

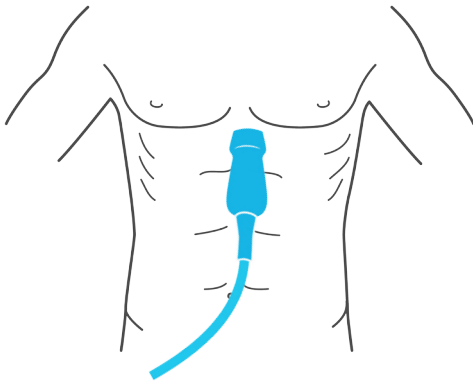
ABDOMINAL AORTA

Obtaining the views

Using a low frequency probe (phased-array or curvilinear). Start at the patient's xiphoid process, perpendicular to the abdomen. Orient the indicator to the patient's right for a short-axis view and to the head for a long-axis view.

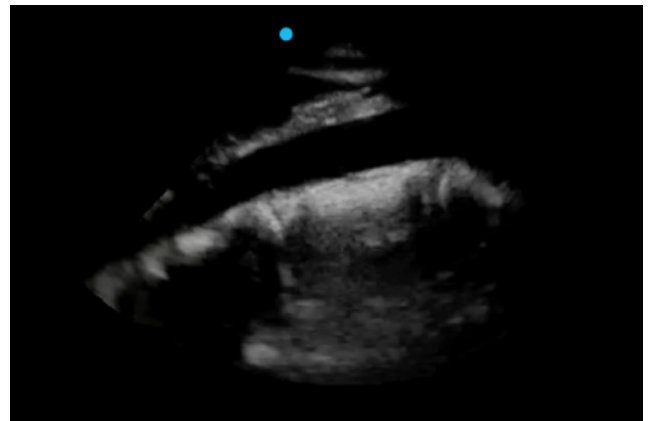
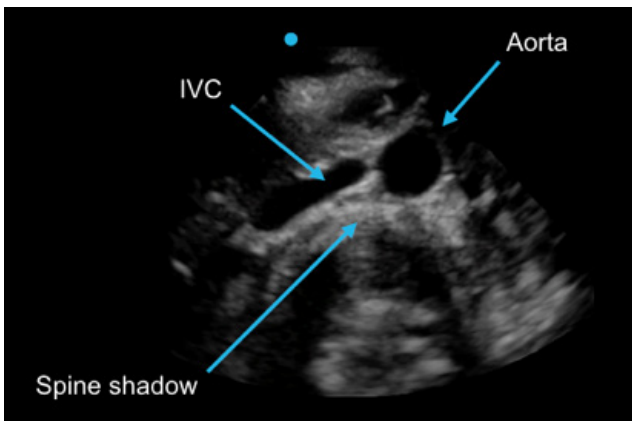
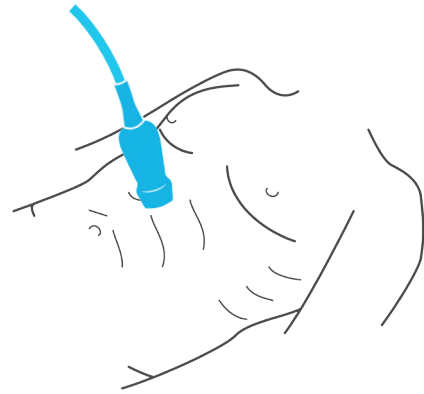
Short-axis view

Identify the spine shadow; the aorta will be above it to the right, and the IVC to the left.

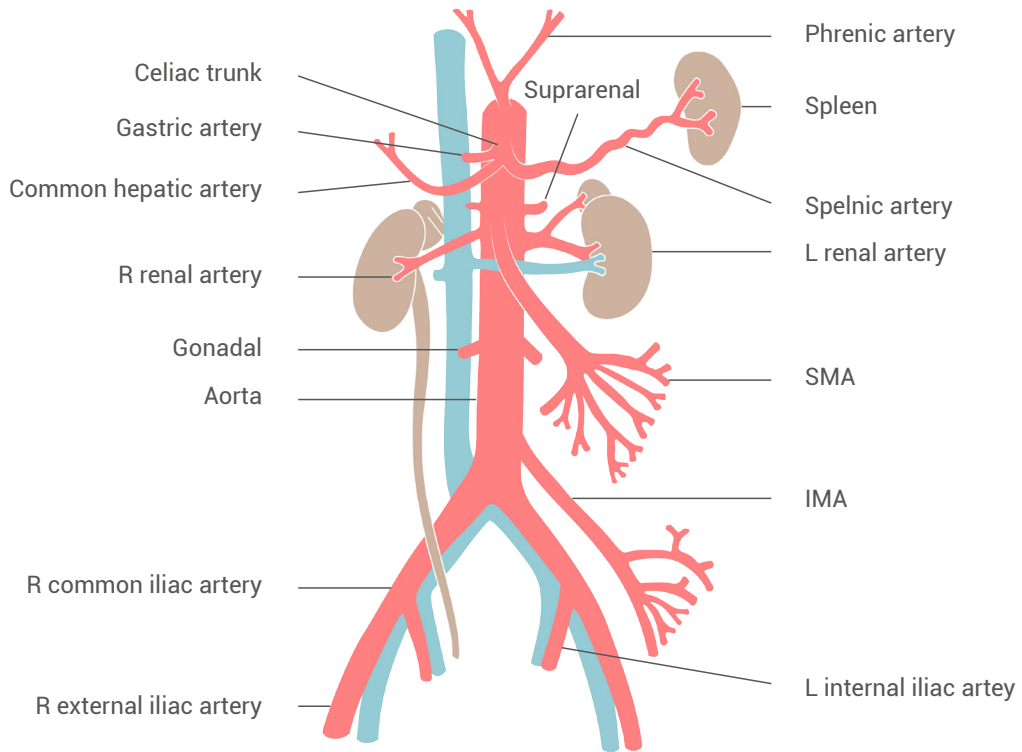


Long-axis view

Once you've identified the aorta in short-axis turn 90 degrees to see the aorta in long-axis.



Familiarize yourself with the normal anatomy of the abdominal aorta and its branches so you correlate with your ultrasound findings. Scan from the celiac trunk through the bifurcation into the iliac arteries.



Remember most aneurysms are infrarenal so make sure to scan the entire length.