

Vascular TEE Views

14 safety check guideline views including aortic arch views



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Preface



Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) is being used in cardiothoracic surgery and interventional cardiology to create vascular views before and during cardiac surgery. Knowledge on the presence and localization of atherosclerotic plaques helps the surgeon to determine the safest surgical approach.

However, due to the position of the air-filled trachea, between the thoracic aorta and the TEE-probe, visualization of the distal ascending aorta (DAA) and Arch is impossible or mostly limited. The DAA is the location where cannulation and crossclamping takes place and where atherosclerotic plaques are most prevalent as a source of embolisms often known to be the cause of a major stroke.

A-View[®] Endotracheal Balloon Catheter is used to overcome the limitation of the so called 'blind spot' of TEE. After introduction of the saline filled catheter in the trachea, echo conduction through the trachea is enabled and the ascending aorta, aortic arch and its branching vessels can be imaged. For more information about A-View see our website.

The TEE safety check contains 14 TEE views of which 6 imaged with the use of the A-View[®] balloon. This guide, developed in conjunction with a leading cardiac anesthesiologist-intensivist, Dr. Arno Nierich, can assist in obtaining the best vascular views when utilizing the A-View[®] device.







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Overview Vascular TEE Views





Abbreviations



- 4C: Four Chamber
- AA: Ascending Aorta
- Arch: AorticArch
- AV: Aortic Valve
- BV: Branch Vessels
- DA: Descending Aorta
- DAA: Distal Ascending Aorta
- IA: Innominate Artery
- IV: Innominate Vein
- LA: Left Atrium
- LAX: Long Axis
- LCA: LeftCarotid Artery

- LSCA: Left Subclavian Artery
- LVOT: Left Ventricular Outflow Tract
- ME: Mid-Esophageal
- PA: Pulmonary Artery
- PAA: Proximal Ascending Aorta
- PV: Pulmonary Valve
- RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery
- RVOT: Right Ventricular Outflow Tract
- SAX: Short Axis
- SVC: Superior Vena Cava
- UE: Upper-Esophageal



1. ME Descending Aorta SAX View







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
AA: Ascending Aorta RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	 Insert the probe to the ME, sector depth 8-10 cm, angle 0° Find the ME AV LAX (120°) Withdraw probe to bring the Right Pulmonary Artery in view Decrease omniplane angle slightly by 	 Aortic Pathology Pericardial Effusion Pulmonary Embolus
	10-20° to make the aortic wall symmetric	



2. ME Descending Aorta LAX







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
AA: Ascending Aorta RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	 Insert the probe to the ME, sector depth 8-10 cm, angle 0° Find the ME AV LAX (120°) Withdraw probe to bring the Right Pulmonary Artery in view 	 Aortic Pathology Pericardial Effusion Pulmonary Embolus
	 Decrease omniplane angle slightly by 10-20° to make the aortic wall symmetric 	



3. UE Aortic Arch LAX







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
AA: Ascending Aorta RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	 Insert the probe to the ME, sector depth 8-10 cm, angle 0° Find the ME AV LAX (120°) Withdraw probe to bring the Right Pulmonary Artery in view 	 Aortic Pathology Pericardial Effusion Pulmonary Embolus
	 Decrease omniplane angle slightly by 10-20° to make the aortic wall symmetric 	



4. UE Aortic Arch SAX







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
AA: Ascending Aorta RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	 Insert the probe to the ME, sector depth 8-10 cm, angle 0° Find the ME AV LAX (120°) Withdraw probe to bring the Right Pulmonary Artery in view 	 Aortic Pathology Pericardial Effusion Pulmonary Embolus
	 Decrease omniplane angle slightly by 10-20° to make the aortic wall symmetric 	



5. UE Left Subclavian Artery SAX







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
AA: Ascending Aorta RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	 Insert the probe to the ME, sector depth 8-10 cm, angle 0° Find the ME AV LAX (120°) Withdraw probe to bring the Right Pulmonary Artery in view 	 Aortic Pathology Pericardial Effusion Pulmonary Embolus
	 Decrease omniplane angle slightly by 10-20° to make the aortic wall symmetric 	



6. ME Aortic Valve LAX







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
AA: Ascending Aorta RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	 Insert the probe to the ME, sector depth 8-10 cm, angle 0° Find the ME AV LAX (120°) Withdraw probe to bring the Right Pulmonary Artery in view 	 Aortic Pathology Pericardial Effusion Pulmonary Embolus
	 Decrease omniplane angle slightly by 10-20° to make the aortic wall symmetric 	



7. ME Ascending Aorta SAX







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
AA: Ascending Aorta RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	 Insert the probe to the ME, sector depth 8-10 cm, angle 0° Find the ME AV LAX (120°) Withdraw probe to bring the Right Pulmonary Artery in view 	 Aortic Pathology Pericardial Effusion Pulmonary Embolus
	 Decrease omniplane angle slightly by 10-20° to make the aortic wall symmetric 	



8. ME Ascending Aorta LAX







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
AA: Ascending Aorta RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	 Insert the probe to the ME, sector depth 8-10 cm, angle 0° Find the ME AV LAX (120°) Withdraw probe to bring the Right Pulmonary Artery in view 	 Aortic Pathology Pericardial Effusion Pulmonary Embolus
	 Decrease omniplane angle slightly by 10-20° to make the aortic wall symmetric 	





Getting Started

- 1. Find the ME Ascending Aorta SAX view, withdraw the probe to the UE, sector depth 10 cm, angle 30°
- 2. Anteflex probe slightly
- 3. Withdraw the probe till entering the blind spot area
- 4. Leave the probe in this position and insert the A-View®
- 5. Proceed to obtain the following 6 views



