

## Aorta Workflow/Protocol Refresher

Bedside aortic ultrasound is a sensitive tool to identify those patients which have an abdominal aortic aneurysm. To safely assess if a patient has an aneurysm or not, the standard scanning protocol is to obtain three transverse views (proximal, mid, distal/bif) and one sagittal view.

To scan using the Aorta Protocol tool:

- Use the “Aorta Protocol” for easy labeling: select the “actions” button on the lower right screen and then “Aorta protocol” from the “Aorta actions page.” Click on the zone you will be scanning to label. After each clip is recorded, you will be able to pick a different zone.

To scan without using the Aorta Protocol tool:

- Start upper/mid abdomen, in transverse, with the blue dot facing the patient’s RIGHT
- Remember to PUSH to displace the bowel gas out of the way
- Adjust your depth so the aorta is in the center of the image (move your finger up and down on the screen to do this)
- Adjust your gain (brightness) as needed (move your finger left and right across the screen to do this)
- Move the probe superiorly to visualize as much of the proximal aorta as possible
- Take a picture by pressing the snowflake button to freeze the image and then the camera button next to it to capture it
- Press the snowflake button again to unfreeze your image
- Move the probe inferiorly, following the aorta until you get to mid, then distal at the bifurcation of the aorta to the iliac arteries. Take a picture at all of those areas as you did before.
- You will need to measure at least one of those images to show the AP measurement of the aorta (do not use the bifurcation image to measure). Measure from outside of lumen to outside of lumen.
  - To do this during the exam: when you freeze the image, click the actions tab on the far right on the bottom of the screen. “Aa/line” comes up, click that. Then click “line”. Move the calipers so that they measure the aorta in the direction from the top-down on the screen. Press the camera button on the bottom of the screen to take the picture.
- To take a cine/video clip, start as proximal as you can. Press the red video recorder button which will start your 6second clip and move the probe all the way from prox aorta through bifurcation. Remember to PUSH!
- Lastly, turn your hand so the blue dot on the probe points to the patient’s head
- Lengthen out the aorta across the screen and then freeze and capture the image
- Done scanning! From this point you will END your study by clicking the exam reel in the top right corner. This will bring up the screen allowing you to enter patient details, exam type, worksheet, and then if needed, you can edit your images at the bottom of this screen (either deleting images or labeling one if you didn’t have time in the exam room).
- At this point you will SAVE your study in either a DRAFT format to finish later or a FINAL format