

# Tubo digerente: anatomia e patologia

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in Medicina e Chirurgia

II CORSO NAZIONALE E  
SEMINARI DI  
ECOGRAFIA CLINICA  
SIEMC



RIMINI,  
4 - 7 OTTOBRE 2015  
AQUA HOTEL + ARIA HOTEL

# US evaluation of patients affected by IBD: How to do it, methods and findings

- For many years, US was considered unsuitable for the study of the bowel as the gaseous content of the loops leads to a dispersion of the ultrasound beam
- At the present time US has a definite part to play in diagnostic procedures regarding a number of diseases, particularly IBD
- US moreover provides information that is difficult to obtain with other imaging techniques as it is the only one that makes it possible to study the following in real time:
  - morphological aspects of the full thickness of the bowel wall;
  - functional characteristics;
  - perivisceral spaces;
  - abdominal parenchymatous organs

# Equipment, process, and skills for IUS

- The machines and probes required for an IUS examination are no different to the ones used in standard radiology departments.
- The examination technique involves use of both low-frequency curved probes (1–6 MHz) and high-frequency linear probes (5–13 MHz).



# Equipment, process, and skills for IUS

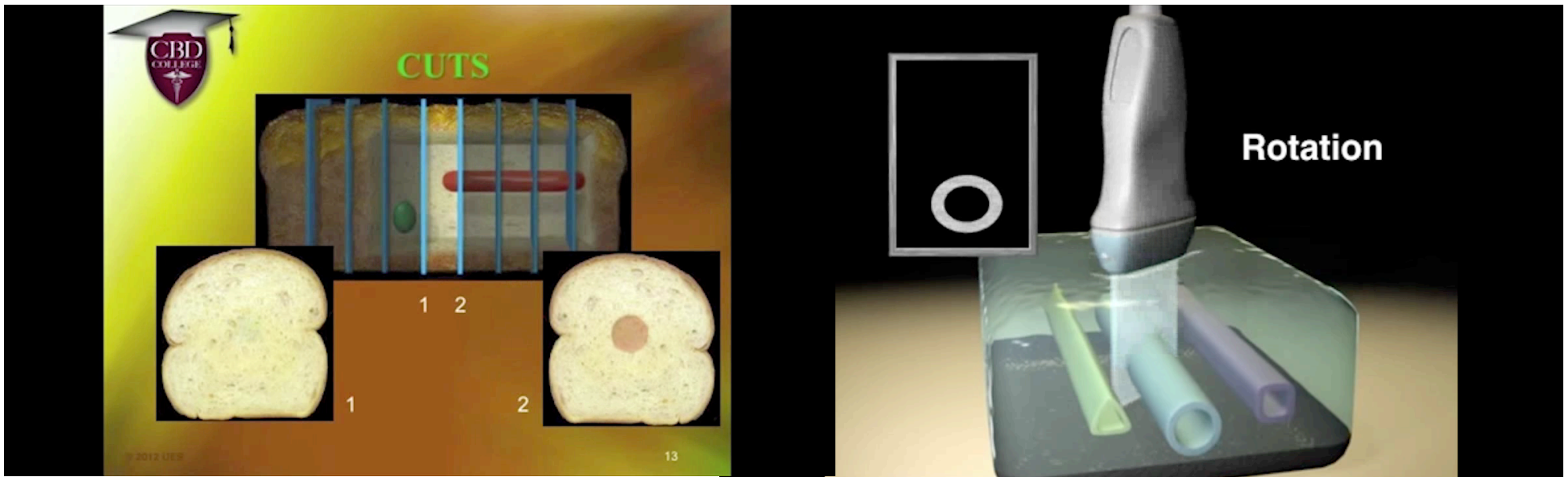
- The abdomen is first scanned using the low-frequency probe in order to detect any deep or grossly abnormal pathology such as significant bowel wall thickening, intra-abdominal fistulae, abscesses, or bowel dilatation.
- This is followed by detailed interrogation of the intestinal wall using a high-frequency probe and noting features such as specific bowel wall thickness measurements, fistulae, and prominent lymph nodes
- Areas that are interrogated include the colon (left and right sides), terminal ileum, small bowel, mesentery, and mesenteric lymph nodes.
- Ultrasound (US)-naïve clinicians can be trained to perform IUS competently after performing approximately 200 examinations under supervision



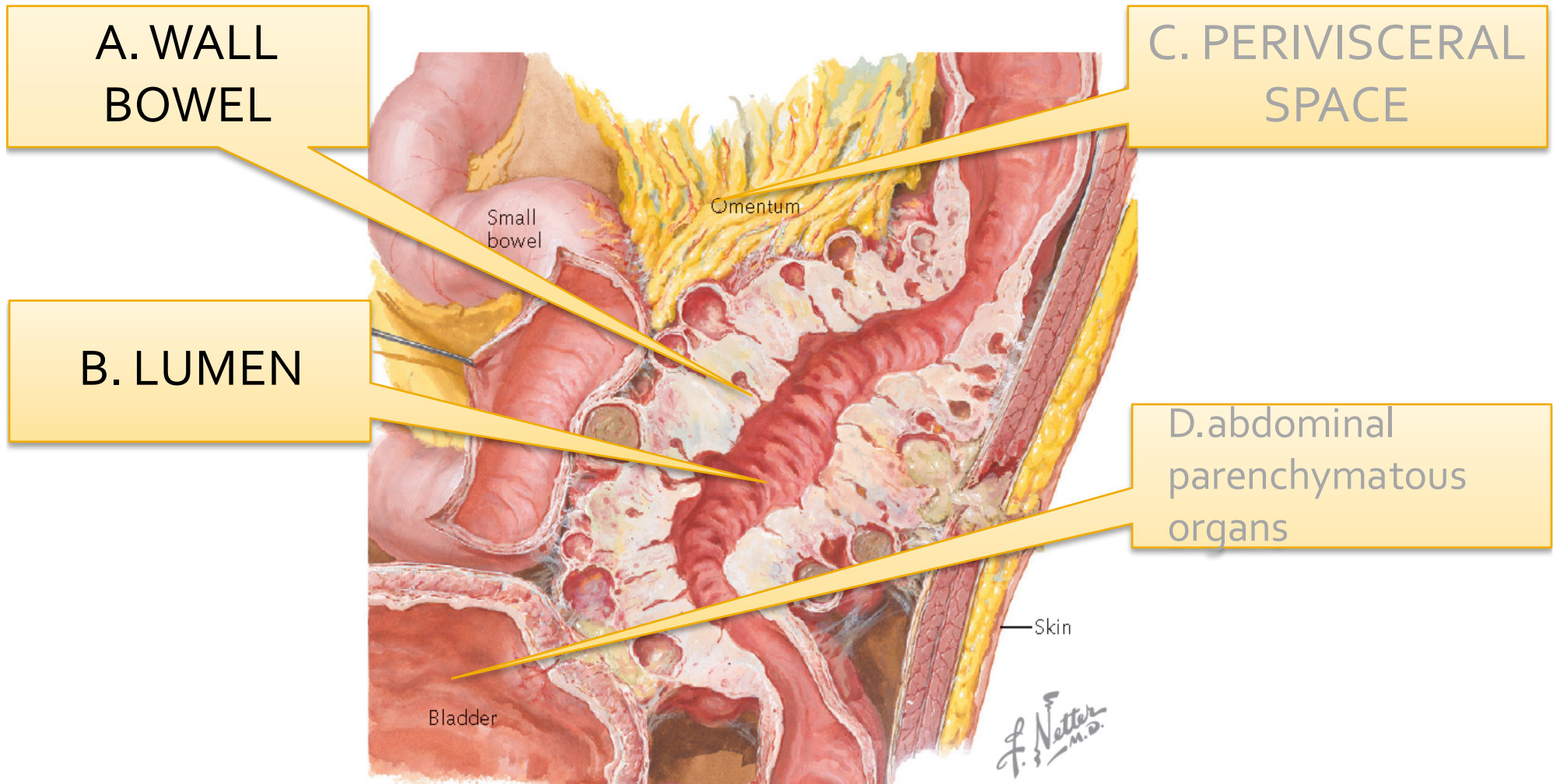
# MALATTIE DELL'INTESTINO ED US

US: Among the cross-sectional imaging techniques, US is less invasive, more comfortable for the patient and has a significant diagnostic accuracy

(World J Gastroenterol 2013; 19(14): 2144-2153)



# MALATTIE DELL'INTESTINO ED US



Floch M. Diverticulosis: Diverticulitis and Its Complications and Diverticular Bleeding: Diverticular Disease of the Colon Netter's Gastroenterology Book, 2010

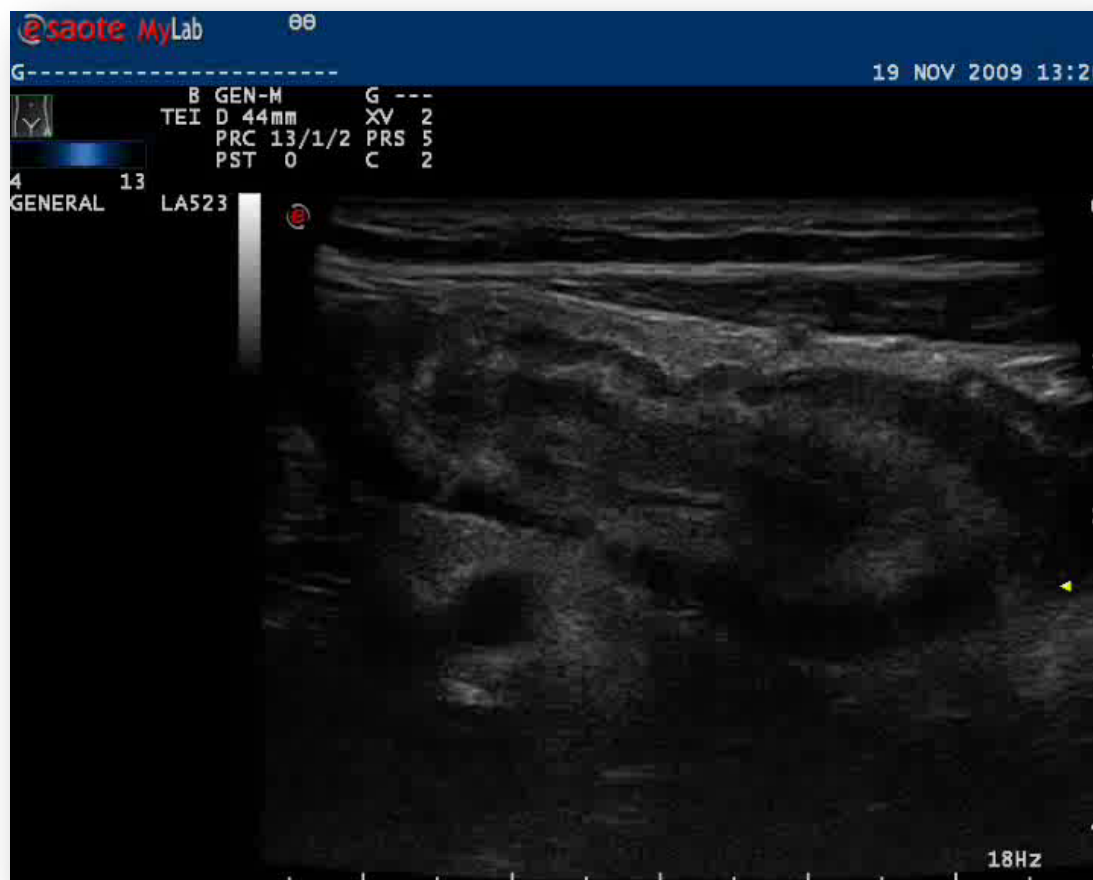
# A.WALL BOWELL EVALUATION

- The main features of the bowel walls to be assessed by ultrasound include:
  1. thickness
  2. echo pattern
  3. vascularity
  4. flexibility and motility

# US FEATURES of BOWEL WALL

## 1. THICKNESS

- The thickness of the bowel wall is the main ultrasonographic feature of the gut.
- It is the only quantitative parameter
- Almost all studies reported only this value as the criterion to assess the presence of a gastrointestinal disease

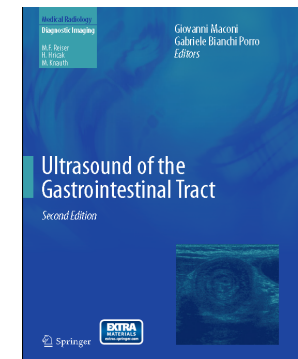
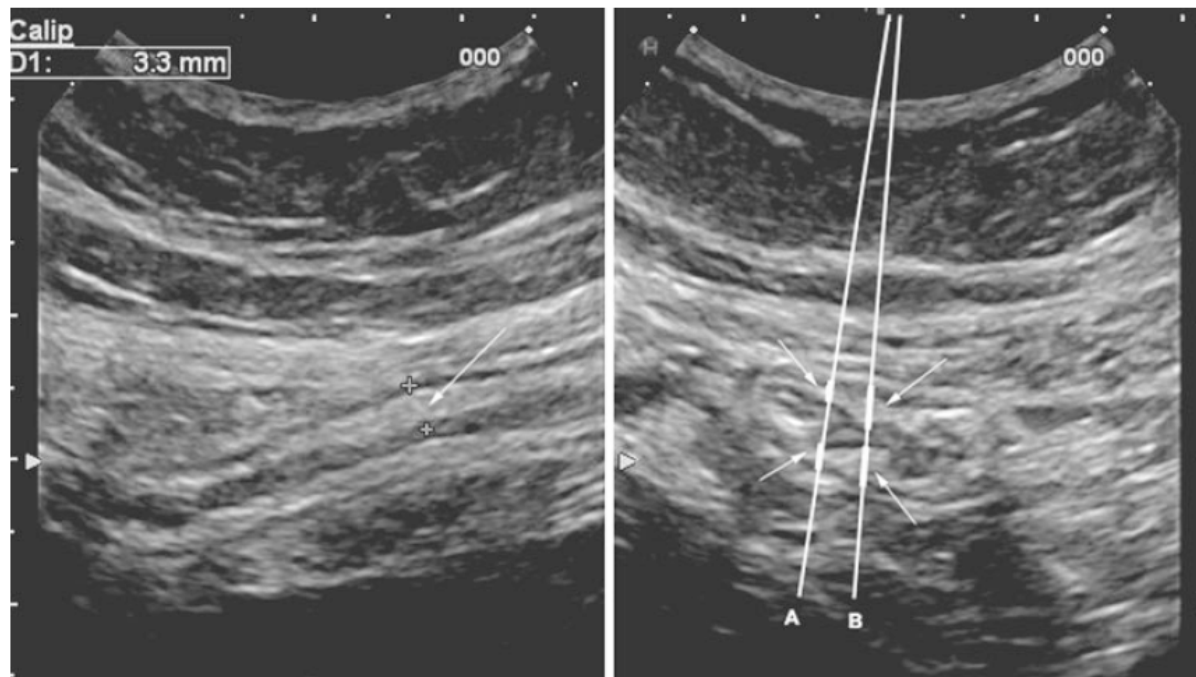




# US FEATURES of BOWEL WALL

## 1. THICKNESS

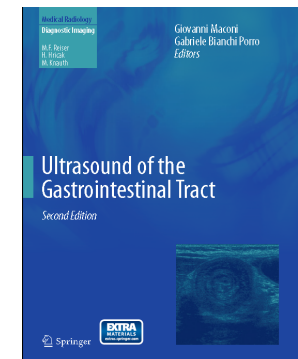
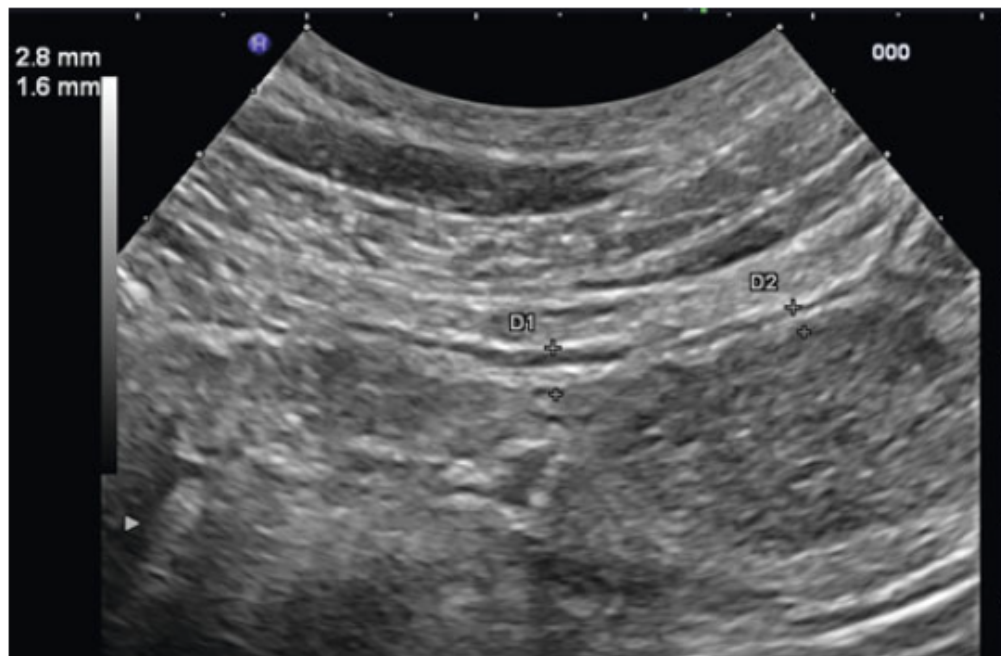
- The measurement of wall thickness should be taken using the transducer with as high a frequency as possible (preferable 5 MHz or more).
- The measure of the thickening should be taken from the external hyperechoic layer, corresponding to the serosa, to the internal hyperechoic layer representing the interface between the mucosa and intestinal content.
- Only when these two interfaces are simultaneously visible in a perpendicular scan of the loop, the measurement should be considered appropriate



# US FEATURES of BOWEL WALL

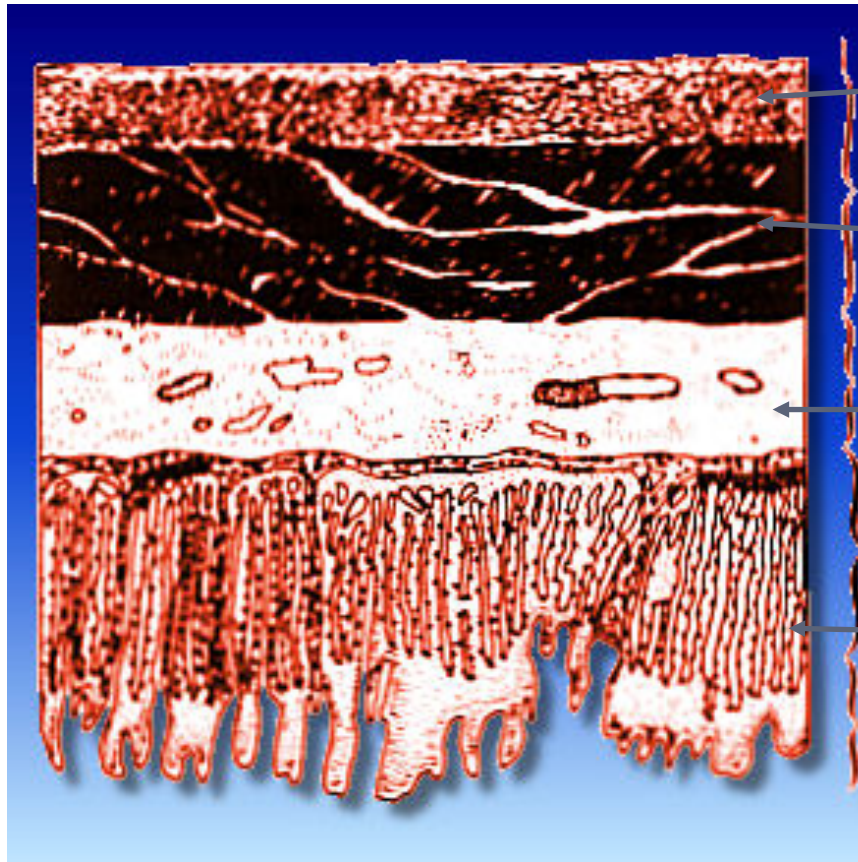
## 1. THICKNESS

- The thickness of normal gastrointestinal walls varies according to the anatomical segment, age, weight and, to some extent, to the fed/fasting state, being thicker in the sigmoid and ileum and usually increasing with age, weight and in feeding state
- most studies and metaanalyses set the cut-off for bowel diseases (in particular for inflammatory diseases) between 3 and 4 mm (Fraquelli et al. 2005 ; Horsthuis et al. 2008 ).
- the gastric wall is usually thicker and may be up to 5–6 mm (Rapaccini et al 1988).



