

# Mezzi di contrasto ecografici: fisica e applicazioni cliniche



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**Ecografia con  
contrasto (CEUS)**

**Mezzo di contrasto  
ecografico**

**Apparecchiatura  
dedicata**

# **Mezzo di contrastو ecografico**



E' una sospensione acquosa di  
**microbolle gassose** stabilizzate  
mediante un **guscio** di varia  
composizione

## Ultrasound contrast agents (UCAs) currently approved by the European Medicines Agency for use in European countries

**Levovist** : introduced in 1996. Production of levovist has been discontinued.

**Optison**: sole indication to date is cardiac

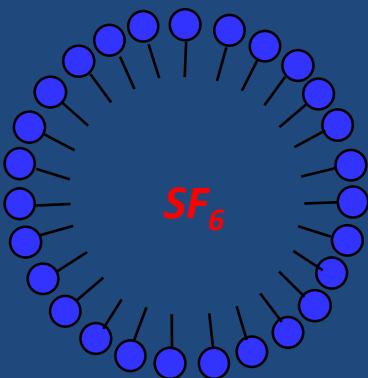
**Luminity**: sole indication to date is cardiac

**SonoVue**: approved indications are cardiac, macrovascular, liver and breast lesions. This is the main agent in general use.

# SonoVue

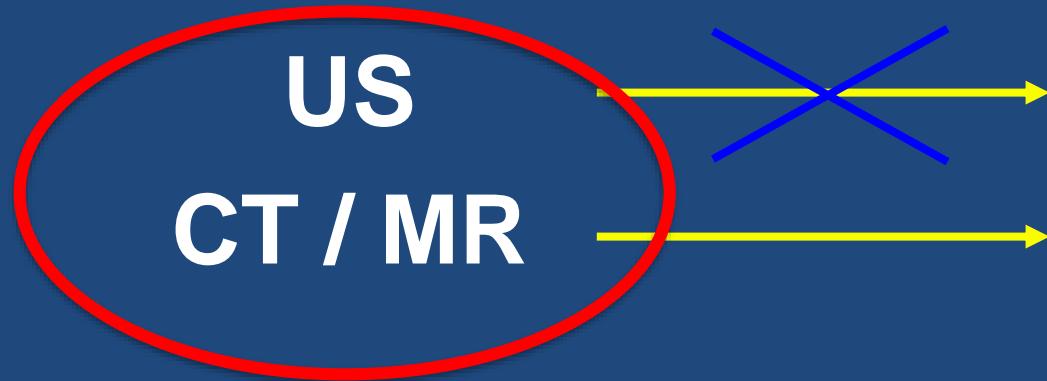
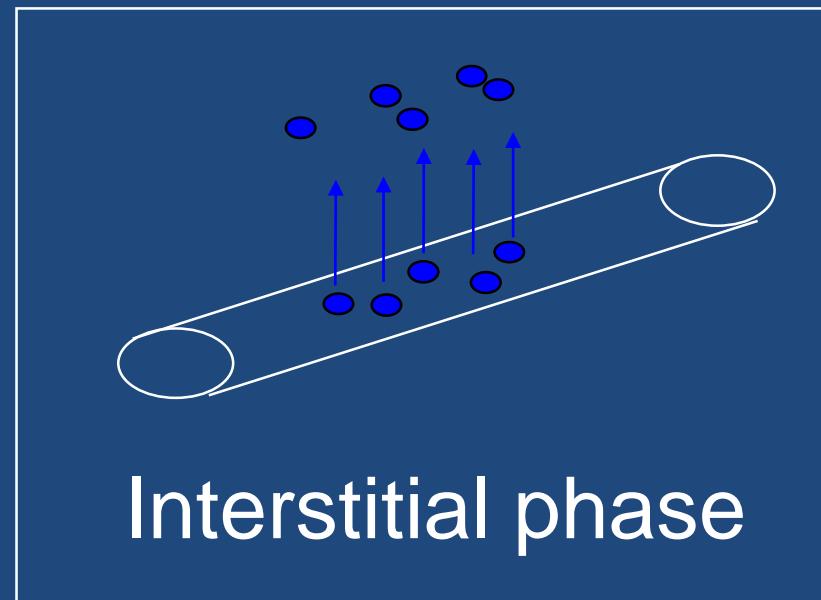
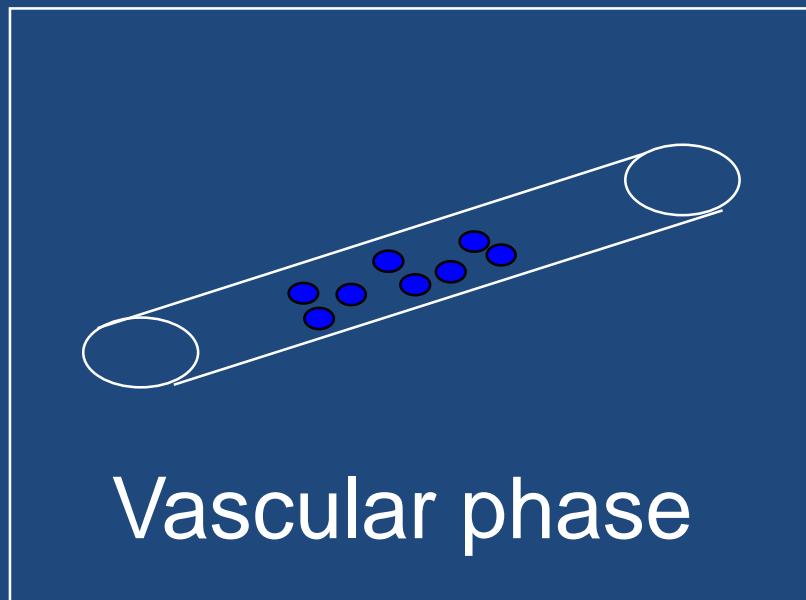


Il gas è **esafluoruro di zolfo**, gas inerte più denso dell' aria, ed il guscio è costituito da fosfolipidi

