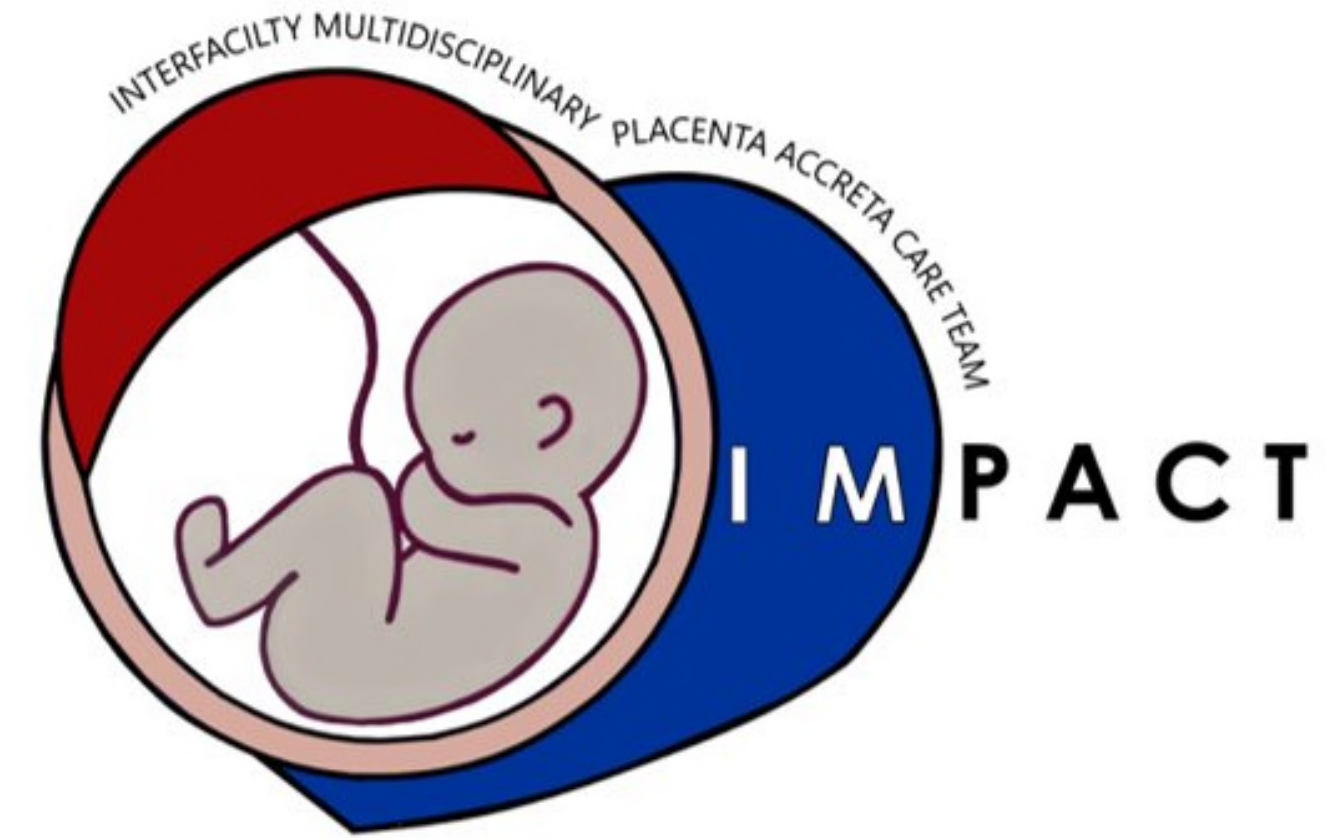


Placenta Accreta Spectrum: Ultrasound Fundamentals of Screening



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Baylor
College of
Medicine

HARRIS
HEALTH
SYSTEM



Texas Children's Hospital[®]
Pavilion for Women

Disclosures Dr Fox

Commercial Interest	Relationship(s)
<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> NICHD	Co-PI 1R01HD094347-05 Molecular and Vascular MRI of Placenta Accreta
SMFM/ Banner Health Critical Care OB Course	Lecturer
Symposia Medicus	Lecturer
International Society for the Placenta Accreta Spectrum (IS-PAS)	Education & Outreach Board Member
Pan-American Society for the Placenta Accreta Spectrum (PAS ²)	Treasurer, Webmaster

Disclosures: Dr Lombaard

- None

Objectives

- 1 Discuss the limitations and benefits of use of ultrasound to screen for placenta accreta spectrum
2. Identify 2 major and 2 minor clinical risk factors for placenta accreta spectrum
- 3 Utilize checklists to improve identification and reporting of placenta accreta spectrum
- 4 Employ at least 1 optimization technique when scanning your next patient

Who makes up the team?

Center of excellence for placenta accreta

Robert M. Silver, MD; Karin A. Fox, MD; John R. Barton, MD; Alfred Z. Abuhamad, MD; Hyagriv Simhan, MD; C. Kevin Huls, MD; Michael A. Belfort, MD; Jason D. Wright, MD

TABLE 1

Suggested criteria for accreta center of excellence

- | |
|--|
| 1. Multidisciplinary team |
| a. Experienced maternal-fetal medicine physician or obstetrician |
| b. Imaging experts (ultrasound) |
| c. Pelvic surgeon (ie, gynecologic oncology or urogynecology) |
| d. Anesthesiologist (ie, obstetric or cardiac anesthesia) |
| e. Urologist |
| f. Trauma or general surgeon |
| g. Interventional radiologist |
| h. Neonatologist |
| 2. Intensive care unit and facilities |
| a. Interventional radiology |
| b. Surgical or medical intensive care unit |
| i. 24-h availability of intensive care specialists |
| c. Neonatal intensive care unit |
| i. Gestational age appropriate for neonate |
| 3. Blood services |
| a. Massive transfusion capabilities |
| b. Cell saver and perfusionists |
| c. Experience and access to alternative blood products |
| d. Guidance of transfusion medicine specialists or blood bank pathologists |

Silver. Placenta accreta: center of excellence. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2014.

“None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.”

- Mother Theresa

Who makes up the team?

1. A center that can provide a multidisciplinary team (MDT) with significant experience in managing abnormally invasive placenta (AIP) and that can provide antenatal diagnosis and preoperative planning. This team should be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to ensure that expertise is available for emergency situations.
2. There should be, *on site*, rapid access to the following in case of emergency:
 - Colorectal surgeon
 - Vascular surgeon
 - Hematologist
3. Adult intensive care facilities available on site
4. Gestational age–appropriate neonatal intensive care facilities
5. Massive transfusion facilities
6. Intraoperative blood salvage (cell salvage) services available

Evidence-based guidelines for the management of abnormally invasive placenta: recommendations from the International Society for Abnormally Invasive Placenta

[Sally L. Collins](#), MD, PhD^{a,b,*},  , [Bahrin Alemdar](#), MD^c, [Heleen J. van Beekhuizen](#), MD^d, [Charline Bertholdt](#), MD^e, [Thorsten Braun](#), MD^f, [Pavel Calda](#), MD^g, [Pierre Delorme](#), MD^h, [Johannes J. Duvekot](#), MDⁱ, [Lene Gronbeck](#), MD^j, [Gilles Kayem](#), MD^k, [Jens Langhoff-Roos](#), MD^j, [Louis Marcellin](#), MD^l, [Pasquale Martinelli](#), MD^m, [Olivier Morel](#), MD^e, [Mina Mhallem](#), MDⁿ, [Maddalena Morlando](#), MD^{m,o}, [Lone N. Noergaard](#), MD^j, [Andreas Nonnenmacher](#), MD^f, [Petra Pateisky](#), MD^p, [Philippe Petit](#), MD^q, [Marcus J. Rijken](#), MD^r, [Mariola Ropacka-Lesiak](#), MD^s, [Dietmar Schlembach](#), MD^t, [Loïc Sentilhes](#), MD^u, [Vedran Stefanovic](#), MD^v, [Gita Strindfors](#), MD^c, [Boris Tutschek](#), MD^{w,x}, [Siri Vangen](#), MD^y, [Alexander Weichert](#), MD^f, [Katharina Weizsäcker](#), MD^f, [Frederic Chantraine](#), MD^q on behalf of the International Society for Abnormally Invasive Placenta (IS-AIP)

- Imaging expert
(fetal medicine specialist and/or radiologist)
- Experienced obstetrician
(often maternal-fetal medicine specialist)
- Anesthesiologist with expertise in complex obstetric cases
- Surgeon experienced with complex pelvic surgery (often a gynecological oncologist)
- Urologist (with experience of open urological surgery especially ureteric re-implantation)
- Neonatologist
- Interventional radiologist

- Clinical Expertise with Multidisciplinary Approach
 - Antenatal imaging
 - Peripartum Management
 - Support Services
 - 24/7 Availability
- Clinical and Education and Outreach
- Quality Assessment/Performance Improvement (QAPI)
- Participation in National & International Research
- Transparency in Outcomes/Trends

“Teamwork makes the dream work, but a vision becomes a nightmare when the leader has a big dream and a bad team.”

- John C. Maxwell

Communication, Communication, Communication



Pathology



Imaging



Counseling



Postpartum
Care



Surgical
Planning



Treatment/Surgery

Patient

EARLY DETECTION – CLINICAL HISTORY

“The eyes see only what the mind is prepared to comprehend.”

- Henri Bergson

Risk Factors for PAS

Frequency of placenta accreta according to number of cesarean deliveries and presence or absence of placenta previa

Cesarean delivery	Placenta previa(%)	No placenta previa (%)
First (primary)	3.3	0.03
Second	11	0.2
Third	40	0.1
Fourth	61	0.8
Fifth	67	0.8
≥Sixth	67	4.7

Who gets it?

- Placenta previa
- Cesarean Delivery
- In Vitro Fertilization-
(4- to 13-Fold increase)
- Radiation therapy
Endometrial ablation
Asherman's
Prior uterine resection
(septum revision, myomectomy)
- Smoking
- Advanced Maternal Age

■ ↓ 4% in 2016¹(31.9%)

■ ↑ Tripled since 1996²

■ (↑) Reduction in
overall hyst rates

■ ↓ 12% of adults in
2020 (20.9% in 2005)³

■ ↑ Median age 1st birth: 30⁴

REFERENCES

1. Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Osterman MJK, Driscoll AK, Drake P. Births: Final data for 2016. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 67 no1. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 2018.
2. Sunderam S, Kissin DM, Crawford SB, et al. Assisted Reproductive Technology Surveillance — United States, 2015. MMWR Surveill Summ 2018;67(No. SS-3):1–28. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.ss6703a1>
3. https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/adult_data/cig_smoking/index.htm
4. https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/04/fertility-rates-declined-for-younger-women-increased-for-older-women.html?utm_campaign=20220406msacos1ccstors&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Screening

Baylor College of Medicine – Texas Children’s Hospital
MFM Sonographer Checklist for Suspected Morbidly Adherent Placenta

Remember: encourage partially filled maternal bladders for abdominal/vaginal scans
use high frequency linear abdominal and/or vaginal probes when appropriate
add endovaginal scan to evaluate bladder/lower uterus at initial evaluation
optimized color Doppler ultrasound settings should be applied
3D ultrasound with either power Doppler or HD flow can be helpful

A. History	Yes	No
Advanced Maternal Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Previous Cesarean Section (s) and Number _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Previous Uterine Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Congenital Uterine Anomaly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assisted Reproductive Technologies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prior Pregnancy with Suspected Accreta	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. 1st TM Ultrasound Findings (< 13 weeks)		
Low Implanted Gestational Sac	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anechoic Placental Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irregular Placental-Myometrial Interface	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Placental Edge Over the Cervical Os	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. 2nd and 3rd TM Ultrasound Findings (> 13 weeks)		
Placenta Previa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Irregular Vascular Spaces with Turbulence (most important)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Normal Retroplacental Echolucency (Clear Space)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thinning/Disruption: Uterine Serosa-Bladder Interface	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focal Exophytic Masses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Document Prior MRI Findings (Scan Date and Results)	<i>revised 12-12-201</i>	

SUSPECTED ABNORMALLY INVASIVE PLACENTA (AIP)

Ultrasound report

Demographics and Risk Factors

Date: __/__/____ Gestational age: __ weeks __ days

Parity ☐ Mode of conception: Spontaneous ☐ IVF ☐

Number of previous CS ☐ Number of classical CS ☐

Number of previous surgical evacuations (including TOP) ☐

Was Cesarean scar pregnancy suspected/diagnosed in first trimester? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known ☐

Previous uterine surgery (e.g. myomectomy, endometrial ablation) Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known ☐

History of AIP Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known ☐

Placenta previa on ultrasound

If yes: Anterior placenta previa < 2 cm from internal os ☐ Covering internal os ☐

Posterior placenta previa < 2 cm from internal os ☐ Covering internal os ☐

Ultrasound Signs

Cervical length (without funnel or placental tissue)	mm		
Grayscale ultrasound parameters and definition	Yes	No	Unsure
Loss of 'clear zone' - Loss, or irregularity, of hypoechoic plane in myometrium underneath placental bed ('clear zone')			
Myometrial thinning - Thinning of myometrium overlying placenta to <1mm or undetectable			
Abnormal placental lacunae - Presence of numerous lacunae including some that are large and irregular, often containing turbulent flow visible on grayscale imaging			
Bladder wall interruption - Loss or interruption of bright bladder wall (hyperechoic band or 'line' between uterine serosa and bladder lumen)			
Placental bulge - Deviation of uterine serosa away from expected plane, caused by abnormal bulge of placental tissue into neighboring organ, typically bladder; uterine serosa appears intact but outline shape is distorted			
Focal exophytic mass - Placental tissue seen breaking through uterine serosa and extending beyond it; most often seen inside filled urinary bladder			
Color Doppler ultrasound parameters and definition	Yes	No	Unsure
Uterovesical hypervascularity - Striking amount of color Doppler signal seen between myometrium and posterior wall of bladder; this sign probably indicates numerous, closely packed, tortuous vessels in that region (demonstrating multiarterial flow and aliasing artifact)			
Subplacental hypervascularity - Striking amount of color Doppler signal seen in placental bed; this sign probably indicates numerous, closely packed, tortuous vessels in that region (demonstrating multidirectional flow and aliasing artifact)			
Bridging vessels - Vessels appearing to extend from placenta, across myometrium and beyond serosa into bladder or other organs; often running perpendicular to myometrium			
Placental lacunae feeder vessels - Vessels with high-velocity blood flow leading from myometrium into placental lacunae, causing turbulence upon entry			
Parametrial involvement - Suspicion of invasion into parametrium	Yes	No	Unsure

Clinical Significance of Ultrasound Findings

Probability of clinically significant AIP High ☐ Intermediate ☐ Low ☐

Extent of AIP Focal ☐ Diffuse ☐

Alfirevic Z, et al; Ad-hoc International AIP Expert Group. Pro forma for ultrasound reporting in suspected abnormally invasive placenta (AIP): an international consensus. *Ultrasound ObstetGynecol.* 2016 Mar;47(3):276-8

SUSPECTED ABNORMALLY INVASIVE PLACENTA (AIP)

Ultrasound report

Demographics and Risk Factors

Date: __/__/____

Gestational age: __ weeks __ days

Parity ☐

Mode of conception: Spontaneous ☐ IVF ☐

Number of previous CS ☐ Number of classical CS ☐

Number of previous surgical evacuations (including TOP) ☐

Was Cesarean scar pregnancy suspected/diagnosed in first trimester? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known ☐

Previous uterine surgery (e.g. myomectomy, endometrial ablation) Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known ☐

History of AIP Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known ☐

Placenta previa on ultrasound Yes ☐ No ☐ Not known ☐

If yes: Anterior placenta previa < 2 cm from internal os ☐ Covering internal os ☐

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Parametrial involvement	Yes	No	Unsure
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Clinical Significance of Ultrasound Findings