# US FEATURES of BOWEL WALL

## 2.ECHOPATTERN



**serosa**

**Muscularis p.**

**submucosa**

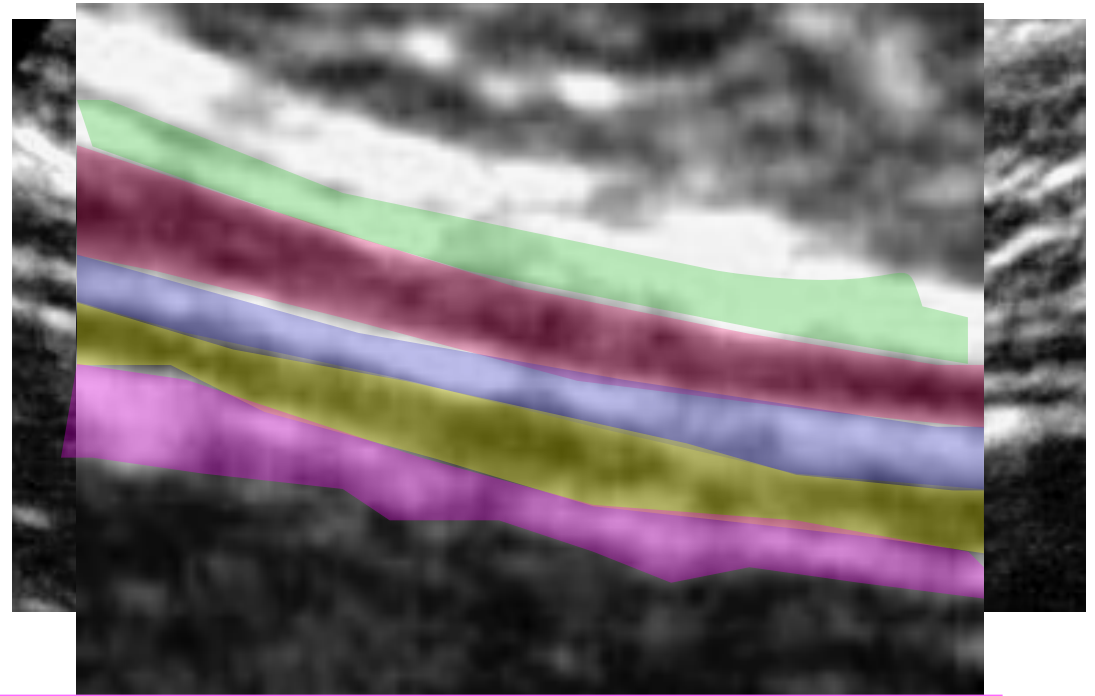
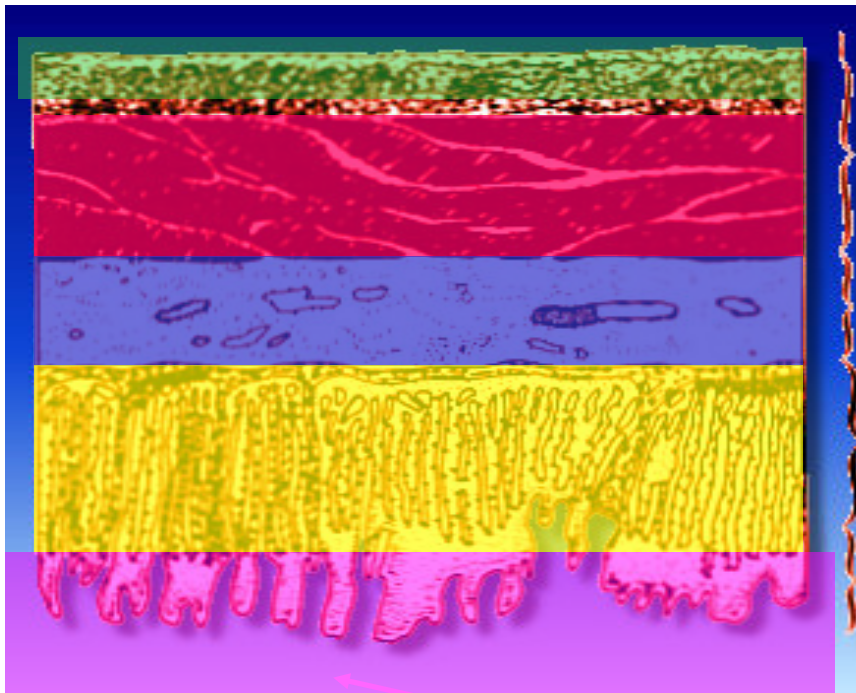
**mucosa**

(mucosa + *muscularis mucosae*)

# US FEATURES of BOWEL WALL

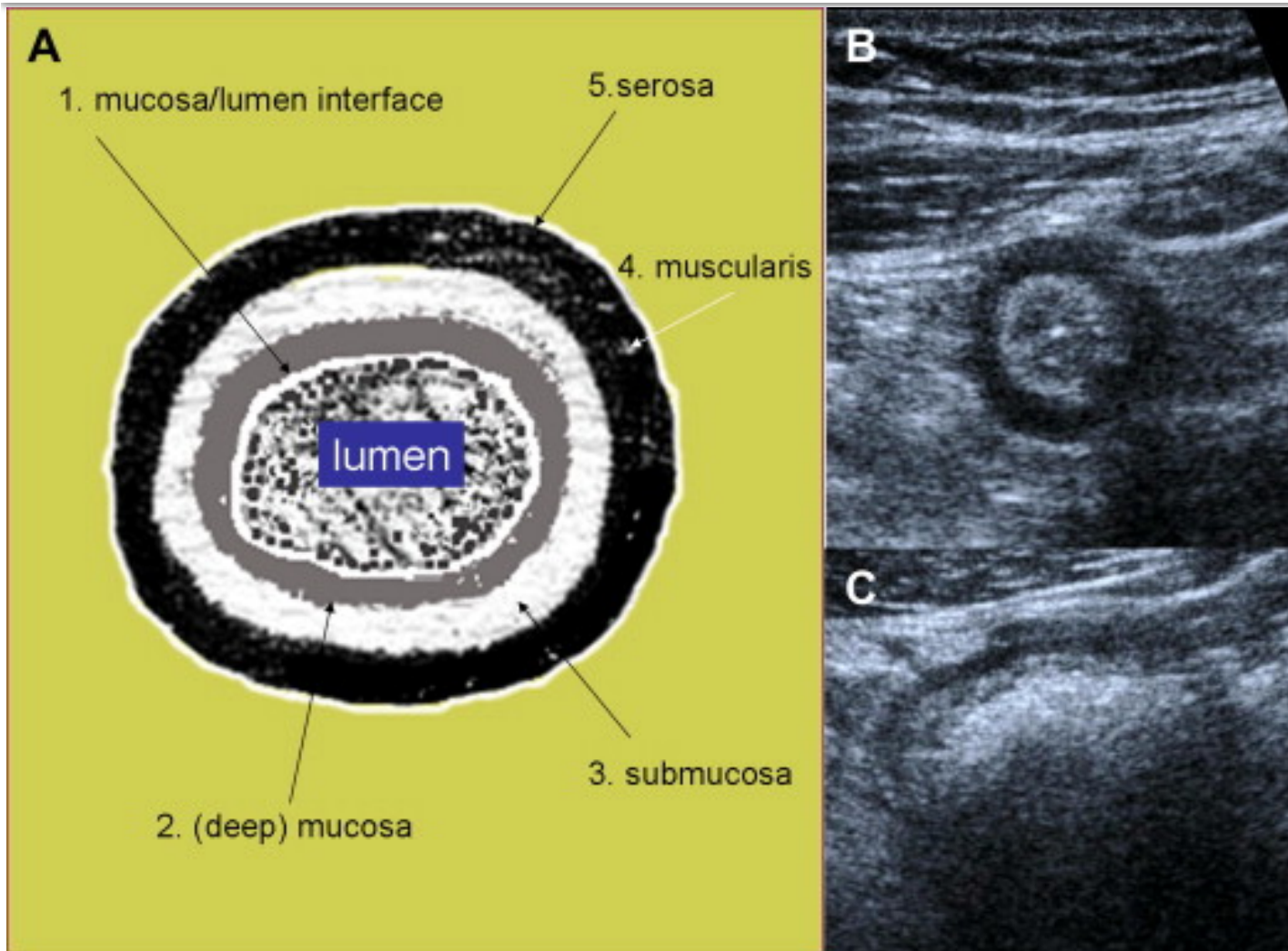
## 2.ECHOPATTERN

### Echopattern Stratificato "5 strati"



**interface lumen-mucosa**

# Transabdominal Ultrasound for Bowel Evaluation



The ultrasonographic image of the normal bowel wall consists of five layers of different echogenicity:

(1) **hyperechogenic layer**—it corresponds to the mucosa or interface between mucosa and intestinal content;

(2) **hypoechoic layer**—it corresponds to the muscularis mucosae and is thicker than the previous one;

(3) **hyperechogenic layer**—it is the most echogenic layer and corresponds to the submucosa;

(4) **hypoechoic layer**—it corresponds to the tunica muscularis propria;

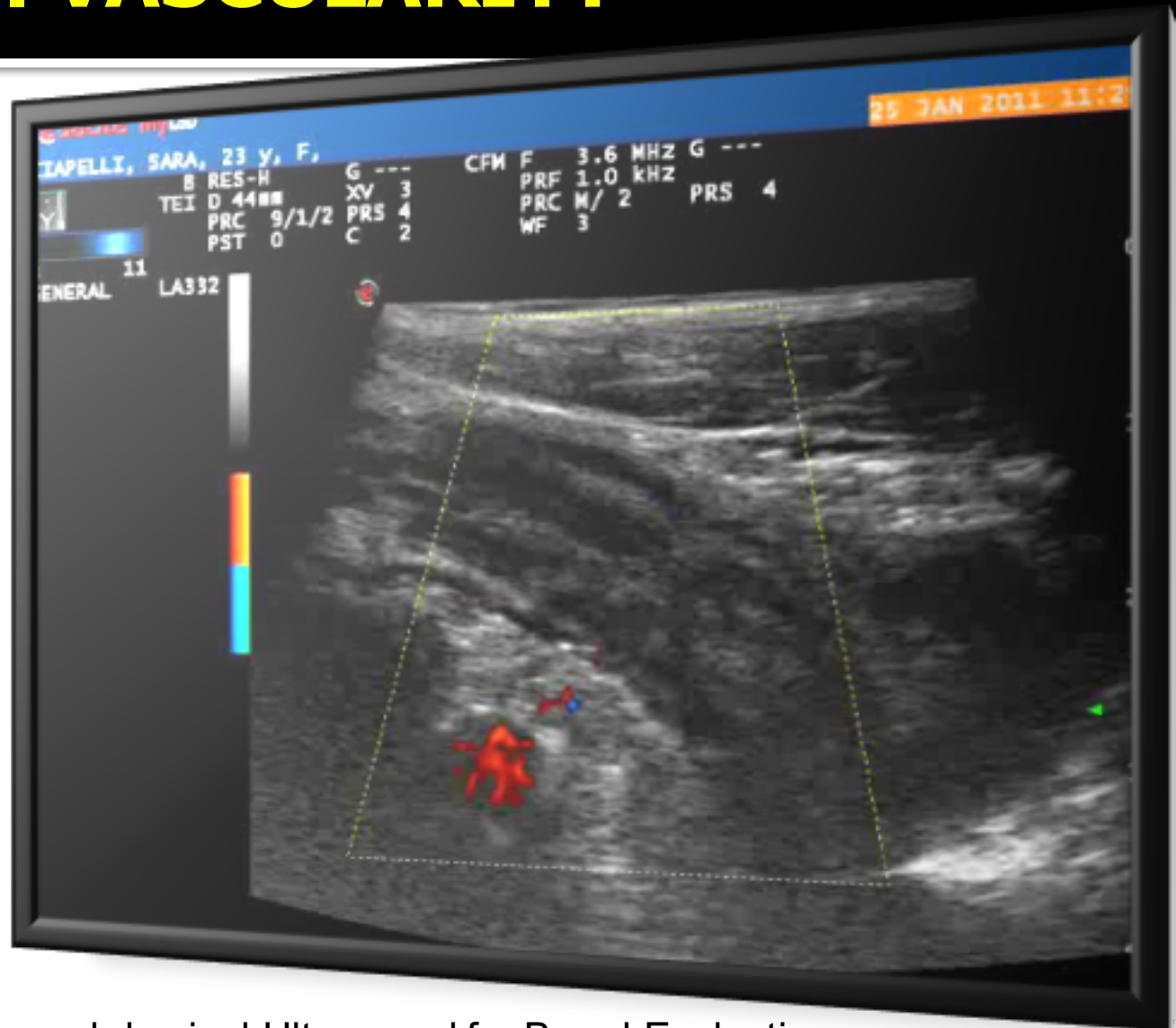
(5) **hyperechogenic layer**—it is the most external layer, of variable thickness, and corresponds to the serosa or the interface between serosa and perivisceral tissue.

Rodgers PM, Transabdominal Ultrasound for Bowel Evaluation. Radiologic Clinics of North America 2013;51:133-148.

# US FEATURES of BOWEL WALL

## 3. VASCULARITY

- The assessment of vascularity of bowel walls and intestinal lesions is part of the sonographic evaluation of intestinal diseases.
- Colour or power Doppler sonography may be used to estimate the perfusion of bowel abnormalities and show neovascularisation and hyperaemia occurring in inflammatory bowel diseases and neoplastic lesions.
- The assessment of hypervascularity is therefore a useful adjunct to B-mode assessment to suggest the inflammatory or neoplastic nature of an intestinal lesion



Rodgers PM, Transabdominal Ultrasound for Bowel Evaluation.  
Radiologic Clinics of North America 2013;51:133-148.

