

# 2025 SDMS Annual Conference

## *Pelvic Venous Congestion Syndrome*

Pathophysiology and Sonographic Evaluation

1

### ***Objectives***

01

Describe the normal anatomy and physiology of the pelvic venous vasculature.

02

Explain the pathophysiology of pelvic venous congestion syndrome.

03

Classify B-mode, color and spectral Doppler ultrasound images of the pelvic venous vasculature as normal or abnormal.

2

## *Vascular Anatomy & Physiology of the Female Pelvis*

3

### *Arterial Supply of the Female Pelvis*

Ovarian artery > direct branch of  
abdominal aorta

Uterine artery > direct branch of internal  
iliac artery

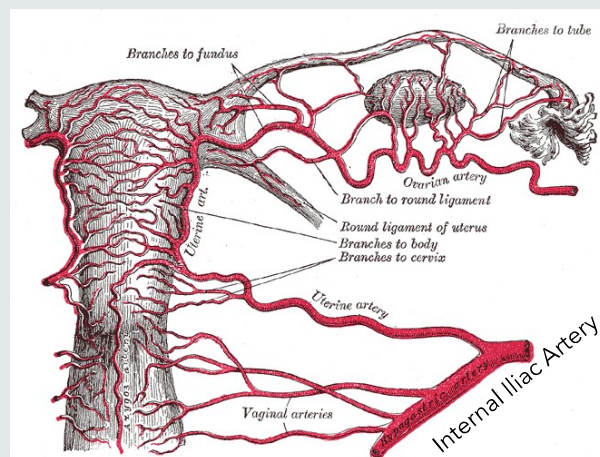


Figure 1: Arterial circulation of the female pelvis (public domain)

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## Arterial Supply of the Female Pelvis

Figure 2: Diagram of the arterial distribution of the uterus, demonstration pathway of uterine artery > peripheral artery > arcuate arteries (A); arcuate artery > radial artery > spiral artery (B).<sup>1</sup>

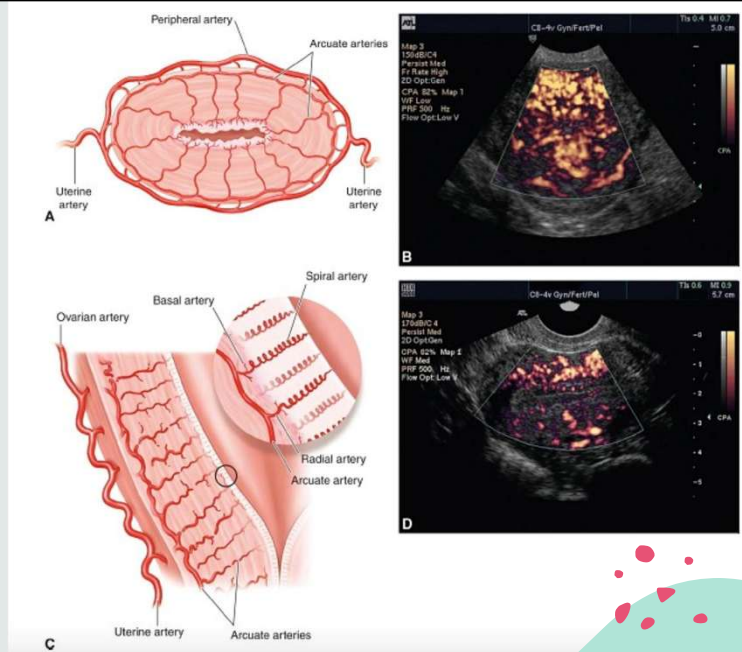


Figure 2: Arterial circulation of the female pelvis<sup>1</sup>

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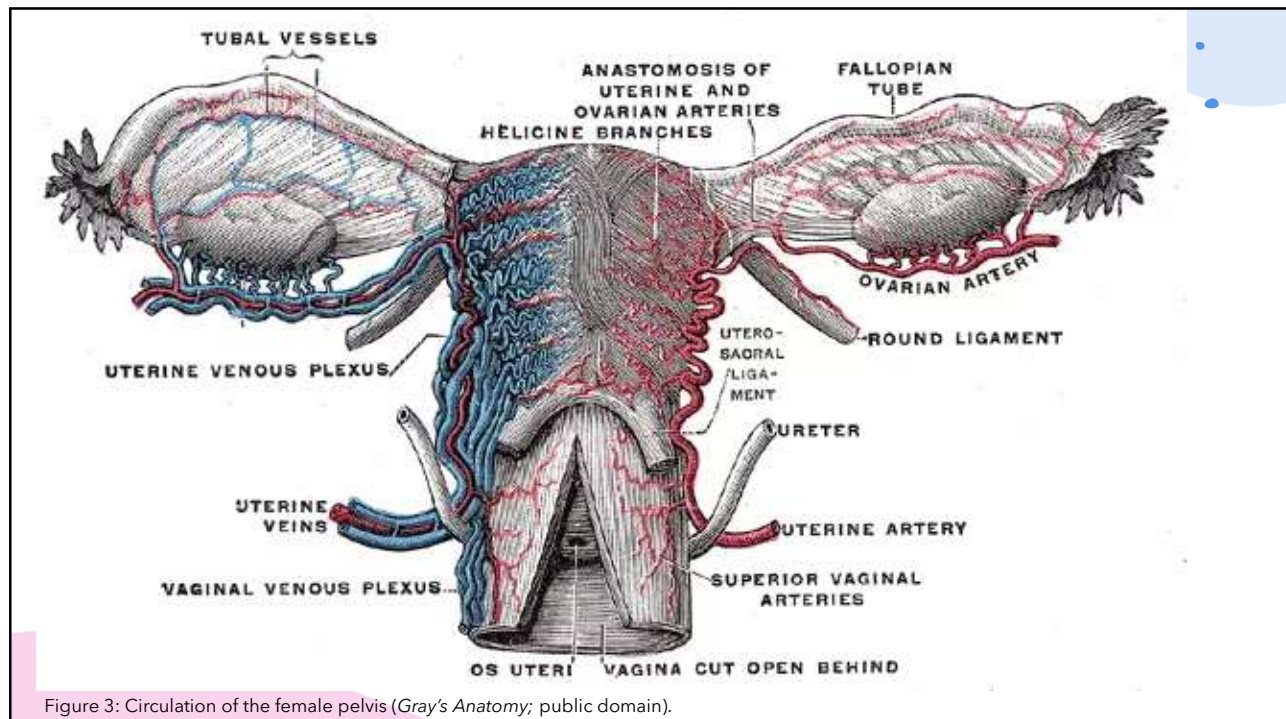


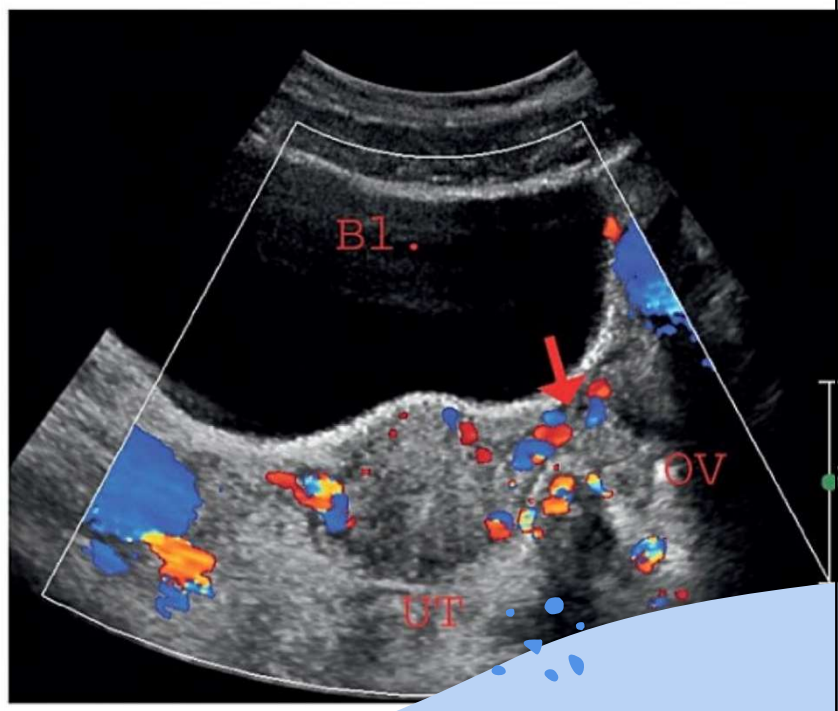
Figure 3: Circulation of the female pelvis (Gray's Anatomy; public domain).

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## *Vasculature of the Female Pelvis*

Figure 4: Color Doppler ultrasound image demonstrating communication of uterine and ovarian vasculature.<sup>1</sup>



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## *Venous Outflows of the Female Pelvis*

IVC, inferior vena cava;  
LRV, left renal vein;  
LOV, left ovarian vein; ROV, right ovarian vein  
LOP, left ovarian plexus; ROP, right ovarian plexus  
CIV, Common iliac veins;  
IIV, internal iliac veins;  
LUP, left uterine plexus; RUP, right uterine plexus.

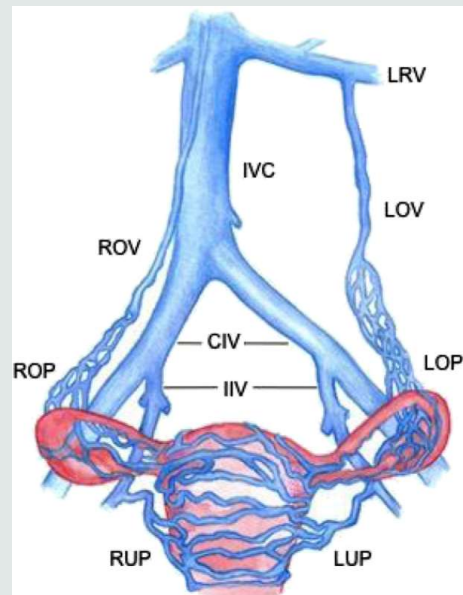
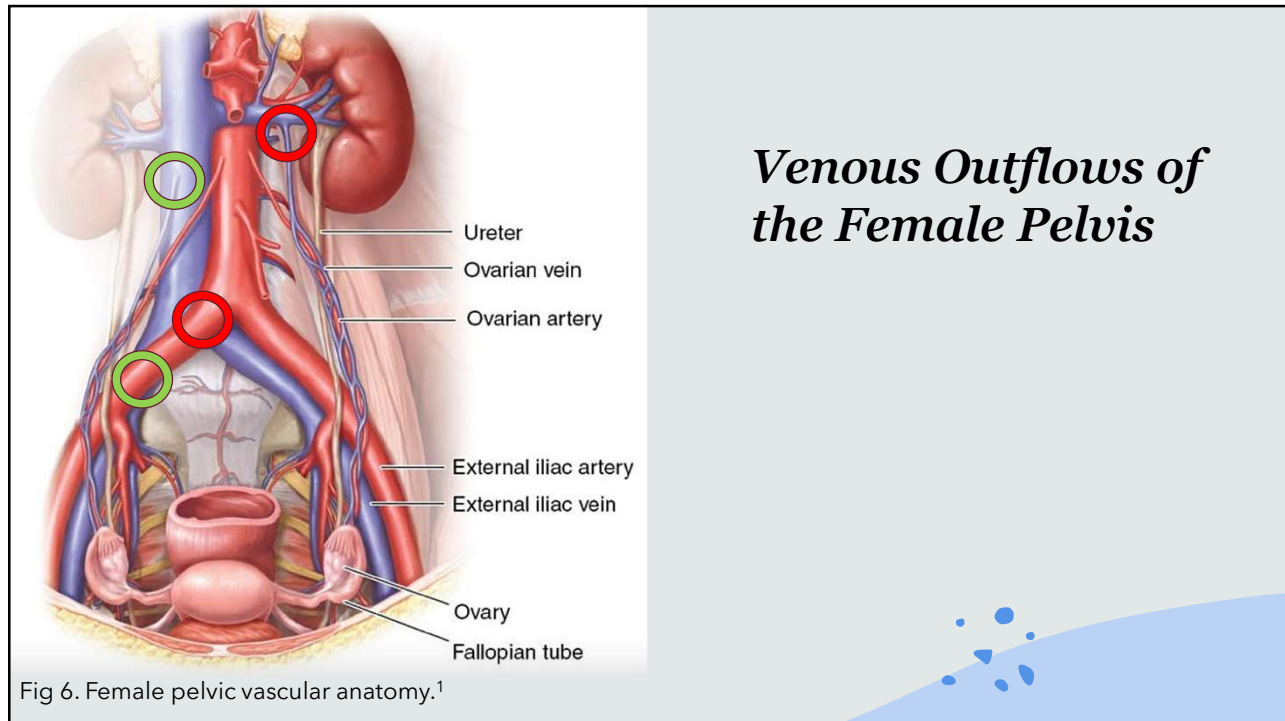