Probability of clinically significant AIP
Extent of AIP

High
Focal

Intermediate
Diffuse

Low

--

**Each box represented ONE risk factor. Treat patients with 2 or more medium risk factors as high risk. **

Risk Category: Admission		
Low Risk (<1%)	Medium Risk (1-10%)	High Risk (>10%)
No previous CD	>/= 4 prior CD <u>w/o</u> placenta previa (0.8-4.7%)	US findings consistent with PAS
No previous uterine surgery	Placenta previa and <u>no</u> prior CD (3.3%)	>/= 2 CD <u>w/</u> placenta previa (11-67%)
Spontaneous conception	Prior classical CD	Prior history of PASD (13-28%)
</= 3 Prior CD <u>w/o</u> placenta previa (0.03-0.1%)	>/= 2 prior D&C or hysteroscopy	
	Prior uterine surgery, pelvic irradiation or endometrial ablation	
	IVF Conception	
Anticipatory Interventions		
Routine delivery management	Patient stable. Obtain MFM consult and further imaging per perinatal guideline (link)	Patient stable. Obtain MFM consult and further imaging per perinatal guideline (link)
Document PPH Risk stratification	Patient unstable alert appropriate personnel and prepare for delivery per PASD workflow (link)	Patient unstable alert appropriate personnel and prepare for delivery per PASD workflow (link)
	Document PPH Risk stratification	Document PPH Risk stratification

Do you have prior cesarean deliveries? 1 pt

Have you been diagnosed with placenta previa? 1 pt

Have you been diagnosed with placenta accreta? 2 pt

Any score of 2 or higher = risk for PAS, notify MD



ULTRASOUND

“CSP = Baby PAS”

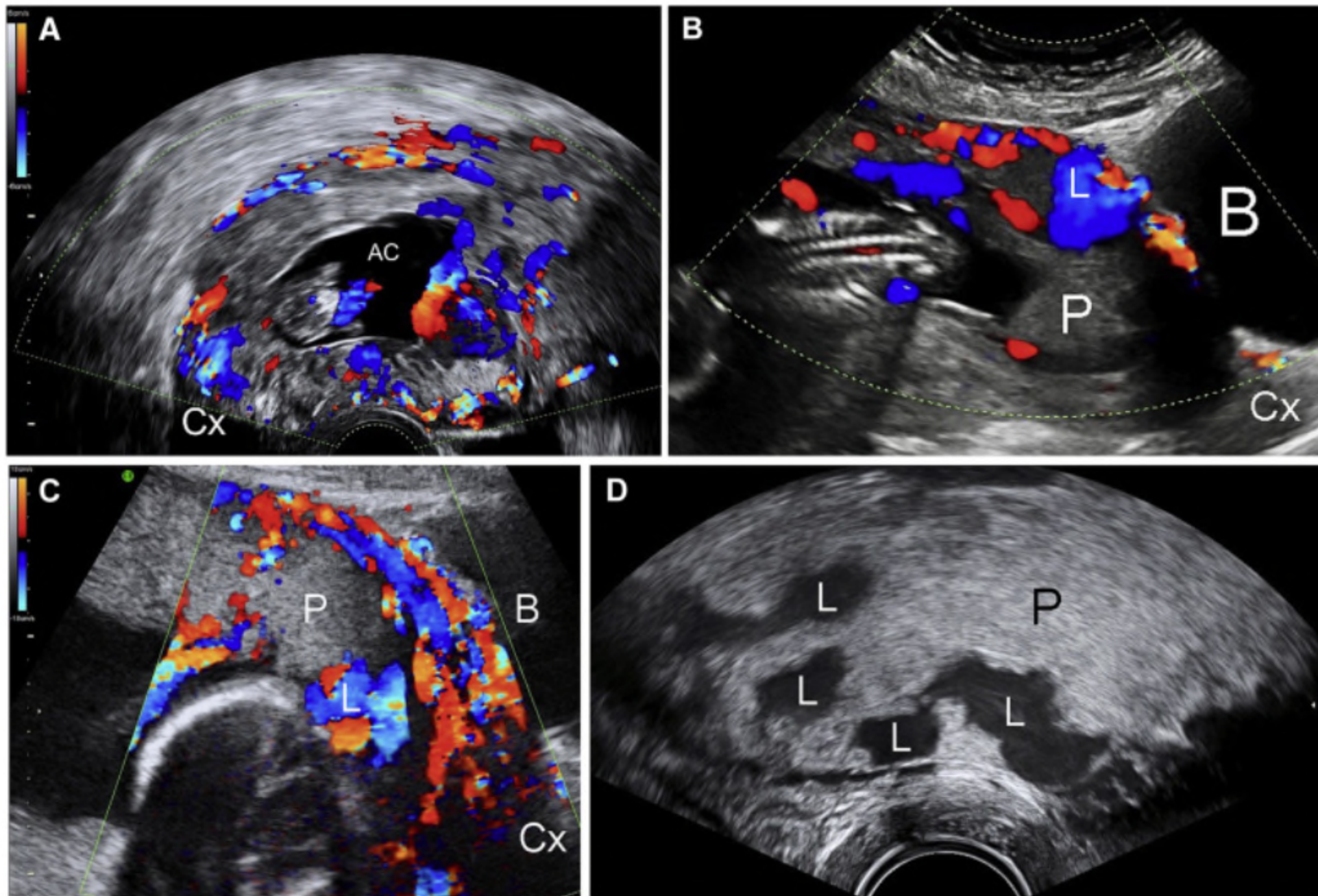


Figure 1 Transvaginal and transabdominal ultrasound views in case of a CSP

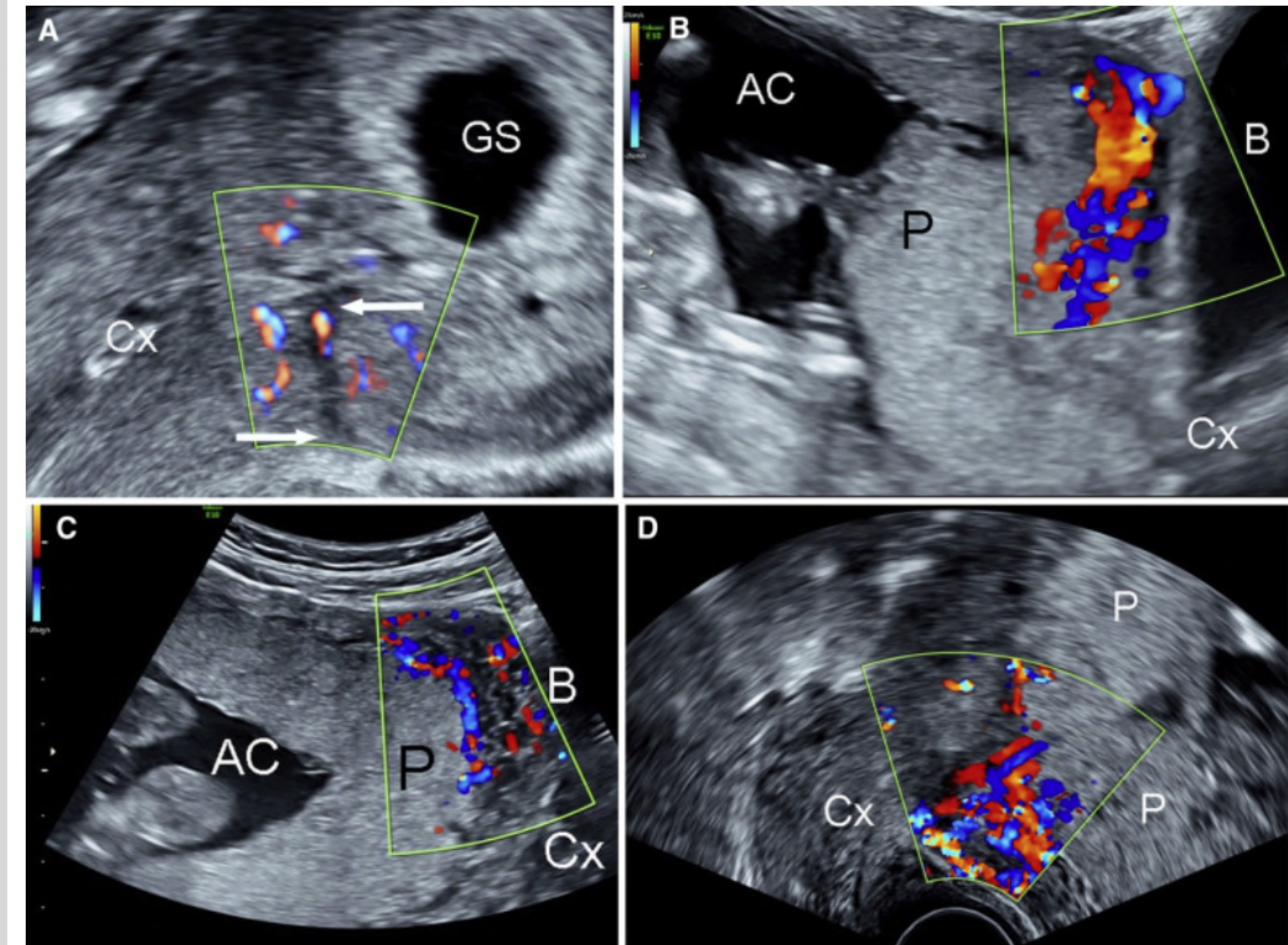


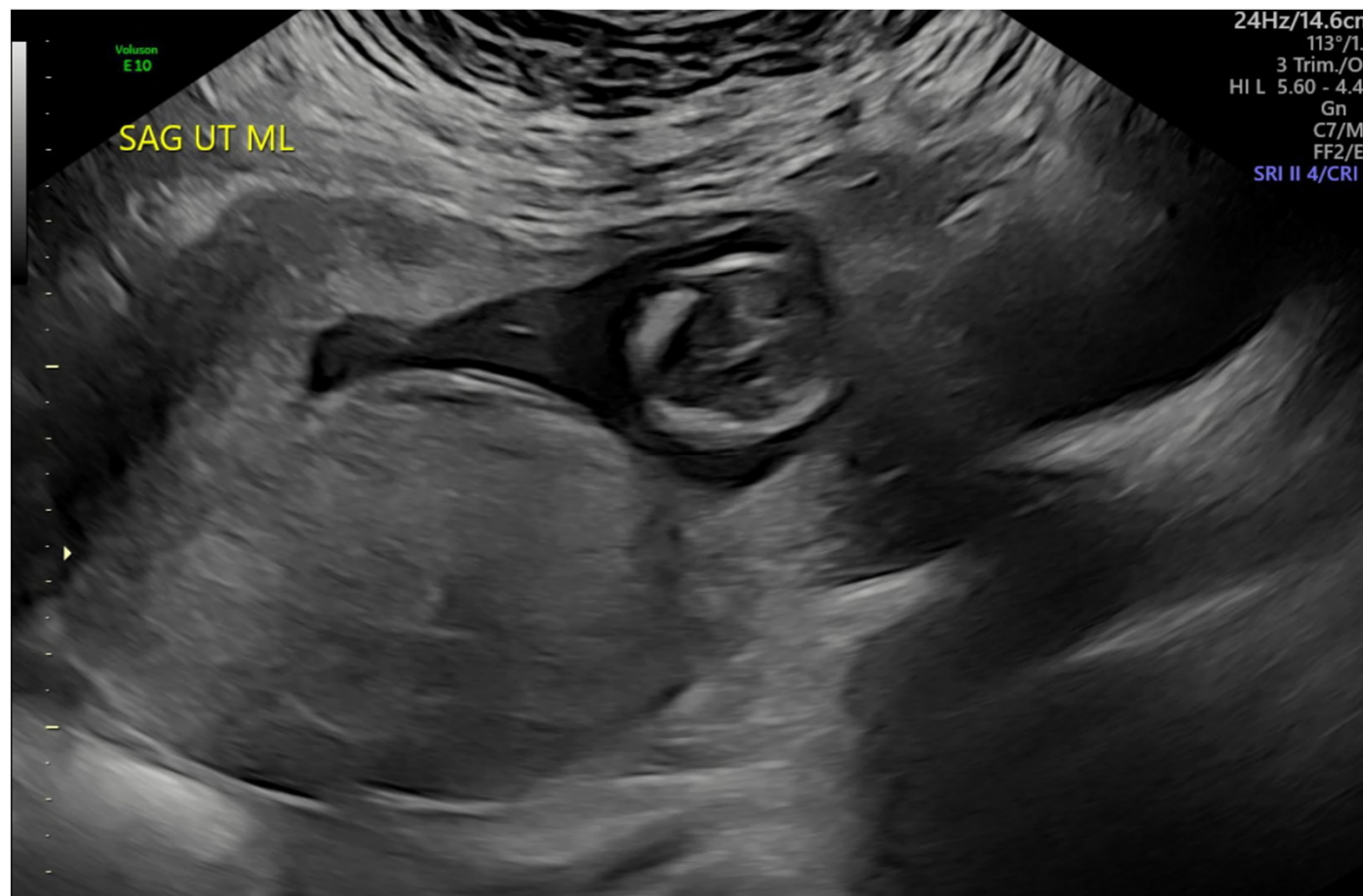
Figure 4 Transvaginal and transabdominal ultrasound views in control case

Jauniaux E, Zosmer N, De Braud LV, Ashoor G, Ross J, Jurkovic D. Development of the utero-placental circulation in cesarean scar pregnancies: a case-control study. *Am J Obstet Gynecol.* 2022;226(3):399.e1-399.e10. doi:10.1016/j.ajog.2021.08.056

When?



< 9 weeks



> 12 weeks

Early 1st Trimester (<9 weeks)

At < 9 weeks, much easier to discern whether “on the scar” or “in the niche”

After 12 weeks, gestational sac may grow into the endometrial cavity

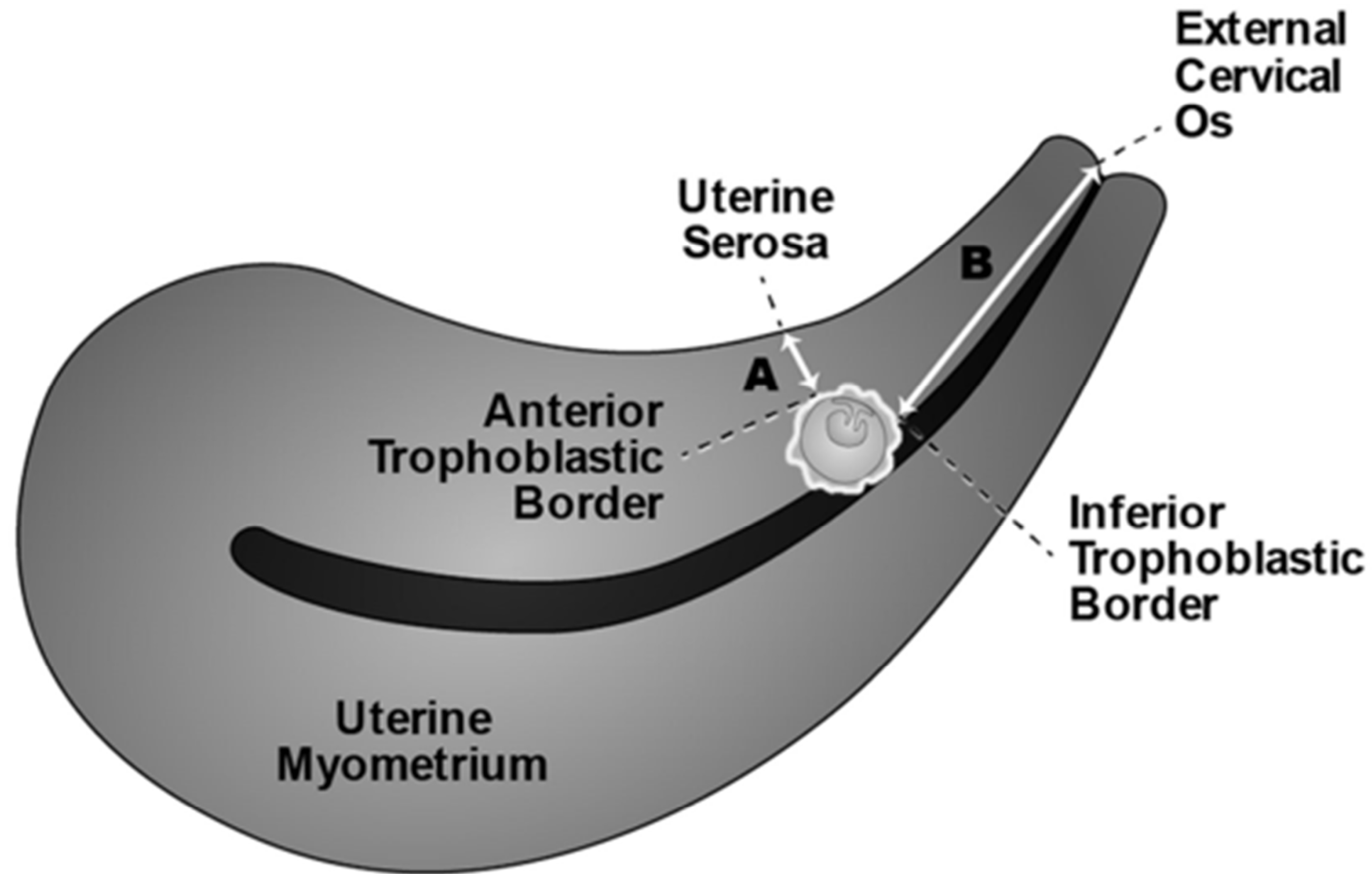
Things to look for:

