

# What is in the left atrium?

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# Case Study

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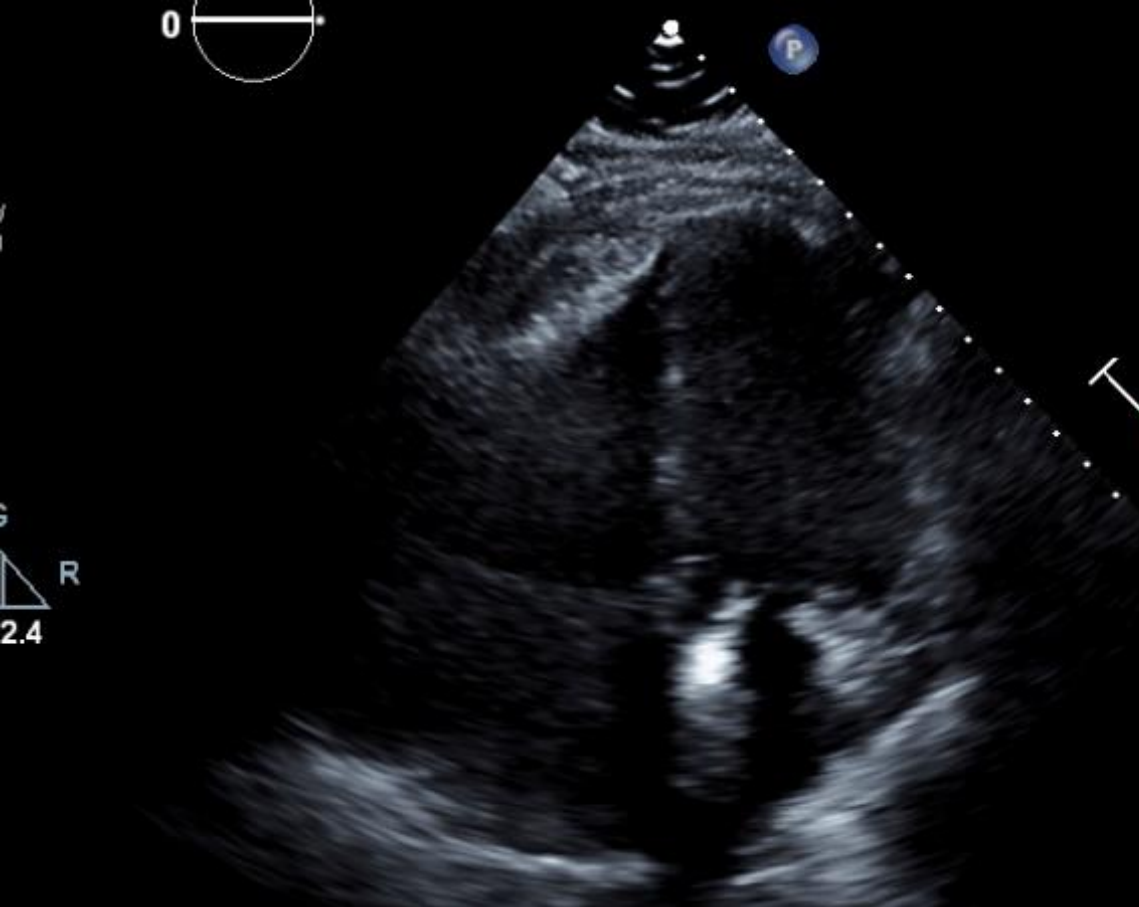
55 y/o male

