



**ECOCARDIOCHIRURGIA**<sup>®</sup>  
ECO-RM-TC                      CHIRURGIA-INTERVENTISTICA

## **LA DIAGNOSI DI STENOSI VALVOLARE AORTICA SEVERA**

*Quando è necessario aggiungere alle informazioni  
dell'ecocardiografia la RM e la TC*

**Dott.ssa Chiara Bencini**

**OSPEDALE SAN PAOLO - Milano**

# VALUTAZIONE DI SEVERITA' DELLA STENOSI AORTICA



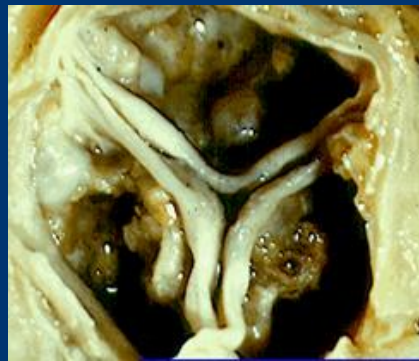
## *Aspetto della valvola*

- cuspidi molto ispessite
- estese calcificazioni
- cuspidi immobili

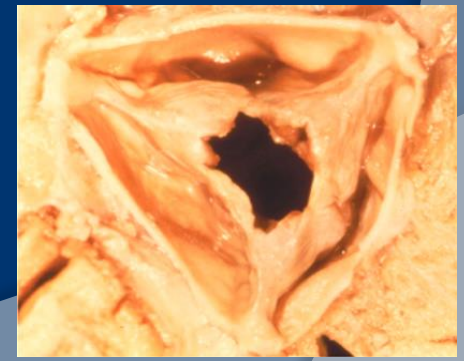
Suggeriscono stenosi aortica severa



BICUSPIDE



STENOSI DEGENERATIVA



STENOSI REUMATICA

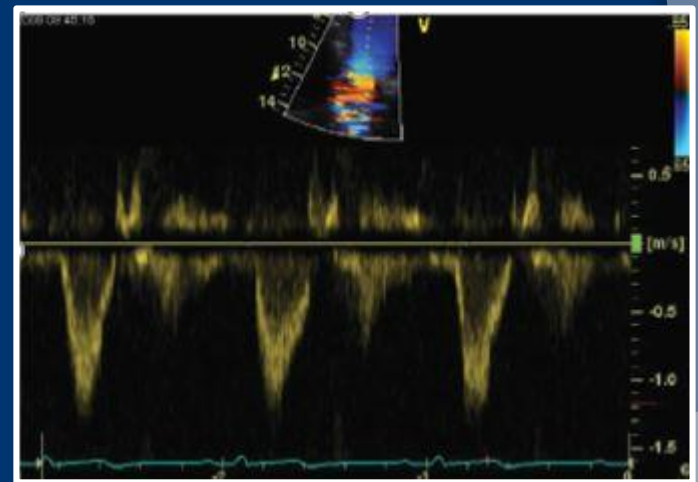
# VALUTAZIONE DI SEVERITA' DELLA STENOSI AORTICA

L'area valvolare aortica si deriva con l'equazione di continuità: importante perché relativamente indipendente dal flusso

$$AVA = 3.14 \times (D/2)^2 \times VTI_{TEVS} / VTI_{AO}$$



ILTEVS si misura a valvola aperta

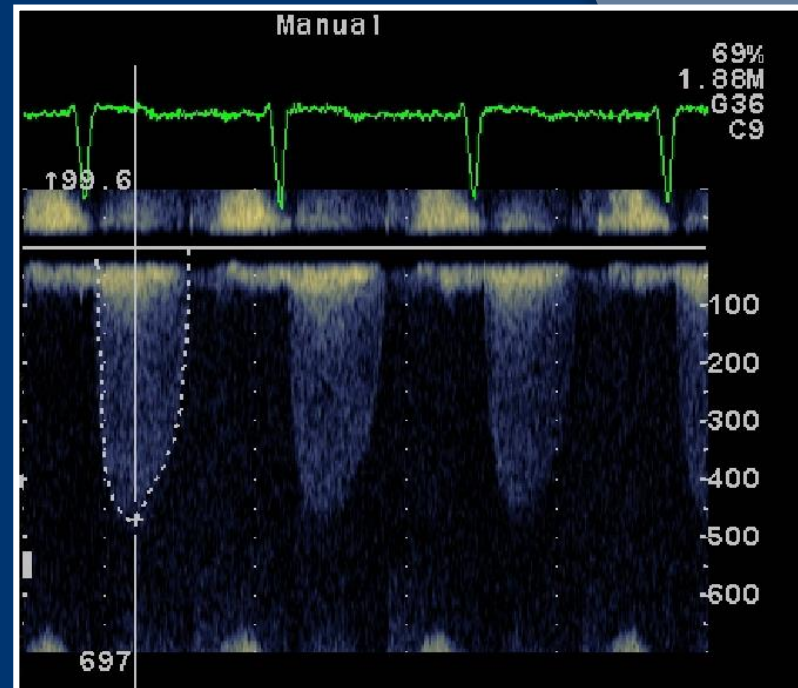


Media di almeno 3 misurazioni -  
5 misurazioni se in corso di fibrillazione atriale

# STENOSI AORTICA SEVERA HIGH GRADIENT



Area valvolare  $\leq 1$  cm<sup>2</sup>  
( $\leq 0,6$  cm<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>)



Gradiente medio  $> 40$  mmHg

# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE

Grad medio < 40 mmHg – AVA  $\leq$  1 cm<sup>2</sup>



**CLASSICAL LOW FLOW – LOW GRADIENT**  
(FE < 50%)

**PARADOXICAL LOW FLOW /LOW GRADIENT AS**  
(FE  $\geq$  50% - SVi < 35 ml/m<sup>2</sup>)

**NORMAL FLOW – LOW GRADIENT**  
(FE  $\geq$  50% - SVi > 35 ml/m<sup>2</sup>)



# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE

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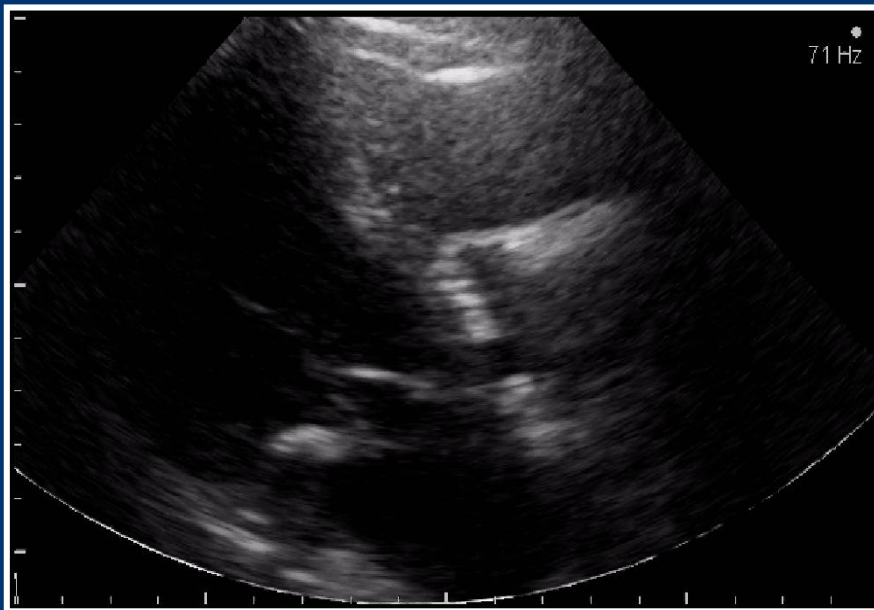
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(FE  $\geq$  50% -  
Svi > 35 ml/m<sup>2</sup>)



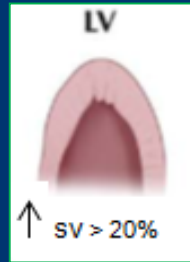
# LOW FLOW - LOW GRADIENT AORTIC STENOSIS (FE < 50%)

La stenosi è ispettivamente severa ma i gradienti transvalvolari non sono critici e la funzione sistolica globale del ventricolo sinistro è compromessa (FE < 50%)

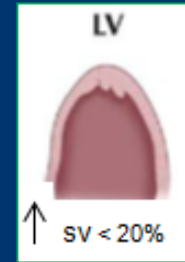


LA VALVOLA E' STENOTICA O SI APRE POCO PERCHE' E' RIDOTTA  
LA FUNZIONE SISTOLICA GLOBALE?  
COME MI ORIENTO?

