



Controversies & updates in Vascular Surgery

Paris - january 21 – 23 2016

Venous session

**Anatomic Variations
of inferior vena cava (IVC):**

diagnosis by duplex : is it possible ?

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Disclosure

Speaker name : Lemasle Philippe

I have the following potential conflicts of interest to report:

- ☐ Consulting
- ☐ Employment in industry
- ☐ Shareholder in a healthcare company
- ☐ Owner of a healthcare company
- ☐ Other(s)
- ☒ I do not have any potential conflict of interest

Embryogenesis of the IVC

= complex process involving the formation of several anastomoses between three paired embryonic veins

Segmentation IVC

1. RETROHEPATIC segment

= RIGHT VITELLINE v.

flow rate $\approx 1\ 500\text{ ml/m}$

2. SUPRARENAL segment

= RIGHT SUBCARDINAL v.

flow rate $\approx 1\ 000\text{ ml/m}$

3. RENAL segment

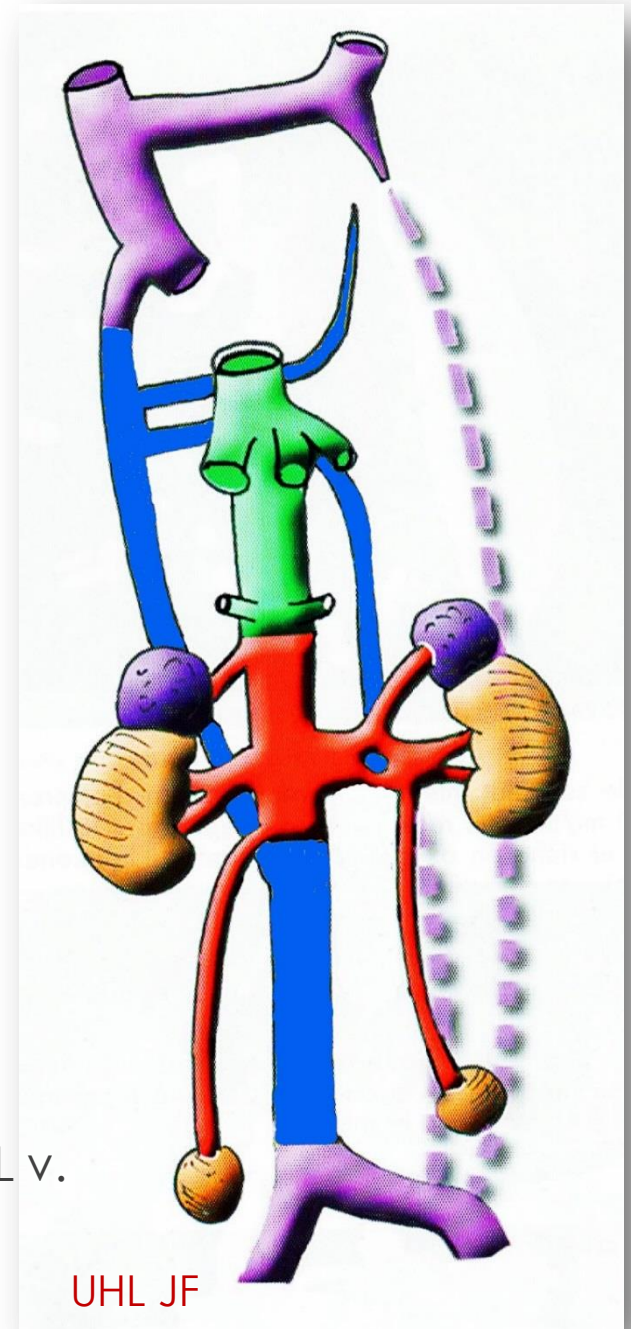
= SUBSUPRACARDINAL anastomosis

4. INFRARENAL segment

= caudal extremity
of the RIGHT SUPRACARDINAL v.