Admitted for CVA/TIA peripheral embolization

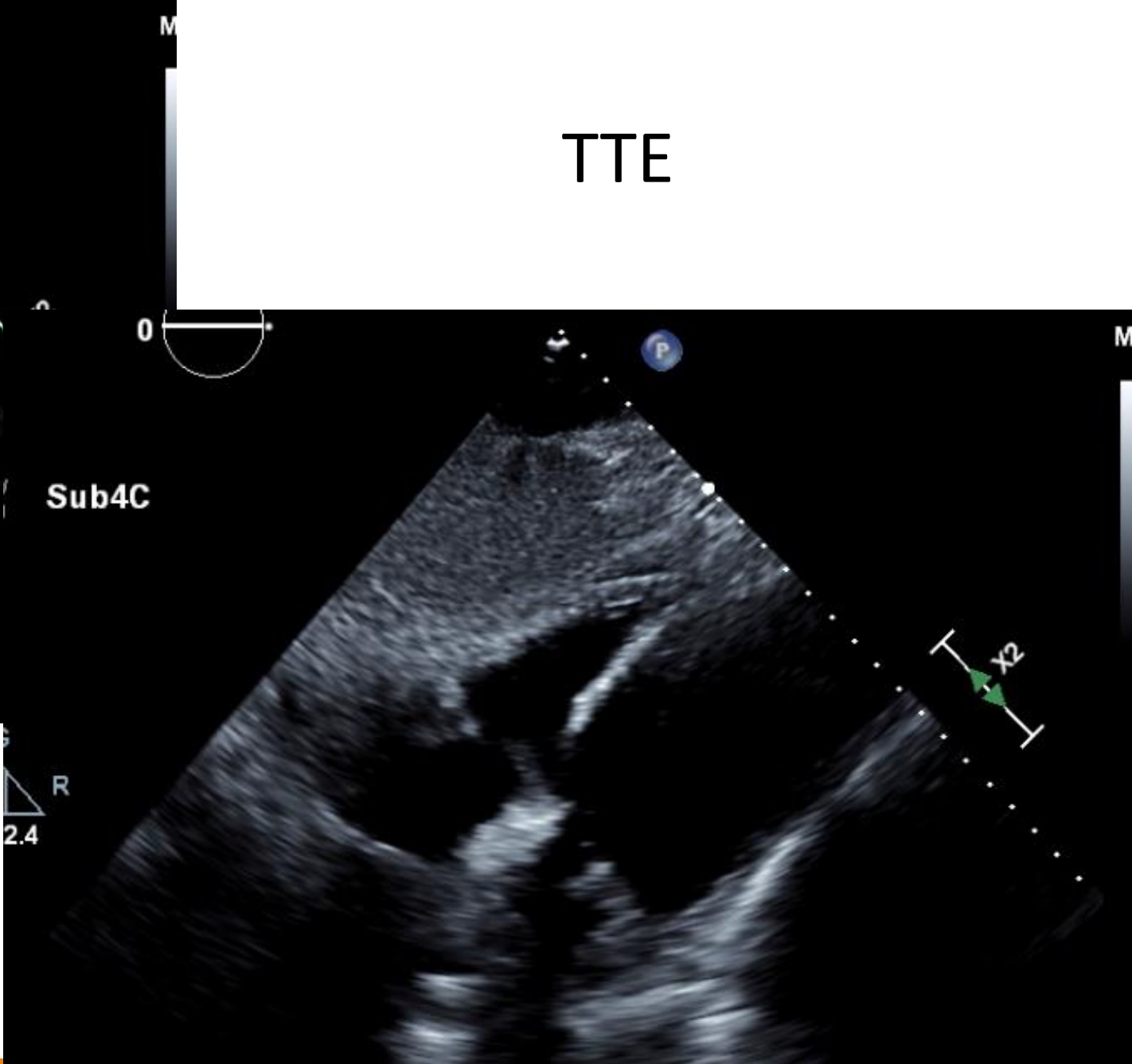
Mechanical prosthetic AV

r/o thrombus

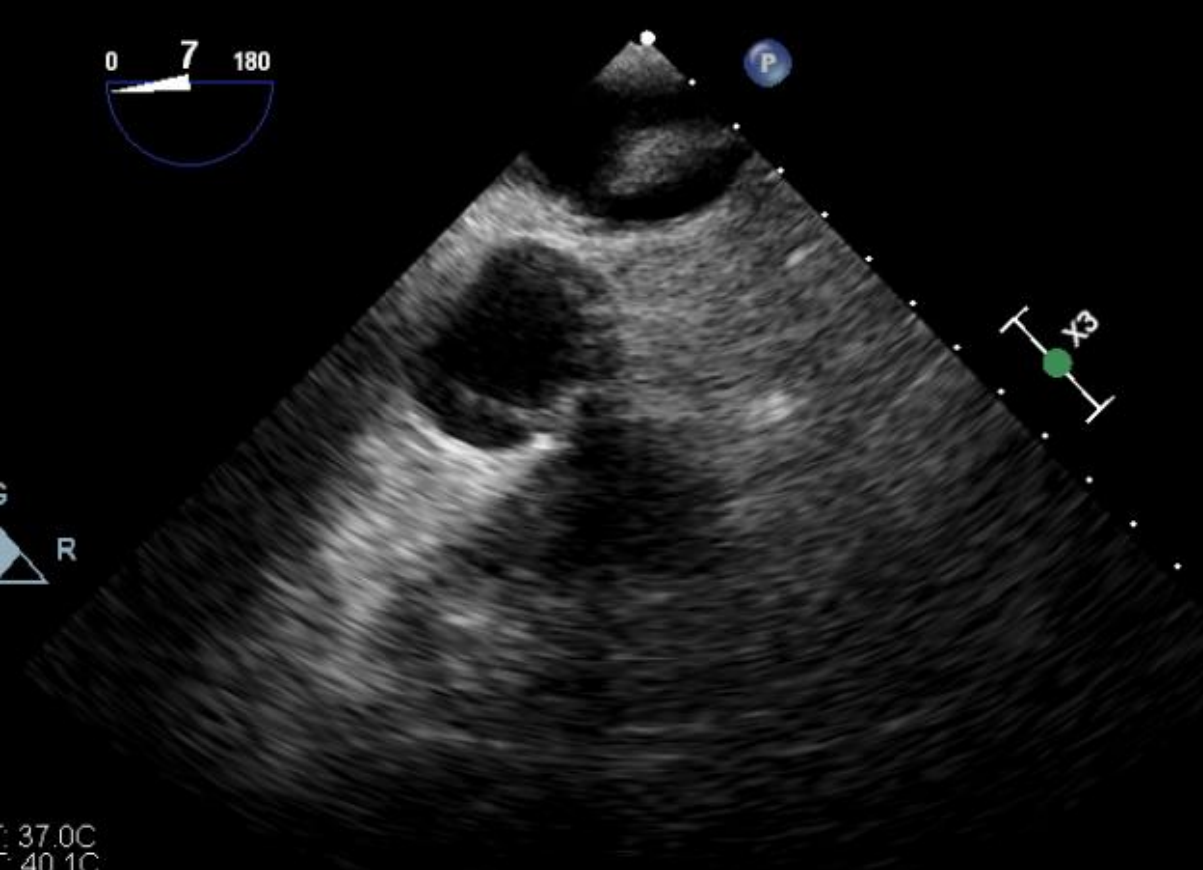
Echo & TEE with agitated saline study



