

45 year old man. GP US referral.  
Clinical details: Right scrotal discomfort for 6/12.  
Normal scrotal examination.



Managing the incidentally  
discovered, non-palpable, solid  
testicular mass

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# WHO histological classification of testis tumours

<b>Germ cell tumours</b>		<b>Sex cord/gonadal stromal tumour:</b>	
Intratubular germ cell neoplasia, unclassified	9064/2 <sup>1</sup>	Incompletely differentiated	8591/1
Other types		Sex cord/gonadal stromal tumours, mixed forms	8592/1
<b>Tumours of one histological type (pure forms)</b>		Malignant sex cord/gonadal stromal tumours	8590/3
Seminoma	9061/3	Tumours containing both germ cell and sex cord/gonadal stromal elements	
Seminoma with syncytiotrophoblastic cells		Gonadoblastoma	9073/1
Spermatocytic seminoma	9063/3	Germ cell-sex cord/gonadal stromal tumour, unclassified	
Spermatocytic seminoma with sarcoma		<b>Miscellaneous tumours of the testis</b>	
Embryonal carcinoma	9070/3	Carcinoid tumour	8240/3
Yolk sac tumour	9071/3	<b>Tumours of ovarian epithelial types</b>	
<b>Trophoblastic tumours</b>		Serous tumour of borderline malignancy	8442/1
Choriocarcinoma	9100/3	Serous carcinoma	8441/3
Trophoblastic neoplasms other than choriocarcinoma		Well differentiated endometrioid carcinoma	8380/3
Monophasic choriocarcinoma		Mucinous cystadenoma	8470/0
Placental site trophoblastic tumour	9104/1	Mucinous cystadenocarcinoma	8470/3
Teratoma	9080/3	Brenner tumour	9000/0
Dermoid cyst	9084/0	Nephroblastoma	8960/3
Monodermal teratoma		Paraganglioma	8680/1
Teratoma with somatic type malignancies	9084/3	<b>Haematopoietic tumours</b>	
<b>Tumours of more than one histological type (mixed forms)</b>		<b>Tumours of collecting ducts and rete</b>	
Mixed embryonal carcinoma and teratoma	9081/3	Adenoma	8140/0
Mixed teratoma and seminoma	9085/3	Carcinoma	8140/3
Choriocarcinoma and teratoma/embryonal carcinoma	9101/3	<b>Tumours of paratesticular structures</b>	
Others		Adenomatoid tumour	9054/0
<b>Sex cord/gonadal stromal tumours</b>		Malignant mesothelioma	9050/3
<b>Pure forms</b>		Benign mesothelioma	
Leydig cell tumour	8650/1	Well differentiated papillary mesothelioma	9052/0
Malignant Leydig cell tumour	8650/3	Cystic mesothelioma	9055/0
Sertoli cell tumour	8640/1	Adenocarcinoma of the epididymis	8140/3
Sertoli cell tumour lipid rich variant	8641/0	Papillary cystadenoma of the epididymis	8450/0
Sclerosing Sertoli cell tumour		Melanotic neuroectodermal tumour	9363/0
Large cell calcifying Sertoli cell tumour	8642/1	Desmoplastic small round cell tumour	8806/3
Malignant Sertoli cell tumour	8640/3	<b>Mesenchymal tumours of the spermatic cord and testicular adnexae</b>	
Granulosa cell tumour	8620/1	<b>Secondary tumours of the testis</b>	
Adult type granulosa cell tumour	8620/1		
Juvenile type granulosa cell tumour	8622/1		
<b>Tumours of the thecoma/fibroma group</b>			
Thecoma	8600/0		
Fibroma	8810/0		

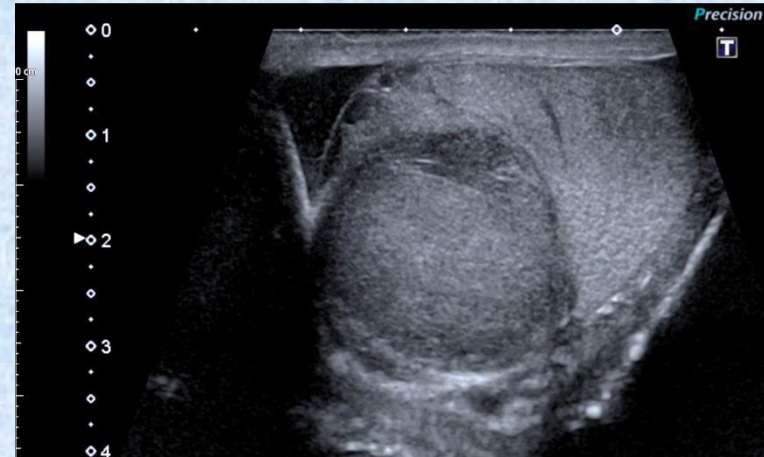
<sup>1</sup> Morphology code of the International Classification of Diseases for Oncology (ICD-O) (908) and the Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine (<http://snomed.org>). Behaviour is coded /0 for benign tumours, /2 for in situ carcinomas and grade III intraepithelial neoplasia, /3 for malignant tumours, and /1 for borderline of uncertain behaviour.

# Testicular Tumour Classification

- Germ cell tumours (malignant)
  - Seminoma, Non-seminoma, Mixed
- Sex cord/gonadal stromal (10% malignant)
  - Leydig cell, Sertoli cell, Granulosa cell thecoma/fibroma, mixed GCT/stromal
- Miscellaneous
  - Carcinoid, epithelial, nephroblastoma, paraganglioma
- Tumours of collecting duct/rete testis
- Haemopoietic
- Secondary tumours
  - Lymphoma, other tumours rare

# It used to be so easy!

- Patients referred for scrotal US usually had a palpable mass
- The most common palpable intra-testicular lesion aged 15-34 is a malignant GCT<sup>1</sup>
- “There are no reliable sonographic features that can distinguish a malignant from a focally benign lesion”<sup>2</sup>
- “Radical orchidectomy remains the definitive procedure for pathological diagnosis...”<sup>3</sup>
- “When in doubt cut it out” (properly!)



1. Woodward PJ. Radiogr Rev Publ Radiol Soc N Am Inc 2002;22:189. 2. Strauss. Eur Radiol 2000 3. Campbell's Urology 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

# Now it is much more difficult!

- Most patients don't have a palpable (testicular) mass
- Indications for scrotal US have increased<sup>1</sup>
  - Evaluation of acute scrotal symptoms
  - Evaluation of scrotal asymmetry or enlargement
  - Evaluation of scrotal masses
  - Evaluation of varicocele
  - Evaluation of infertility
  - Evaluation of testicular ischaemia or torsion
  - Evaluation of suspected infections or inflammatory scrotal disease
  - Detection of occult primary tumours in individuals with metastatic germ cell tumours

# Incidental testicular masses

- Incidental, asymptomatic and non-palpable testicular masses are now regularly encountered on US (0.8-7.4%)<sup>1</sup>
- US is highly accurate in differentiating testicular from non-testicular masses
- Conventional US has low accuracy in differentiating benign from malignant masses<sup>2</sup>

# Non-palpable lesions are different

- Systematic review of the literature in 2010: 111 patients with non-palpable masses: 81 benign (73%)<sup>1</sup>
- Leydig cell tumours most common (45%)<sup>2</sup>
- Many radical orchidectomies performed for benign disease. Implications for fertility, endocrine function, preservation of body image

1. Giannarini G. European urology 2010;57

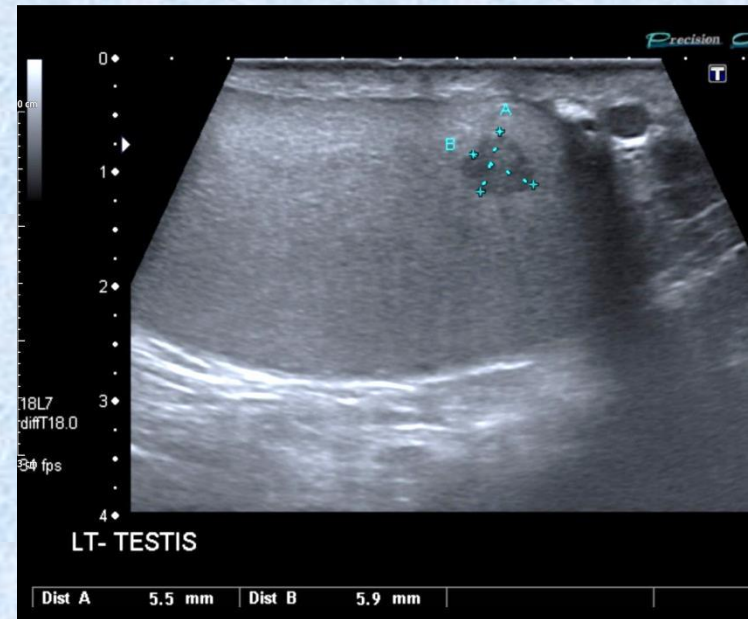
2. Brunocilla E Anticancer Res 33:5205

Author	Year	Patient (n)	Benign (%)
Buckspan	1989	4	100
Hopps	2002	4	50
Carmignani	2003	10	80
Leroy	2003	15	73
Sheynkin	2004	9	67
Carmignani	2004	3	100
Colpi	2005	5	80
Rolle	2006	7	86
Assaf	2006	6	50
Muller	2006	20	80
Powell	2006	4	50
Eifler	2008	19	100
Hallak	2009	5	80
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>81</b>



