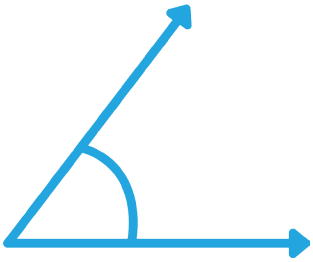
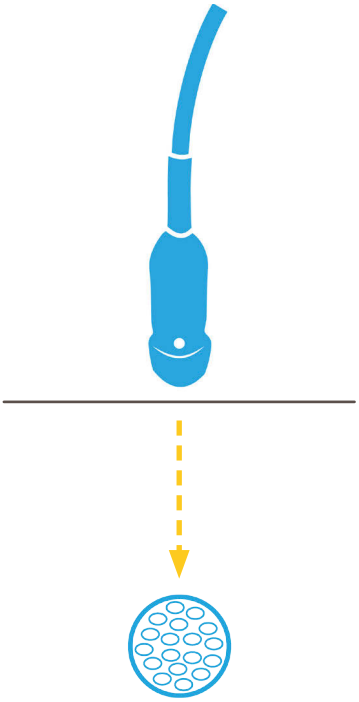
Introducing nerve blocks

VISUALIZING ANISOTROPY AT ITS FINEST

Anistropy—the concept that a structure changes in its visibility, under ultrasound, due to the angle of incidence of the ultrasound.



Angle matters



A structure that exhibits anistropy is best visualized when the ultrasound beam is oriented in a perpendicular fashion. When the probe is tilted away from this perpendicular angle, to either a more acute or obtuse angle of incidence, the structure is seen less clearly.

Tendons and nerves exhibit anistropy. This can be seen very well when the carpal tunnel is imaged.

Learning how to tilt the probe ever so slightly, as you scan over structures to increase their visibility, will make you a better ultrasound operator.