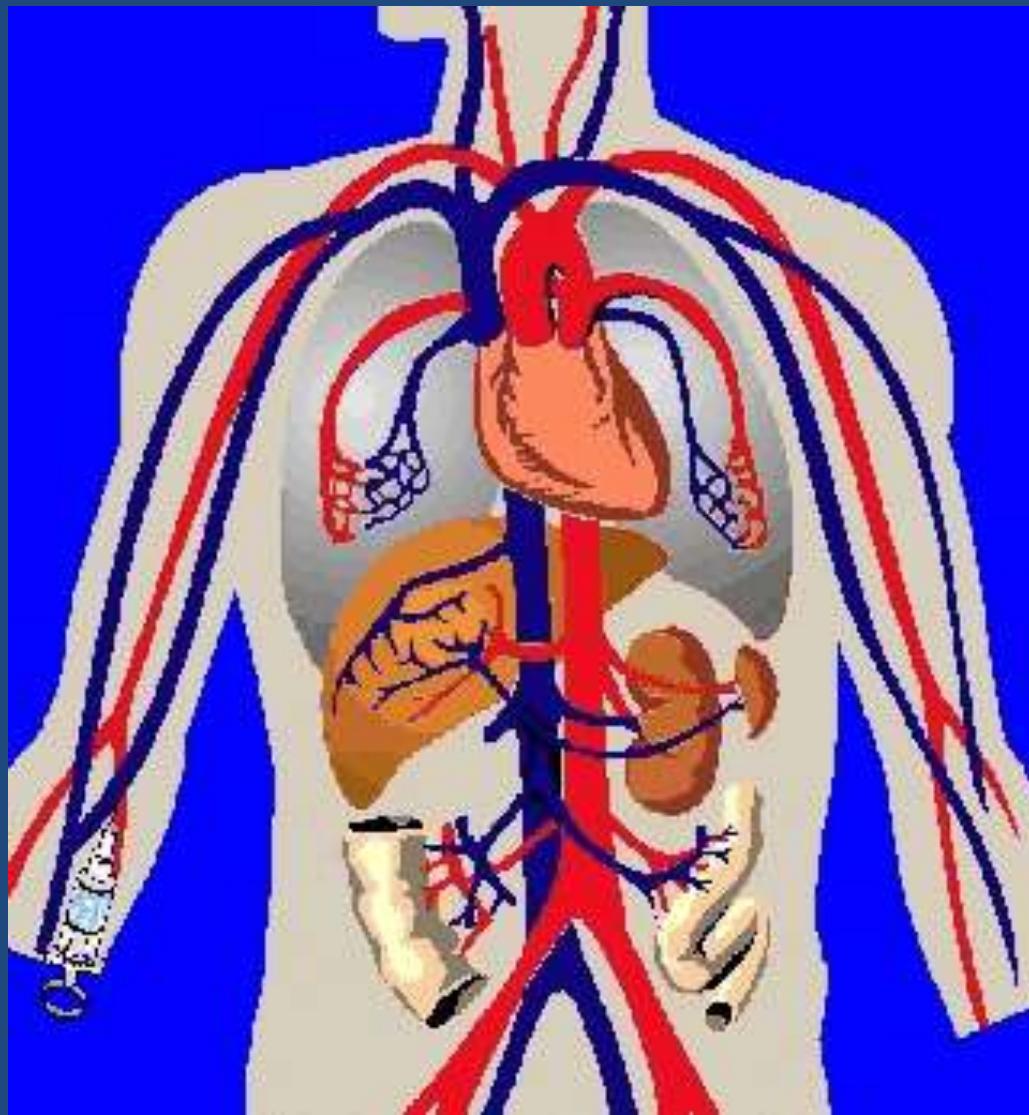


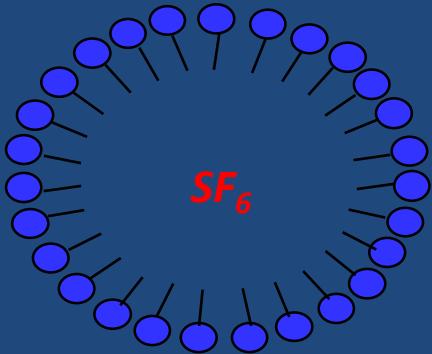
Le microbolle hanno un **diametro (3-5 micron)** tale da poter attraversare il filtro capillare polmonare ma non da diffondere al di fuori del letto vasale

# US Contrast Agents vs CT / MR Extracellular Agents



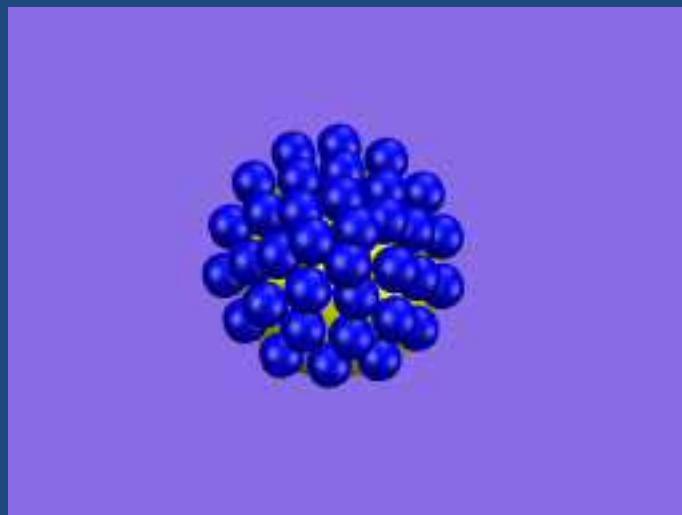
CT / MR





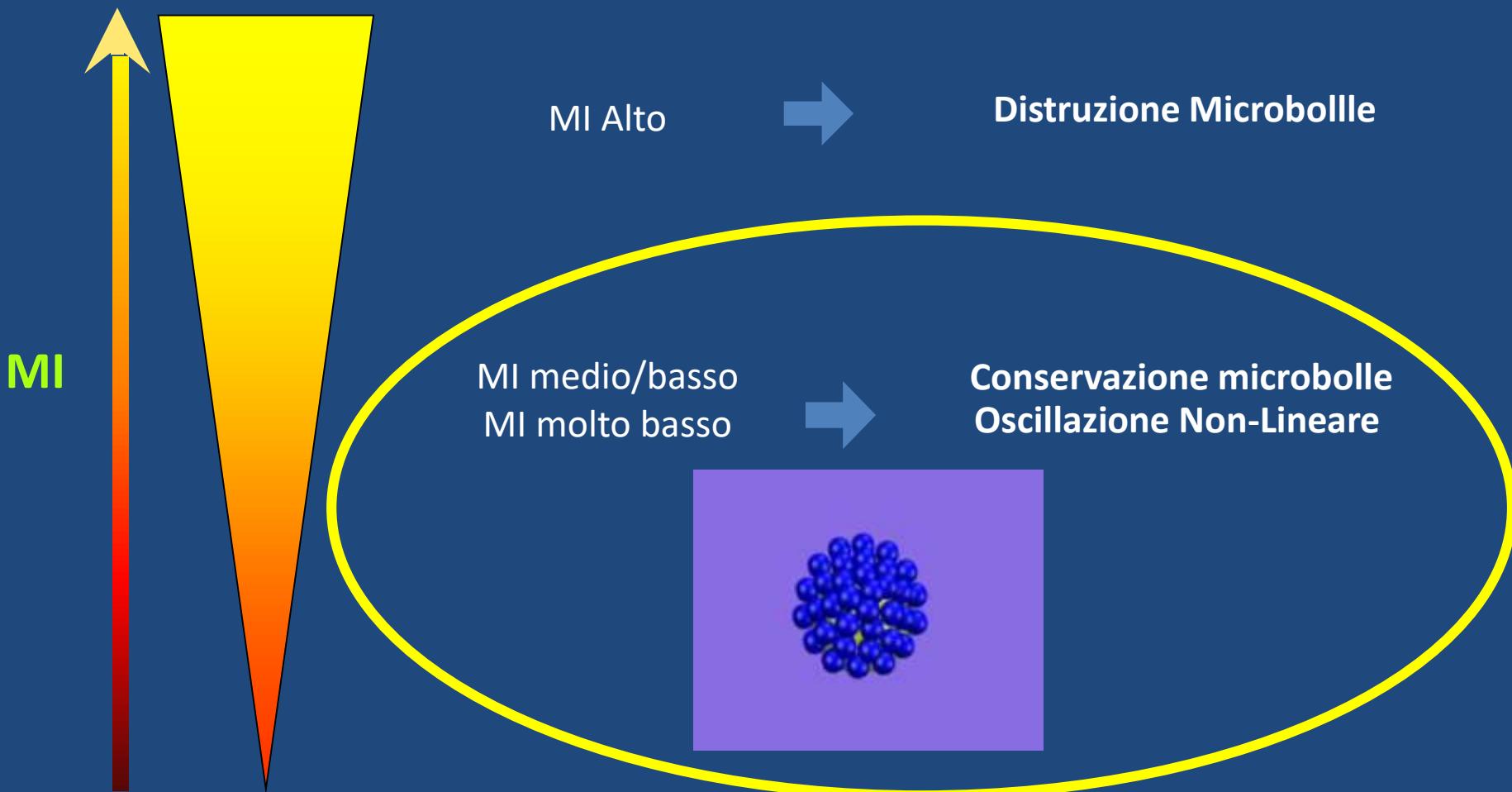
- La **durata** delle microbolle nell' organismo, se non sono sottoposte ad alcuno stimolo, è di alcuni minuti.
- L' **eliminazione** della componente gassosa avviene per via polmonare, mentre l' eliminazione del guscio avviene per via epatica