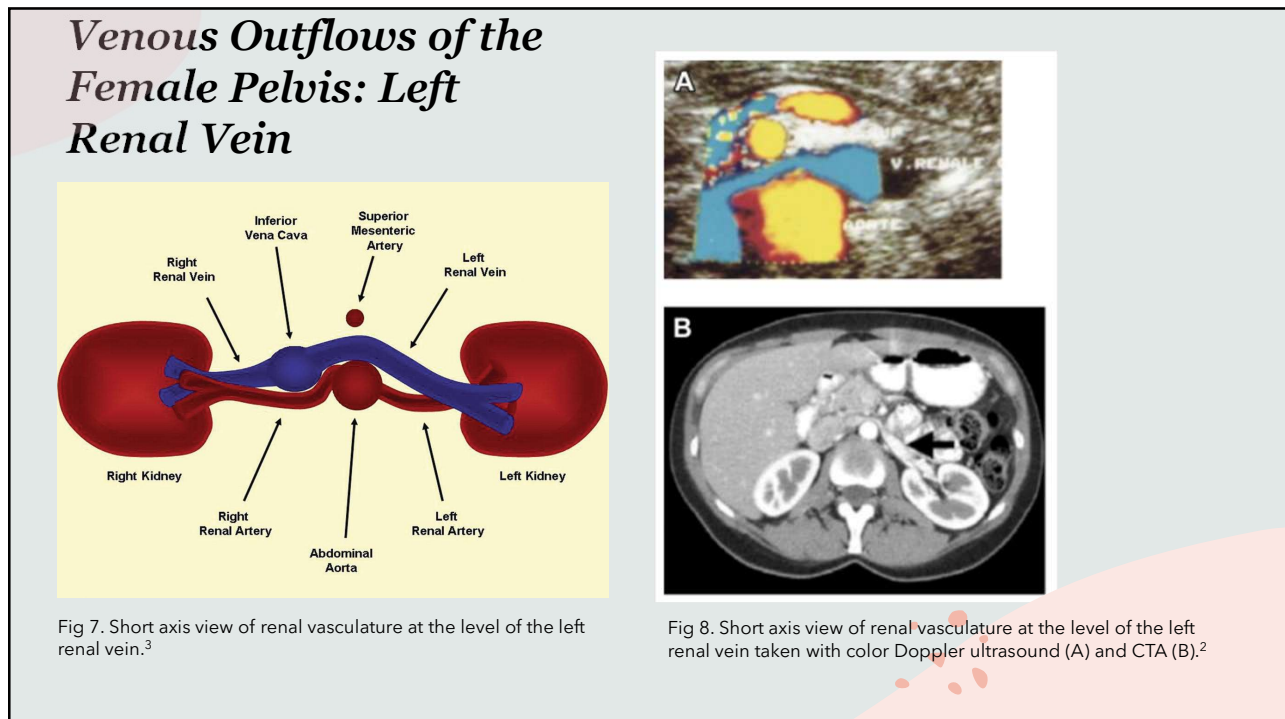
Fig 5. Pelvic venous anatomy.<sup>2</sup>

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## *Venous Outflows of the Female Pelvis: Right & Left Common Iliac Veins*

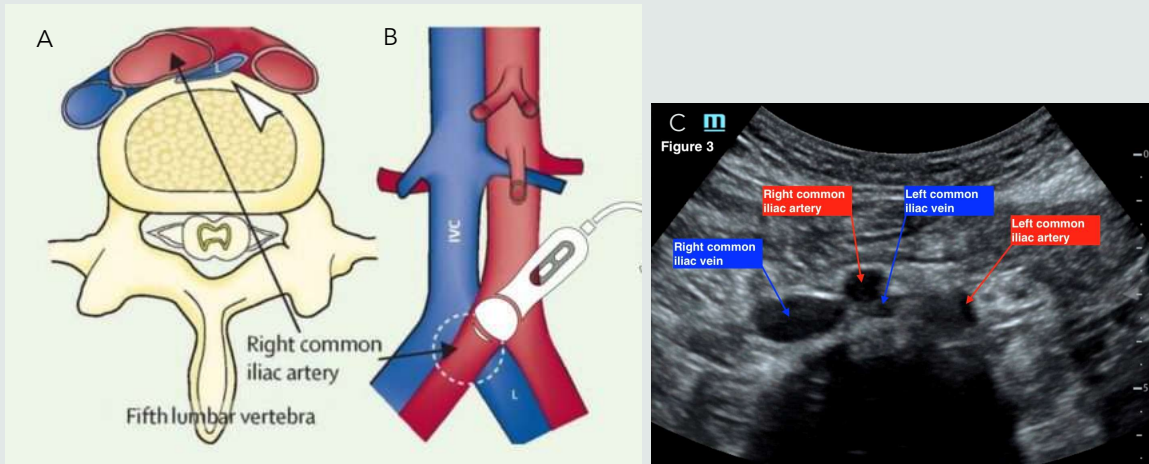


Fig 9. Schema of common iliac artery bifurcations and common iliac venous confluences in short axis sketch (A), frontal view (B), and short axis B-mode ultrasound (C).<sup>4,5</sup>

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## *General Hemodynamics*

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## *Vascular Physiology & Hemodynamics*

The purpose of the vascular system is to perfuse and drain tissue with blood, to support cellular metabolism.

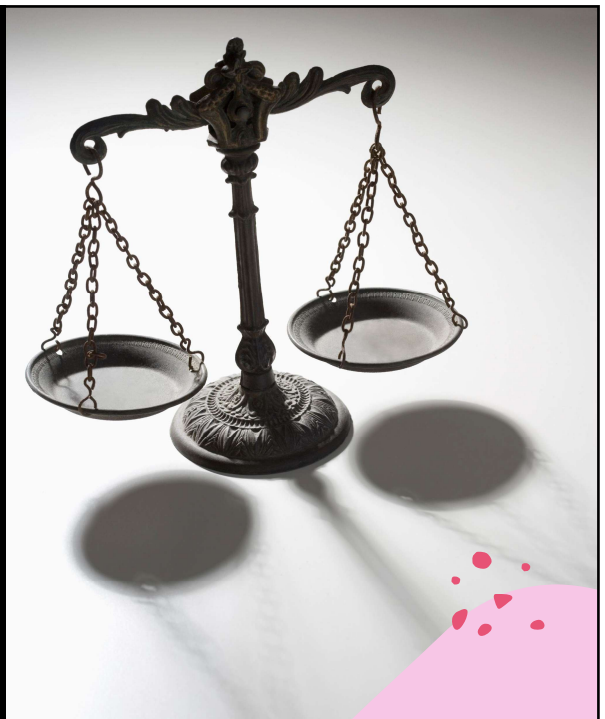
The health of all living tissue is dependent on healthy blood flow.

The most direct assessment of healthy blood flow is waveform acquisition and analysis.

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## *Ohm's Law*

$$\text{Flow} = \frac{\text{Pressure Gradient}}{\text{Resistance}}$$



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## Arterial Waveform Basics

Systolic Phase  
Measured by Peak Systolic Velocity (PSV)

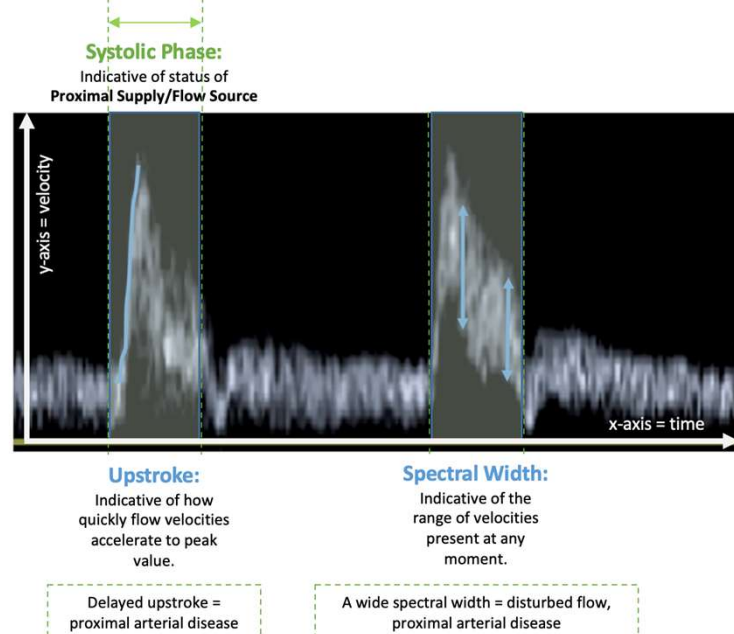


Figure 10: Systolic phase of a spectral Doppler arterial waveform.<sup>6</sup>

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## Arterial Waveform Basics

Diastolic Phase  
Measured by End Diastolic Velocity (EDV)

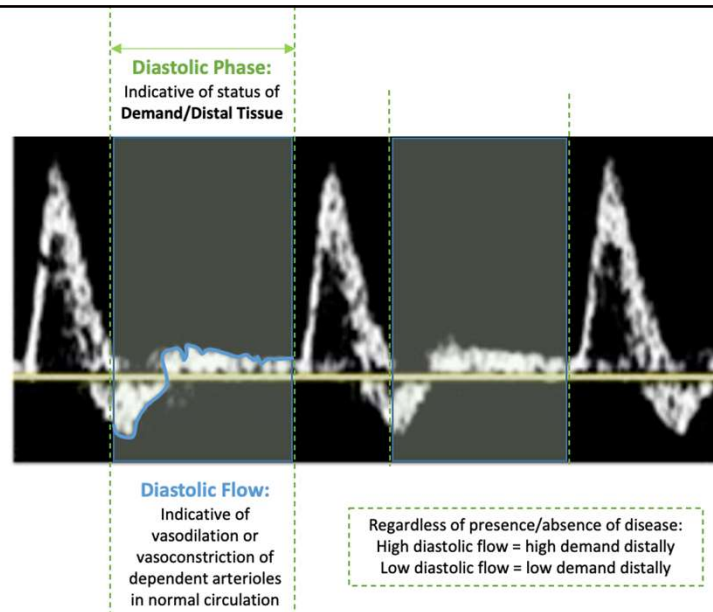


Figure 11: Diastolic phase of a spectral Doppler arterial waveform.<sup>6</sup>

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## Resistivity Index

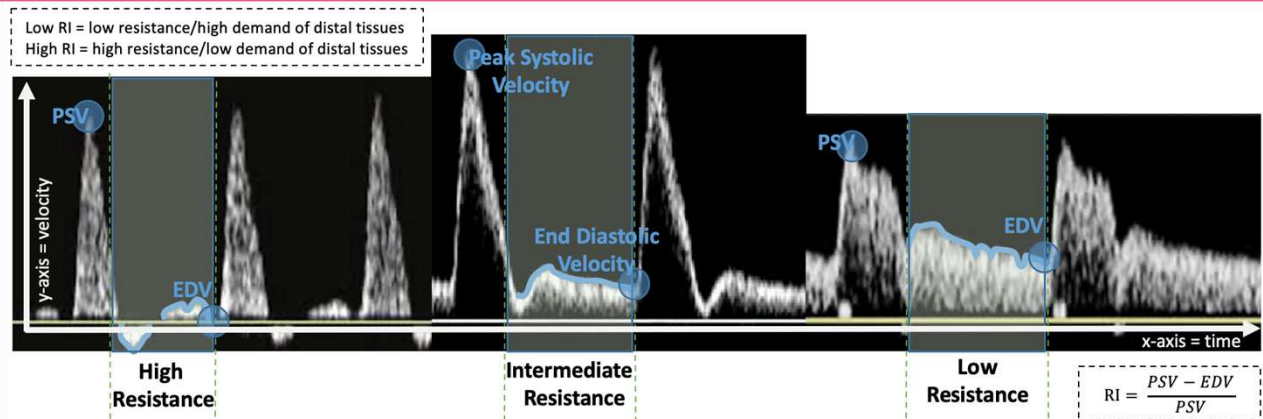


Figure 12: Arterial spectral Doppler waveforms demonstrating varying levels of resistance.<sup>6</sup>

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## Venous Pressure: Arterial Inflow Supplies Venous Outflow

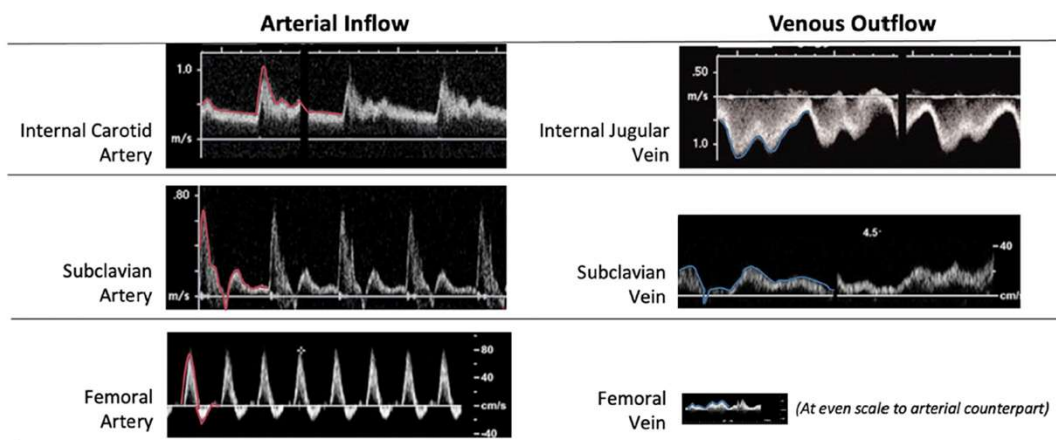


Figure 13: Arterial inflows compared to venous outflows of corresponding vessels<sup>6</sup>

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## *Structure of Venous Return*

Capillaries connect the arterial inflow with venous outflow of the same vascular bed.

Blood flow in the vein is determined by the inflow in its companion artery.

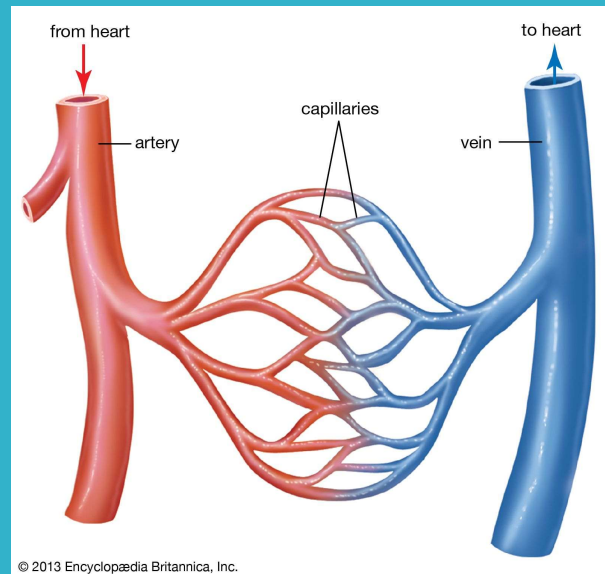


Figure 14: Capillary bed connecting arterial and venous circulation<sup>7</sup>

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## *Pressure*

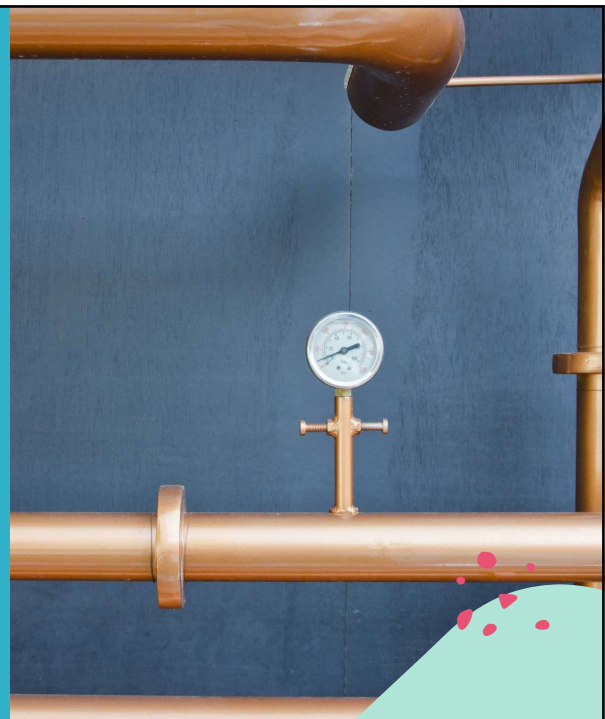
Created at the blood's SOURCE

Arteries = heart

**Veins = confluence of returning blood**

- Respiratory motion
- Cardiac motion
- Hydrostatic pressure

When pressure gradient is high, flow is high.



