

Instructor's Digital Curriculum Resource-

For Techniques in Noninvasive Vascular Diagnosis-4th edition.

by Robert J. Daigle, BA, RVT, RVS, FSVU, FSDMS

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Chapter 2. Carotid Color Duplex Imaging

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Definitions for this chapter

- **MI- myocardial infarction-** heart attack
- **DM-** diabetes mellitus
- **Hypertension-** high blood pressure
- **PAD-** peripheral arterial disease
- **ICA-** internal carotid artery
- **ECA-** external carotid artery (outside the skull)

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Definitions for this chapter

- **ICA Bulb-** dilation of the CCA at the bifurcation, also, the proximal ICA segment.
- **Plaque-** atherosclerotic disease within the wall of the artery
- **Morphology-** shape and appearance
- **Spectra (spectral)** – pertains to the Doppler waveform display.

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Definitions for this chapter

- **Spectral broadening-** a filling-in of the spectral display waveform
- **Spectral envelope** – the clear region within the waveform underneath systole
- **Lumen, residual lumen** – the inside dimension of the artery.
- **Infarct**
 - tissue death caused by a local lack of oxygen

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Definitions for this chapter

- **Collateral vessel, collateral flow-**
 - a vessel that carries flow, or more flow, to compensate for an obstruction in the primary source vessel.
- **Contralateral-** opposite side
- **Ipsilateral** – same side
- **Anomalous (anomalies)-** deviation from what is normal

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Cerebrovascular Symptoms

- **Cerebrovascular accident– CVA- stroke**
 - permanent or semi-permanent impairment
- **Transient Ischemic Attack- TIA**
 - symptoms resolve within 24 hrs.
- **Death is a possible outcome**

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Common Hemispheric Symptoms:

- **Speech difficulty-** usually left hemisphere
 - Aphasia
 - inability to speak or express oneself
 - Dysphasia
 - Impairment of speech, failure to arrange words correctly.
 - Dysarthria
 - imperfect articulation, due to disturbances in muscle control

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Common Hemispheric Symptoms:

- **Lateralized paresthesia:**
 - numbness and tingling of extremities
- **Hemiparesis:**
 - weakness on one side of body, face, arm, leg.
- **Hemiplegia:**
 - total paralysis of one half of body, face, arm, leg.
- **Visual disturbances- ipsilateral**
 - transient monocular blindness
 - amaurosis fugax

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Amaurosis Fugax



Ipsilateral symptom
“shade being drawn over one eye field of view”

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Common Hemispheric Symptoms:

- **Generalized weakness-motor dysfunction**
- **Ataxia-** gross incoordination of muscle movement, clumsiness of limb
- **Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech.**
- **Sudden severe headache with no known cause.**
- **Death**

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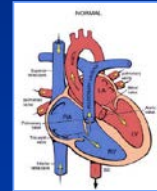
Vertebral-basilar Symptoms

- Drop attacks
- Syncope
- Vertigo
- Dizziness
- Diplopia (double vision)
- Blackouts
- Memory loss

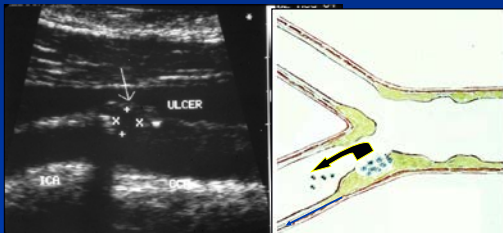
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CVA Causes

- **Cardiac origin**
 - emboli
 - cessation of perfusion
- **Carotid origin**
 - thrombosis- occlusion
 - Athero. stenosis decreasing perfusion
 - emboli to brain

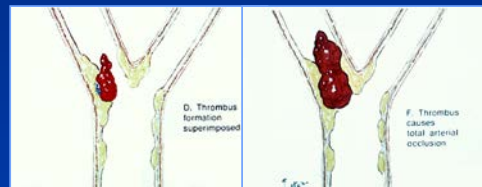


Ulceration- “The Room of Doom” source of emboli



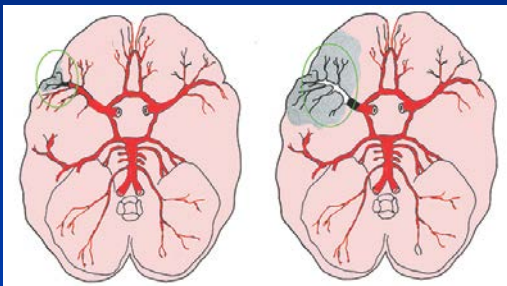
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Carotid Etiology- Thrombosis



Small emboli-small infarct

Large emboli-large infarct



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CVA Causes

- **Cerebral Aneurysm Rupture**
 - Intracranial hemorrhage- subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH) from ruptured aneurysm
 - Approximately 15% of strokes are hemorrhagic
 - Vasospasm –a spasm of the intracranial arteries following SAH



Berry aneurysm

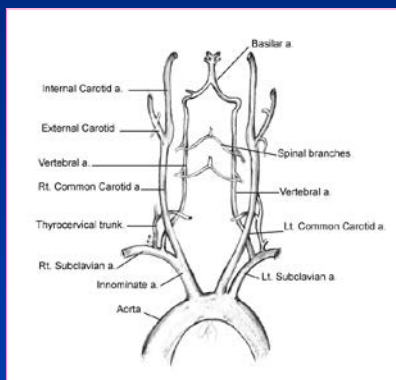
CVA Causes

- **Miscellaneous**
 - Vasospasm due to sickle cell anemia
 - Congenital cerebral arterial-venous malformation

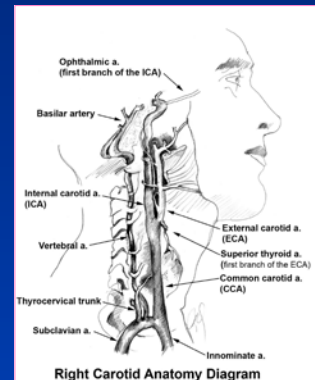
Cerebrovascular Disease Risk Factors

- **Family history of PAD, Heart Disease**
- **Smoking**
- **Old Age**
- **Diabetes mellitus**
- **Hypertension**
- **High cholesterol**

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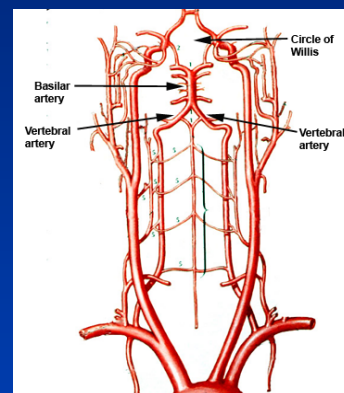
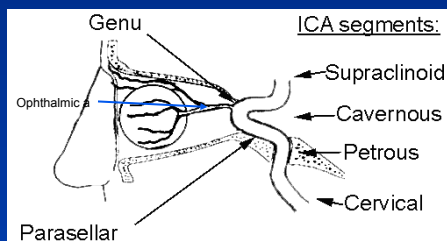


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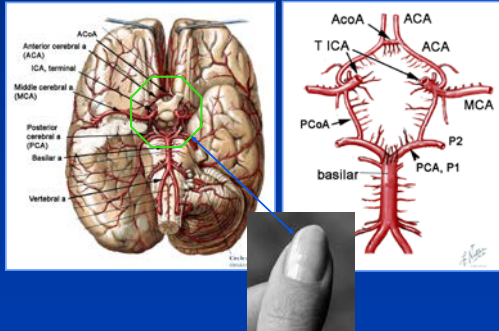


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ICA "Siphon"



Circle of Willis



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Circle of Willis Anomalies

- Only 50% of population have an intact and functioning circle (estimated).
- Only 25 % have the classic configuration.