# LOW FLOW - LOW GRADIENT AORTIC STENOSIS (FE < 50%)



STRESS DOBUTAMINA  
5 -10- 20 Y / kg / min



SI riserva contrattile

NO riserva contrattile

AVA  $\leq$  1 cm<sup>2</sup>/  
Gradiente medio  $\geq$   
40 mmHg

AVA > 1 cm<sup>2</sup>/  
Gradiente medio  
< 40 mmHg

?

Stenosi aortica  
severa vera

Stenosi aortica  
pseudosevera

Indeterminata



# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE

Grad medio < 40 mmHg – AVA  $\leq$  1 cm<sup>2</sup>



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NORMAL FLOW – LOW GRADIENT  
(FE  $\geq$  50% - Svi > 35 ml/m<sup>2</sup>)



# NORMAL FLOW – LOW GRADIENT PERCHE’?

**PITFALLS**

**INCONGRUENZA  
DELLE LINEE GUIDA**

# INCONGRUENZA DELLE LINEE GUIDA

La valvola appare severamente stenotica ma i gradienti non sono critici in presenza di conservata FE (> 50%).

*Stroke volume index > 35 ml/m<sup>2</sup>*

un paziente con SV normale e AVA 0.8 -1 cm<sup>2</sup> sviluppa un gradiente medio di 30 – 35 mmHg.

AVA < 0.8 cm<sup>2</sup> → gradiente medio > 40 mmHg

# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE

Grad medio < 40 mmHg – AVA  $\leq$  1 cm<sup>2</sup>



CLASSICAL LOW FLOW – LOW GRADIENT  
(FE < 50%)

PARADOXICAL LOW FLOW /LOW GRADIENT AS  
(FE  $\geq$  50% -  
Svi < 35 ml/m<sup>2</sup>)

NORMAL FLOW – LOW GRADIENT  
(FE  $\geq$  50% -  
Svi > 35 ml/m<sup>2</sup>)



# PARADOXICAL LOW GRADIENT SEVERE AORTIC STENOSIS (FE > 50%)

La valvola appare severamente stenotica ma i gradienti non sono critici in presenza di conservata FE (> 50%)

-AVA  $\leq$  1.0 cm<sup>2</sup>/ Indexed AVA  $\leq$  0.6 cm<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>

- Aortic Vmax <4 m/s or mean DP <40 mm Hg

-**Stroke volume index <35 mL/m<sup>2</sup>**, measured when patient is normotensive (systolic BP < 140 mmHg)

# PARADOXICAL LOW GRADIENT SEVERE AORTIC STENOSIS

## D: Symptomatic severe AS

**D1** Symptomatic severe high-gradient AS

- Severe leaflet calcification or congenital stenosis with severely reduced leaflet area
- Aortic  $V_{max} \geq 4$  m/s or mean  $\Delta P \geq 40$  mm Hg
- AVA  $< 1.0$  cm<sup>2</sup>

- LV diastolic dysfunction
- LV hypertrophy
- Pulmonary hypertension may be present
- Exertional dyspnea or decreased exercise tolerance
- Exertional angina
- Exertional syncope or presyncope

**D2**

**D3** Symptomatic severe low-gradient AS with normal LVEF or paradoxical low-flow severe AS

- LV diastolic dysfunction
- LV hypertrophy
- LVEF  $< 50\%$
- HF
- Angina
- Syncope or presyncope

**D3**

- Increased LV relative wall thickness
- Small LV chamber with low stroke volume
- Restrictive diastolic filling
- LVEF  $\geq 50\%$
- HF
- Angina
- Syncope or presyncope

- Stroke volume index  $< 35$  mL/m<sup>2</sup>
- Measured when patient is normotensive (systolic BP  $< 140$  mm Hg)

AR indicates aortic regurgitation; AS, aortic stenosis; AVA, aortic valve area; AVAI, aortic valve area indexed to body surface area; BP, blood pressure; HF, heart failure; LV, left ventricular; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction;  $\Delta P$ , pressure gradient; and  $V_{max}$ , maximum aortic velocity.

PRACTICE GUIDELINE - 2014 AHA/ACC Guideline for the Management of Patients With Valvular Heart Disease

# PARADOXICAL LOW GRADIENT SEVERE AORTIC STENOSIS

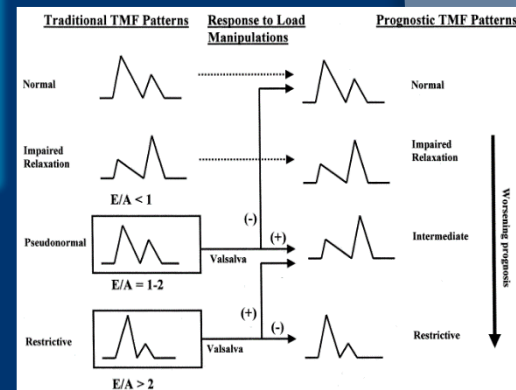
## CARATTERISTICHE

- ✓ donne anziane ipertese
- ✓ ventricolo sinistro di piccole dimensioni
- ✓ rimodellamento concentrico del VS
- ✓ disfunzione diastolica moderato-severa
- ✓ fibrosi subendocardica diffusa
- ✓ disfunzione sistolica latente (global longitudinal strain)
- ✓ Incremento dei valori di valvulo-arterial impedance (> 4.5 mmHg/ml m<sup>2</sup>)