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## ***Resistance***

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Created at the blood's DESTINATION  
Arteries = arteriolar bed

**Veins = location-dependent**

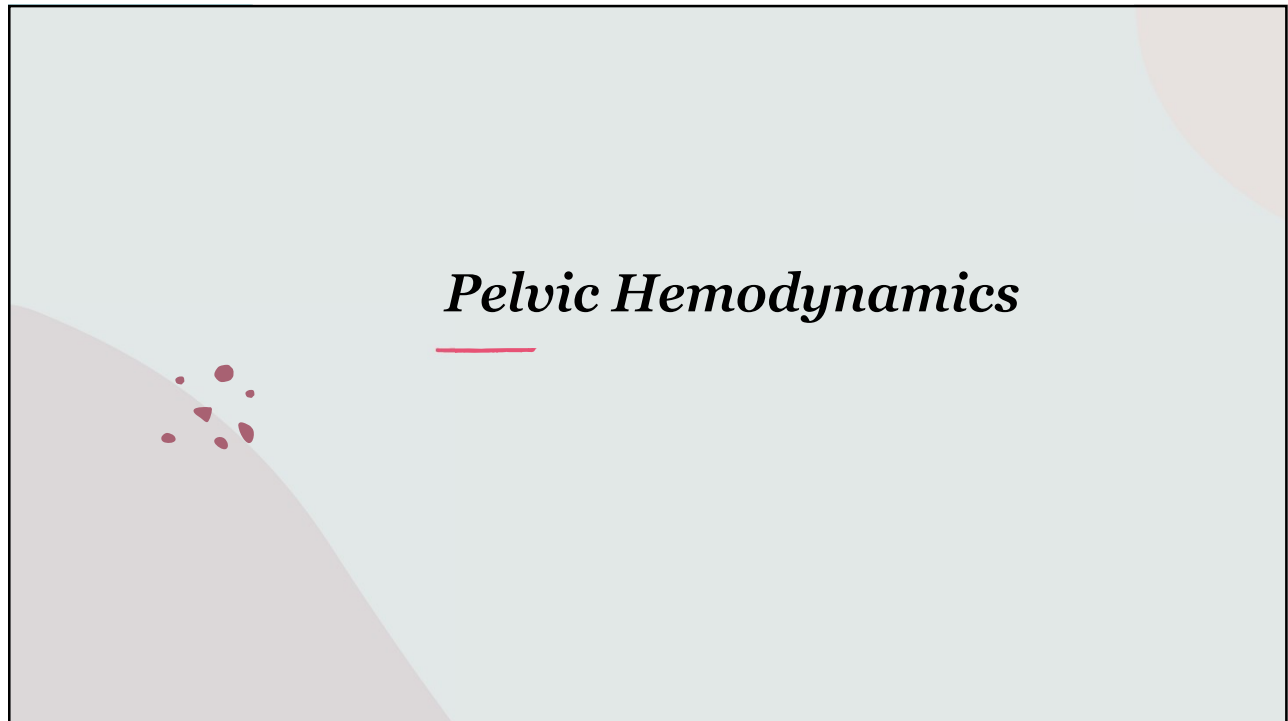
- Breathing motion
- Cardiac motion
- Hydrostatic pressure

When resistance is high, flow is low.

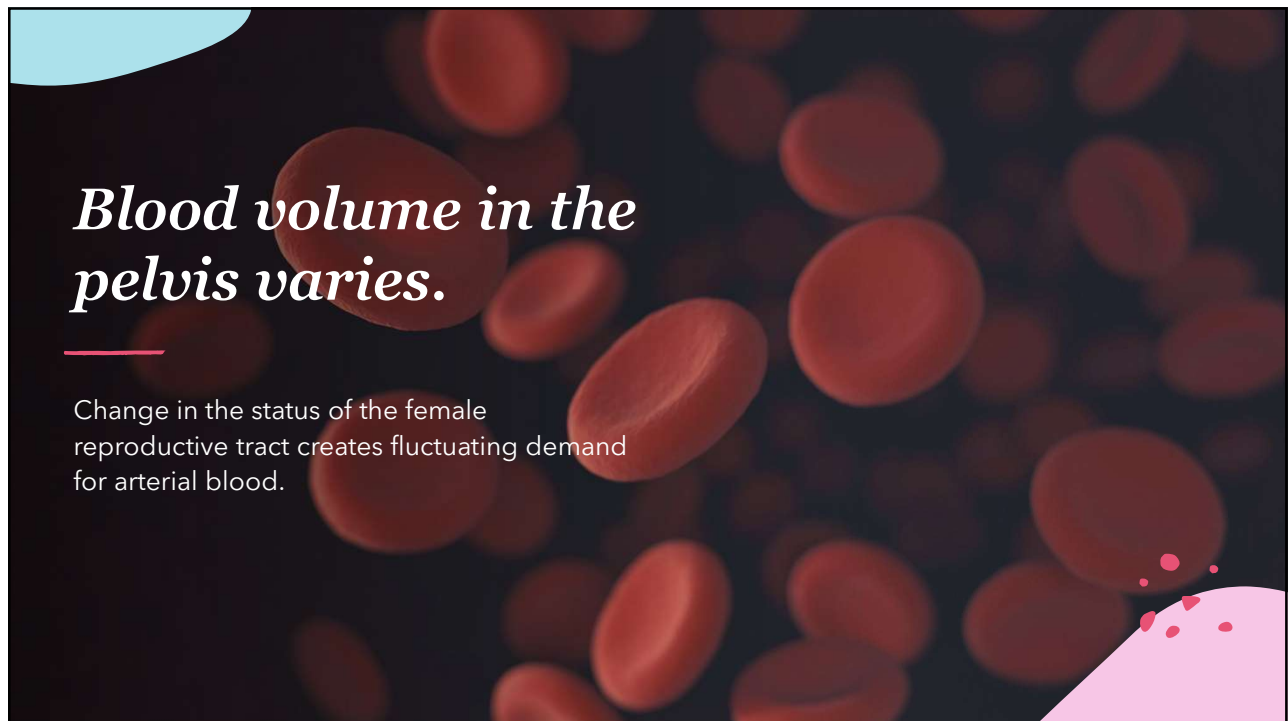
An illustration of two hands shaking. One hand is wearing a dark blue suit sleeve and the other is wearing a red suit sleeve. The background is a solid blue color. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the slide.

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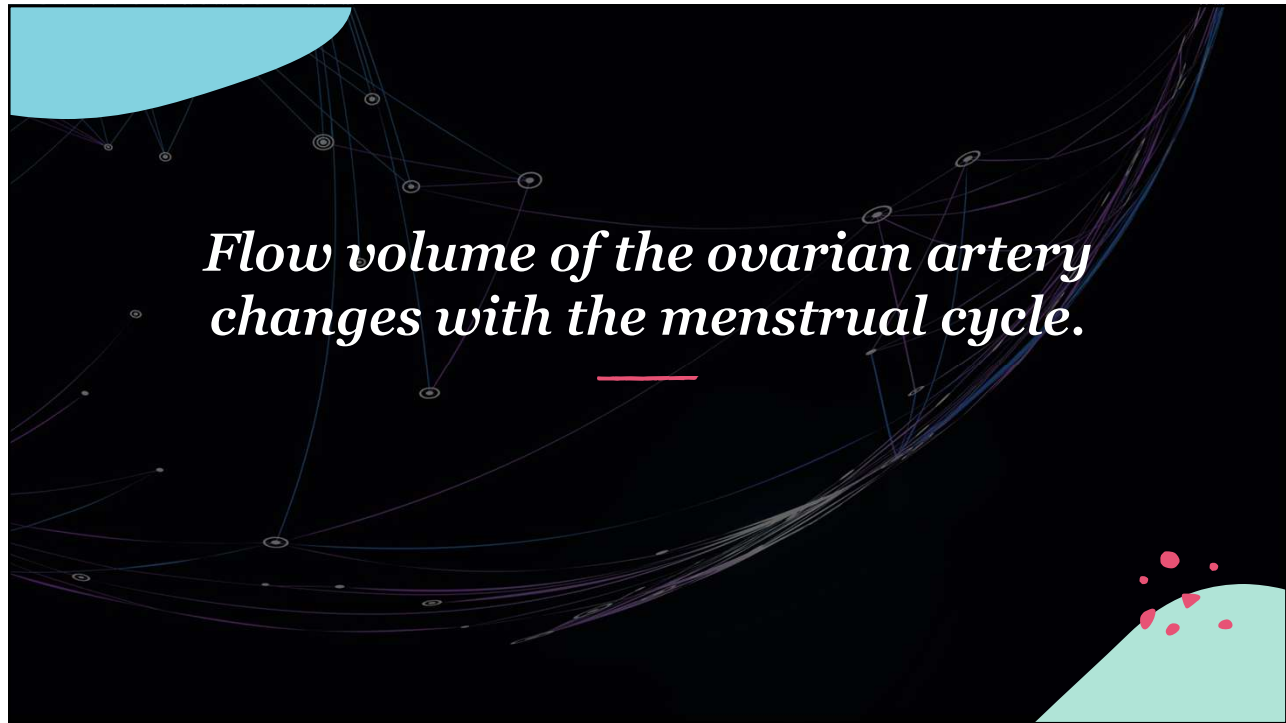


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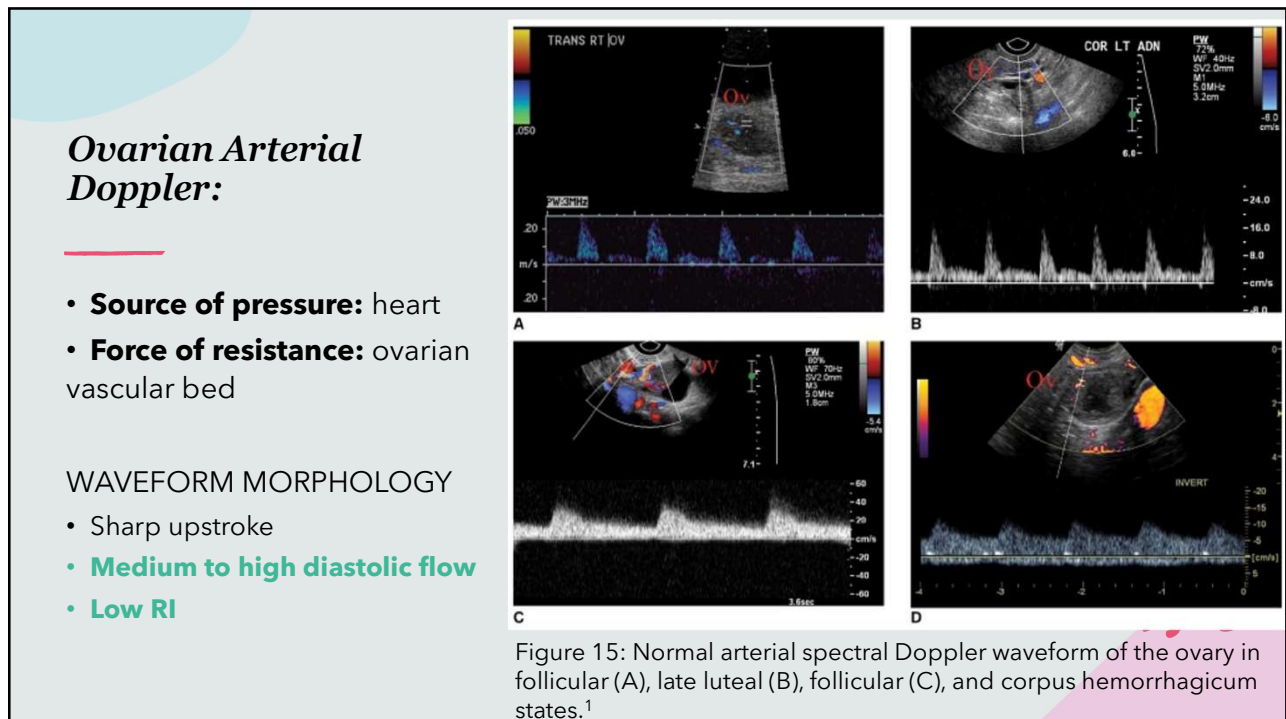