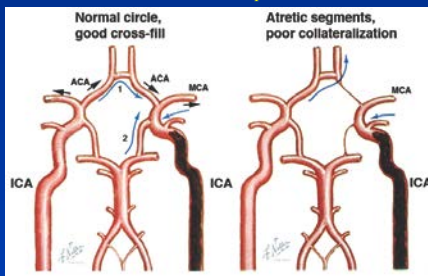
Incomplete circles

From: Techniques in Noninvasive Vascular Diag.

Incomplete circle in patients with ICA occlusion

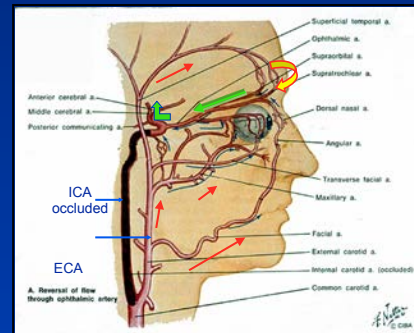
Normal circle,
good cross-filling to MCA

Atretic segments,
poor collateralization



From: Techniques in Noninvasive Vascular Diag.

ECA collateral pathways



Protocol

- Patient history
- Transverse imaging
- Longitudinal imaging
- Color Doppler
- Spectral Doppler
- "mapping" of any areas of flow disturbance

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Pertinent Patient History

- Describe neurologic symptoms
- Myocardial infarct?
- Hypertension (HT) ?
- Diabetes (DM) ?
- Smoking? (record # packs per day/ years)
- Vascular or cardiac operations?

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Bad scan positions



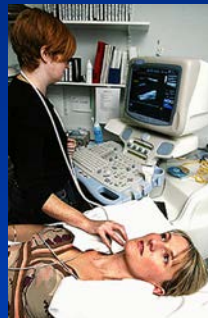
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Scan Positions –Required Elements

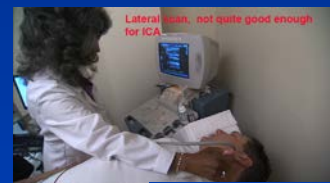
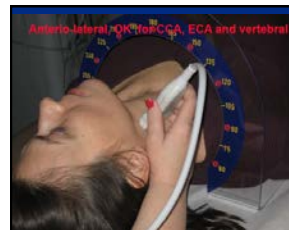
- Must be able to achieve a posterior-lateral position for ICA evaluation
- Must have forearm and hand supported by pillow or bed.
- Must be able to hold a small sample volume in a small (1mm) residual lumen without "drifting" for several cardiac cycles.

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Bad Scans



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Not bad, but not as good as below



Very Good

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Good Attempt at Postero-lateral Scan



From: Techniques in Noninvasive Vascular Diag

Good Scan Position for Right Neck



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Left Neck, Good Scan Positions.



Hand and arm must be stable, you must be able to scan from Posteriolateral plane.

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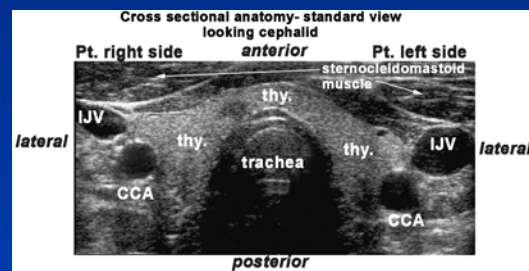
Transverse Imaging

- Use anterior, posterior and lateral approaches.
- Usually, best approach for ICA is posterior-lateral. diameter measurement of stenosis
- ICA -ECA identification /differentiation
- Common imaging error among beginners is using anterior-lateral approach for ICA

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Cross-Sectional Anatomy

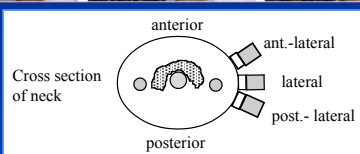
standard view, looking cephalad



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Transverse Imaging: Use various transducer positions

Anterior-lateral Lateral Posterior-lateral

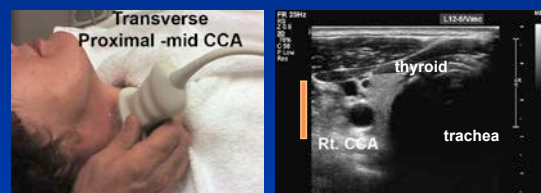


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Anatomy rules

Transverse Scan Right Neck

- Orientation: thyroid should be to the right of the Rt. CCA



Orange bar = posterior direction

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Transverse Bulb

- Move transducer to lateral position

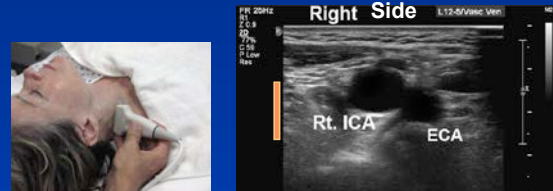


Orange bar = posterior direction

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Transverse: bulb-bifurcation

- ICA will be on the left side of the screen, (opposite the thyroid)
- Swing transducer posterolateral



Orange bar = posterior direction

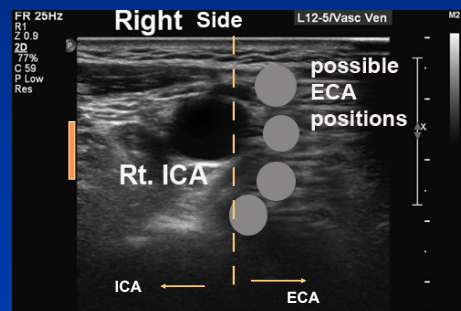
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ICA - ECA

- The ICA lies posterior in the neck in 95% of patients
- If you know where "posterior" is in the field of view, you can identify the ICA

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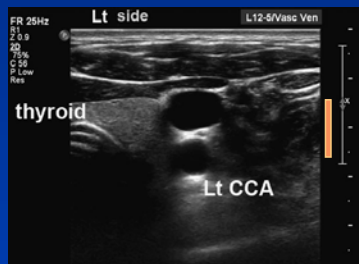
Possible ECA positions



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Transverse Anatomy Left Side

- Orientation: thyroid should be to the left of the Lt. CCA



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Transverse: bulb-bifurcation

- ICA will be on the right side of the screen, (opposite the thyroid)



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Next step in anatomy ID

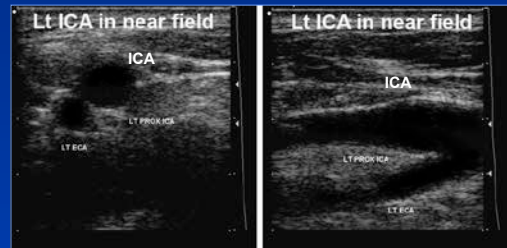
- Use the transverse location to predict ICA location in longitudinal plane
- If the ECA is in “far field”, it will be in the far field on longitudinal image (assuming same scan plane, lateral or posterior lateral)