9. UE Distal Ascending Aorta SAX $A-View^{\circ}$







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
DAA: Distal Ascending Aorta	Find ME AA SAX	Atherosclerotic Disease
RPA: Right Pulmonary Artery	Withdraw probe slightly to UE position, with the	Aortic Dissection
T: Trachea with A-View	sector depth 10 cm, angle 0-30°The trachea will become visible or the right or left bronchus	Pulmonary Embolus
	- Keep the Aorta centered before rotate to 60°	
	 Aorta will become visible as a tube directed to the right upper screen position 	

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A-View

10. UE Distal Ascending Aorta LAX $A-View^{\circ}$







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
DAA: Distal Ascending Aorta	 Find UE DAA SAX (0°) view, 	Atherosclerotic Disease
T: Trachea with A-View	sector depth 6 -8 cm	Aortic Dissection
	Keep the trachea centered	Extracorporeal Circulation (ECC)
	 Only move the probe, A-View remains in the same location 	Vascular Devices (cannulation and flow)
	Use color Doppler to verify arterial flow	

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11. UE Aortic Arch SAX $A-View^{\circ}$







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
DA: Upper part of the Descending Aorta T: Trachea with A-View	 Find the UE Aortic Arch, position sector depth 6-8cm, angle 0° Keep the trachea centered Only move the probe, A-View remains at the same location Use color Doppler to verify arterial flow 	 Aortic Atherosclerosis Aortic Dissection Extracorporeal Circulation (ECC) Vascular Devices (cannulation and flow)



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A-View[®]

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12. UE Branch Vessels LAX A-View[®]







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
IA: Innominate Artery	• Find the UE Aortic Arch LAX (0°) view	Atherosclerotic Disease
LCA: Left Carotid Artery	Position sector depth 6-8 cm,	Aortic Dissection
T: Trachea with A-View	withdraw the probe slightly	Extracorporeal Circulation (ECC)
	Use color Doppler to verify arterial flow	Antegrade Cerebral Perfusion



13. UE Innominate Artery LAX A-View[®]







Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
IA: Innominate Artery	 Find the UE Aortic Arch LAX (0°) view 	Atherosclerotic Disease
T: Trachea with A-View	 Position sector depth 6-8 cm, witdraw the probe slightly and turn probe to the right Use color Doppler to verify arterial flow 	 Aortic Dissection Extracorporeal Circulation (ECC) Antegrade Cerebral Perfusion Vascular Devices



14. UE Left Carotid $A-View^{\circ}$



A-View[®] ENDOTRACHEAL BALLOON CATHETER





Structures to identify	To obtain this view	Diagnostic issues
LCA: Left Carotid Artery	 Find the UE Aortic Arch LAX (0°) view 	Atherosclerotic Disease
T: Trachea with A-View	Slightly withdraw and rotate the probe to the left	Aortic Dissection
	Use color Doppler to verify arterial flow	Extracorporeal Circulation (ECC)
		Antegrade Cerebral Perfusion
		Vascular Devices

Advanced user guidance



Below suggestions address specific situations. Please consult the "Instructions for Use" for routine application of A-View®.

To verify positioning of the A-View

The optimal position of the A-View[®] catheter is in the distal trachea and the left main bronchus, although this correlation to the position of the aorta might vary according to patient anatomy. Below image shows the position of A-View[®] in the trachea and the left main bronchus. (A) Placement into the left main bronchus, (B) TEE view of carina, and (C) placement into the right main bronchus.



Difficulties to obtain distal ascending aorta views?

Check the following:

- 1. Is the A-View[®] balloon adequately filled? Obtain an echo view of the trachea, the balloon should be aligned with the trachea wall, without any space in between. Adding additional saline should result in improved views.
- 2. Is the ET tube inserted too deep? In case of a small patient e.g. short trachea, not enough room is left outside the ET tube for the balloon to be correctly positioned / inflated
- 3. Is the A-View[®] located in the right or left main bronchus? a) In short patients, view from the main bronchus is most effective b) In tall patients, view through the carina or trachea is suggested
- 4. Is the aorta positioning altered? For example a retracting sling around the aorta or a cross-clamp can impeed TEE effectiveness.

Difficulties to obtain the aortic arch and branch vessels?

For a targeted anatomy, the A-View[®] balloon and TEE probe must be aligned to obtain effective views. If the TEE probe is sufficiently retracted cranially and still no accurate view can be obtained; the A-View[®] catheter might be placed too deep. This might be due to a short trachea (e.g. small stature of the patient) or the ET tube being positioned too deep.

To enable the missing views:

- 1. Empty the A-View[®] balloon
- Empty the ET cuff 2.
- Withdraw the FT tube 2-3 cm 3
- 4. Retract the A-View[®] catheter 2-3 cm, align the 24 cm mark on A-View[®] and FT tube
- 5. Refill the A-View[®] sufficiently
- 6. Obtain the view: position TEE probe according to the guidelines



A-View®

- 1. Right main bronchus
- 2. Left main bronchus
- 3. Trachea
- 4. Carina
- 5 FT tube

- 6. A-View®
- 7. A-View[®] into the left main bronchus
- 8. A-View[®] at the carina
- 9. A-View[®] into the right main bronchus

A-View[®] PROTOCOL

MINIMAL ADJUSTMENTS

BETTER OUTCOMES

A-View[®] Endotracheal Ballon Catheter



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