Eustachian Valvula: Real-Time Three-Dimensional Transthoracic Echocardiographic Imaging

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The use of three-dimensional echocardiography for the analysis of cardiac structures allows the viewing of planes that make the anatomic identification more realistic. We present the case of a 41-year-old male patient, a high-performance athlete (marathoner) in whom an Eustachian valvula was identified. In the two-dimensional echocardiographic study (Figure 1), an elongated, filiform structure is observed. Three-dimensional echocardiography shows an elongated, but not filiform valvula which appears as a structure with a wide base, as identified in the short-axis view, which enables anatomic observation from a depth or elevation plane (Figure 2).

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Study Association
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Echocardiography; heart valves, Eustachian valvula, anatomy.

Fig. 1 - Two-dimensional transthoracic echocardiogram. Parasternal view of right chambers. A prominent Eustachian valvula is observed (arrows). RA - right atrium; RV - right ventricle; V - valvula.
References