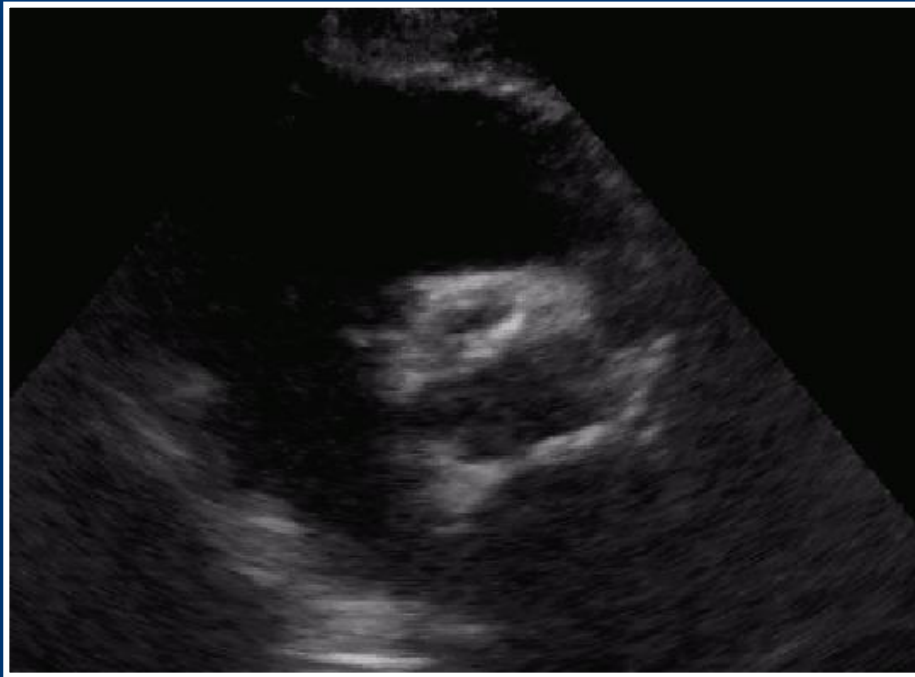


**IL RIDOTTO GRADIENTE E' SECONDARIO ALLA  
RIDUZIONE DI STROKE VOLUME!**

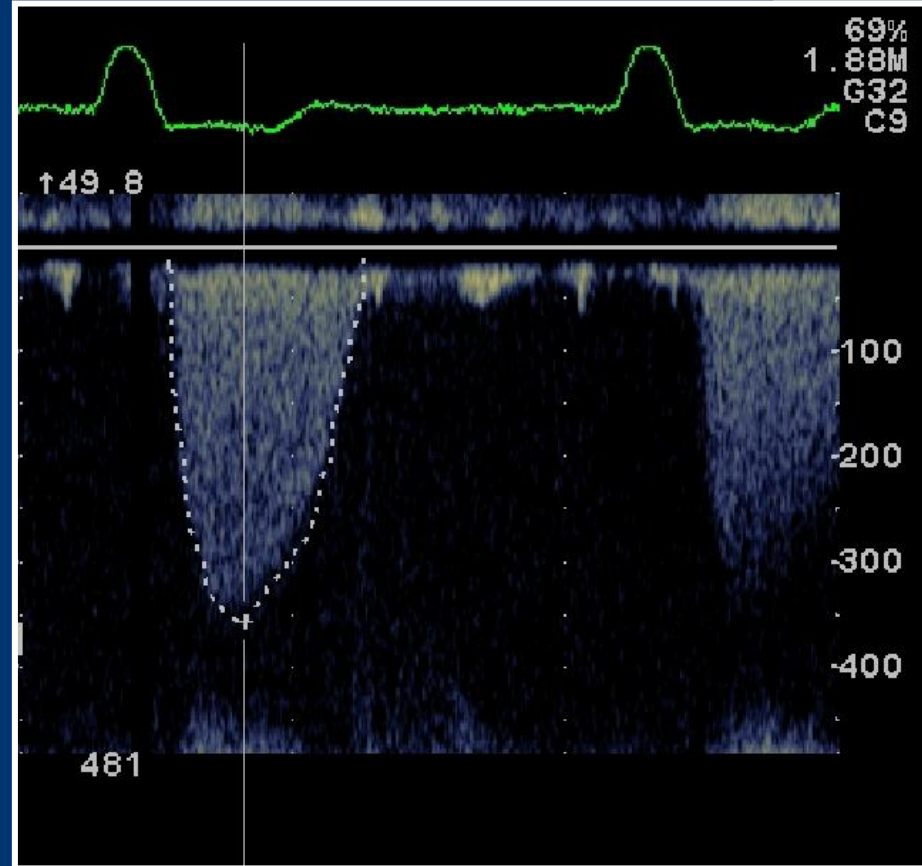
→ stroke volume index < 35ml/m<sup>2</sup>