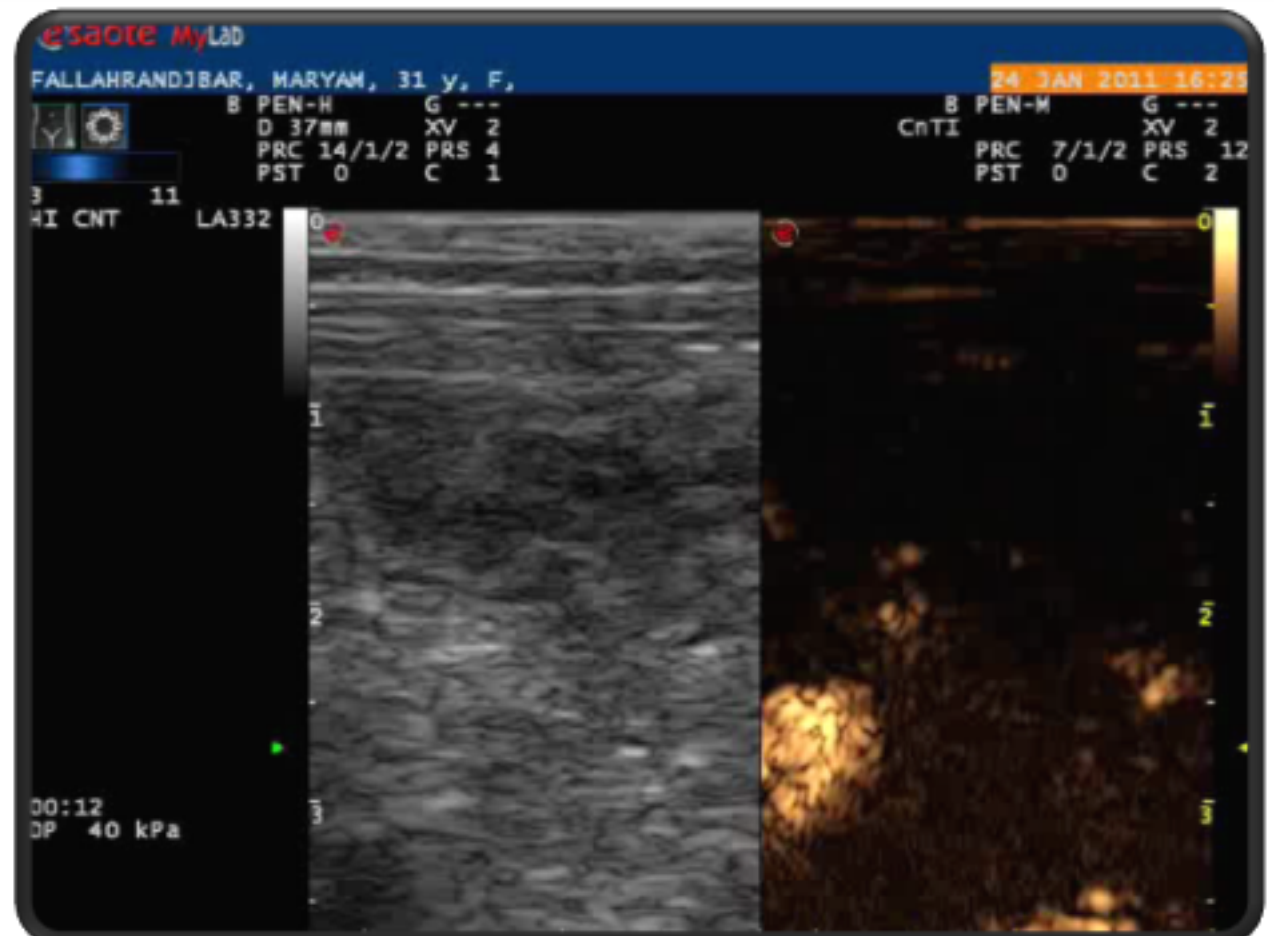
# US FEATURES of BOWEL WALL

## 3. VASCULARITY

### CEUS:

the introduction of second generation intravenous contrast agents in combination with low mechanical index harmonic US has now made it possible to systematically assess the bowel wall microcirculation

(Abdom Imaging 2012 37:369–376)

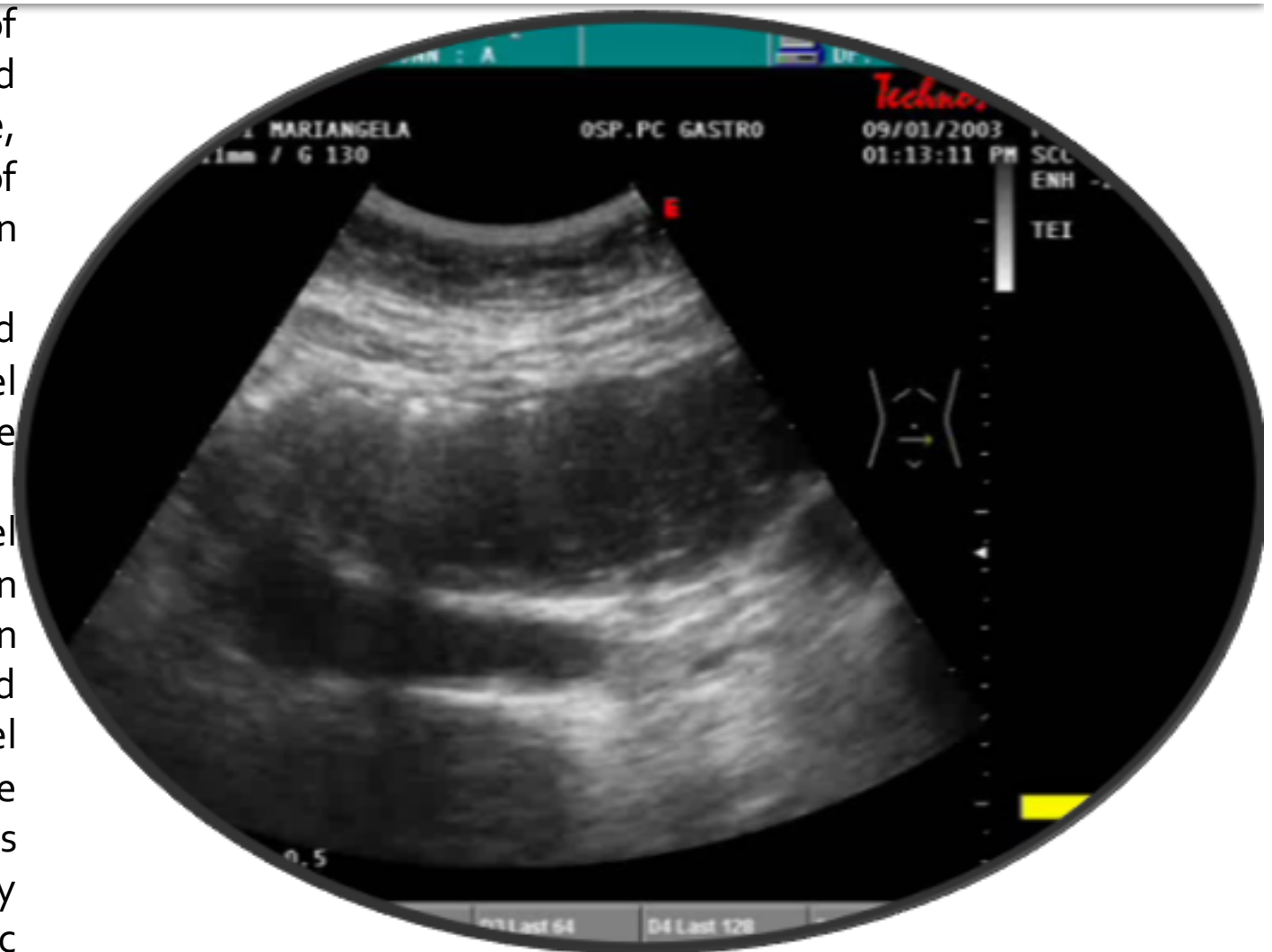


06 40 kPa  
00:13

# US FEATURES of BOWEL WALL

## 4. FLEXIBILITY AND MOTILITY

- The assessment of bowel elasticity and peristalsis is a subjective, though important part of bowel examination (Appendicitis)
- The assessment and quantification of bowel peristalsis may be difficult and subjective
- Increased small bowel peristalsis has been frequently described in coeliac disease and acute mechanic bowel obstruction, while dynamic ileus is characterised by absence of peristaltic movements





# B. LUMEN EVALUATION

- The bowel may be collapsed, containing only a small amount of:

mucus

(mucus pattern)

Gas

(gas patterns)

Fluid

(fluid patterns)



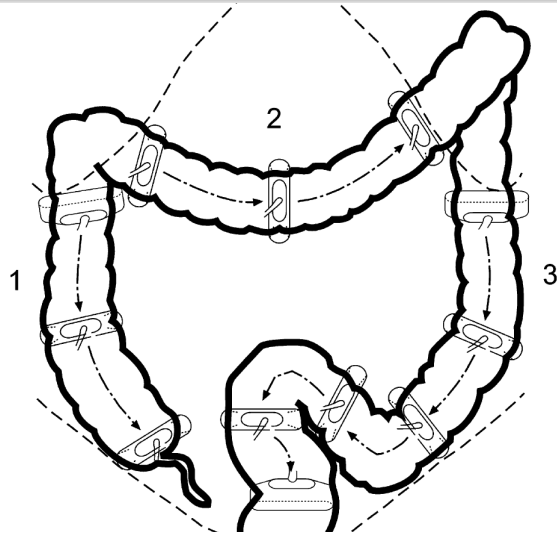
The **mucus pattern** appears as a target with a highly reflective core of mucus.

In the **gas pattern**, only the proximal side of the bowel wall is visible due to beam attenuation by gas

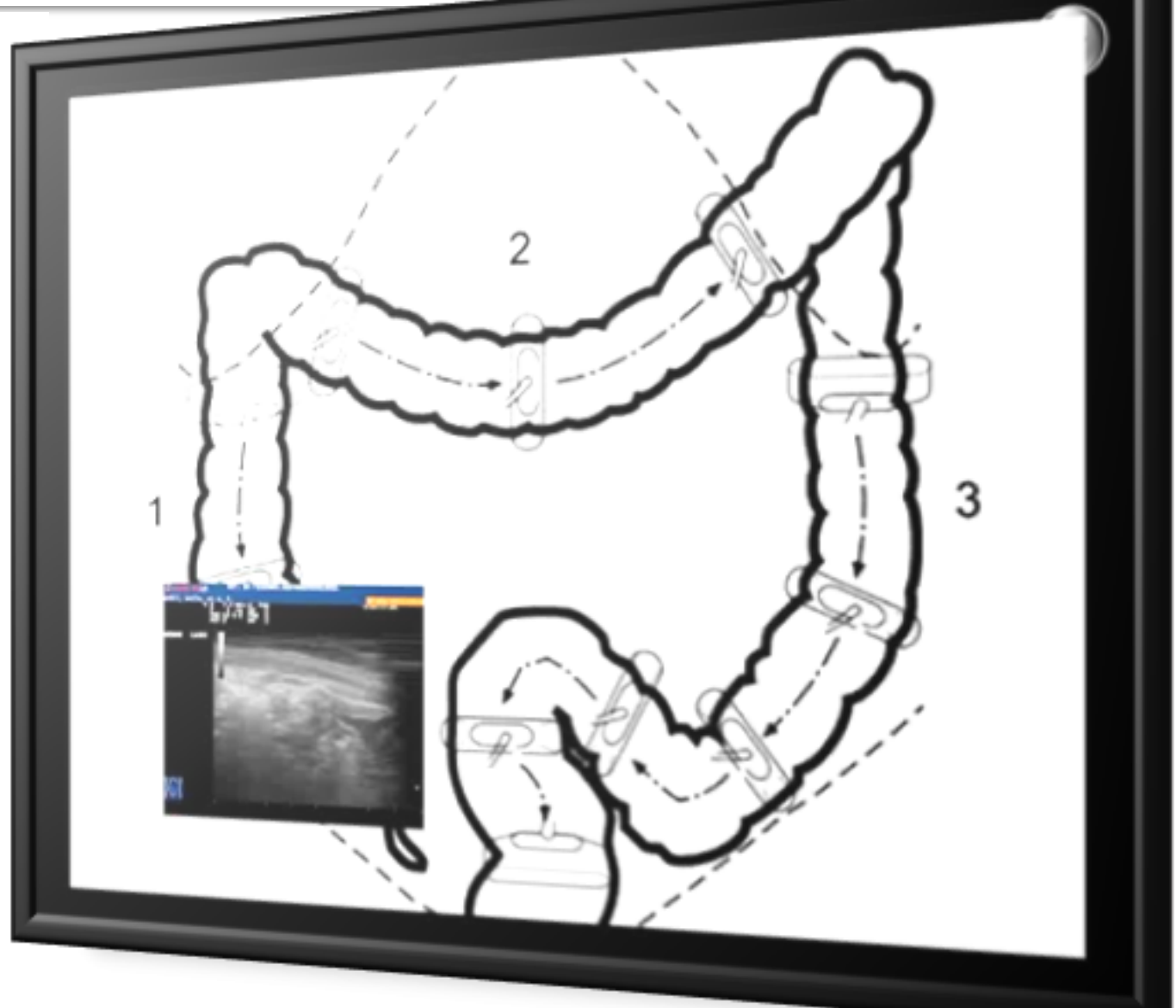
The **fluid pattern** gives a tubular appearance on a longitudinal section and a rounded pattern on a cross-section.

## Colonic diseases: The value of US examination

Alois Hollerweger\*



cross-sectional imaging methods such as US, CT, or MRI can primarily demonstrate transmural changes of the bowel wall and of pericolic structures and thus provide additional information to the endoscopic results. Bowel wall thickening results in decreased luminal gas content permitting better US evaluation of the intestine and surrounding structures



# Patologie intestinali (CENNI)

- **APPENDICITE ACUTA**
- **DIVERTICOLITE ACUTA**
- **IBD**
- **TUMORI**
- ERNIE
- OCCLUSIONE INTESTINALE
- PATOLOGIA VASCOLARE