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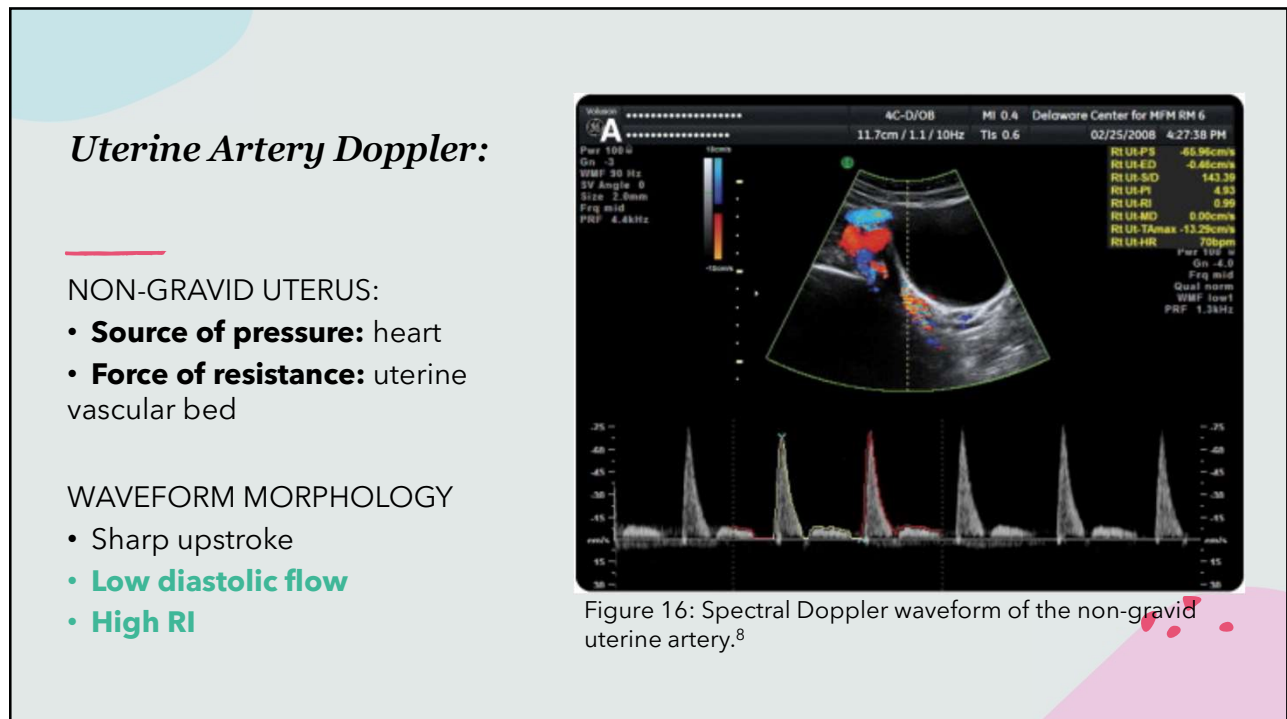
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## *Uterine Artery Doppler:*

### GRAVID UTERUS:

- **Source of pressure:** maternal heart
- **Force of resistance:** spiral arteries and/or placenta

### WAVEFORM MORPHOLOGY: Qualitative

- Sharp upstroke
- **High diastolic flow**
- **Low RI, decreases with gestational age<sup>8</sup>**

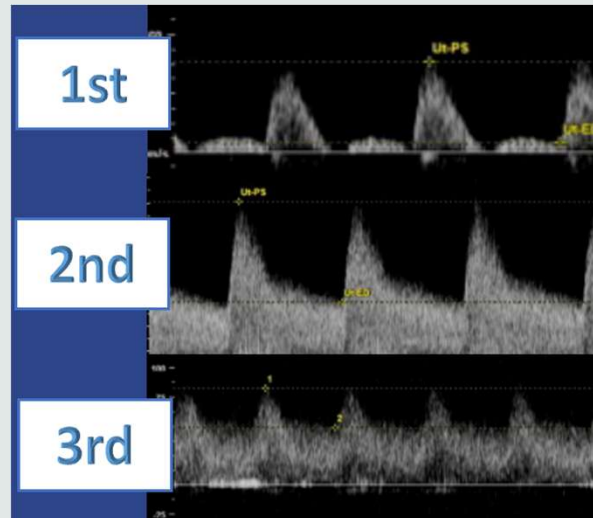


Figure 17: Spectral Doppler waveform of the gravid uterine artery in the first, second and third trimesters.<sup>8</sup>

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## *Uterine Artery Doppler:*

### POST-PARTUM UTERUS:

- **Source of pressure:** maternal heart
- **Force of resistance:** uterine vascular bed

### WAVEFORM MORPHOLOGY<sup>9</sup>:

- **High diastolic flow**
- **Low PI,**
- **Continues at least 14 weeks post-partum**

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*Variable Arterial Inflow = Variable Venous Outflow*

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## *Ohm's Law for Pelvic Veins<sup>6</sup>*

### *PRESSURE*

#### **Capillary return/Venous tree structure**

Hydrostatic pressure  
Calf muscle pump  
Respiratory motion  
Cardiac motion

### *RESISTANCE*

Blood viscosity  
Hydrostatic pressure  
Respiratory motion  
Cardiac motion

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## *Normal Ovarian Venous Waveform Morphology: Normal*

### **ANTEGRADE**

- Flow in the direction of the heart. (Centripetal)
- Antegrade flow is typically demonstrated below the baseline.

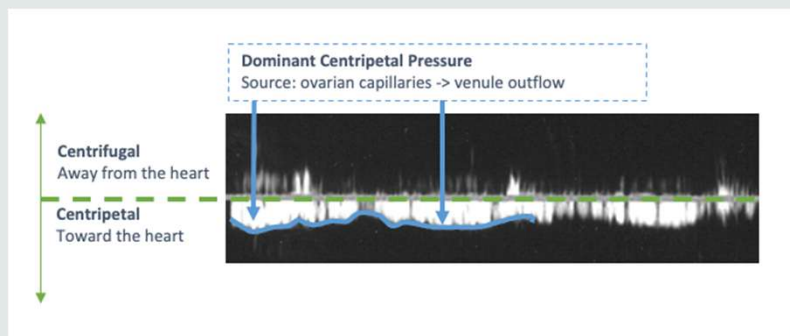


Figure 18: Normal ovarian vein waveform demonstrating antegrade flow.<sup>10</sup>

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## ***Lower Extremity Venous Waveform Morphology: Normal***

### **RESPIROPHASIC**

Increase and decrease in flow velocity that mirrors movement of the diaphragm.

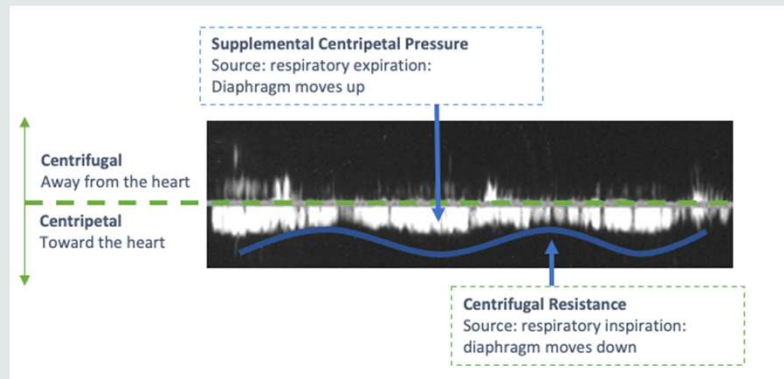


Figure 19: Normal ovarian vein waveform demonstrating respirophasicity.<sup>10</sup>

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## ***Venous Waveform Morphology: Normal***

### **NON-REFLUXING**

Cessation of flow on Valsalva maneuver.

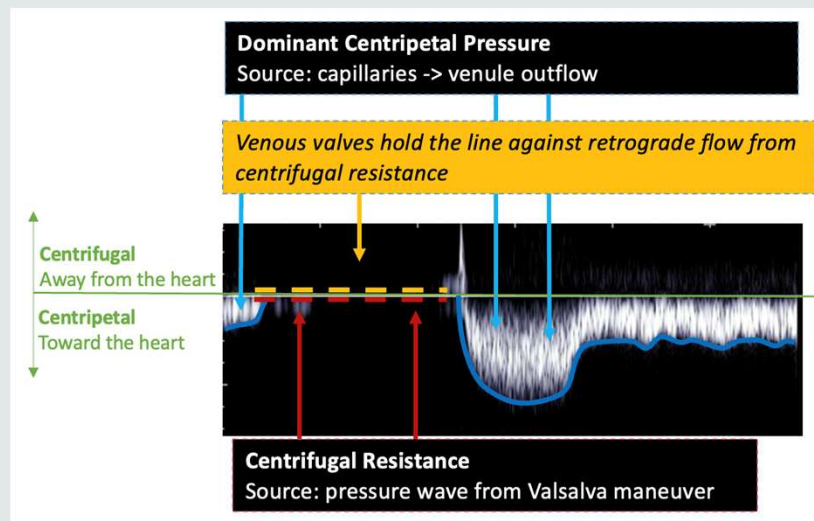


Figure 20: Normal venous response to Valsalva maneuver.

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## *Pelvic venous outflow has multiple exits*

Left sided anatomy predisposed to venous congestion.

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### *Normal Renal Venous Waveform Morphology*

#### **ANTEGRADE & CONTINUOUS**

- Flow in the direction of the heart. (Centripetal)
- Antegrade flow is typically demonstrated below the baseline.
- Normal velocity at aorto-mesenteric point: 40-80 cm/sec<sup>11</sup>

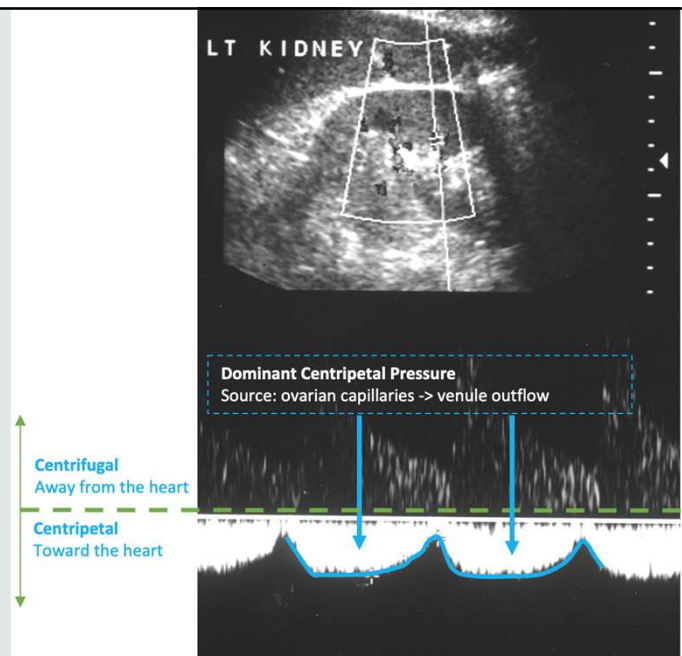


Figure 21: Normal renal vein waveform demonstrating antegrade flow.<sup>12</sup>

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## Normal Renal Venous Waveform Morphology

### CARDIAC PULSATILITY

- Pressure transmitted from right atrium > IVC > renal vein.
- Decrease in flow velocity at atrial systole.

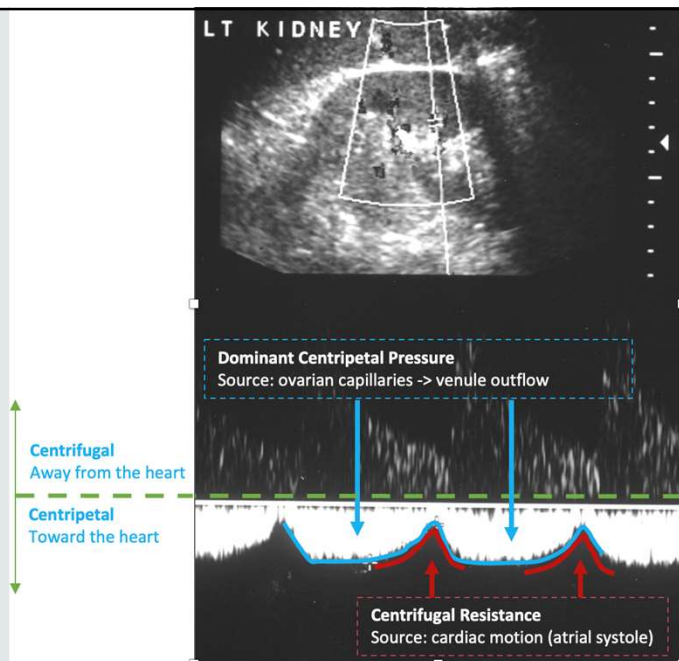


Figure 22: Normal renal vein waveform demonstrating antegrade flow with cardiac pulsatility.<sup>12</sup>

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## Normal Common Venous Waveform Morphology

### ANTEGRADE & SPONTANEOUS

- Flow in the direction of the heart. (Centripetal)
- Active flow without any external augmentation maneuvers,
- Dependent on filling of venous chambers, and subsequent opening of valves.

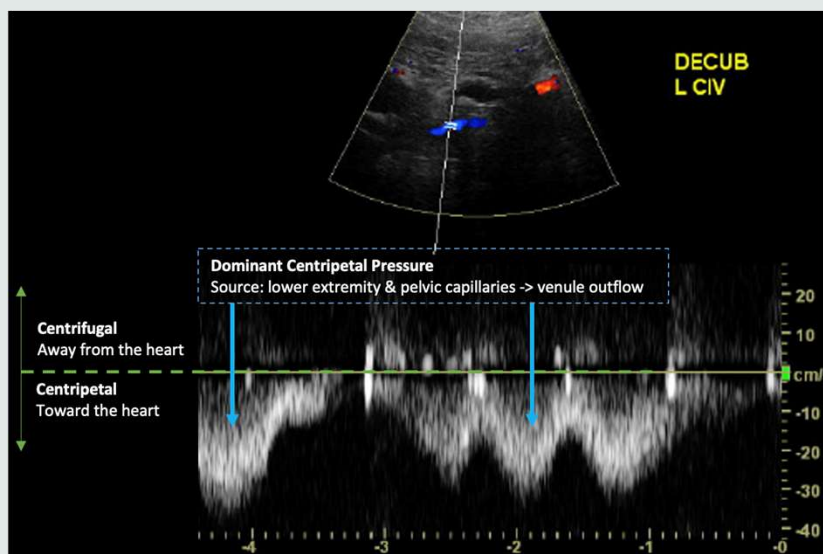


Figure 23: Normal common iliac vein waveform demonstrating antegrade, spontaneous flow.<sup>13</sup>

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## Normal Common Iliac Venous Waveform Morphology

### (MILDLY) PULSATILE

- Pressure transmitted from right atrium > IVC > renal vein.
- Decrease in flow velocity reflects right atrial systole

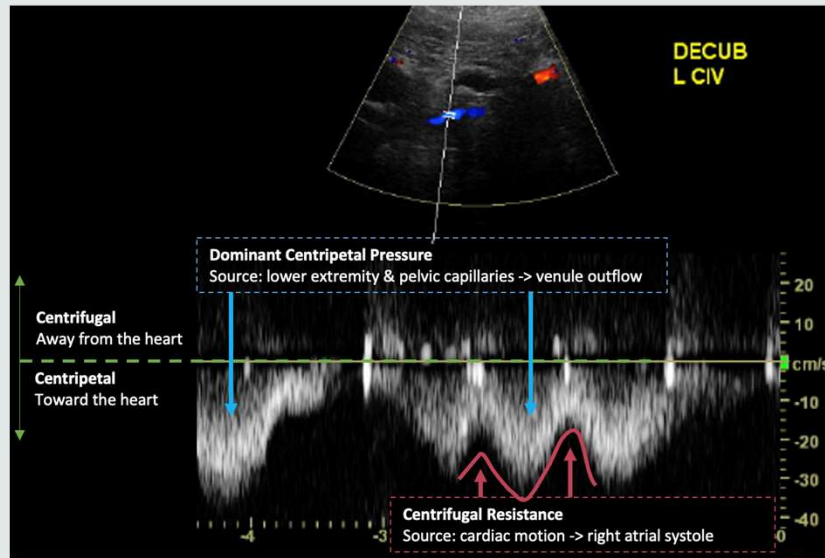


Figure 24: Normal common iliac vein waveform demonstrating mild cardiac pulsatility.<sup>13</sup>

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## Normal Common Iliac Waveform Morphology

### RESPIROPHASICITY

Increase and decrease in flow velocity that mirrors movement of the diaphragm.