- ✓ Retroverted uterus (scar tethering)
- ✓ Low implantation (lower ½ of uterus)
- ✓ Empty/near empty endometrial stripe
- ✓ Proximity to bladder (“cross over sign”)
- ✓ Hypervascularity on color Doppler
- ✓ Lacunae

Symptoms may include:

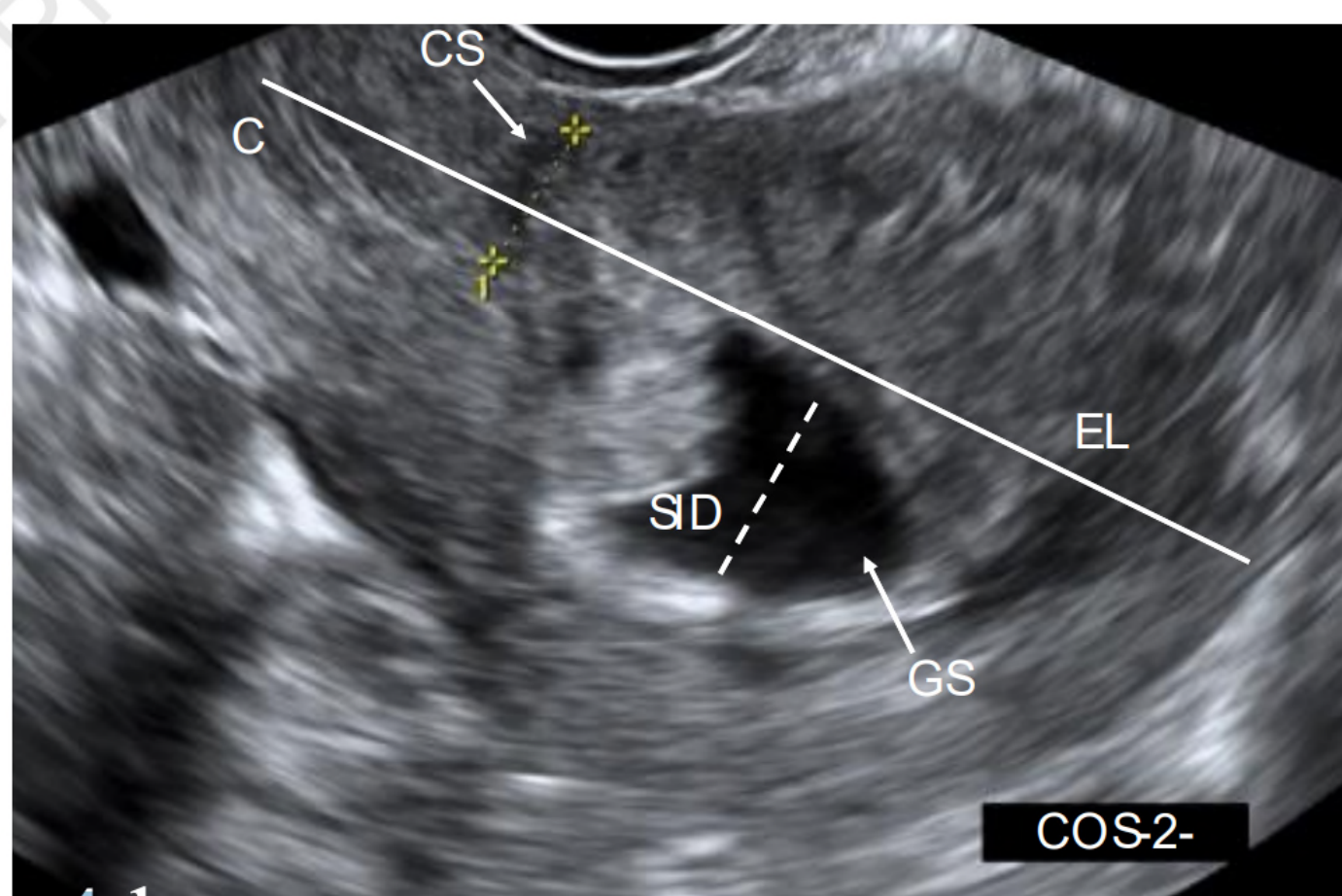
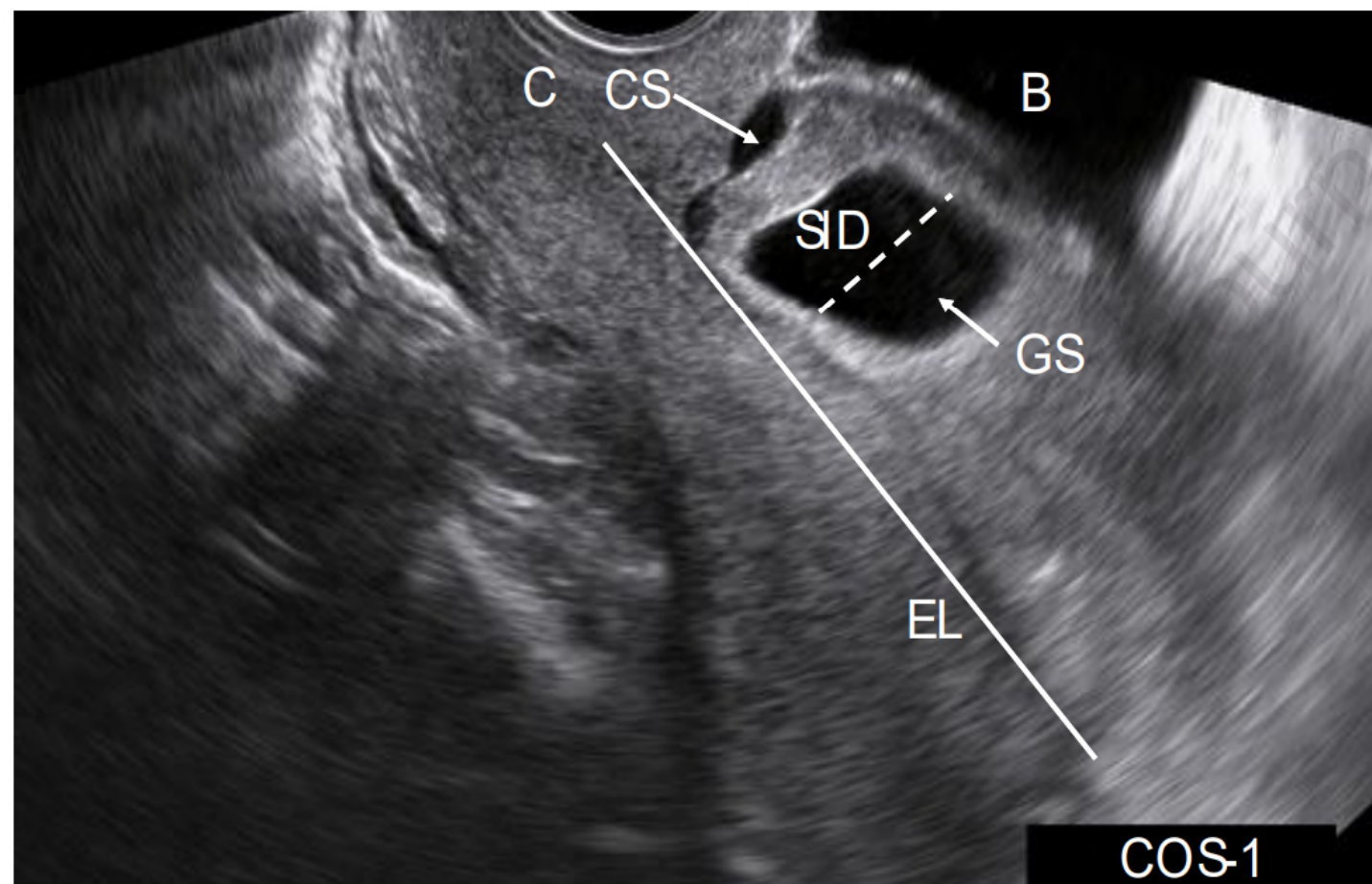
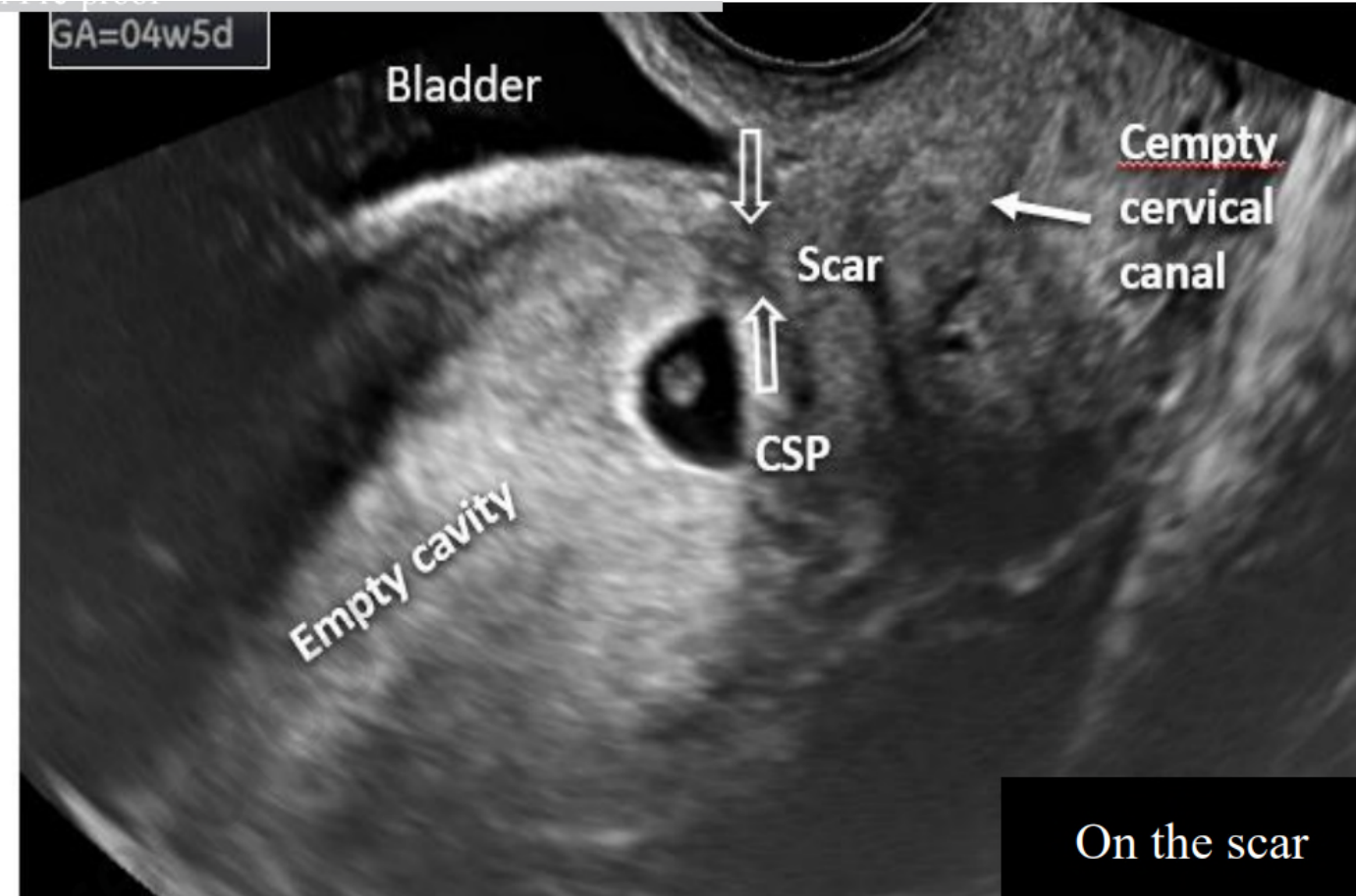
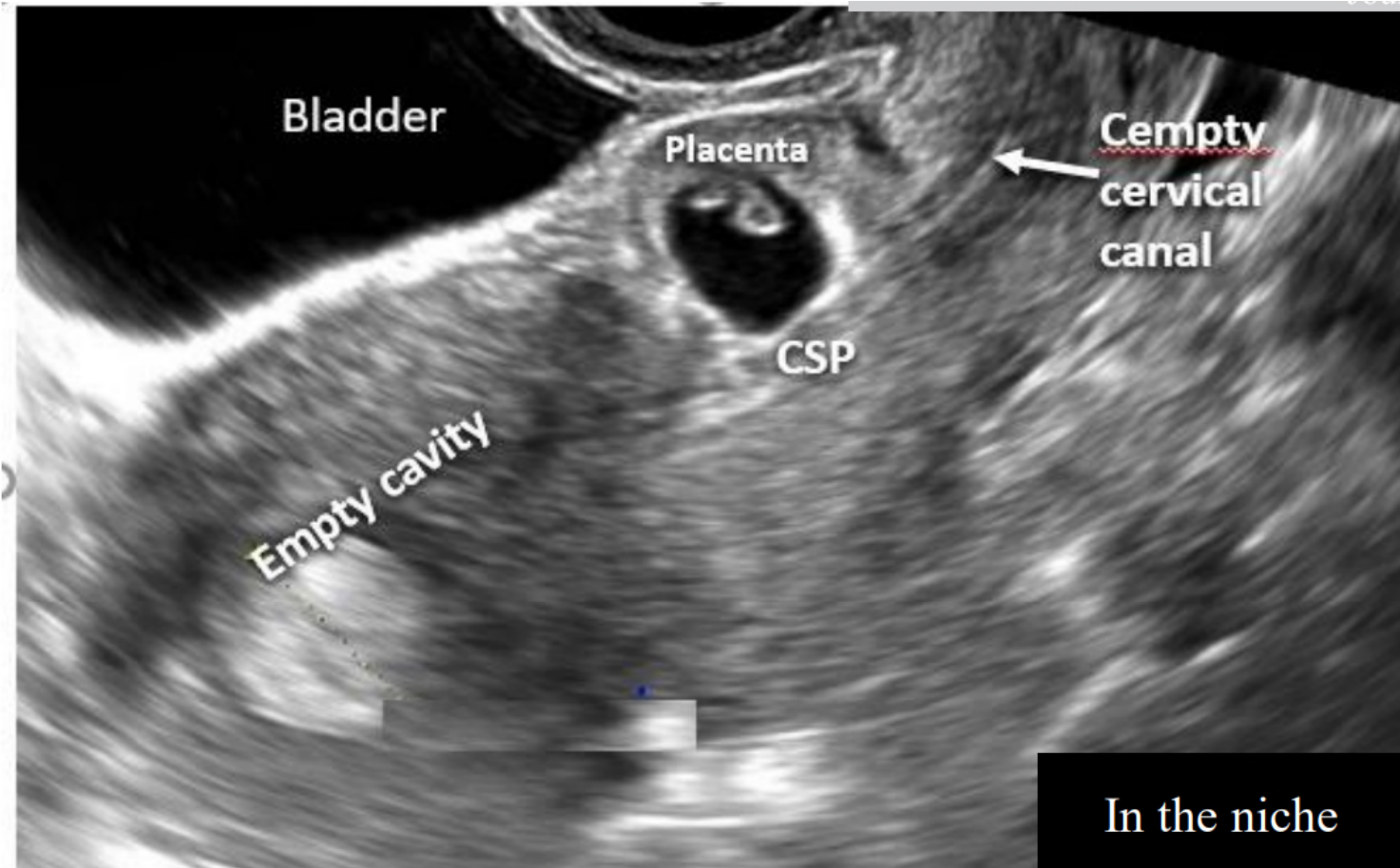
- ✓ *Spotting/bleeding*
- ✓ *Cramping*
- ✓ *Low implantation that looks like inevitable abortion*

Low Implantation, Anterior myometrial thickness < 3mm



Rac MW, Moschos E, Wells CE, McIntire DD, Dashe JS, Twickler DM. Sonographic Findings of Morbidly Adherent Placenta in the First Trimester. J Ultrasound Med. 2016 Feb;35(2):263-9.