# APPENDICITE

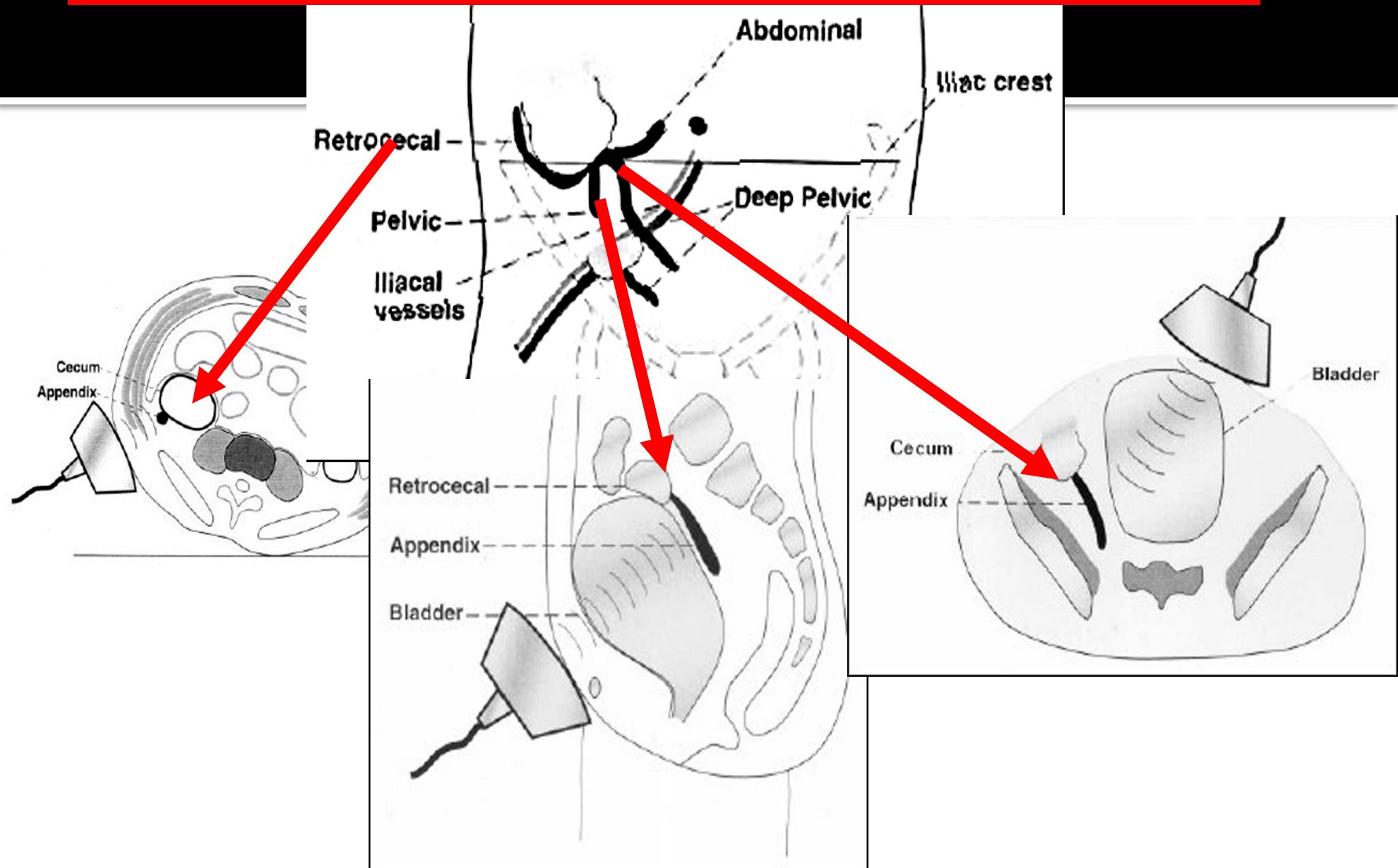


# TECNICA ECOGRAFICA: “COMPRESSIONE GRADUALE”



**Puylaert JBCM. Radiology 1986 (158) 355-360**

# TECNICA ECOGRAFICA PEDIATRICA: “L’ ECOGRAFIA NON COMPRESSIVA”



Baldisserotto M, AJR 2000, (175), 1387-1392

# CRITERI ECOGRAFICI B-MODE DI APPENDICITE ACUTA NON PERFORATA

**1. DIMENSIONI**

**2. FORMA**

**3. COMPRIMIBILITA' (ASSENTE)**

**4. PERISTALSI (ASSENTE)**

**5. APPENDICOLITI**

**6. ADENOPATIE**

**1. ISPESSIMENTO DEL GRASSO  
PERIVISCERALE**

**CRITERI ECOGRAFICI **COLORDOPPLER** DI  
APPENDICITE ACUTA NON PERFORATA**

**7. COLOR: FLUSSO ARTERIOSO  
ALL' INTERNO DELLA PARETE  
APPENDICOLARE**

**8. DOPPLER: FLUSSO ARTERIOSO  
DI TIPO “INFIAMMATORIO”**



# 1. DIMENSIONI



**DIAMETRO > 6 mm (Jeffrey, Radiology, 1988)**

**PARETE > 3 mm (Larson, AJR, 1989)**

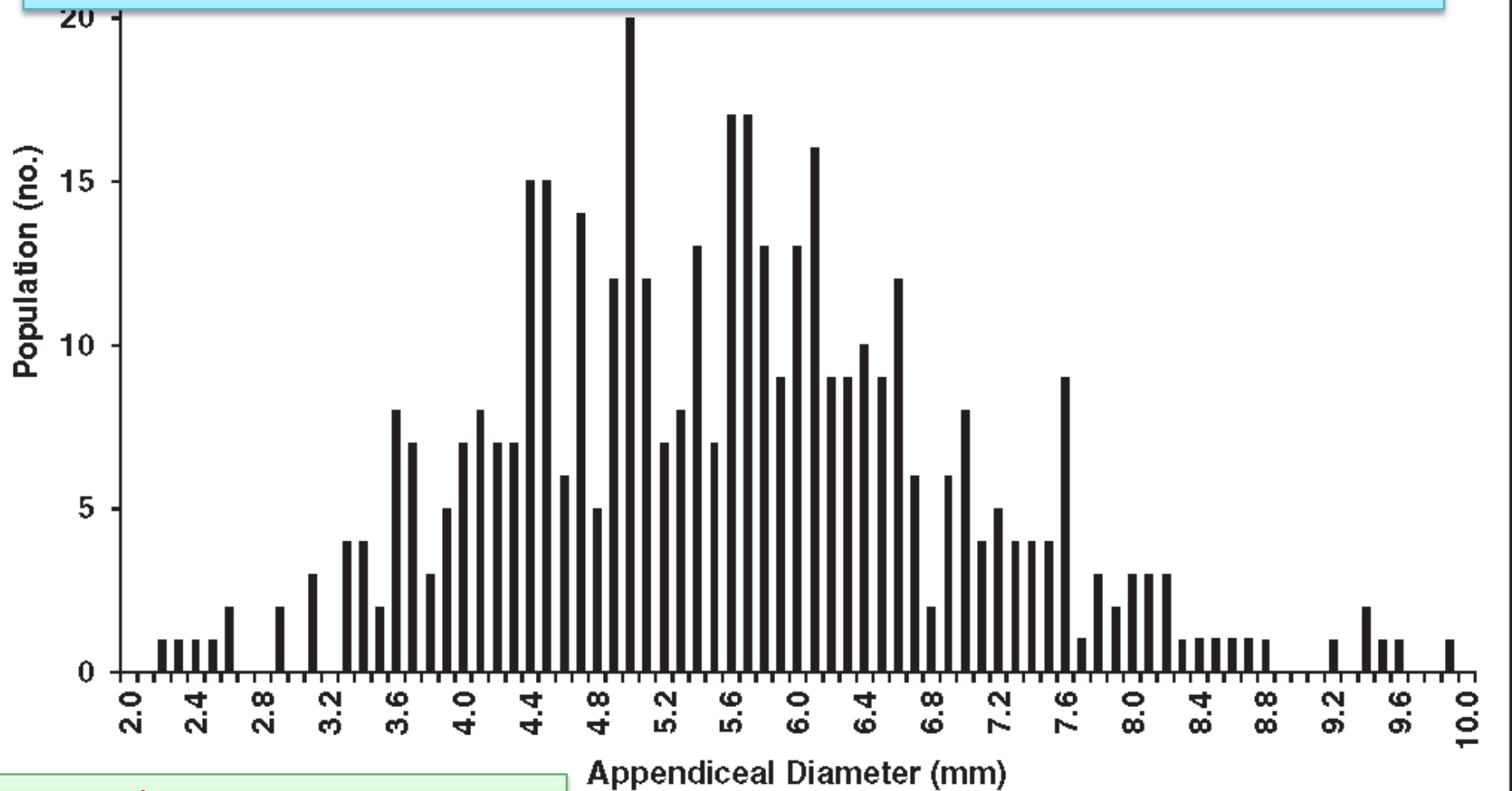


**CRITERI ECOGRAFICI B-MODE  
APPENDICITE ACUTA NON  
PERFORATA**

# 1. DIMENSIONI:

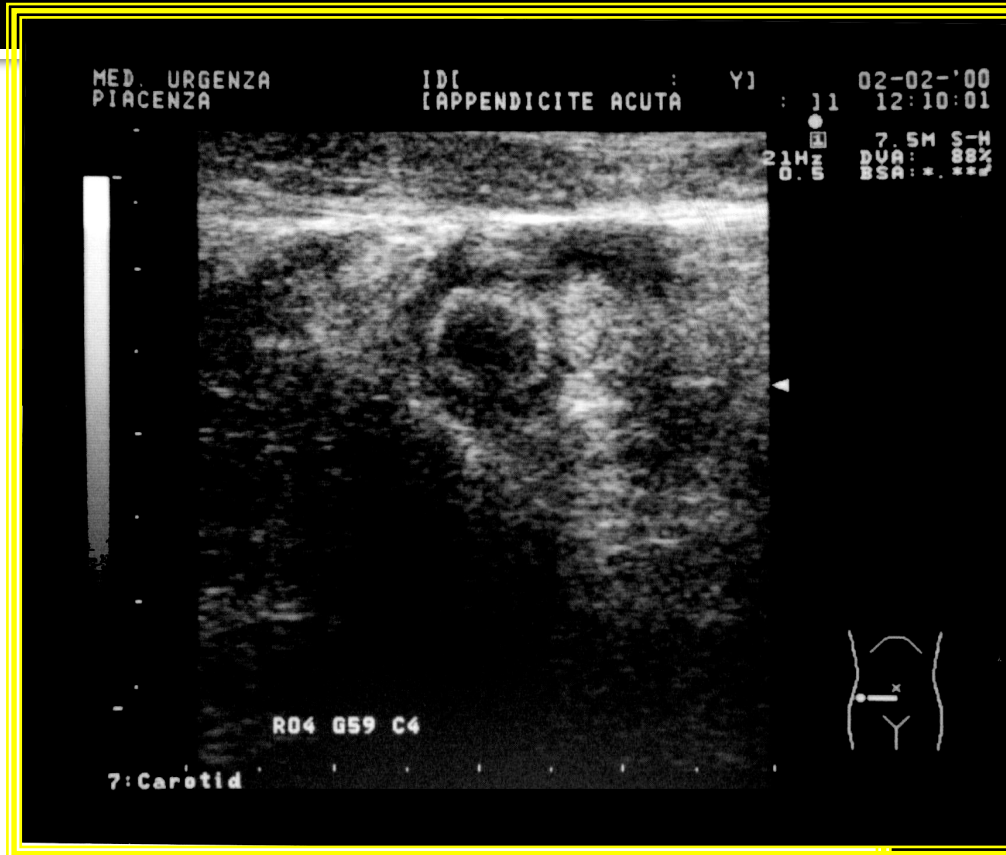
## The Pediatric Appendix: Defining Normal (420 Pts evaluated with spiral CT)

*The mean appendiceal diameter was  $5.6 \pm 1.4$  and  $5.7 \pm 1.5$  mm for reviewer 1 and reviewer 2, respectively, with 34% and 39% of appendixes measuring larger than 6 mm*



Trout T et al. AJR 2014; 202:936–945

## 2. FORMA



SCANS. TRASVERSA: "BULL-EYE"

SCANS. OBLIQUA: "A CUL DE SAC"



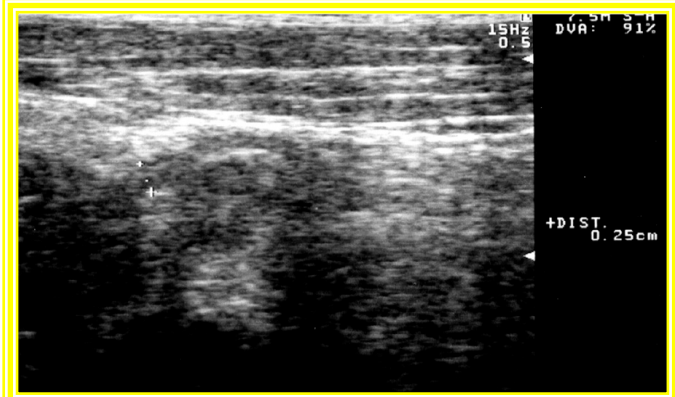
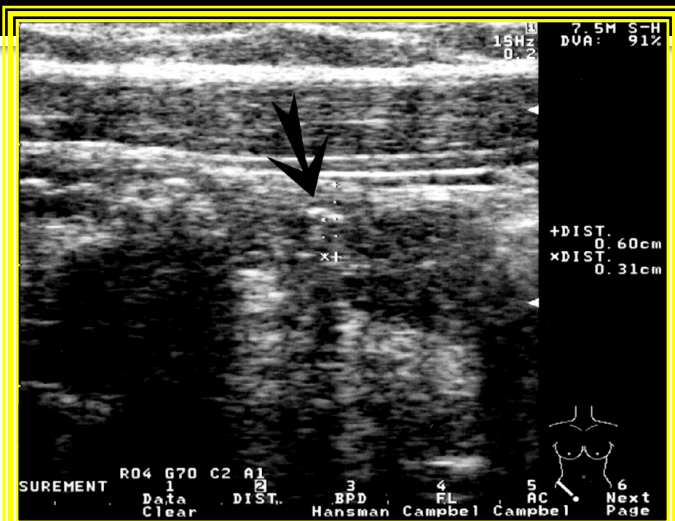
CRITERI ECOGRAFICI B-MODE  
APPENDICITE ACUTA NON  
PERFORATA

MEASUREMENT R04 G60 C4  
B-1 1 Data Clear 2 DIST. 3 Area Trace 4 Area Ellipse 5 Angle 6 Next Page

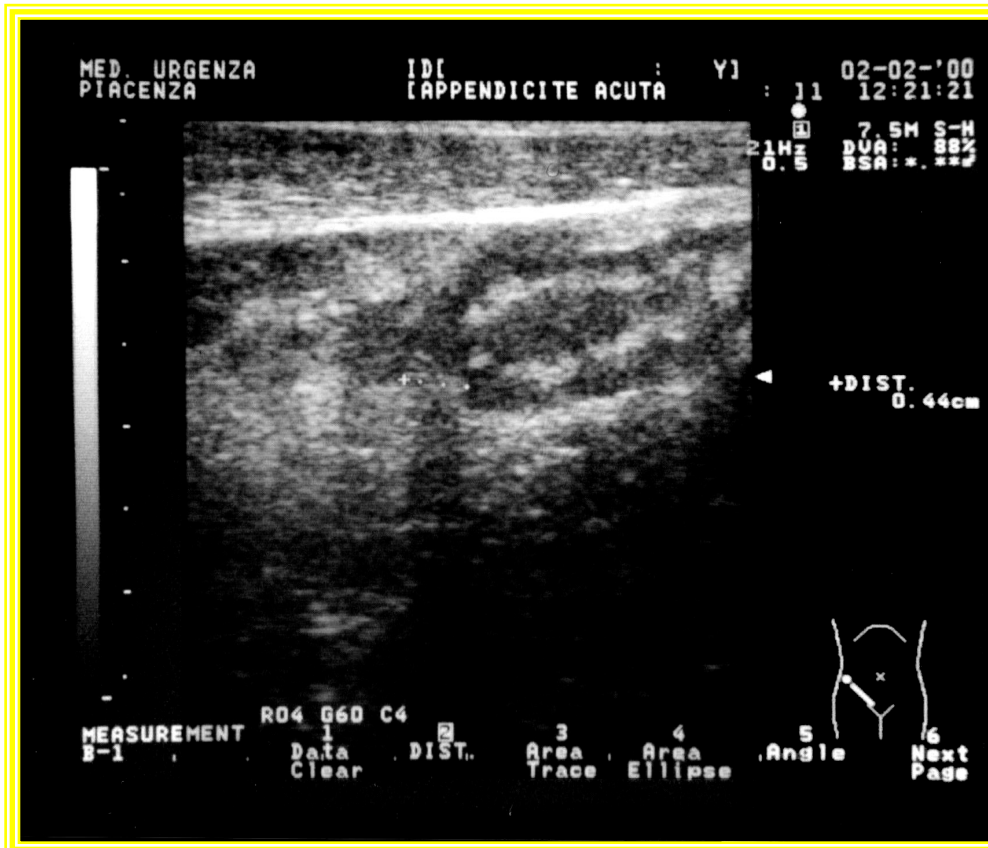
This block contains a menu for the measurement tool. The options are: 1 Data Clear, 2 DIST., 3 Area Trace, 4 Area Ellipse, 5 Angle, and 6 Next Page. The current selection is 2 DIST.

# 5. APPENDICOLITI

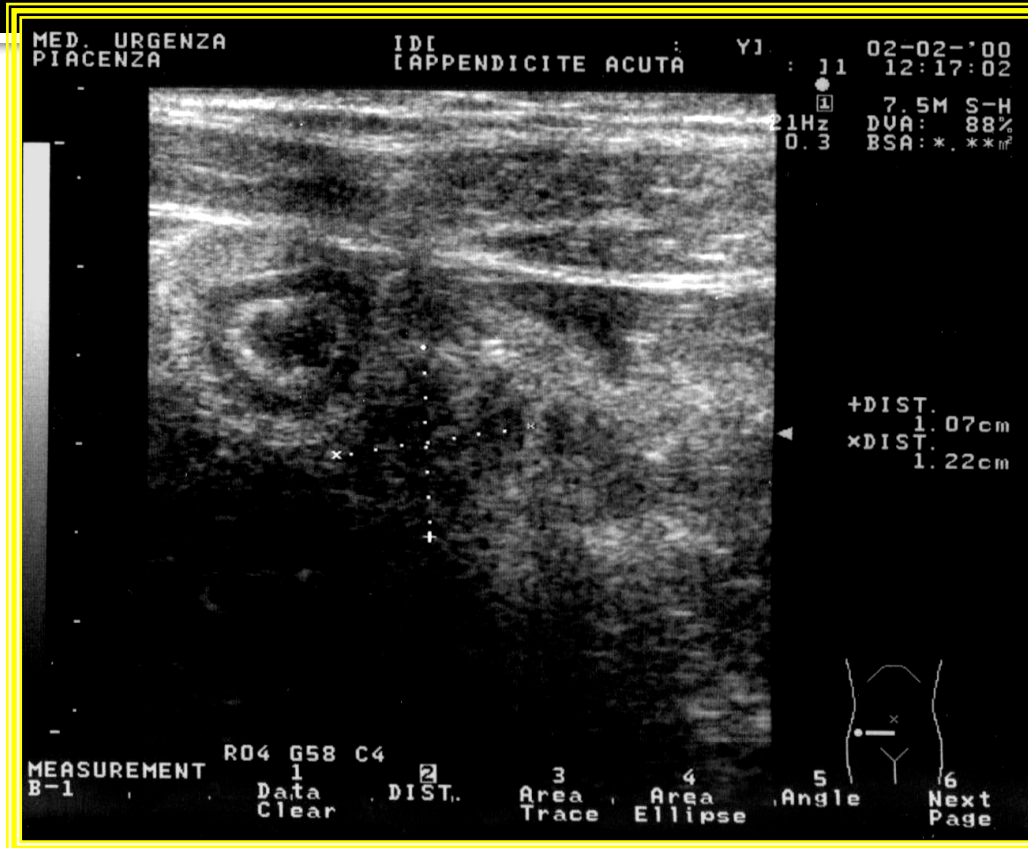
La visualizzazione ecografica di appendicoliti ostruenti è un reperto patognomonico di appendicite acuta (Borushok KF et al. AJR, 1990)



**CRITERI ECOGRAFICI B-MODE  
APPENDICITE ACUTA NON  
PERFORATA**



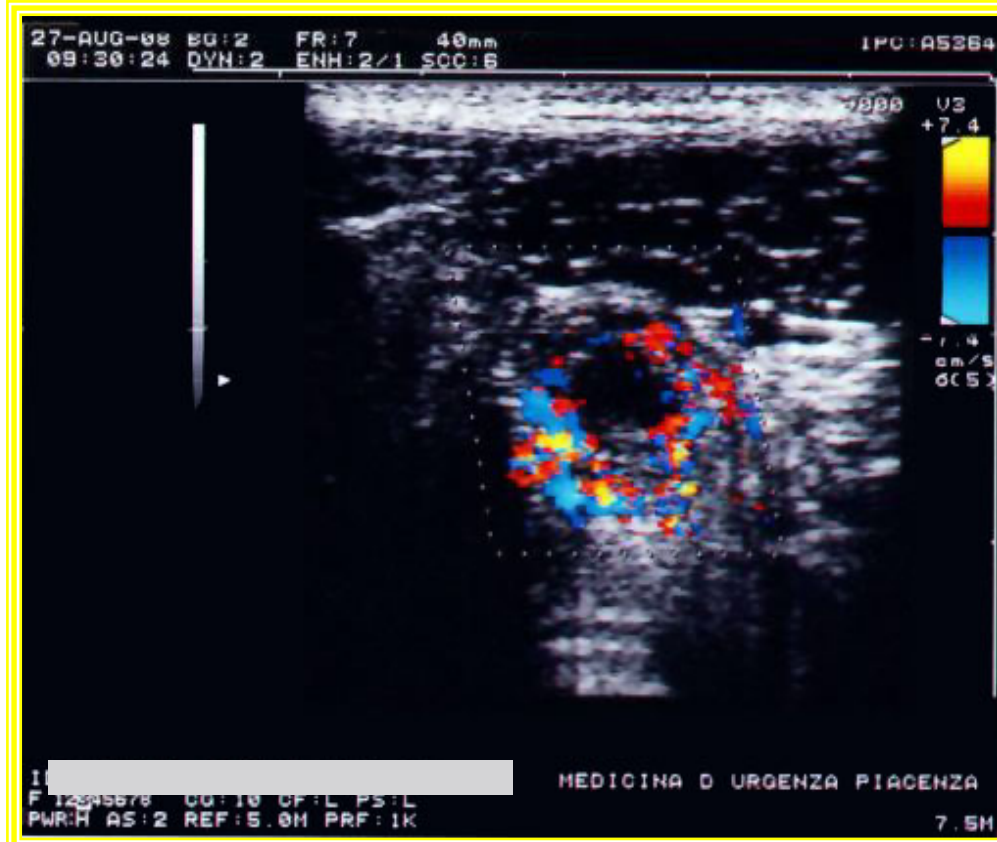
## 6. ADENOPATIE



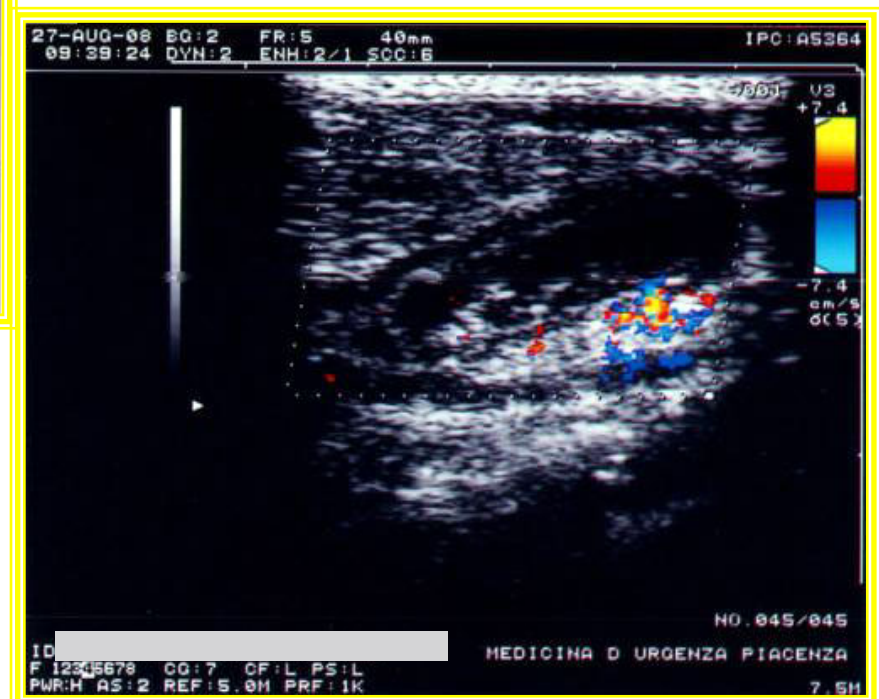
**CRITERI ECOGRAFICI B-MODE  
APPENDICITE ACUTA NON  
PERFORATA**

**in fossa iliaca destra  
(linfonodi di diametro  
maggiore di 4 mm)  
(Vignault, Radiology,  
1990; Puylaert,  
Radiology, 1986). Tale  
reperto è però  
aspecifico (presente  
anche in altre  
condizioni) (Sivit, Ped  
Radiol, 1993)**

