Images edited by James Hill, MD.

Power Doppler Myocardial Contrast Echocardiography in Alcohol Septal Ablation for Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy

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Figure 1. (A, B) Standard mode without and with contrast agent. (C, D) Coronary angiography before and after alcohol application. (E) Low mechanical index mode. (F) Power Doppler contrast mode.

Myocardial contrast echocardiography is used to target intervention in alcohol septal ablation for hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy. In our opinion, the contrast enhanced power Doppler visualization (Angio mode, Sonos 7500, Philips, Netherlands) enables even better resolution than conventional contrast echocardiography. After contrast application we can see the supplied myocardium as a color area on a gray background.

To document our statement we report this case: a 39-year-old man with hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (outflow gradient 71 mm Hg) and dyspnea was admitted for alcohol septal ablation. The procedure was performed successfully, and was followed by symptom relief and elimination of the gradient.