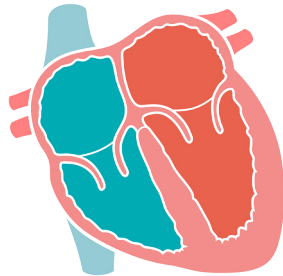


OTHER USES OF TTE

Detecting pericardial effusions



- **Is it pericardial or pleural fluid?**
Check position relative to the descending aorta: if the fluid is anterior it's pericardial.
- **Size?**
Measure at end diastole: small <1 cm, moderate 1–2 cm, large > 2cm.
- **Distribution?**
Global or loculated (in compartments)?
- **Signs of tamponade?**
Right ventricular free wall diastolic collapse, dilated IVC with reduced reactivity, mitral Doppler velocities fall by > 25% on inspiration.
- **Can it be drained percutaneously?**
Check subcostally whether there is enough fluid at proposed drainage site for safe pericardiocentesis (ideally 2 cm, but at least 1 cm).