# FLUSSO ARTERIOSO DI PARETE



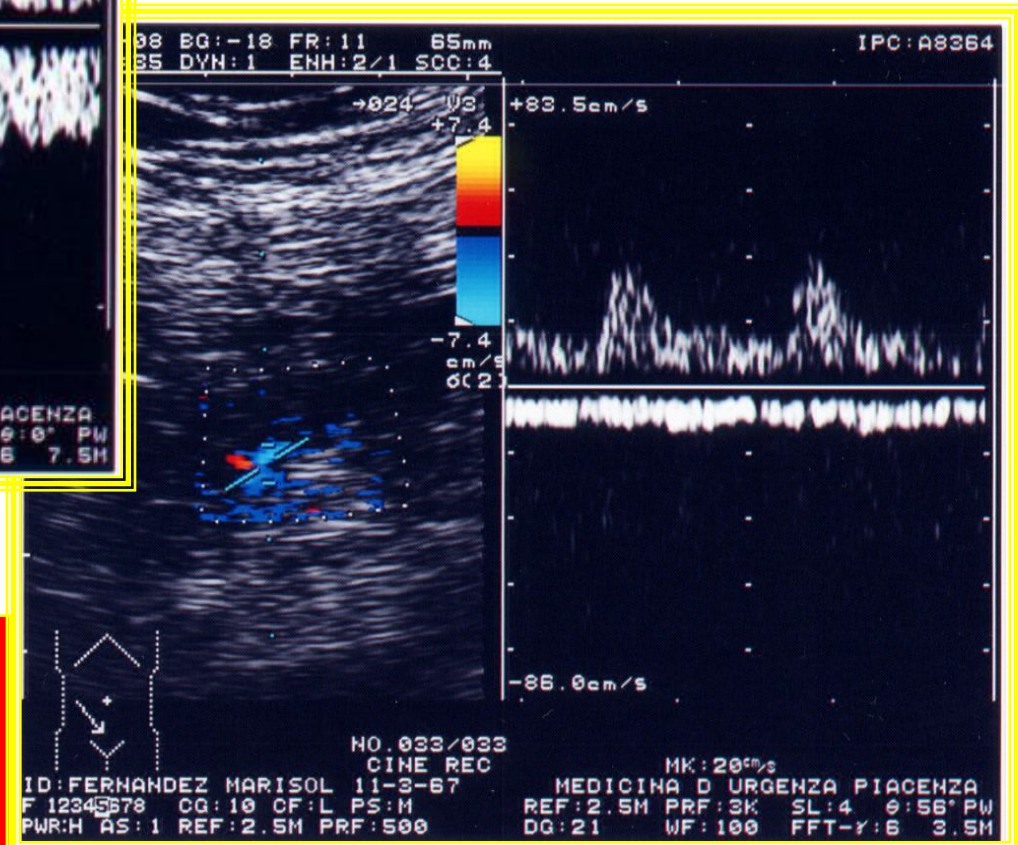
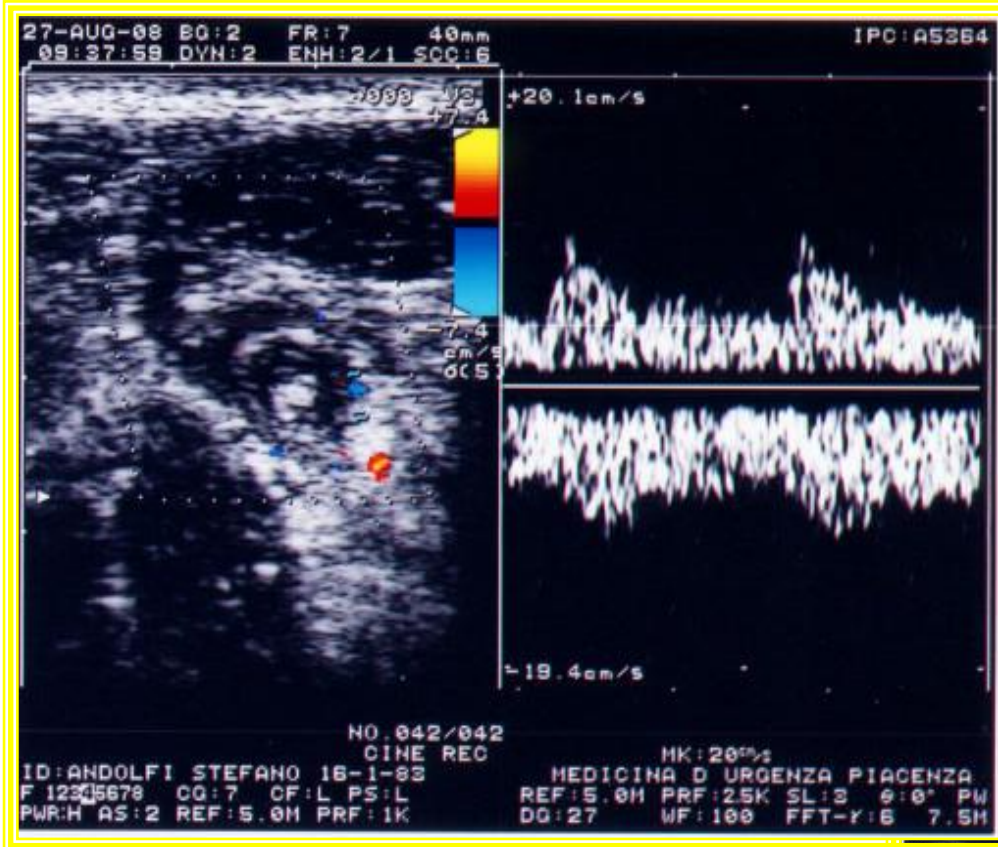
- Presenza di flusso di parete (Quillin, Radiology, 1992)
- Assenza di flusso nelle zone di necrosi focale
- nel caso di diagnosi B-mode dubbia, la dimostrazione ecocolordoppler di flusso all'interno di parete consente di far diagnosi di appendicite acuta (Lim, Radiology, 1996)



**CRITERI ECOGRAFICI  
COLORDOPPLER  
APPENDICITE ACUTA NON  
PERFORATA**

# FLUSSO ARTERIOSO DI TIPO "INFIAMMATORIO"

al doppler pulsato presenza di flusso diastolico (da vasodilatazione infiammatoria)  
(Lim, Radiology, 1996)



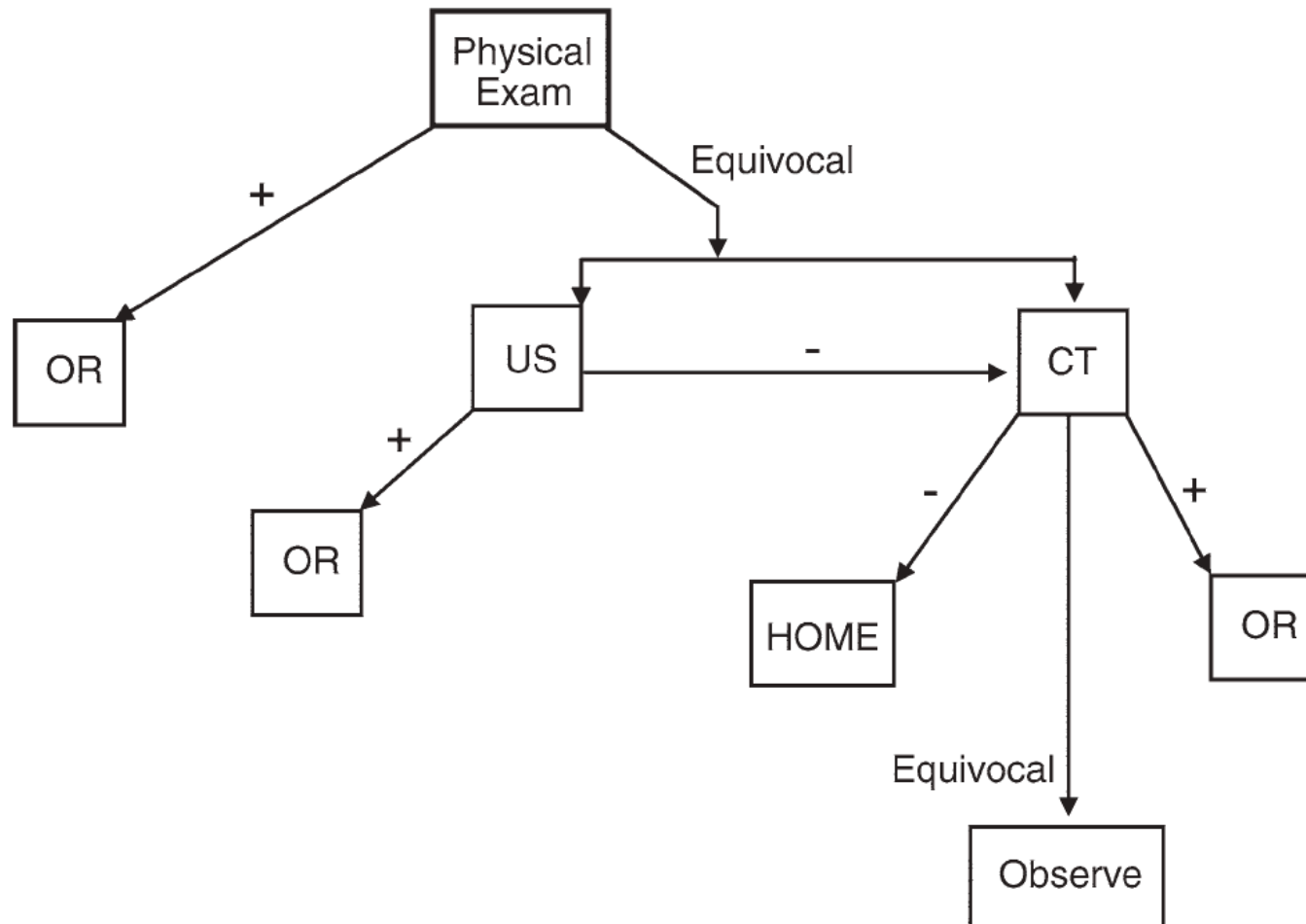
CRITERI ECOGRAFICI  
COLORDOPPLER  
APPENDICITE ACUTA NON  
PERFORATA

# APPENDICITE ACUTA





# CT and US in the Diagnosis of Appendicitis



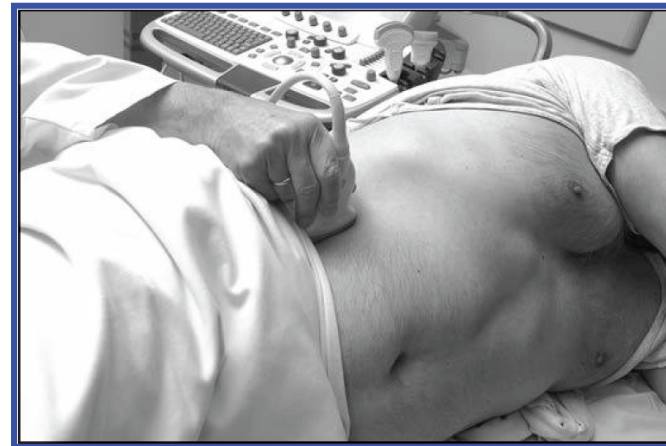
Hernanz-Schulman M. Radiology 2010; 255:3–7

# Three-Step Sequential Positioning Algorithm During Sonographic Evaluation for Appendicitis Increases Appendiceal Visualization Rate and Reduces CT Use

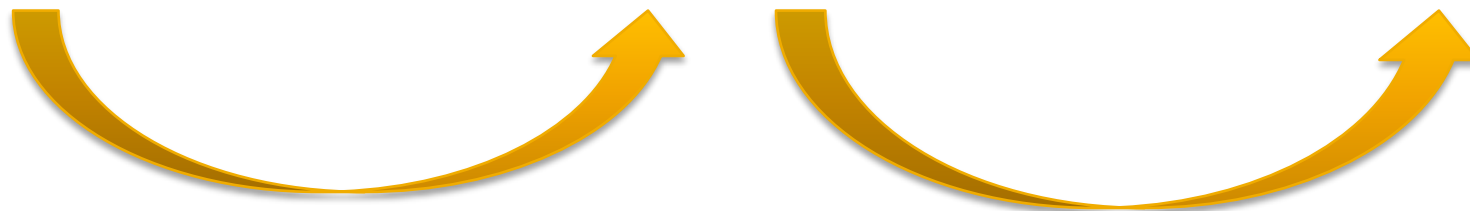
Supine position



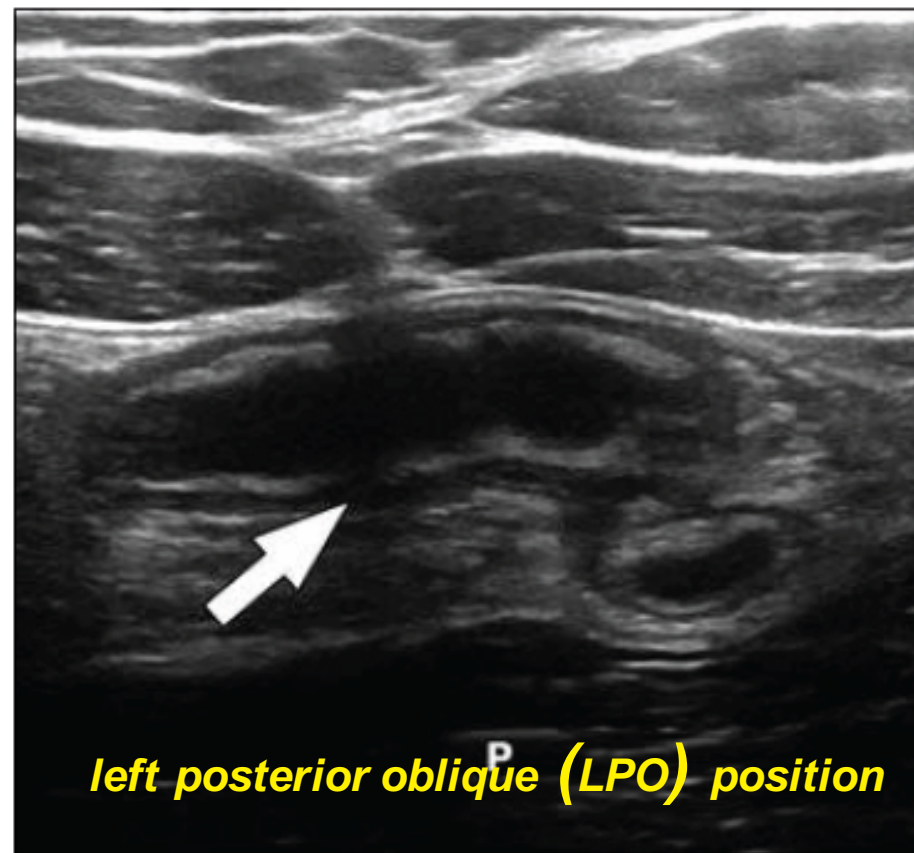
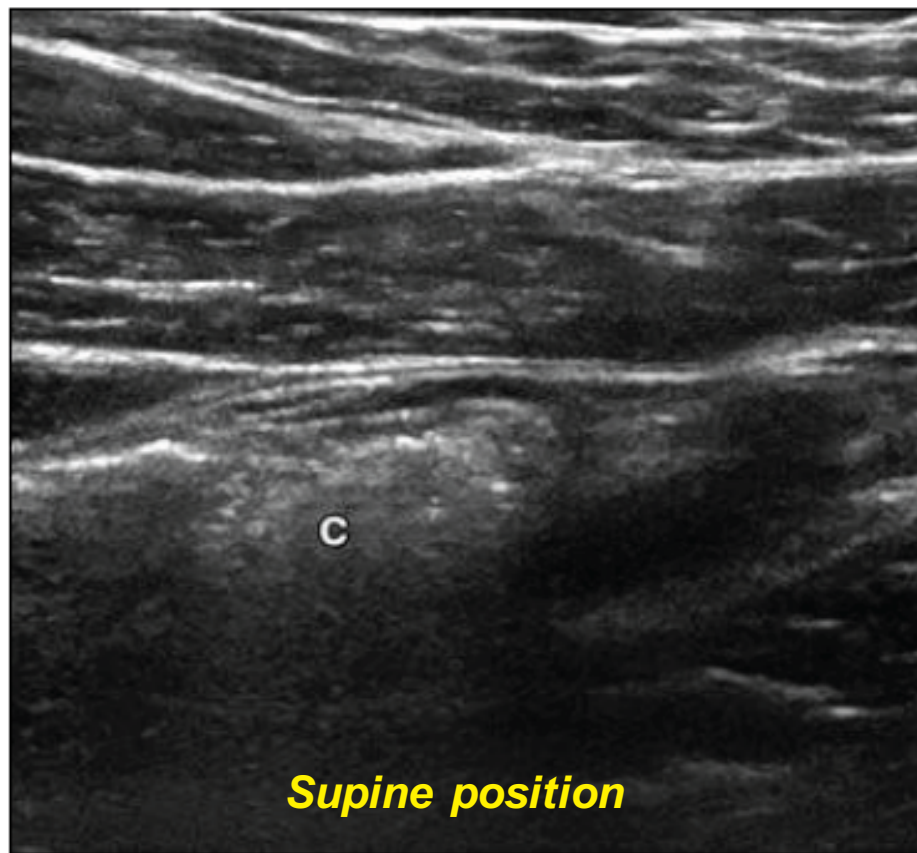
left posterior oblique (LPO) position



