

Oslo, Norway

**EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA RADIOLOGY 2025**

June 2 - 5, 2025



# SPLENIC INJURIES

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Department of Radiology

Chair of NORDTER



# Nothing to disclose

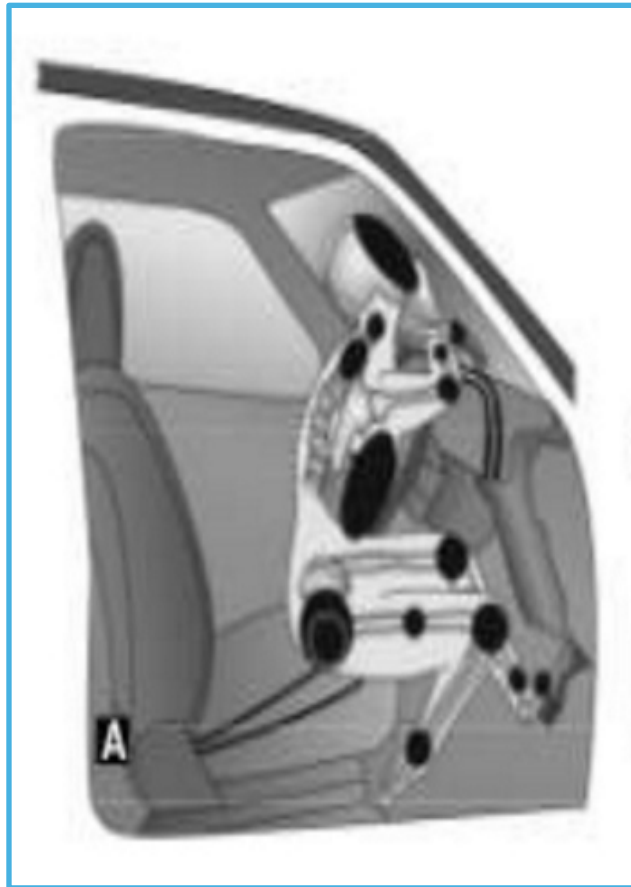


# Synopsis

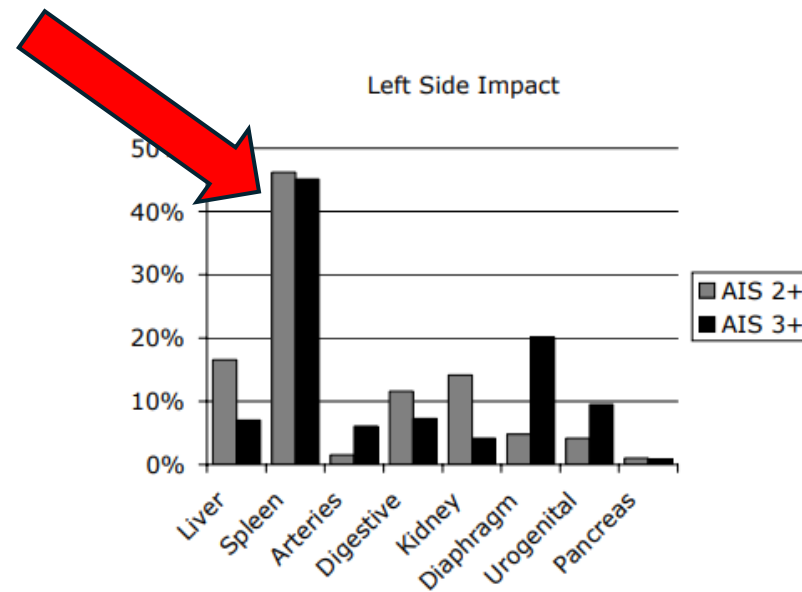
- Clinical facts
  - Trauma mechanism
  - Symptoms and signs
  - Cave
- Radiological findings
  - CT with different protocols
  - Follow-up examinations
- Summary