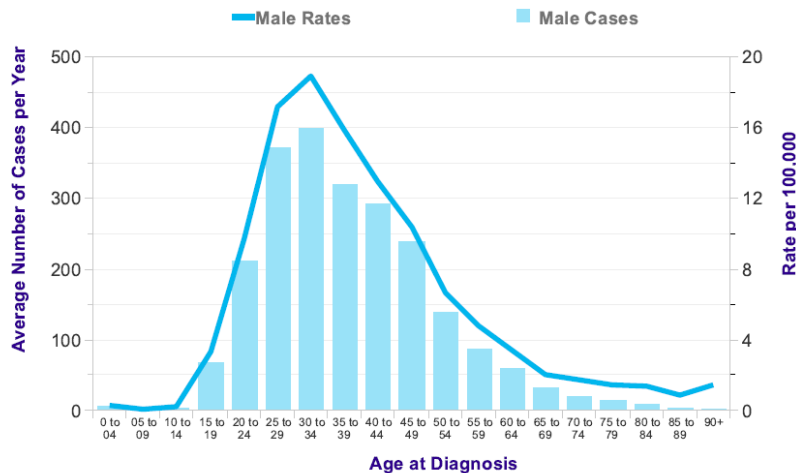
# Reducing the number of (unnecessary) radical orchidectomies

- Pre-test probability
- Clinical history
- Greyscale features
- Multiparametric approach
  - CEUS
  - Elastography
- US surveillance
- Testis preserving surgery



# Pre-test probability

- Risk factors for TGCT
  - Age
  - Cryptorchidism (risk↑ x4 - 8)
  - Contralateral tumour (risk↑ x12.4 - 27.5)
  - Family history – first degree relative (risk↑ x4 - 8)
- Risk for Leydig cell hyperplasia
  - Klinefelter's syndrome.
  - Consider karyotyping if small testis and infertility

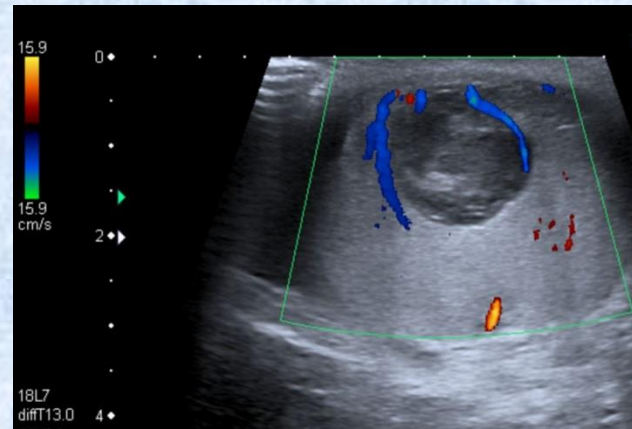


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Rustom P. BJUI 2009;104:1329

# Clinical History

- Trauma
- Infection (focal orchitis or abscess)
- Granulomatous disease (Sarcoid/TB)
- Malignancy (esp. lymphoma)
- Endocrine disease (CAH)
- Features of hormone secretion (Gynaecomastia)



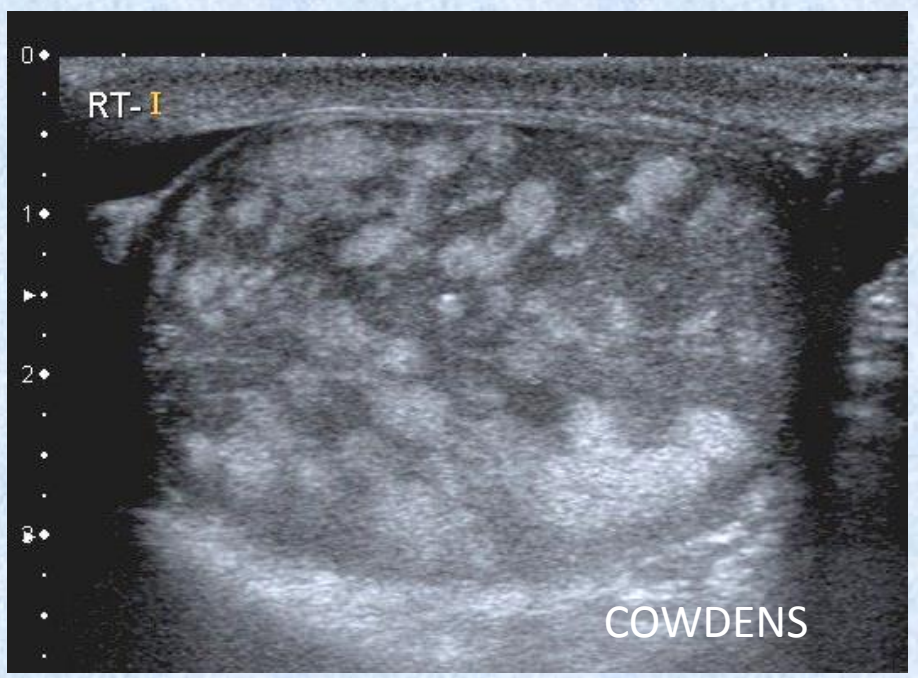
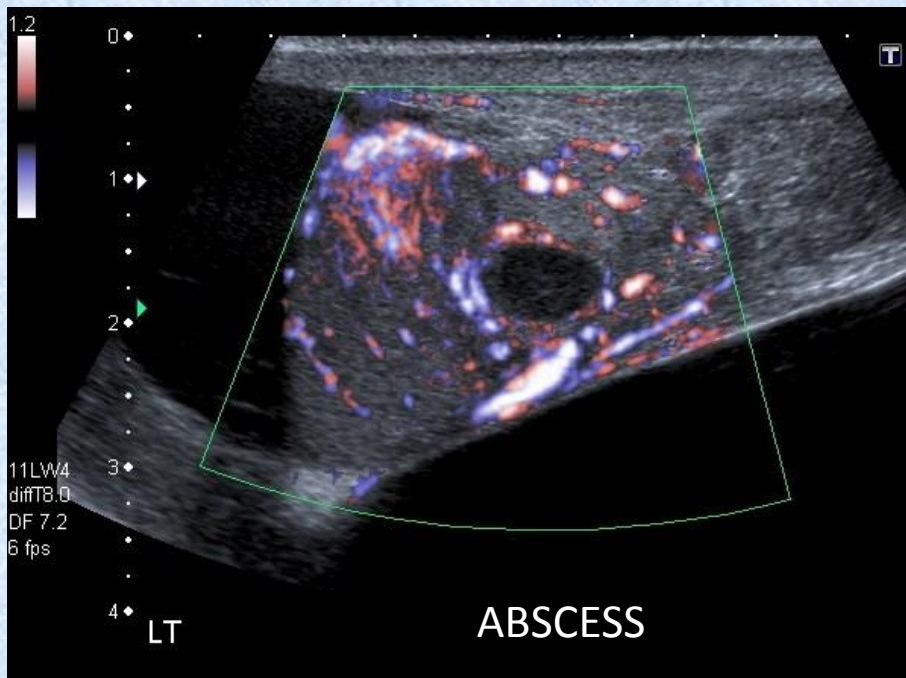
Trauma