5. ILIAC venous confluence

= caudal extremity of the POSTERIOR CARDINAL v.
flow rate $\approx 500\text{ ml/m}$



Main congenital anomalies of the IVC

- **Variant anatomy of the left renal vein** (LRV)
 - retroaortic LRV
 - circumaortic LRV
- **Anomalies of the IVC**
 - absence of the infrarenal IVC
 - Left IVC
 - IVC duplication
 - absence of the hepatic segment of the IVC with azygos continuation

**Why I never found (or so ...) theses anomalies of
the IVC by duplex ?**

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- **1st hypothesis :**
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- **2nd hypothesis :**
I am hopeless
- **3rd hypothesis :**
US positive diagnosis is possible only if several criteria are met :
 - accessibility of the region studied
 - hemodynamic consequences of the lesion
 - the lesion frequency

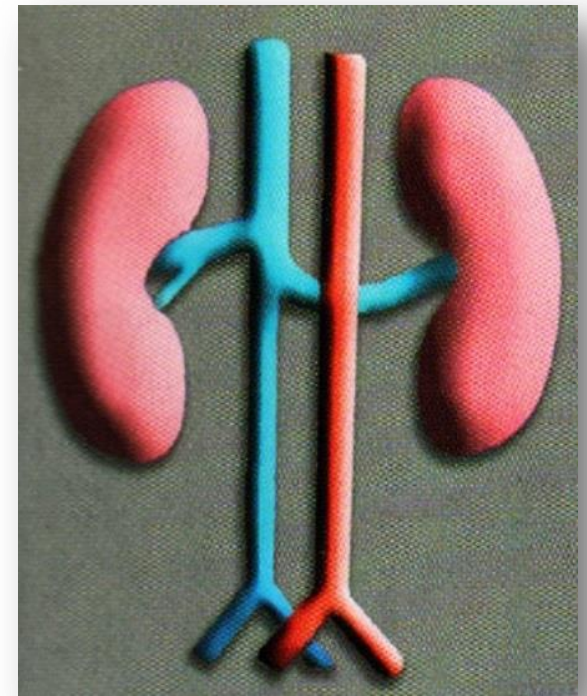
Main congenital anomalies of the IVC

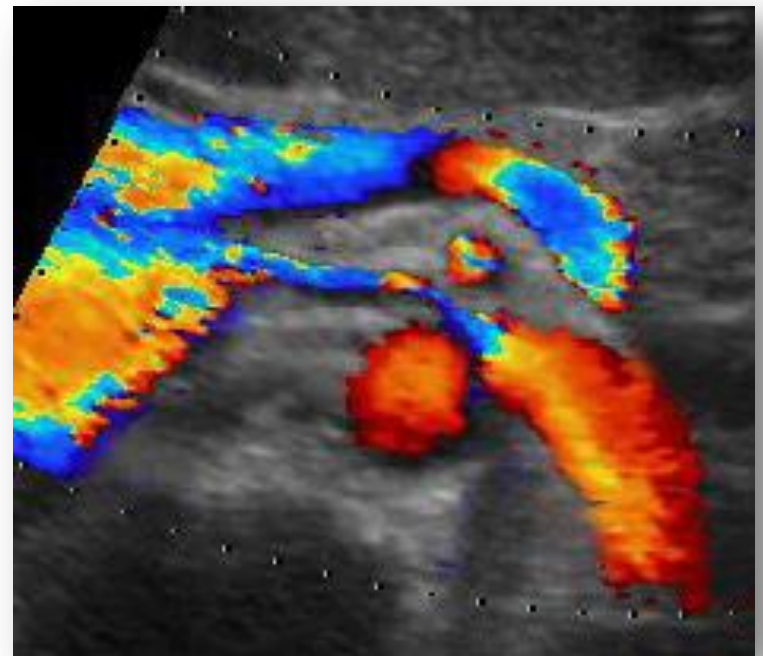
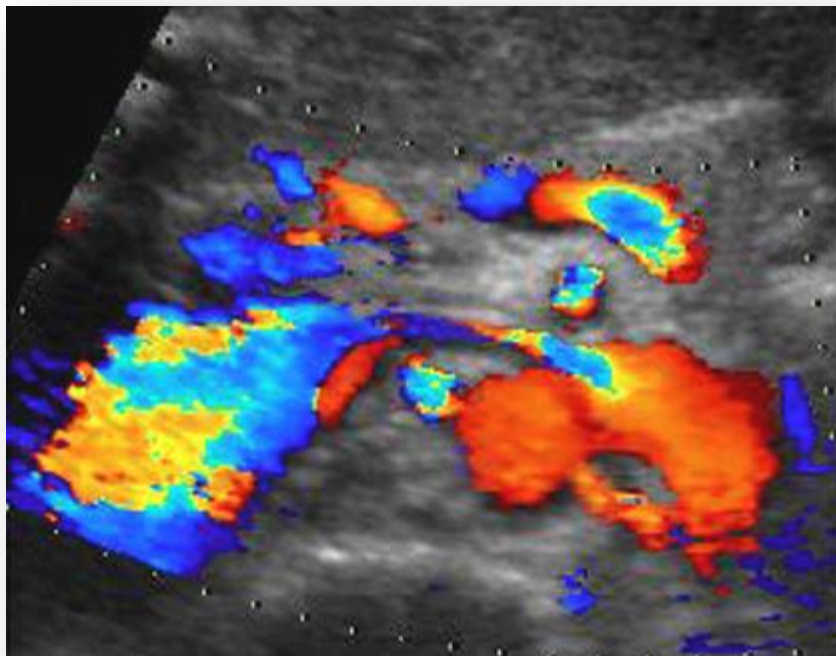
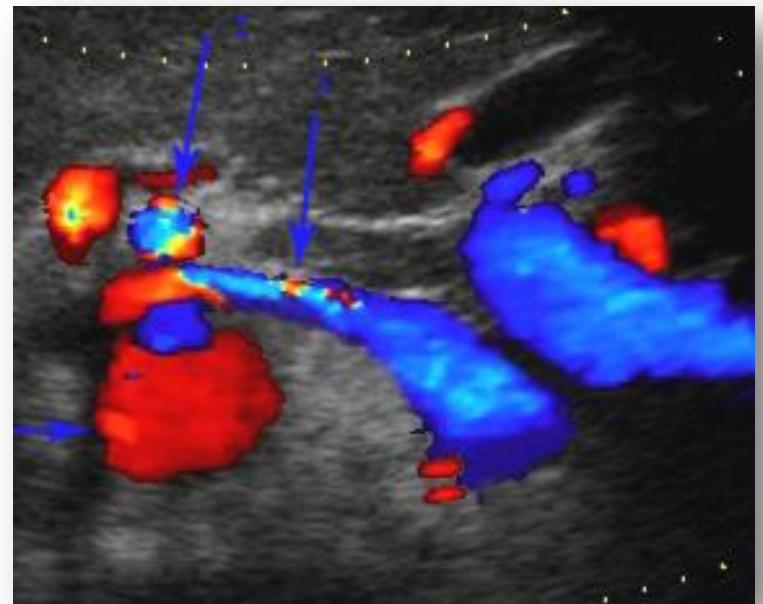
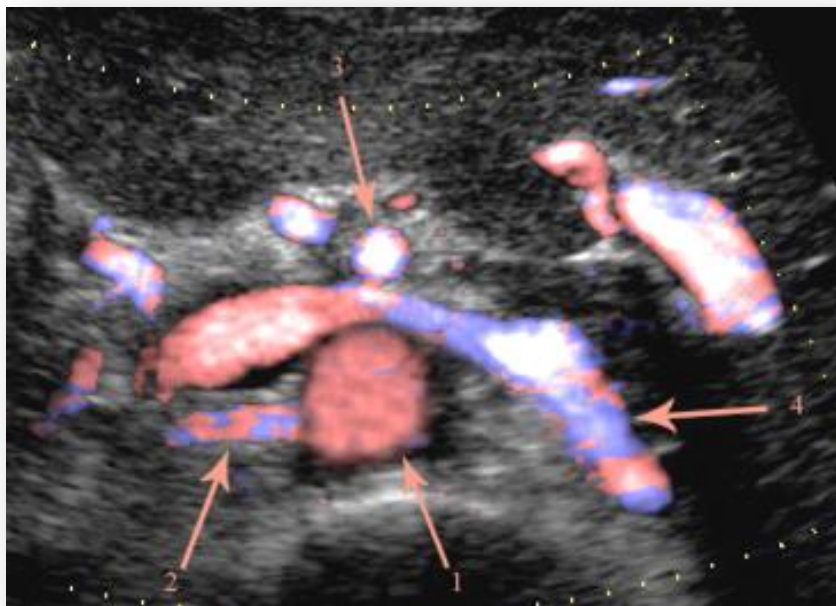
- **Variant anatomy of the left renal vein** (LRV)
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 - absence of the infrarenal IVC
 - left IVC
 - double IVC
 - absence of the hepatic segment of the IVC with azygos continuation