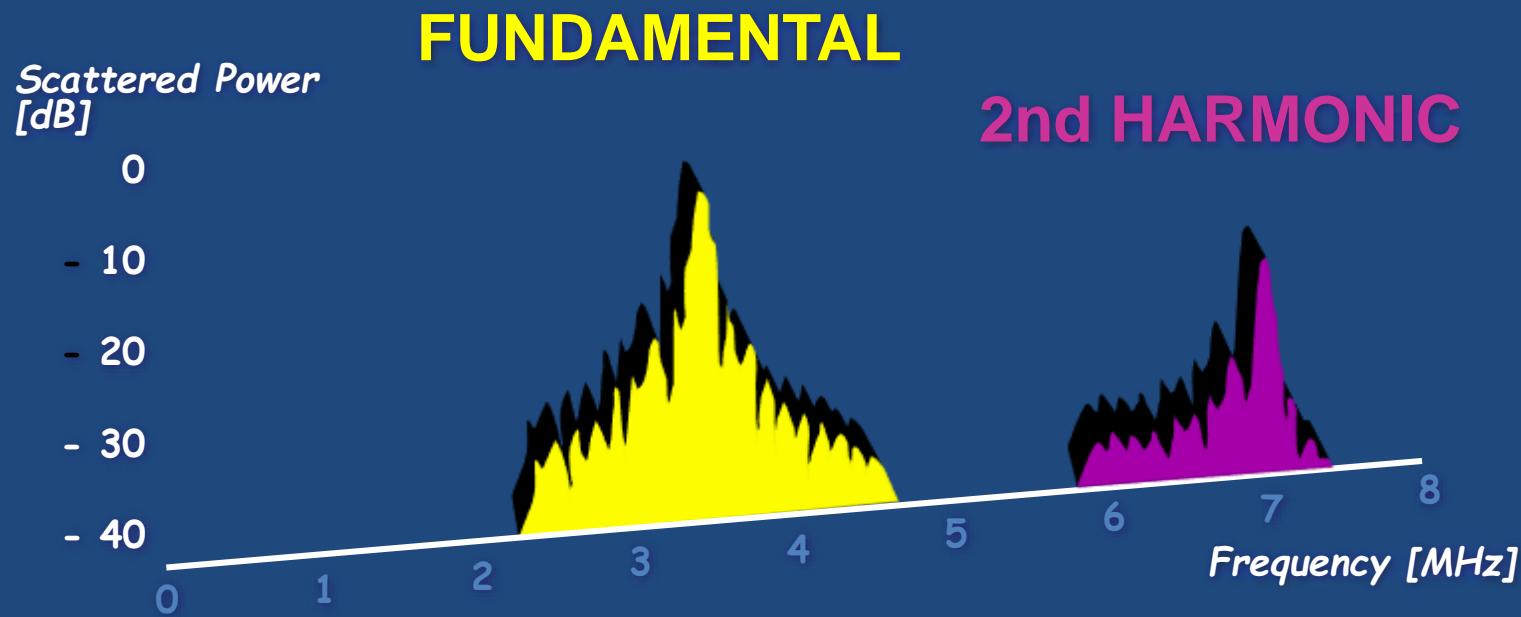
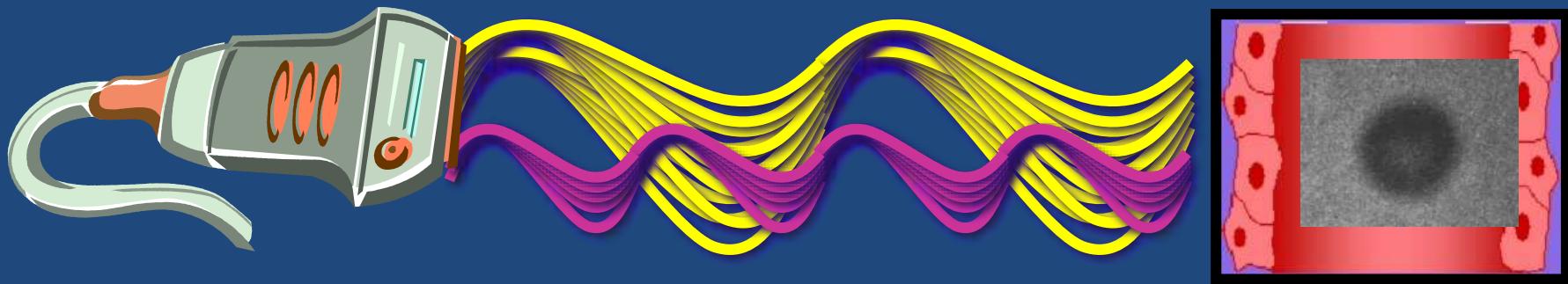
La caratteristica fisica più rilevante delle microbolle è la **fragilità**: se sottoposte ad un fascio di ultrasuoni alla pressione acustica generalmente impiegata nell' imaging ecografico, esse sono quasi istantaneamente distrutte generando un segnale molto intenso e transitorio

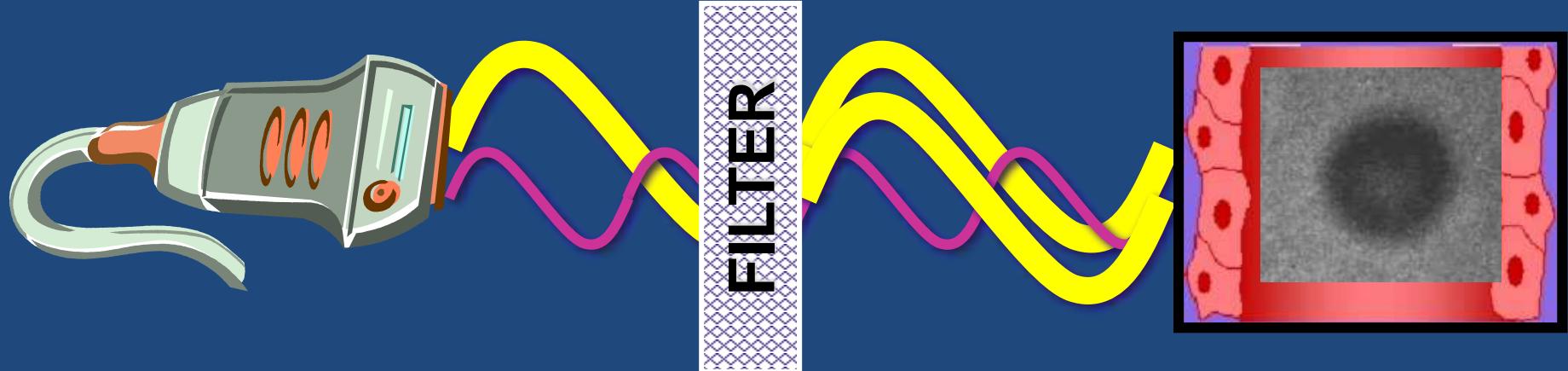


# Comportamento Acustico delle Microbolle di SonoVue®

*In funzione della pressione acustica applicata*







Only harmonics can pass through, giving almost a “pure” image of the contrast agent