# PARADOXICAL LOW GRADIENT SEVERE AORTIC STENOSIS

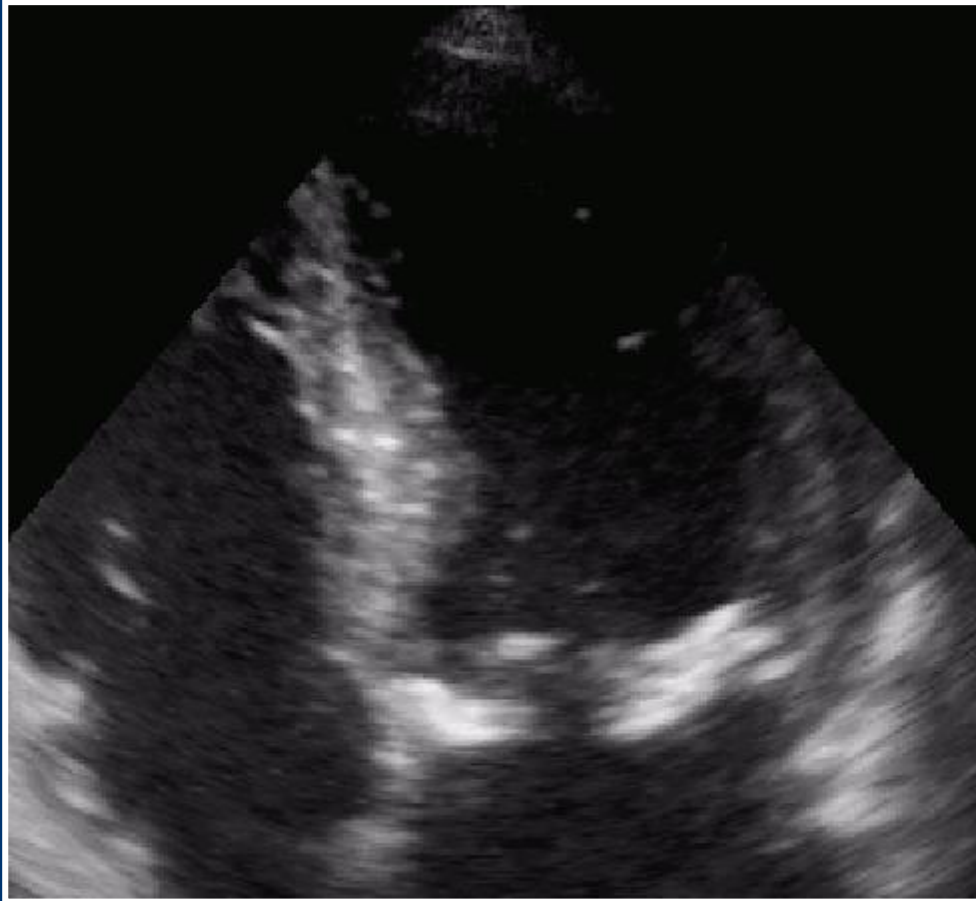


AVA 0.4 cm<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>





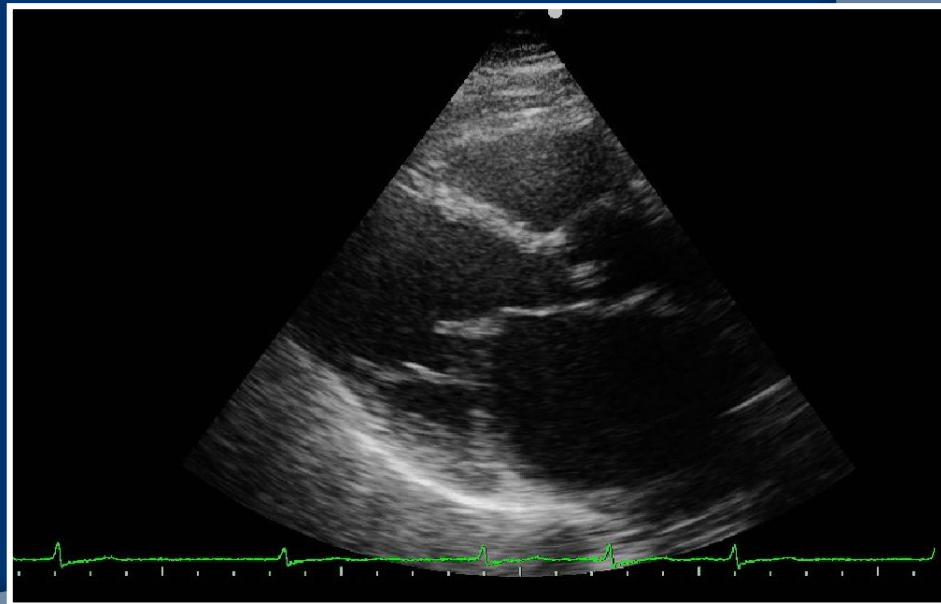
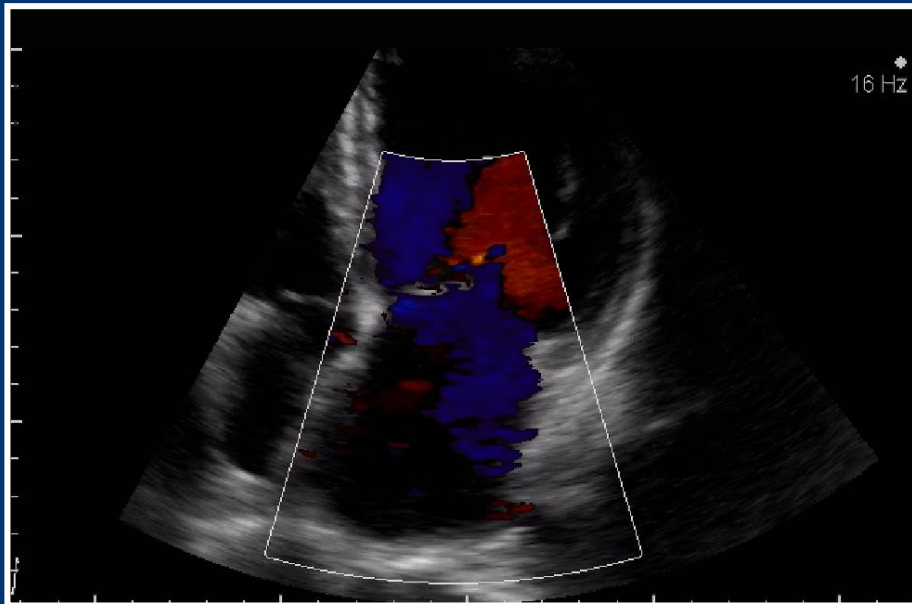
# PARADOXICAL LOW GRADIENT SEVERE AORTIC STENOSIS



**SVi 27 ml/m<sup>2</sup>**  
**DVI 0.16**

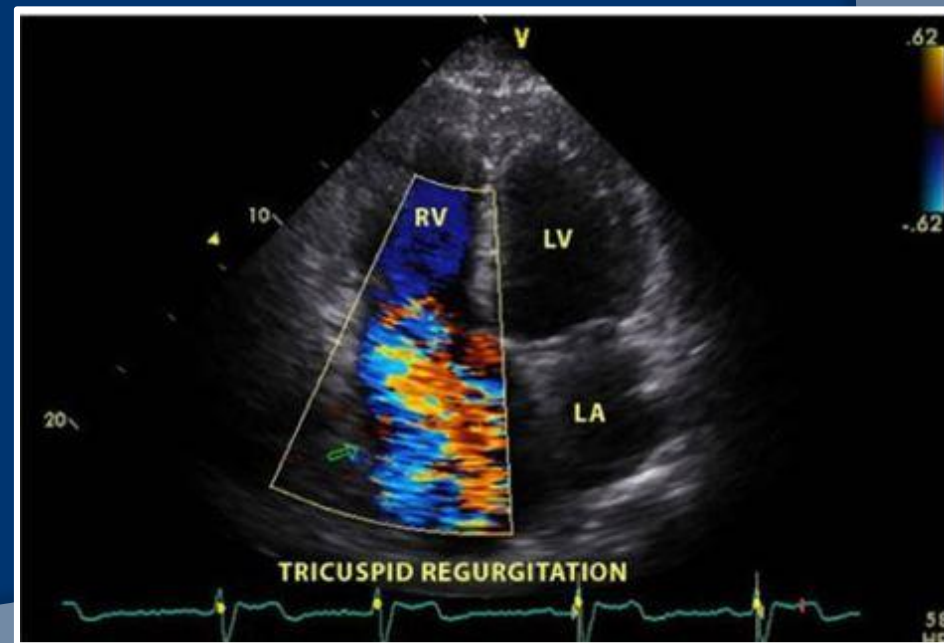
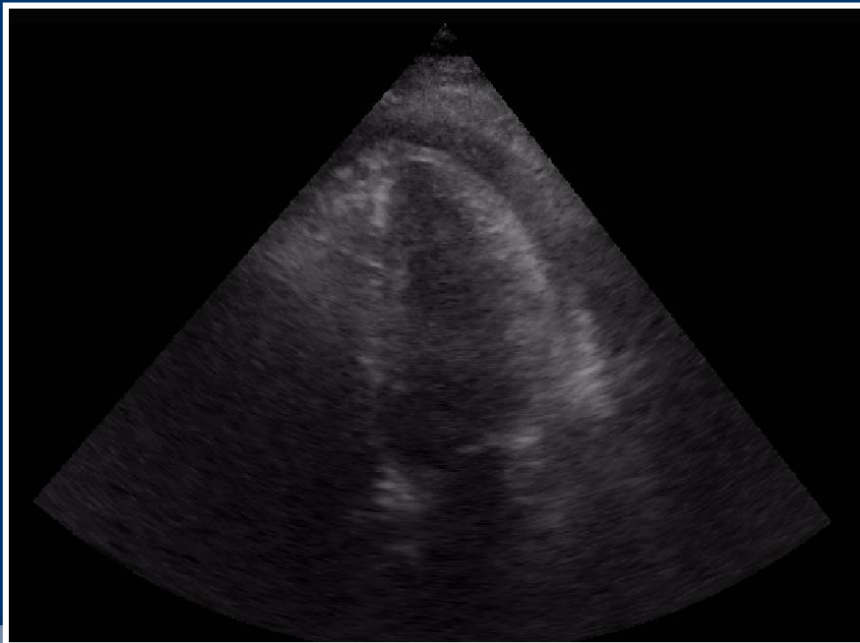
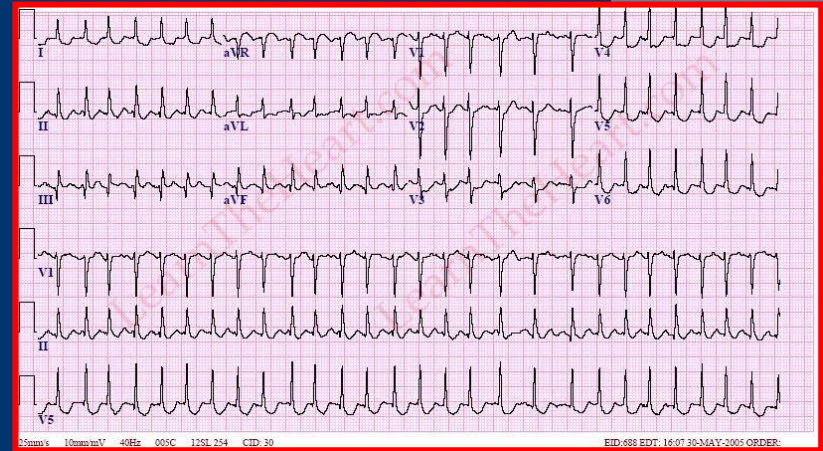
# PERCHE' LO SV E' RIDOTTO?