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Patient #007

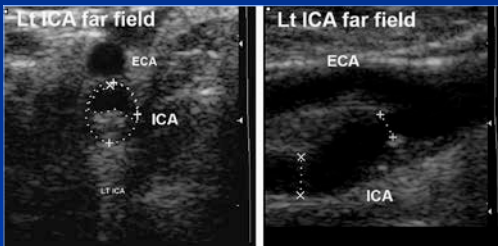
ICA in near field in transverse, also in near field in sagittal



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Patient #008

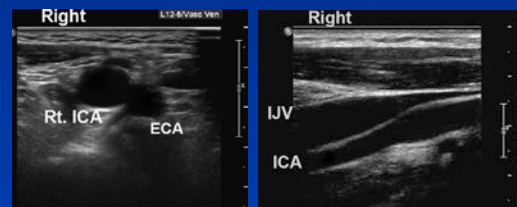
ICA in far field in transverse, also in far field in sagittal



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Patient #009

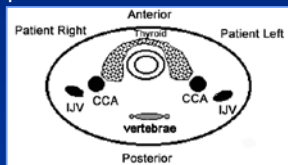
ICA & ECA lie at approx. same depth in transverse, so in sagittal each vessel will appear at same depth, you'll see one or the other.



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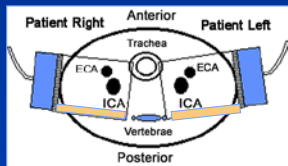
Why the far field is not “posterior”

Cross-sectional anatomy



Transducer scan positions

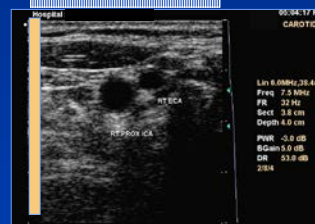
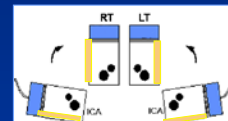
— = posterior



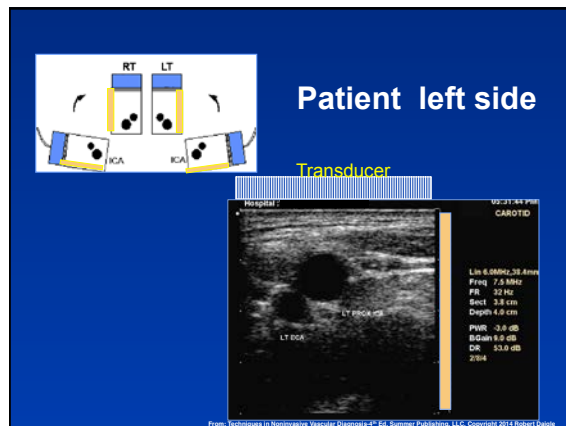
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Patient right side

Transducer



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Transducer Orientation

- Most transducers have a notch, indentation or ridge to help with orientation
- In transverse right, the notch should be down, towards the bed.
- In transverse left, the notch should be upwards, towards the ceiling.
- Beware, some transducers have a notch on both ends!

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ICA - ECA differentiation (most common error)

- Anatomy
 - posterior position of ICA
 - branches of ECA
 - ICA size: not reliable when diseased
- Doppler waveforms & sounds
 - ICA = low resistance
 - ECA = high resistance

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Longitudinal Image

- Anatomy
- Plaque characterization
- Doppler

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Longitudinal: ECA best imaged from anterolateral, ICA best imaged from posterolateral

1. 2. 3.

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From the distal CCA, pivot the transducer towards the chin to view the ECA, and towards the bed for the ICA.

When in PowerPoint Show, click on link below for video demo on youtube.

<http://youtu.be/8dIERm5O2QY>

Transducer "footprint" pivot point ECA ICA

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Far-field in field of view in a typical carotid exam is NOT anatomically "posterior" (unless the transducer is positioned over the tracheal!)

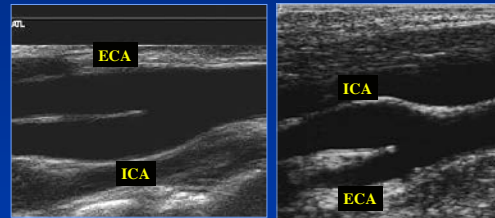
ICA lies posterior in the neck 95%



This is not posterior!

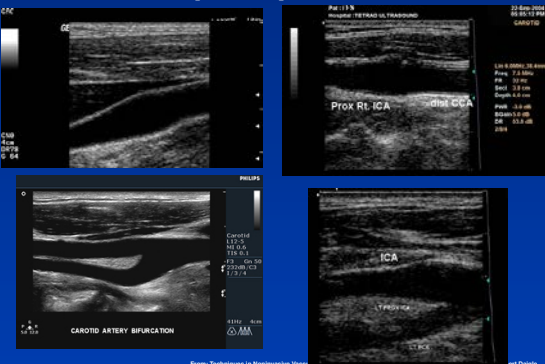
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ICA may lie deep or superficial to the ECA



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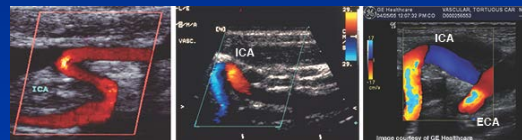
Bulb shape of proximal ICA



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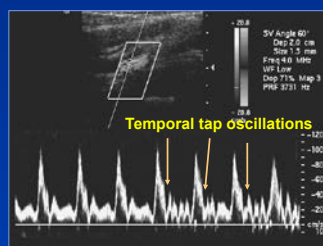
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Tortuous vessels are a challenge!



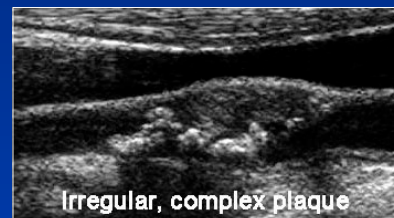
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ECA Temporal Tap can be a useful tool in identifying the ECA, but it is often unreliable. Oscillations can and do occur in the ICA as well. Understanding the anatomical position of the ECA-ICA is the best method.



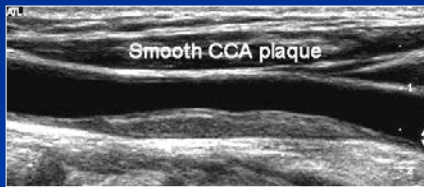
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Plaque Morphology



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Plaque Morphology



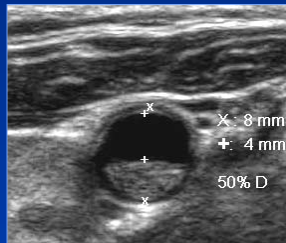
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Measuring Plaque

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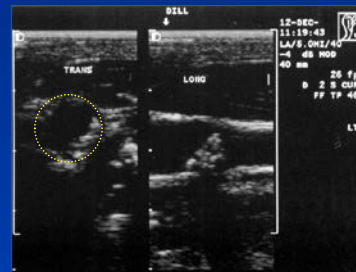
Diameter measurements of plaque are sometimes used to estimate % stenosis

$$\% \text{ D stenosis} = \frac{TL - RL}{TL} \times 100\%$$



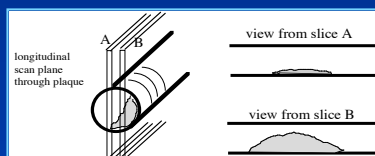
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This minor plaque can be made to appear more or less stenotic in longitudinal view



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- Longitudinal estimation of stenosis from B-mode image is often unreliable, use transverse image.