First trimester prediction of uterine rupture in cesarean scar pregnancy



Calì G, Calagna G, Khalil A, Polito S, Labate F, Cucinella G, D'Antonio F. First trimester prediction of uterine rupture in cesarean scar pregnancy. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2022 Apr 20:S0002-9378(22)00305-2. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2022.04.026. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35460625.

First trimester prediction of uterine rupture in cesarean scar pregnancy

Table 1: General characteristics of the study population.

Characteristics	Overall population (n=119)	Uterine rupture (n=9)	No uterine rupture (n=110)	p-value
<i>Maternal characteristics</i>				
Maternal age in years	33.66±4.2	33.22±5.7	33.70±4.1	0.744
Number of previous deliveries	2 (1-3)	2 (1-3)	2 (1-3)	
Number of previous CS	2 (1-3)	2 (1-3)	2 (1-3)	
<i>“COS classification”</i>				
COS1	18.5 (22)	100 (9)	11.82 (13)	<0.001
COS2	88.2 (97)	0 (0)	88.18 (97)	<0.001
<i>“In the niche vs on the scar” classification</i>				
In the niche	19.3 (23)	100 (9)	12.7 (14)	<0.001
On the scar	80.7(96)	0 (0)	87.3 (96)	<0.001
<i>Histopathology</i>				
Placenta accreta	37.8 (45)	0 (0)	37.8 (45)	0.013
Placenta increta	22.7 (27)	0 (0)	22.7 (27)	0.207
Placenta percreta	39.5 (47)	100 (9)	34.6 (38)	<0.001

Calì G, Calagna G, Khalil A, Polito S, Labate F, Cucinella G, D'Antonio F. First trimester prediction of uterine rupture in cesarean scar pregnancy. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2022 Apr 20:S0002-9378(22)00305-2. doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2022.04.026. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35460625.

Early Detection - Ultrasound

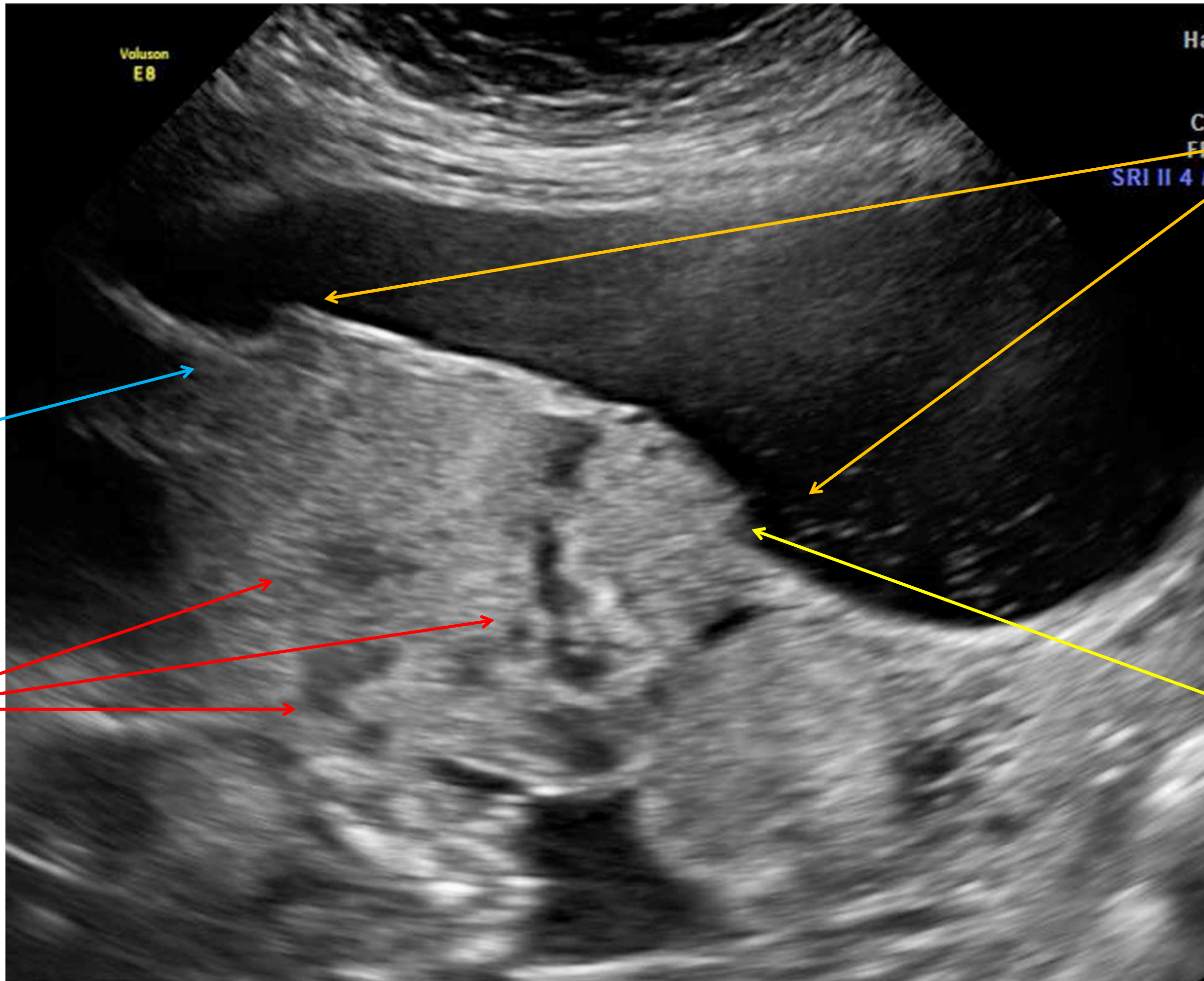
Partially
filled
bladder!