- ✓ IPERTENSIONE ARTERIOSA  
NON CONTROLLATA
- ✓ STENOSI MITRALICA
- ✓ INSUFFICIENZA MITRALICA

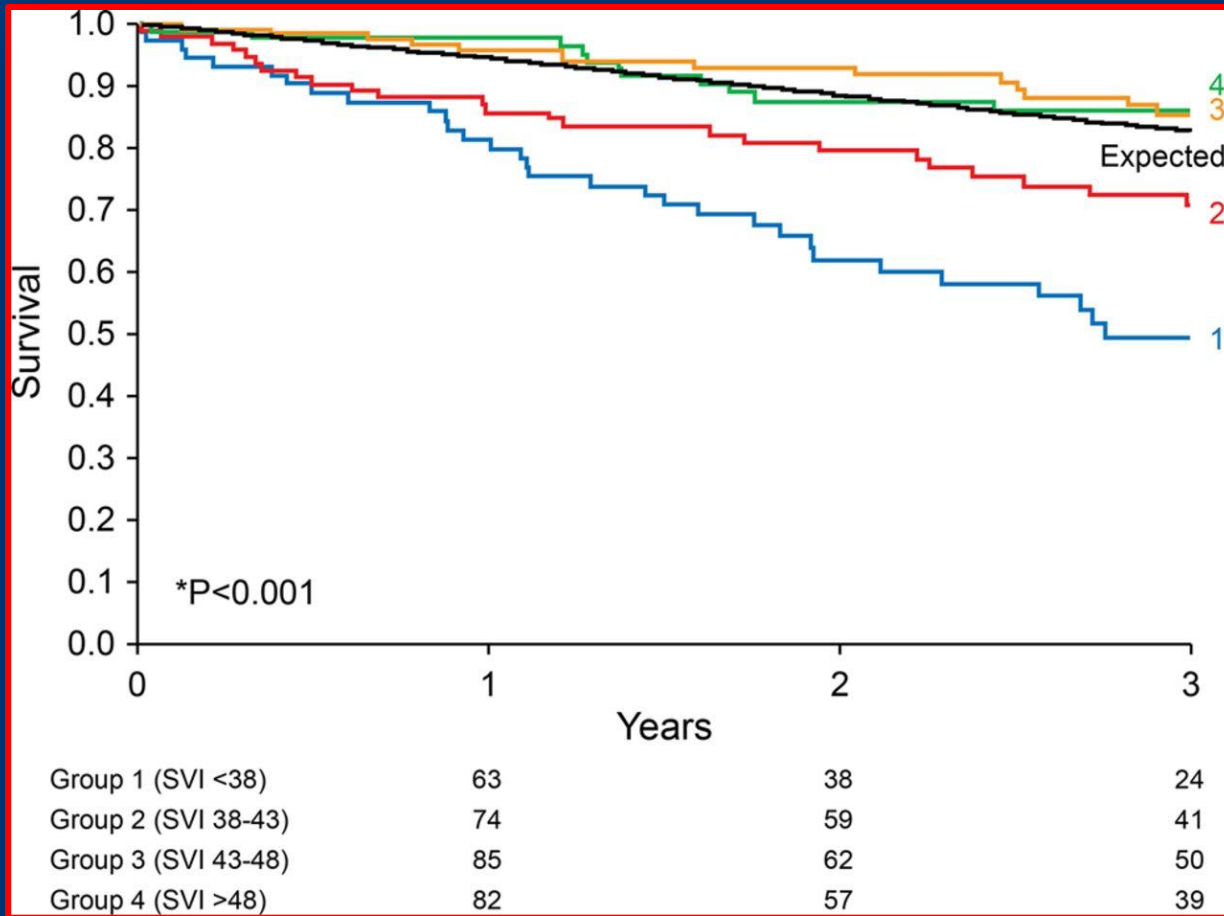


# PERCHE' LO SV E' RIDOTTO?

- ✓ FIBRILLAZIONE ATRIALE
- ✓ PERICARDITE COSTRITTIVA
- ✓ INSUFFICIENZA TRICUSPIDALE
- ✓ DISFUNZIONE VD



# CAMBIAMO I NOSTRI REFERTI...



**SVi!**

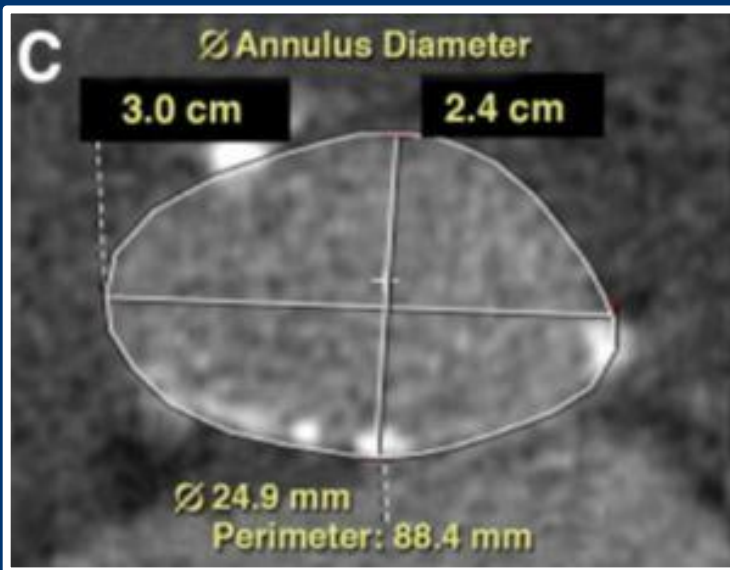
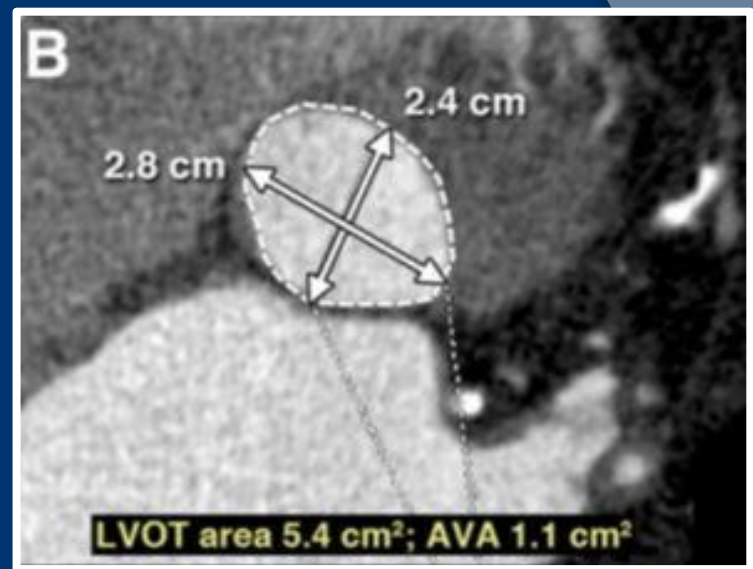
Stroke volume index (SVI) quartiles and adjusted survival.