CEUS

**Inconvenienti  
dell' indagine  
con MI basso**

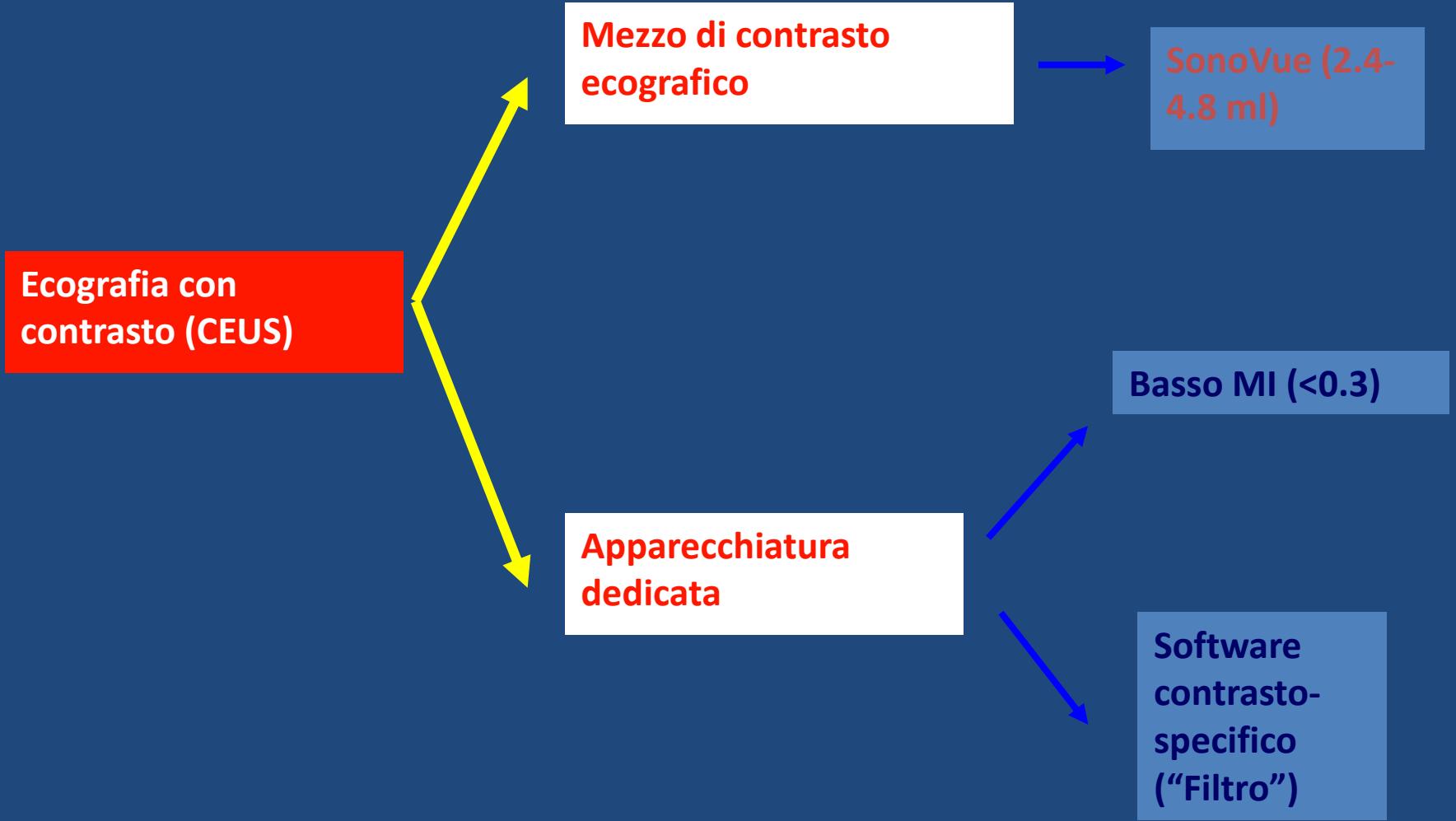
**Riduzione della risoluzione spaziale**



**Limiti  
dell' indagine  
con MI basso**



- Meteorismo
- Obesità
- Sede profonda delle lesioni

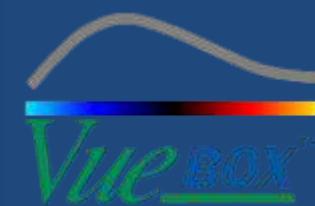


# Quantitative assessment

Analysis of time-intensity curves  
by dedicated software

QLAB (Philips)

Qontrast



(Bracco)

# Ecografia con contrasto: applicazioni cliniche



**Studio del  
macrocircolo**

**Studio del  
microcircolo e  
dei tempi di  
perfusione**

# **Guidelines and Good Clinical Practice Recommendations for Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound (CEUS) in the Liver - Update 2012**

A WFUMB-EFSUMB Initiative in Cooperation With Represen-  
tatives of AFSUMB, AIUM, ASUM, FLAUS and ICUS

## **Authors**

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H.-P. Weskott<sup>25</sup>, H.-X. Xu<sup>26</sup>

1. CEUS for characterization of focal liver lesions
2. Detection of malignant FLL: transabdominal approach
3. Intraoperative CEUS
4. Monitoring ablation treatment
5. Liver transplantation
6. Contrast quantification and monitoring systemic treatment of malignancies

# The EFSUMB Guidelines and Recommendations on the Clinical Practice of Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound (CEUS): Update 2011 on non-hepatic applications

- Pancreas
- CE-EUS
- Gastrointestinal tract
- Spleen
- Kidney
- Vesico-ureteric reflux
- Scrotum
- Abdominal trauma
- Lung and pleural lesions
- Vascular
- Cerebral vessels
- Inflammatory joint diseases
- Intracavitary uses
- Lymph Nodes
- Tumour response assessment
- Breast
- Adrenal glands

- Emerging perspectives and potential future applications for CEUS:
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology
  - Perineum
  - Urinary bladder
  - Transplanted kidney
  - Prostate cancer
  - Aorto-caval fistula
  - Free tissue transplants
  - Biliary disease

Use of CEUS in patients with renal failure

# **Guidelines and Good Clinical Practice Recommendations for Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound (CEUS) in the Liver - Update 2012**

