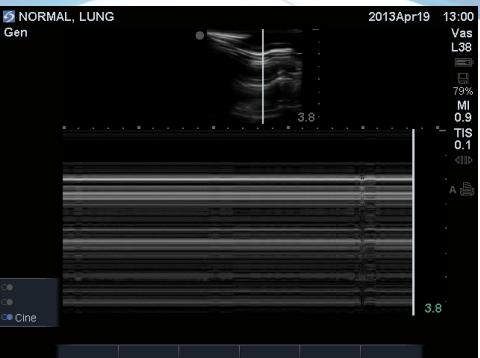
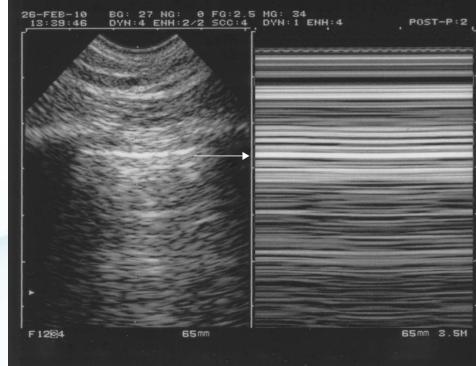
Looks like pleura line  
Above ribs  
Chest wall tissues  
Not PTX  
Surgical emphysema  
E line  
Important as often *could* PTX





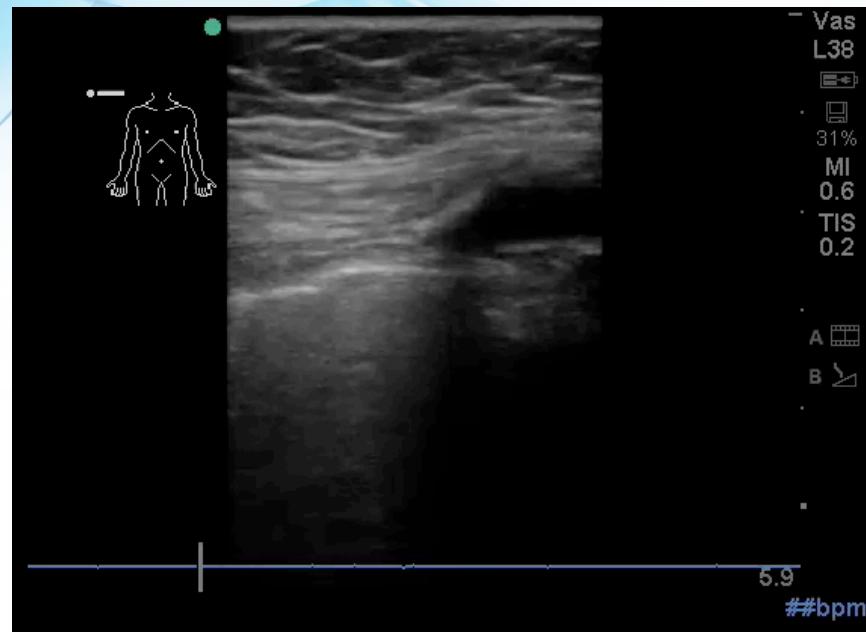
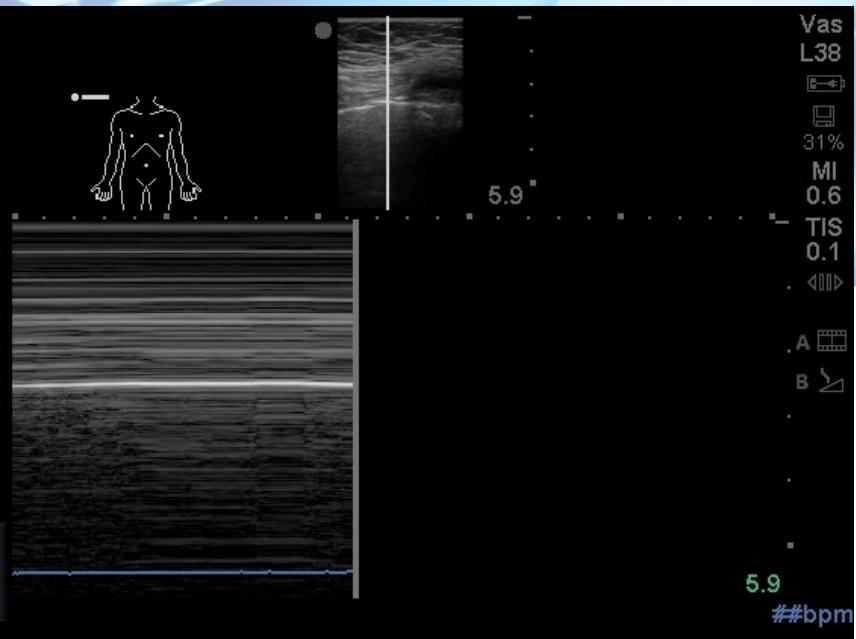
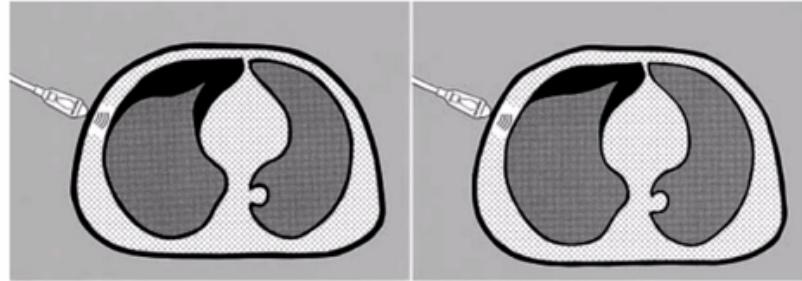
# Problem “new” machines!