# Mechanism of injury

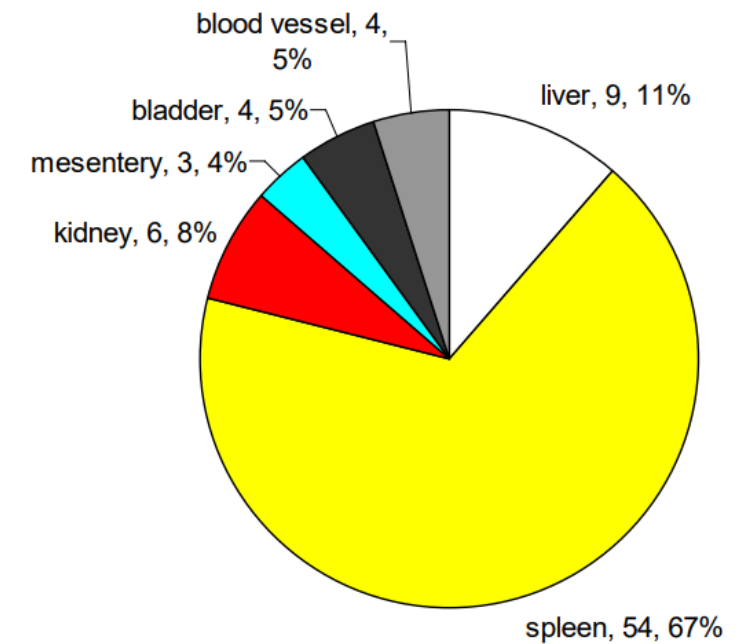


High risk of occupant in left side impact



Yoganandam 2000

Highest risk of injury for drivers or left front passanger in left side impact



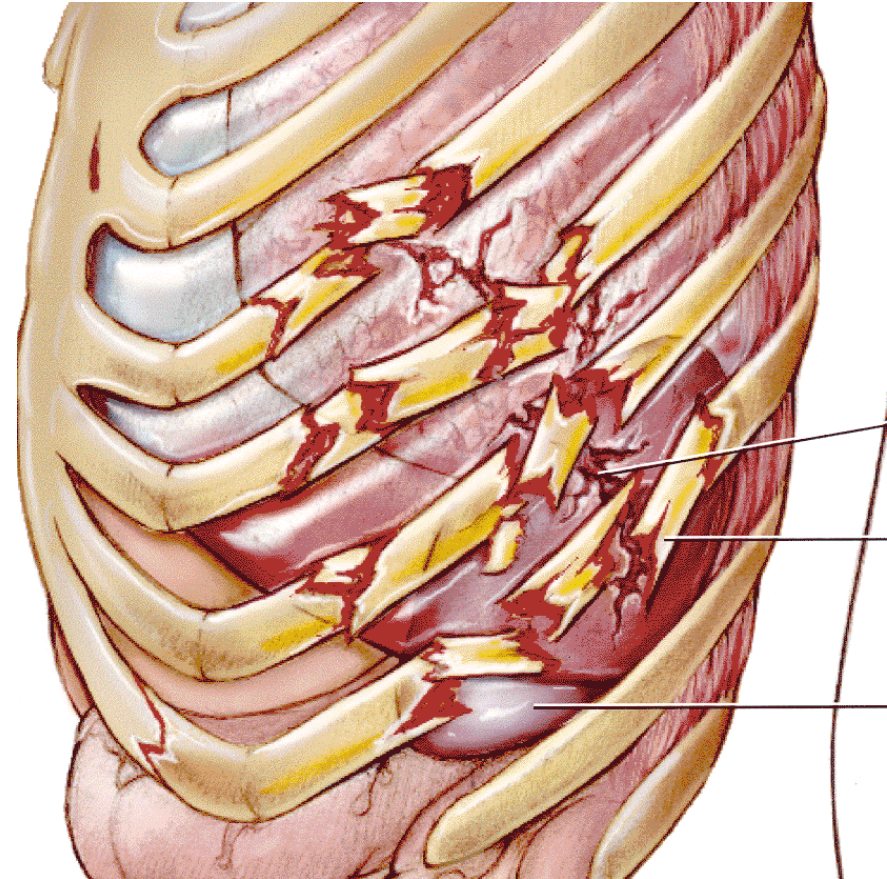
# Other Mechanisms of injury

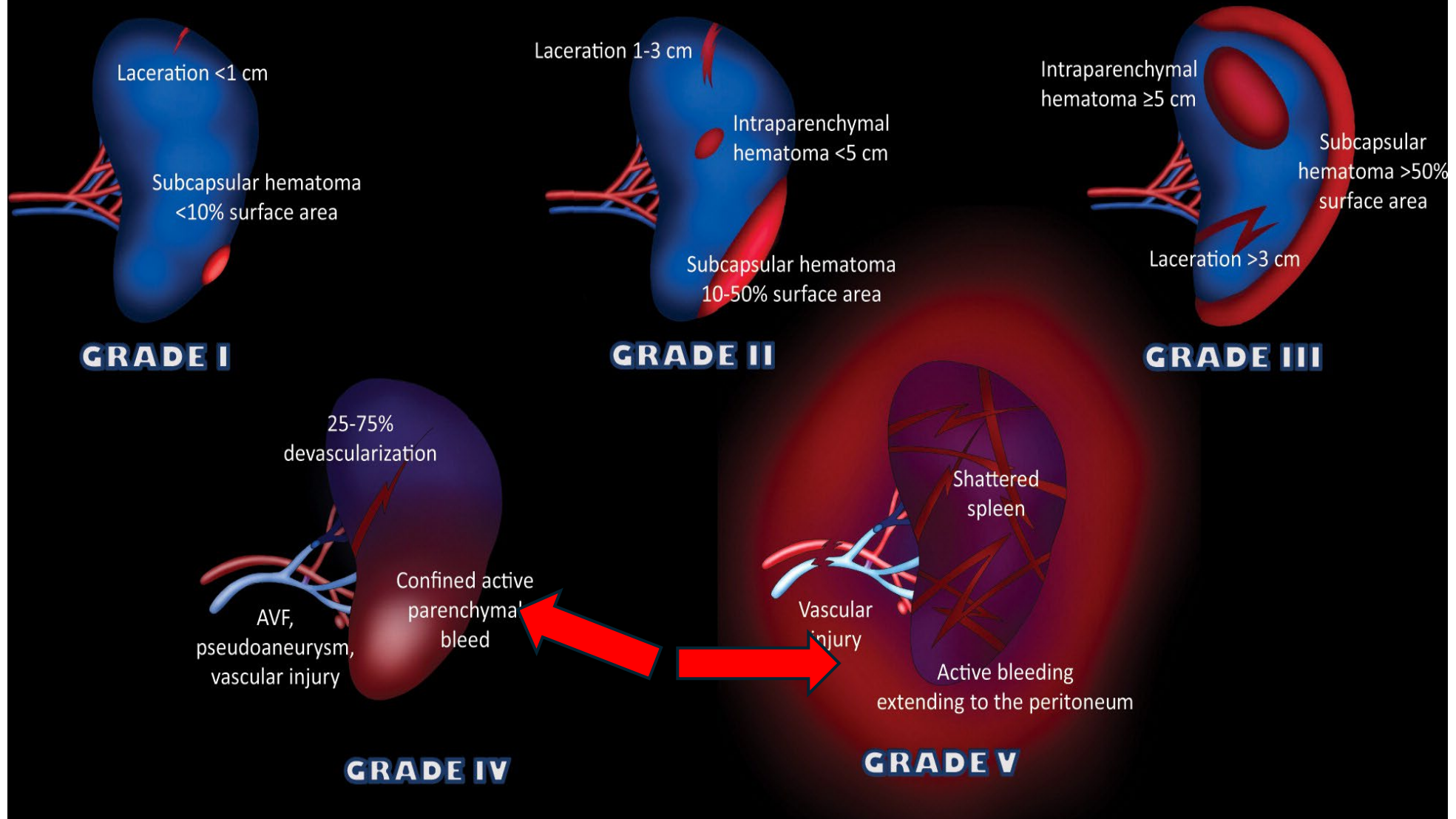




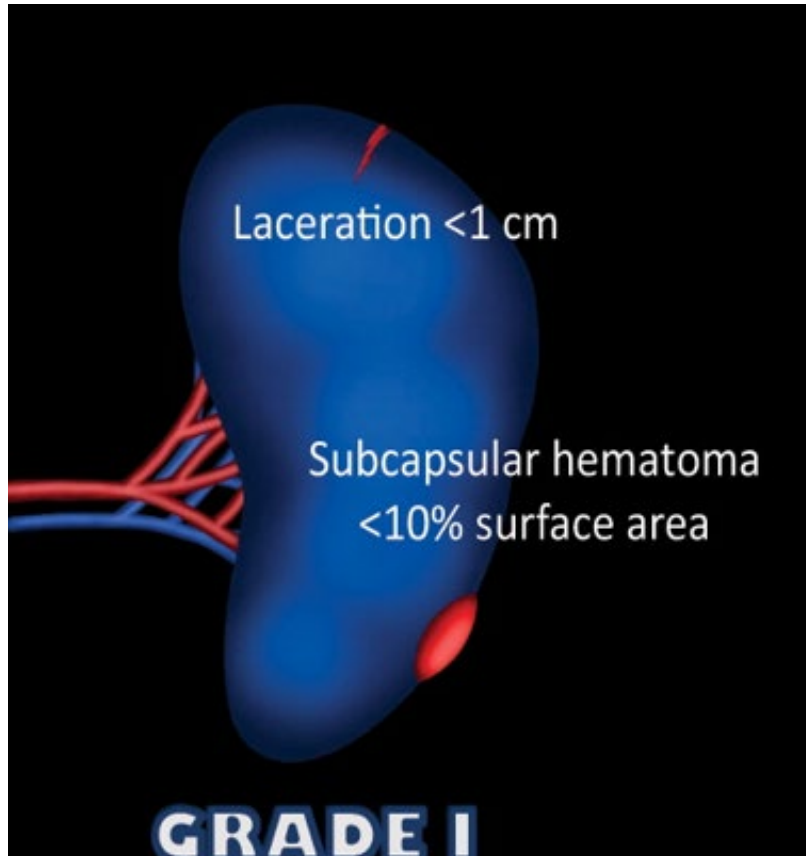
# Symptoms and signs of splenic injury

- Abdominal tenderness
- Left chest wall or left shoulder pain
- Abdominal wall contusions
- Hematomas



**2018 AAST-OIS - SPLEEN**

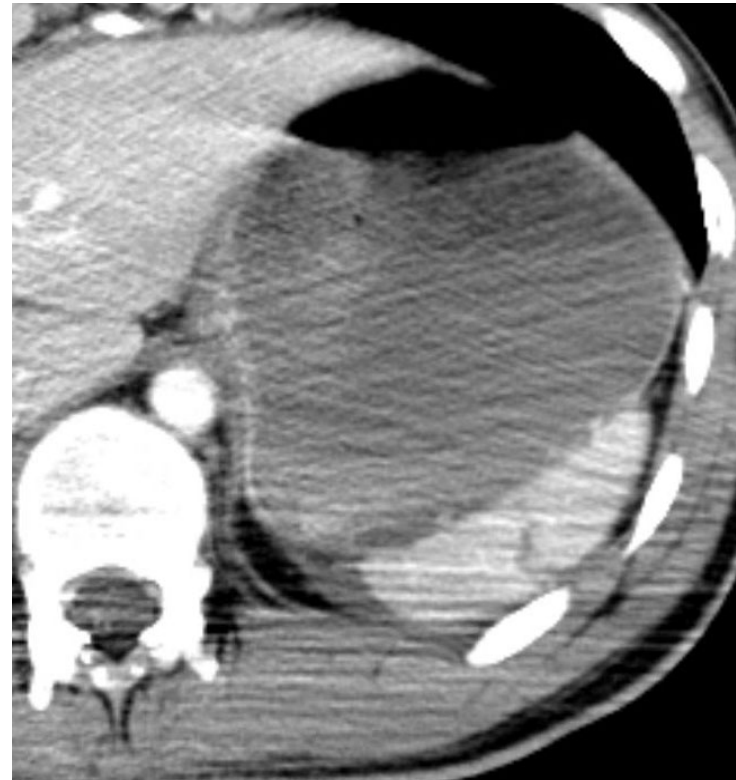
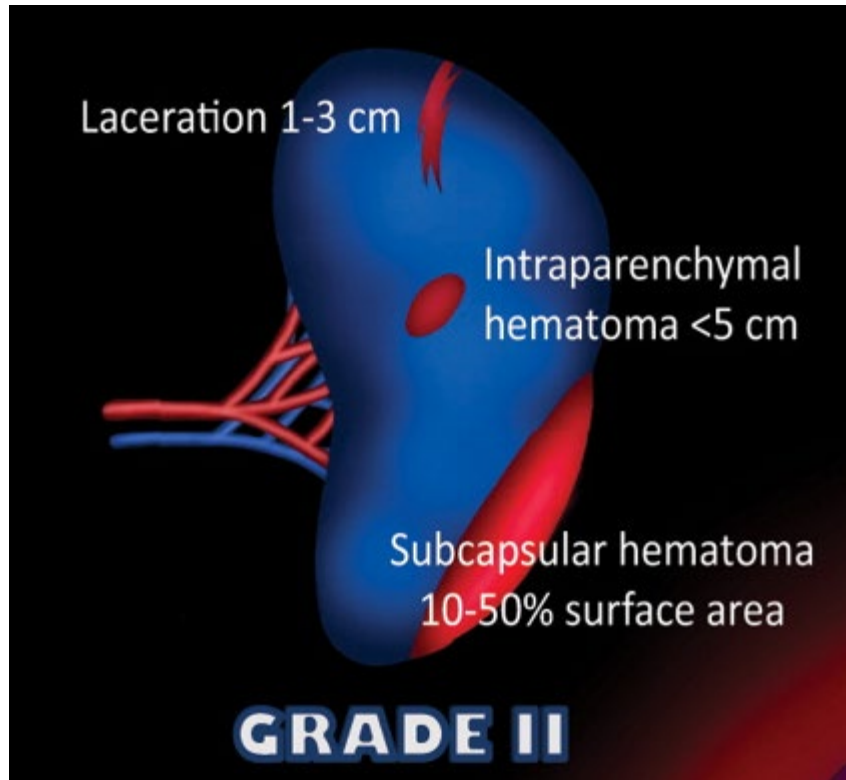
# GRADE 1



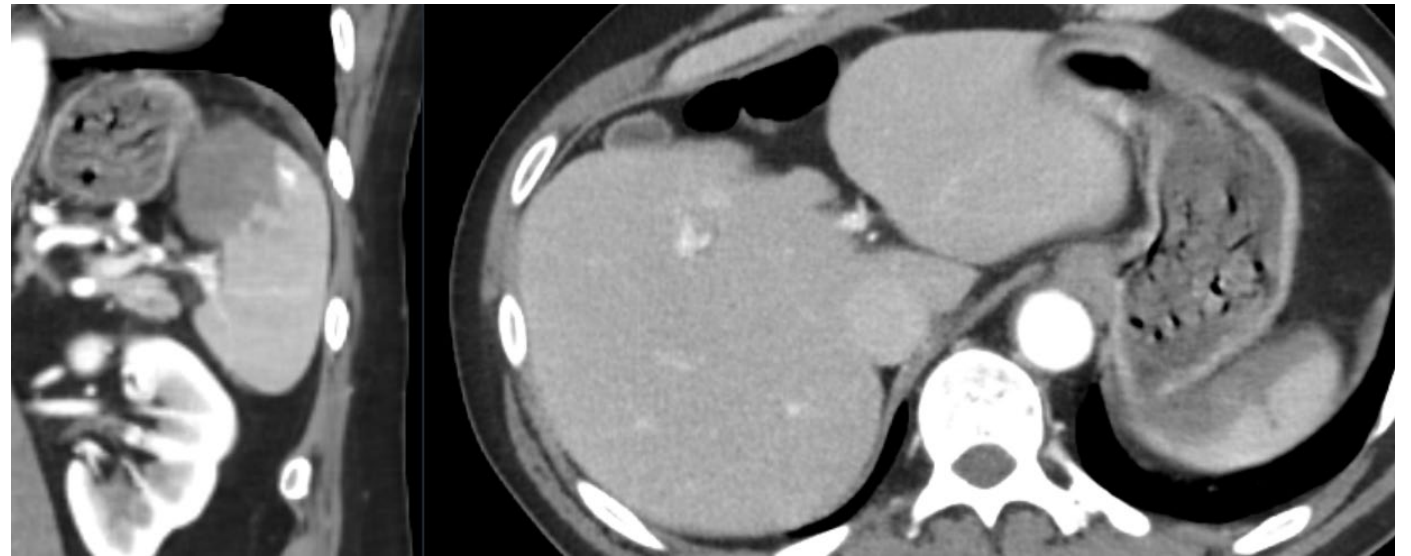
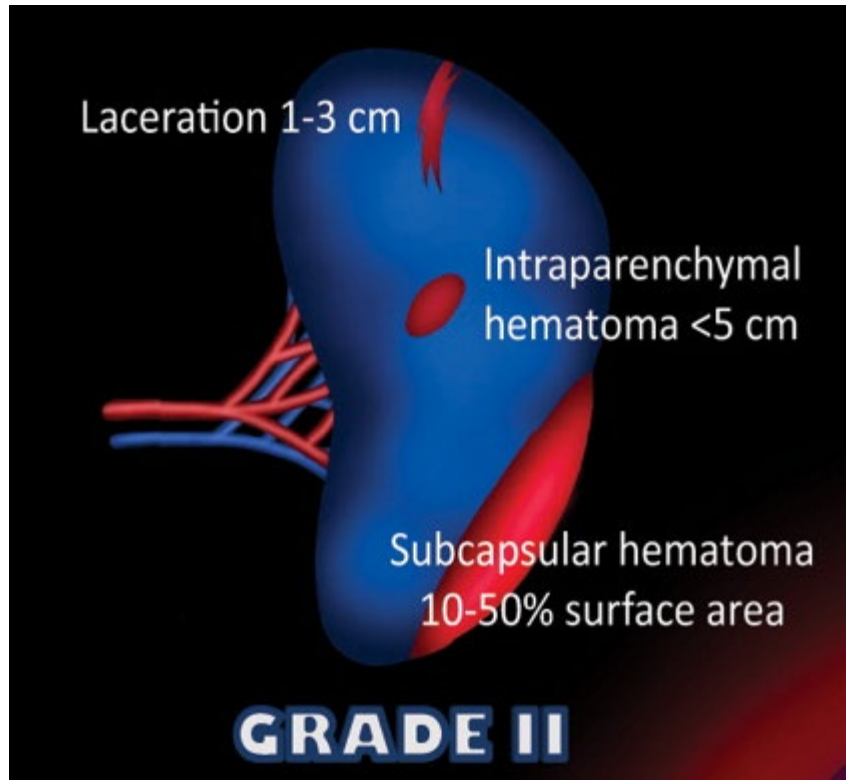
No intraparenchymal hematoma. Laceration of the capsula



