

isuog2025.2b00a17. Some pitfalls in our everyday endovaginal ultrassound

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Objectives: Ultrasound is an excellent low cost highly accurate method for investigating endometriosis when performed by an experienced examiner. One of the patients biggest problems faced is the difficulty finding qualified professionals to diagnose and map the lesions. Our goal is to create describe some pitfalls and strategies to avoid them in everyday life.

Methods We searched Pubmed for articles published from 2000 to 2023 using the following search terms: “PITTFALLS” or “endometriosis ultrasound” .

Results: Endometriosis in the ovarian fossa and the falopian tube: endometriotic thickening in the ovarian fossa presents as irregular and hypoechoic tissue in the peritoneum with ecogenic points and is localized in the anterior wall , otherwise the tube are hipoecogenic ,opens medially into the upper angle of the uterus and are located superior/anterior to the ovaries, and can be alongatede.

Hemorrhagic cyst and endometrioma: sometimes bouth can be hypoechogenic, however hemorrhagic cysts may present vascularization in a peripheral halo and usually regress within 8 weeks, while endometrioma persist with the same pattern in successive menstrual cycles and don't have vascularization. Intra-ligamentous myoma and endometriosis in the round ligament: leiomyomas presents as a more homogeneous nodular image, with peripheral flow on Doppler, while endometriosis of the round ligament demonstrates a more irregular shape with echogenic focus and no flow on Doppler.

Conclusion Transvaginal ultrasound when performed by a physician with expertise, has high sensitivity for detecting endometriosis. It is always necessary to be prepared and aware of the unusual presentations of the disease and diagnostic pitfalls, so as not to be led into “diagnostic errors of interpretation”.