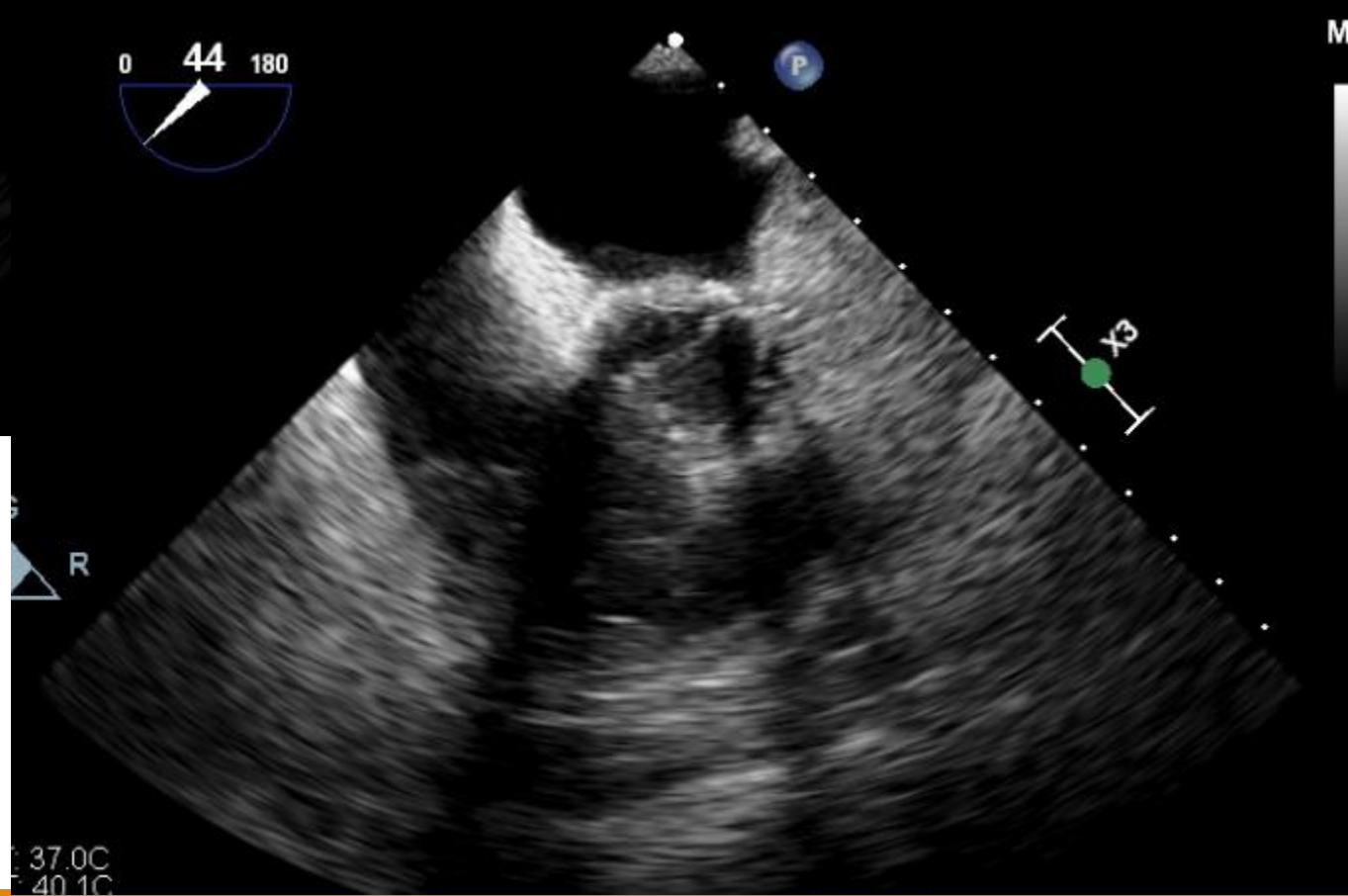
TTE

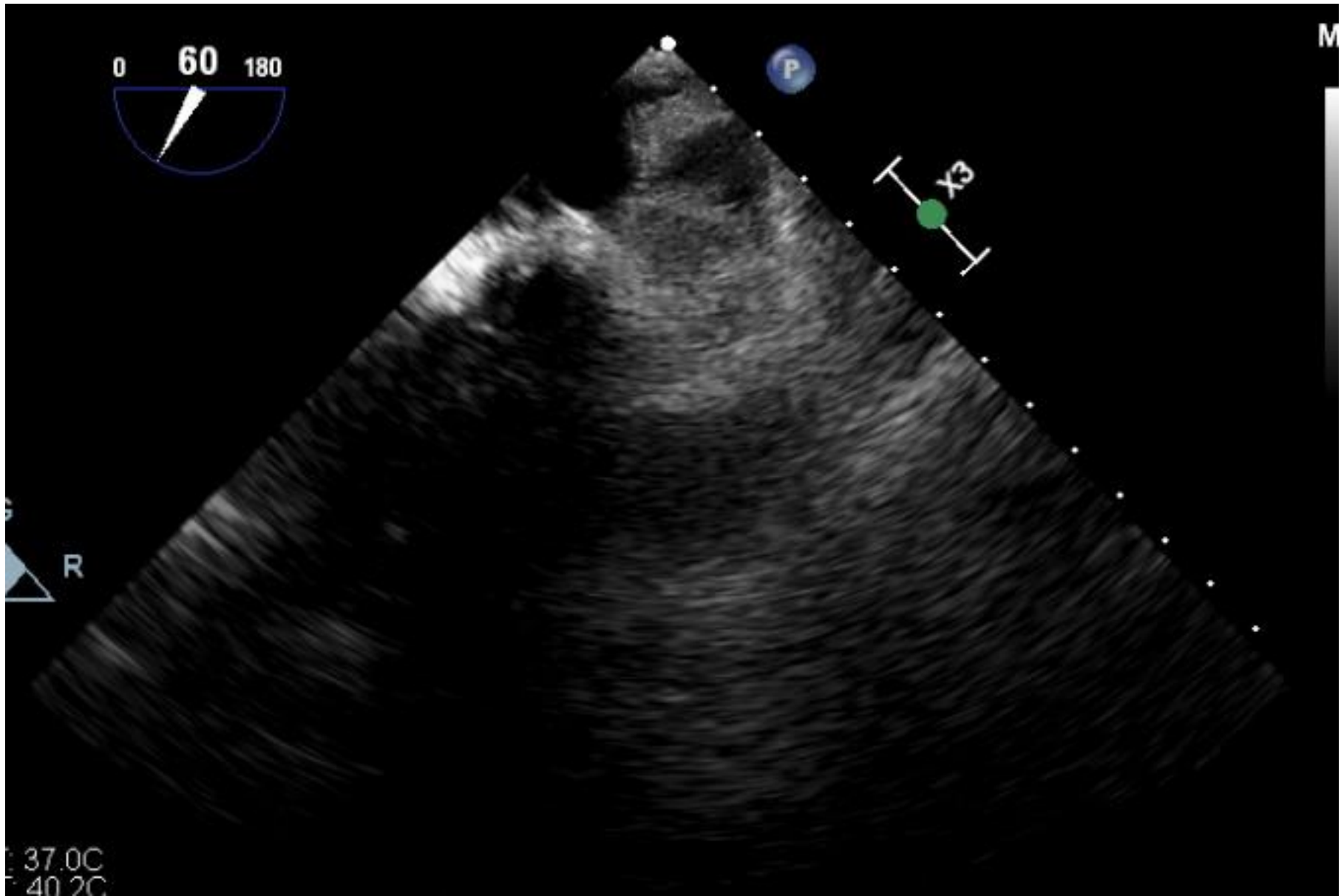


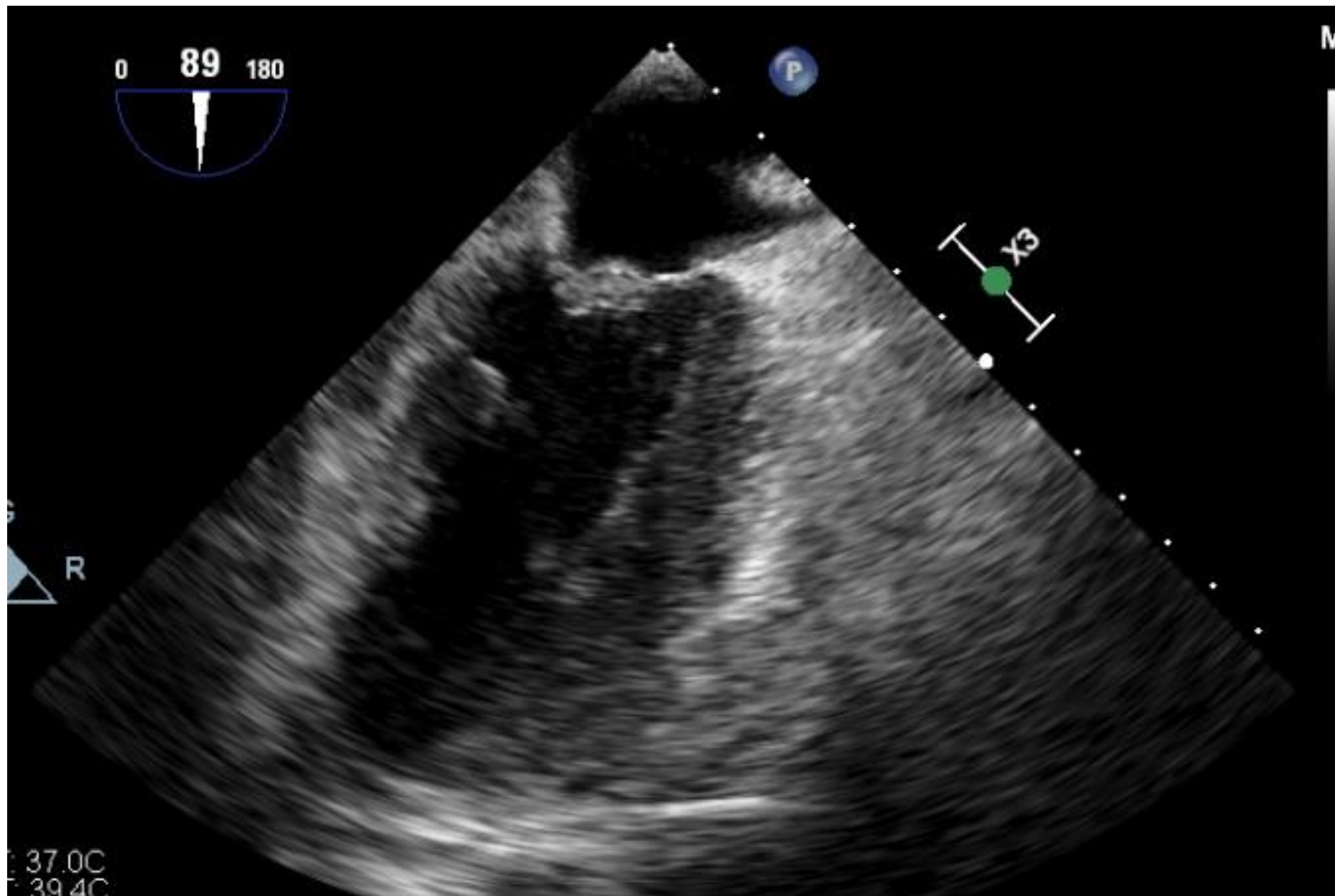
Sub4C

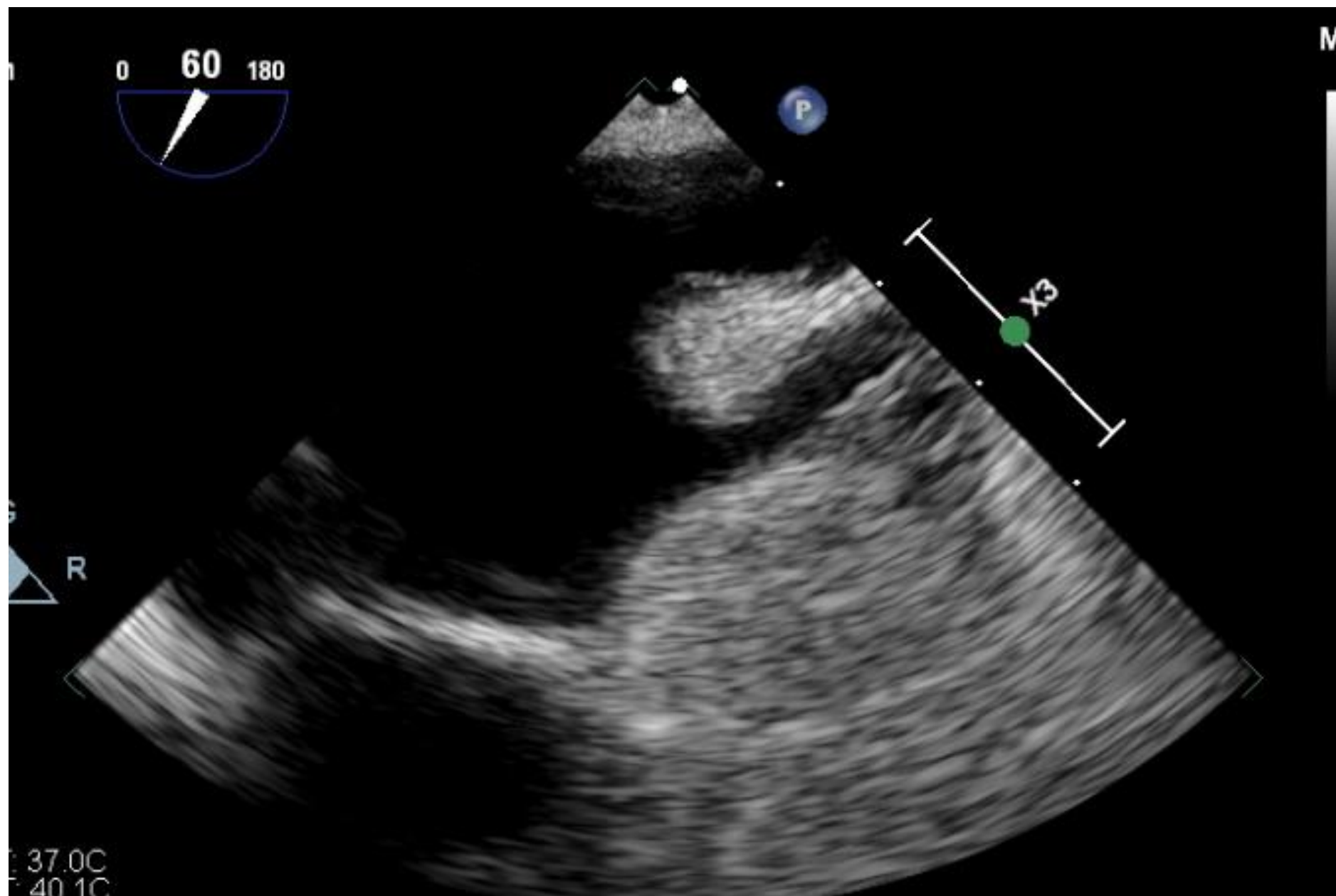


TEE



