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TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY IN CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE – A VITAL COMPONENT IN IMAGING

Durham, NC, February 5, 2019 – Congenital heart disease (CHD) is the most common form of birth defect worldwide. In the United States alone, over 40,000 children are born annually with CHD and the number of children and adults living with CHD is estimated at two to three million. Transthoracic echocardiography (TTE) has always been an essential non-invasive diagnostic tool for pediatric cardiologists, but recent advances in transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) technology have led to its increasing importance in the care of both children and adults with CHD. A new document, [Guidelines for Performing a Comprehensive Transesophageal Echocardiographic Examination in Children and All Patients with Congenital Heart Disease: Recommendations from the American Society of Echocardiography](#), provides a comprehensive review of the optimal application of TEE for patients with CHD.

The document, which has been endorsed by over a dozen cardiology societies worldwide, appears in the February issue of the *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography* (JASE). The chair of the writing group, Michael D. Puchalski, MD, FASE, of the University of Utah, Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, commented, "The prior guideline paper for TEE in children and all patients with CHD was published in 2005 and focused primarily on when to do it, how to do it, and who should do it. This new paper really expanded on that in a significant way by providing a comprehensive protocol for image acquisition. We recommend numerous views to evaluate a wide variety of congenital heart conditions and have added 3D echo, which did not exist in 2005. The technologic advancements in the last decade or more have expanded the use of TEE to guide interventions in the catheterization lab and improve operative outcomes from the smallest babies to the oldest adults."

The document outlines in detail the technical considerations and imaging techniques, as well as the value that TEE can add to the management of specific congenital heart defects. It also details the use of TEE to guide catheter-based interventions, which have become increasingly used in recent years, and addresses the need for specific training and educational pathways specific to the use of TEE in children and CHD patients. The document includes several useful tables, including one that summarizes and illustrates the 28 suggested views for a comprehensive TEE exam in CHD patients.

In conjunction with the publication of the guideline document, Dr. Puchalski will conduct a live webinar, including a question and answer section, on March 19 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time. The webinar will be available for free to all ASE members and open to all other clinicians for just \$25. [Registration is open online](#). This webinar, and all ASE-hosted guideline webinars, are available on [ASEUniversity.org](#) to facilitate education for those who cannot attend the live webcast.

The full guideline document is available on the *Journal of American Society of Echocardiography* (JASE) website ([OnlineJASE.com](#)). This document and all ASE Guideline documents are also available to the medical community at [ASEcho.org/Guidelines](#).

About ASE

As the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging, the American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines. Comprised of over 17,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, and scientists, ASE is a strong voice providing guidance, expertise, and education to its members with a commitment to improving the practice of ultrasound and imaging of the heart and cardiovascular system for better patient outcomes. For more information about ASE, visit [ASEcho.org](#) or ASE's public information site, [SeeMyHeart.org](#).