“second-look” supine scan



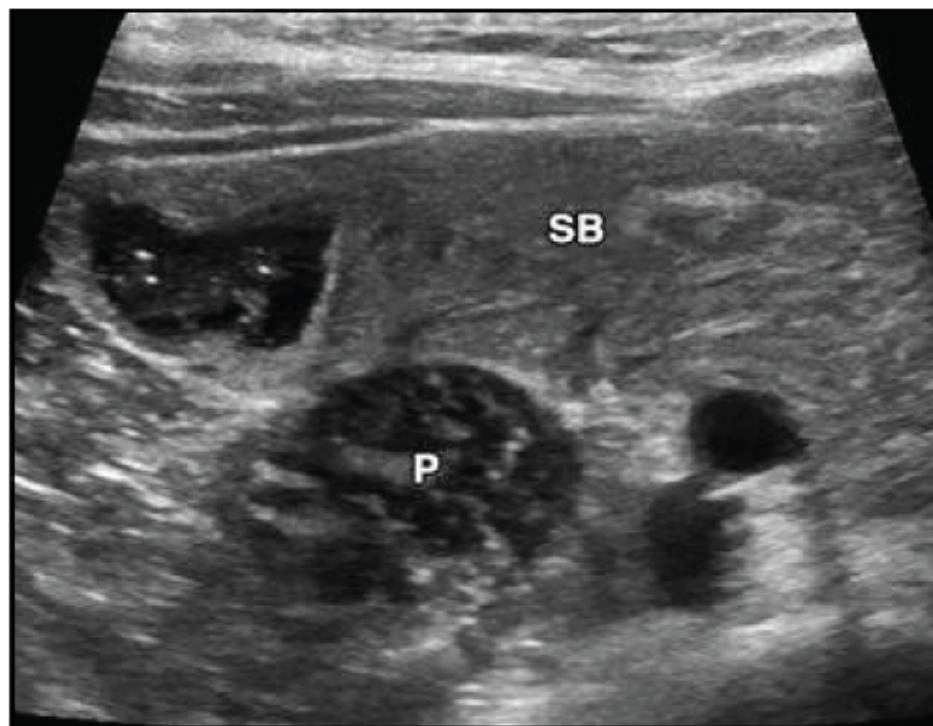
# Three-Step Sequential Positioning Algorithm During Sonographic Evaluation for Appendicitis Increases Appendiceal Visualization Rate and Reduces CT Use



## Acute Appendicitis

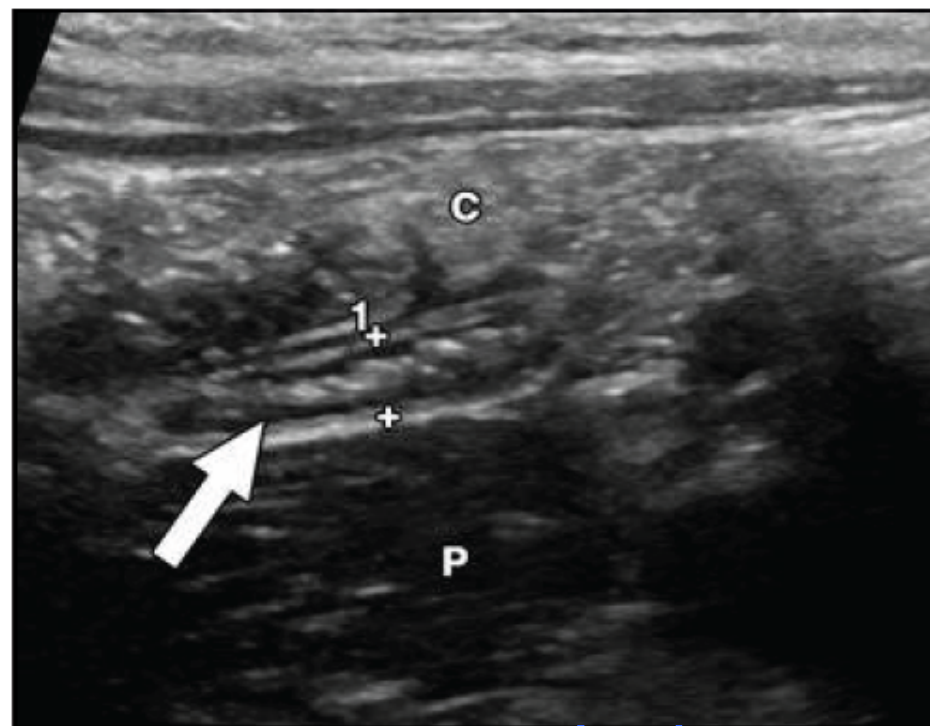
Chang S. et al. AJR 2014; 203:1006–1012

# Three-Step Sequential Positioning Algorithm During Sonographic Evaluation for Appendicitis Increases Appendiceal Visualization Rate and Reduces CT Use



*Supine position*

**A**



*left posterior oblique (LPO) position*

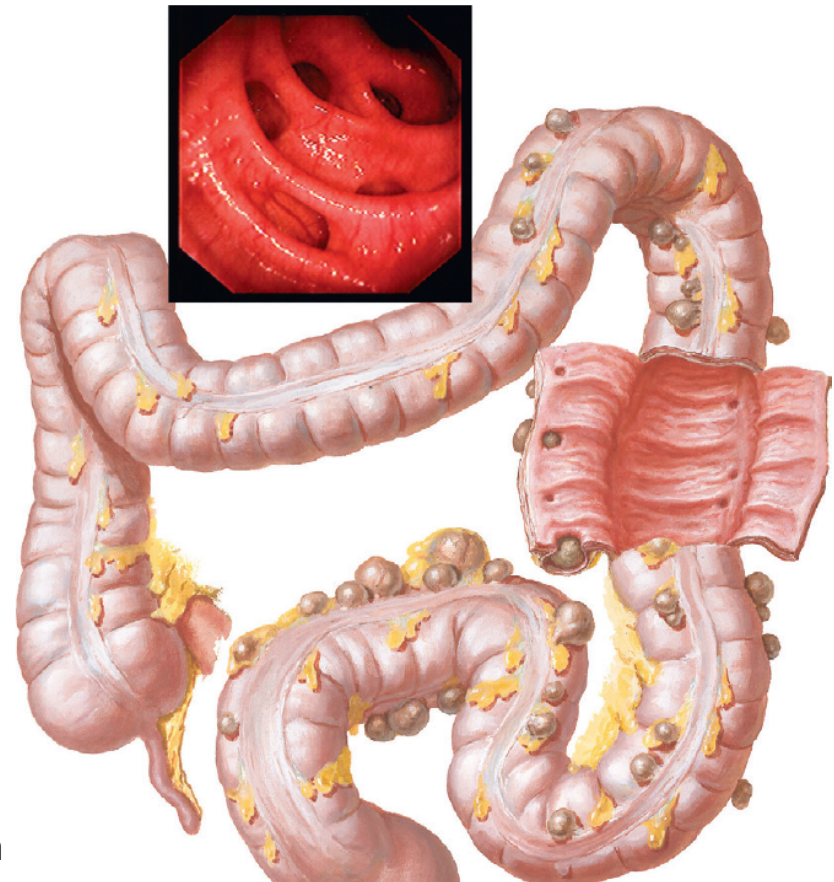
**B**

**Normal Appendix**

Chang S. et al. AJR 2014; 203:1006–1012

# DIVERTICOLOSI E MALATTIA DIVERTICOLARE

- Diverticulosis of the colon is an acquired condition that results from herniation of the mucosa through defects in the muscle coats. Defects are usually located where the blood vessels pierce the muscular wall to gain access to the submucosal plane



# MALATTIA DIVERTICOLARE



# **DIVERTICOLITE ACUTA**

## *aspetti ecografici*

**Visualizzazione del diverticolo**

*Focus iperecogeno ovoidale/rotondo vicino/nello spessore della parete intestinale spesso con ombra acustica*

**Ispessim. parete intestinale**

**Flogosi del grasso pericolico**

*Aree iperecogene mal-definite attorno all'ansa ispessita*

**Ascessi intramurali  
o pericolici**

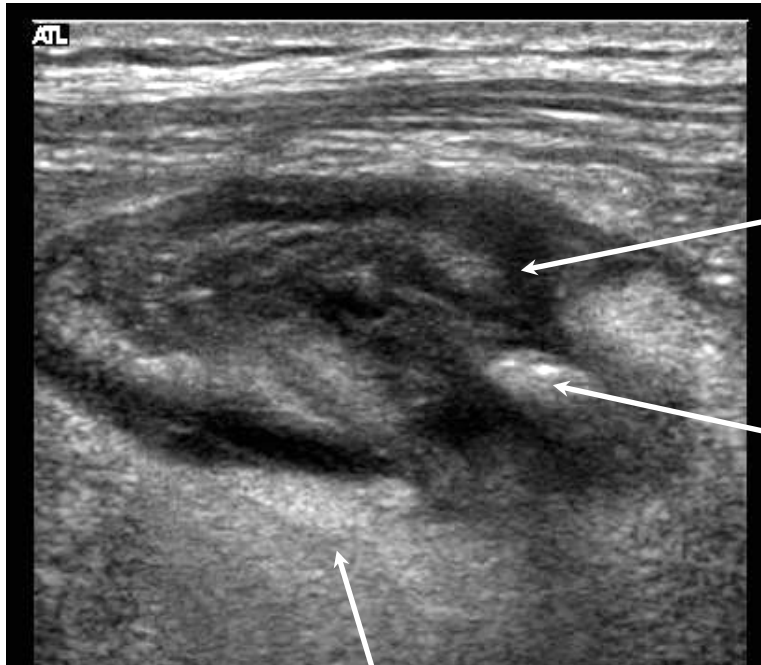
*Aree ipoecogene vicine ansa ispessita*

**Dolore alla pressione con la sonda**



# **DIVERTICOLITE ACUTA**

*aspetti ecografici*



***Ispessimento parete intestinale***

***Visualizzazione del diverticolo***

***Flogosi del grasso pericolico***

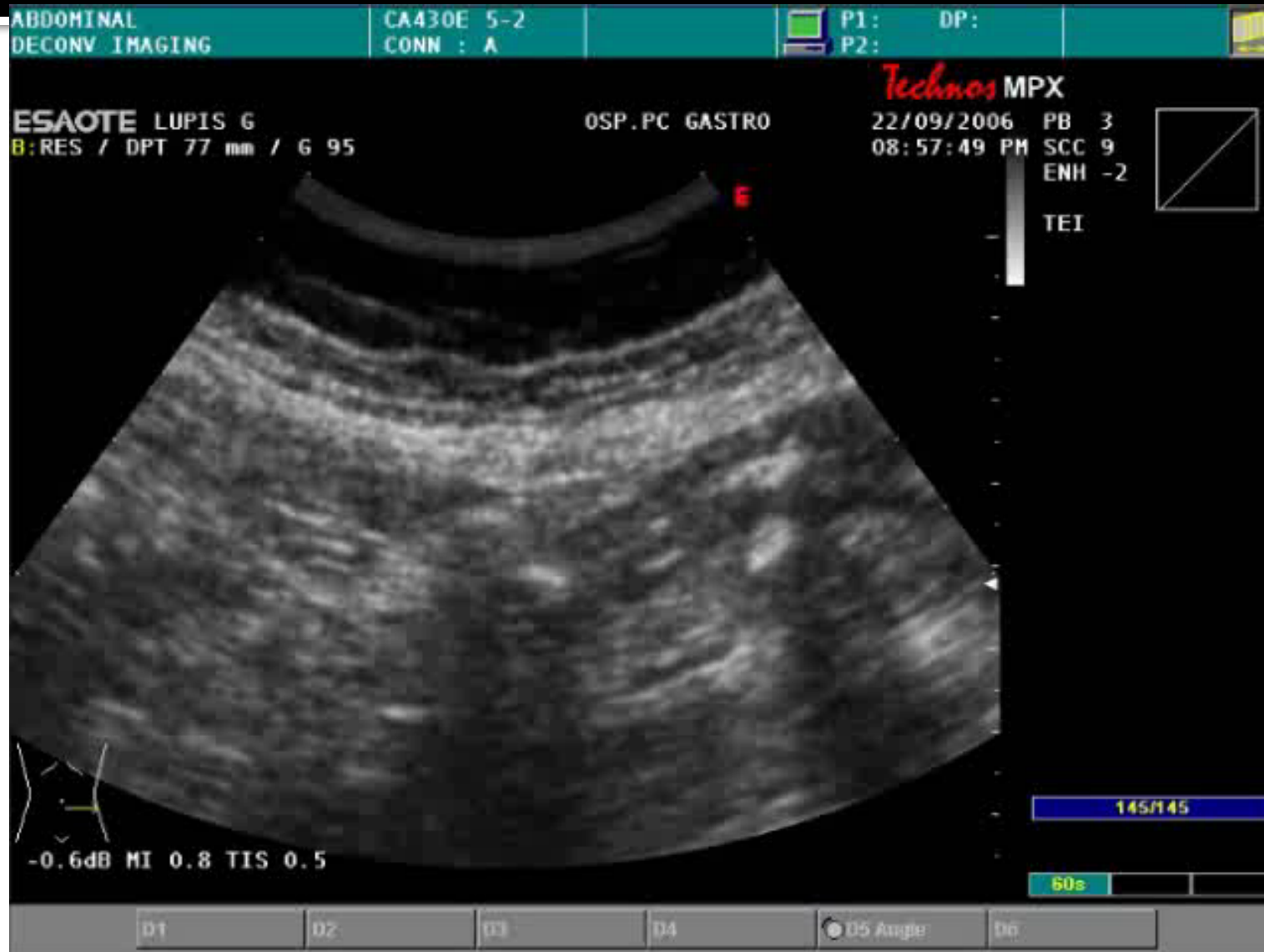


***Ascessi intramurali o pericolici***

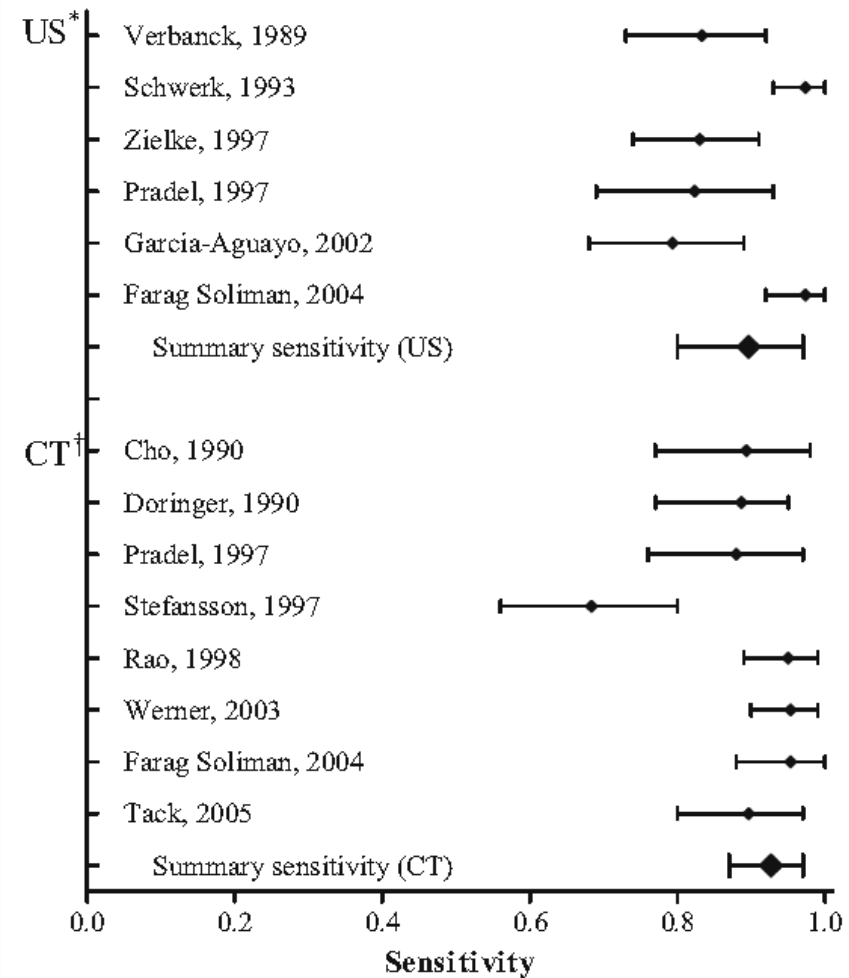
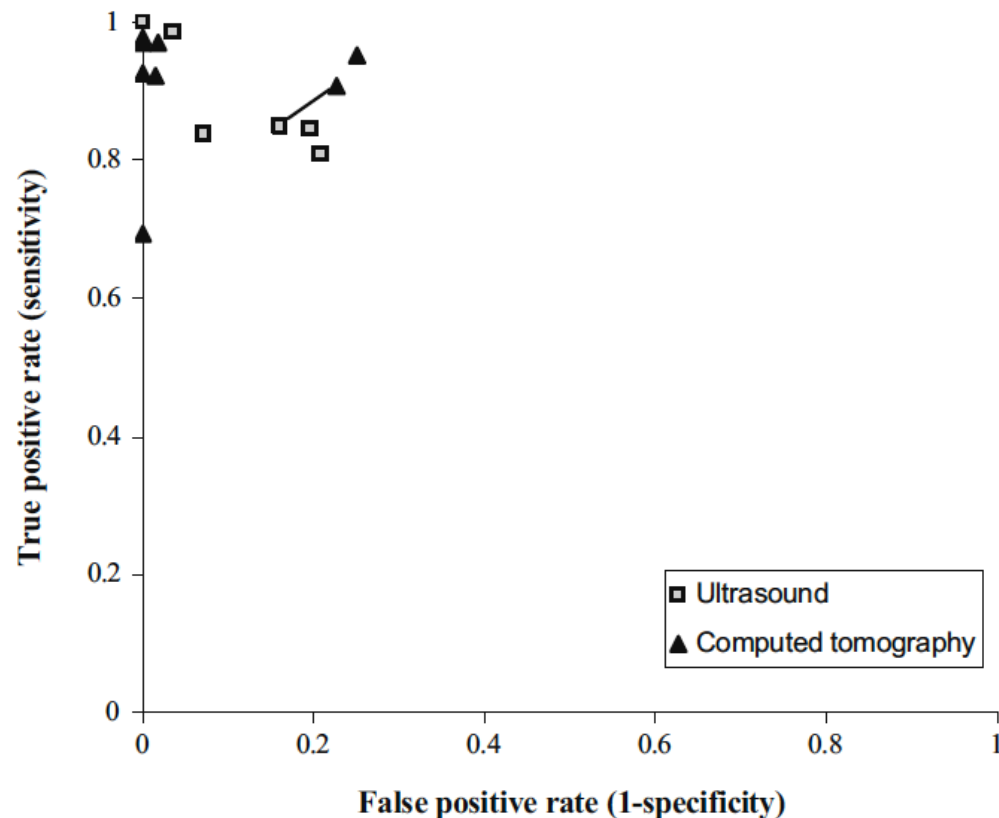