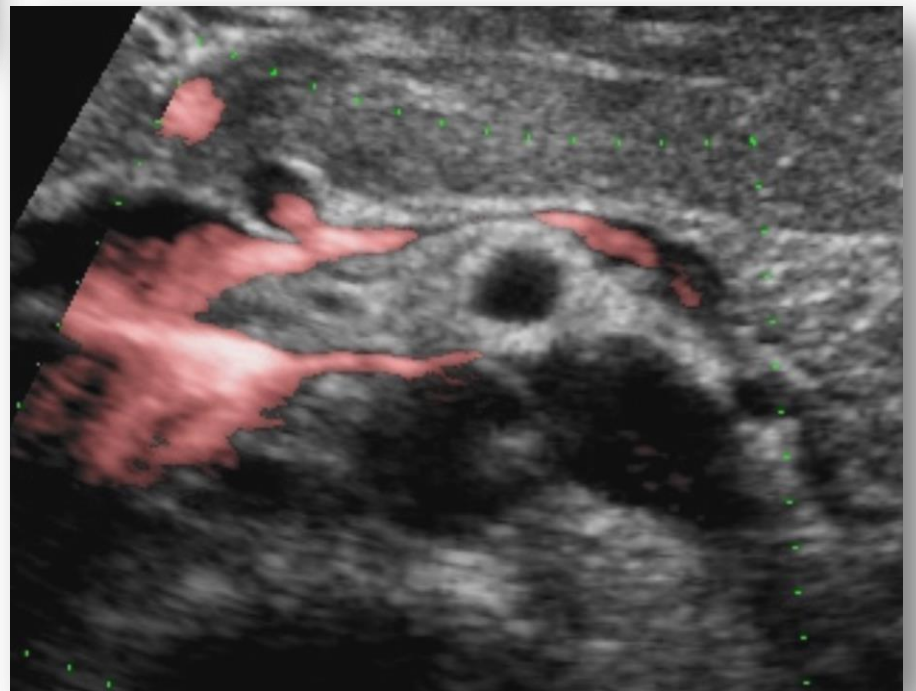
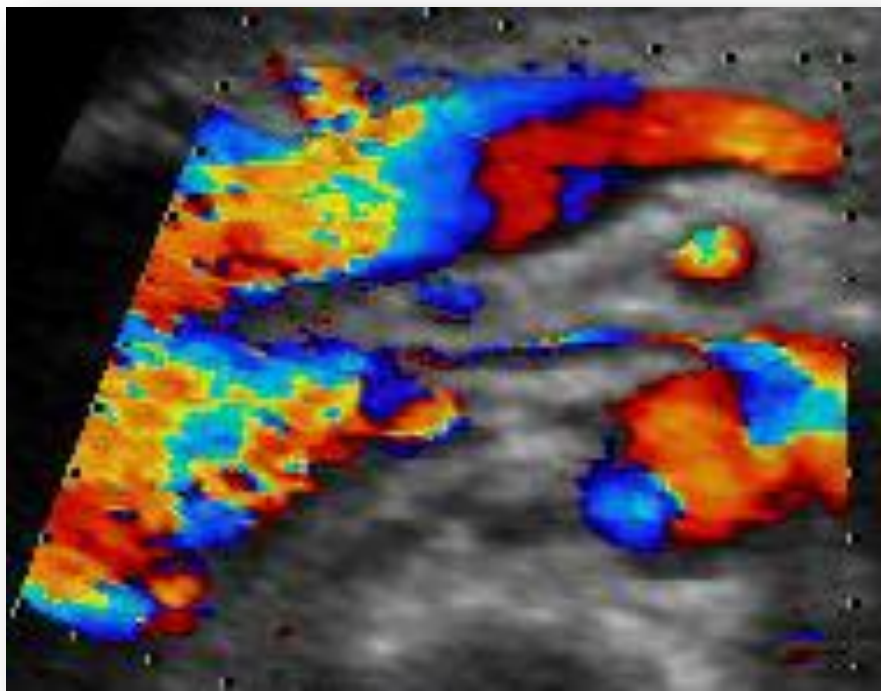
Retroaortic LRV