**NON E' SOLO UNA MALATTIA DELLA VALVOLA...**

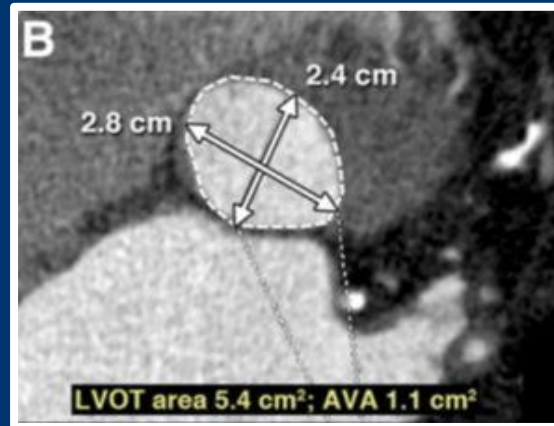
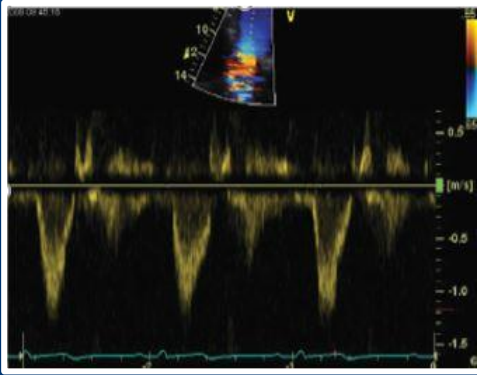
# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE

**PITFALLS**

# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE



# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE

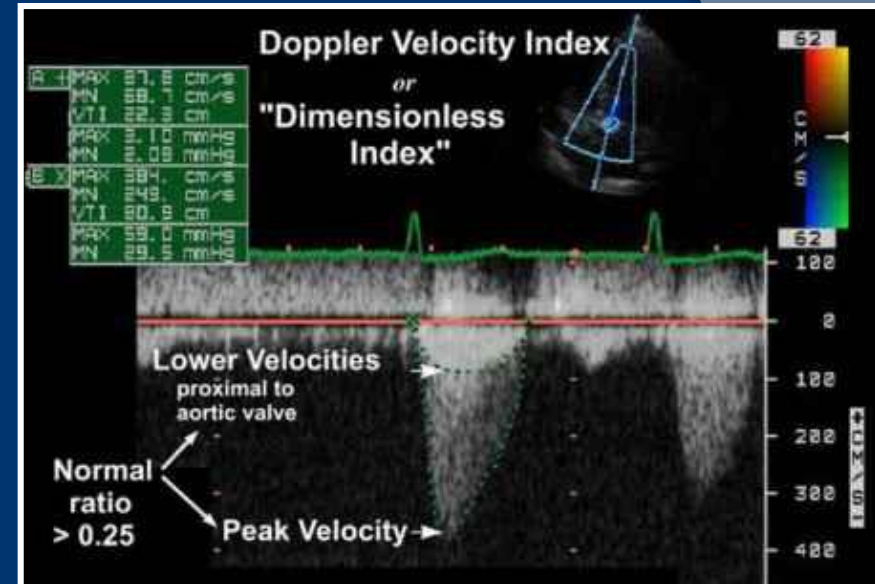
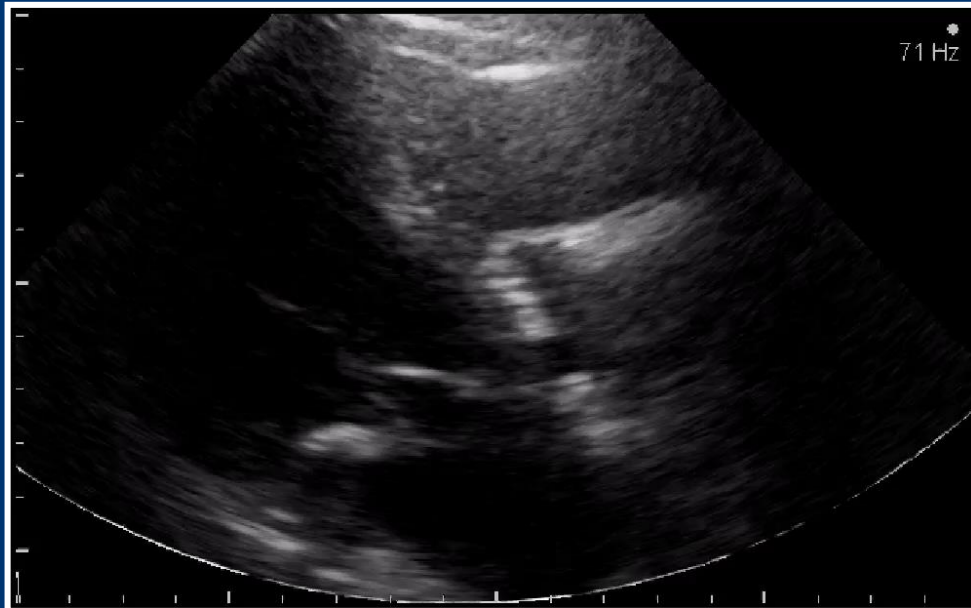


**PUO' ESSERE UTILE UN 'APPROCCIO IBRIDO'?**

**AVA calcolata con approccio ibrido (TC/ECO) non è risultata superiore a quella calcolata con metodo classico**

**CUT OFF 1.2 cm<sup>2</sup>**

# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE - COSA CI PUO' AIUTARE?



DOPPLER VELOCITY INDEX < 0,25

**AVA < 1 cm<sup>2</sup> con DVI > 0.30 → VEROSIMILE ERRORE di misurazione**



# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE - COSA CI PUO' AIUTARE?



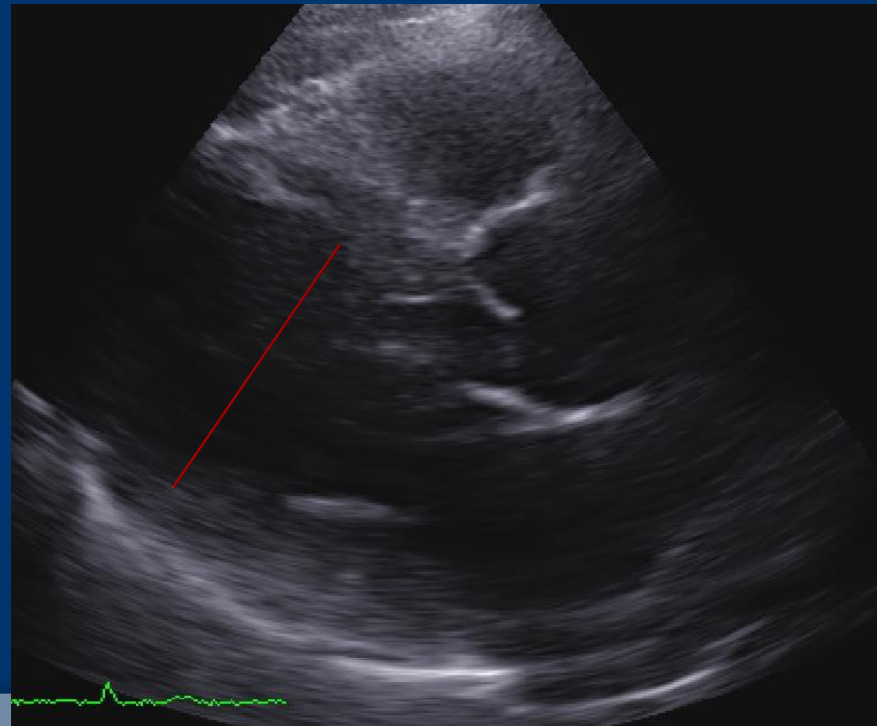
**INDICIZZARE L'AREA  
VALVOLARE PER BSA NEI  
PAZIENTI DI RIDOTTE  
DIMENSIONI CORPOREE**

**UTILIZZARE UN CUT OFF  
INFERIORE NEI PAZIENTI  
OBESI ( $< 0.5 \text{ cm}^2/\text{m}^2$ )**

# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE - COSA CI PUO' AIUTARE?