- Too good!
- Most PoC= departmental standard few years ago
- Lichtenstein Hitachi microconvex
- M mode ambiguous



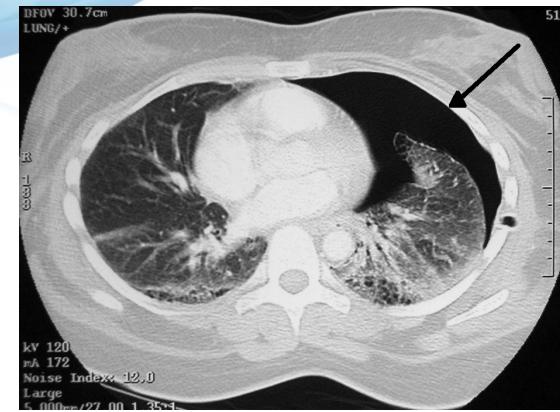
# The lung point

- Only +ve sign
- Lichtenstein 90%
- Me 90% don't!



# Don't know how big PTX!

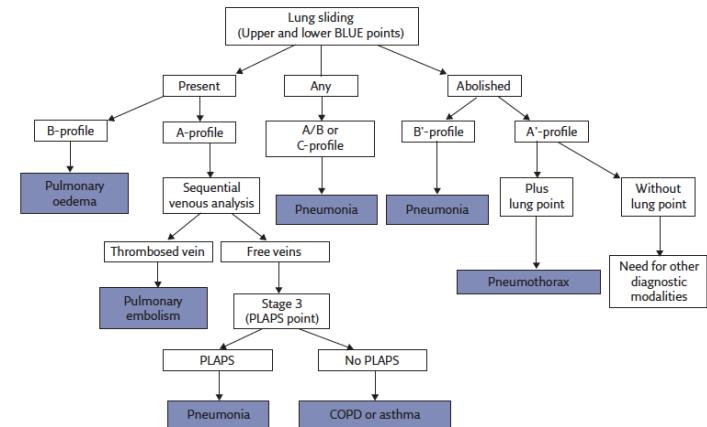
- All tells you lost contact
- Might be few mm off
- Loculations/ bullae/ consolidation
- CT helps
- Best site for drain