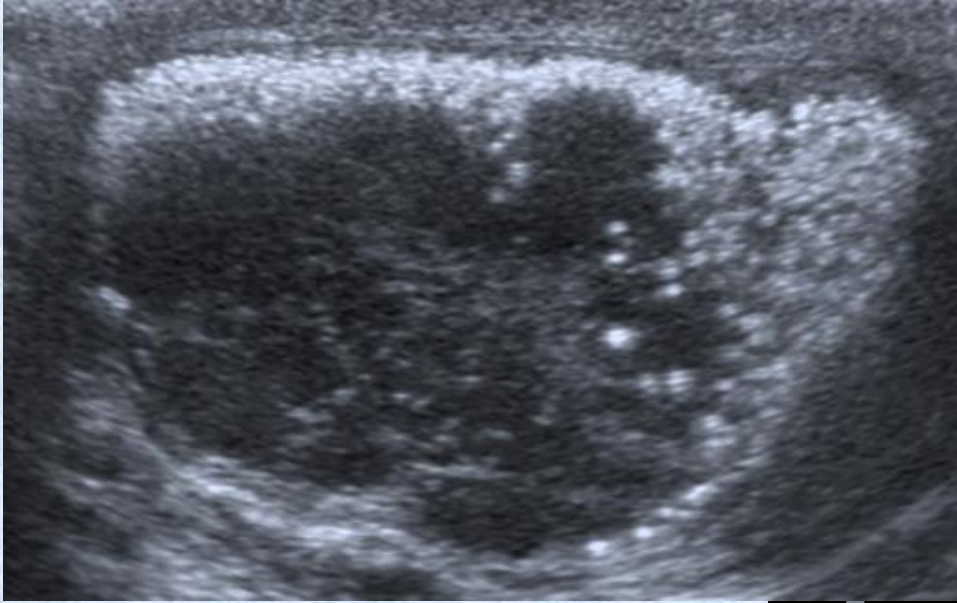
Sarcoidosis



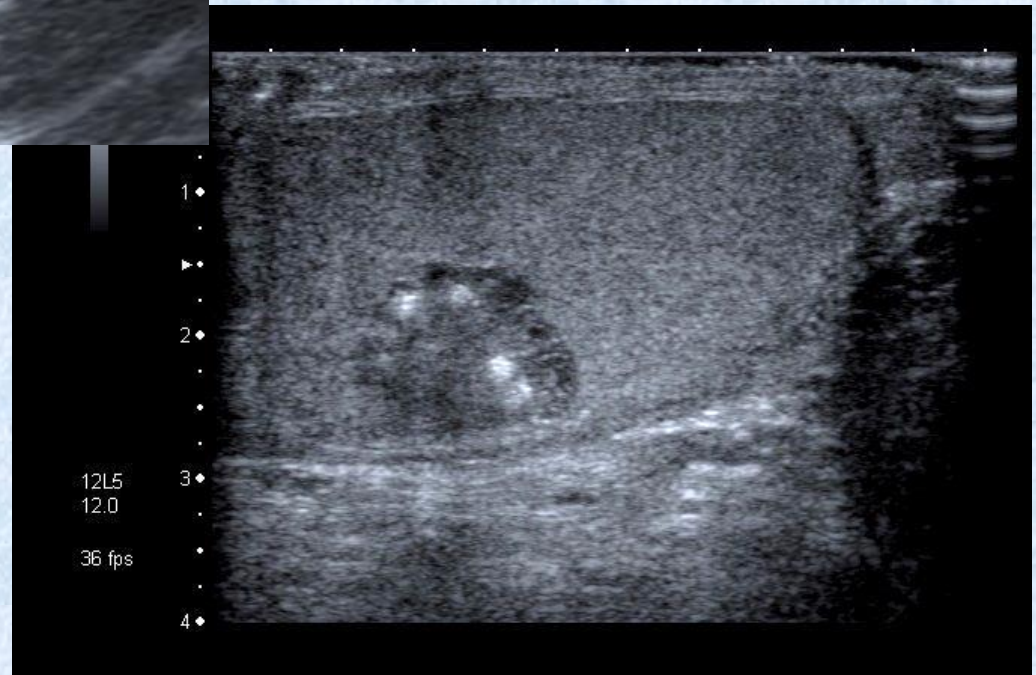
CAH



# Additional findings

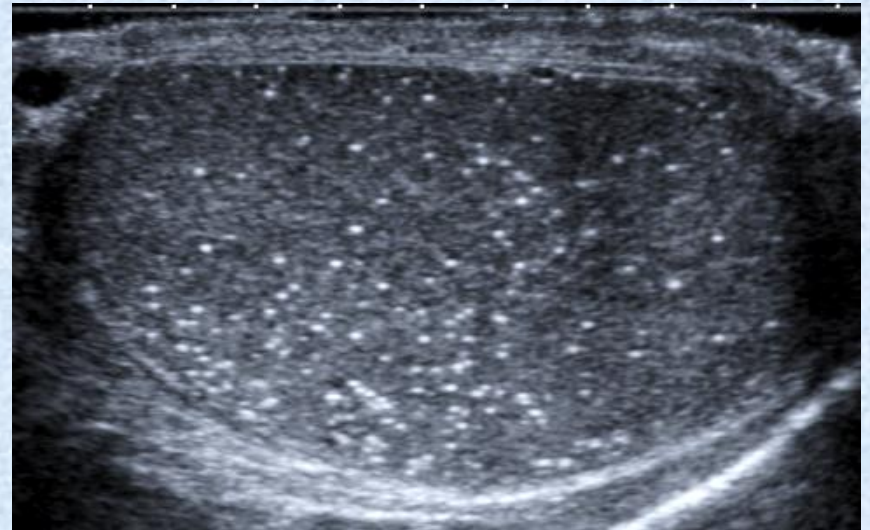


- TML
- Intra-tumoural macrocalcifications



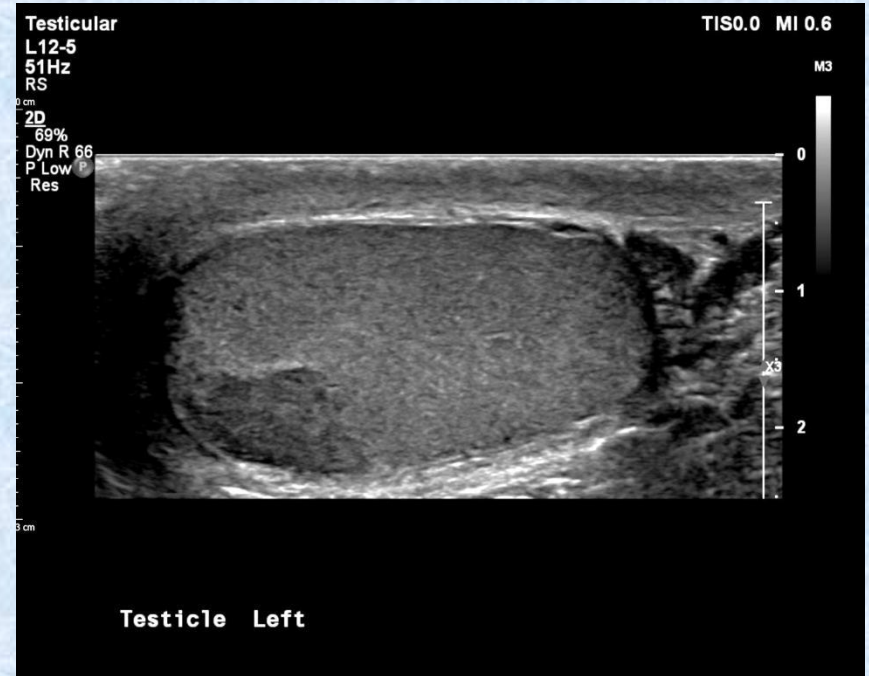
# What is the significance of TML?

- Prevalence 2.7% in adult males<sup>1</sup>
- Association with GCT does not prove cause
- Risk in patients without a second risk factor for TGCT is low<sup>2,3</sup>
- However: TML in association with an hypoechogenic nodule suggests GCT (esp. seminoma)<sup>4</sup>



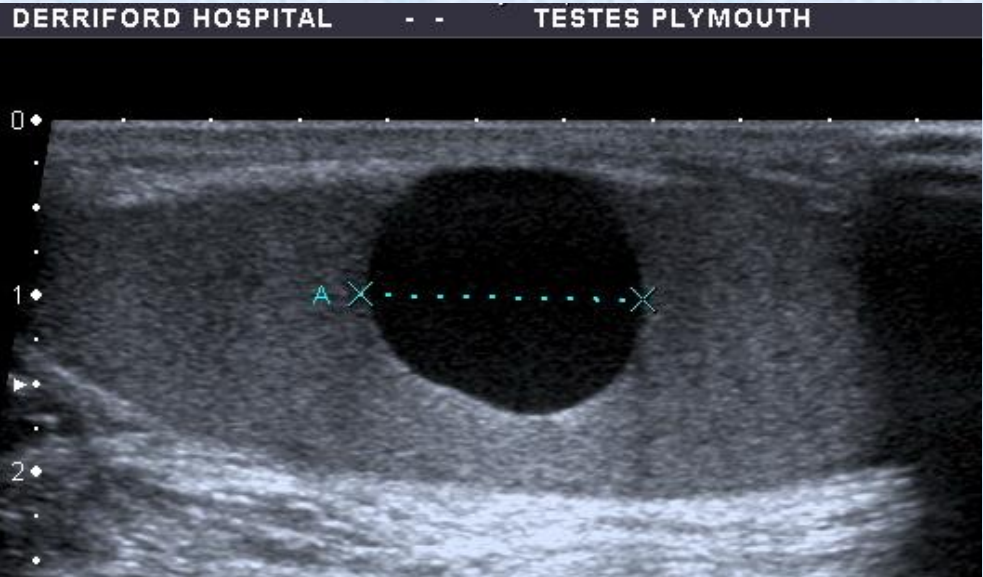
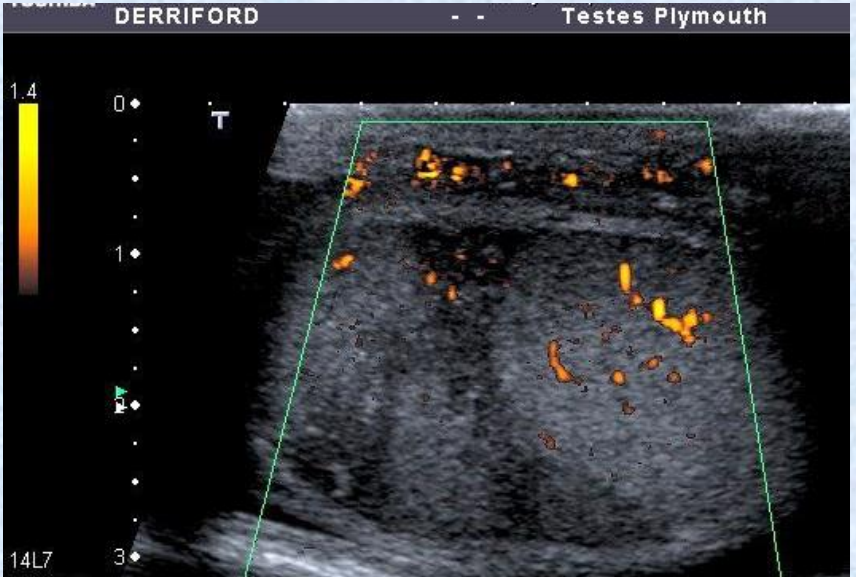
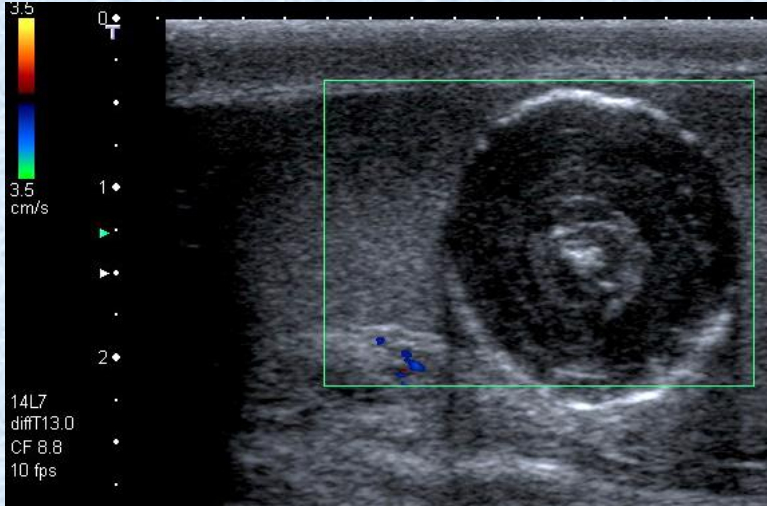
# US: Greyscale features

Benign patterns	Malignant patterns
< 0.5 cm	> 1cm
Well defined	Irregular margins/ill-defined
Simple cyst	Heterogeneous
Onion skin pattern	Hypoechoic areas
Normal parenchyma	TML
Hyperechogenic	Macrocalcifications