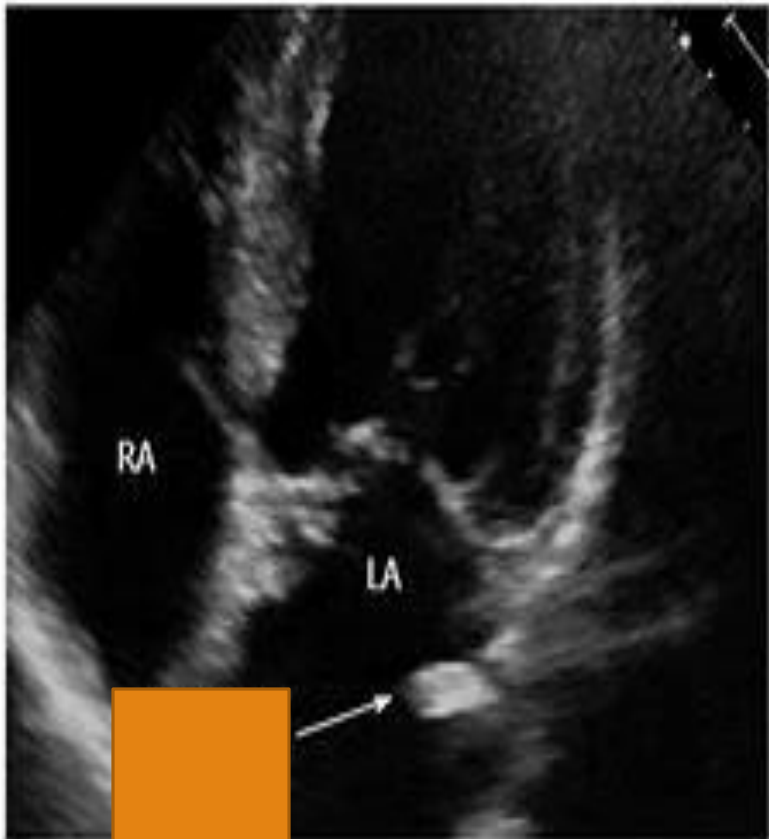






# What would you think was in the LA?

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Thrombus?

Tumor?

Vegetation?

Something else?



# Coumadin Ridge Facts

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- A Coumadin ridge is a normal anatomic variant that is occasionally found in the LA.
- A muscular ridge that is usually found between the left atrial appendage and left superior pulmonary vein.
- Usually has a rounded end, giving it the nick-name “Q-tip sign” on echo.
- How did it get it’s name?
- Why important to diagnose correctly?
  
