

Recommendations for the Adult Cardiac Sonographer Performing Echocardiography to Screen for Critical Congenital Heart Disease in the Newborn: From the American Society of Echocardiography



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BACKGROUND/NEED FOR DOCUMENT

Congenital malformations are the leading cause of infant mortality in developed countries, with critical congenital heart disease (C-CHD) being the major contributor to death and morbidity despite the development of specialized pediatric cardiac centers.^{1,2} C-CHD is defined as congenital heart disease requiring surgery or catheter intervention in the first year of life and constitutes ~25% of CHD.³ Although CHD is the most common form of congenital malformation and occurs in 9 of every 1,000 live births,⁴ it is not always identified early and referred to a pediatric cardiologist. There is, therefore, a need for all cardiac sonographers, regardless of their pediatric experience, to be able to detect CHD and recognize those cases that are critical in nature.

Despite advances in antenatal screening and fetal echocardiography, prenatal detection of CHD remains variable by geographic location and type of CHD lesion, with a recent report from the United States (US) estimating a detection rate of only 42% in 2012.⁵⁻⁷