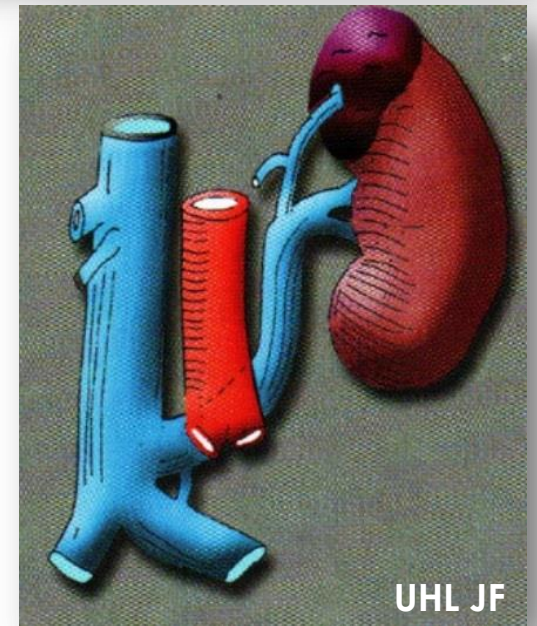
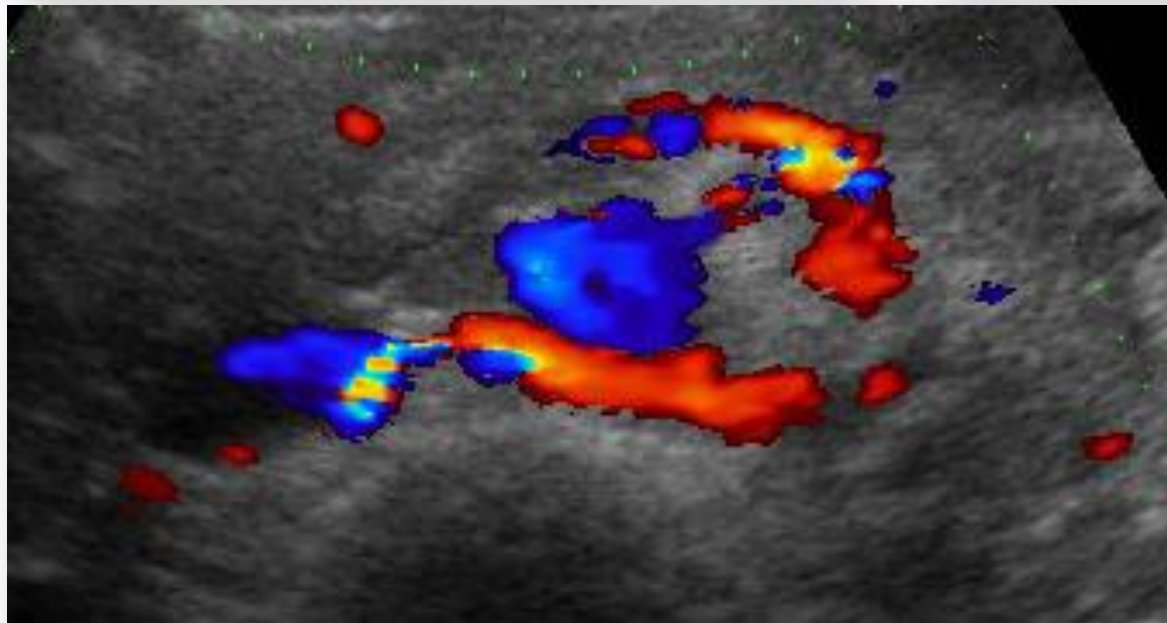
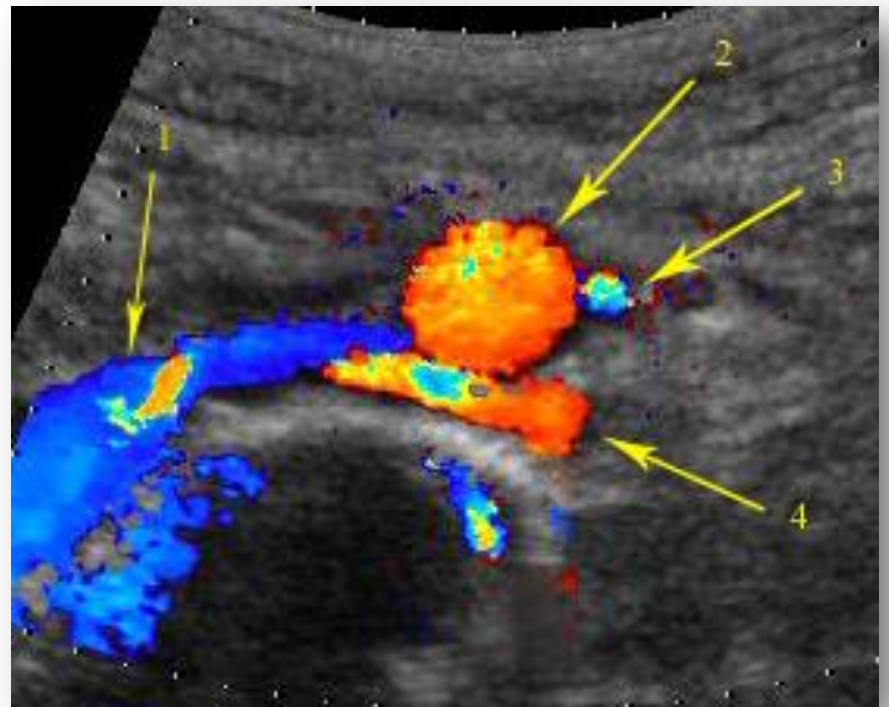
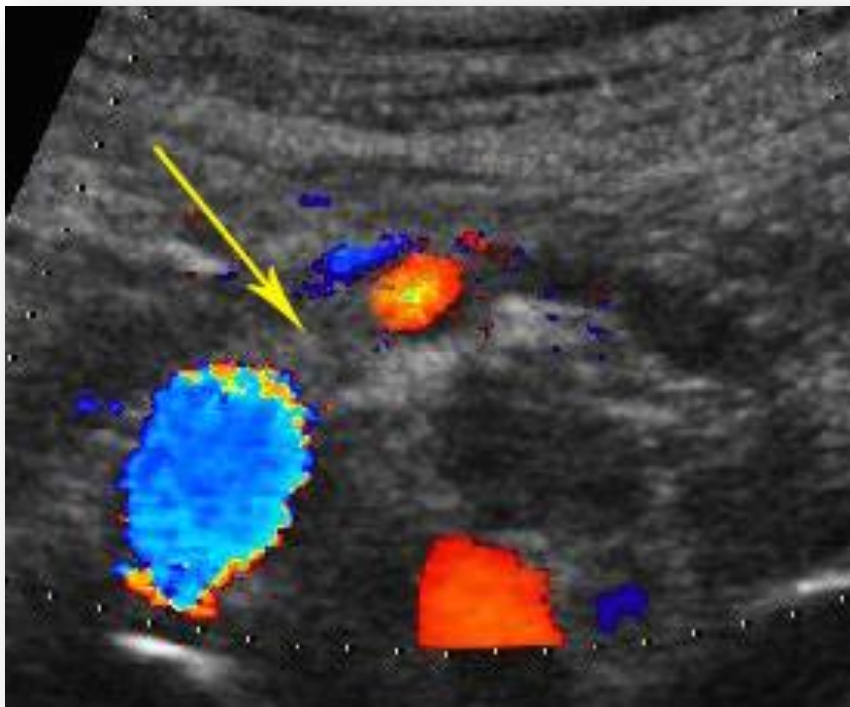
- embryology :
 - = abnormal regression of ventral arch (inter SUBcardinal anastomosis)
 - + abnormal persistence of dorsal arch of the renal collar (complex inter SUPRA et SUB cardinal anastomosis)
- accessible area
- symptomatic lesion = posterior NCS
 - = reflux in left ovarian vein (LOV)
 - is secondary to compression of the LRV
 - ≈ 3 - 4% of symptomatic pelvic varicoses
 - Milka Greiner
- frequency :
 - 1.4 to 3.7% - radiological studies
 - 1.47 to 1.9% - surgical studies