# DIVERTICOLITE ACUTA

*aspetti ecografici*



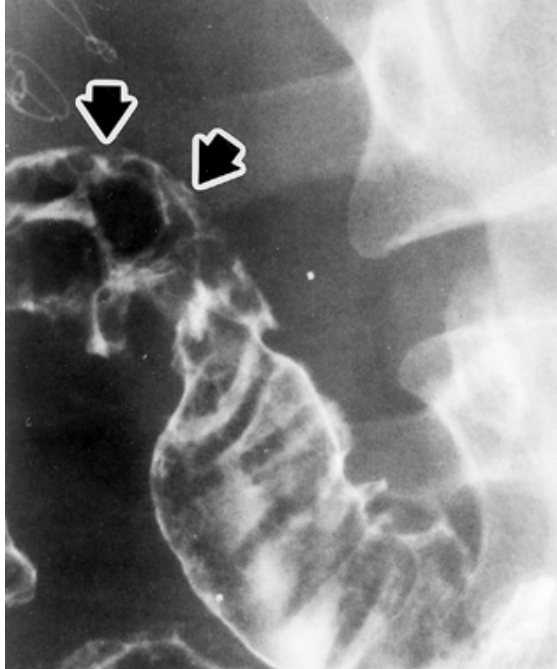
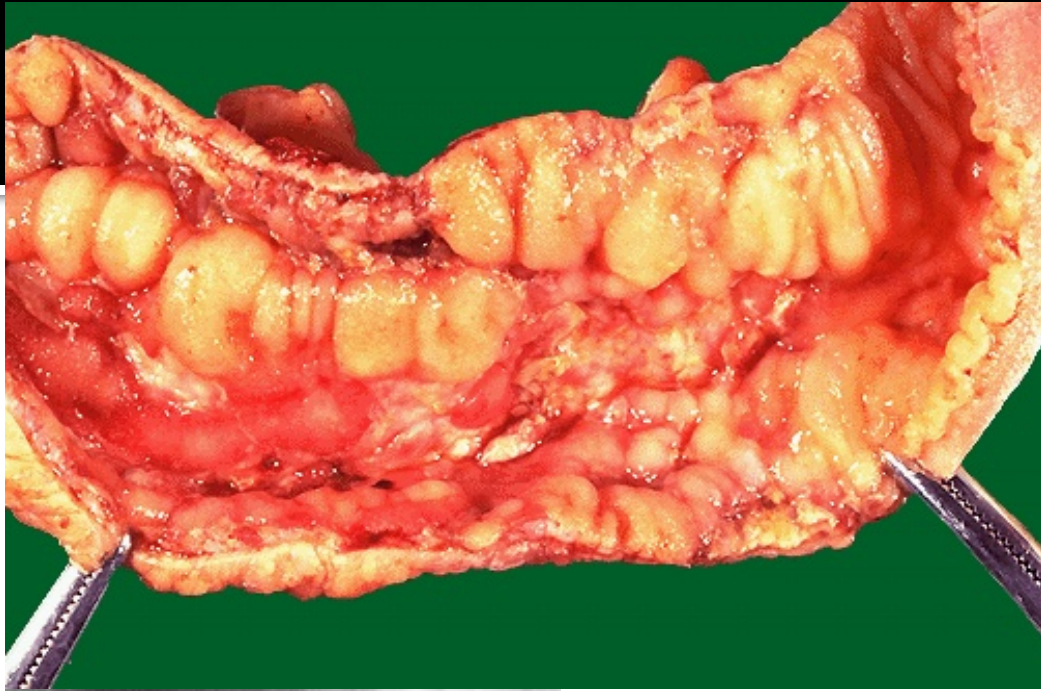
# Graded compression ultrasonography and computed tomography in acute colonic diverticulitis: meta-analysis of test accuracy



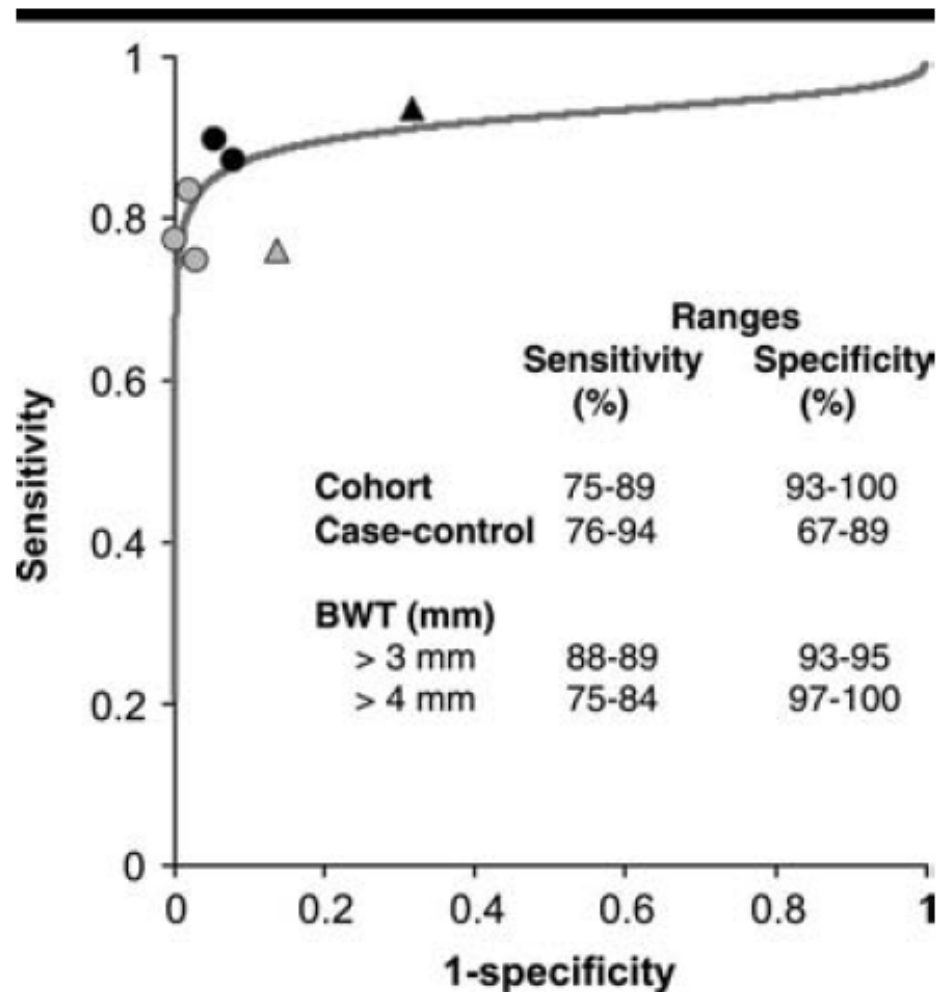
\* Q-test of US sensitivities: 11.7 (p=0.04, Df=5), I<sup>2</sup>= 57% (95%CI: 0%-83%)

† Q-test of CT sensitivities: 29 (p<0.001, Df= 7), I<sup>2</sup>= 76% (95%CI: 52%-82%)

# IBD



# Role of US in Detection of Crohn Disease: Meta-Analysis



Fraquelli M. Et al., Radiology 2005; 236:95–101

# Capabilities of intestinal ultrasound in patients with inflammatory bowel disease

A. K. Asthana et al. *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology* 30 (2015) 446–452

- ✓ Assessment of disease activity
  - Good level evidence for assessment for all degrees of inflammation in small bowel and colon in Crohn's disease
  - Increasing evidence base for assessment of colonic disease in ulcerat. colitis
- ✓ Assessment of complications
  - Abscesses and differentiation from an inflammatory phlegmon (CEUS)
  - Strictures with proximal bowel dilatation
  - Enteric and perineal fistulae
  - Perianal abscesses and inflammatory phlegmon
- ✓ Unique information
  - Toxic megacolon
  - Real-time data, such as motility
  - Wall layer stratification
  - Mesenteric hyperechogenicity
  - Reactive lymphadenopathy
  - Hyperemia on color Doppler
  - Differentiation between abscesses and inflammatory phlegmon
  - Inflammatory component of fistulae and strictures on color Doppler
  - Fibrosis element of intestinal wall
- ✓ Advantages over other imaging modalities
  - Cheap
  - No radiation
  - Completely risk-free
  - No need for fasting or bowel preparation for most scans
- ✓ Disadvantages over other imaging modal.
  - Operator dependent

# Detection e diagnosi

- Addome acuto
- Sintomatologia cronica

# Caratteristiche ecografiche della malattia di Crohn

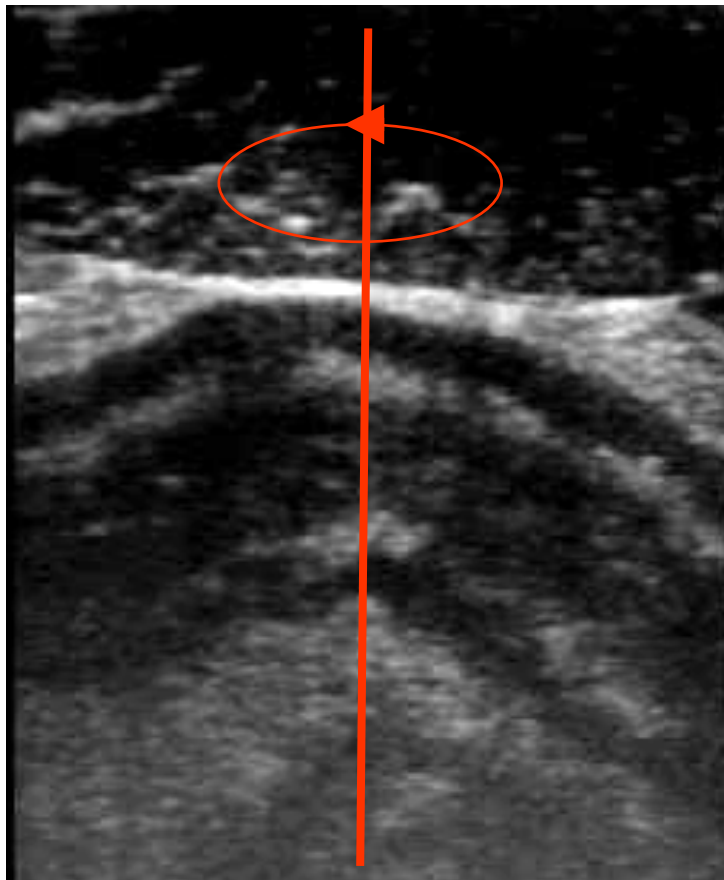
## Alterazioni della parete intestinale

- Ispessimento parietale
- Alterazione dell'ecopattern
- Iperemia / ipervascolarizzazione parietale
- Perdita di elasticità e peristalsi

## Segni intraddominali e complicanze

- Ipertrofia del mesentere
- Linfonodi intramesenterici
- Stenosi e occlusione
- Fissurazioni e fistule
- Masse infiammatorie, flemmoni e ascessi

# Caratteristiche ecografiche della malattia di Crohn



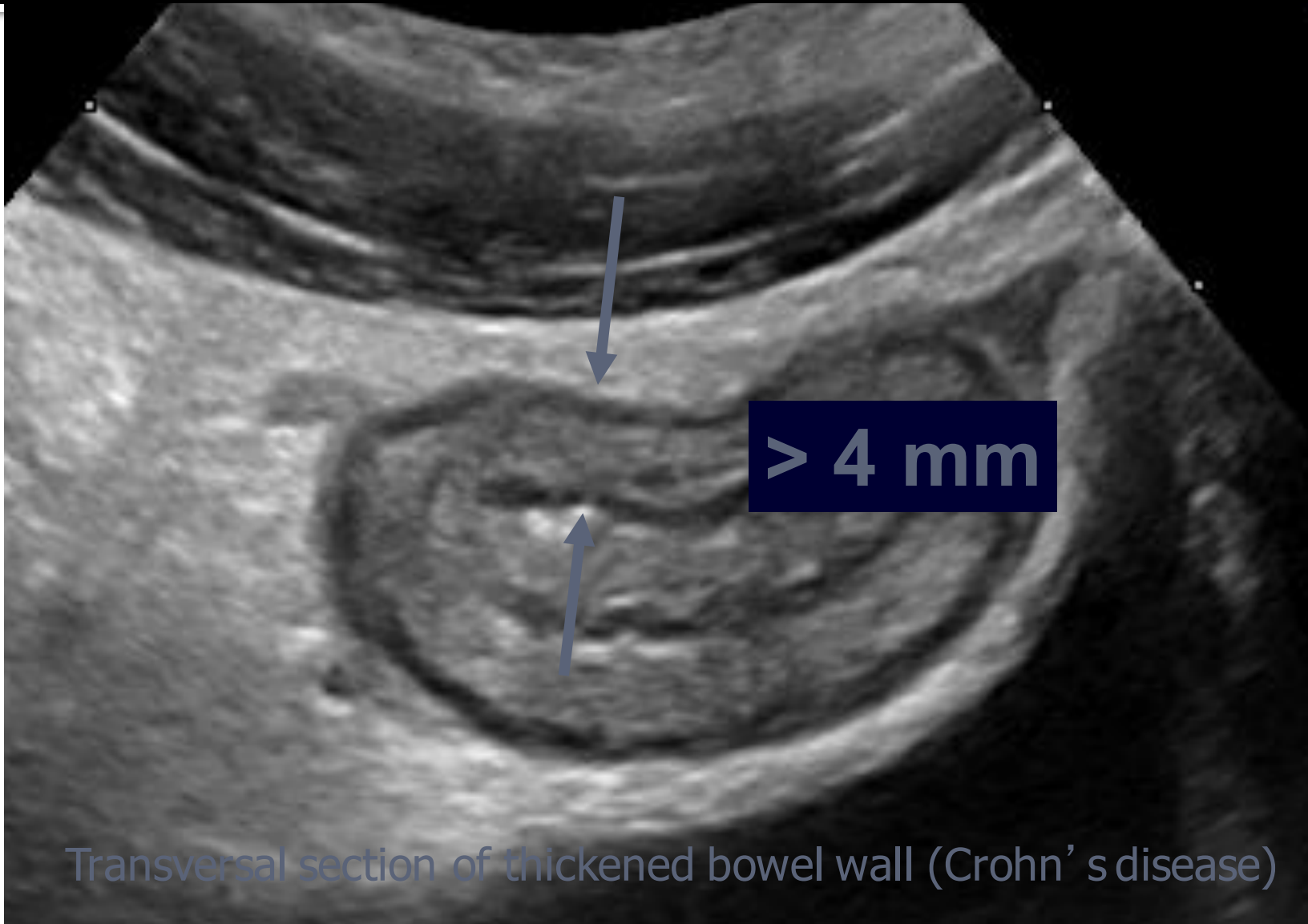
**Sezione  
Longitudinale**



**Sezione  
Transversale**



# Caratteristiche ecografiche della malattia di Crohn



# Caratteristiche ecografiche della malattia di Crohn

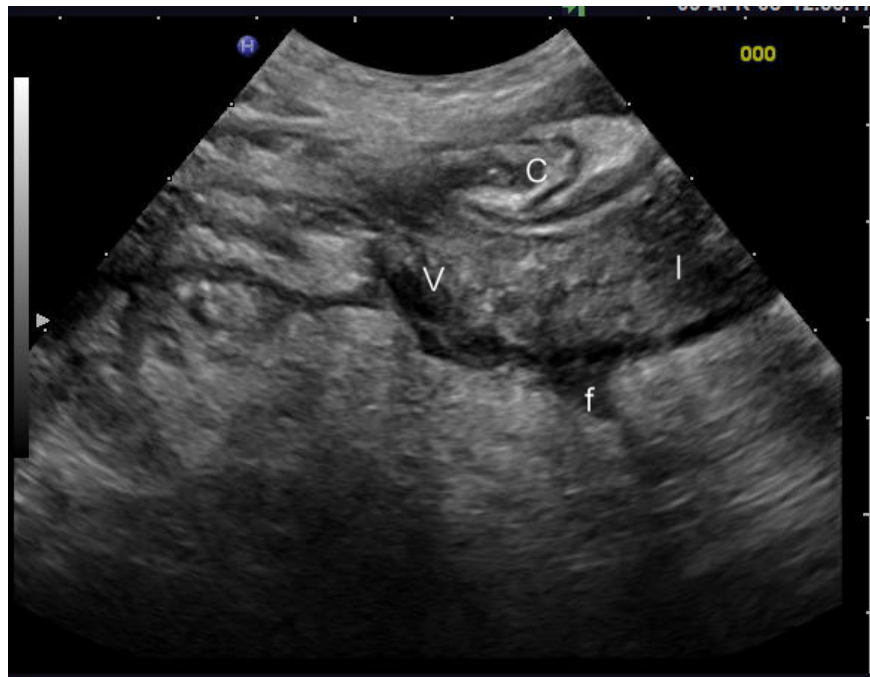


Lo

Ileo-colonic anastomotic (A) recurrence in Crohn's disease  
(longitudinal section)

se)

# CARATTERISTICHE DELLA PARETE TOPOGRAFIA



80 %



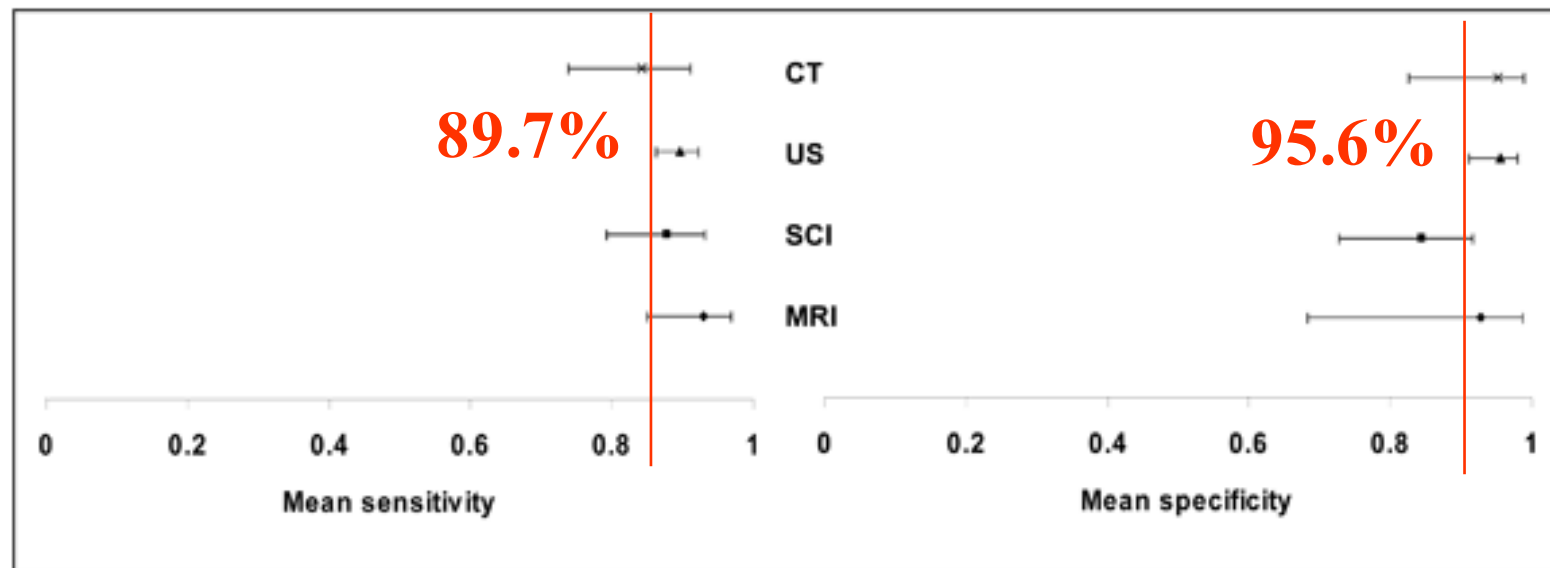
# Caratteristiche ecografiche della malattia di Crohn



# DETECTION / DIAGNOSI di IBD

## CT – US - Scintigraphy - MRI

### Meta-analysis of Prospective Studies



SCI= scintigraphy

Accuracy estimates (with confidence intervals)  
for diagnosis of **IBD** on a per-patient basis.