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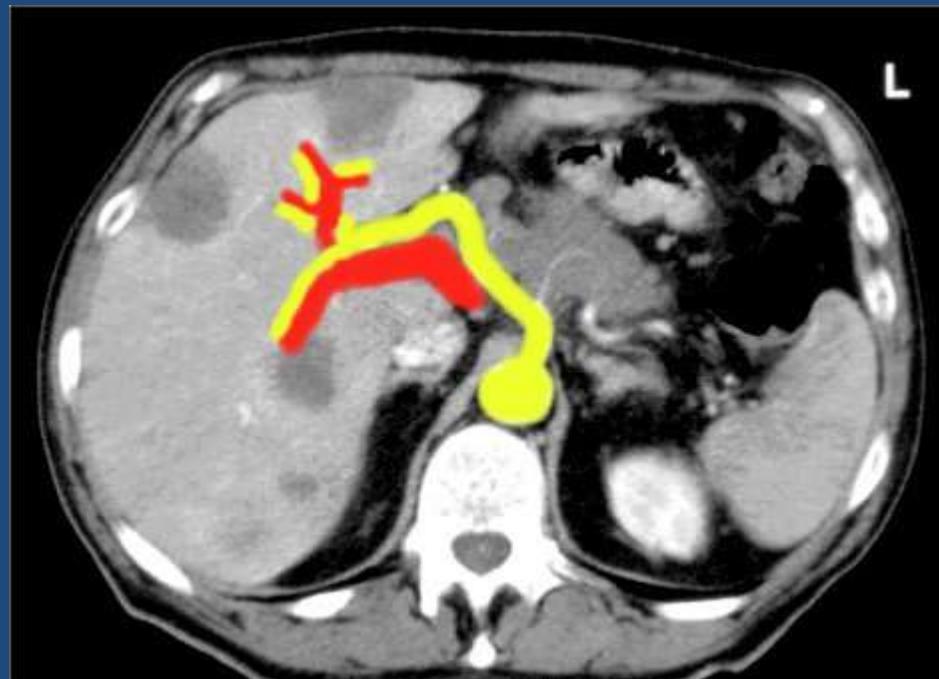
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# Liver vascular inflow

– Double vascular inflow

- Arterial (25-30%)
- Portal (70-75%)



# *Kinetics of US contrast agents*

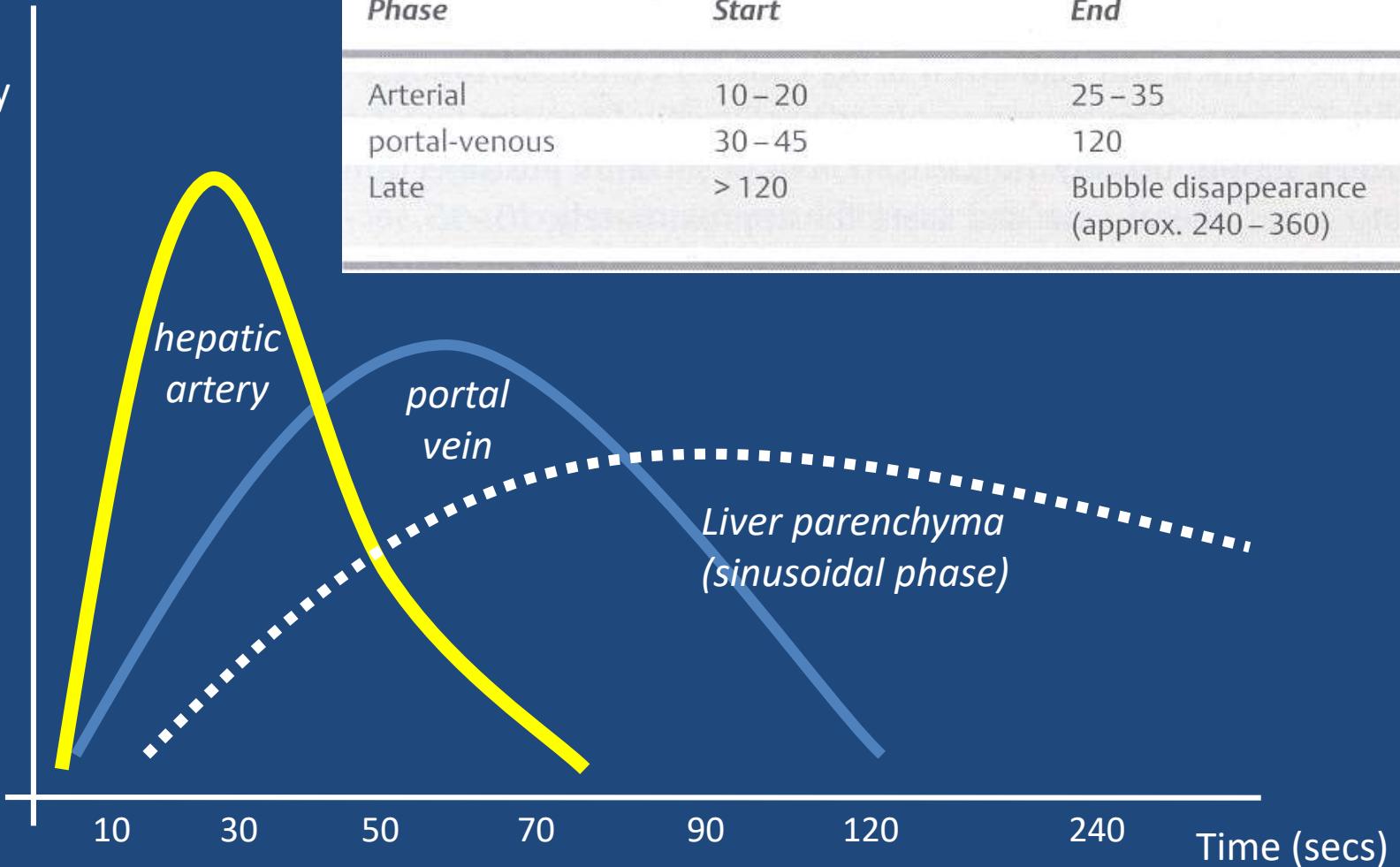
Signal  
intensity

Phase	Visualization Post-injection Time (seconds)	
	Start	End
Arterial	10 – 20	25 – 35
portal-venous	30 – 45	120
Late	> 120	Bubble disappearance (approx. 240 – 360)

*hepatic  
artery*

*portal  
vein*

*Liver parenchyma  
(sinusoidal phase)*



13/11/20

4C1-4

12Hz

1000kg

190mm

ABD

GENERALE

Ps(=0dB

M=19

80dB T1/+2/3/2

Gaud= 14dB A=2

20



Addome

Sopras

Sonda Rotola/Sonda

Spes marcat

**Tipizzazione delle lesioni  
focali del fegato in base  
al pattern vascolare**

**fase arteriosa**

**fase porto-tardiva**



## Tipizzazione delle lesioni focali del fegato in base al pattern vascolare **in fase arteriosa**

Presenza o assenza di enhancement in confronto al parenchima circostante

Pattern vascolare specifico (pattern a ruota di carro, periferico nodulare, rim-like, arterie irregolari, ecc)

Sede dell' iniziale enhancement nella lesione ( centrale, periferico) e modalità di perfusione (centripeta, centrifuga)