Bass JE. Radiographics 2000
Uhl JF. phlébologie 2005





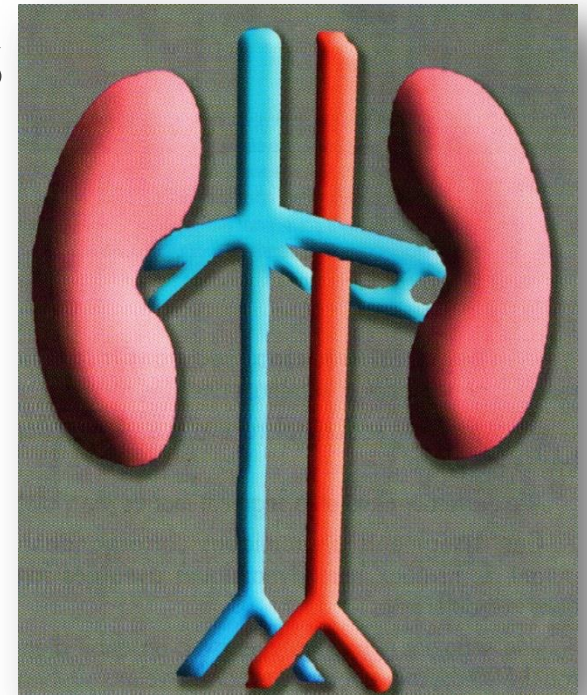




Circumaortic LRV

- embryology
 - = abnormal persistence of dorsal arch of the renal collar
 - + abnormal persistence of dorsal limb of the embryonic RV
- accessible area
- hemodynamic consequence = NCS
 - LOV generally in the posterior branch
 - specific renal drainage area for each vein
- frequency :
 - 0,9 (CT 2004) to 8,5 % (MR 1996)
 - 0,5 à 0,6 % - surgical studies

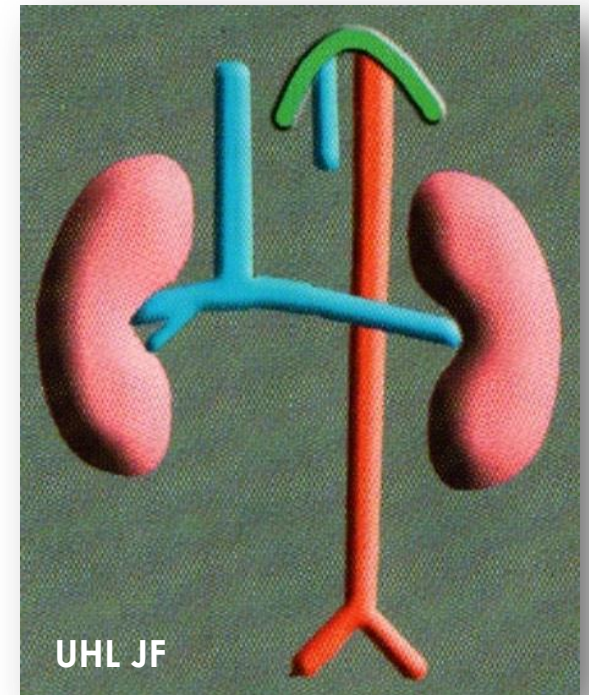
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Absence of the infrarenal IVC

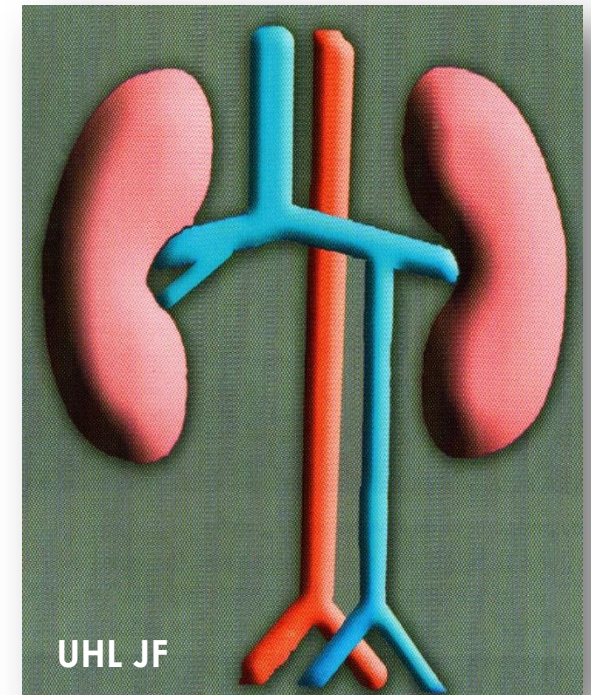
- embryology
= failure of development of the POST-cardinal and SUPRA-cardinal veins
- accessible area
- major hemodynamic consequence
= lower extremity venous return by the azygos system via ascending lumbar veins & anterior paravertebral collateral vein
- very rare lesion