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Longitudinal view, in some circumstances, can exaggerate amount of plaque.



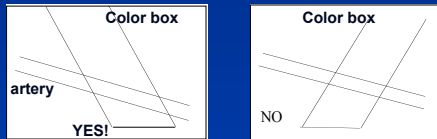
If the movie does not play, Click on Link (in Powerpoint Show)
To play Youtube video

<http://youtu.be/TQ9NnN3mMk4>

Movie=Transverse plaque-longplaq.sm.wmv

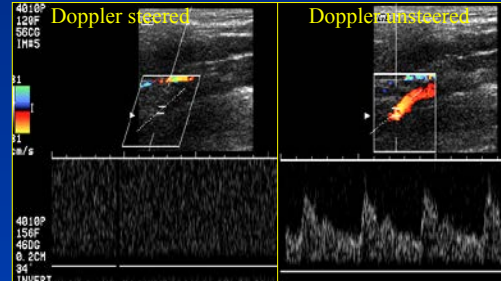
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Color Doppler beam steering is often altered in a carotid exam. You must optimize color settings.



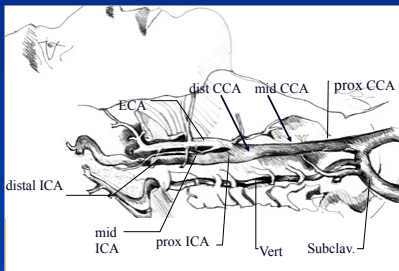
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Depth penetration may be improved by not steering the Doppler



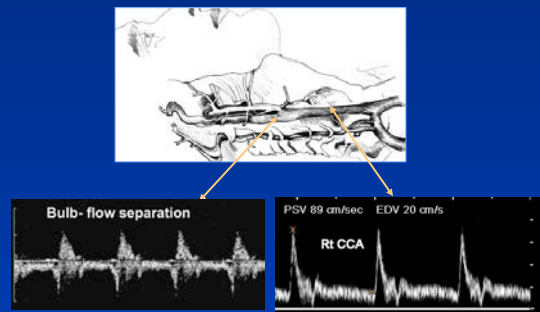
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Doppler Sample Locations



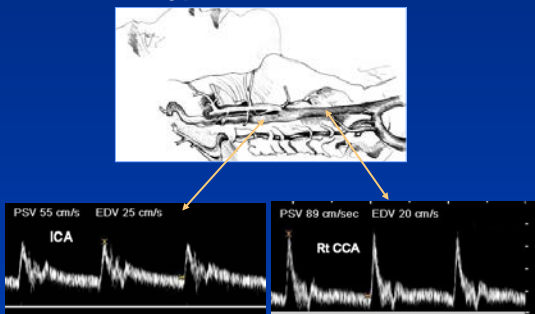
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Typical Waveforms



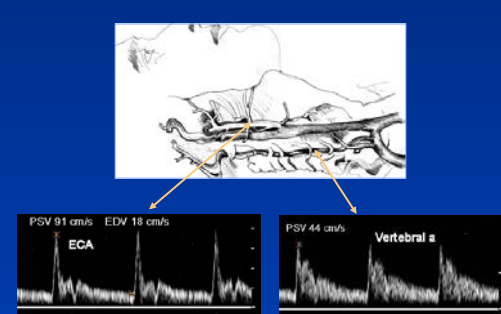
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Typical Waveforms



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Typical Waveforms



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Doppler Measurements

- CCA- peak systolic velocity (PSV) and end-diastolic velocity (EDV)
 - Proximal, mid, distal or at stenosis
- ICA- PSV & EDV
 - At maximum stenosis, if present
 - Proximal, mid, distal
- ECA- PSV only
 - Proximal or at stenosis

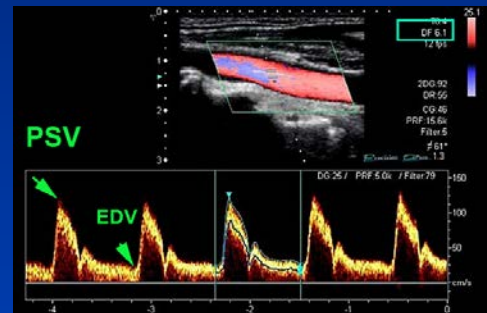
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Doppler Measurements

- Vertebral- PSV, (EDV optional)
 - Mid vertebral
- Subclavian- PSV only

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PSV, EDV



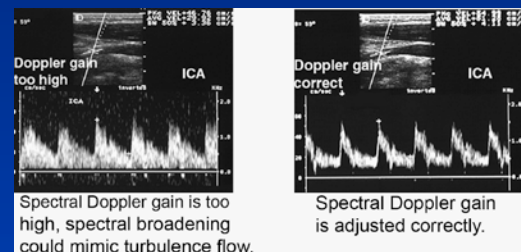
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Optimize Spectral Doppler

- Doppler should be steered in the appropriate direction, left, right, or center
- Sample volume size is 1-3 mm, use a large SV in stenosis.
- Adjust spectral scale (PRF) so that waveforms are 1/2 -2/3 of scale
- Angle correction cursor carefully aligned to axis of flow (or vessel wall)

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Optimize Doppler Gain



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General Considerations

- Significant velocity acceleration occurs at stenosis of 50% diameter or greater
- Velocities do not appreciably increase over stenosis less than 50% D (30% by NASCET measurement)

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General Considerations (2)

- Most stenoses of > 50% cause significant post-stenotic turbulence
- A focal velocity acceleration over the plaque, followed by turbulence is an essential finding for a 50-60% or greater stenosis

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Criteria: Objective Parameters

- Stenosis diameter measurement (optional)
- Peak systolic velocity at max stenosis (PSV).
- Peak end-diastolic velocity at max stenosis (EDV).
- ICA/CCA ratio (PSV at point of max stenosis ÷ PSV from a disease-free segment (mid) of CCA)
- Absence of flow (occlusion)

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Fundamental Concept

- Carotid criteria is meaningless unless there is:
 - Focal velocity acceleration
 - Plaque
 - Post stenotic turbulence
- Criteria is for "grading" stenosis, NOT for determining normalcy.

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Criteria Generalizations

- Know your Carotid Criteria.
 - 50 -69% diameter stenosis
 - Visualization of plaque
 - Focal velocity acceleration
 - Post stenotic turbulence
 - PSV at max sten > 140 cm/s
 - EDV less than 100 cm/sec

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Criteria Generalizations

- 70-95% diameter stenosis
 - Visualization of plaque
 - Focal velocity acceleration
 - Post stenotic turbulence
 - EDV greater than 100 cm/sec
 - ICA/CCA ratio > 4.0

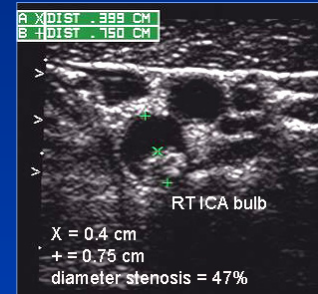
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“Mapping” a Stenosis.