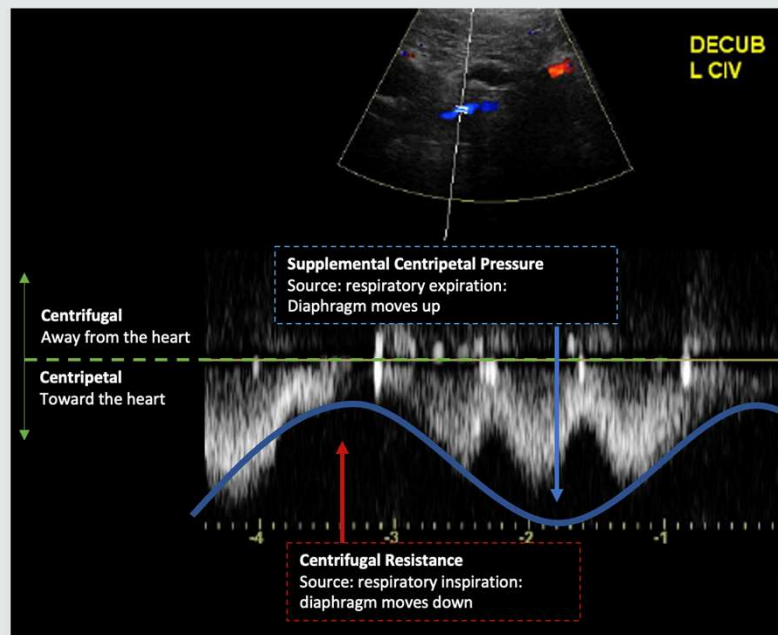
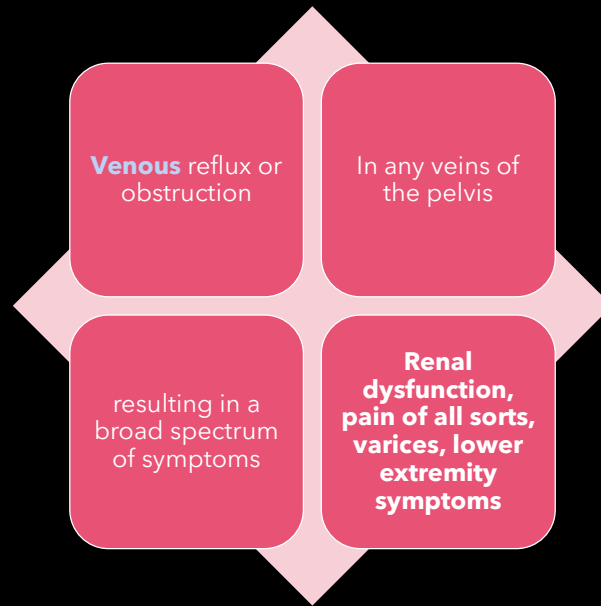


Figure 25: Normal common iliac vein waveform demonstrating respirophasicity.<sup>13</sup>

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## ***Pelvic Venous Disorders: Definition***



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## ***PeVD – Pelvic Venous Disorders***

American Vein and Lymphatic Society (AVLS) convened an international, multidisciplinary panel charged with the development of a discriminative classification instrument for PeVD.

Published classification standard in April 2021.<sup>14</sup>

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## ***Pelvic Venous Disorders (PeVD): Background***

Encompasses the spectrum of symptoms and signs arising from:

1. The veins of the pelvis (the gonadal veins, the internal iliac veins and their tributaries, and the venous plexuses of the pelvis)
2. And their primary drainage pathways (the left renal vein, the iliac veins, and the pelvic escape points).<sup>14</sup>

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## ***Pelvic Venous Disorders (PeVD): Background***

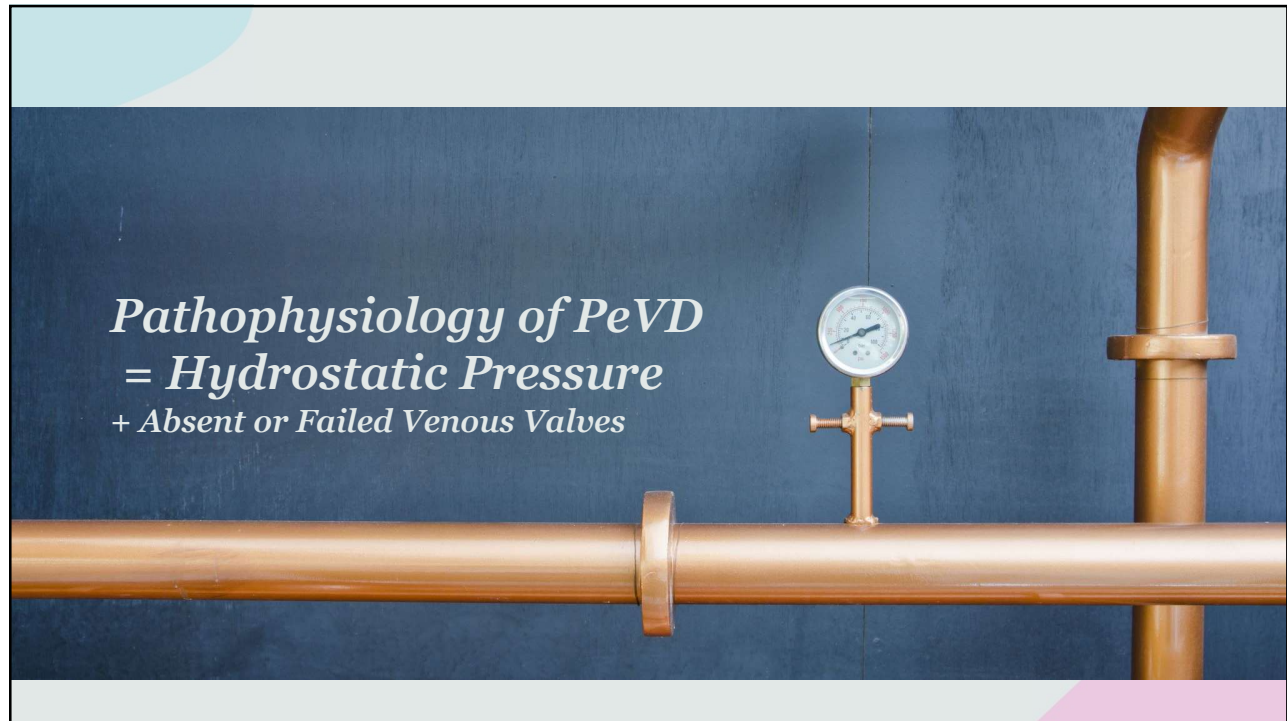
Given their imprecise and overlapping nature, these historical terms should no longer be used:

1. May-Thurner Syndrome
2. Nutcracker Syndrome
3. Pelvic Congestion Syndrome<sup>14</sup>

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***Risk Factors***

**GYNECOLOGIC**

- Pre-menopausal women
- Multiparity

**VASCULAR**

- Congenitally absent ovarian vein valves
- Venous overload
  - Portal hypertension
  - AV fistula
  - IVC thrombosis
  - Nutcracker syndrome
- Extrinsic compression from tumors<sup>15</sup>

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## ***Risk Factors: Multiparity***

- Increased serum progesterone levels by tens of times
- Increased volume of circulating blood by 15%
- Increased blood flowing through the pelvic veins by tenfold
- Pelvic vein dilation usually disappears after childbirth
- When pelvic varicose veins persist, reflux can develop
- 60 to 76% of women with PeVD become symptomatic<sup>15</sup>

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## ***PeVD - Background***

Pelvic venous incompetence may impact the following 4 zones:

- Left Renal Vein
- Ovarian and Internal Iliac Veins with Pelvic Venous Plexuses
- Pelvic Origin Extra Pelvic Veins
- Lower Extremity Deep & Superficial Veins

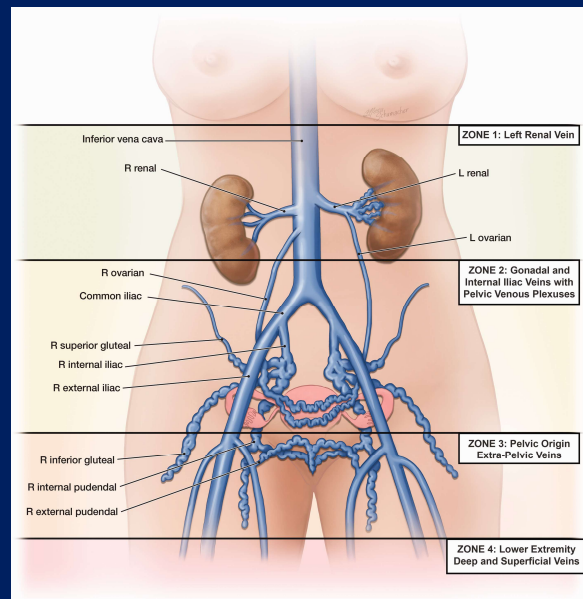


Figure 26. The four anatomic zones of the abdomen and pelvis which correlate with symptoms, signs (varices), and pathophysiologic manifestations of pelvis venous disorders (PeVD).<sup>14</sup>

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## *Pelvic Venous Disorders (PeVD): Background*

1. Venous circulation of the abdomen and pelvis is complex and interconnected.
2. Similar clinical presentations may have different underlying pathophysiologies.
3. Identical pathology may have different clinical presentation.
4. Inaccuracy in precisely characterizing a patient's clinical presentation has often led to misdiagnosis and suboptimal treatment outcomes.<sup>14</sup>

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Misdiagnosis of PeVD leads to  
significant anxiety and  
depression.

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## *AVLS Classification Tool: Symptoms-Varices-Pathophysiology ("SVP") classification for PeVD*

### 3 Domains:

- Symptoms (S)
- Varices (V)
- Pathophysiology (P)
  - Anatomic (A)
  - Hemodynamic (H)
  - Etiologic (E)

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## *Symptoms*

S <sub>0</sub>	No symptoms of a PeVD (no renal, pelvic, or extrapelvic symptoms)
S <sub>1</sub>	Renal symptoms of venous origin
S <sub>2</sub>	Chronic pelvic pain of venous origin
S <sub>3</sub>	Extrapelvic symptoms of venous origin

Table 1: Categorization of symptoms associated with Pelvic Venous Disorders for the "Symptoms-Varices-Pathophysiology" classification system created by the American Vein and Lymphatic Society.<sup>14</sup>

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## Varices

*"Although some varices (eg, pelvic origin varices of the vulva or posteromedial thigh) may be apparent on physical examination, others (renal hilar, pelvic, and some pelvic origin extrapelvic varices) are identified only through imaging studies."*

V <sub>0</sub>	No abdominal, pelvic, or pelvic origin extrapelvic varices on clinical or imaging examination
V <sub>1</sub>	Renal hilar varices
V <sub>2</sub>	Pelvic varices
V <sub>3</sub>	Pelvic origin extrapelvic varices.

Table 2: Categorization of varices associated with Pelvic Venous Disorders for the "Symptoms-Varices-Pathophysiology" classification system created by the American Vein and Lymphatic Society.<sup>14</sup>

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## Pathophysiology

A combination of 3 sub-categories:

1. Anatomy (specify vessel involved)
2. Hemodynamics (obstruction vs. reflux)
3. Etiology (identify cause as thrombotic or non thrombotic)<sup>14</sup>

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## *Clinical Management & Diagnosis*

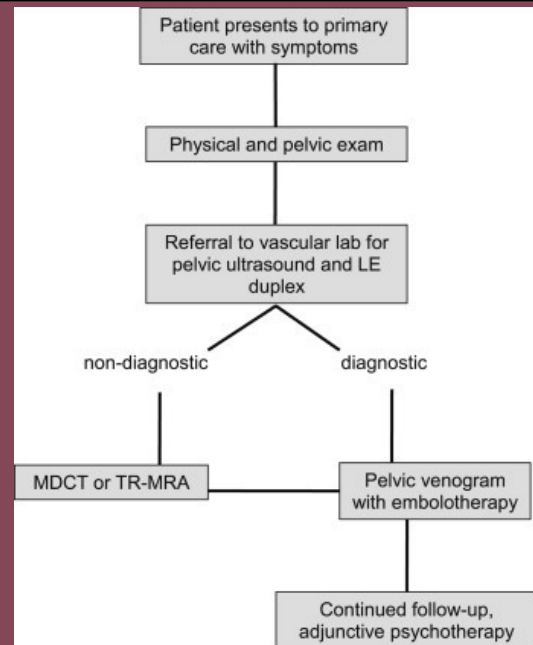


Figure 27: Algorithm for workup of Pelvic Venous Disorders (PeVD)<sup>2</sup>.