Adapted from Rocher L. Eur Radiol 2015

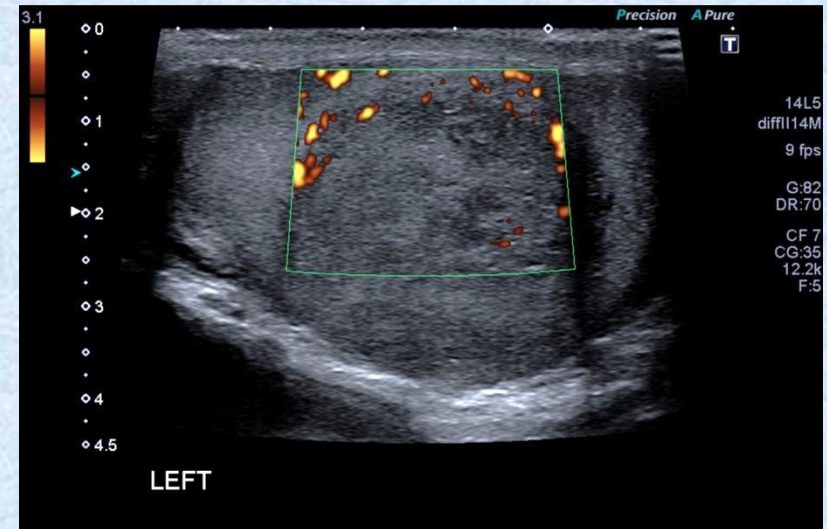
# Grey scale features: benign patterns





# Colour Doppler

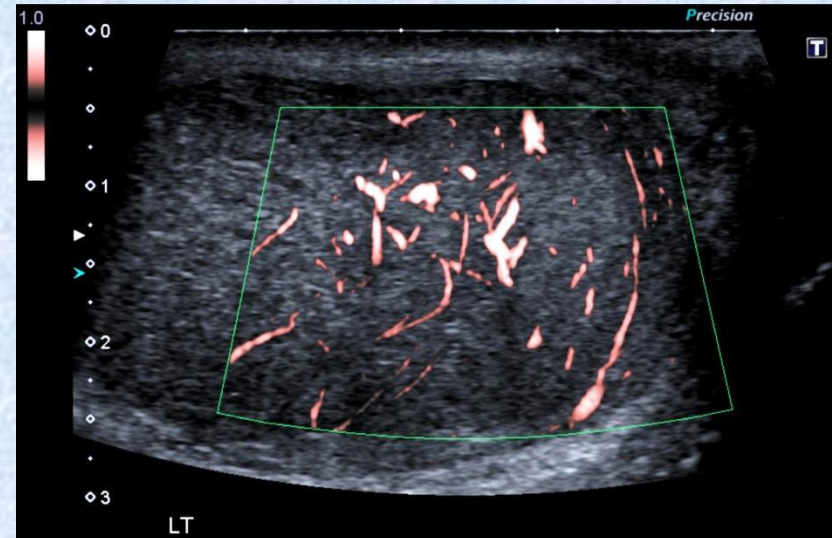
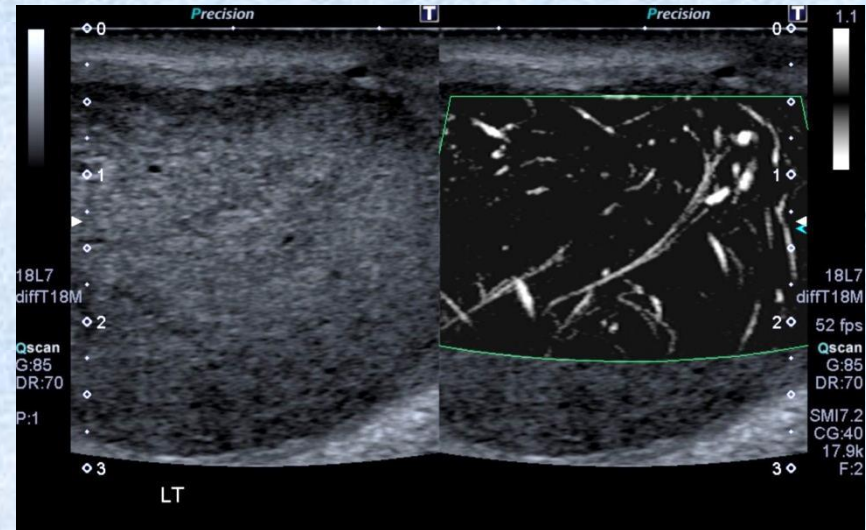
- Lack of blood flow increases the probability of a benign aetiology<sup>1</sup>
- Blood flow can be difficult to demonstrate in small lesions (< 16mm) with conventional colour/power Doppler<sup>2</sup>

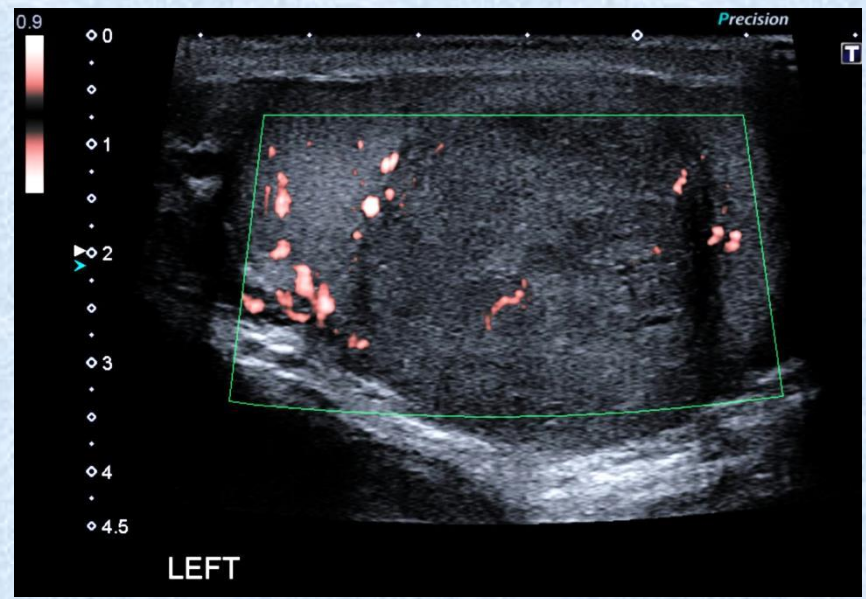
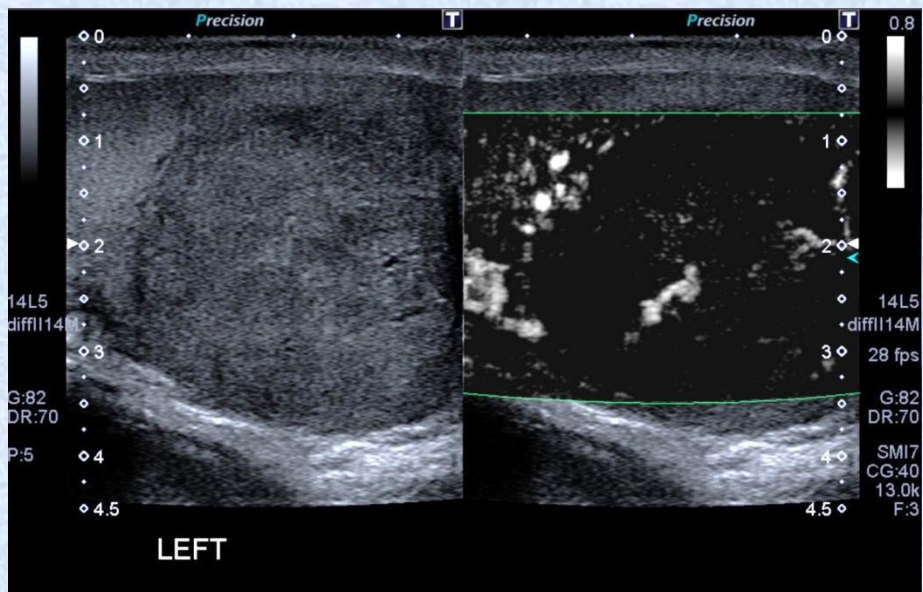
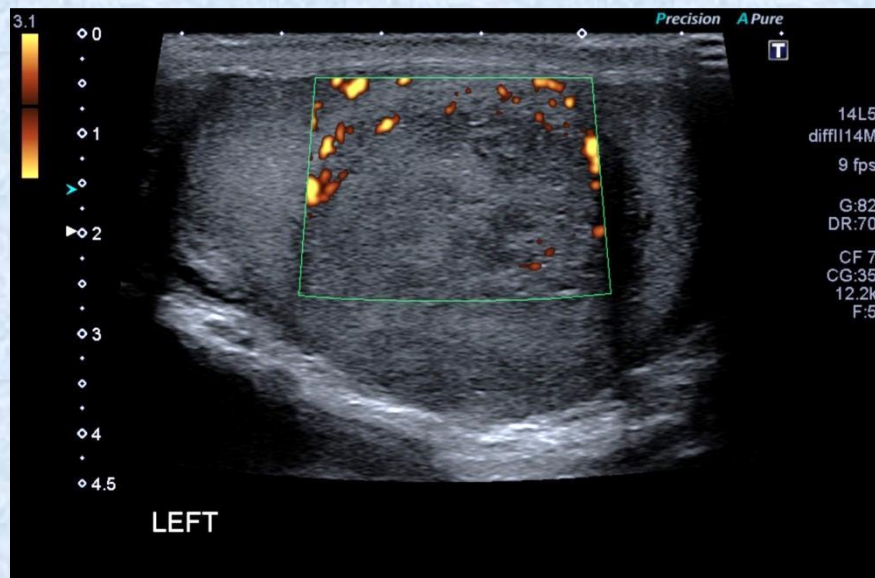


