Echocardiography Objectives

Knowledge

- Every trainee should understand the basic aspects of cardiac ultrasound, including physical principles, instrumentation, cardiovascular anatomy, cardiovascular physiology, and cardiovascular pathophysiology.
- The trainee will be exposed to and become familiar with the technical performance, interpretation, strengths, and limitations of 2-dimensional echocardiography and Doppler.
- The trainee is encouraged to learn how to correlate the findings from the echocardiographic and Doppler exam with the results of other imaging modalities and physical examination.

Skills

- Each trainee should master the skills of performing a transthoracic echocardiogram and Doppler examination and be able to integrate their understanding of 3-dimensional cardiac anatomy.
- The trainee should understand how to perform a stress echocardiogram, including exercise stress as well as pharmacologic stress testing.
- The trainee should learn how to perform a transesophageal echocardiogram.

Teaching Methods

- Interactive learning during performance of transthoracic and transesophageal exams
- Interactive learning during reading sessions with the attendings
- Interactive and didactic learning during the weekly echocardiography conferences
- Selected self-directed reading of the current literature

Methods of Evaluation

- Direct observation of performance during echocardiography examinations
- Direct observation of echocardiography knowledge and interpretation during reading sessions