# GRADE 2



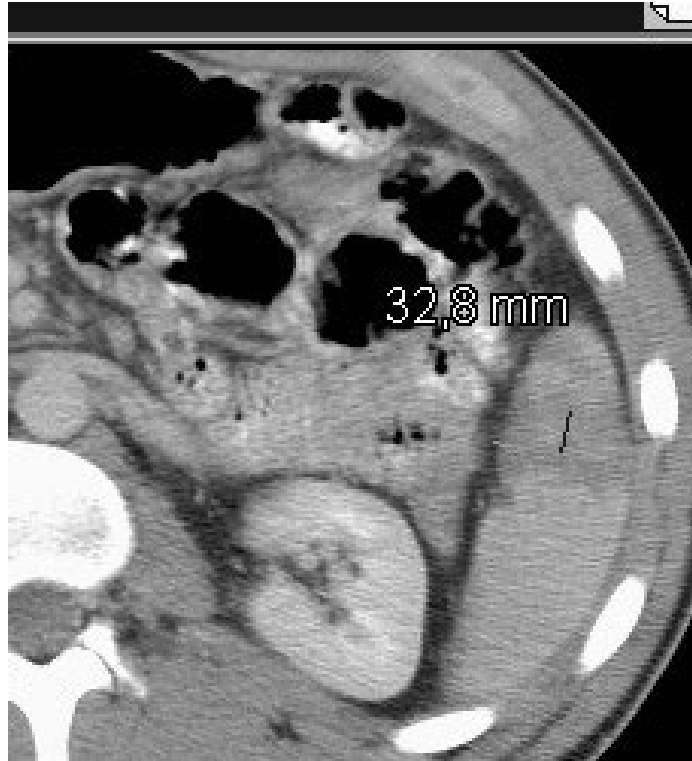
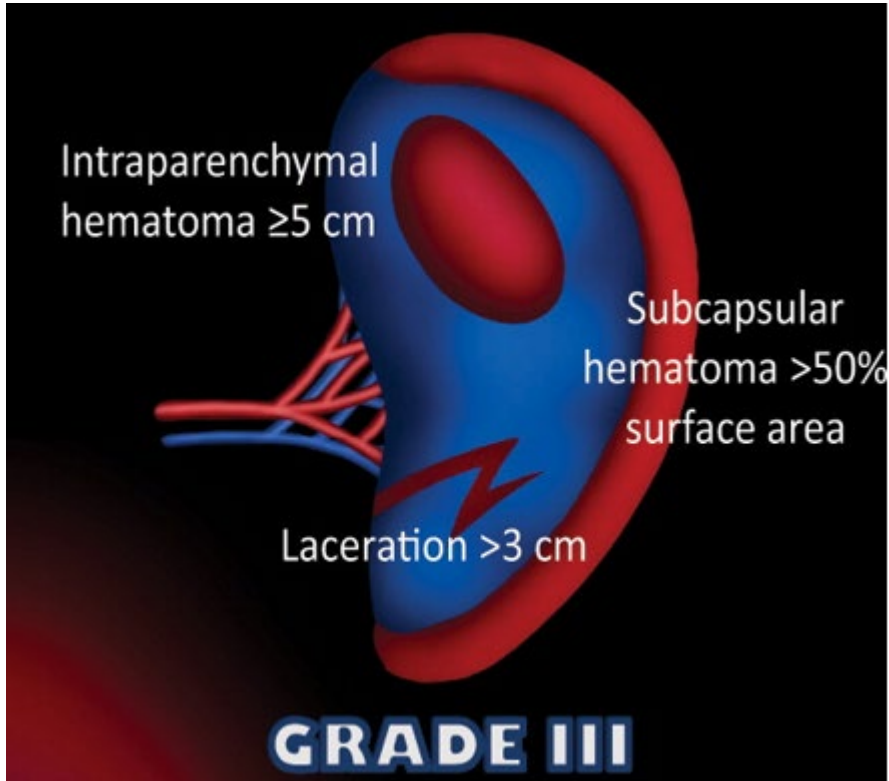
## GRADE 2 ?



Subcapsular hematoma 10-50% of surface

Laceration 2 cm. 2 grade 2 injuries result in grade 3

# GRADE 3



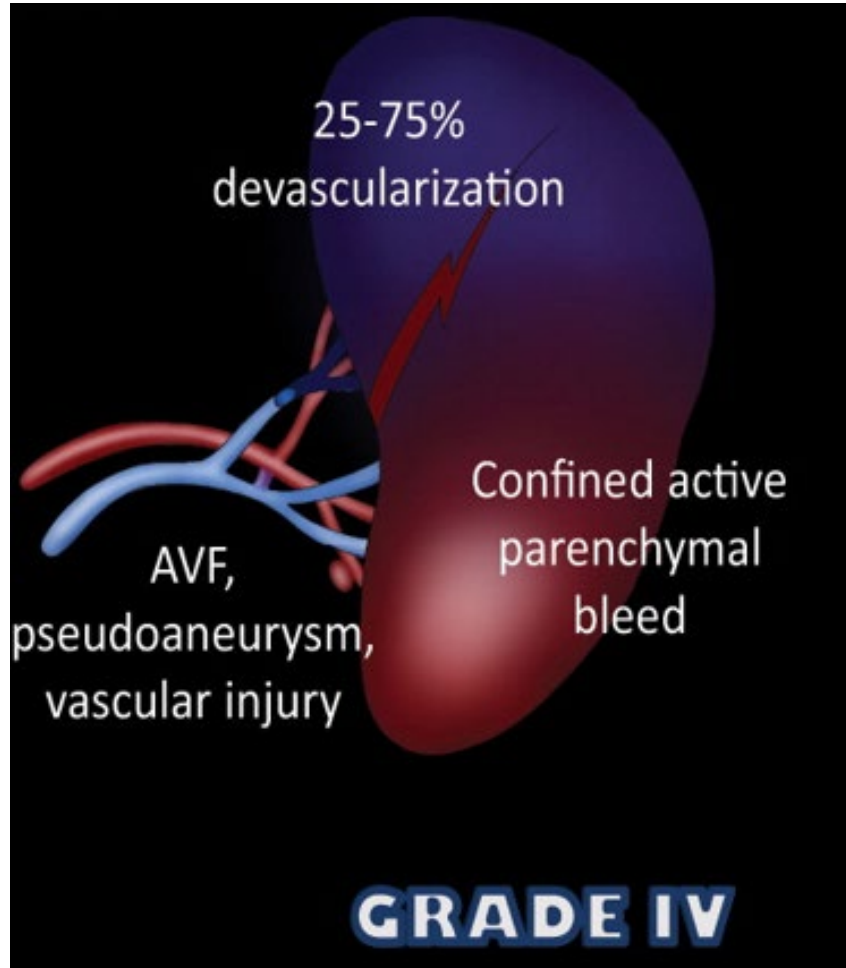
Laceration  $> 3$  cm



Subcapsular  
hematoma  $> 50\%$

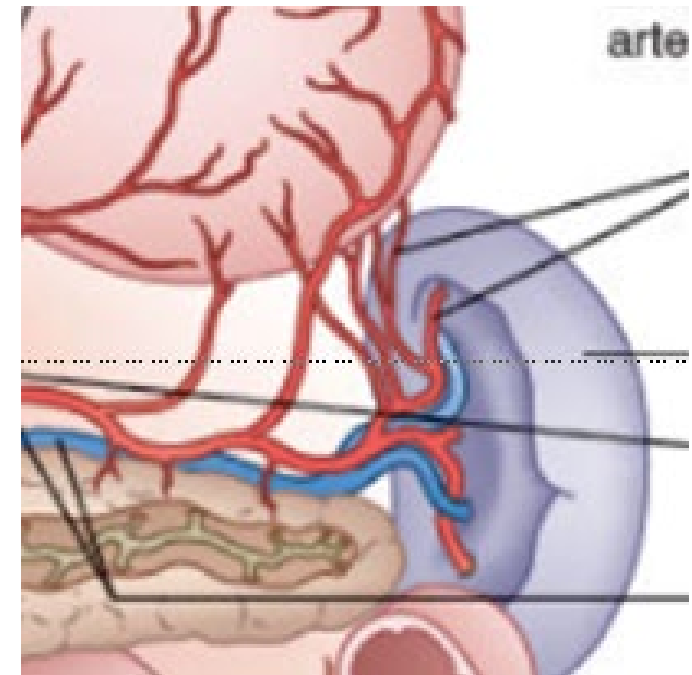
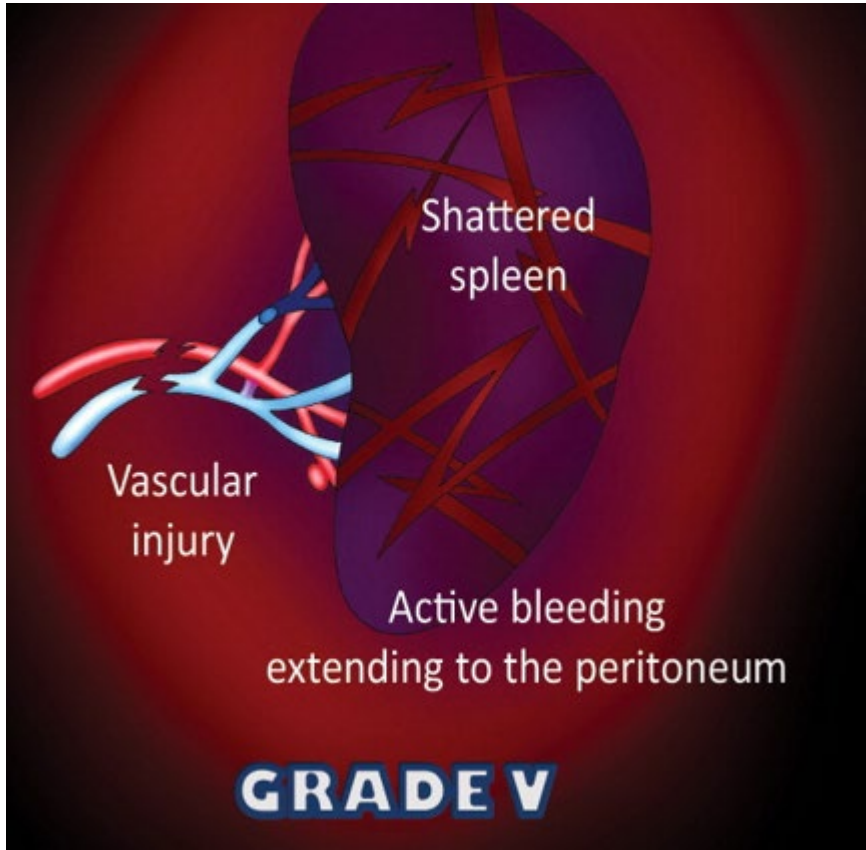