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## *Diagnosis*

- MRI
- CT
- US
- Trans-catheter venography = gold standard modality for the definitive diagnosis and is undertaken as an immediate precursor to ovarian vein embolization (OVE)<sup>17</sup>

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## *Clinical Management*

Conservative, medical and surgical management strategies have been reported but have been superseded by OVE, which has a reported technical success rates of 96-100%, low complication rates and long-term symptomatic relief in between 70-90% of cases.<sup>17</sup>

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## *The Role of Ultrasound in Diagnosis of PeVD*

### ZONE 1: Renal duplex

- Renal varices
- Renal vein compression

### ZONE 2: Pelvic duplex

- Uterine and/or gonadal varices
- Pelvic vein reflux

### ZONE 3: Lower extremity venous duplex

- Iliac vein reflux
- Iliac vein compression

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## ***Protocol: Diameter measurement and Spectral Doppler w & w/o Valsalva***

### *Vascular Lab Protocol:*

IVC  
Common Iliac Veins  
External Iliac Veins  
Renal Veins  
Ovarian (Gonadal) Veins  
Peri and Trans-Uterine Plexus Veins  
Pelvic Escape Points<sup>18</sup>

### *Renal Exam – Additional Images:*

Left renal hilum  
Left renal vein as it crosses between Ao and SMA

### *Pelvic Exam Protocol – Additional Images*

Ovarian (Gonadal) Veins  
Peri and Trans-Uterine Plexus Veins

### *Lower Ext. Venous Exam – Additional Images:*

Internal iliac Left CIV crossing behind right CIA

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## ***Patient position impacts venous dilation.***

Induce venous congestion by:

- Standing your patient for transabdominal imaging
- Tilting or propping your patient up for transvaginal imaging: half-sitting and half-standing positions (with trunk raised to 45°).<sup>16</sup>

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## *Zone 1:*

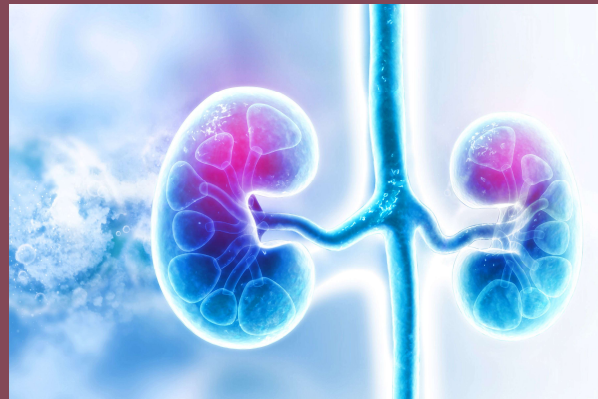
Left Renal Venous Reflux

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## *Symptoms – ( $S_1$ ) Renal Symptoms of Venous Origin*

Symptoms arising from renal venous hypertension secondary to left renal vein obstruction

- Microhematuria
- Macrohematuria
- Left flank and abdominal pain that is worsened by activity (standing, walking, sitting)<sup>14</sup>



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## *Varices – V<sub>1</sub>: Renal Hilar Varices*

- Ovarian vein drains through left renal vein
- Risk for aorto-mesenteric compression (formerly "Nutcracker Syndrome")

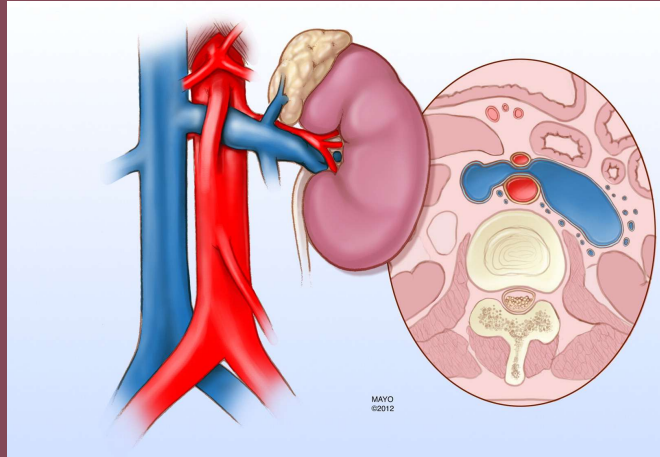


Figure 28: Course of the left renal vein in front and short axis views.<sup>19</sup>

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## *Varices – V<sub>1</sub>: Renal Hilar Varices*

- Ovarian vein drains through left renal vein
- Risk for aorto-mesenteric compression (formerly "Nutcracker Syndrome")

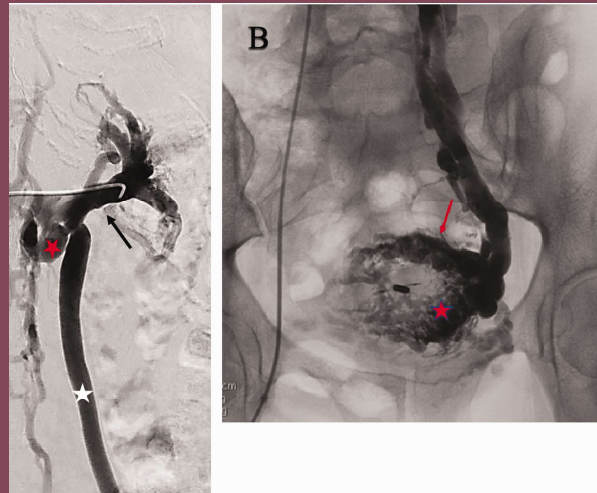


Figure 29: compression of the left renal vein with secondary reflux in the left ovarian vein. (A) Selective renal venography demonstrates compressive obstruction (white arrow) of the central left renal vein (black arrow) associated with renal hilar varices. The left renal vein is drained through the renal-azygous trunk (red star) and a refluxing left ovarian vein (white star). (B) Selective left ovarian venography demonstrates associated pelvic varices, myometrial veins (red star) and small arcuate veins (red arrow).<sup>14</sup>

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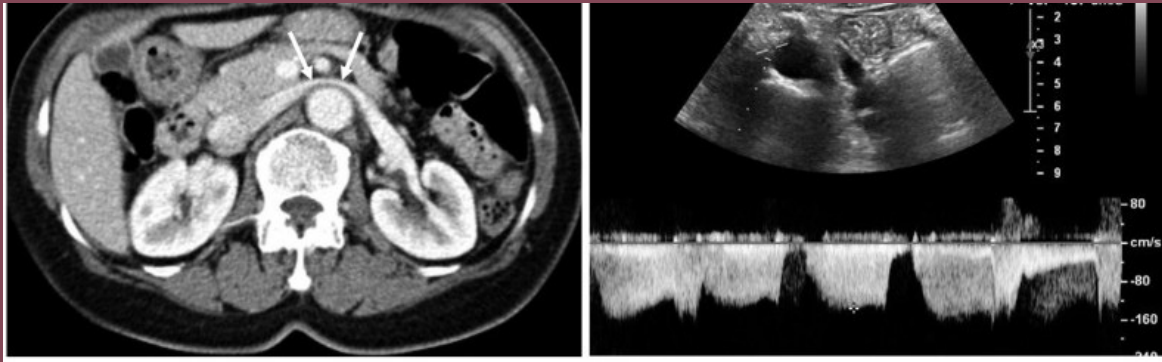


Figure 30: Renal vein compression at the aorto-mesenteric point as demonstrated by CTA (A) and Doppler Ultrasound (B).<sup>11</sup>

## *Varices – $V_1$ : Renal Hilar Varices*

- Ovarian vein drains through left renal vein
- Risk for aorto-mesenteric compression (formerly "Nutcracker Syndrome")
- Renal vein peak velocity to hilar velocity > 5.0 suspicious for compression/stenosis<sup>12</sup>

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## *Zone 2:*

Ovarian and Internal Iliac Veins with Pelvic Venous Plexuses

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## ***Symptoms – (S<sub>2</sub>)*** ***Chronic Pelvic Pain of Venous Origin***

- Pain symptoms perceived to originate from pelvic organs/structures typically lasting more than 6 months.
- Often associated with negative consequences: cognitive, behavioral, sexual and/or emotional.
- Symptoms suggestive of lower urinary tract, sexual, bowel, pelvic floor, myofascial, or gynecologic dysfunction.

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## ***Symptoms – (S<sub>2</sub>)*** ***Chronic Pelvic Pain of Venous Origin***

Large overlap with pelvic pain of non-venous origin. *However:*

- Dull, unilateral or bilateral pelvic pain
- Occasional sharp flare ups
- Manual examination reveals adnexal tenderness
- Symptoms worsen with activity, improve with lying down.
- Prolonged post-coital ache

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## *Symptoms – (S<sub>2</sub>) Chronic Pelvic Pain of Venous Origin*

The combination of:

1. postcoital ache and
2. tenderness over the ovarian point (the junction of the upper and middle thirds of a line drawn from the umbilicus to the anterior superior iliac spine)

has been reported to be 94% sensitive and 77% specific for distinguishing a venous origin from other causes of pelvic pain.

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## *Pelvic Varices (V<sub>2</sub>)*

- Ovarian and uterine plexuses are interconnected
- Uterine plexus drains through internal iliac veins
- Vast network of visceral and parietal venous structures in the pelvis. (ALL CONNECTED)

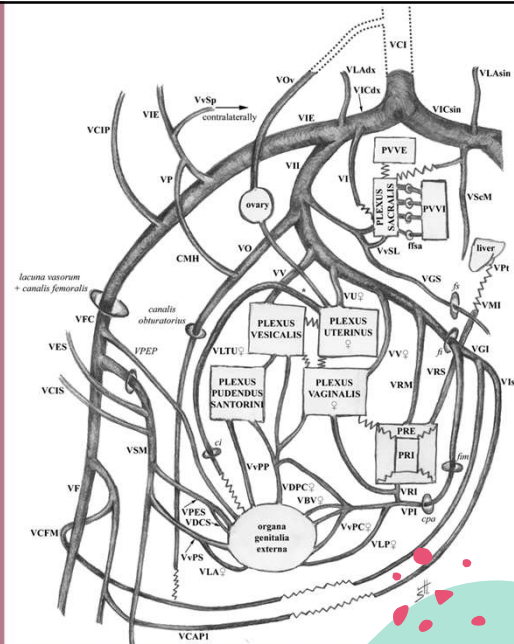


Figure 31: Schema of the veins of pelvis, their draining direction and communications (anterior view).<sup>20</sup>

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## *B-Mode* *Findings*

### **Uterus:**

Visibly dilated arcuate veins.



Figure 32: Transvaginal ultrasound image of the uterus. Multiple tortuous arcuate veins (arrows) were seen in the myometrium.<sup>21</sup>

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## *B-Mode* *Findings*

### **Uterus:**

Para-uterine vessels > 6 mm in diameter

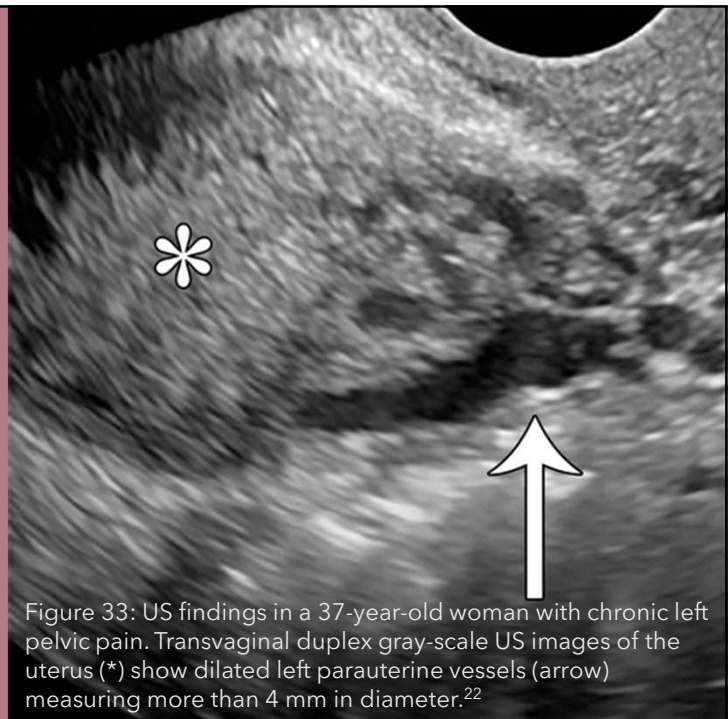


Figure 33: US findings in a 37-year-old woman with chronic left pelvic pain. Transvaginal duplex gray-scale US images of the uterus (\*) show dilated left para-uterine vessels (arrow) measuring more than 4 mm in diameter.<sup>22</sup>

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## *B-Mode Findings*

### **Ovarian:**

Dilated ovarian veins > 6- 8mm in diameter



Figure 34: Measurement of a pelvic vein with a diameter larger than 8 mm.<sup>23</sup>

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## *B-Mode Findings*

### **Ovarian:**

Dilated ovarian veins  
> 6 - 8mm in  
diameter

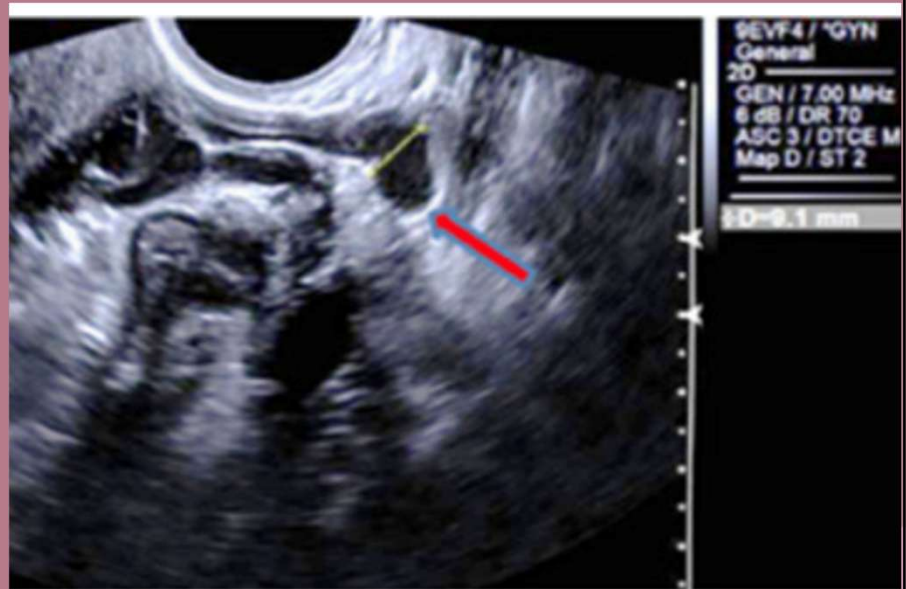


Figure 35: Measurement of a left ovarian vein with a diameter of 9.1mm.<sup>17</sup>

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## Color Doppler Findings

### Uterus:

Visibly dilated arcuate veins with color fill.