28 yr. old man Hx: Malignant teratoma

# New Doppler techniques may help

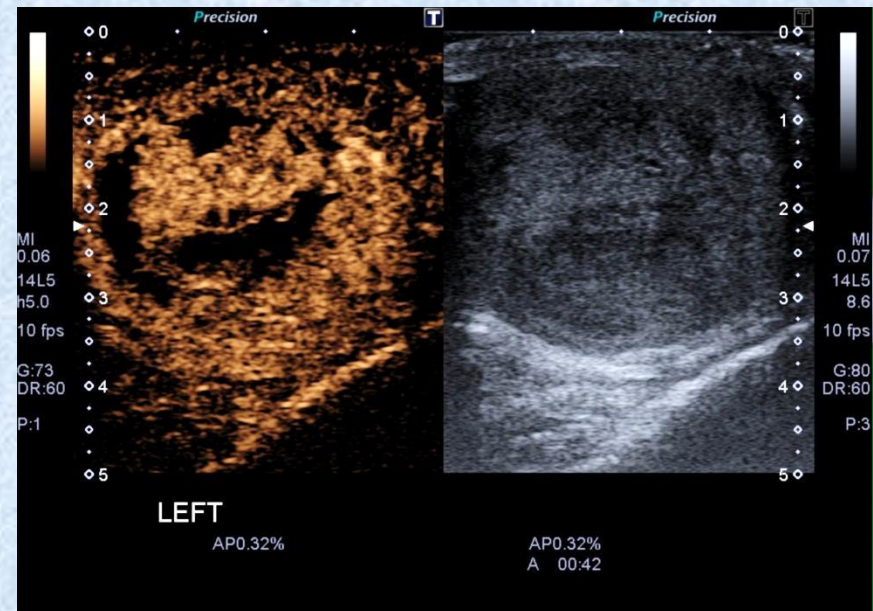
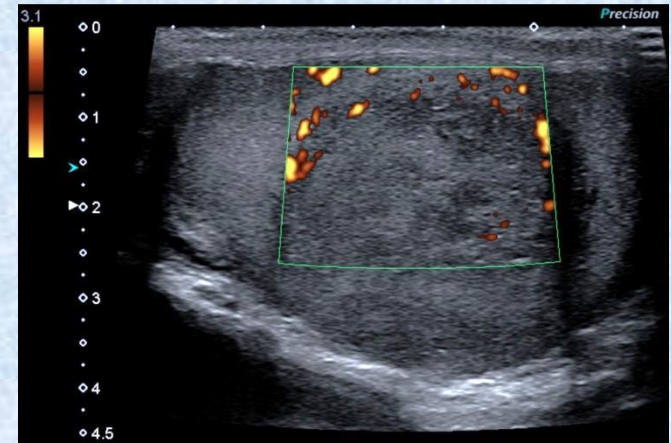
- SMI™ Superb Microvascular Imaging
- Can demonstrate very low velocity flow (normally removed by filters)



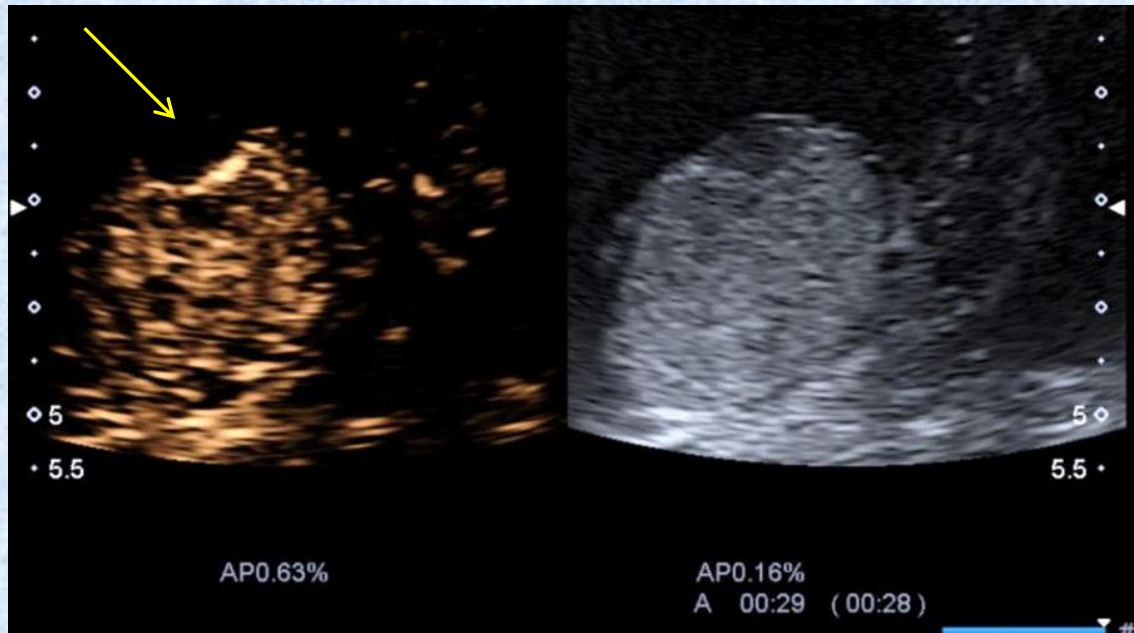
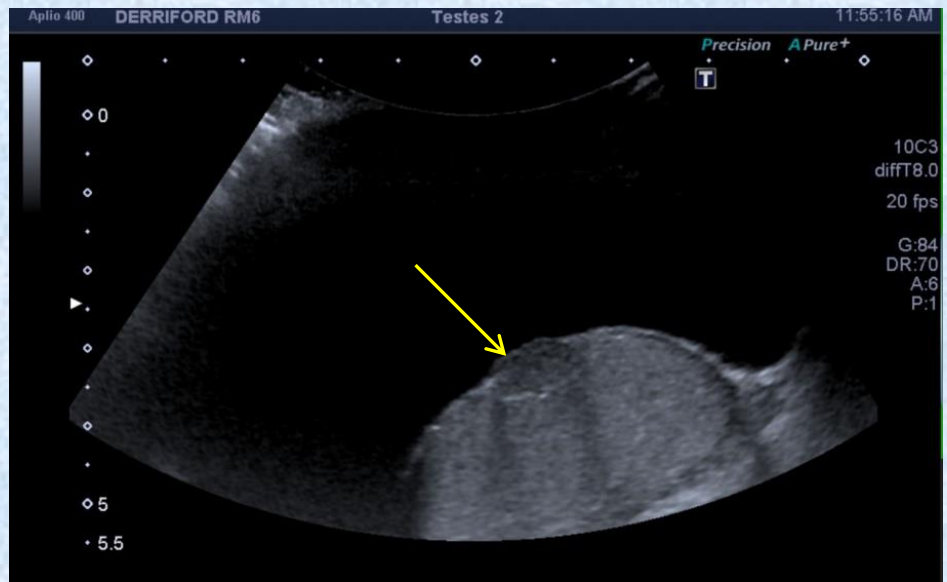


# Best of all: CEUS

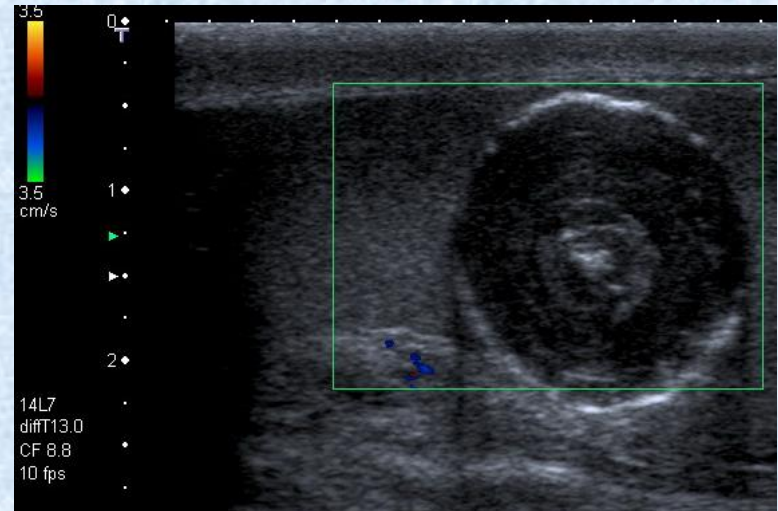
- Virtually all tumours show some vascularity with CEUS<sup>1</sup>
- No enhancement suggests a benign aetiology<sup>2</sup>
- CEUS not ideal for testis due to bubble size
  - Use 4.8 mls SonoVue
  - Lower transducer frequency



1. Lock G. Urology 2011;77 2. Piscaglia  
F. Ultraschall in Med 2011



# Epidermoid cysts



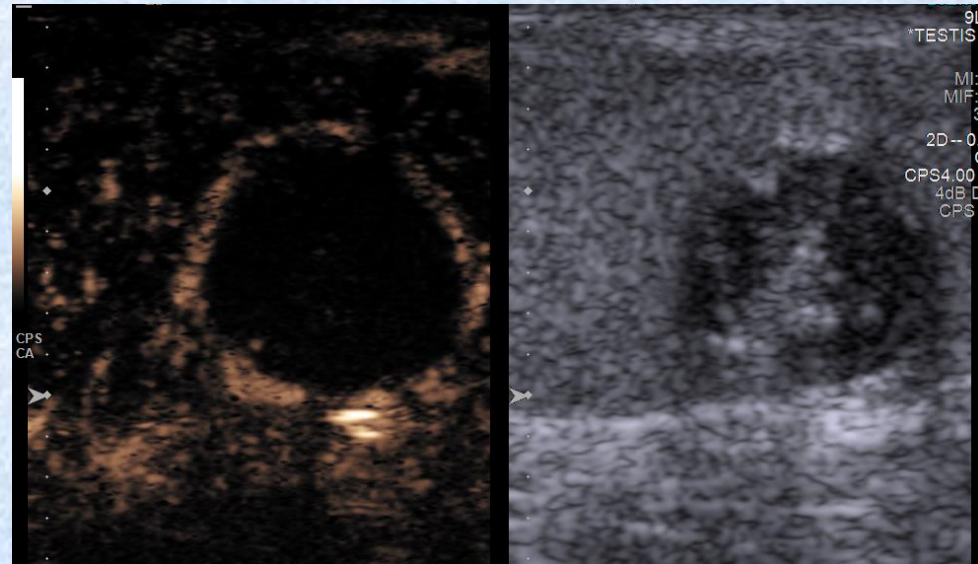
## Features of Testicular Epidermoid Cysts on Contrast-Enhanced Sonography and Real-time Tissue Elastography