# GRADE 4

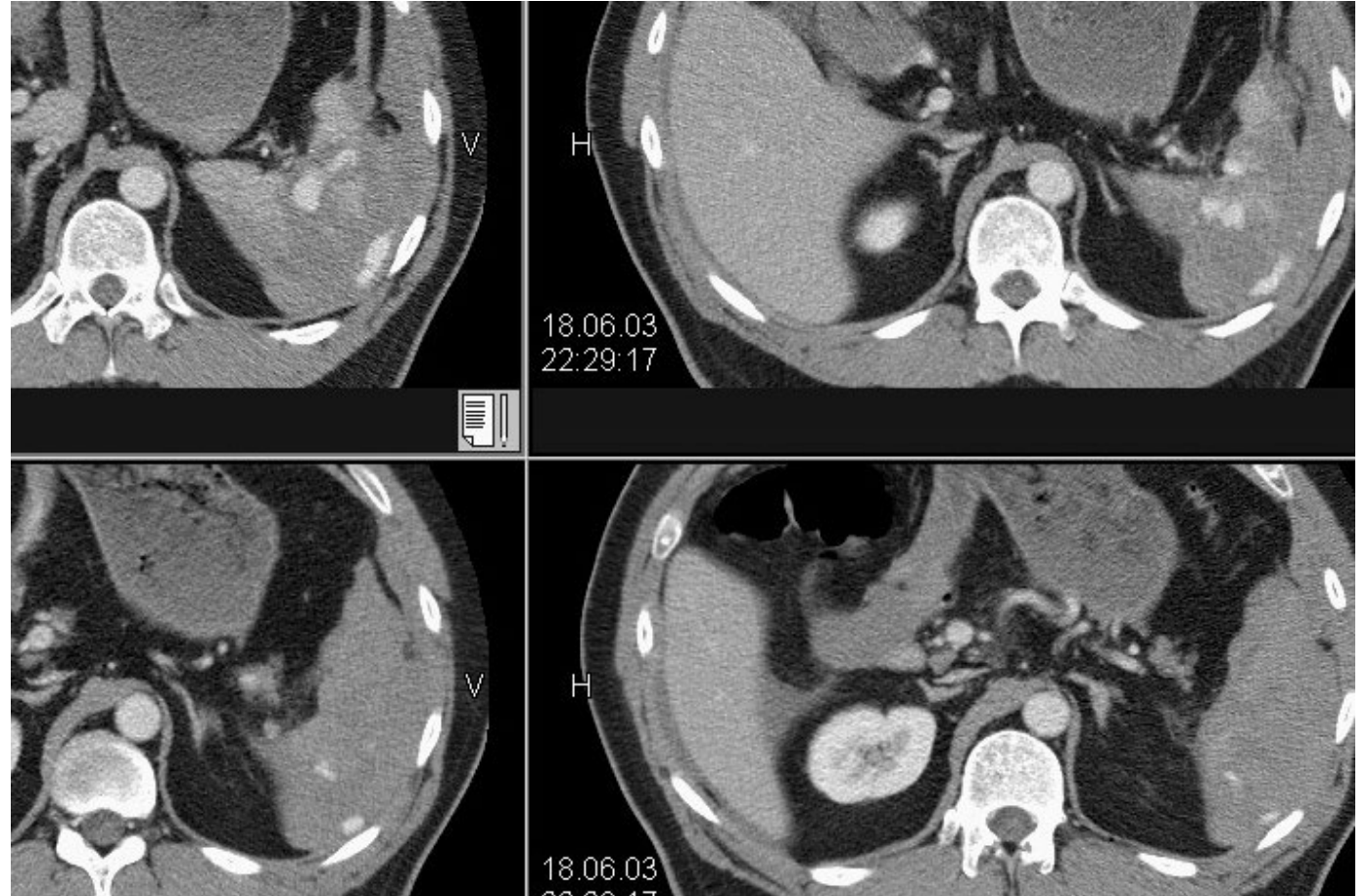
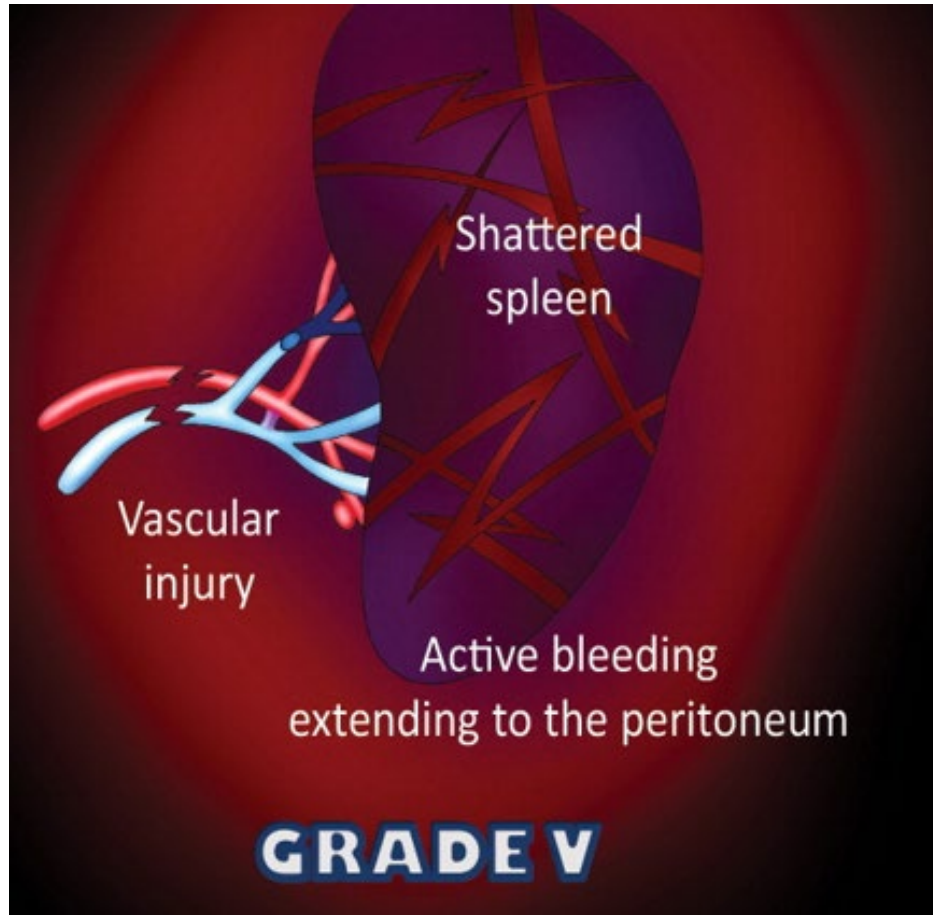




# GRADE 5



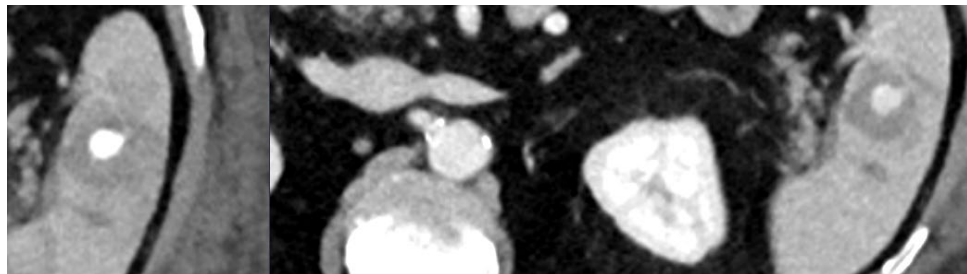
# GRADE 5



# What are the differences between PSA and extravasation?

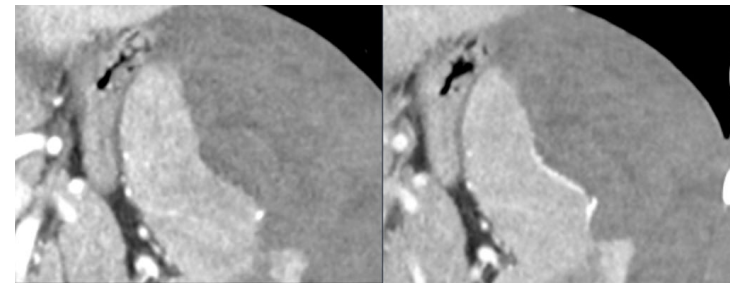
## PSA

- Contained injury
- Well –circumscribed focal hyperattenuating area
- Does not increase in size and has attenuating as blood pool
- AV fistulas are extremely rare. They look very similar to PSA but demonstrate early filling of adjacent veins

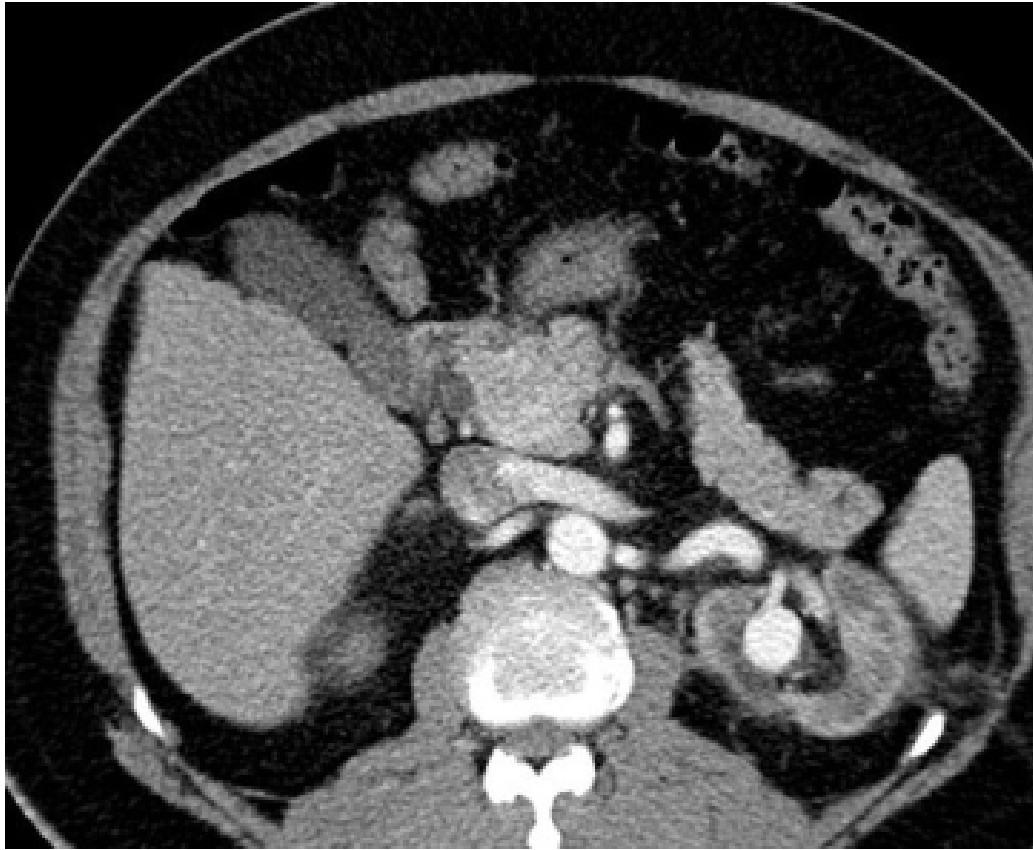


## Extravasation

- Contrast actively escaping from blood vessels
- Normally > 100 HU
- Classic jet-like appearance
- Focal, irregular area that
  - Increases in size
  - Decreases in attenuation but still remains higher in HU than the blood pool