Loss of
normal
hypoechoic
zone

Turbulent
placental
lacunae

Bulging outside
normal serosal
plane

Irregular, “dot-
dashed”
bladder line



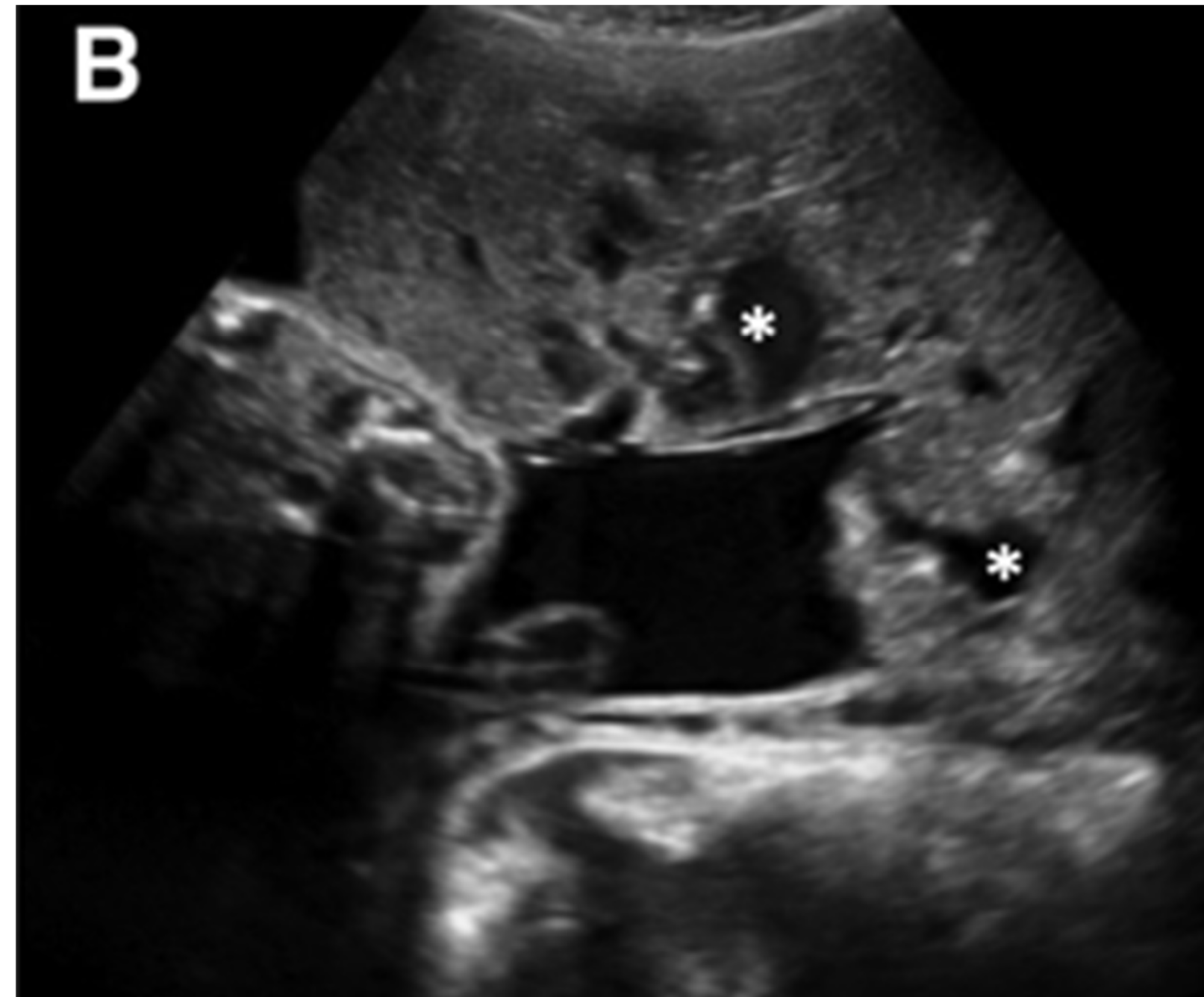
Placenta Lacunae

- Irregular hypoechoic spaces within placenta containing vascular flow

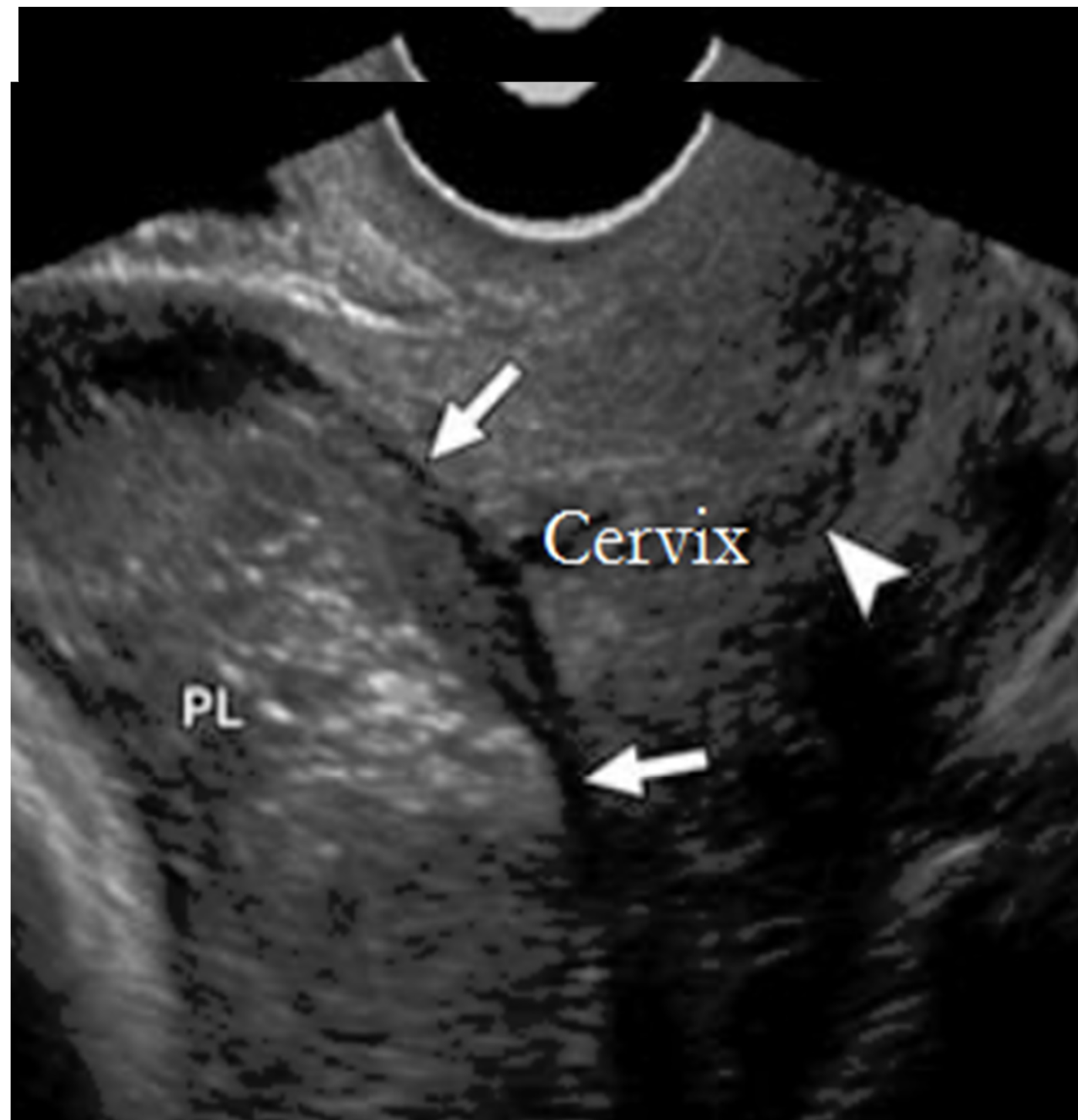
Multiple ≥ 3

Large size ≥ 2 cm

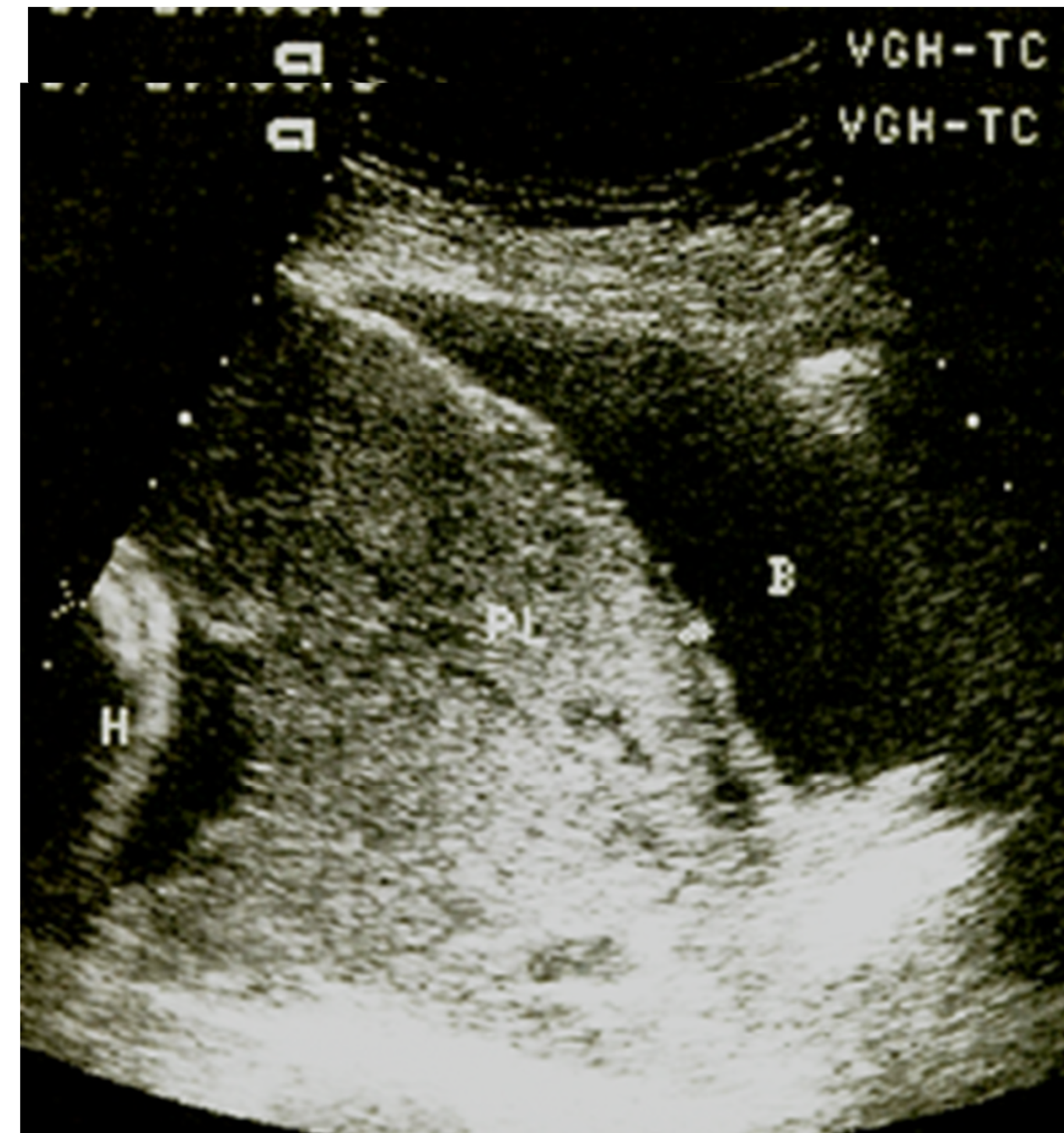
Irregular border



“Clear space” and “bladder line” Retroplacental Hypoechoic Zone



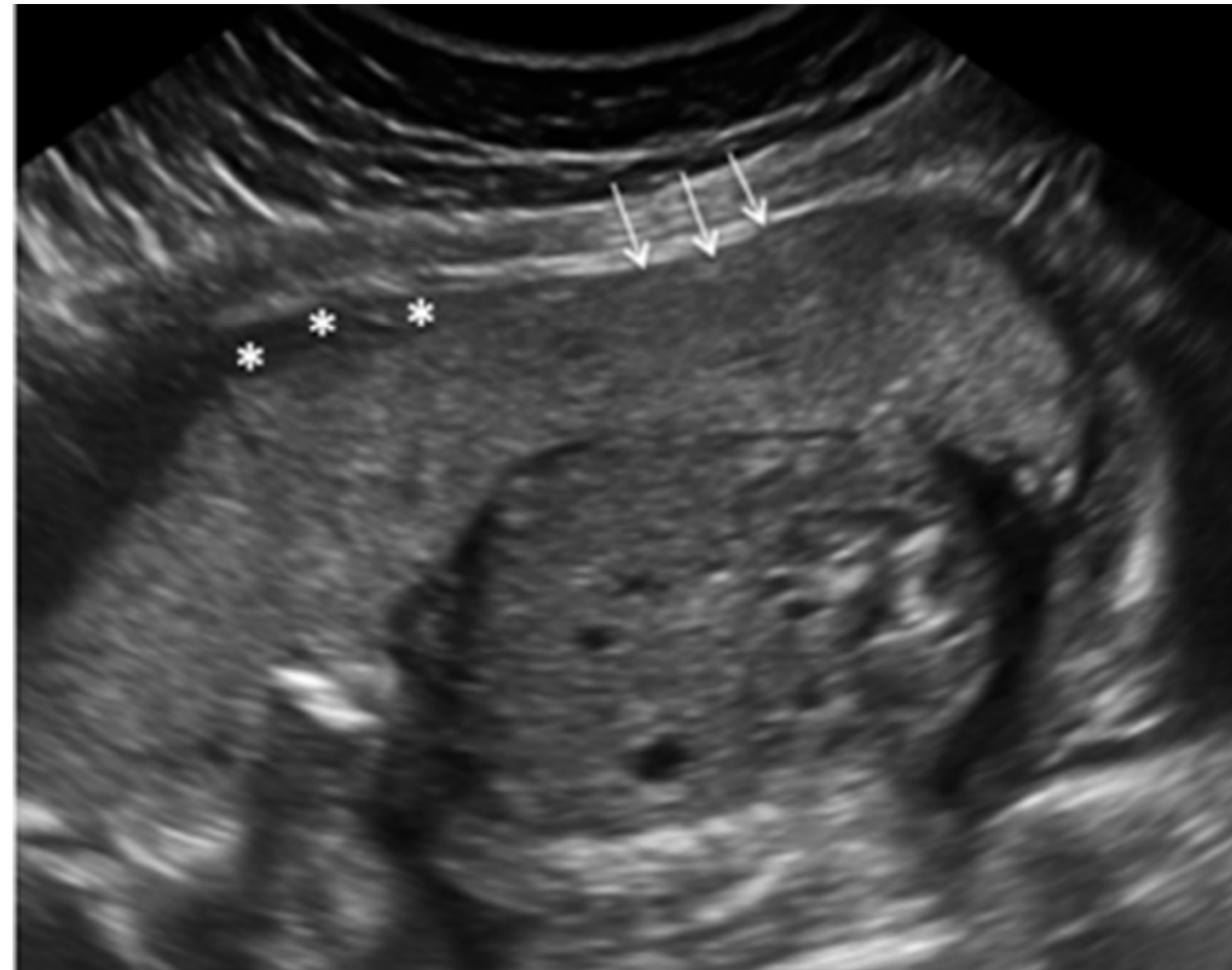
Visible echolucent uteroplacental
“clear space”



Note **LACK** of echolucent
uteroplacental “clear space” and loss
of “bladder line”

Myometrial Thinning

Myometrium < 1 cm



Shanker et al. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2021

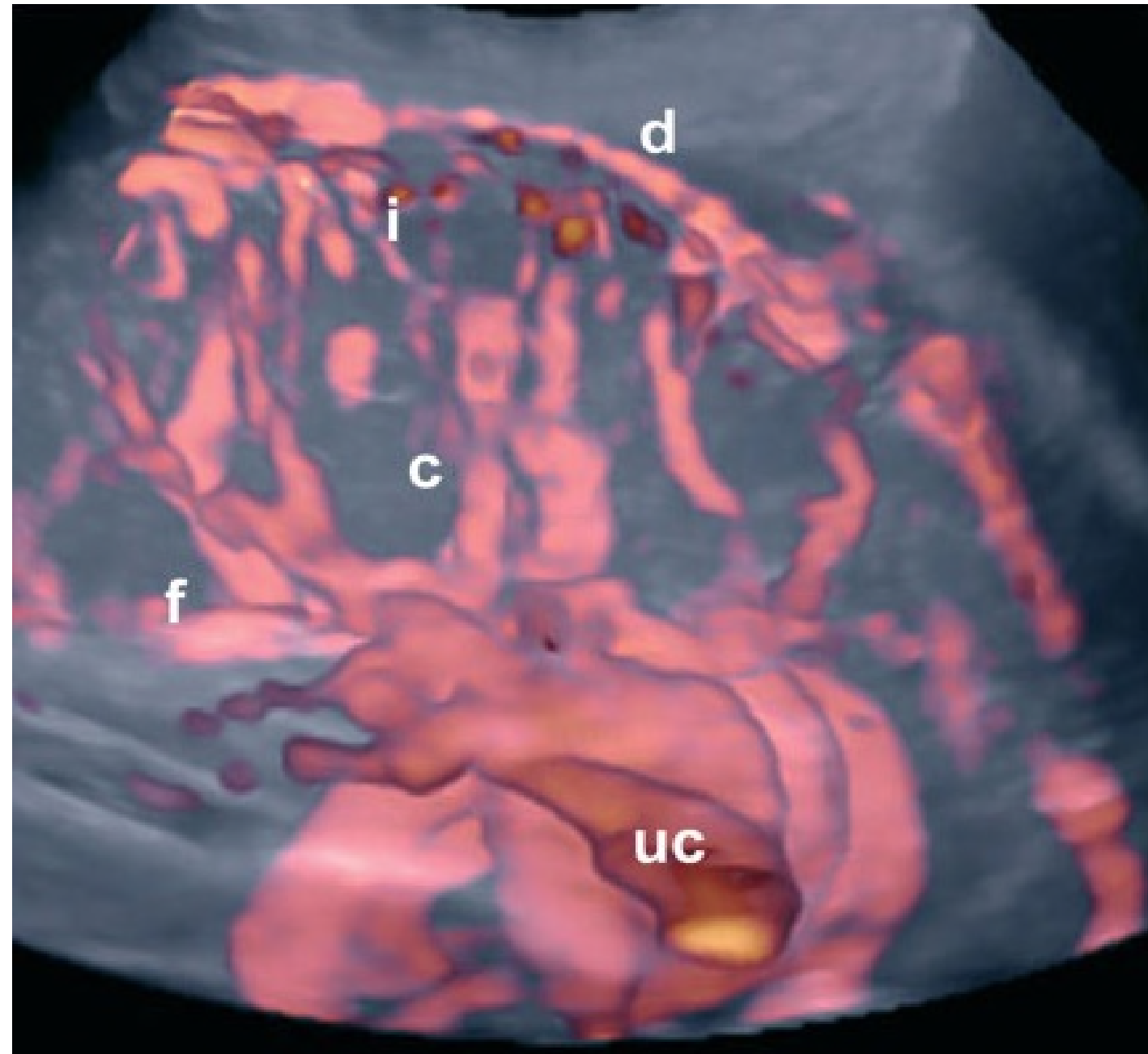
Abnormal Uterine Contour



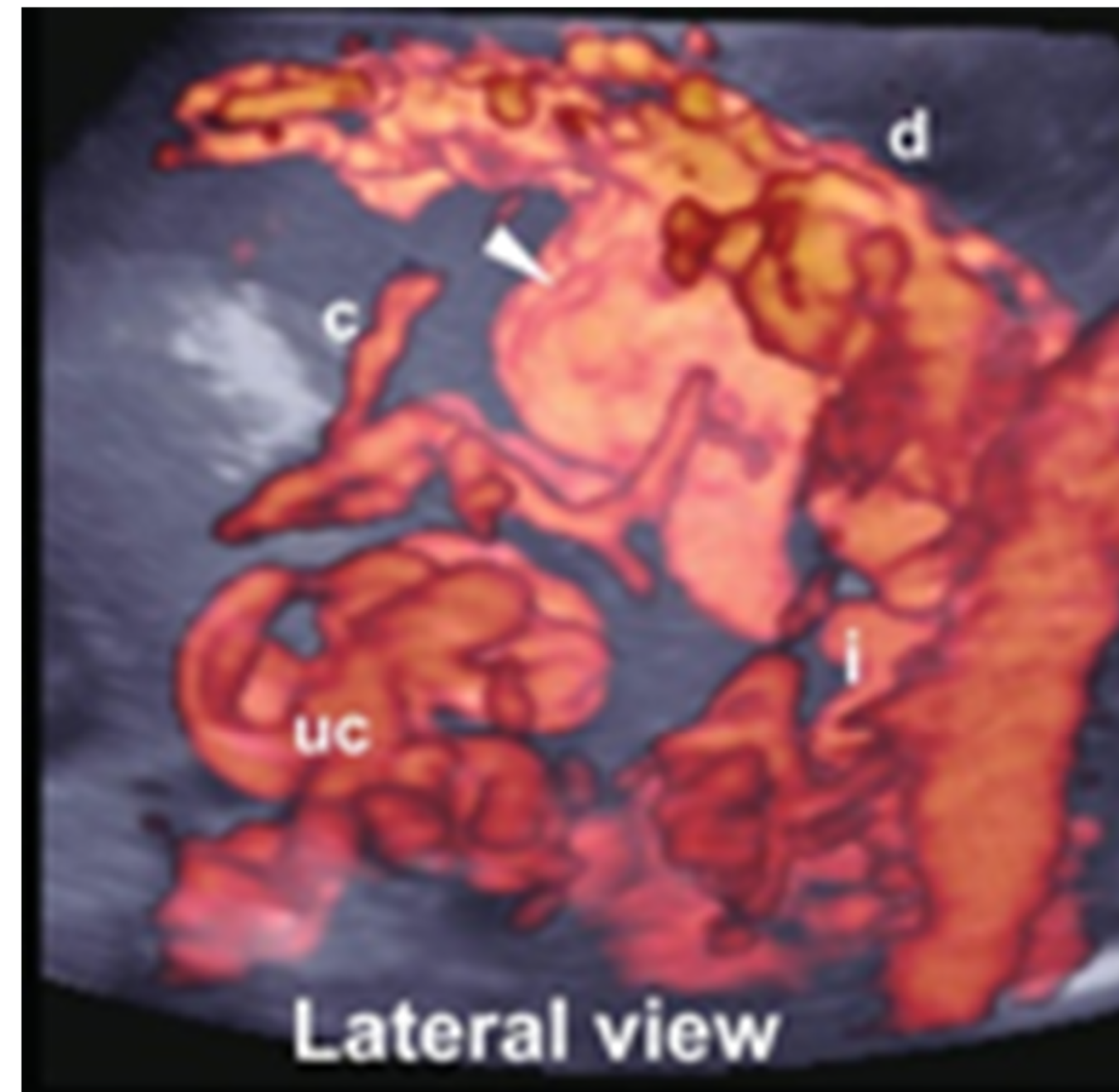
Fig. 1 – 2D Greyscale image of the placenta, in transverse view. Note the bulging appearance of the placenta toward the bladder and marked thinning of myometrium (arrows). Multiple, irregular lacunae (dark spaces, asterisk) can be seen.