May need to use power Doppler

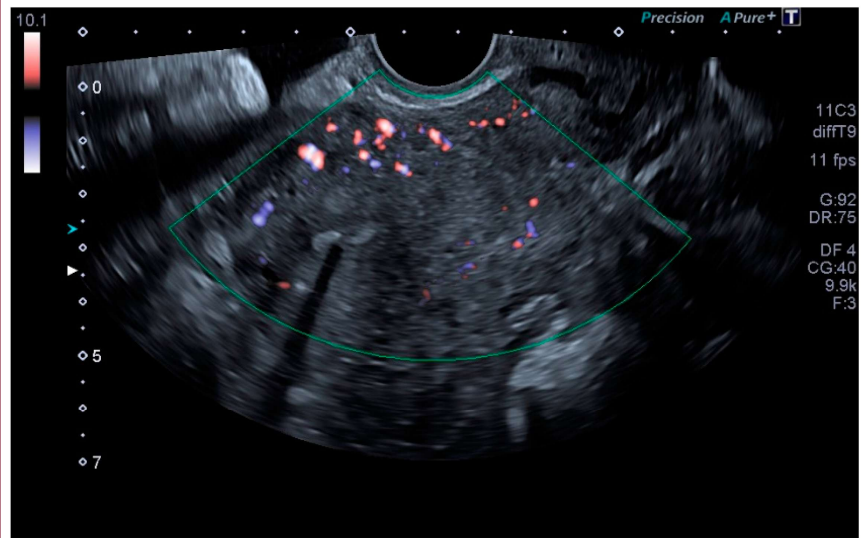


Figure 36: Transvaginal ultrasound image of the uterus. Multiple tortuous arcuate veins were seen in the myometrium on color Doppler.<sup>24</sup>

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## Color Doppler Findings

### Ovaries:

Visibly dilated arcuate veins with color fill.

May need to use power Doppler

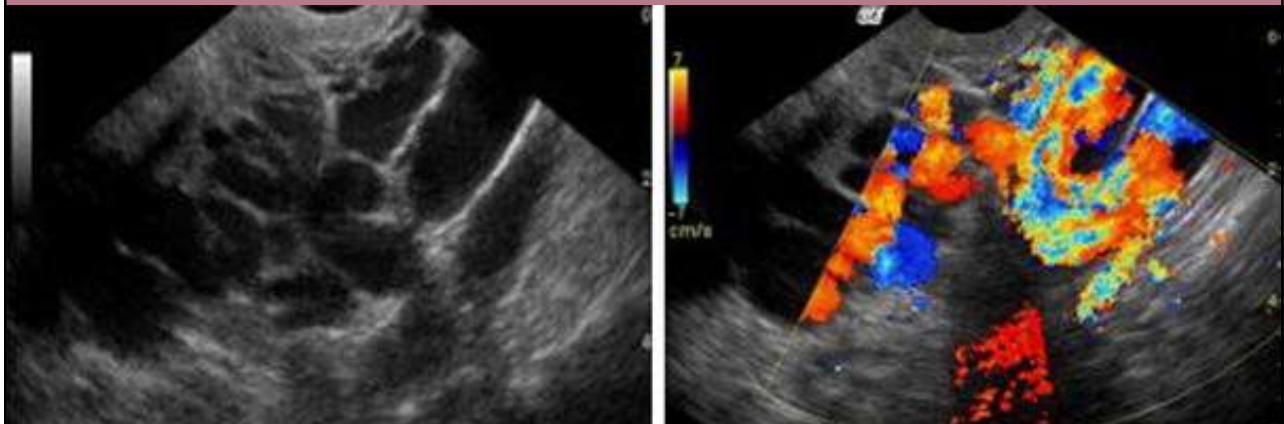


Figure 36: Transvaginal pelvic ultrasound image in axial section of a 33-year-old woman with the use of B-mode (a) and color-Doppler (b) demonstrates marked engorgement of veins surrounding the left ovary vein.<sup>24</sup>

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## *Color Doppler Findings*

### **Ovaries:**

Visibly dilated arcuate veins with color fill.

May need to use power Doppler

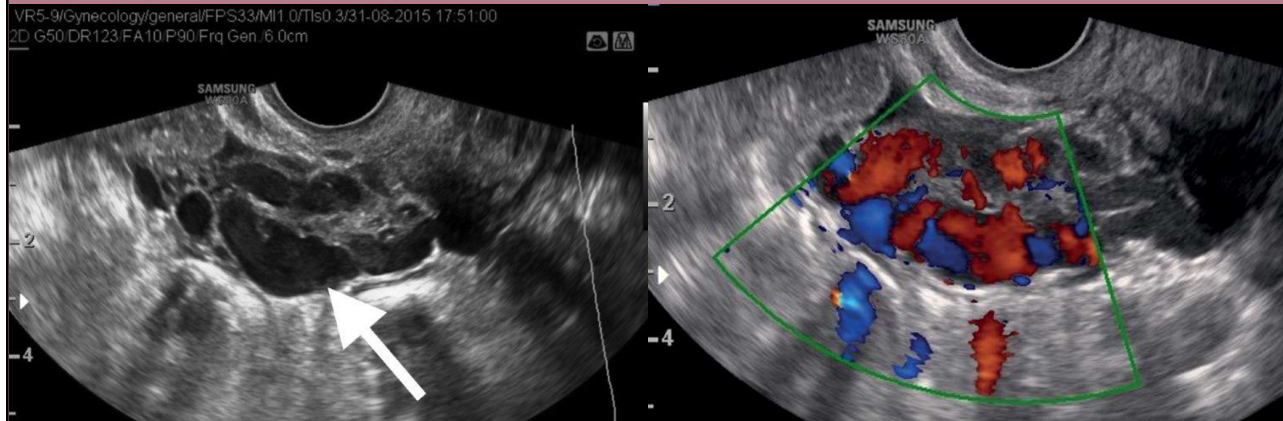


Figure 37: B- mode and color Doppler imaging of a dilated left parametrial venous plexus (arrow) initially misdiagnosed as a hydrosalpinx.<sup>21</sup>

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## *Spectral Doppler Findings*

### **Uterine Venous Plexus:**

Venous reflux of the uterine venous plexus.  
(with or without Valsalva.)

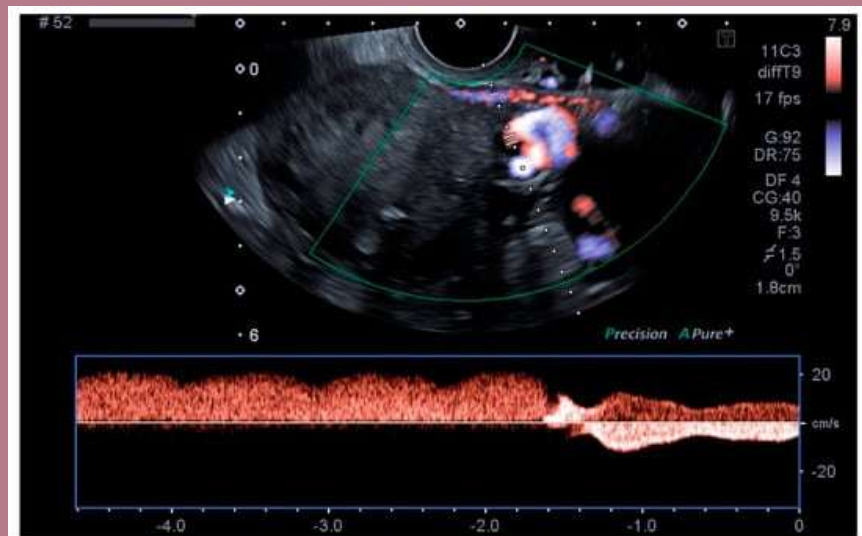


Figure 38: Transvaginal ultrasound imaging of the uterine venous plexus with Spectral Doppler tracing demonstrating reflux with Valsalva maneuver.<sup>24</sup>

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## *Spectral Doppler Findings*

### **Ovarian Venous Plexus:**

Venous reflux of the ovarian venous plexus.  
(with or without Valsalva.)

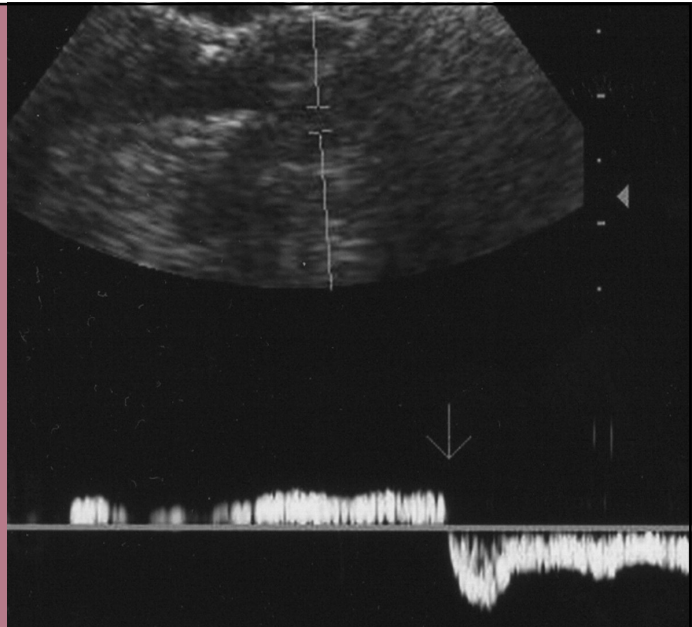


Figure 39: Spectral Doppler of dilated ovarian venous plexus with reversal of flow on Valsalva's maneuver that correlates with reflux on selective ovarian venography (not shown).<sup>10</sup>

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## *Color & Spectral Doppler Findings*

### **Internal Iliac Veins:**

Reversed flow with or without Valsalva

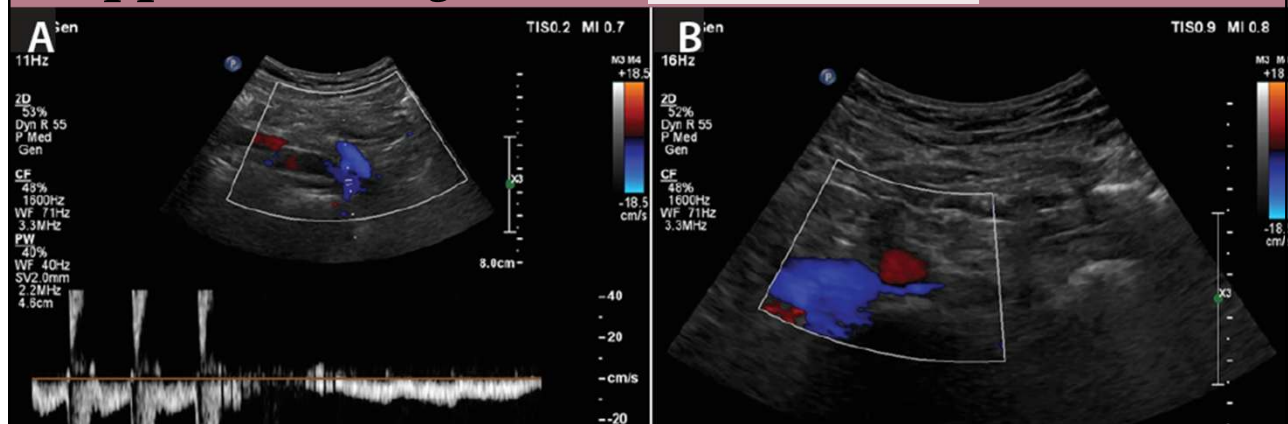


Figure 40: Transabdominal ultrasound imaging of the internal iliac vein with Spectral Doppler tracing demonstrating reflux.<sup>13</sup>

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## *Venous exits for pelvic veins*

Formerly "May-Thurner" syndrome  
Left common iliac vein compression  
by overlying right common iliac artery.

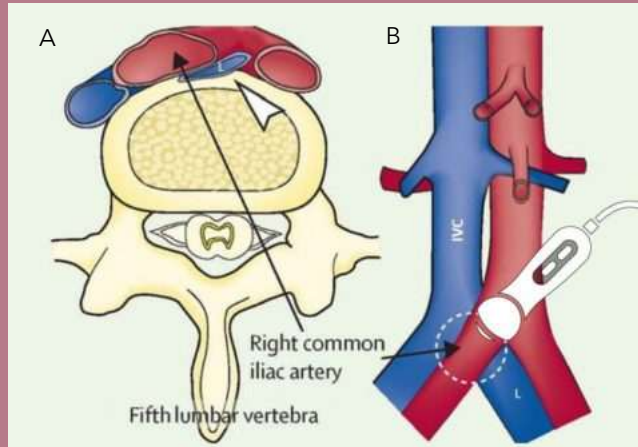


Figure 41: Schematic showing compression of the left common iliac vein by the overlying right common iliac artery.<sup>4</sup>

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## *Color & Spectral Doppler Findings*

**Left Common Iliac Vein:**  
Elevated velocities posterior to RCIA.

Absent LCIV flow

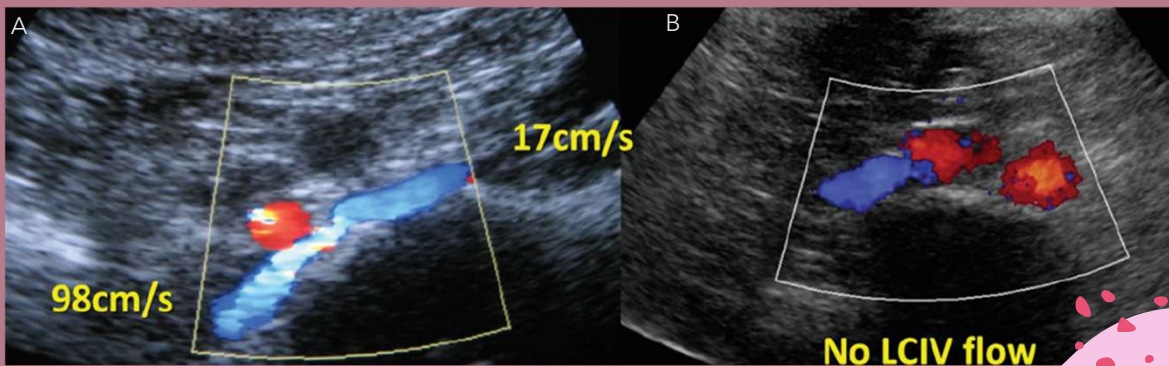


Figure 42: Transabdominal ultrasound imaging of the left common iliac vein demonstrating increased (A) and absent (B) flow on color Doppler imaging.<sup>13</sup>

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## ***Proximal Venous Obstruction***

Any significant narrowing or obstruction of proximal veins increases venous pressure distally.