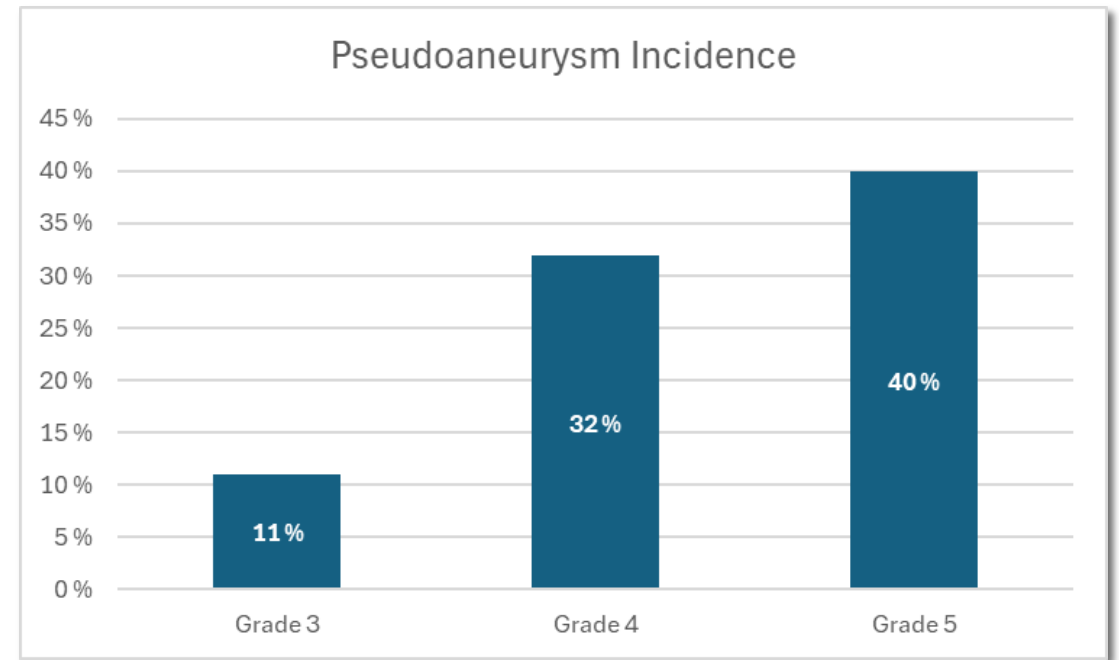
# Example of an AV fistula in left kidney





# Incidence of PSA in splenic trauma

- Overall incidence 2-27% (Kittara 2015)
- Some PSA are found incidentally, other are found because of delayed hemorrhage
- Delayed hemorrhage due to ruptured PSA in 5-15%
- Higher incidence of PSA in high grade injuries



Wallen 2022

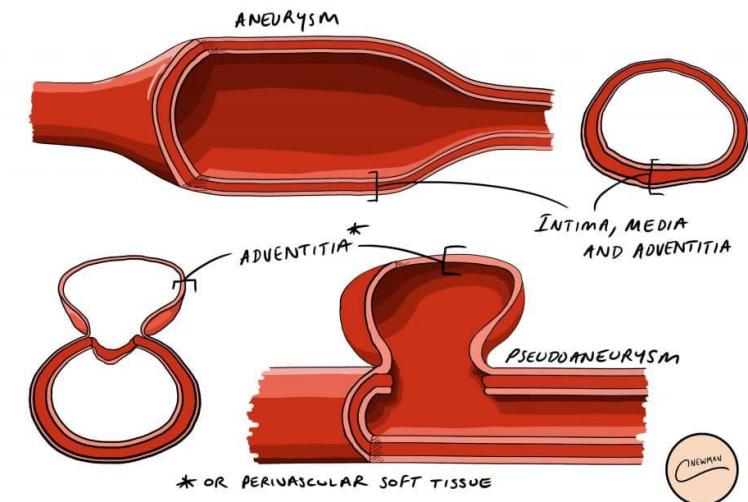
# What is the natural development of PSA?

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### The Investigation of Posttraumatic Pseudoaneurysms in Patients Treated with Nonoperative Management for Blunt Abdominal Solid Organ Injuries

Hirotsada Kittaka\*, Yoshiki Yagi, Ryosuke Zushi, Hiroshi Hazui, Hiroshi Akimoto

Department of Emergency, Osaka Misihima Emergency Critical Care Center, 11-1, Minami-Akutagawa-cho, Takatsuki City, Osaka Prefecture, Japan



mediately after follow-up CT, and no delayed bleeding was seen. All of the remaining six patients had PAs measuring less than 10 mm in diameter and were managed by observation only, without TAE or a restriction of activity. In all of these six patients, spontaneous disappearances of the PAs were observed on follow-up CT 3 to 26 days (median: 8 days) after the detection.

# What is the natural development of PSA?

Delayed formation of splenic pseudoaneurysm following nonoperative management in blunt splenic injury:  
Multi-institutional study in Osaka, Japan

Takashi Muroya, MD, Hiroshi Ogura, MD, PhD, Kentaro Shimizu, MD, PhD, Osamu Tasaki, MD, PhD, Yasuyuki Kuwagata, MD, PhD, Takashi Fuse, MD, Yasushi Nakamori, MD, PhD, Yusuke Ito, MD, Hiroshi Hino, MD, and Takeshi Shimazu, MD, PhD, *Suita, Osaka, Japan*

Eight patients with delayed formation of SPAs including the previously mentioned two patients were observed without TAE during their entire hospital stay. These SPAs were 8.7 (5.5) mm (range, 3.5–25 mm) in size and were spontaneously occluded on follow-up enhanced CT or angiography. Spontaneous occlusion of the SPAs was confirmed at 5.2 (2.6) days (range, 2–10 days) after diagnosis of delayed SPA. Relapse of these SPAs was not observed on follow-up enhanced CT.

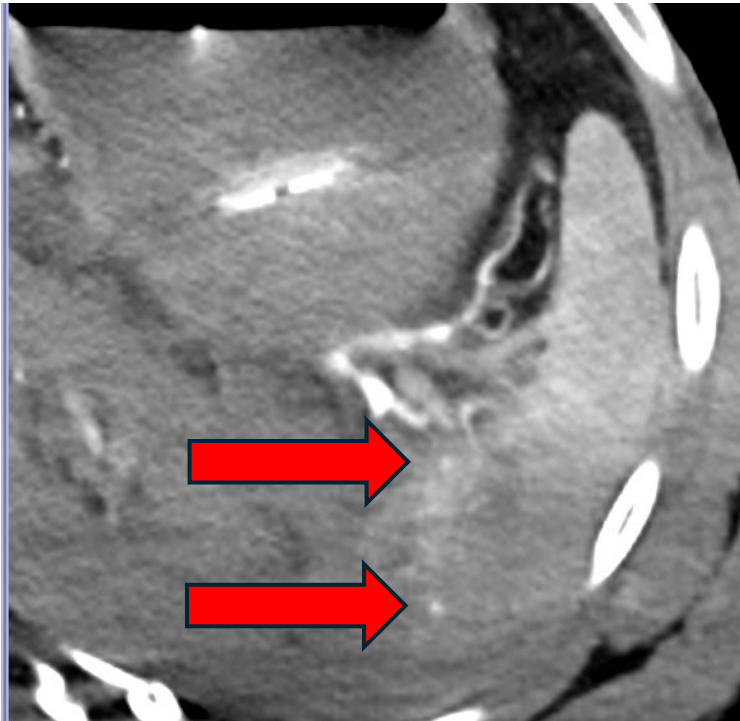
# CT protocols – three options

- Portal venous phase imaging
- Biphasic imaging:      One injection – two scans
- Split bolus imaging:      Two injections- one scan
- The choice of protocol depends on the local experience and preferences and on the pre test probability of high grade splenic injuries

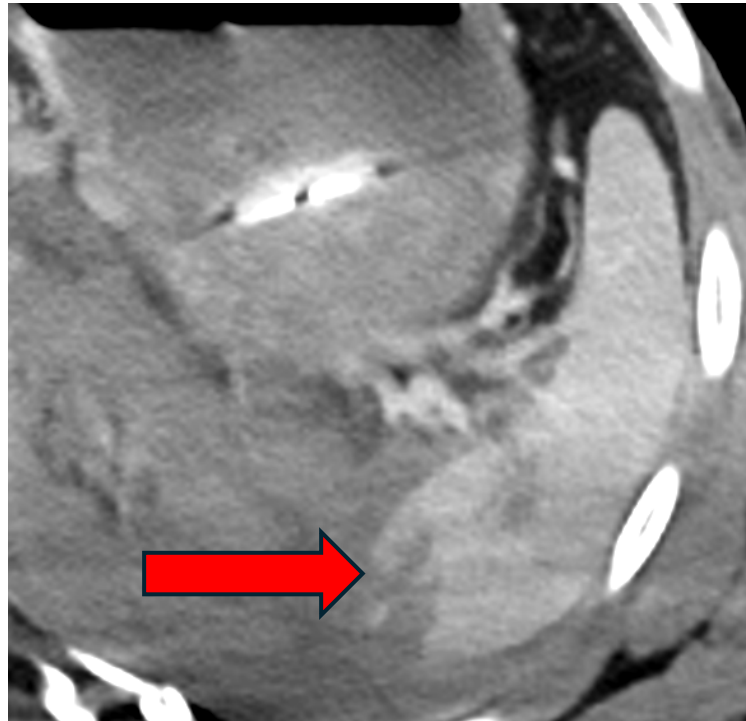


# Biphasic imaging

**Artrial phase**



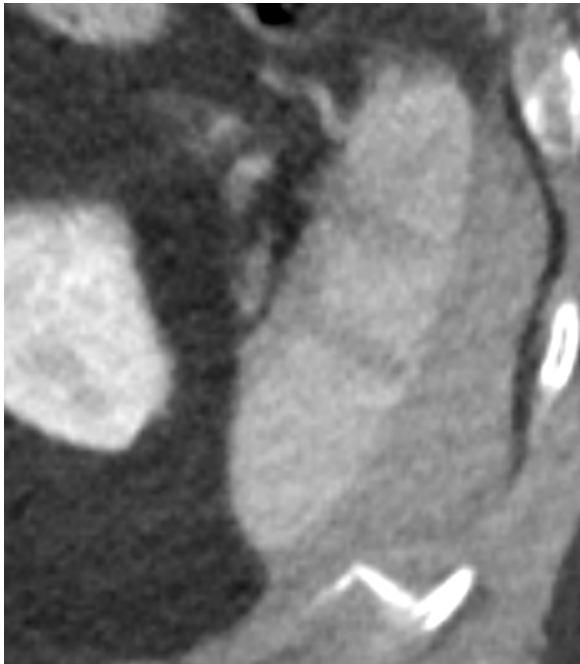
**Portal-venous phase**



- Arterial phase superior for small PSA
- PV phase for parenchymal injuries
- Combination detects ongoing bleeding

