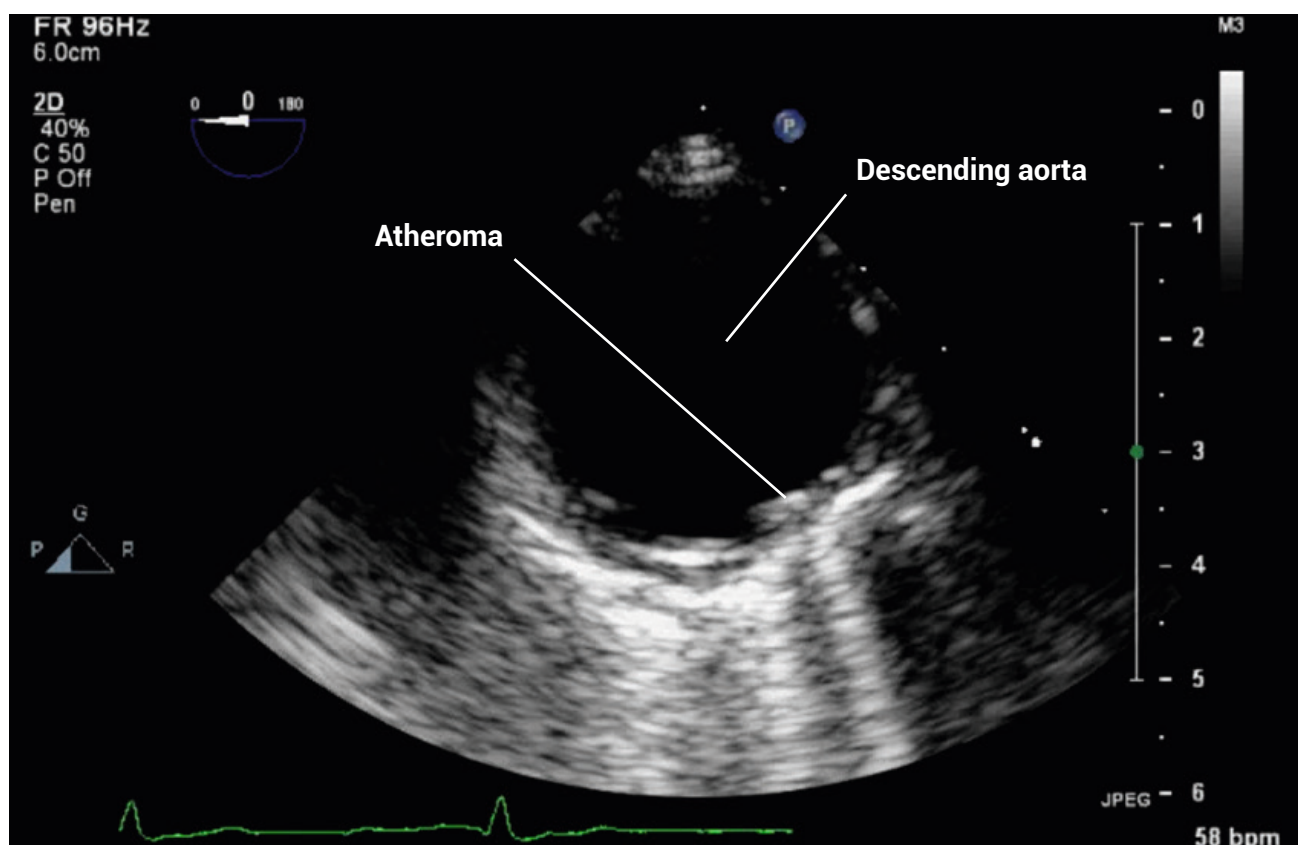


TEE ESSENTIALS

Assessment of the aorta: Mid-esophageal descending thoracic aorta views

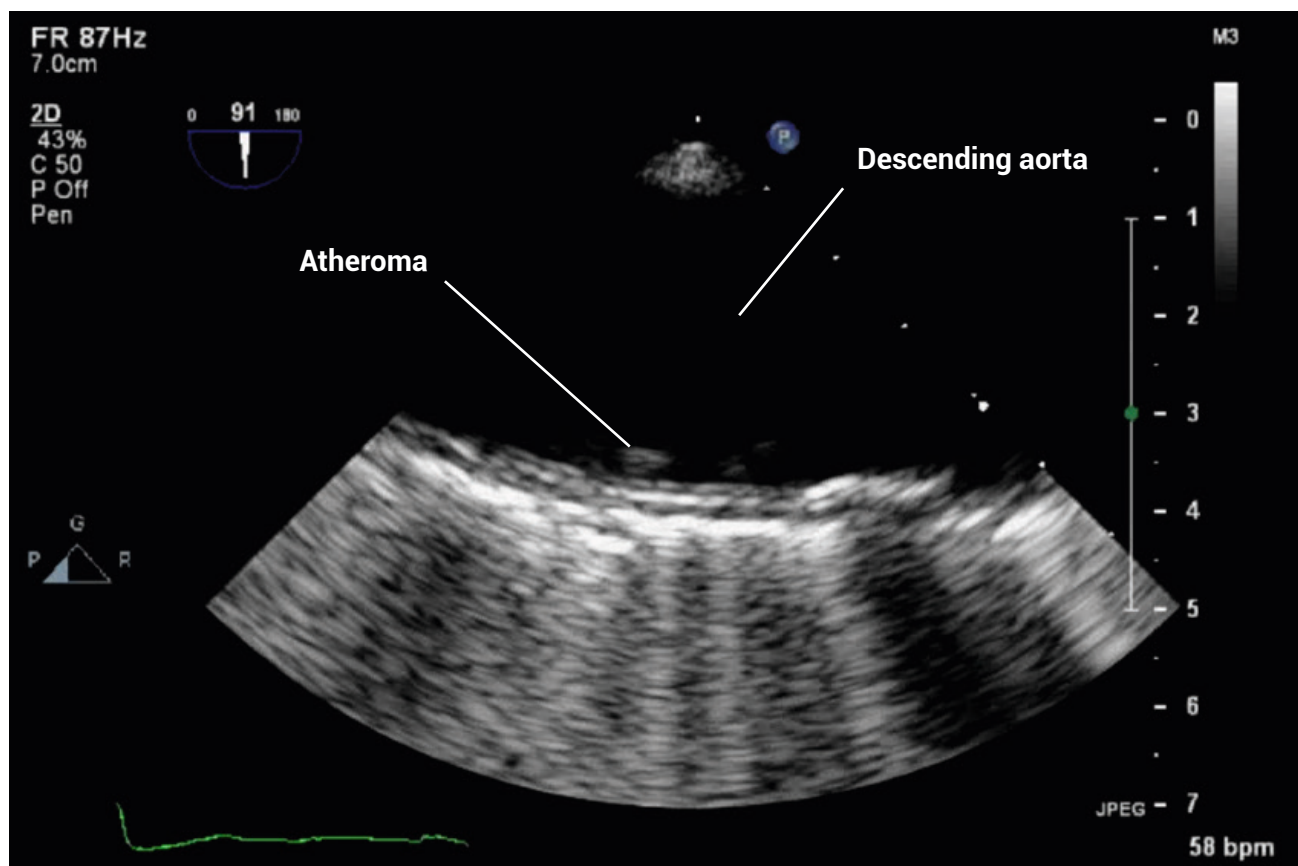
Mid-esophageal descending thoracic aorta short-axis view

The mid-esophageal descending thoracic aorta short-axis view is obtained by rotating the transducer angle backwards to around 0–10° and then turning the probe itself so that it faces posteriorly. This will bring the descending thoracic aorta into view. Center the descending aorta in the middle of the sector, and adjust the image depth so that the aorta fills most of the sector. By advancing and withdrawing the probe as appropriate, the whole length of the thoracic aorta can be visualized from the aortic arch down to the upper abdominal aorta. Assess the appearance of the aorta, and note the presence/absence of any abnormalities such as dissection or atheroma.



Mid-esophageal descending thoracic aorta long-axis view

Next, rotate the transducer angle forwards to around 90–100°. This provides the mid-esophageal descending thoracic aorta long-axis view. Again, by advancing and withdrawing the probe as appropriate, the whole length of the thoracic aorta can be visualized from the aortic arch down to the upper abdominal aorta. As in the short-axis view, assess the appearance of the aorta and note the presence/absence of any abnormalities.



Further reading

Hahn RT, Abraham T, Adams MS, et al. 2013. Guidelines for performing a comprehensive transesophageal echocardiographic examination: Recommendations from the American Society of Echocardiography and the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr.* **26**: 921–964.