Aorta

AAA

Must see to bifurcation
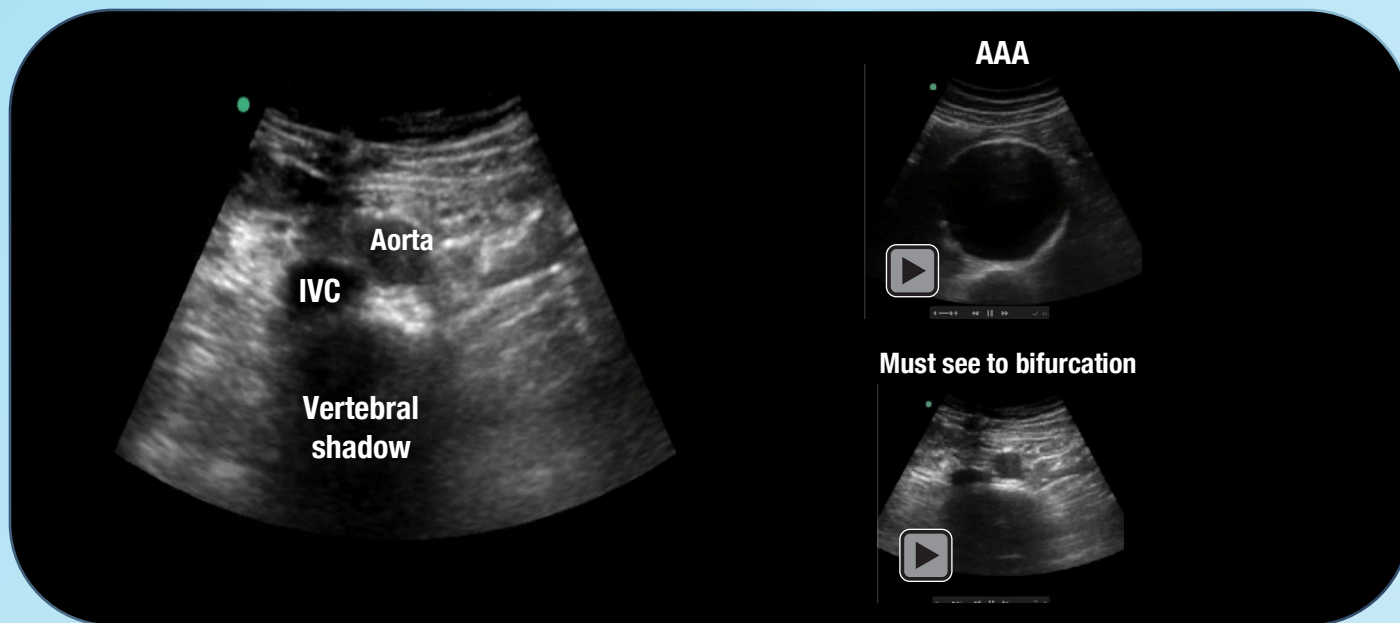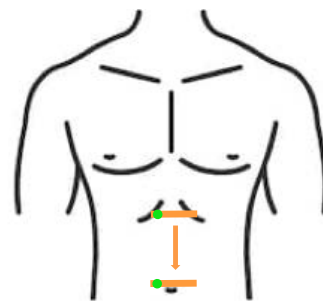
Aorta
IVC
Vertebral shadow

Purpose: Identify AAA

Probe: Curvilinear / Phased array

Preset: Abdominal

Orientation: Marker to patient R

Anatomic Landmarks: xiphoid

Sono Landmarks: Vertebral body + acoustic shadow

Aorta vs IVC:
1. Adjacent to vertebral body
2. Thicker walled
3. Non-compressible
4. No respiratory variation

Images: Need to see entire aorta from proximal origin at diaphragmatic hiatus to bifurcation into iliac arteries
Remember to optimize your depth

Measurements: Use calipers to measure across _**outer**_ walls

Interpretations: *Neg scan:* Entire aorta visualized & <3cm
Pos scan: Any region seen that is >3cm
Indeterminate: unable to visualize full aorta

Troubleshooting: Only detects an aortic aneurysm, does not tell you if there is a rupture. Use clinical picture and further imaging if needed.

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