Capillary outflow into venules, and then veins, surpasses the reduced venous capacity.

Venous vessels dilate to maximum size.

Venous valves are forced to stay open.

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## ***Spectral Doppler Findings: Left Common Iliac Vein***

### Waveform Flow Morphology

- Antegrade
- Continuous
- Non-pulsatile
- Non-respirophasic

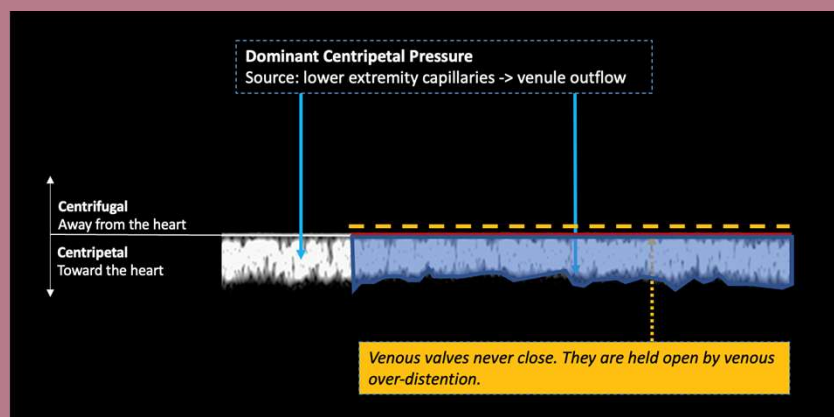


Figure 43: Abnormal common femoral vein waveform demonstrating continuous flow, suspicious for proximal obstruction

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## *Zone 3:*

Pelvic Origin Extrapelvic Veins

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## *Symptoms – (S<sub>3</sub>): Extrapelvic Symptoms of Venous Origin*

Symptoms localized to the external genitalia or lower extremities due to reflux through recognized escape points in the pelvic floor<sup>22</sup> or from ilio caval venous obstruction.

- Vulva or posteromedial thigh symptoms:
  - Pain
  - Discomfort
  - Tenderness
  - Itching
  - Bleeding
  - Superficial venous thrombosis from non-saphenous varicosities.

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## *Varices – (V<sub>3</sub>) Pelvic Origin Extrapelvic Varices*

4 leak points in the pelvic floor:

1. O: 'Obturator' point
2. I: 'Inguinal' point
3. P: 'Perineal' point
4. G: 'Gluteal' point

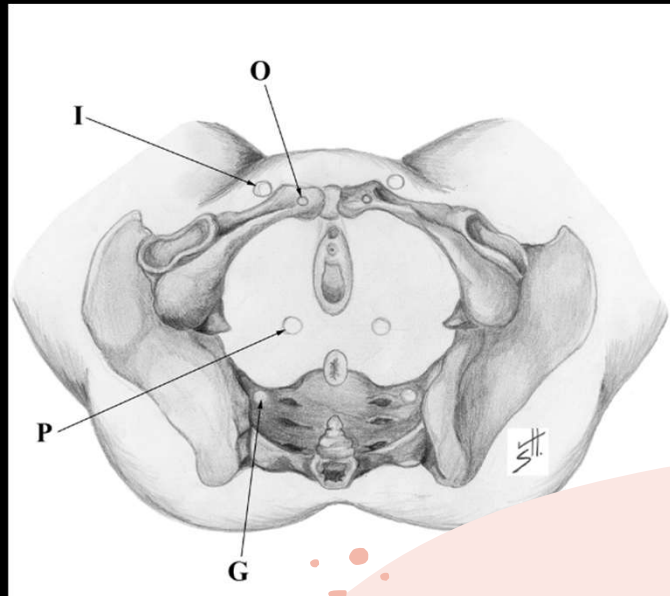


Figure 44: Scheme of pelvic leakage points (inferior view).<sup>20</sup>

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## *Varices – (V<sub>3</sub>) Pelvic Origin Extrapelvic Varices*

4 leak points in the pelvic floor:

1. **Obturator:** obturator vein > circumflex femoral veins > femoral vein. (deep system)
2. **Inguinal:** ovarian vein > greater saphenous vein. (superficial system)
3. **Perineal:** internal pudendal vein > greater saphenous vein. (superficial system)
4. **Gluteal:** inferior gluteal vein > medial circumflex femoral vein > femoral vein. (deep system).

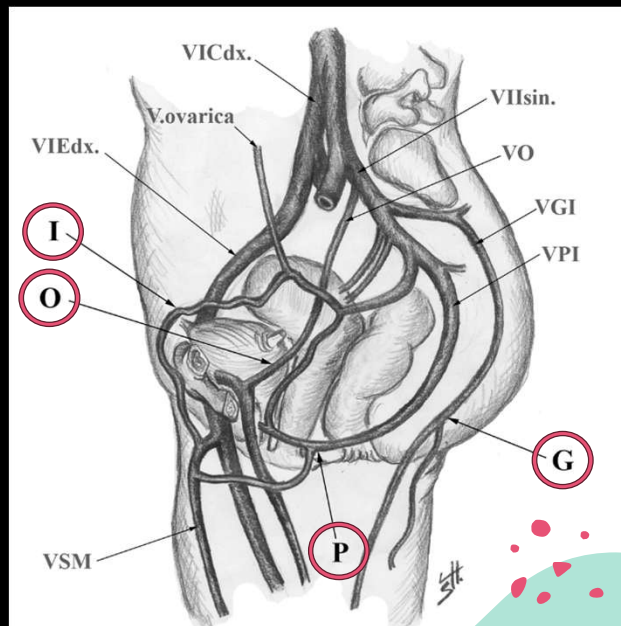
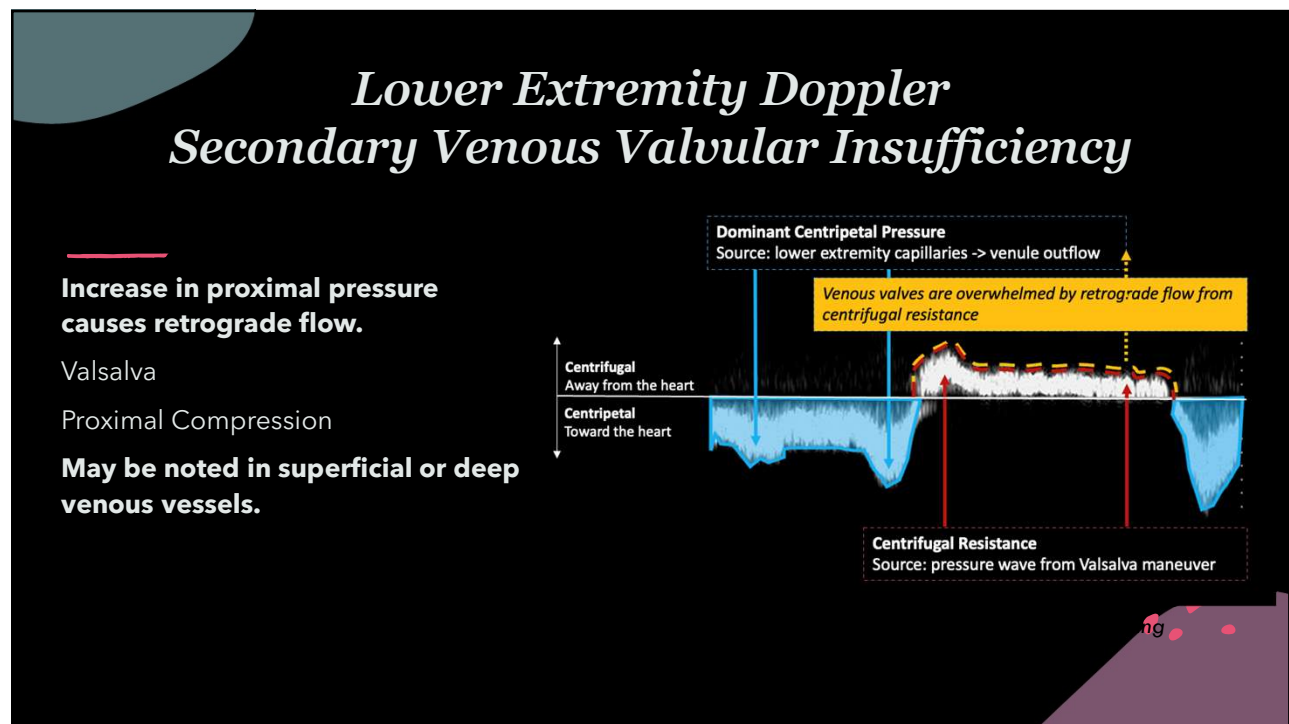


Figure 45: Scheme of pelvic leakage points (lateral view).<sup>20</sup>

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## Anatomy

Specifies the vessel involved.

Abbreviation	Expansions
IVC	Inferior vena cava
LRV	Left renal vein
GV	Gonadal (testicular, ovarian) veins
LGV	Left gonadal vein
RGV	Right gonadal vein
BGV	Bilateral gonadal veins
CIV	Common iliac veins
LCIV	Left common iliac vein
RCIV	Right common iliac vein
BCIV	Bilateral common iliac veins
EIV	External iliac veins
LEIV	Left external iliac vein
REIV	Right external iliac vein
BEIV	Bilateral external iliac veins
IIV	Internal iliac veins
LIIV	Left internal iliac vein and tributaries
RIIV	Right internal iliac vein and tributaries
BIIV	Bilateral internal iliac veins and tributaries
PELV	Pelvic escape veins <sup>22</sup> ("escape points"); inguinal, obturator, pudendal, and/or gluteal

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## *Hemodynamics*

Describes how blood flow is impacted.

Obstruction (O)	Thrombotic or nonthrombotic (venous compression) venous obstruction
Reflux (R)	Thrombotic or nonthrombotic reflux

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## *Etiology*

Describes the underlying cause.

### Thrombotic (T)

- Venous reflux or obstruction arising from previous DVT.

### Nonthrombotic (NT)

- Reflux due to degenerative process of vein wall or proximal obstruction.

### Congenital (C)

- Congenital venous or mixed vascular malformations.

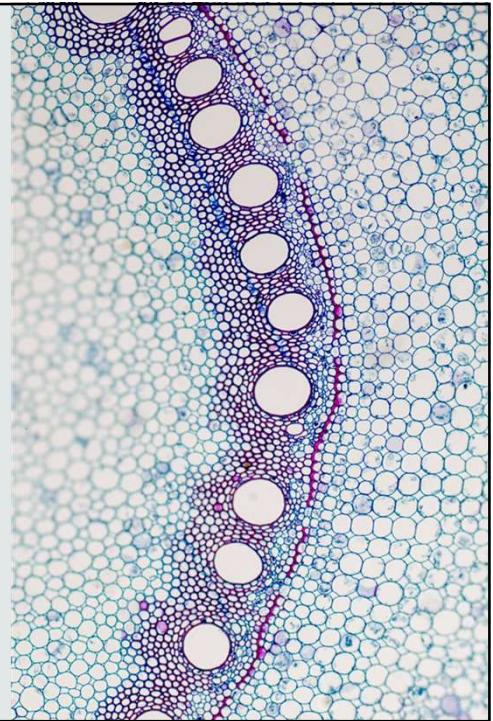
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## *Vascular Physiology & Hemodynamics*

Arterial hemodynamics examine the characteristics that contribute to in-going blood SUPPLY to tissues.

Venous hemodynamics examine the characteristics that contribute to out-going blood DRAINAGE from tissues.



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## *Uterine and Ovarian Vein Doppler:*

- **Dependent vascular bed:** uterus and ovary
- **Force of resistance:** hydrostatic pressure

### WAVEFORM MORPHOLOGY

- Antegrade (toward the heart)
- Continuous
- Respirophasic

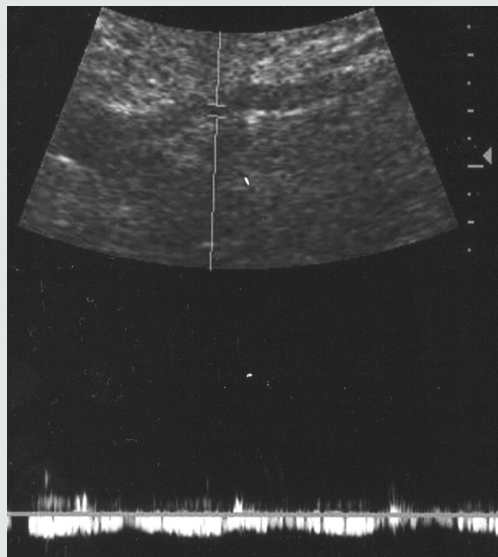


Figure 11: Spectral Doppler waveform of the ovarian vein in a non-gravid female.<sup>9</sup>

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## ***Pelvic Venous Congestion Syndrome: Background***

- In the U.S., 30% of outpatient visits to a gynecologist are because of **chronic pelvic pain**.
- Up to 40% of the female population may experience **chronic pelvic pain** in the course of their life.