- Visualize plaque
- Work the Doppler sample volume through the stenotic region (think 3 dimensions!)
- Record and measure highest velocity (take 2 or 3 samples)
- Sample and record distal to stenosis to detect turbulence (if any).

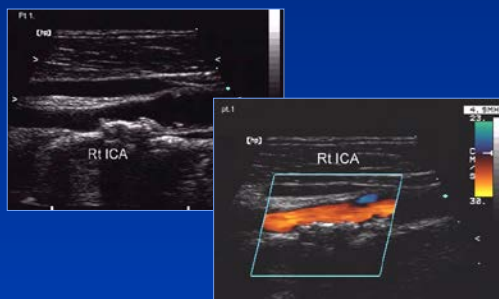
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Patient #1: < 50% ICA stenosis



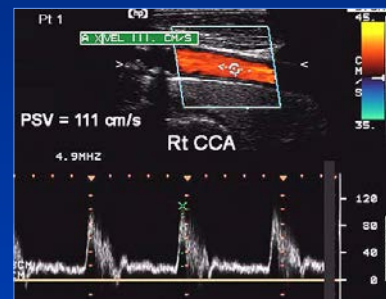
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Patient #1: < 50% ICA stenosis



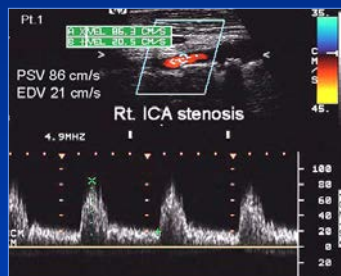
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Patient #1: < 50% ICA stenosis



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Patient #1: < 50% ICA stenosis- no velocity increase over stenosis



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Patient #1: < 50% ICA stenosis



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Patient #1, ECA

50-69% ICA stenosis

50-69% stenosis

ICA origin

ICA Pre-stenosis

ICA Stenosis

Rt ICA stenosis

Prox. ICA PSV 80 cm/sec.

Max Stenosis PSV 237 cm/s.

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Video demo.
50-69% ICA stenosis


Also
Proximal Rt. Vertebral stenosis

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50-69% ICA Stenosis

If the movie does not play, Click on Link (in Powerpoint Show)
To play Youtube video

<http://youtu.be/khIJ6Kfg38I>



The image is a transverse B-mode ultrasound of the right internal carotid artery (ICA). The lumen is the dark, anechoic region on the left side of the vessel. The vessel wall is on the right. A color Doppler overlay is visible, showing a mix of red and blue, indicating turbulent flow. A scale bar on the right indicates a velocity range from 0 to 100 cm/s. The text 'Transverse right' is at the top. The text '50-69%' is at the bottom, indicating the degree of stenosis. The text 'Re-insert movie Pt.Dre-50-69%-Lan' is at the bottom of the image.

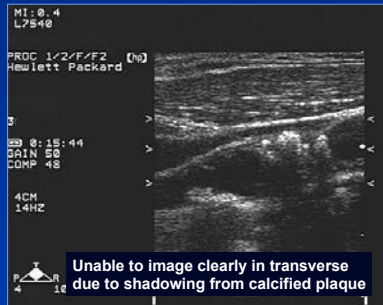
Movie, Pt. Dre-50-69%-LAN-dubbed

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Demonstration of a 70-95% ICA stenosis- patient “3”

Patient #3

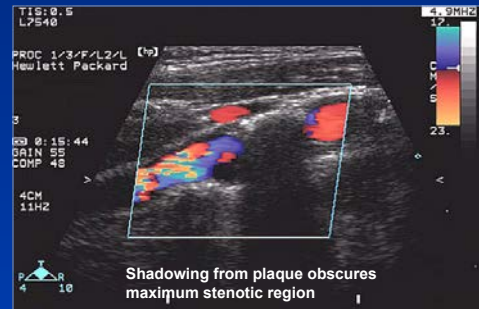
Rt. Bulb and ICA



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Patient #3

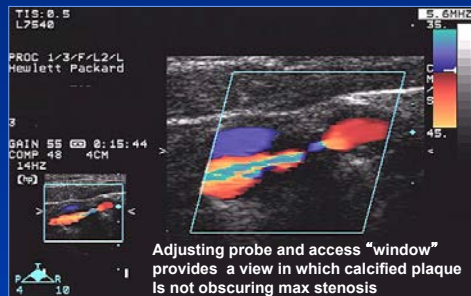
Rt. ICA



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Patient #3

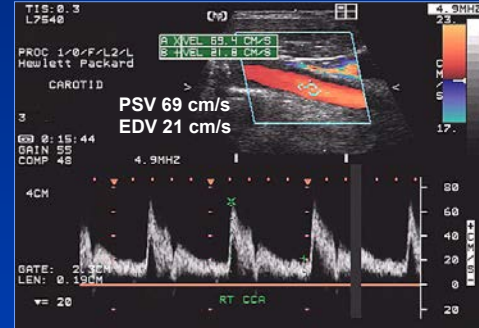
Rt. ICA



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Patient #3

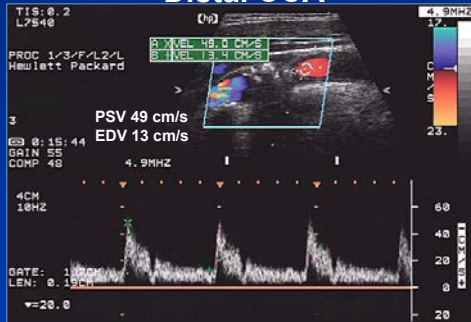
Rt. Mid CCA



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Patient #3

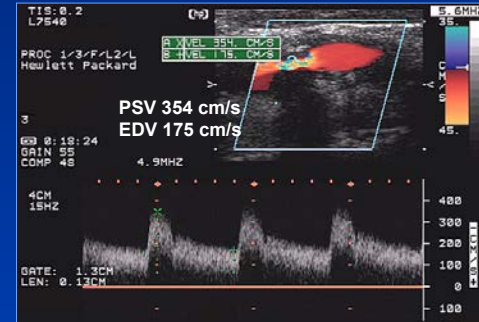
Distal CCA



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Patient #3

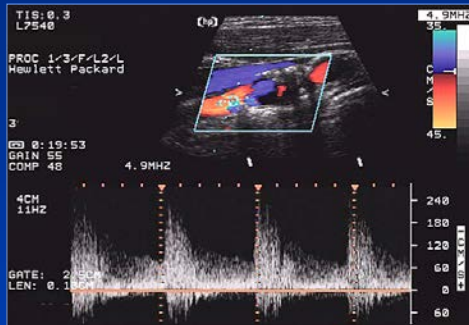
Maximum Stenosis



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Patient #3

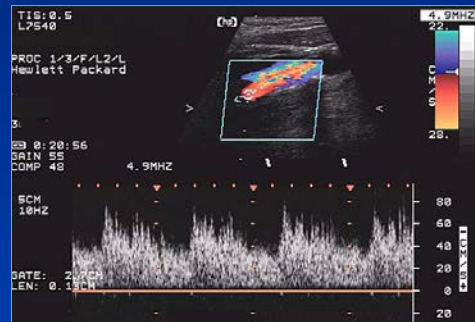
Post-stenotic Turbulence



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Patient #3

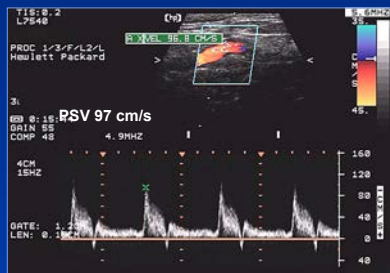
Distal Rt. ICA



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Patient #3

Rt. ECA



Proximal CCA and Vertebral arteries were also evaluated but are not presented in this series.

