

FIGO Stage IIIC Cervical Cancer Initially Detected as a Bulky Cervix on Transvaginal Ultrasound

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Introduction:

There are approximately 3300 new cases of cervical cancer diagnosed in the UK each year, accounting for around 2% of all new cancer cases in females. (1) With the rising popularity of the one-stop clinic service model for women with post menopausal bleeding, it is not uncommon that a transvaginal ultrasound is performed prior to the direct visualisation of the cervix through speculum examination. Although TV USS in PMB clinics mainly aim to detect abnormal endometrium, abnormality of the cervix can sometimes also be identified.

Background of case:

A 77 year old patient was seen in a one-stop PMB clinic. A TV USS was performed initially. The endometrium was thin and regular. However, the cervix was seen to be significantly bulky measuring 40.5 x 34.6 x 43.9 mm - almost slightly larger than the the uterine body itself. The ectocervix appeared visually normal on speculum, although palpation identified small areas of irregularity. Following an MRI, endometrial and cervical biopsy, the patient was subsequently diagnosed with FIGO stage 3C cervical cancer. The biopsy confirmed HPV dependent squamous cell carcinoma. The patient underwent external beam radiotherapy and intracavity brachytherapy with curative intent.

Discussion and key learning:

The initial diagnosis of cervical cancer ultimately relies on a thorough and systematic speculum examination, colposcopy and biopsy. However, ultrasound imaging of the cervix should also be taken into consideration and scanning clinicians/sonographers should be familiar with the appearance of an abnormal cervix. (2) This case illustrates an example of the above. One should also be cognisant of the possibility of false positive results as a bulky cervix can signify other pathologies such as fibroids.

References

- (1) Cancer Research UK. Cervical Cancer Statistics. Accessed 19 June 2026.
- (2) Oh H, Park SB, Park HJ, Lee ES, Hur J, Choi W, Choi BI. Ultrasonographic features of uterine cervical lesions. Br J Radiol 2021; 94: 20201242.