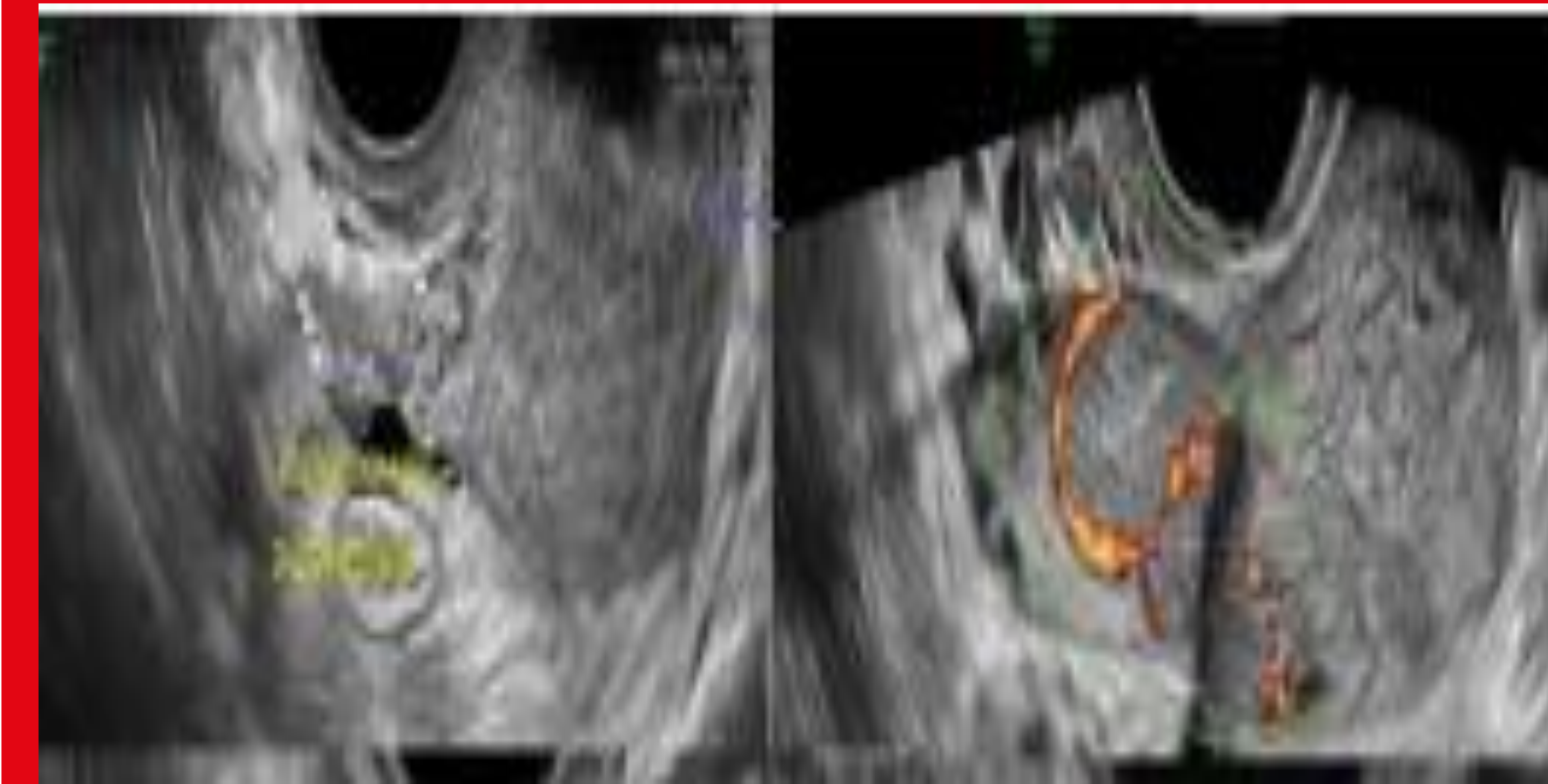


Figure 1 a- endometriosis in the ovarian fossa

Figure1 b- solid hemorrhagic cyst

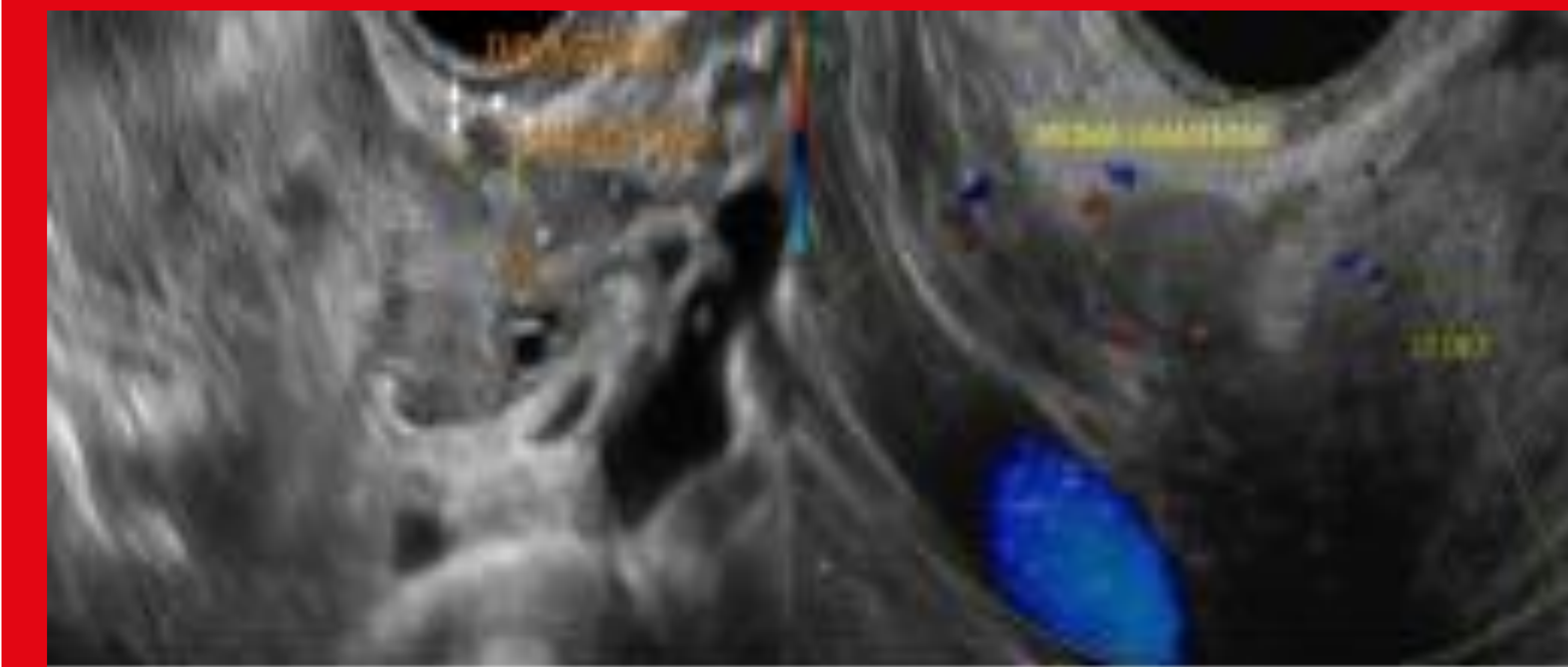


Figure 2 a- endometryosis in the round ligament

Figure 2 b- intra-ligamentous myoma