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Patient 3, Comments

- Unable to estimate diameter reduction from image due to calcified plaque.
- Velocity decreases just before stenosis, then accelerates.
- ICA/CCA ratio = 5.1
- PSV 354 cm/s EDV = 175 cm/s
- Severe post-stenotic turbulence which persists in the distal ICA
- > 70% stenosis by NASCET method
- > 80% stenosis by traditional criteria

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Video demo of 70-95% stenosis

If the movie does not play, Click on Link (in Powerpoint Show) To play Youtube video

<http://youtu.be/pwfmQ2E4UdI>



70-95% stenosis, same patient #3

Movie JCob-80% dubbed-for web

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Video demonstration of a >90% stenosis

- Note low, high resistance flow just before ICA stenosis.
- Note low velocity and abnormal waveforms in distal ICA
- Note the difficulty in obtaining a good Doppler sample at max stenosis

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>90% Stenosis



If the movie does not play, Click on Link (in Powerpoint Show) To play Youtube video

<http://youtu.be/NMiyY6TW1Qc>

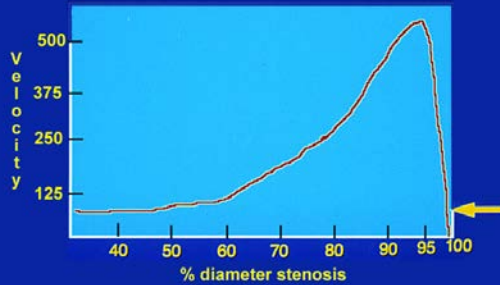
Cdrei-ICA-90-dubbed.sm.wmv

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> 95% stenosis and “trickle” flow.

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> 95 % stenosis

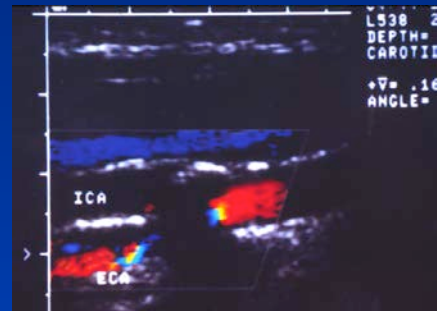


Velocity within a stenosis increases until a certain degree of narrowing. At stenoses of >95% D, velocity decreases.

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Patient #7

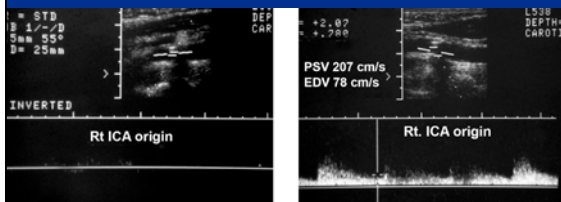
Pt. # 7: >95% stenosis



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Patient #7

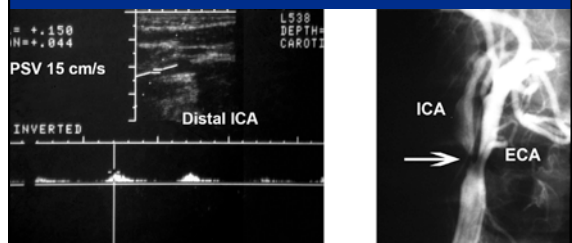
Initially, no flow detected.
Calcium??



Doppler beam redirected under plaque to achieve a weak signal

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Patient #7



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Pt #7, Comments

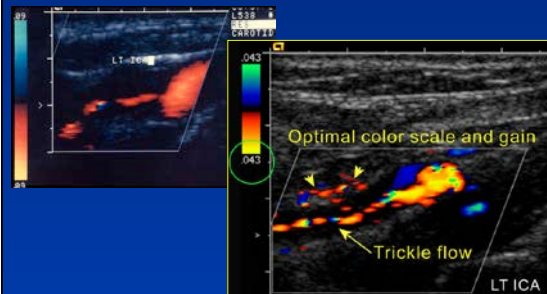
- Very difficult to obtain a Doppler sample at max stenosis
- PSV 207 cm/s and EDV of 78 would indicate a less than 70 % (Nascet)
- However, low flow and velocity distal to stenosis suggests a much tighter stenosis.
- Angiography confirmed a > 95% stenosis

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Residual lumen can become so small that velocity becomes very slow, i.e., Trickle flow

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Trickle flow in a nearly occluded ICA- 2 examples



Low Color PRF scale are used, otherwise flow was not seen.

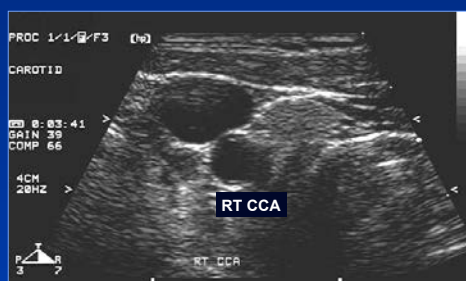
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Total ICA Occlusion

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Patient #4

Rt. CCA Transverse

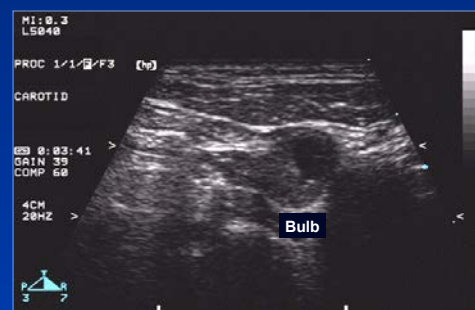


Occluded ICA

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Patient #4

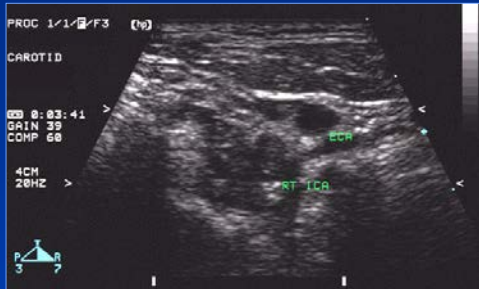
Rt Bifurcation



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Patient #4

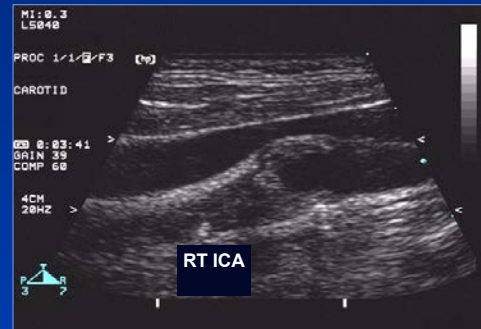
Rt Bifurcation



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Patient #4

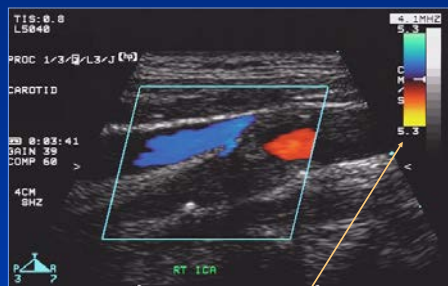
Rt ICA – Long.