# Portal-venous phase imaging

**Admission CT pv  
phase**



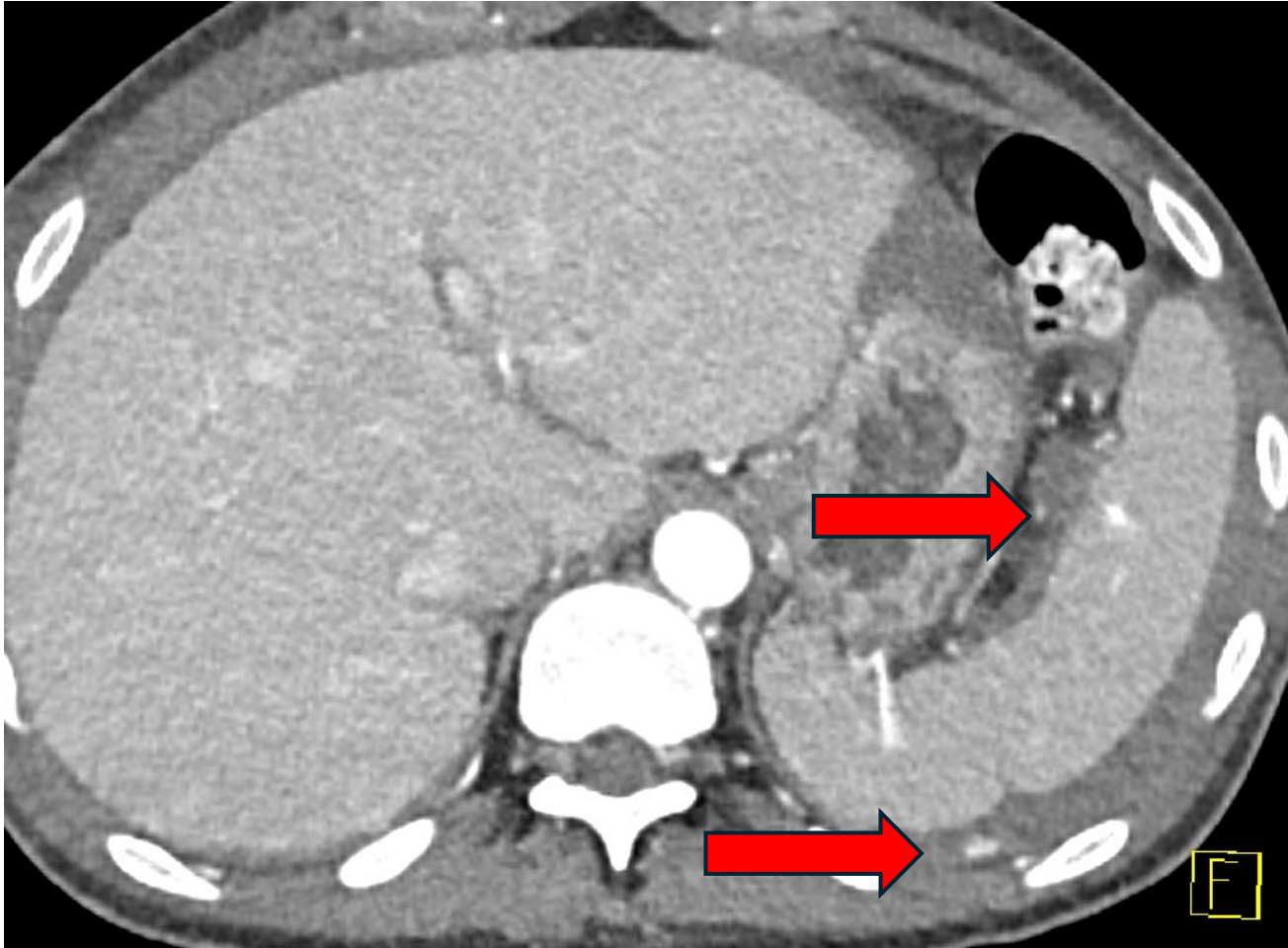
**FU day 7 pv phase**



**Detects parenchymal  
injuries**

**Detects larger PSA and activ  
bleeding**

# Split bolus imaging



**Detects minor PSA**

**Detects active bleeding**

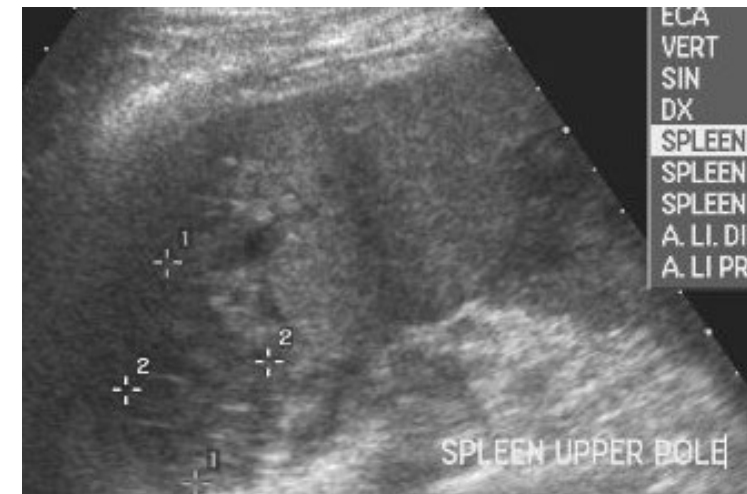


# Does ultrasound play any role in splenic trauma?



# Ultrasound

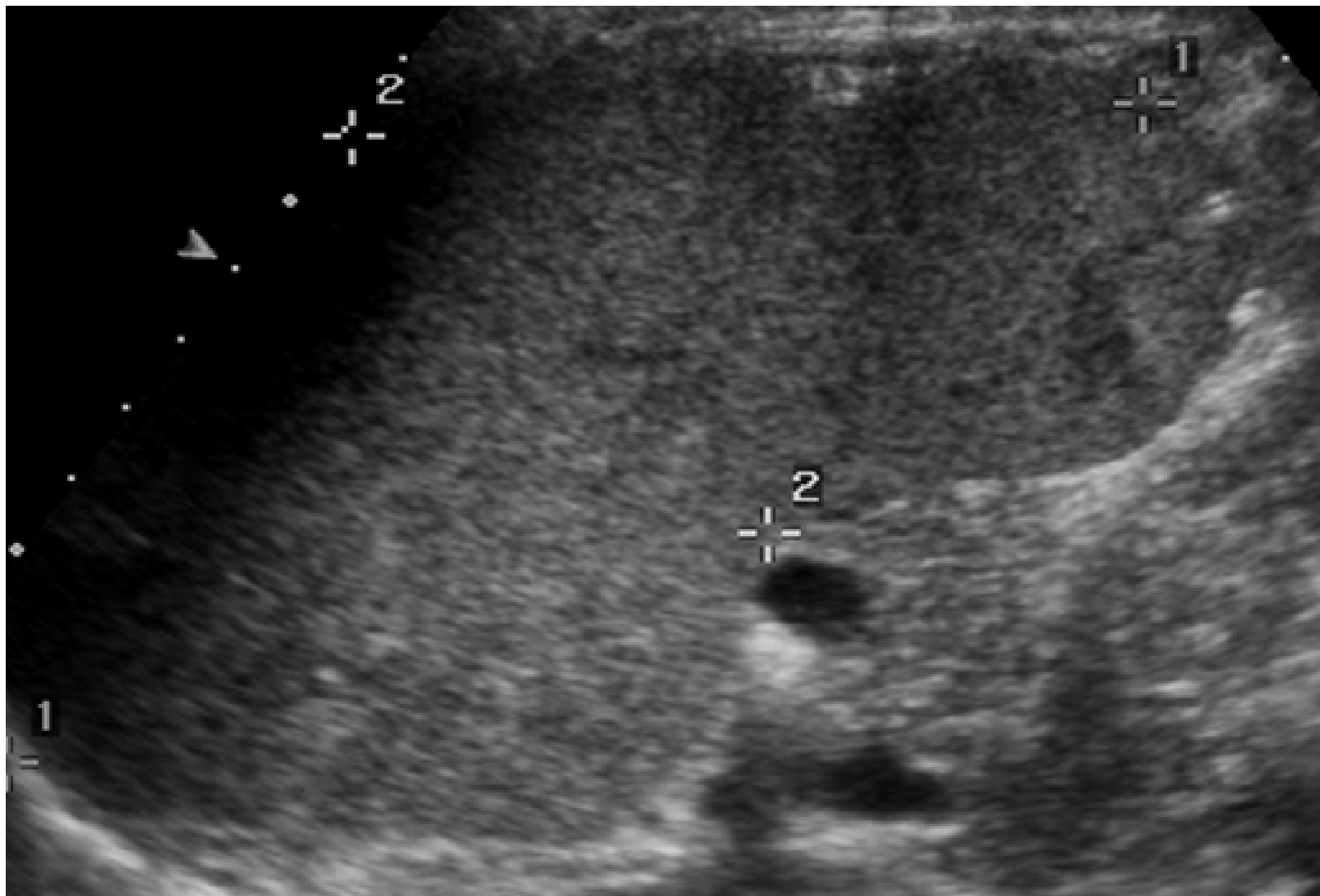
- Low sensitivity 50-70%
- Hematomas appear as iso-, hypo- or hyperdense
- Fluid around the spleen
- Can be useful in controls