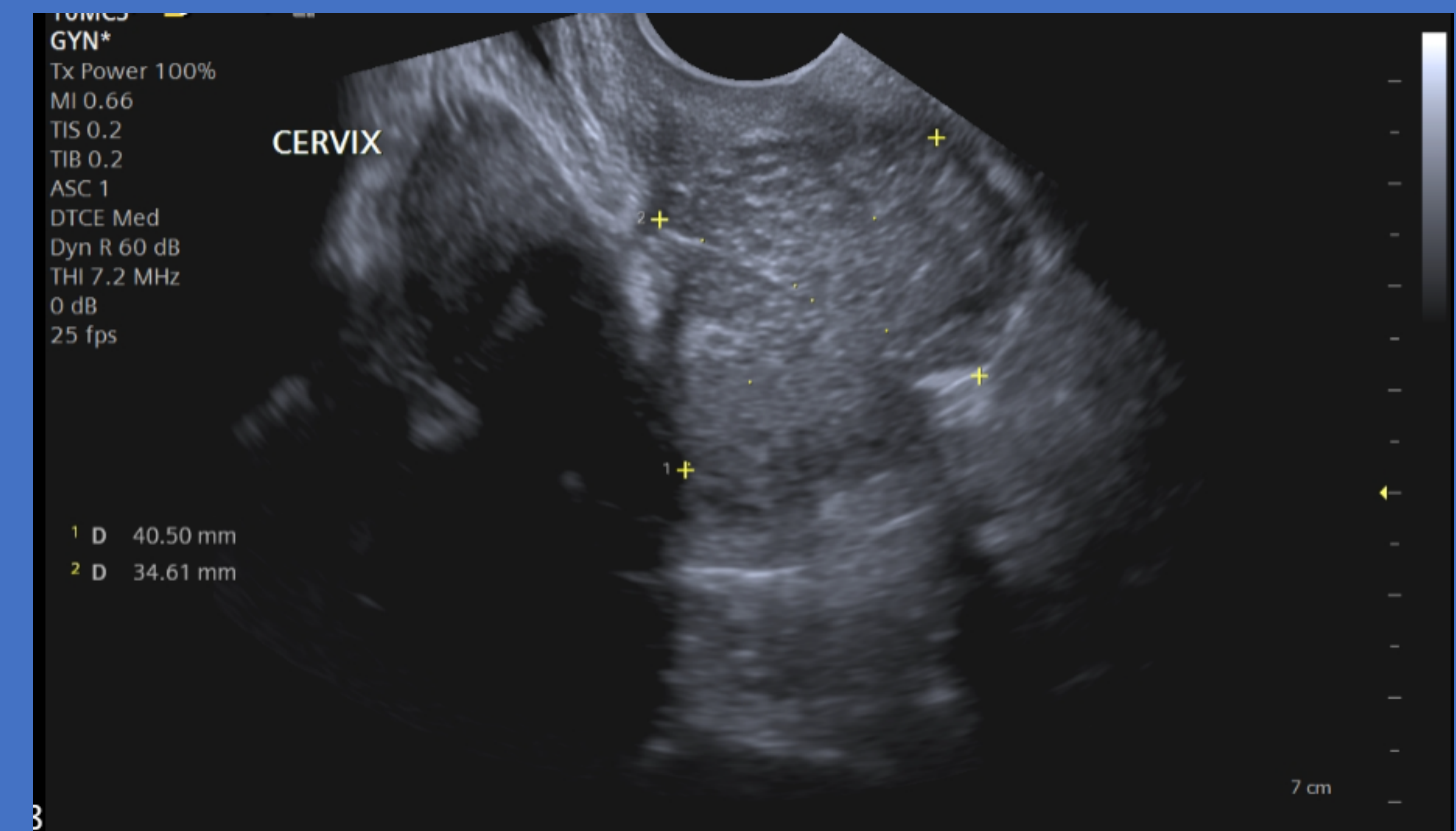


Image 1: Longitudinal view on transvaginal ultrasound demonstrating an enlarged cervix.

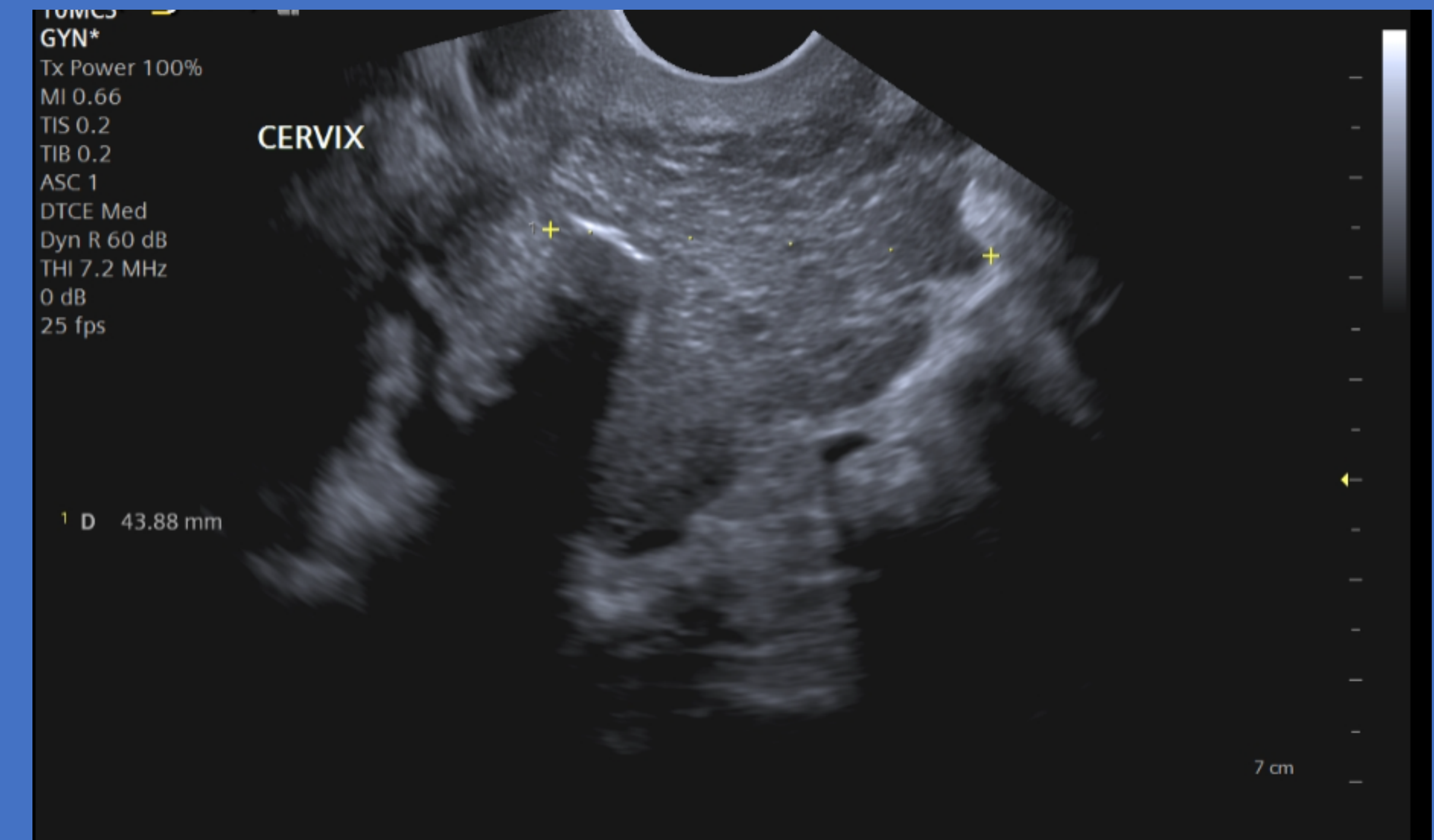


Image 2: Transverse view on transvaginal ultrasound of the enlarged cervix.