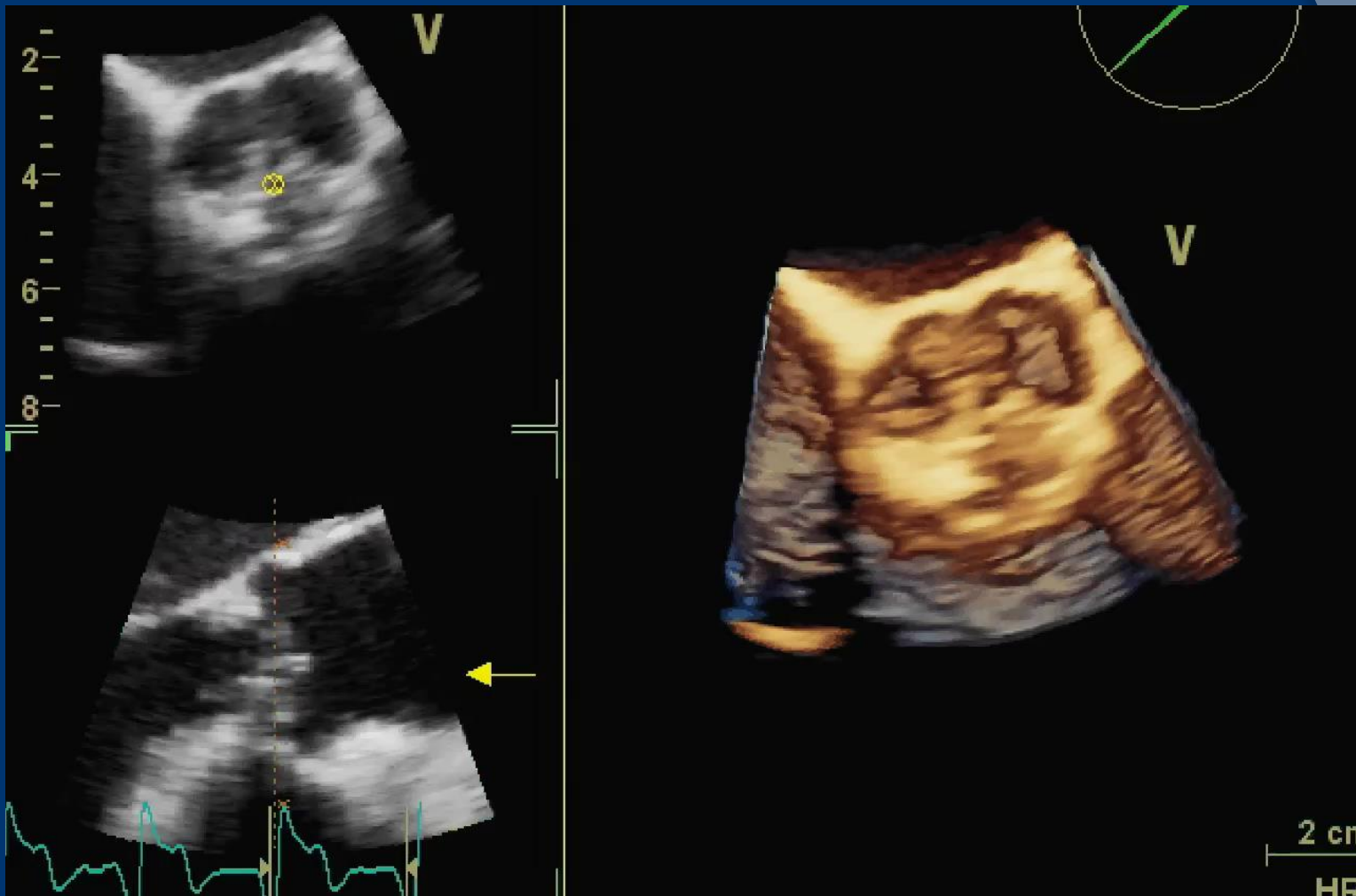
## VERIFICARE LA MISURA DELLO STROKE VOLUME