Ketul Patel, FRCR, Maria E. Sellars, MBBS, FRCR, Jane L. Clarke, MSc, Paul S. Sidhu, BSc, MRCP, FRCR

Patel K. J Ultrasound Med 2012;31

- Four grey scale patterns recognised.<sup>1</sup> Always avascular on Colour Doppler
- CEUS increases confidence – no internal vascularity, rim enhancement in some cases<sup>2</sup>

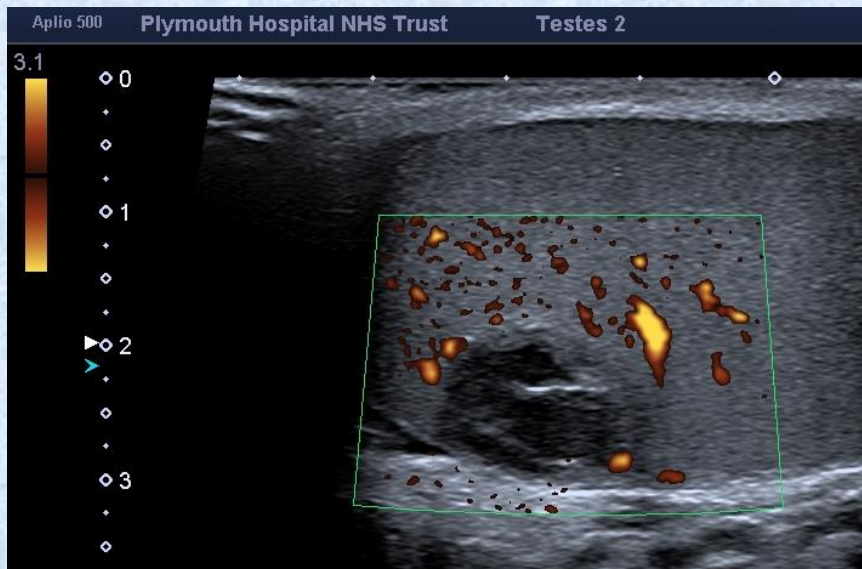
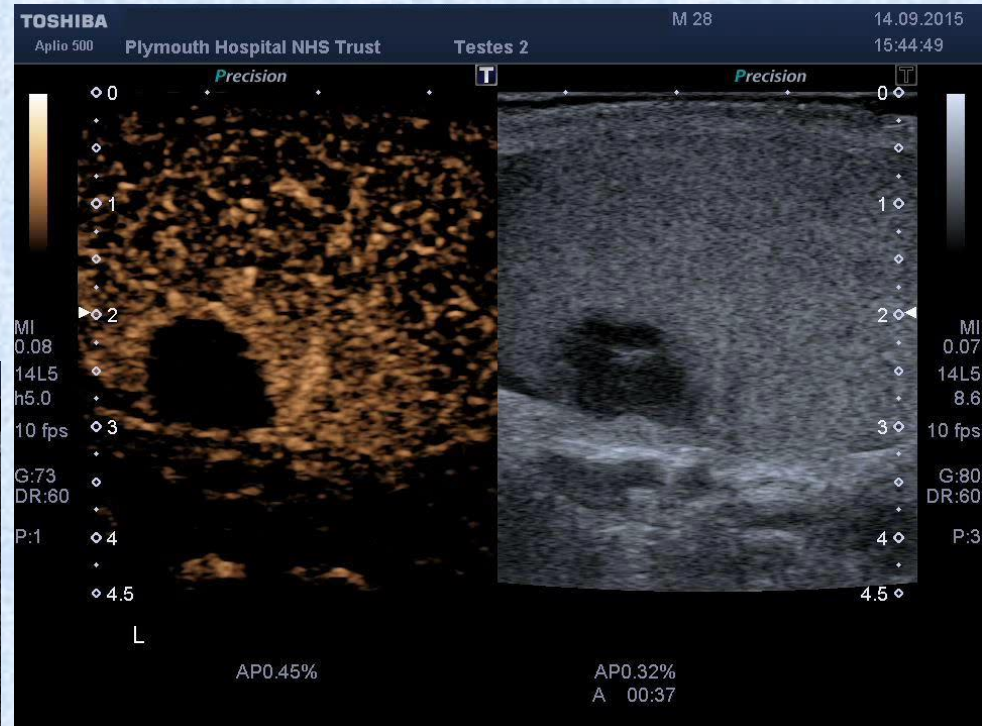
1. Atchley JTM Clinical Radiology 2000;22 2. Patel K. J Ultrasound Med 2012;31



Courtesy Prof P Sidhu.

# Minor Trauma

## 29 yrs. old



# Can CEUS differentiate benign from malignant?

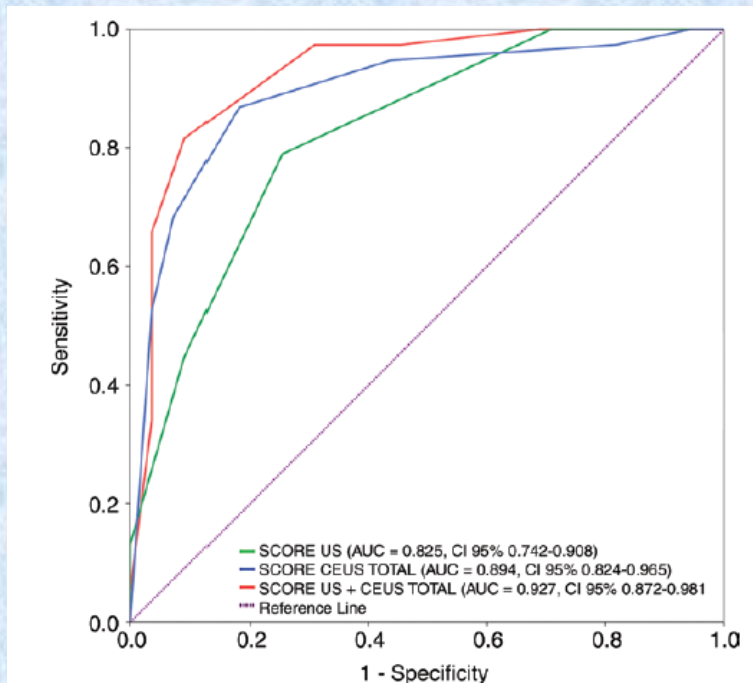


Figure 5: Diagnostic accuracy in identification of malignant tumors. ROC curves of US score (green), total contrast-enhanced US (CEUS) score (qualitative and quantitative, blue), and their combination (red). Combination of US and qualitative and quantitative contrast-enhanced US (time to washout and time to peak) scores showed best performance ( $A_z = 0.927$ ; 95% CI = 0.872, 0.981;  $P < .001$ ).

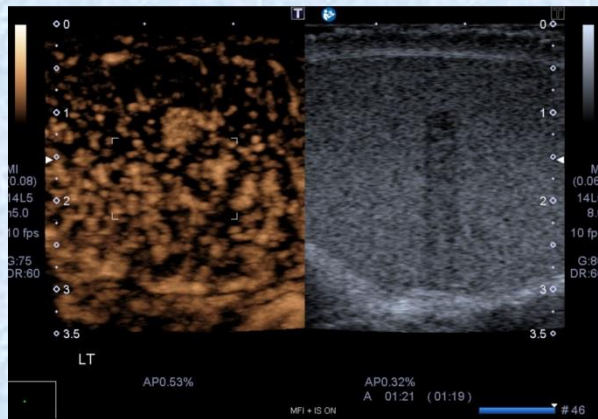
## Isidori, Radiology 2014

- 115 non palpable lesions  
38% malignant tumours  
37% benign tumours  
25% non-neoplastic
- Combined grey-scale US features with CEUS
- Overall sensitivity 82%, specificity 91% for differentiation of benign vs. malignant (area under ROC curve 0.927)

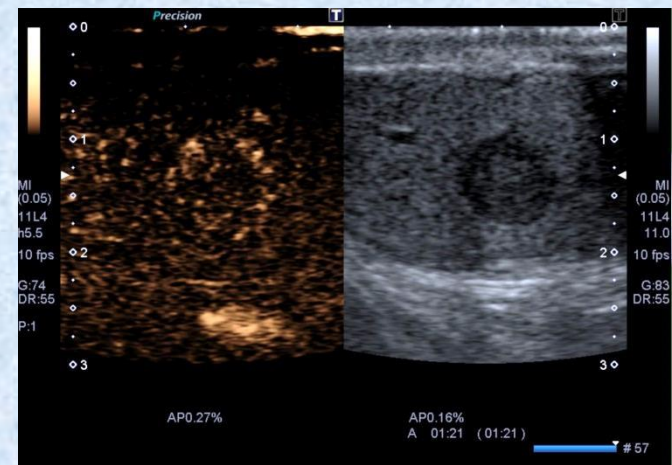
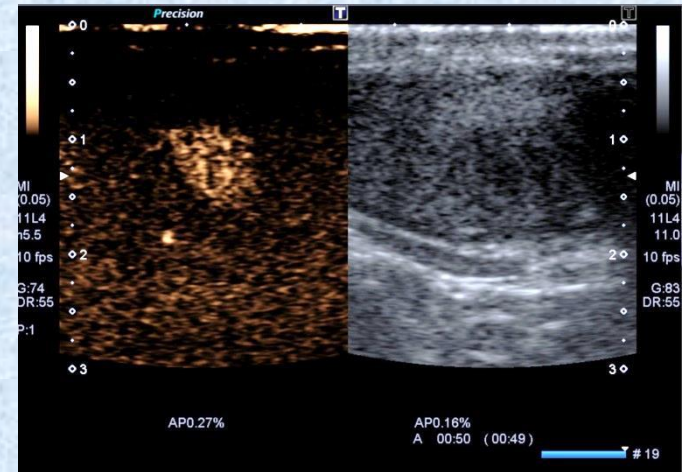