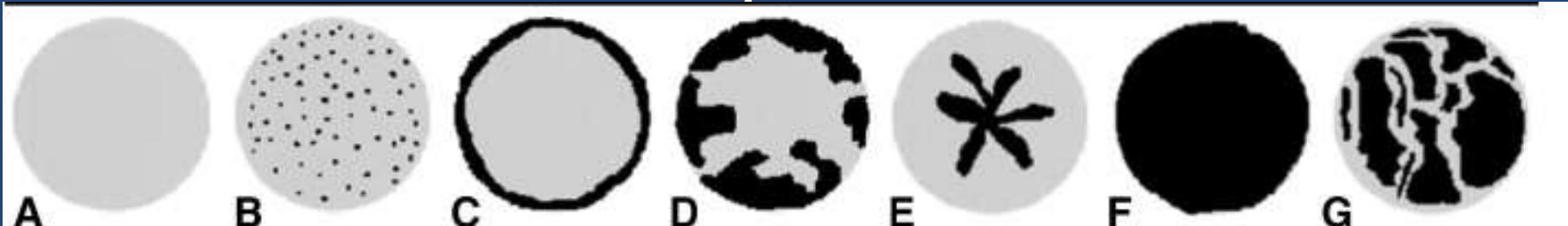
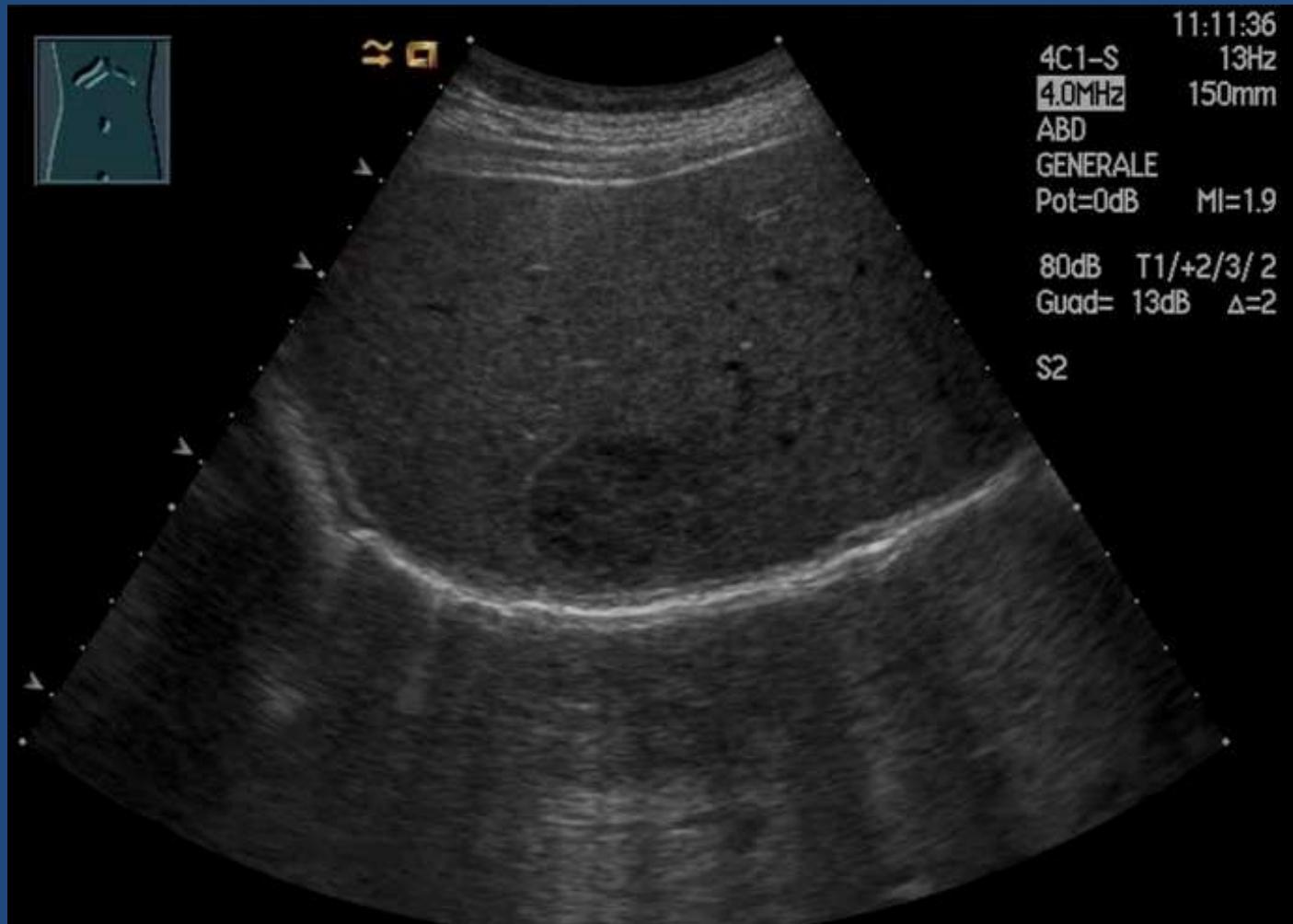


Figure 1. Different contrast enhancement patterns in focal liver lesions. Absent (A), dotted (B), peripheral rimlike (C), peripheral nodular (D), central with spoke wheel-shaped (E), diffuse homogeneous (F), and diffuse heterogeneous (G) enhancement patterns are shown.