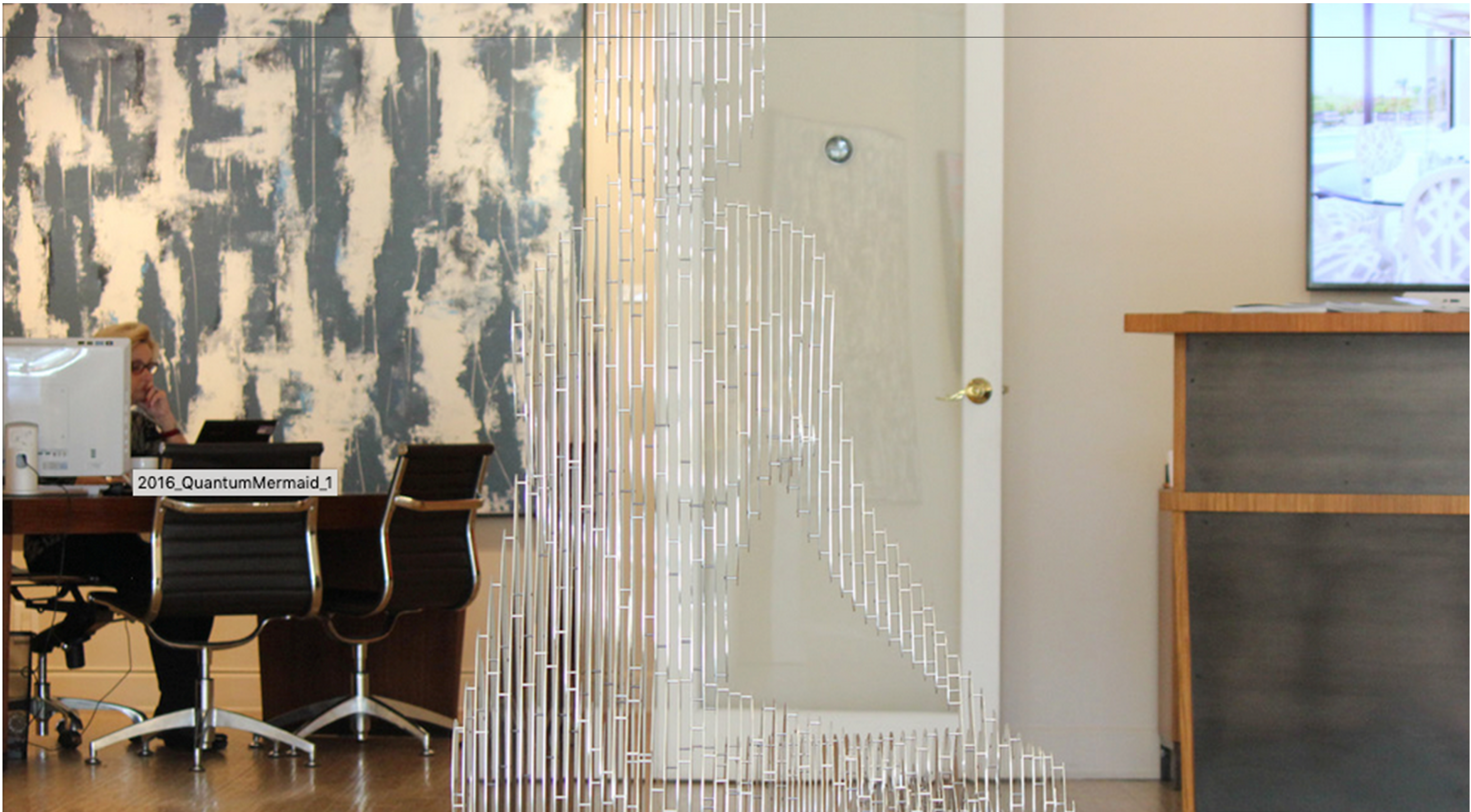
US Features - Power Doppler

Normal

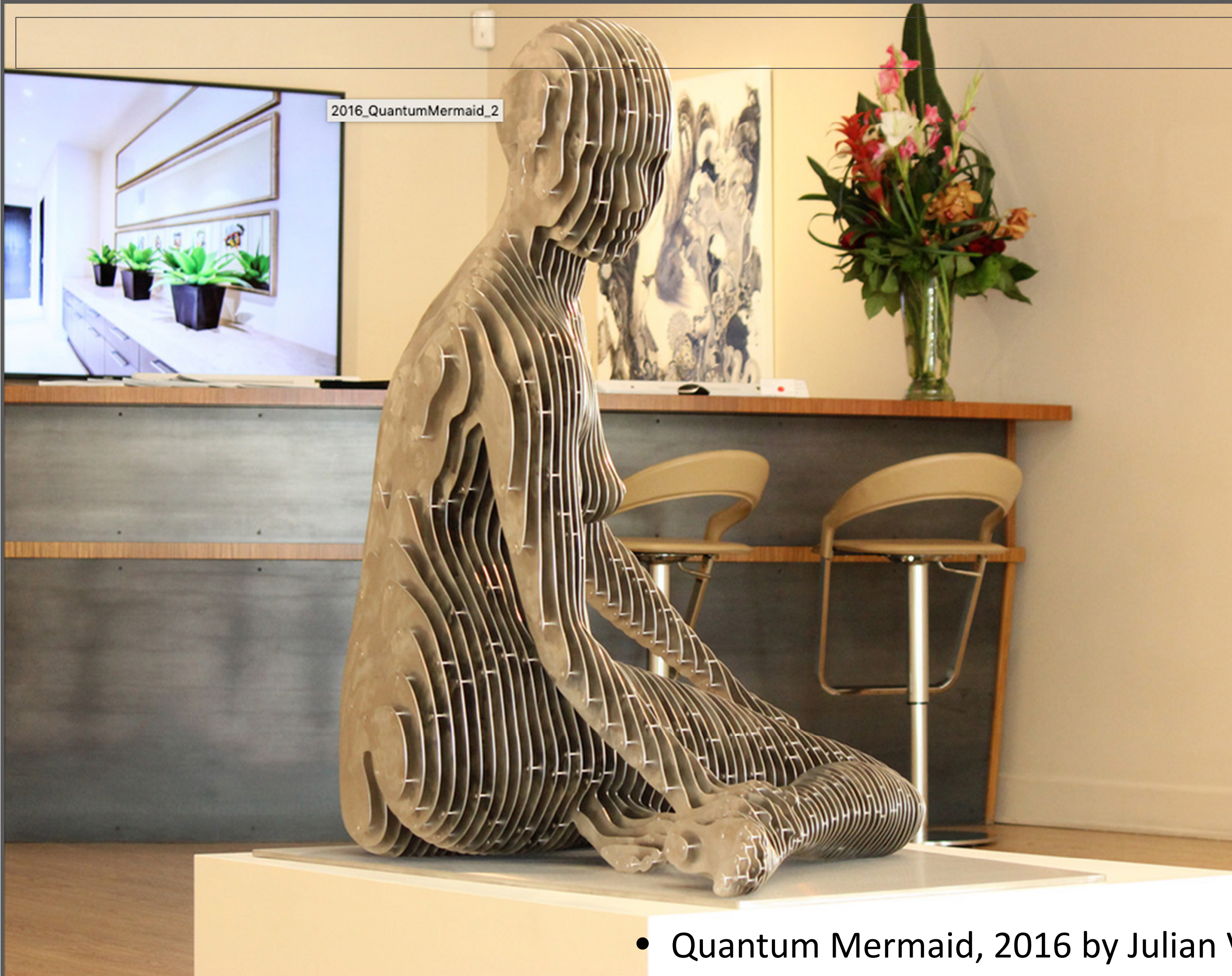


Percreta





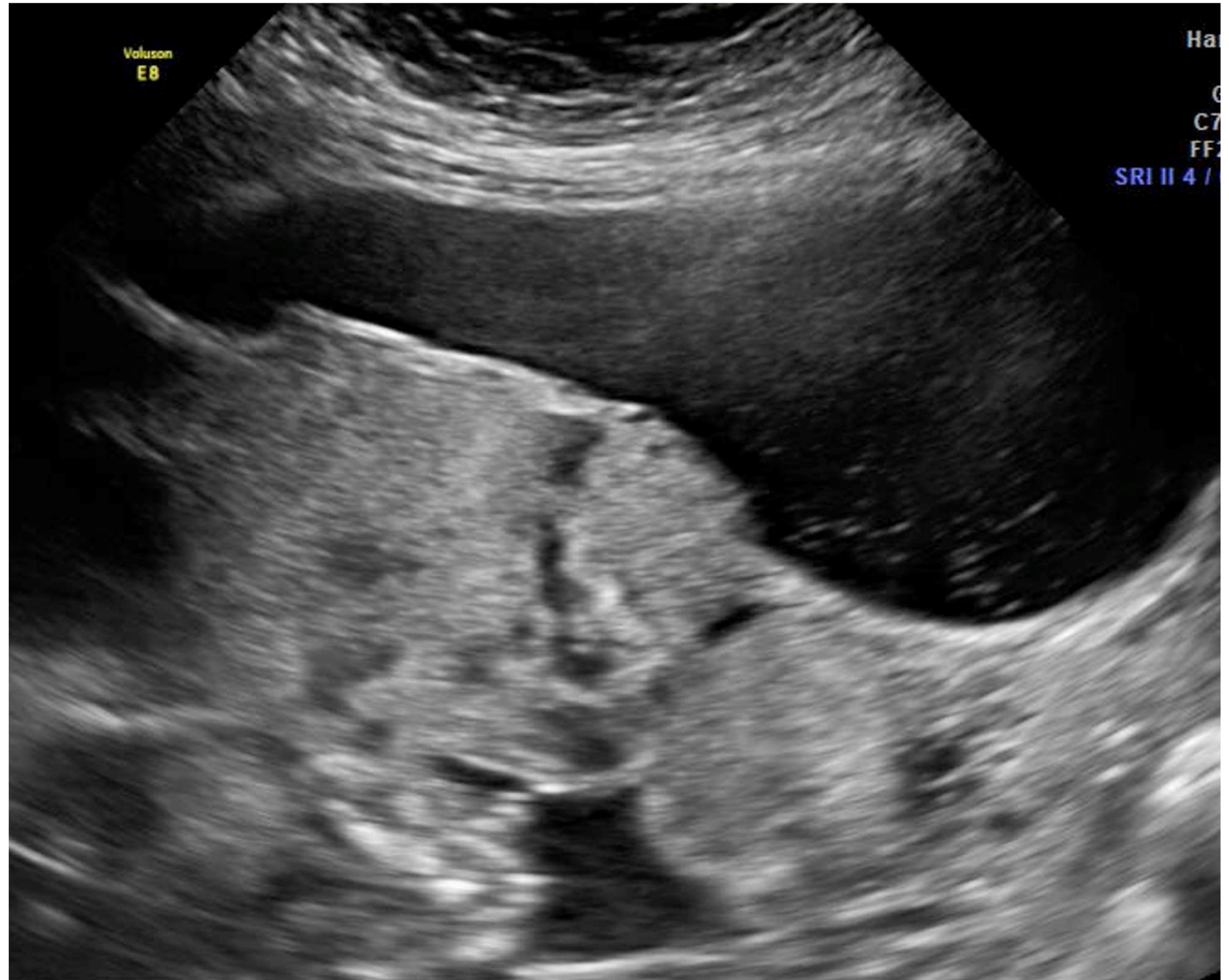
2016_QuantumMermaid_1



Angle of insonation matters

Able to view the image well
when at the proper angle

- Quantum Mermaid, 2016 by Julian Voss-Andreae



Voluson
E10

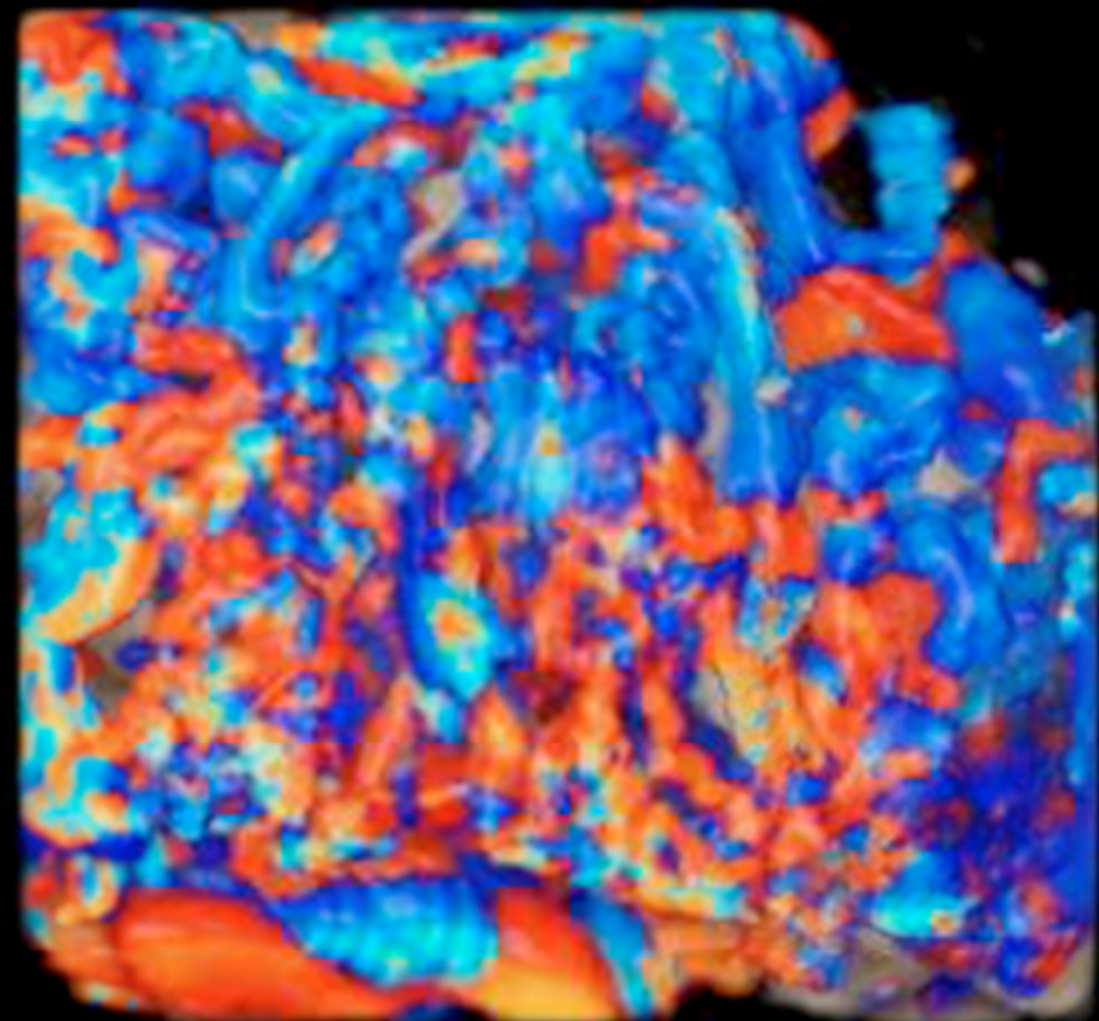