# TGCT vs Sex cord stromal tumours

- Rapid wash in and washout malignant feature
- Prolonged washout more suggestive of sex cord stromal tumour
- Insufficient data to recommend in isolation



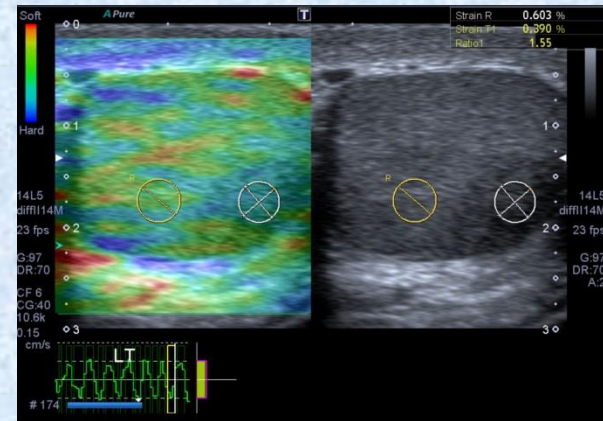
Sertoli cell tumour



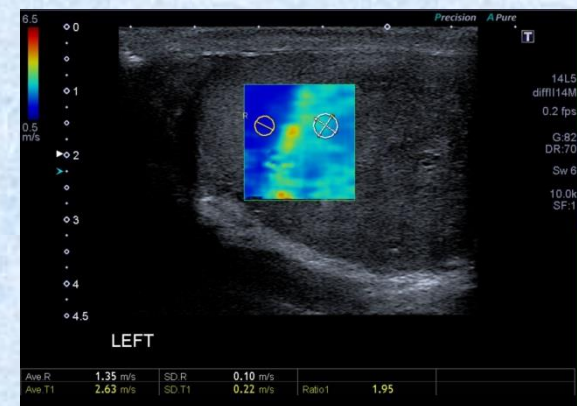
Seminoma

# Sonoelastography

- Strain elastography (SE) and Shear wave elastography (SWE)
- Limited data in testis
- Harder lesions more likely to be malignant (but remember that cysts are stiff – including epidermoid)
  - Aigner:<sup>1</sup> 50 lesions sensitivity 100%, specificity 81% NPV 100%
  - Goddi:<sup>2</sup> 144 lesions: sensitivity 87.5%, specificity 98.2% accuracy 95.8%
  - Two studies<sup>3,4</sup> suggest elastography useful for small lesions



SE - Seminoma

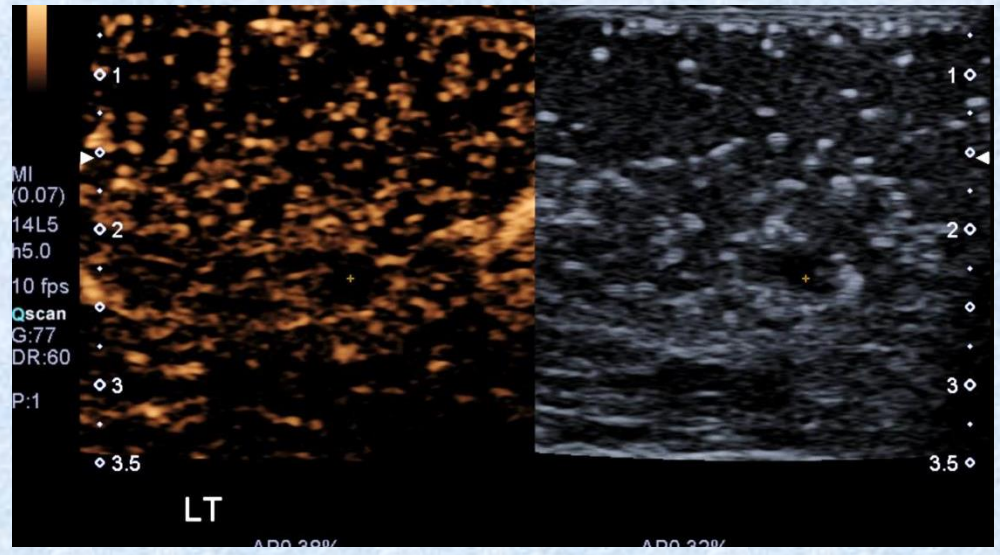
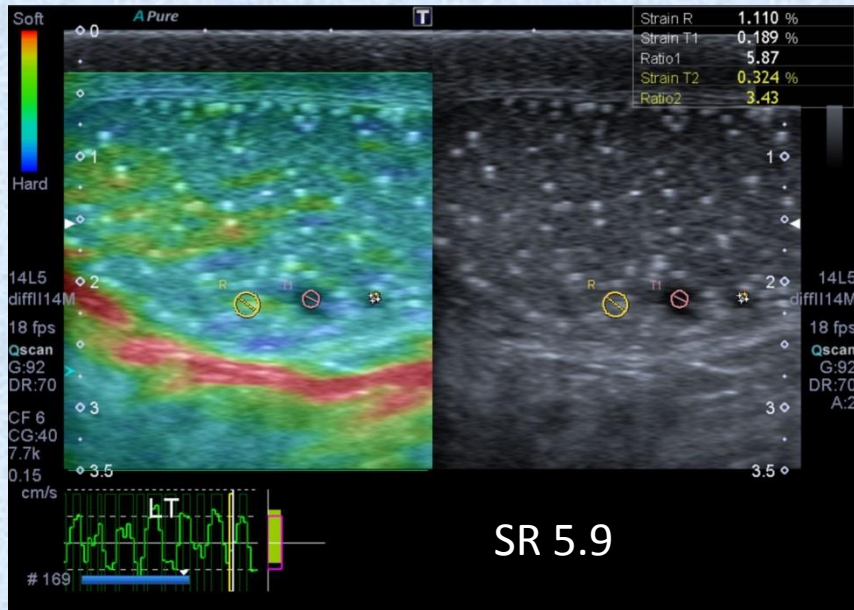
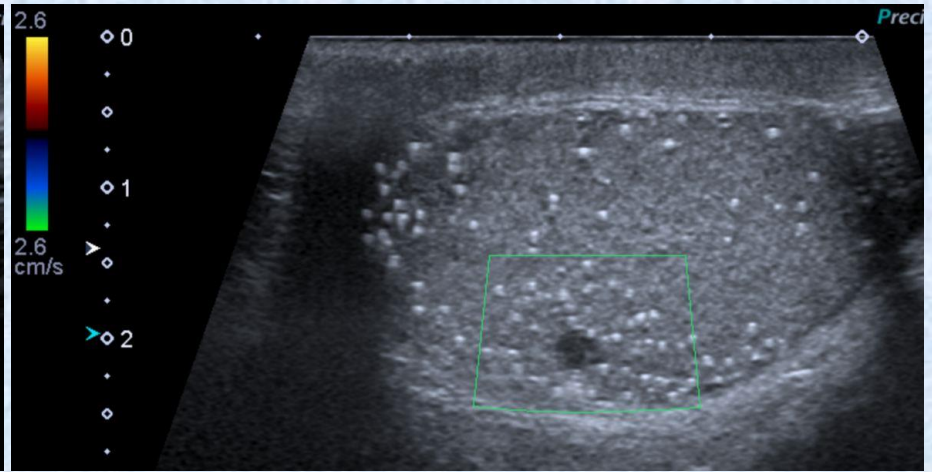
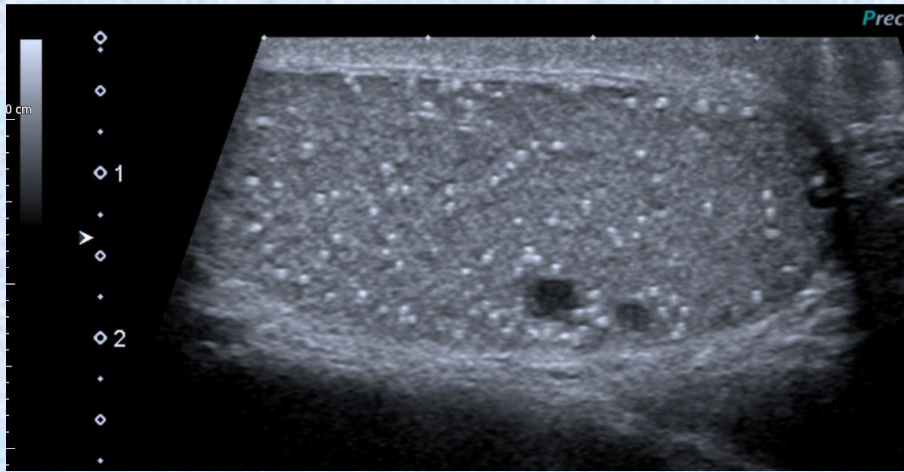