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Patient #4

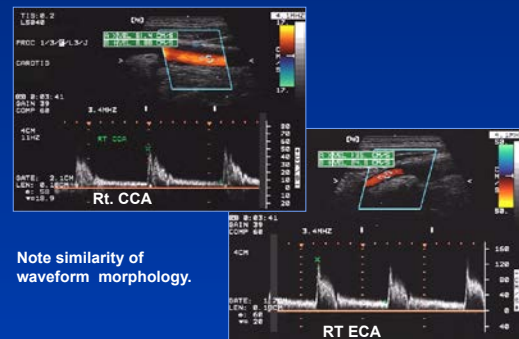
Rt ICA



Note low color scale used to detect possible "trickle" flow.

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Patient #4

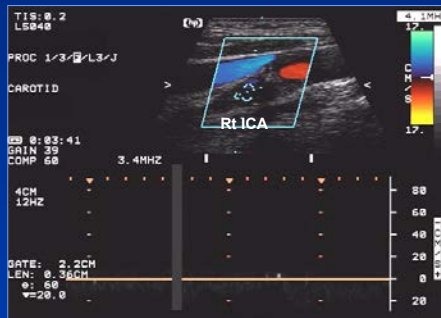


Note similarity of waveform morphology.

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Patient #4

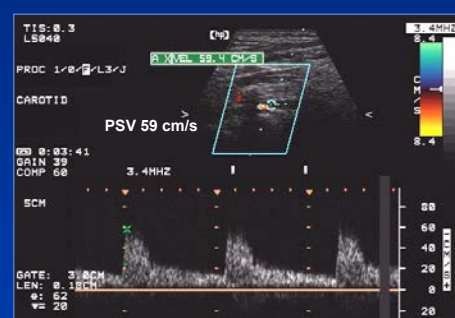
Rt. ICA



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Patient #4

Rt Vertebral



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Patient 4, Comments

- Occluded Rt. ICA
- Waveform patterns in CCA and ECA are similar because they are now essentially one vessel.
- ICA sampled in numerous locations, wide sample volume used
- Various color scales used, it's important to use a low scale when looking for possible trickle flow.

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Patient #6

Occlusion: Potential Pitfall

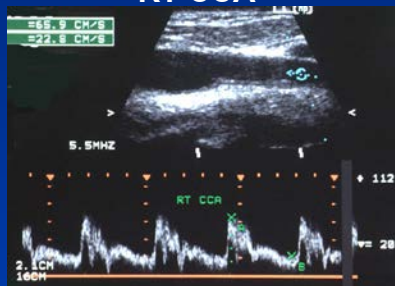


Occluded vessel: ICA or ECA??

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Patient #6

RT CCA



CCA with low resistance flow pattern.

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Patient #6

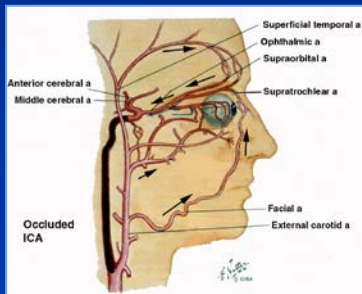
ECA or ICA??



ECA has become "internalized", i.e., it's functioning as a collateral pathway and has low resistance flow.

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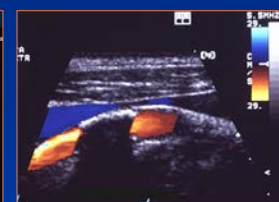
Potential Collateral Pathways with ICA Occlusion



How to deal with calcified plaque.



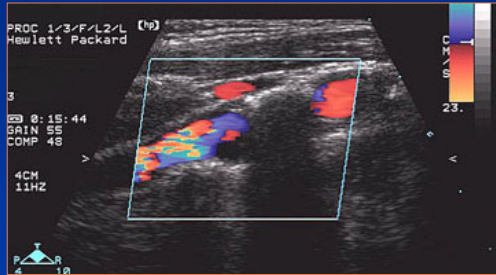
Far-field wall, no problem!



Near-field wall, potential problem, Look for post-stenotic turbulence.

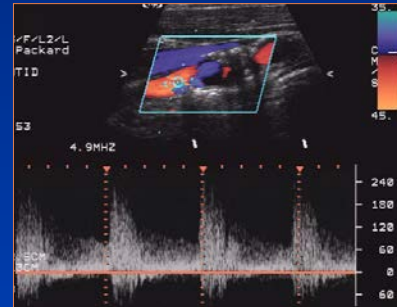
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Max Stenosis Under Calcium



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Post-stenotic turbulence means >50% stenosis, but it may be more severe.



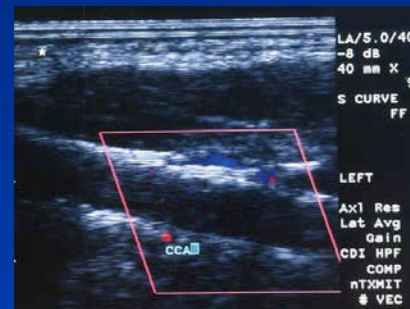
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Uncommon Pathologies

- Occluded CCA
- Fibromuscular dysplasia
- Carotid dissection
- Proximal occlusive disease

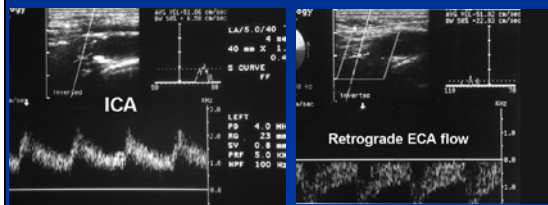
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CCA Occlusion



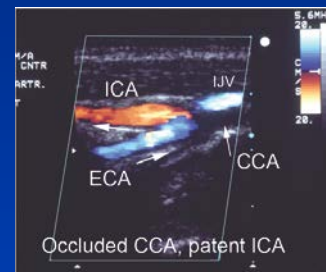
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CCA Occlusion



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Retrograde flow in ECA supplying ICA; the opposite can also occur



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CCA Occlusion with Patent ICA



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Demo of a Tortuous ICA



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<http://youtu.be/oh-yms09Lzo>

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Fibromuscular Dysplasia

- A non-atherosclerotic, non-inflammatory arterial disease of unknown causes
- Fibrous thickening of the intima, media, or adventitia



ICA angiogram of FMD

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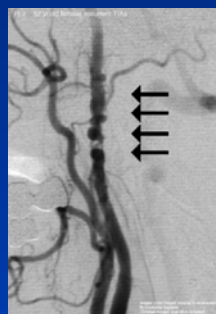
Fibromuscular Dysplasia (FMD)

- predominance in women (90%)
- associated with hypertension
- proximal and distal ICA spared
- usually bilateral
- known to occur in renal arteries

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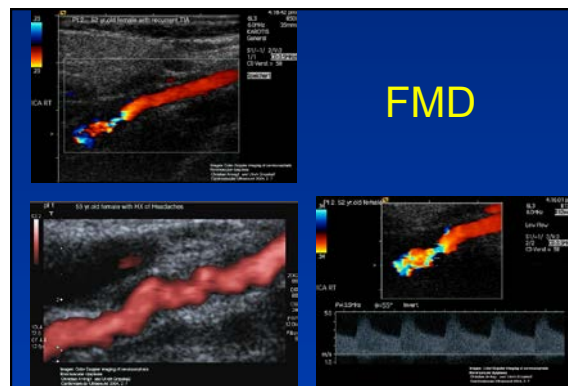
FMD