METODO TEICHHOLZ MODIFICATO  
EDV (Teichholz) x FEVS (Simpson) = **SV**



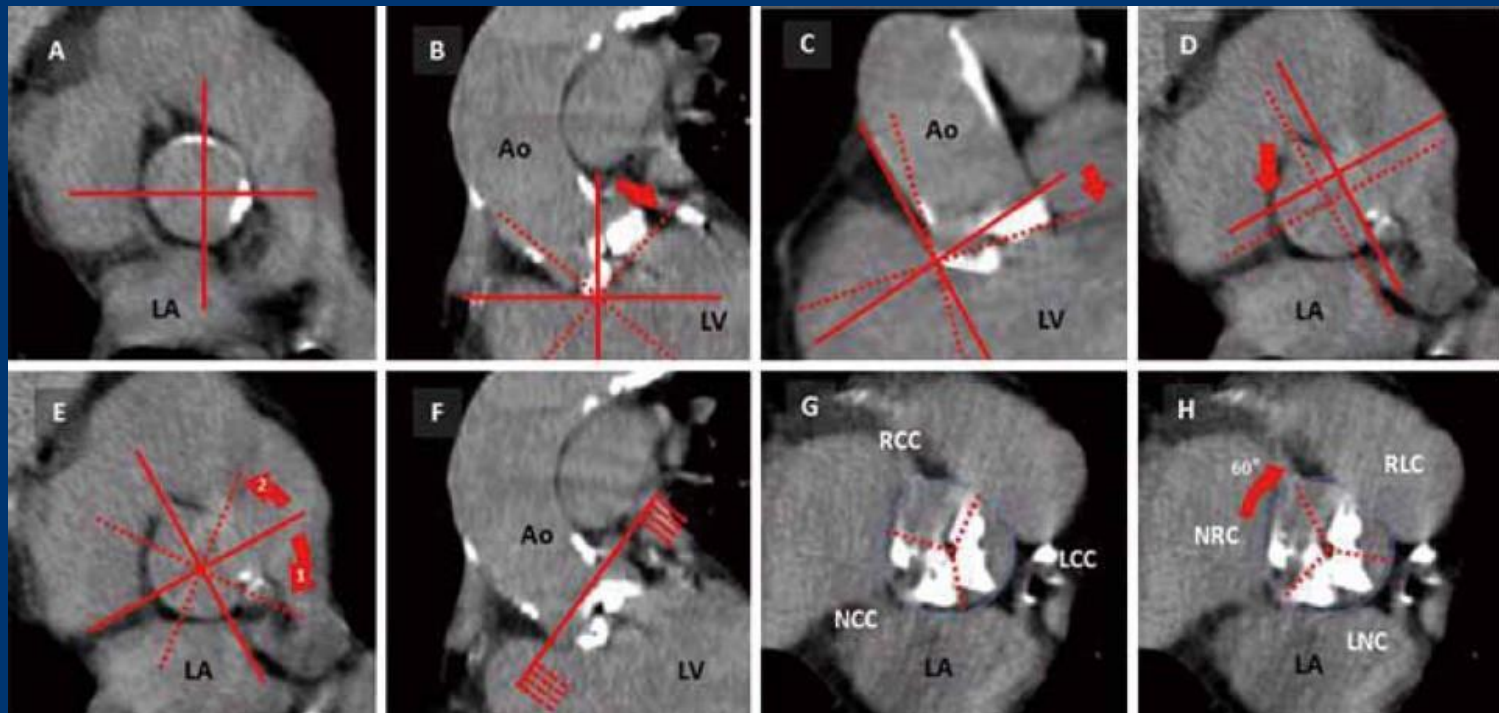
# DISCORDANZA AREA/GRADIENTE

## - COSA CI PUO' AIUTARE?



# E SE FOSSE UNA PSEUDO SEVERA? (30%!)

## MULTISLICE CT (AVC – aortic valve calcification)

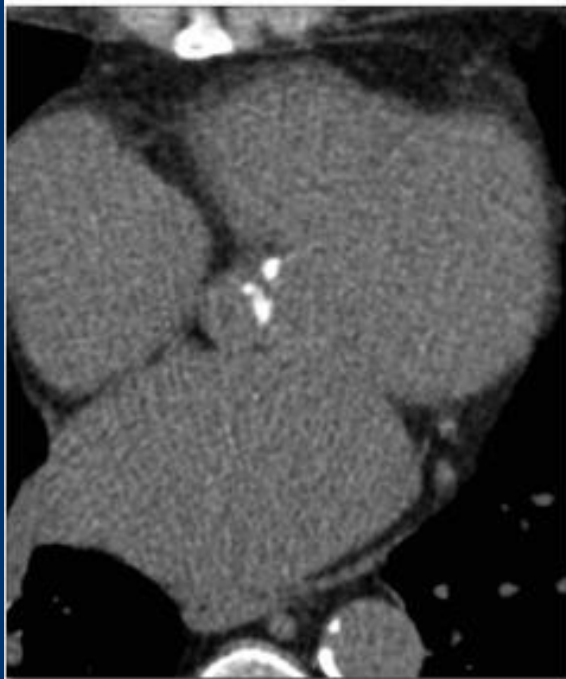


Clavel et al, JACC 2013; 62: 2329-38

# E SE FOSSE UNA PSEUDO SEVERA? (30%!)

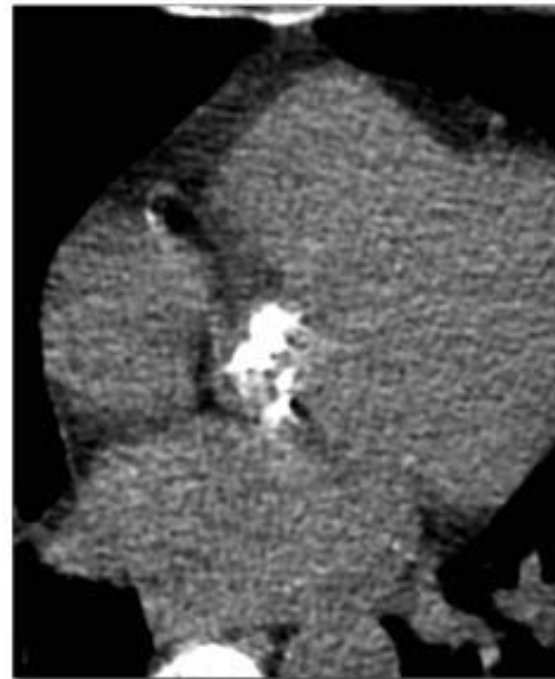
## MULTISLICE CT (AVC – aortic valve calcification)

Pseudo-Severe AS



AVC Score = 737 AU  
AVC Density = 194 AU/cm<sup>2</sup>  
AVA = 0.88 cm<sup>2</sup>; MG = 18 mm Hg

True-Severe AS

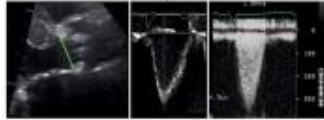


AVC Score = 3,127 AU  
AVC Density = 753 AU/cm<sup>2</sup>  
AVA = 0.64 cm<sup>2</sup>; MG = 26 mm Hg



**LOW GRADIENT AS**  
AVA $\leq$ 1.0cm<sup>2</sup> and MG<40mmHg

**STEP 1: CONFIRM ACCURACY OF MEASUREMENTS**



**CORROBORATE SV, AVA, AND MG BY OTHER METHODS:**

LVOT area: Compare with predicted value, 3D echo, MDCT  
 SV: Modified Teichholz, 3D echo, CMR  
 AVA: DVI, TTE/TEE Planimetry, Hybrid (MDCT-Doppler), CMR  
 MG: Multi-window CW interrogation, Catheterization

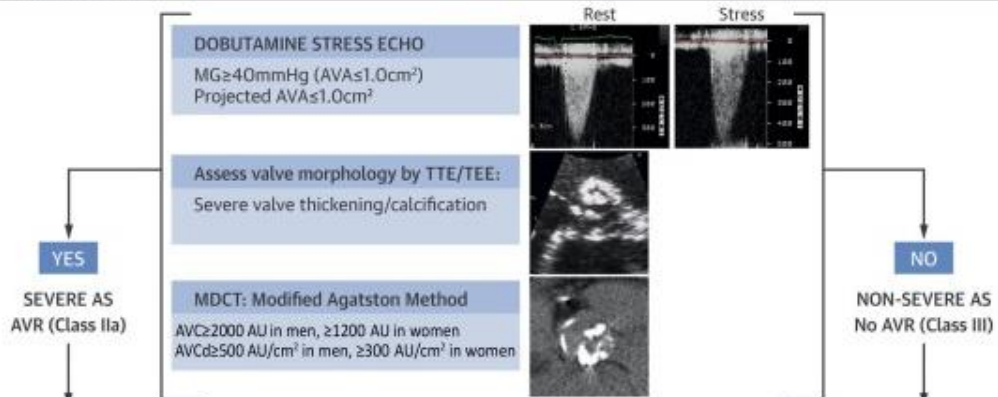


**STEP 2: IDENTIFY TYPE OF LOW GRADIENT AS**

Identify Potential Causes of Low-Flow State:  
 Low LVEF, LV restrictive physiology,  
 reduced GLS, MR, MS, AFib

| LVEF<50%                              | LVEF $\geq$ 50%<br>SVi<35ml/m <sup>2</sup>            | LVEF $\geq$ 50%<br>SVi $\geq$ 35ml/m <sup>2</sup> |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| CLASSICAL<br>LOW-FLOW<br>LOW-GRADIENT | PARADOXICAL<br>LOW-FLOW<br>LOW-GRADIENT<br>+ Symptoms | NORMAL-FLOW<br>LOW-GRADIENT<br>+ Symptoms         |
|                                       |   |   |

**STEP 3: CONFIRM AS SEVERITY**



**STEP 4: SELECT TYPE OF AVR**

- Consider Type of Low-gradient AS
- Assess surgical risk: comorbidities, risk scores, frailty, absence of flow reserve on dobutamine stress echocardiography

**STEP 4: MEDICAL MANAGEMENT**

- Identify cause of symptoms
- Optimize heart failure therapy
- Optimize anti-hypertensive therapy
- Close follow-up

## DIAGNOSI **IMPROBABILE** SE:

- $V_{max} < 3 \text{ m/sec}$
- GRADIENTE MEDIO  $< 20 \text{ mmHg}$
- DOPPLER VELOCITY INDEX  $> 0,30$



## LE LINEE GUIDA

AVR is reasonable in symptomatic patients with low-flow/low-gradient severe AS (stage D3) with an LVEF 50% or greater, a calcified aortic valve with significantly reduced leaflet motion, and a valve area 1.0 cm<sup>2</sup> or less only if clinical, hemodynamic, and anatomic data support valve obstruction as the most likely cause of symptoms and **data recorded when the patient is normotensive (systolic BP <140 mm Hg)**







**GRAZIE PER L'ATTENZIONE!**