

Contact: Angie Porter
919-297-7152
aporter@asecho.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ASE GUIDELINE OUTLINES THE USE OF TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY TO ASSIST WITH SURGICAL DECISION-MAKING

June 4, 2020, Durham, NC – Intraoperative transesophageal echocardiography is a versatile diagnostic and monitoring tool used to assist in patient management in a wide-range of cardiac surgical procedures. The new document, [Guidelines for the Use of Transesophageal Echocardiography to Assist with Surgical Decision-Making in the Operating Room: A Surgery-Based Approach](#), outlines a systematic approach on how to apply the existing guidelines to address questions on cardiac structure and function specific to the intraoperative environment in open, minimally invasive, or hybrid procedures. This peer-reviewed guideline was developed in collaboration with the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and has also been endorsed by 18 ASE International Alliance Partners.

Chair of the ASE guideline writing group, Alina Nicoara, MD, FASE, Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Duke University Medical Center, said, "The intraoperative echocardiographer should be an integral and active part of the heart team. Utilizing a 'catch-all' protocol as a starting point for imaging in all procedures and all patients enables standardization of image acquisition, reduction in variability in quality of imaging and reporting, and ultimately, better patient care. Clear communication of the echocardiographic findings to the surgical team, as well as understanding the impact of new findings on the surgical plan, are paramount. Equally important is the need for an informed understanding of the technical steps of the surgical procedures being performed and the complications that may occur, in order to direct the post procedure evaluation toward aspects directly related to the surgical procedure and to provide pertinent echocardiographic information."

In conjunction with the publication of this guideline, Dr. Nicoara and writing group co-chair Nikolaos Skubas, MD, FASE, will conduct a live webinar, including a question and answer section, on July 9, 2020, at 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time. The webinar will be available for free to all ASE members and open to all other clinicians for just \$25 USD. Registration will open soon and access to all ASE-hosted guideline webinars is available on the [ASE Learning Hub](#).

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

ASE is the Society for Cardiovascular Ultrasound Professionals™. Over 17,000 physicians, sonographers, nurses, veterinarians, and scientists are members of ASE, making it the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging and as such the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines for the field. The Society is committed to advancing cardiovascular ultrasound to improve lives. For more information about ASE, visit: [ASEcho.org](#) and follow us [@ASE360](#).

###