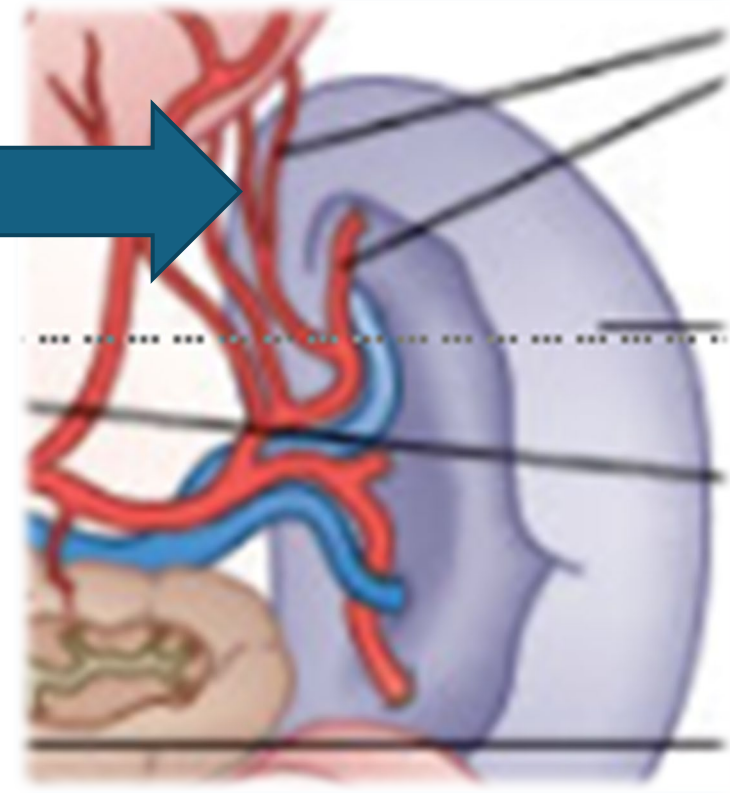
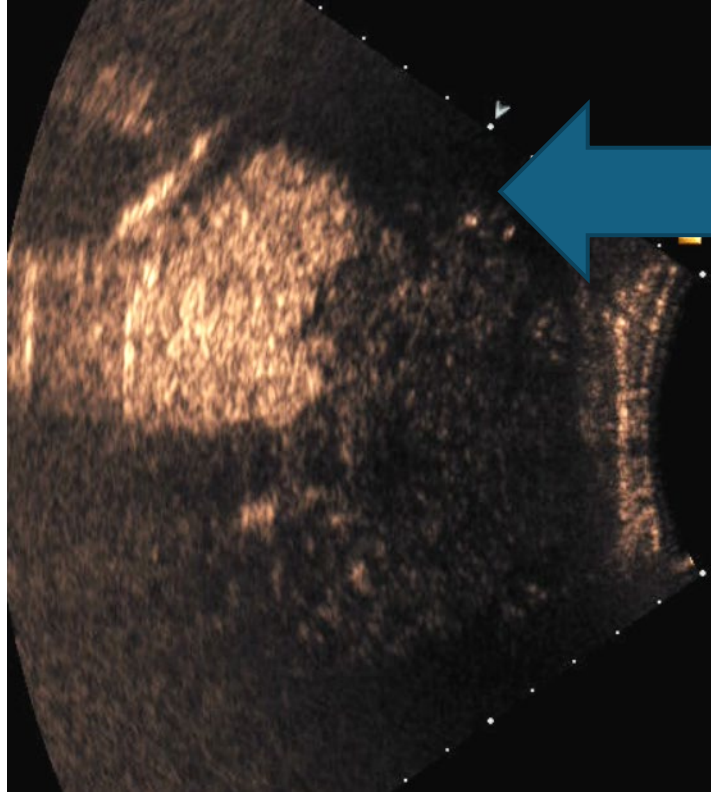
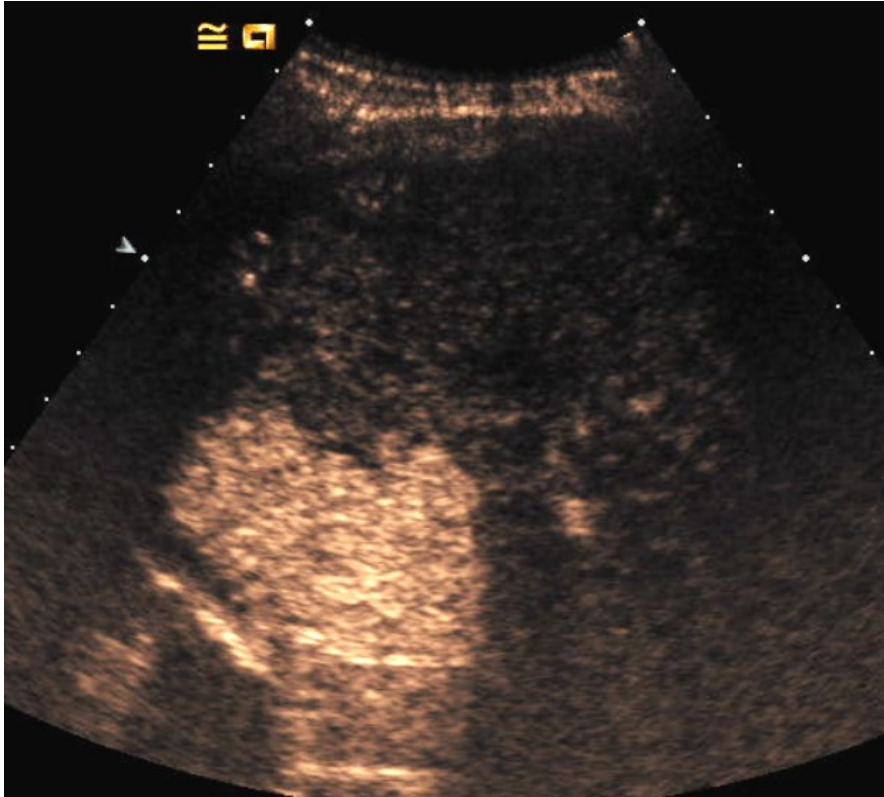
# Contrast enhanced ultrasound (CEUS)

- High sensitivity
- Can detect active bleeding, vascular injuries and hematomas
- Useful in F/U after PSA detection and embolisation

# Embolized grade 4 injury - grayscale



# Embolized grade 4 injury - CEUS



The upper pole is perfused by the gastrica sinister arteries  
The major part of splenic tissue is hypoperfused

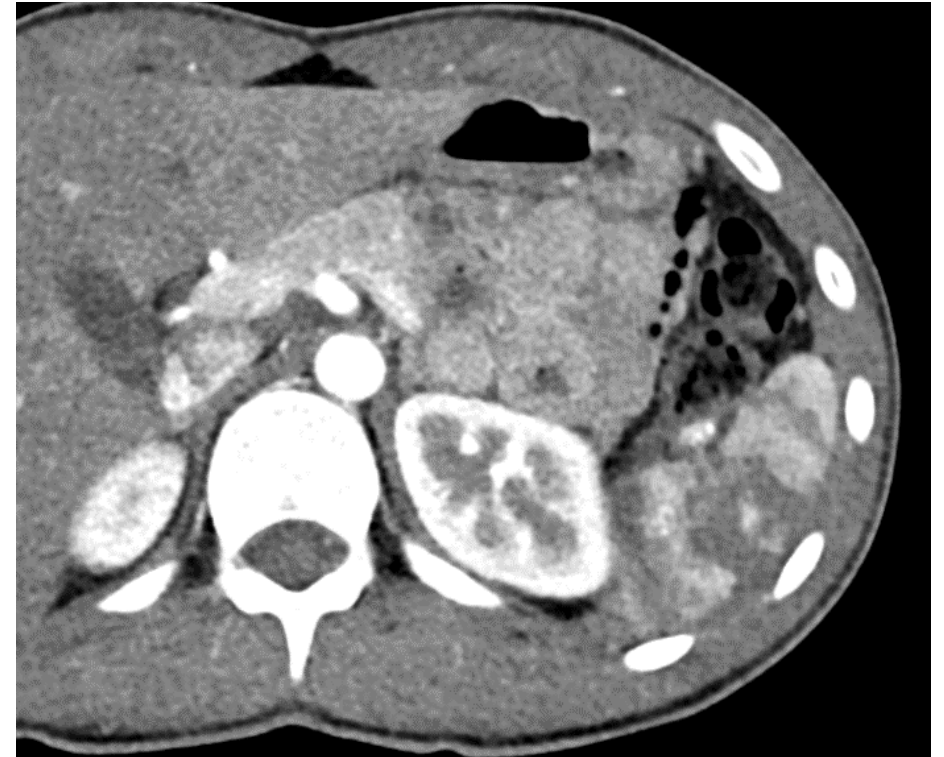


# Case

- 15 y/o male
- Down hill skiing, crashed into a tree
- Fast +

# CT findings

- Multiple lacerations and hematoma
- Possible extravasation, vascular injury
- NOM with observation



# Controll day 5

- Kontrast ultralyd

# Technical tips for CEUS in splenic injuries

- Teknikk:
  1. Check admission CT, where are the injuries?
  2. Exam the region of interest with grayscale
  3. Move the probe slightly fanlike over the injured region
  4. Inject the contrast
  5. Start uptake immediately after injection