# Other applications lung US

- DVT
- PE
- Weaning
- Diaphragm movement
- Shock protocols

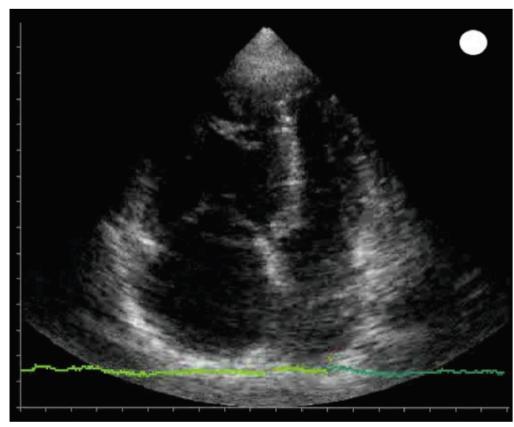
- Not a big fan!
- Poor sensitivity
- Lichtenstein PE diagnosed leg scan...
- 80% sensitive
- CTPA here to stay
- Cardiac arrest changes pre-test probability



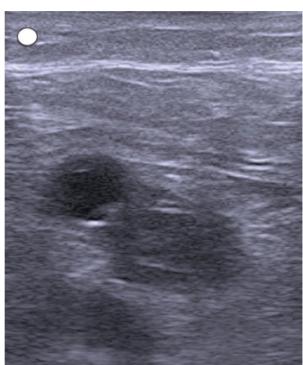
e-Figure 1.



e-Figure 2.

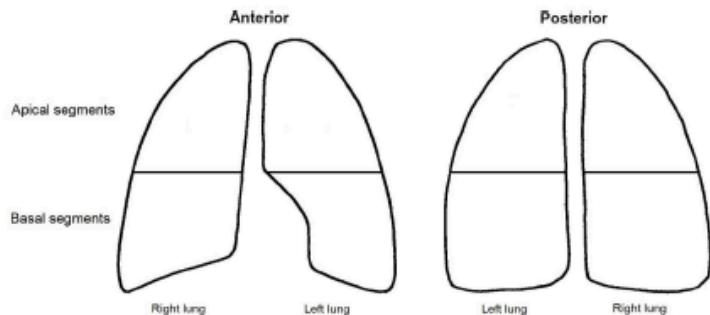


e-Figure 3.



e-Figure 4. Standardized form

Patient number	Date	Investigator
Lung ultrasonography		
Subpleural infarcts	Negative	Positive
Insert a Δ for each detected subpleural infarct		



**Heart ultrasonography** Not feasible (bad acoustic window)

Right ventricular dilatation (right/left ventricular end-diastolic diameter ratio >0.9 in the apical four-chamber or in the subcostal view or right ventricular end-diastolic diameter >30 mm in the parasternal view)

Negative	Positive	
Right cavities thrombi	Negative	Positive
Pericardial effusion	Negative	Positive
Aortic dissection	Negative	Positive

**Leg veins ultrasonography for deep vein thrombosis (femoral and popliteal veins)**

Negative If positive: right left

**Alternative US diagnosis if multi-organ US negative for PE**

Pericardial effusion	Aortic dissection	Pleural effusion
Pneumonia	Diffuse interstitial syndrome	

Test	Sensitivity	Specificity
Multi organ US	90%	86%
Lung US	61%	96%
Echo	33%	91%
Veins	53%	98%

Among the 132 patients (37%) with multiorgan ultrasonography negative for PE plus an alternative ultrasonographic diagnosis or plus a negative D-dimer result, no patients received PE as a final diagnosis.

**Conclusions:** Multiorgan ultrasonography is more sensitive than single-organ ultrasonography, increases the accuracy of clinical pretest probability estimation in patients with suspected PE, and may safely reduce the MCTPA burden.

**Trial registry:** ClinicalTrials.gov; No.: NCT01635257; URL: [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)

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**Abbreviations:** MCTPA = multidetector CT pulmonary angiography; PE = pulmonary embolism

# Summary

- B line
- AIS
- HAPE vs ARDS
- PTX
- PE other applications
- Great adjunct
- Not a magic wand!

# Thank you!



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