- Other names: Warfarin Ridge, Pseudotumor, Left Atrial Pseudotumor

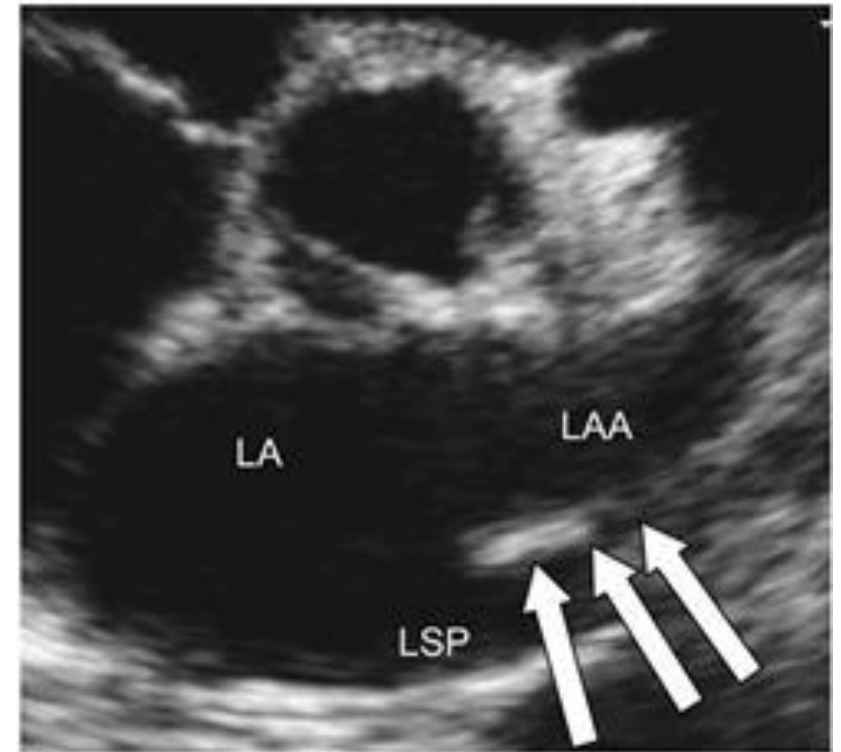
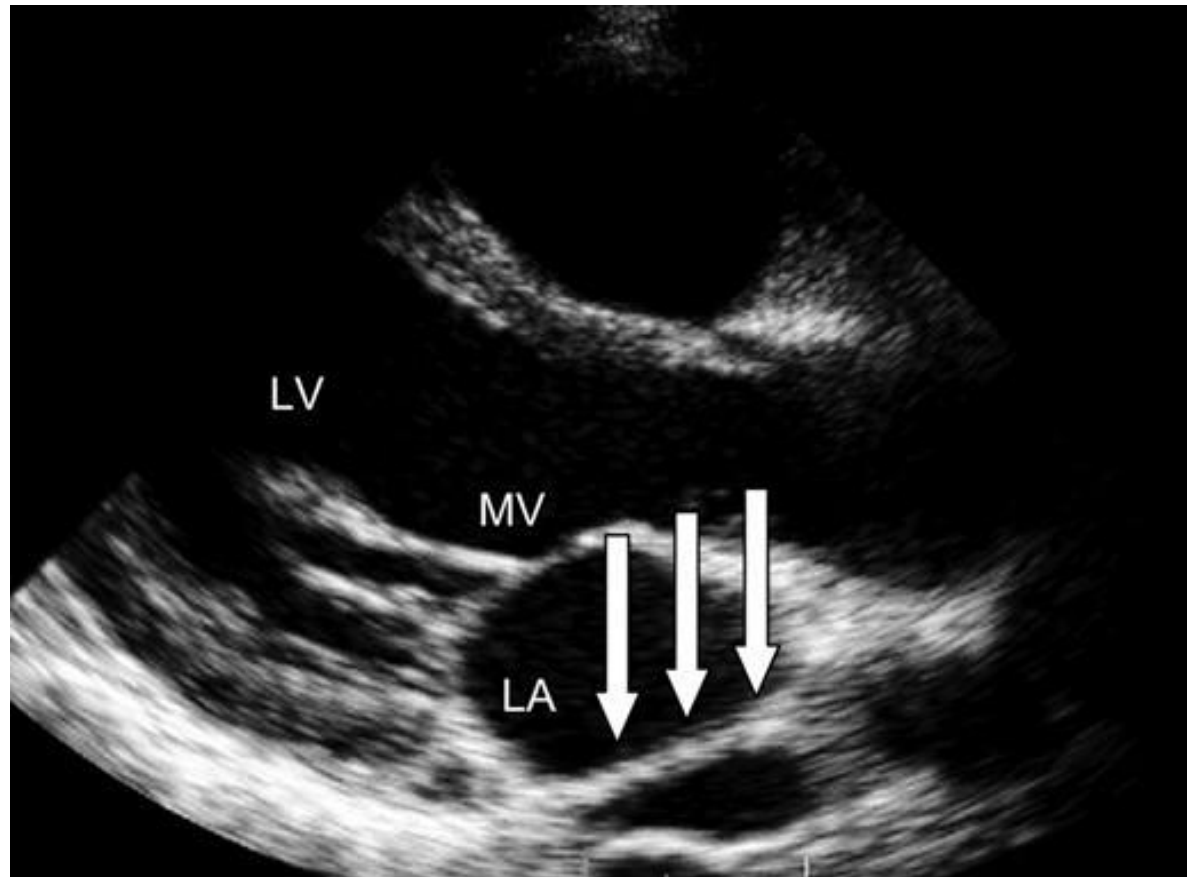
# What To Look For on Echocardiograms