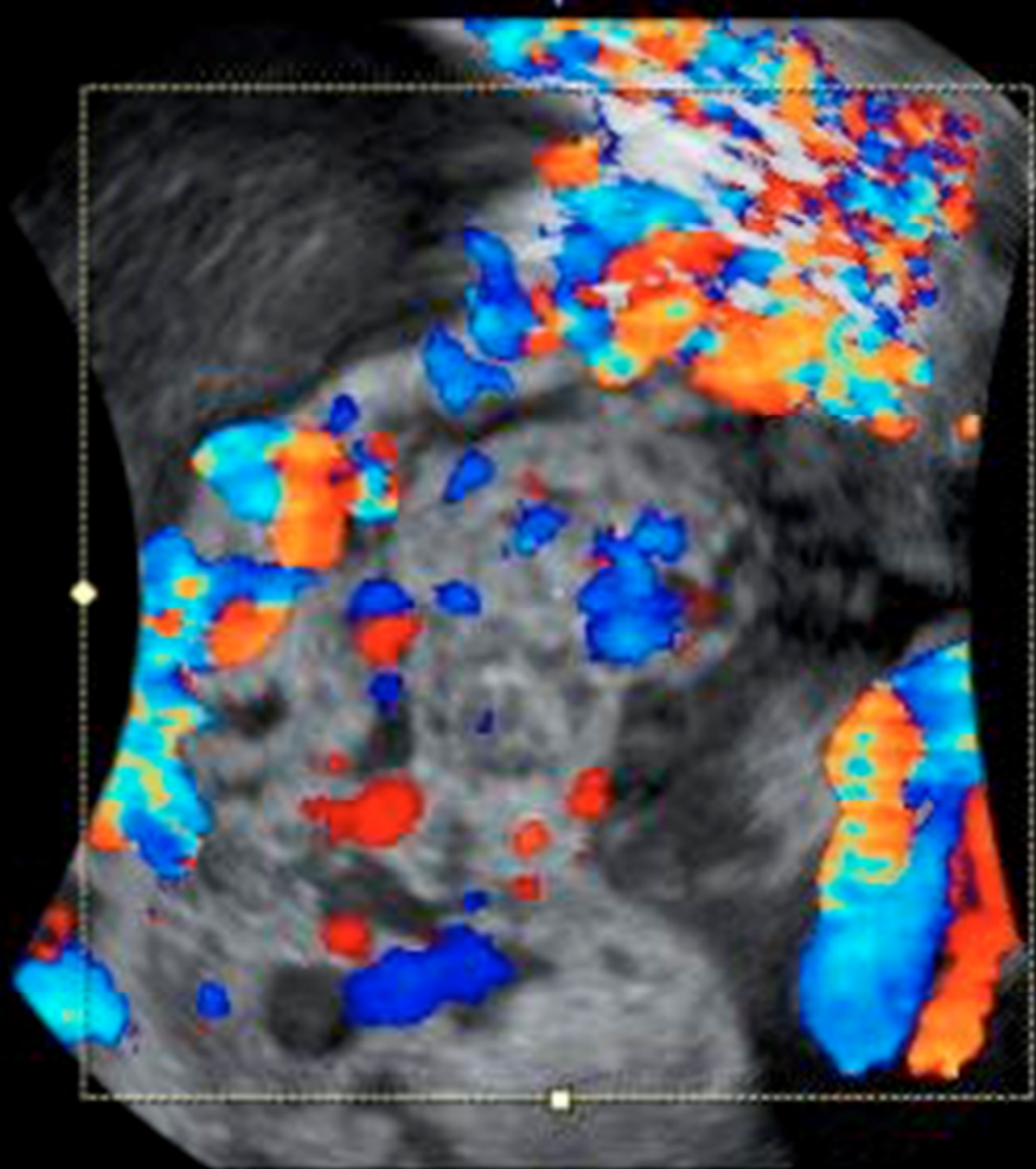
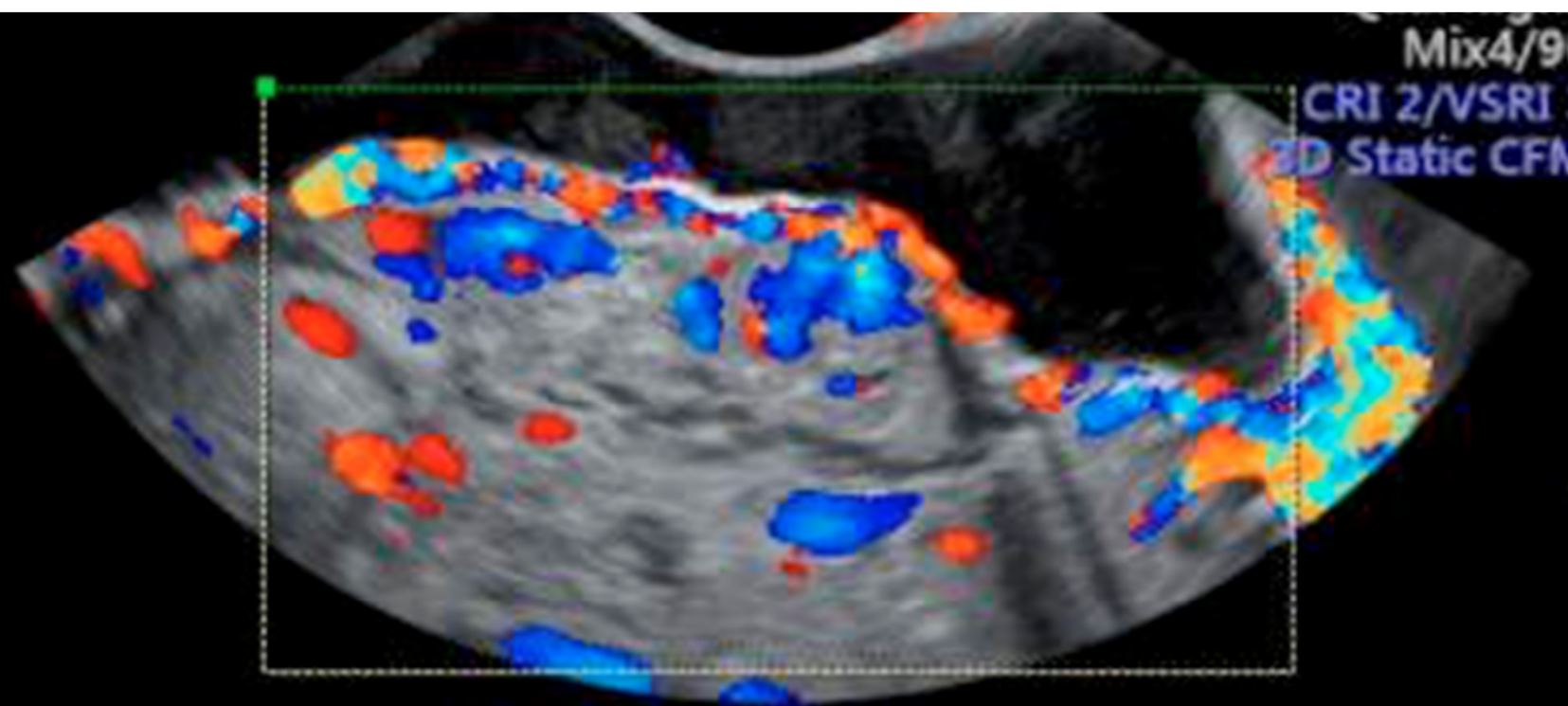
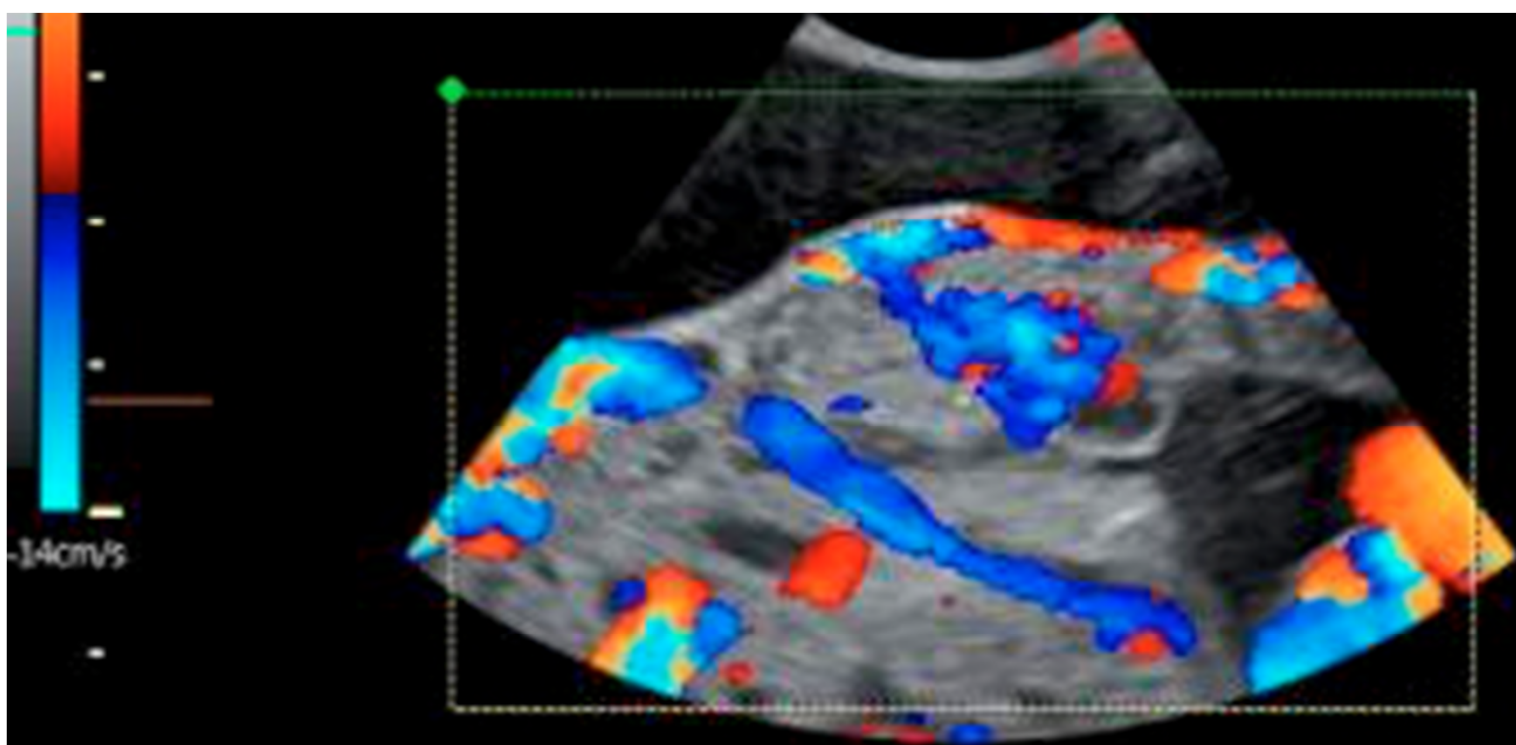
22Hz

Routine 2 T
HH PI 6.3


LEFT TRANSV

SRI I






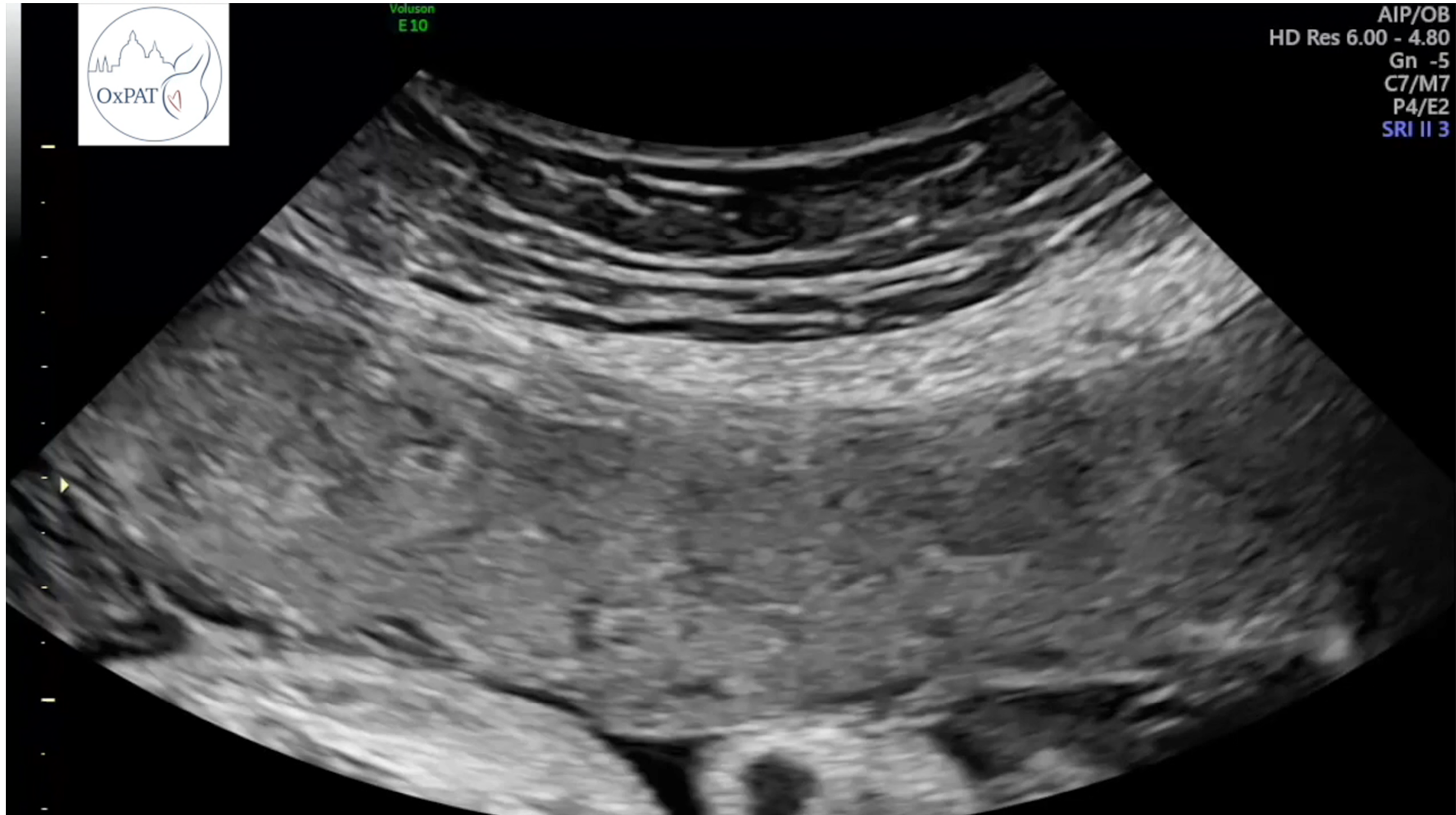
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Separation sign: novel ultrasound sign for ruling out diagnosis of placenta accreta spectrum

