


**IMAGES IN ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY**

**A 70-year-old Man Presenting with Heart Failure**

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A 70-year-old man with a history of congestive heart failure presented with exertional dyspnoea, atypical chest pain, and pretibial oedema. He had no fever, signs of endocarditis or previous trauma. On physical examination there was grade III/VI pansystolic murmur at the left sternal border. Two-dimensional colour Doppler flow imaging with the four-chamber view revealed a shunt from the left ventricle to the right atrium during systole (Fig. 1).

A left-to-right ventricular atrial shunt was first described by Gerbode et al.[1]. This pathology may be either congenital or may result from trauma, endocarditis or after valve replacement[2]. In this old man with congestive heart failure, the defect was most probably of congenital origin, since we could not find any factor pointing to all acquired aetiology.

**References**


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