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- Usually looks like the surrounding cardiac tissues.
- On the PLAX, usually seen as a linear band in the LA.
- Apicals usually shows the Q-tip appearance.
- Usually not mobile like thrombi because it is muscular.
  - Think about your patient history.
- Use contrast or 3D imaging with color Doppler to assist in diagnosis.
- Gold standard is to use TEE in the 2 chamber view using color and pulsed wave Doppler.
- Can also use other imaging modalities such as MRI or CT.

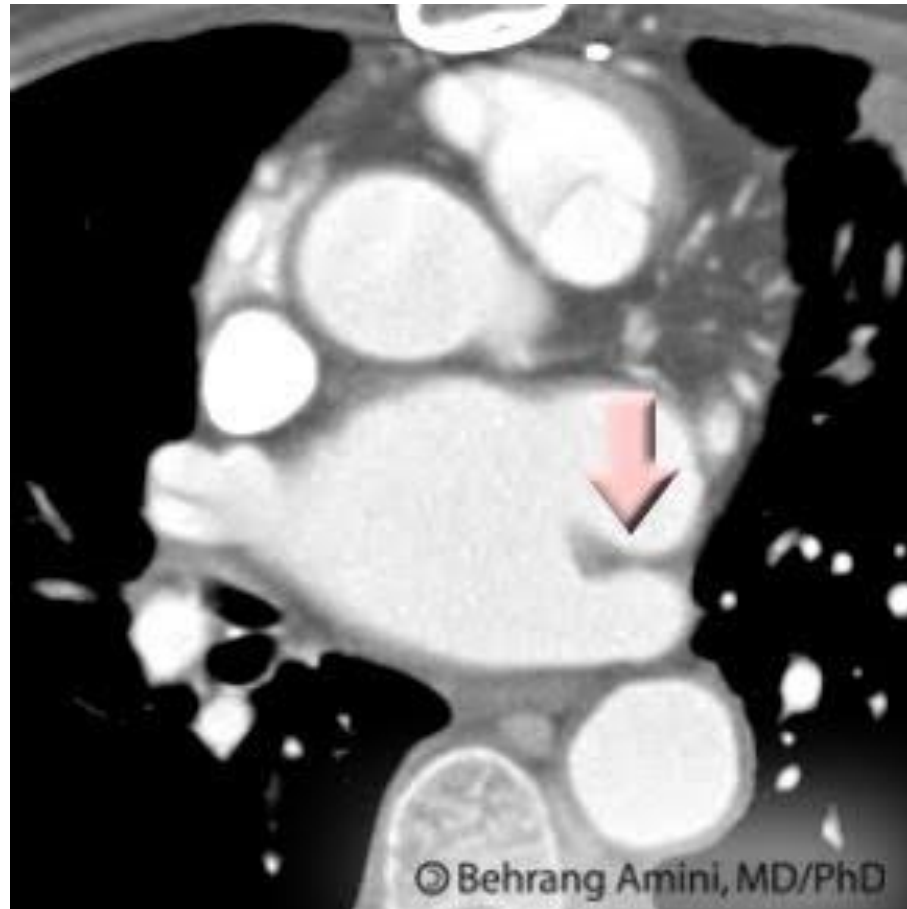
# Parasternal View

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# Q-tip Sign

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# Conclusion

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In conclusion, a Coumadin ridge is a normal variant of the left atrium. Awareness of its typical location and features on various image modalities are crucial to avoid unnecessary interventions which potentially put patients through unnecessary and risky treatments and surgeries.

# Resources

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Lodhi, A. M., Nguyen, T., Bianco, C., & Movahed, A. (2015). Coumadin ridge: An incidental finding of a left atrial pseudotumor on transthoracic echocardiography. *World Journal of Clinical Cases : WJCC*, 3(9), 831–834. <http://doi.org/10.12998/wjcc.v3.i9.831> retrieved from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4568532/>