# Angioma



Enhancement periferico globulare

## Epatocarcinoma



Enhancement diffuso omogeneo

## Colangiocarcinoma intraepatico



Enhancement diffuso disomogeneo

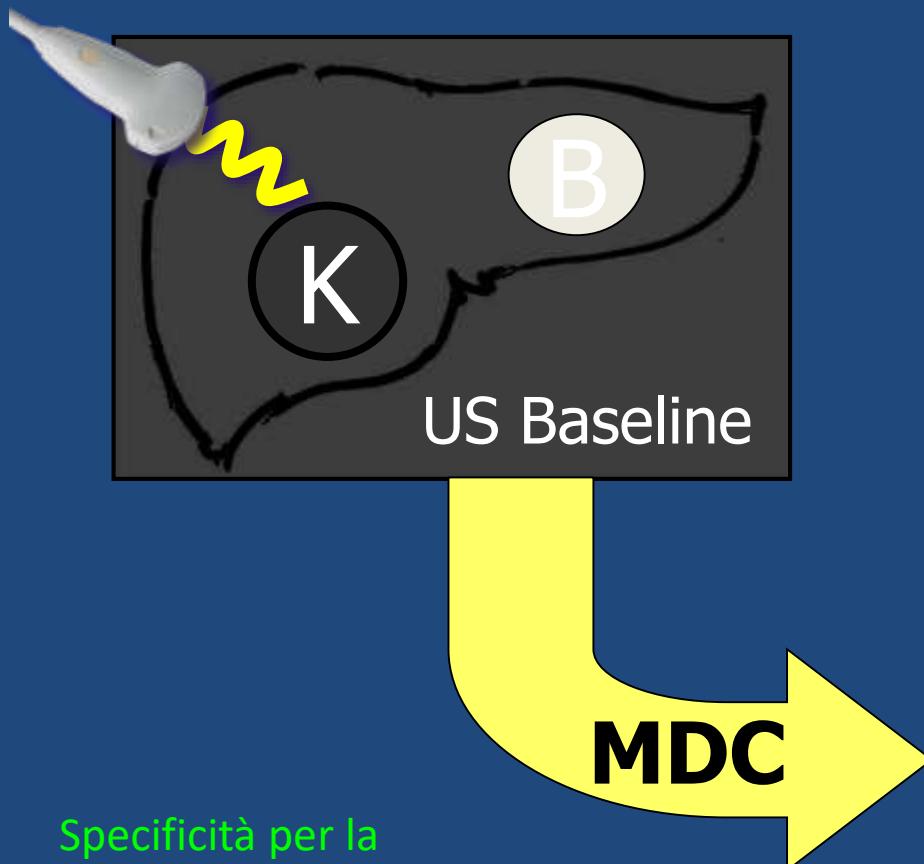


## Tipizzazione delle lesioni focali del fegato in base al pattern vascolare **in** **fase tardiva**

Lesione iso-iperecogena

Lesione ipoecogena

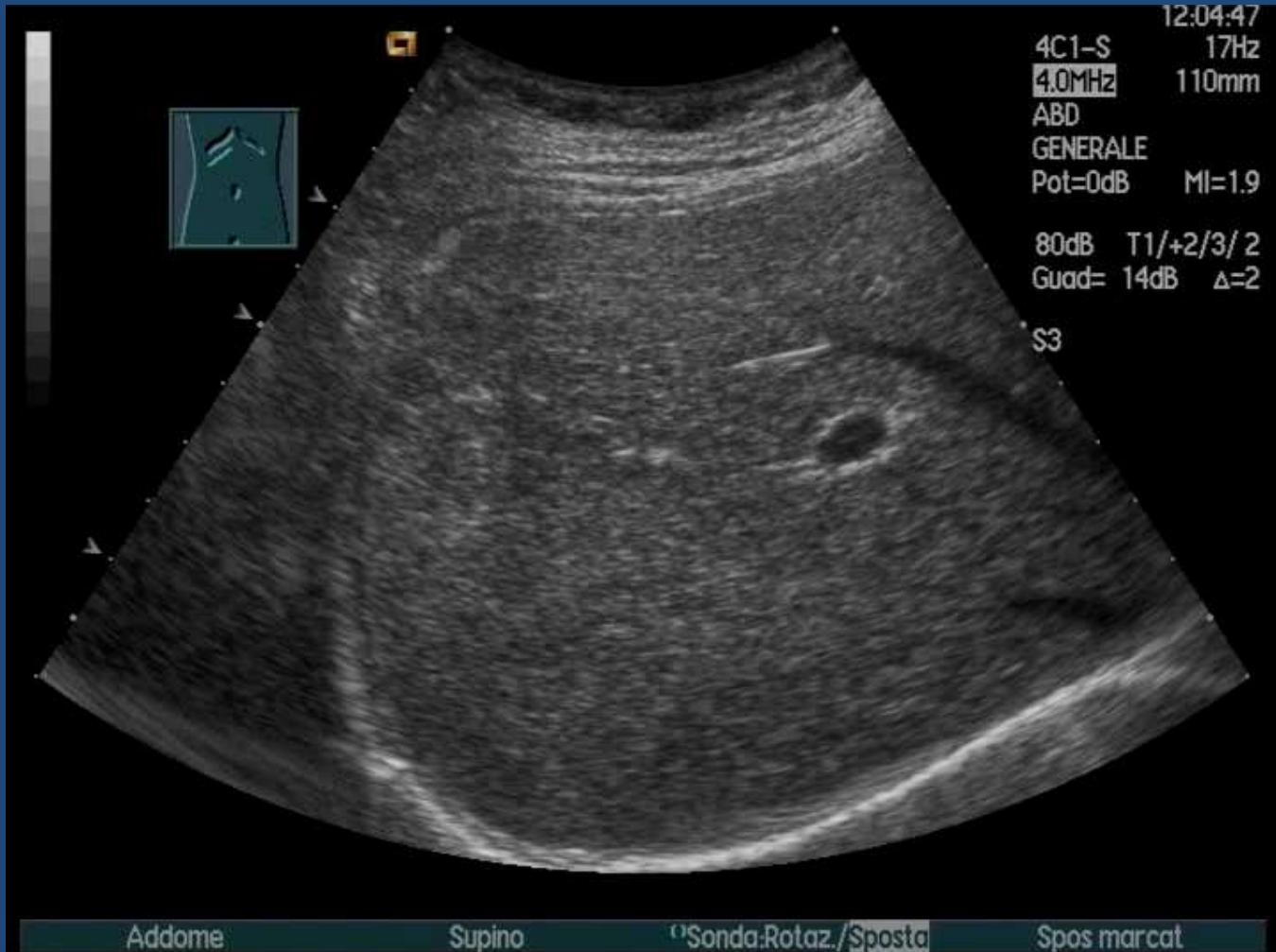
# “impregnazione” in fase tardiva



Specificità per la  
caratterizzazione delle FLL  
= 95-100% \*

\*Albrecht T, Eur Radiol 2004; \*von Herbay A, J Ultrasound Med, 2004; \* Bleuzen A, Eur Radiol, 2004

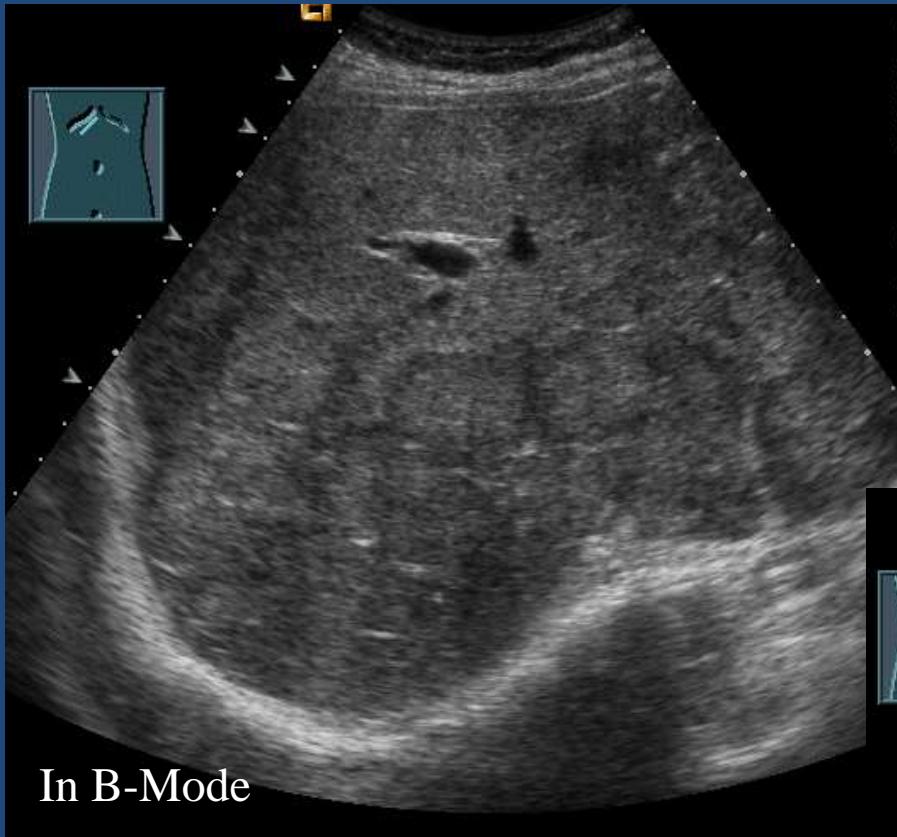
\*EFSUMB Study Group et al., Ultraschall in Med 2008