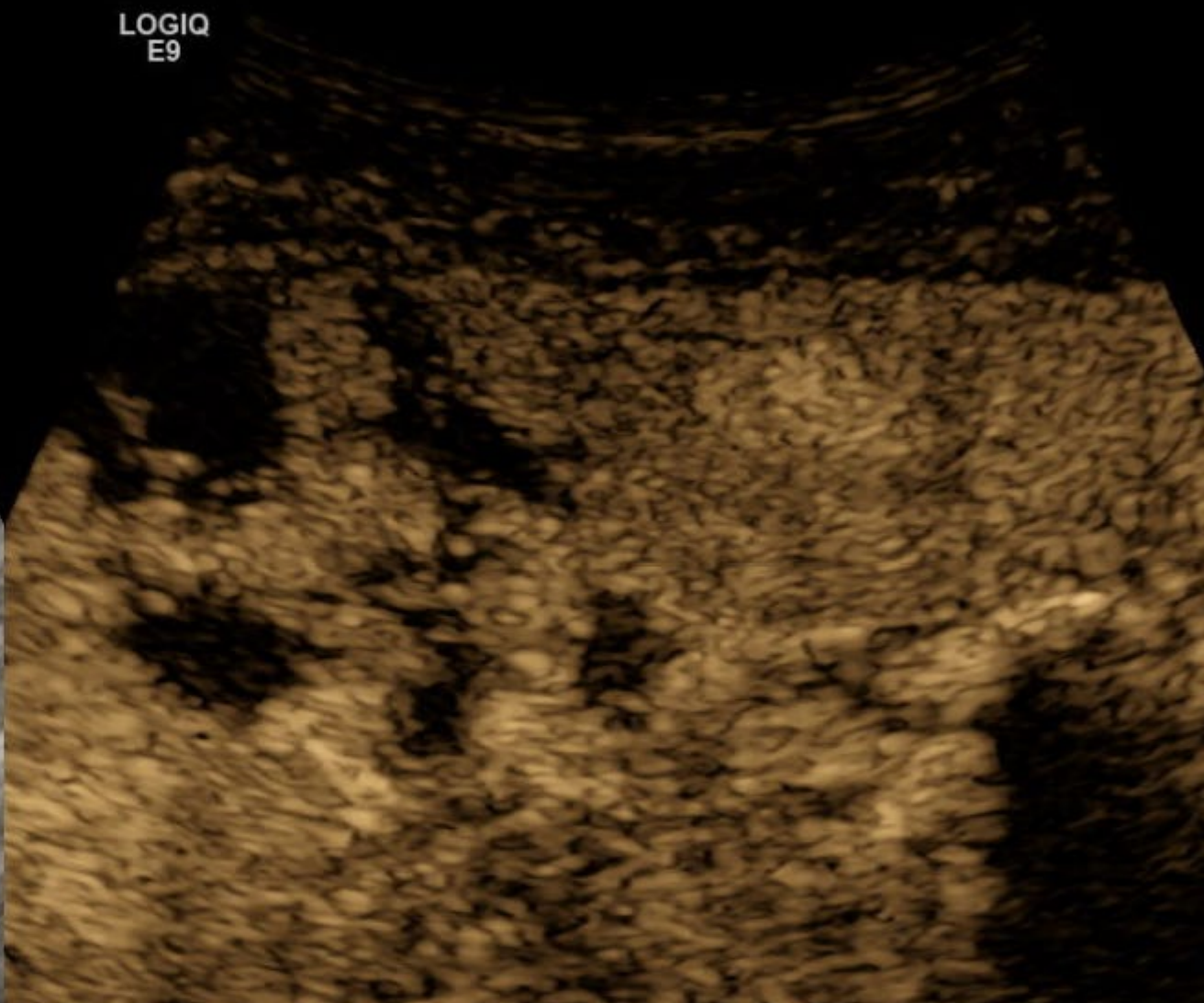
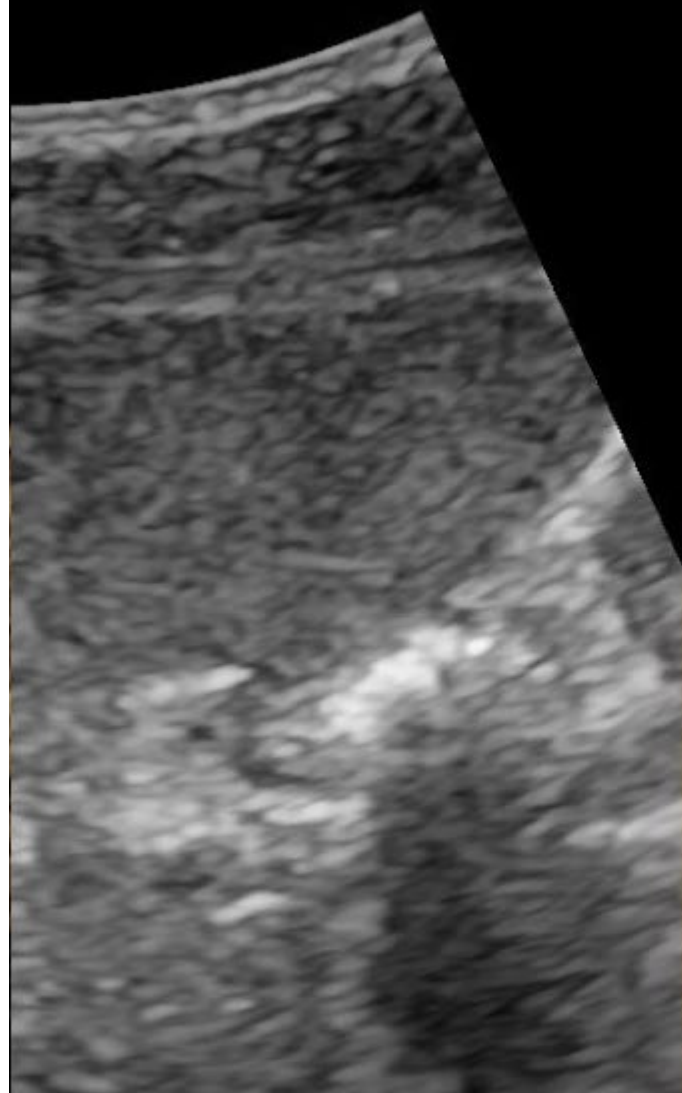
# Contrast



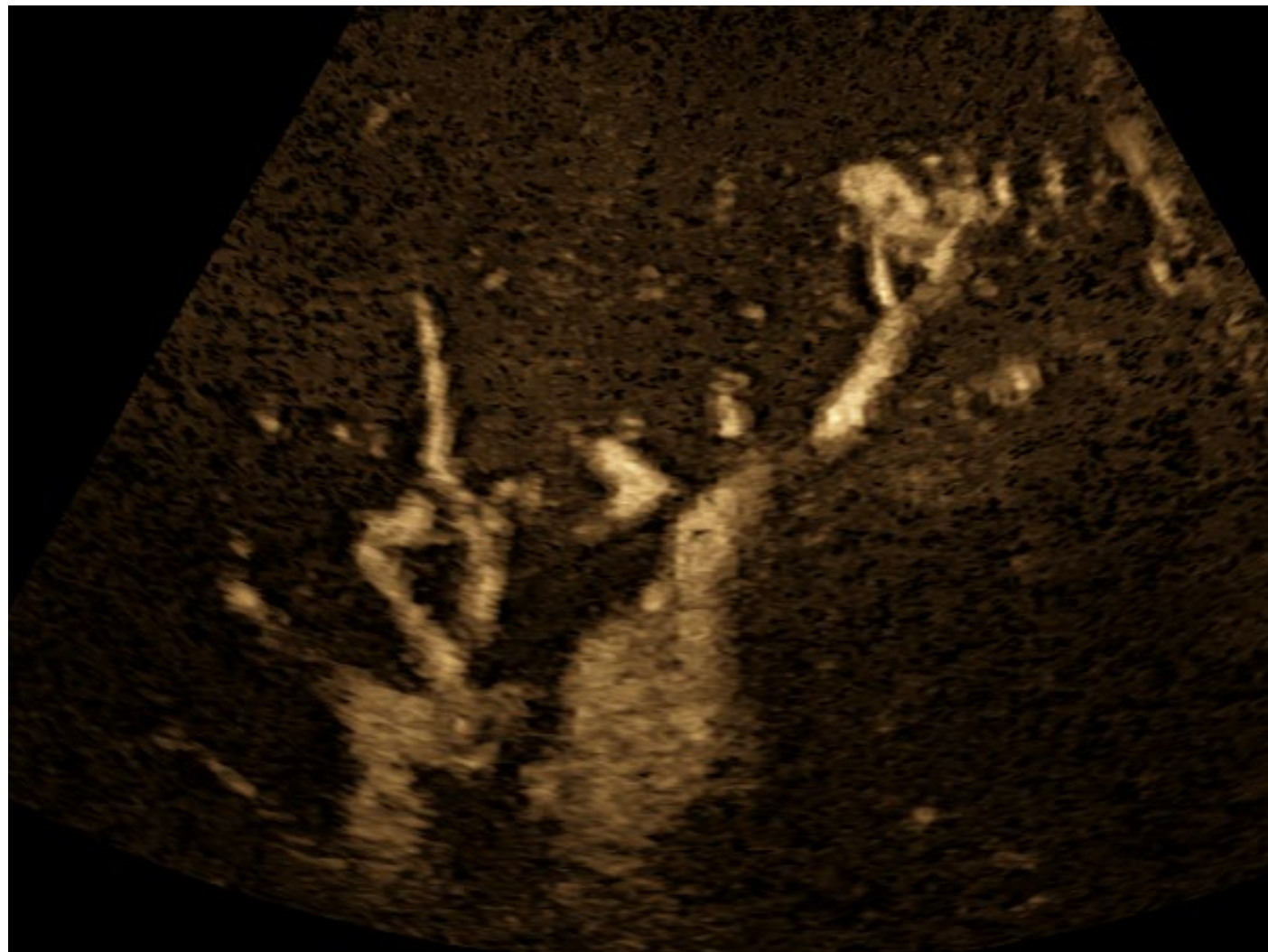
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C1-6 Abdomen MI 0.09 TIs 0.0

LOGIQ  
E9



# B-mode



# Signs of PSA on CEUS

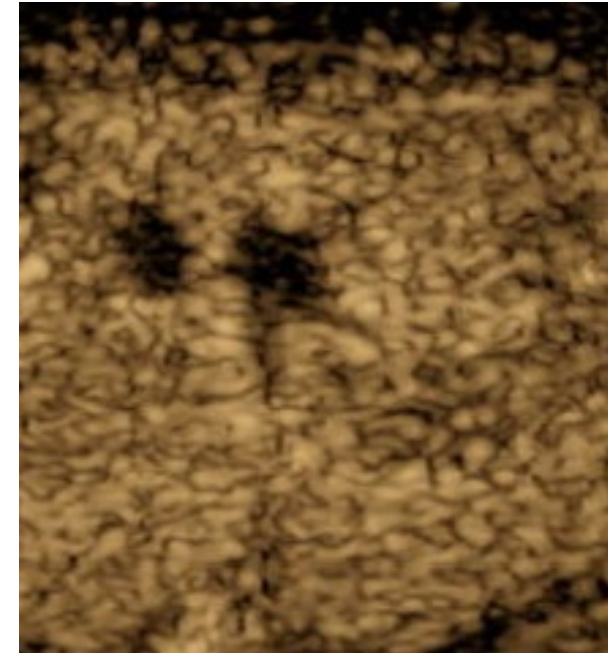
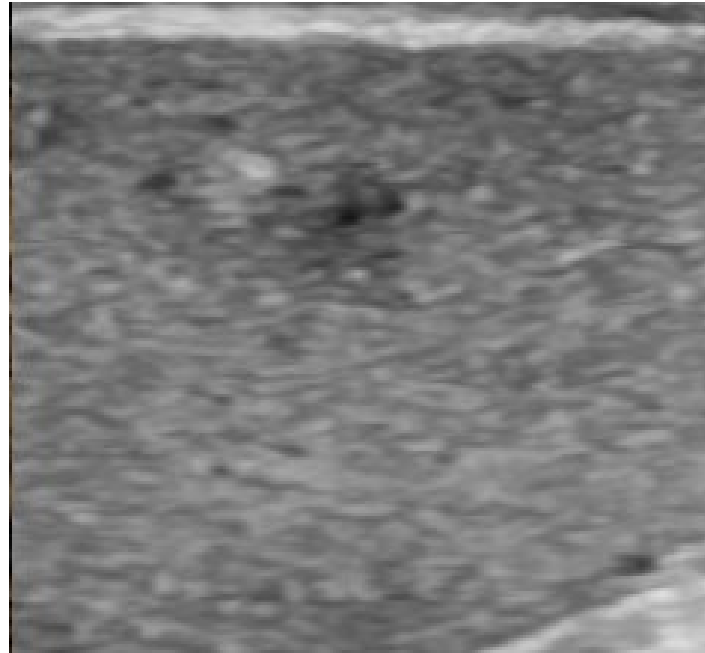
- Very early and focal uptake
- Mushroomlike appearance
- «Feeding artery»
- In late phase: Still slightly hyperenhancing compared to non injured splenic tissue



# Second control after 7 days

# CEUS findings after second control

- 2 Completely thrombotized PSA
- Grayscale:
  - Hyperechoic or hypoechoic lesion
  - No Doppler
  - No B-flow
- CEUS
  - No contrast enhancement



# Summary - Keypoints

- Grading of splenic injuries is important because grading defines treatment and outcome
- Look carefully for vascular injuries, PSA and ongoing bleeding
- PSA in children and small PSA in adults can thrombotise spontaneously
- CEUS is the modality of choice in F/U of isolated splenic injuries