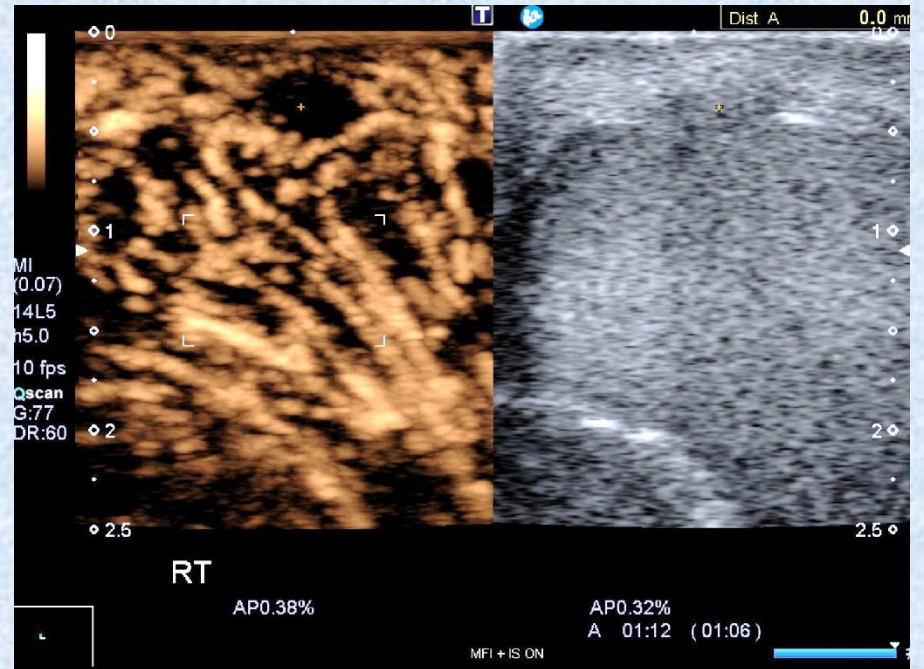
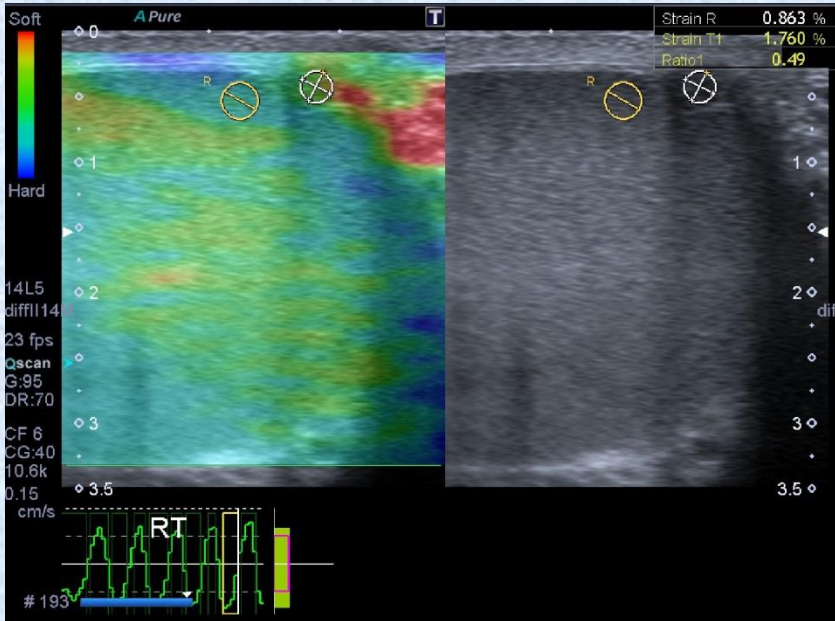
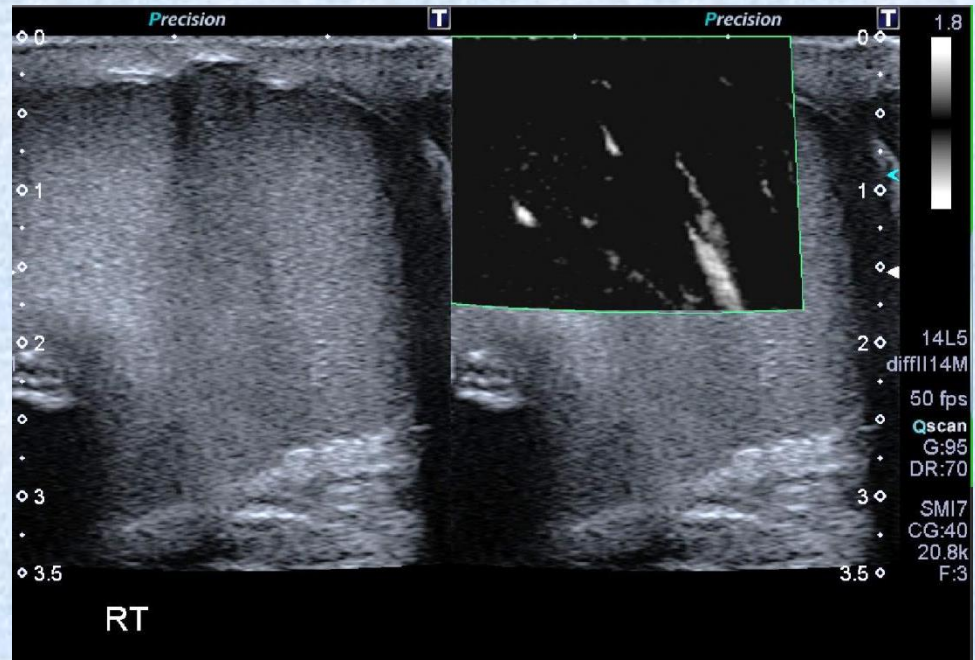
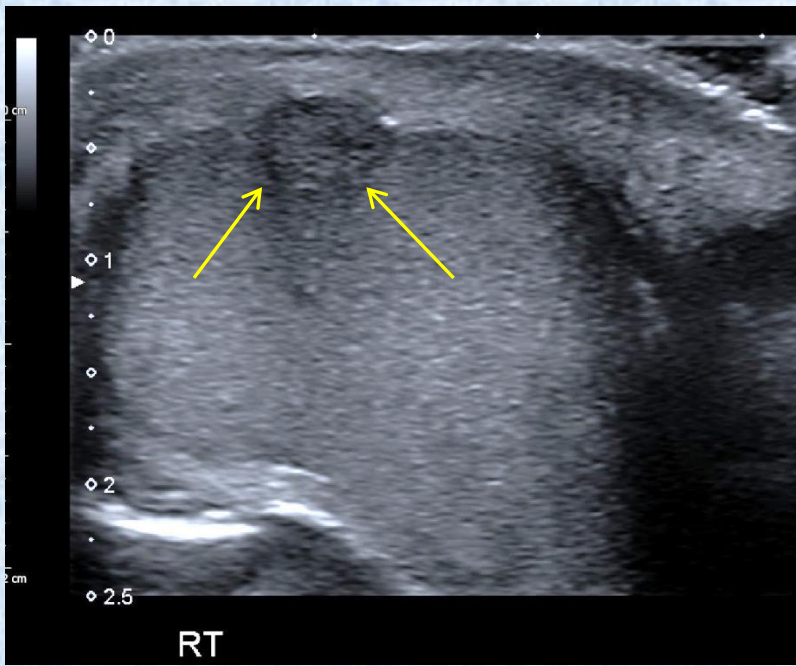
SWE – Malignant teratoma

1. Aigner F. Radiology 2012;263:584 2. Goddi A. Eur Radiol 2012;22:721 3. Grasso M. Arch Int Urol Androl. 2010;82:160 4. Pastore AL. Cancer Imaging 2014;14:29

# “Multiparametric ultrasound”

Grey-scale, Doppler, CEUS and elastography may be able to differentiate benign from malignant non-palpable testicular lesions with acceptable accuracy





# Testis sparing surgery (TSS)

- EUA guidelines 2011
  - Synchronous bilateral tumours
  - Metachronous contra-lateral tumour
  - Lesion in a solitary testis (volume <30% of testis)
- Indications expanding
  - Can be the best management for non-palpable masses <2cm<sup>1</sup>
  - US needle localisation may be needed
  - Frozen section after enucleation – testicular repair or orchidectomy depending on the result
- Intermediate and long-term follow up shows no significant risk for local or distant recurrence and better aesthetic and functional outcomes<sup>1</sup>
- No prospective studies on radical orchidectomy vs. TSS

1. Brunocilla E. *Anticancer Research* 2013;33:5205



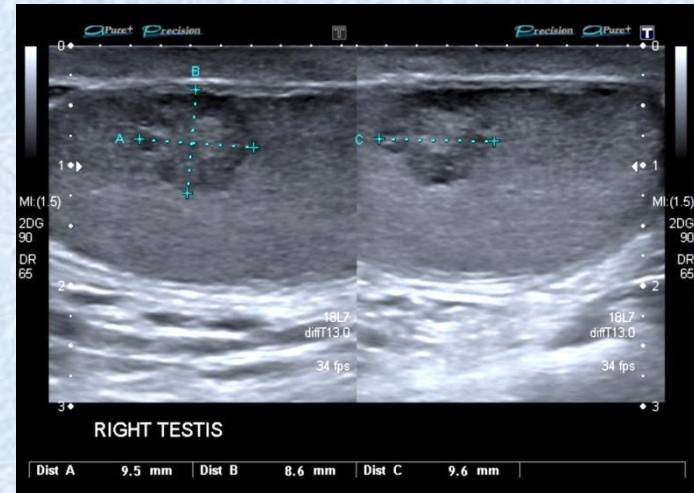
# What if ultrasound is wrong!

- It doesn't matter if TSS is performed (by mistake) for small TGCTs
  - TSS for malignant GCT
    - German testicular cancer study group:<sup>1</sup> 101 cases of GCT treated by TSS. Radiotherapy (18Gy) for all patients with TIN on biopsy.
    - Cancer specific survival 100/101. Local Recurrence 6/101 (4 refused radiotherapy)
  - “TSS is a safe option and should be considered for small GCTs”<sup>2</sup>



# US Surveillance for small masses?

- If mp US suggests a benign lesion <10mm<sup>1</sup>
- All lesions < 5mm? <sup>2</sup>
- Tumour marker negative
- US every 3/12 for 1 year then annual (for how long - ? 3 years)



1. Connolly SS. BJU International 2006;98:1005
2. Eifler JB Jr. J Urol 2008;180:261

Classical seminoma – no change in size over 1 year

# Conclusion

- Most non-palpable incidentally discovered testicular masses are benign
- Radical orchidectomy is performed too often in these patients
- Ultrasound (“multiparametric”) shows considerable promise in differentiating benign from malignant
- Active surveillance or TSS is appropriate for many patients