- 77% present with cervical bruit
- Angio = "string of pearls"
- Color Duplex- distal ICA turbulence w/o increase velocity



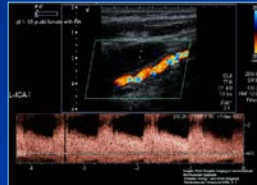
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FMD



FMD Scan Protocol

Scan ICA "way distal" on middle-aged females, especially with bruits and if no athero disease in bulb

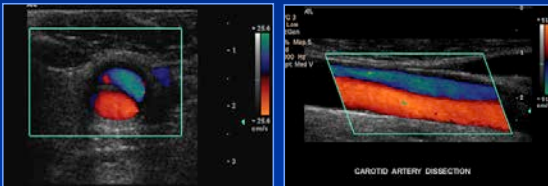


Carotid Dissection proximal

- common carotid artery
- progression of aortic dissection
- false lumen
- asymptomatic (usually)
- ICA extension, uncommon

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CCA Dissection



Courtesy of Philips Ultrasound

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Carotid Dissection distal

- mid to distal ICA
- no false lumen
- subintimal hematoma
- flow restrictive
- symptomatic

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Distal Dissection Symptoms

- Hemispheric ischemia and stroke
- Headache
- Ipsilateral neck pain

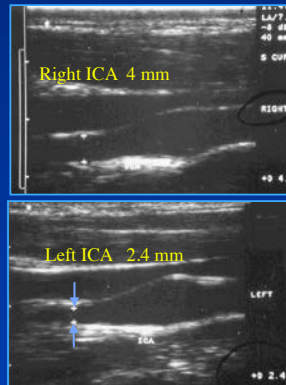
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Carotid Dissection Etiology

- Congenital defects in media
- Fibromuscular dysplasia
- Trauma
- Forced neck extension
- Idiopathic

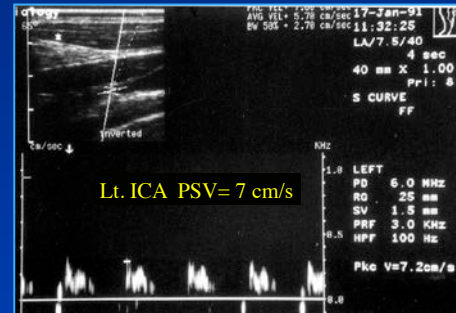
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Patient K.S.
43 year old female
Acute onset speech difficulty
No MI, CVA, HT, Smoking



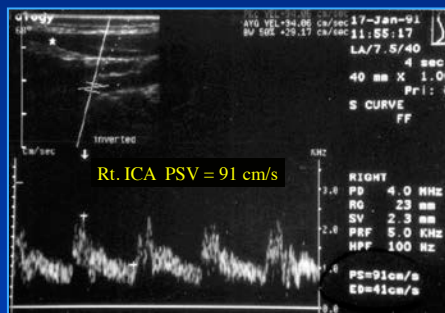
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K.S. Lt ICA



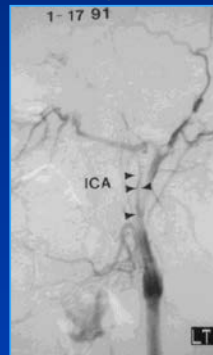
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K.S. Rt. ICA

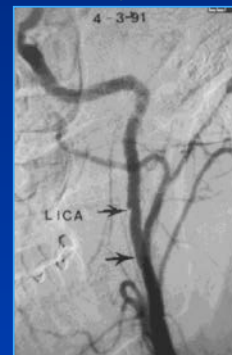


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Lt Angio, Jan 17



Lt. Angio, April 3



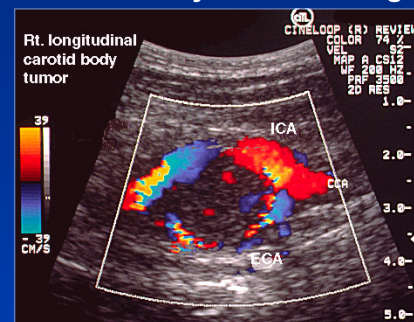
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Carotid Body Tumor

- aka, chemodactoma
- Highly vascular
- Usually benign
- Lies in the “crotch” of the carotid bifurcation

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Carotid Body Tumor – Long.



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[illegible]

Carotid Body Tumor- Transverse

carotid body tumor- transverse

(a)

ICA

ECA

25

CM/S

(b)

TRANS CAROTID BODY TUMOR

ICA

Dist 1 3.11 CM

Dist 2 CM

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CBT - High Flow

Rt. carotid body tumor - transverse

RT CAROTID BODY TUMOR

ANGLE 8
PRS 5.88 MHZ
SV 1.5MM
CAVI
M FILTER 288 HZ
NORMAL
PULSED
KHZ
INQUIST 6.888
PRF 12000 HZ
GAIN 150V PRE
R 6.78 KHZ
3.12 KHZ
A/B 2.1

Proximal Cerebrovascular Disease

- A “rounding” of the CCA waveform with loss of amplitude and delayed rise time (tardus parvus) suggests proximal stenosis or occlusion.
- On right side, evaluate the innominate artery.

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CCA Waveform: Patient with Innominate Artery Stenosis

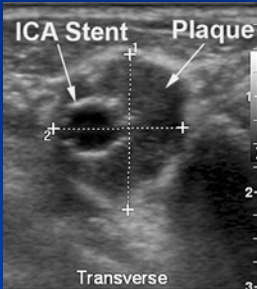
AX = +.290
IN = +.100

PSV 29 cm/s
EDV 10 cm/s

RT CCA

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Carotid Stents



ICA Stent

Plaque

1

2

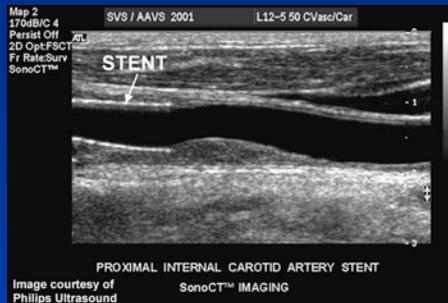
3

Transverse

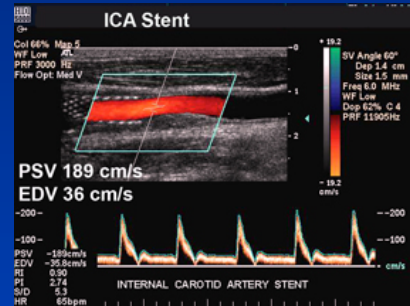
Image courtesy of Dr. Ann Marie Kupinski

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Carotid Stents

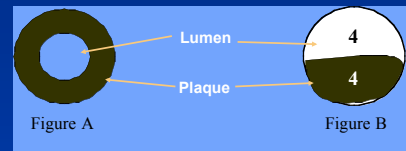


Carotid Stent



Stent Restenosis Criteria is in Chapter 3

Addendum Area versus Diameter



In "A", Circumferential plaque,
75% Area = 50% Diameter
reduction

In "B", 50% area reduction
is also a 50% Diameter
reduction