R. X. Allwood, A. Self, S. L. Collins 

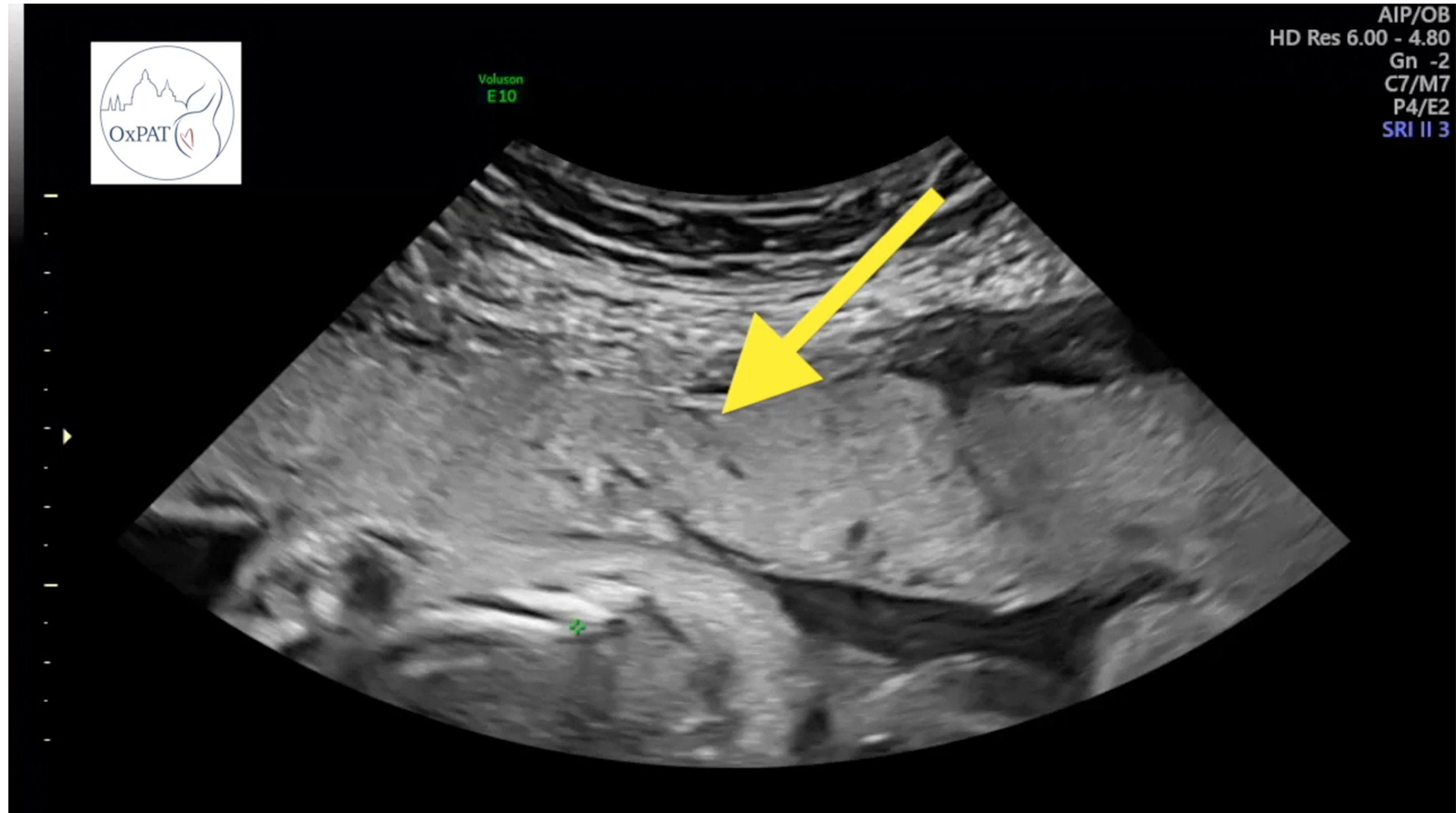
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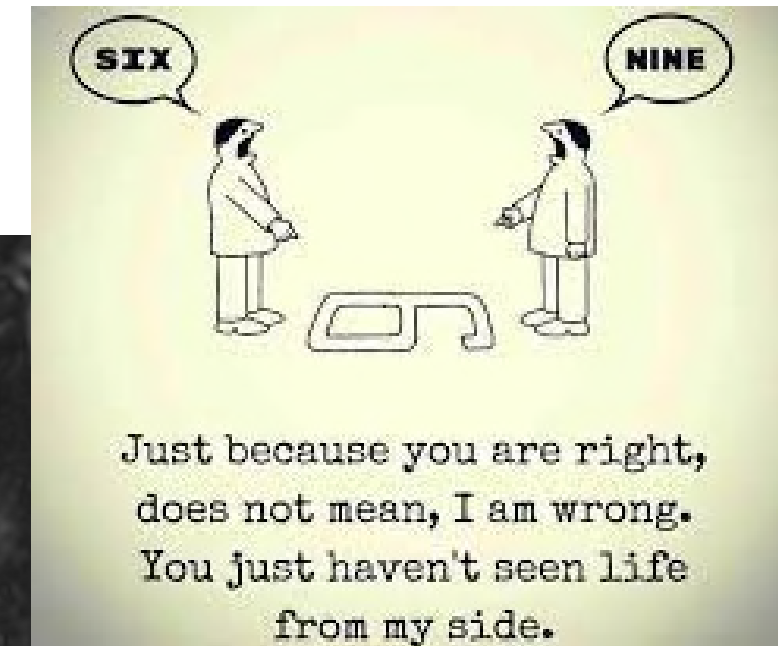
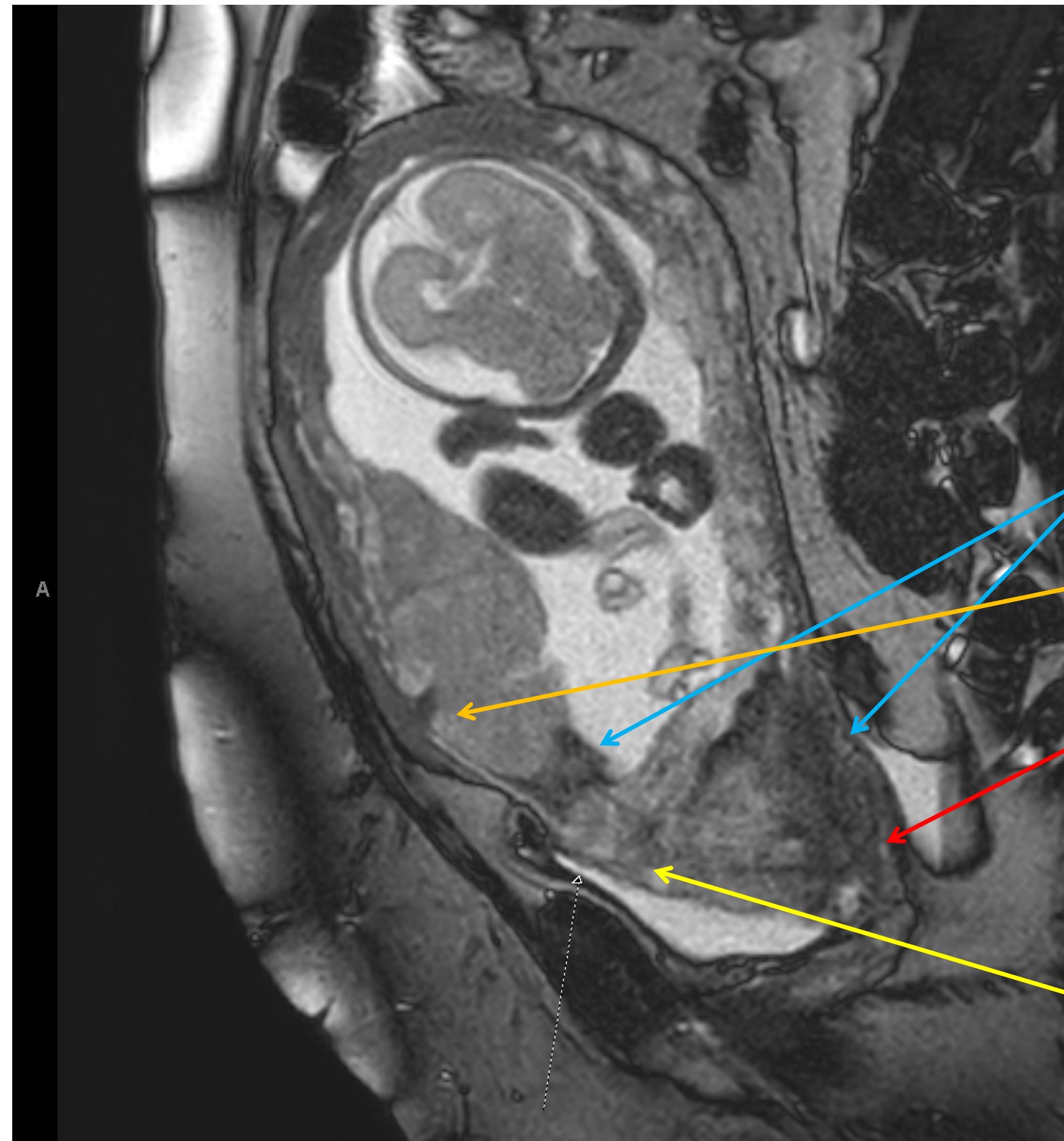
Of the 24 women with a negative separation sign, three (12.5%) had normal placental separation and 21 (87.5%) were diagnosed with PAS.

Sensitivity of 98.2% (95% CI, 94.8–99.6%) and specificity of 100% (95% CI, 83.9–100%).

In the high-risk cohort ($n = 35$), a positive separation sign remained a reliable predictor of normal placental separation, with a positive predictive value of 100%, sensitivity of 88.9% (95% CI, 65.3–98.6%) and specificity of 100% (95% CI, 80.5–100%).

Early Detection – MRI

- Adjunct imaging when placenta cannot be completely seen with ultrasound
- More expensive
- **Not universally available**
- Accuracy of read **depends upon imaging quality and experience** of reading physician
- May change diagnosis
 - Not “better than” ultrasound, but viewing from a different modality



T2 weighted bands

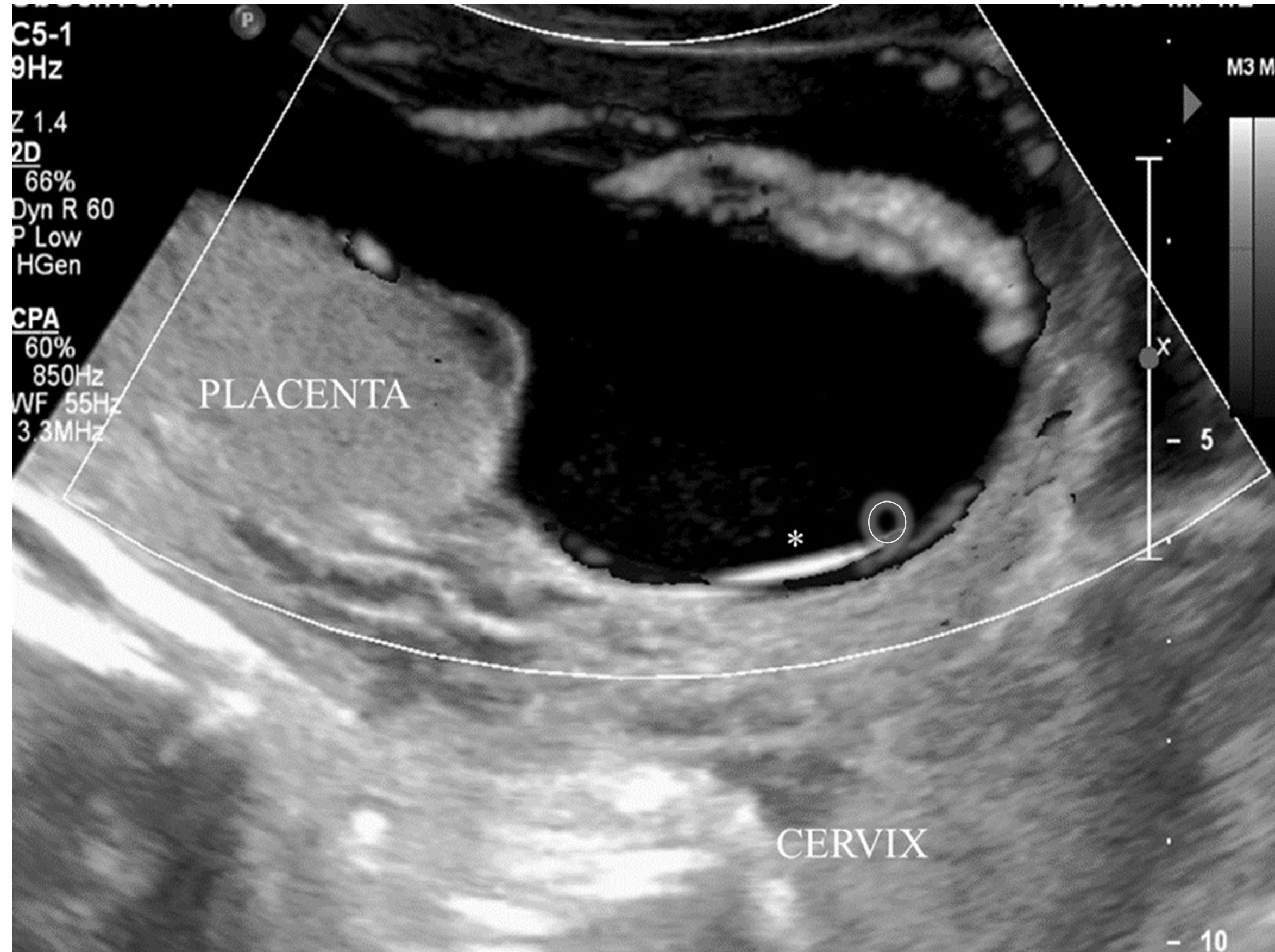
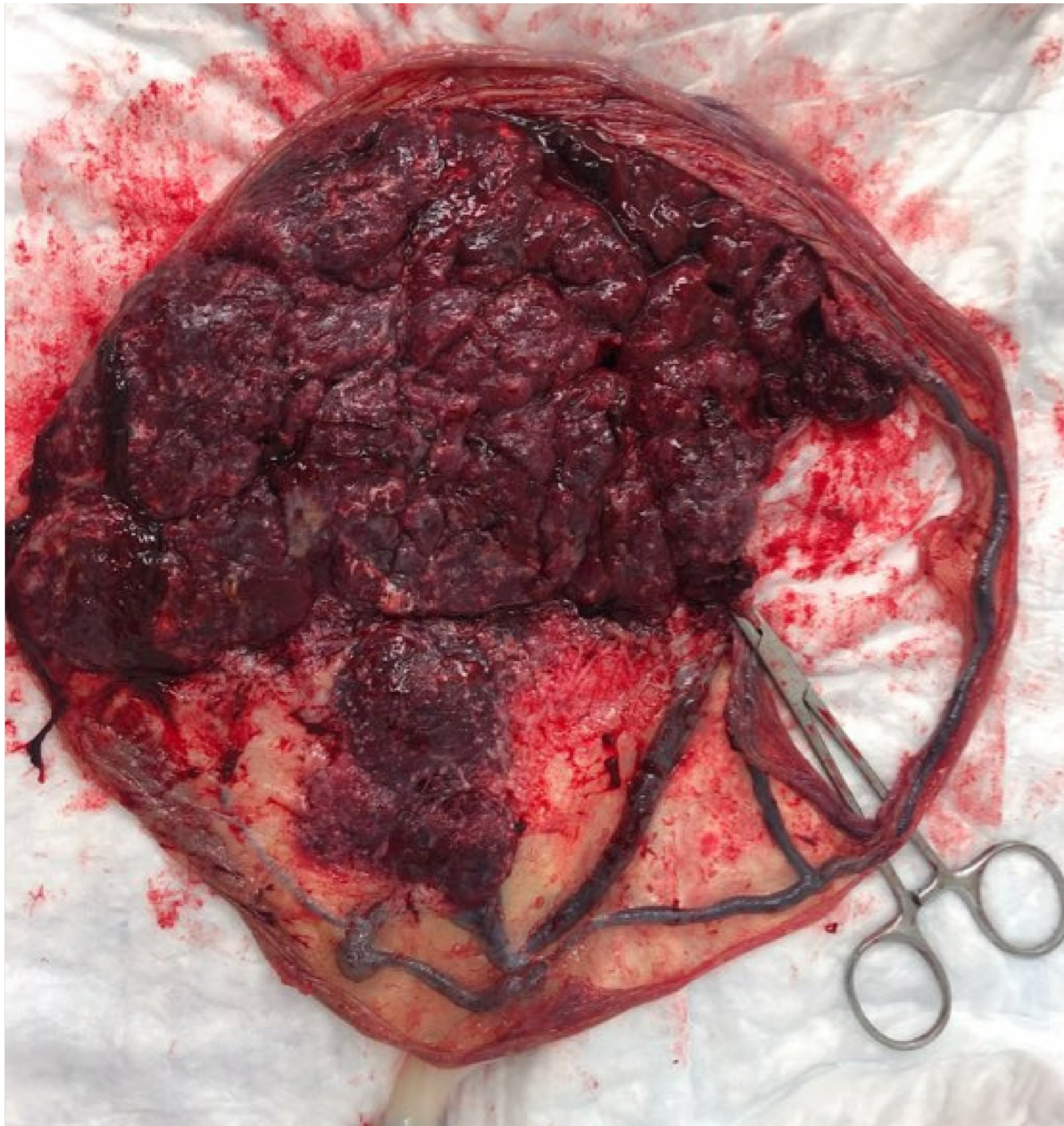
Bulge/distortion

Placenta previa

Loss of fat plane
bladder + placenta

* Acknowledge the limitations and capabilities of each imaging modality, local resources, to improve safety planning

Vasa Previa



Fox, KA et al, "The Placenta as a Critical Care Issue, " Critical Care Obstetrics 6th Ed, Ch 49, p. 821-836, Phelan (Ed) , Wiley Blackwell, c 2019.

To SCAN or NOT to scan....?

Placenta Accreta Spectrum may be limited to just above the cervix – SCAN

Hypervascularity/Vasa Previa may be seen near the cervix, but only visible transvaginally – SCAN

A healthy rim of myometrium superior to the cervix may be delineated which may open the consideration for focal resection and repair -- SCAN

No visible cervix may be identifiable due to deep placental extension/cervical implantation – SCAN

Actively bleeding or known cervical imaging– NO NEED TO SCAN

One study reports that association of short cervix NOT associated with preterm labor in the setting of PAS

Conclusions

1. Screening for clinical risk factors is the first step
2. Screening can be tailored to any level facility, and ONLY works when done
3. You WILL miss 100% of the placental abnormalities for which you do not look → Evaluate the entire placenta (and uterus/cervix)
4. Ultrasound is a highly sensitive, non-invasive screening tool for placental evaluation

THANK YOU!



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