**Iperplasia nodulare focale**

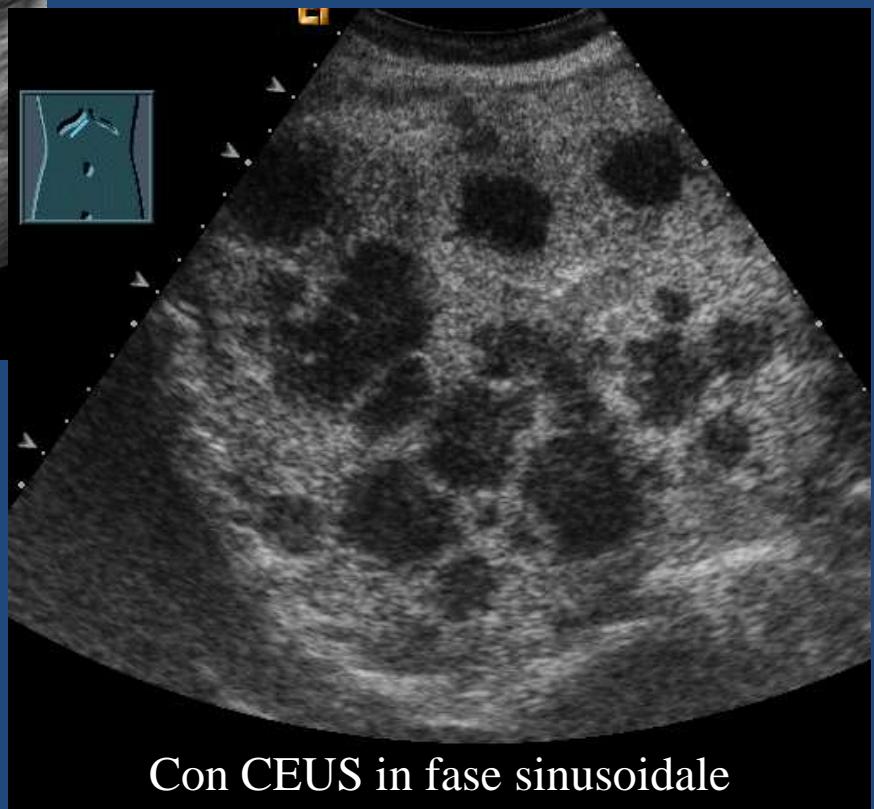
## Metastasi epatica da Ca retto





In B-Mode

**Metastasi isoecogene con alone  
da carcinoma del colon**



Con CEUS in fase sinusoidale

# Contrast-enhanced ultrasound for the characterization of focal liver lesions – Diagnostic accuracy in clinical practice (DEGUM multicenter trial)

CEUS	Sensitivity	Specificity	Diagnostic accuracy
All lesions (n.1328)	95.8%	83.1%	90.3%
Lesions > 2 cm (n.999)	96.5%	86%	92.2%
Lesions ≤ 2 cm (n.329)	93.3%	75.9%	84.5%

The overall diagnostic accuracy of CEUS in the differentiation of malignant and benign liver lesions was 90.3%

## THE SAFETY OF SONOVUE® IN ABDOMINAL APPLICATIONS: RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF 23188 INVESTIGATIONS

L. Aiani, M. Luigi Angeli, V. Arienti, L. Barozzi, R. Basilico, M. Bertolotto, E. Biasini, P. Busilacchi, F. Calliada,\* M. Caremani, E. Caturelli, N. Celli, A. Colecchia, L. Cova, M. Assunta Cova, L. Crocetti, I. de Sio, F. Drudi, G. Ferraioli, C. Filice, F. Fornari, S. Gaiani, F. Giangregorio, A. Giorgio, T. Ierace, R. Lencioni, T. Livraghi, F. Magnolfi, A. Martegani, F. Meloni, G. Menozzi, G. Pelosi, M. Pompili, L. Riccardi, P. Ricci, L. Rubaltelli, D. Sacerdoti, G. Serafini, C. Serra, L. Solbiati, D. Tacconi, M. Valentino, G. Vidili and F. Vitali

F. Piscaglia, Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, 2006

## THE SAFETY OF SONOVUE® IN ABDOMINAL APPLICATIONS: RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF 23188 INVESTIGATIONS

No fatal event occurred.

Adverse events were reported in 29 cases, of which only two were graded as serious; the rest, 27, were nonserious (23 mild, three moderate and one severe). The overall reporting rate of serious AE was 0.0086%. Overall, only four AEs required treatment (two serious, two nonserious including one moderate and one severe AEs).



AE “serious” = 0.009% (1/10.000 patients)

F. Piscaglia, Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, 2006

## THE SAFETY OF SONOVUE® IN ABDOMINAL APPLICATIONS: RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF 23188 INVESTIGATIONS

Description of the two **serious adverse events** (AEs) reported in the present series

1) **Dyspnoea, bronchospasm, slight hypotension and bradycardia**

Onset time: <1 min; recovered after 2 g of i.v.corticosteroids antihistamines

2) **Clouding of consciousness, dursolumbar pain, severe hypotension, cutaneous rash**

Onset time: 2 min; hypotension lasted 30 min and slowly recovered after administration of 1 g of hydrocortisone and vasoactive amines. CT examination performed 6 h after the reported events showed occlusion of the stent previously positioned in the right renal artery.

Some of the reported AEs (dizziness, nausea, vomiting, cold sweat, hypotension etc.) may be due to **vasovagal reaction**. Some (including the two serious AEs and one nonserious and severe AE) had signs or symptoms of **anaphylactic-anaphylactoid reactions** (Hagan 2004), with an overall reporting rate for this type of reaction of 0.013% (3/23188), lower than that reported for other contrast media and similar to that of some commonly used drugs such as analgesics or antibiotics of common use (0.005 to 0.015%)

## Eventi avversi del SonoVue

In pazienti con preesistente patologia coronarica, i fenomeni di bradicardia e ipotensione sono stati accompagnati da ischemia miocardica e/o infarto del miocardio.

**Attenzione!!**



**Sono stati segnalati 3 casi di decesso in associazione temporale con l' uso di SonoVue, tutti pazienti con grave cardiopatia ischemica.**

# Eventi avversi del SonoVue

## Controindicazioni

- Nota ipersensibilità all' esafluoruro di zolfo
- Sindrome coronarica acuta di recente evoluzione
- Ischemia cardiaca clinicamente instabile: Infarto del miocardio in corso o in evoluzione, angina instabile, recenti by-pass aortocoronarici
- Insufficienza cardiaca acuta o cronica di classe III e IV
- Aritmie di grado severo
- Grave ipertensione polmonare
- Ipertensione sistemica non controllata
- Sindrome da distress respiratorio
- Shunts destro-sinistro

# Precauzioni



- Osservazione del paziente per almeno 30 minuti dopo la somministrazione (??)
- Disponibilità di attrezzature per interventi di emergenza
- Consenso informato

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[www.gastroenterologia.arezzo.it](http://www.gastroenterologia.arezzo.it)