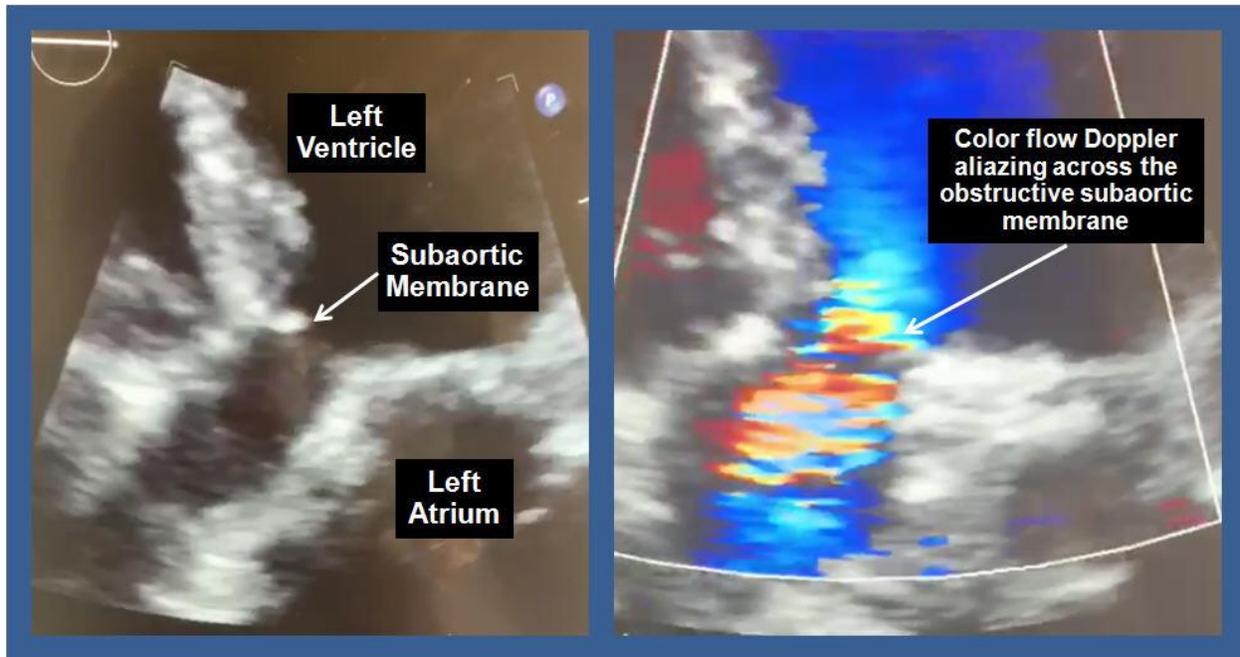


Subaortic Membrane! *Obstruction with Aliasing!*

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Description

The figure on the left shows an obstructive subaortic membrane seen below the aortic valve on the septal aspect of the left ventricular outflow tract (LVOT). Color flow Doppler across the LVOT reveals color aliasing across the subaortic membrane, indicative of increased velocities due to obstruction.

The overall incidence of subaortic stenosis is about 6.5% of all adult congenital heart disease.

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This includes a variety of anatomic configurations, including a discrete membrane below the aortic valve (most common), a thick fibromuscular ridge and a narrow fibromuscular tunnel along the LVOT [1].

Echocardiography is often the preferred diagnostic modality; however, since the condition can sometime mimic hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a multimodality imaging approach may be needed to better differentiate these conditions [2].

Subaortic stenosis can cause symptoms of congestive heart failure which resemble valvular aortic stenosis [3]. The traditional approach to symptomatic patients has been surgical resection, which overall has resulted in adequate relief of the gradient with low mortality [4]. For high surgical risk patients, novel transcatheter therapies have been reported and may be an alternative [5].

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