Horsthuis K et al Radiology 2008

# US AND CD

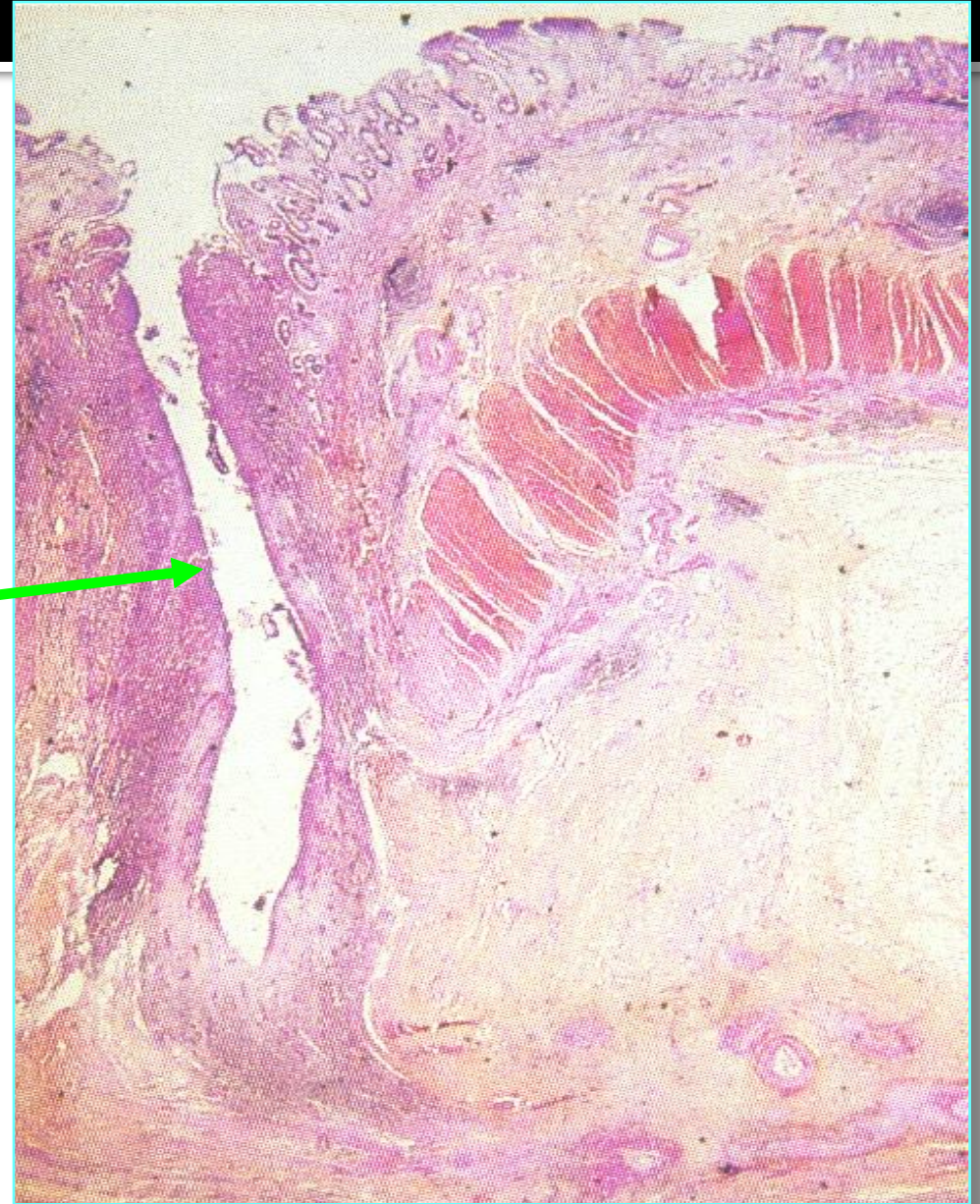


In ileal CD, US may:

- identify the affected bowel loop
- evaluate the length of involvement, tissue thickness, and the partial or total loss of the multilayer pattern.
- The degree of bowel wall thickening and extent of the thickened intestinal wall on US have been used as an index of disease activity in CD

# Malattie Infiammatorie Croniche Intestinali

## Fistola in M. di Crohn





Fistole entero-enteriche



Fistola entero-cutanea







**ASTOLA**

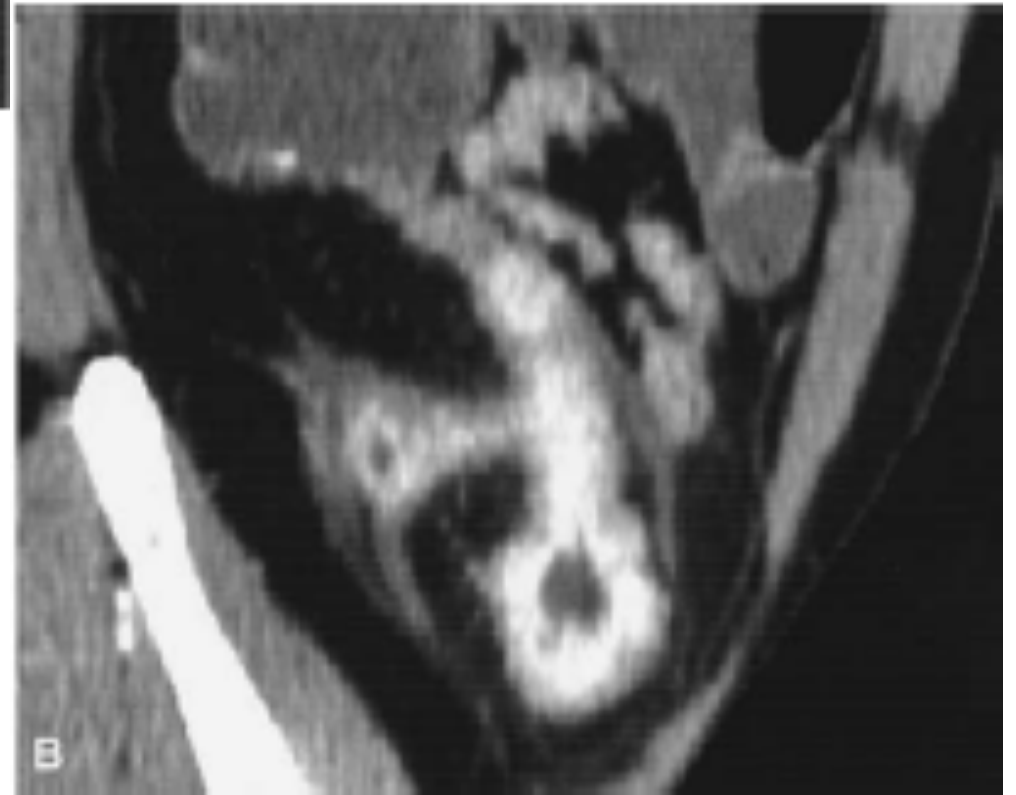


# FISTOLA ENTERO-ENTERICA





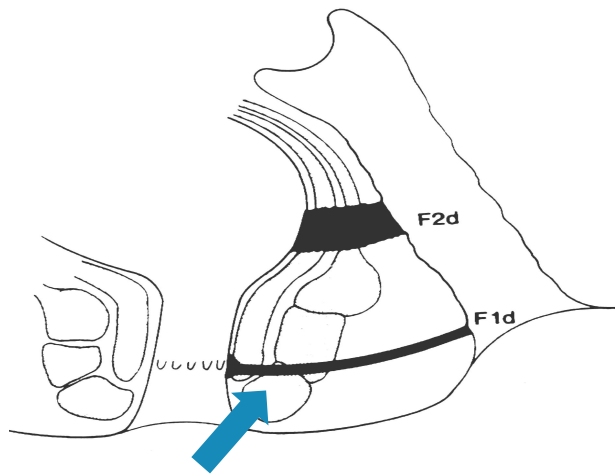
**ASCESSO**



## Transperineal US in the detection of fistulae in CD

- ▣ **Classificazione corretta con TPUS in 45/52 fistole perianali e rettovaginali ( PPV 86,5% nel confronto con EUS )**
- ▣ **Sensibilità rispetto a EUS del 84,9%**
- ▣ **Sensibilità e specificità sovrapponibile a EUS per la diagnosi di accessi perianali**
- ▣ **TPSU rappresenta un' alternativa a EUS e RM per la diagnosi di fistole perianali oltre che una metodica di imaging aggiuntiva alla EUS come test diagnostico di screening**

# Transperineal US in the detection of fistulae in CD



Maconi et al Am J Gastroent 2007

# TUMORI

Colonoscopy and CT colonography  
are the procedures of choice for the  
diagnosis of colorectal cancer,

however...

Abdominal US may be the first test that  
patients with colon cancer undergo because  
they may present with nonspecific  
gastrointestinal symptoms and signs.

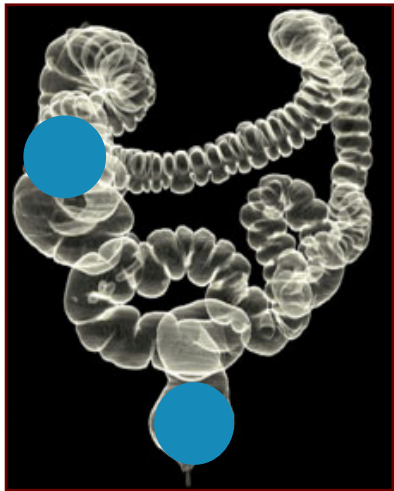


Careful US examination of the colon  
and rectum may disclose:

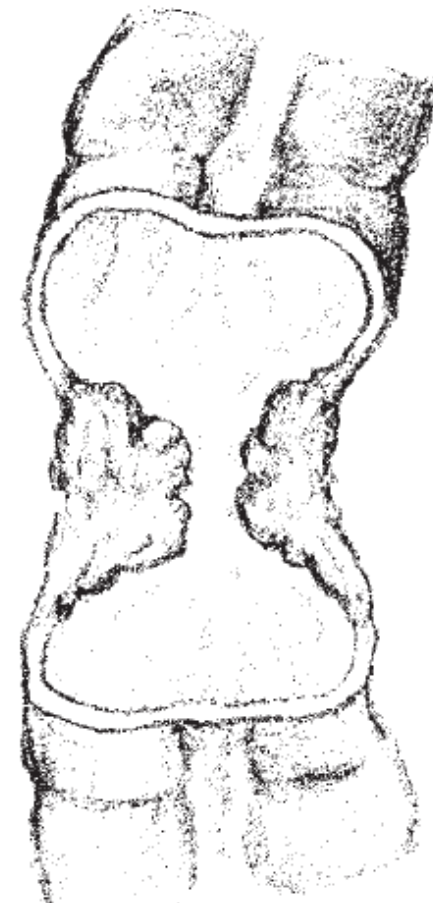
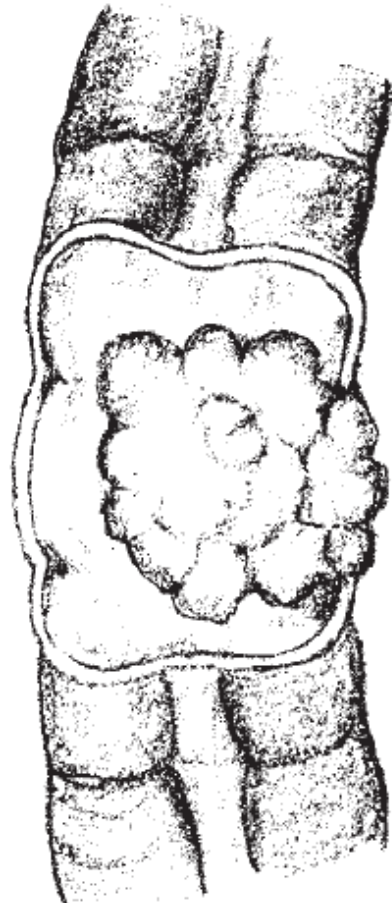
a focal mass or mural thickening

this may lead a  
physician to investigate for the  
diagnosis of colorectal cancer

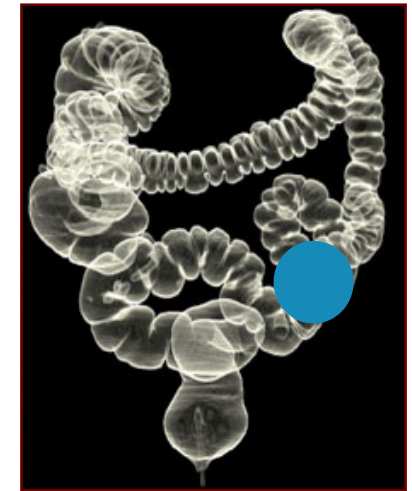


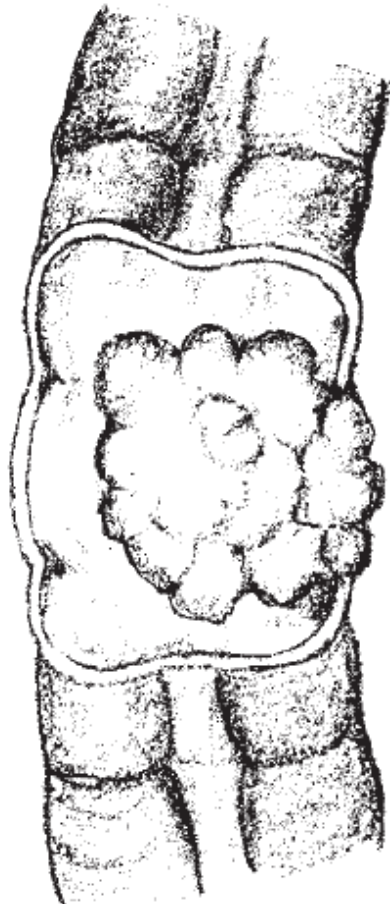


**Mass forming  
colorectal cancer**



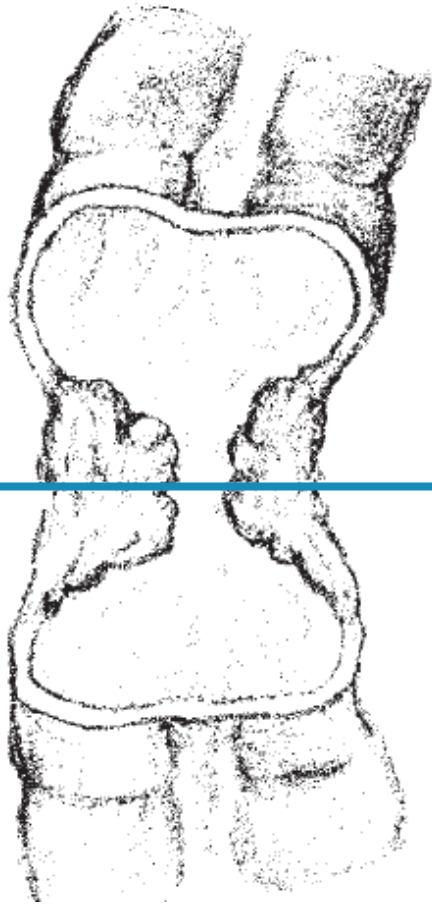
**Short segmental  
wall thickening**





**Mass forming  
colorectal cancer**





Short segmental  
wall thickening

# TUMORI



# Accuracy of ultrasound

Helena M. Dekker<sup>1</sup>  
Eric J. van der Jagt<sup>1</sup>  
Jan T. M. van Leeuwen<sup>2</sup>  
Ger T. van der Werf<sup>3</sup>  
M. G. Myriam Hunink<sup>4,5</sup>

## **Role of Abdominal Sonography in Excluding Abdominal Malignancy in the Initial Workup of Patients with Abdominal Complaints**

**CONCLUSION.** Our results suggest that sonography may be useful in excluding an abdominal malignancy when used in a primary care setting in patients with abdominal complaints who are at low risk for a malignancy.

# Accuracy of ultrasound

INTERNAL  MEDICINE

□ ORIGINAL ARTICLE □

## Is the Routine Abdominal Ultrasound a Sufficiently Sensitive Method for the Detection of Colonic Malignancy?

Zoran Gluvic<sup>1</sup>, Miodrag Slovic<sup>1</sup>, Predrag Dugalic<sup>1</sup>, Ratko Tomasevic<sup>1</sup>,  
Aleksandar Pavlovic<sup>1</sup>, Dunja Jaksic<sup>1</sup>, Esma R. Isenovic<sup>2</sup>,  
Zorica Rasic-Milutinovic<sup>1</sup> and Dusan Milicevic<sup>1</sup>

**Conclusions** The routine abdominal ultrasonography can be used for the screening of colonic malignancy owing to its high sensitivity, particularly in advanced disease, but solely in conjunction with other methods. Finally, abdominal ultrasonography cannot be a definitive diagnostic tool for colonic carcinoma.

Intern Med 2008



Grazie per l'attenzione!

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