

# An atlas of ultrasound colour flow imaging

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**What is color flow imaging in ultrasound?** Color flow imaging is a vascular technology used to assess the vascular anatomy and flow within blood vessels. It relies on ultrasonographic technology to determine the flow direction, volume, and turbulence through the vessels.

**What is the purpose of the color map in color flow imaging?** Traditionally, red is the color assigned to flow towards the transducer, and blue is assigned to flow away from the transducer. Shades of each color are then used to depict relative velocity, with lighter shades depicting faster flow in each direction. However, these color maps can be adjusted and even inverted.

**What is the difference between a normal ultrasound and a color ultrasound?** A standard ultrasound produces images, but it doesn't show blood flow like a Doppler ultrasound. The different types of Doppler ultrasounds include: Color Doppler: A computer changes the sound waves into different colors to show the direction of blood flow.

**What does "no color flow" on ultrasound mean?** The absence of color Doppler flow is assigned a color score of 1, and is considered benign (B-feature). The color score increases with the amount of color flow seen, up to a color score of 4 (very strong blood flow), which can indicate a malignant or M-feature.

**What color is a tumor on ultrasound?** Cysts, lumps and tumours will all appear as darker spots on your ultrasound images, compared to the lighter grey and white tissue of the breast. However, a darkened area does not necessarily indicate cancer. Fluid-filled benign cysts and non-cancerous lumps can also be detected by an ultrasound.

**What problems can an abdominal ultrasound show?** For example, an abdominal ultrasound can help determine the cause of stomach pain or bloating. It can help check for kidney stones, liver disease, tumors and many other conditions. Your provider may recommend this test if you're at risk of an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

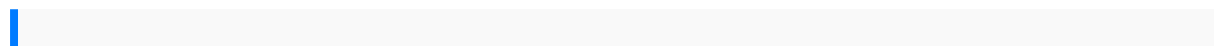
**What does a healthy uterus look like on ultrasound?** The normal size of a uterus is around 6-10 cm in length and 3-5 cm in depth. Echotexture or echopattern describes the ultrasound appearance of the uterus. The appearance can be normal or heterogeneous due to some myometrial pathology, for example fibroids or adenomyosis.

**What is the purpose of a color Doppler ultrasound?** The Colour Doppler test is a diagnostic technique that creates an image from sound waves. It provides information about the speed, movement and direction of blood flow. Your doctors will use this test to check for blockages and clots in your blood vessels.

**What is the positive color flow?** Flow that travels away from the transducer (negative Doppler shift) is depicted in blue, and flow that is traveling toward the transducer (positive Doppler shift) is depicted in red, with lighter shades of each color denoting higher velocities.

**What is the difference between color flow and spectral Doppler?** Colour Doppler shows the direction of the blood flow in red or blue (either towards or away from the transducer). Meanwhile, spectral Doppler not only shows the direction of blood flow, it also shows the phases (pulsatility) and acceleration of the blood flow.

**What is the benefit of applying color Doppler to an ultrasound image?** It uses a color map to display the speed and direction of blood flow within the vessels. This information can help to identify abnormalities such as blockages, narrowing of blood vessels, or abnormal blood flow patterns.



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