Bass JE. Radiographics 2000
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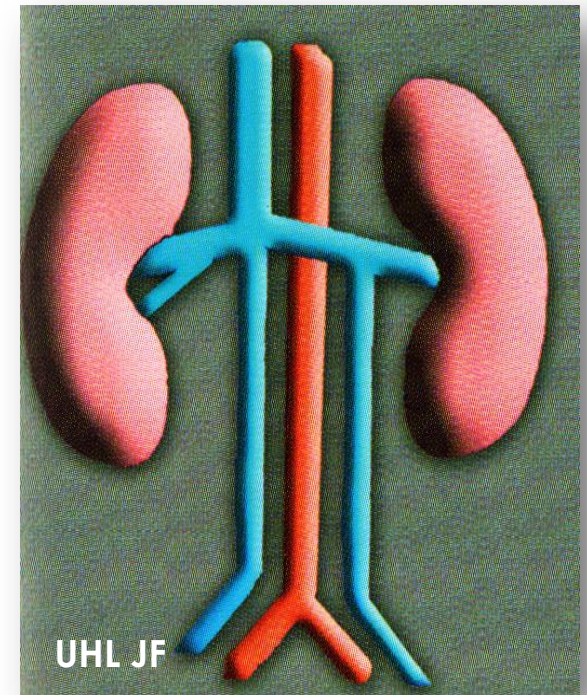
Left IVC

- embryology
 - = abnormal regression of the right supracardinal vein
 - + abnormal persistence of the left supracardinal vein
- accessible area
- hemodynamic consequence
 - = decrease circulatory speed in iliac veins et IVC
- fréquence :
 - 0,35 to 0,6 % - surgical study



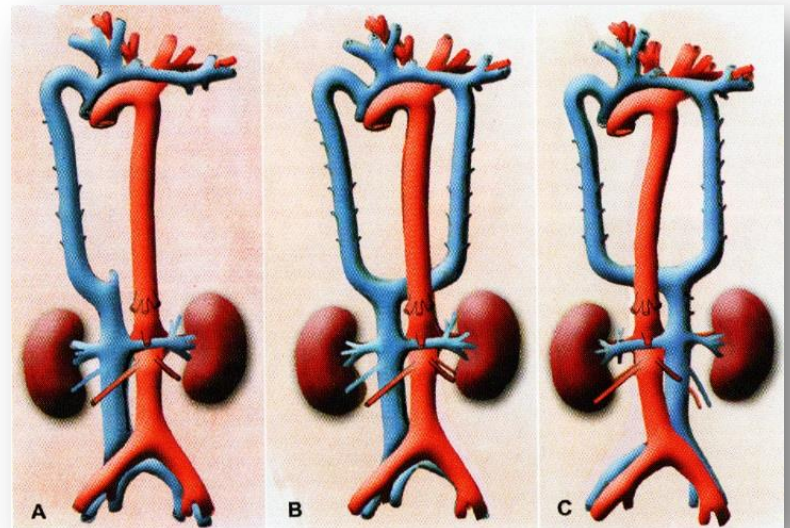
Double IVC

- embryology
 - = normal persistence of the right SUPRA-cardinale v.
 - + abnormal persistence of the left SUPRA-cardinale v.
- accessible area
- hemodynamic consequence :
 - = decrease circulatory speed in iliac veins et IVC
- fréquence :
 - 0,3 % - radiological study (CT 1998)
 - 0,5 to 1,2 % - surgical study



Azygos continuation of the IVC

- embryology
= abnormal regression of right VITELLINE v.
(failure to form the right subcardinal–hepatic anastomosis, with resulting atrophy of the right subcardinal vein)
- inaccessible area
- hemodynamic consequence
= despite the azygos v. expansion
>> flow resistance at the azygos arch & SVC
>> edema in orthostatic
- fréquencecy :
 - 0,1 % - (CT 1998)



Conclusion

- All these lesions are rare, outside abnormalities VRG
- All these lesions are accessible, outside the azygos system
- All the anomalies of the IVC have a bilateral hemodynamic consequences, upstream

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<http://strtn.org/ViewPoster/index.php?idPoster=16&idCong=4>

Adult left renal vein

- normal persistence of :
 - the ventral limb of the embryonic renal vein
 - the anterior limb of the renal collar

Main congenital anomalies of the IVC

- **Embryonic development**

veins evolve according to the flow rate :

- if flow rate \searrow \gg involution of the axis
- if flow rate \nearrow \gg development of the axis

- **Anomalie et variation during embryogenesis :**

- no involution of an axis
- non development of an axis
- convergence, anastomose of many axis