

Figure 1. An echocardiographic apical four-chamber (A4C) view of the patient's heart, which shows the large effusion and diastolic collapse of the left and right atria, demonstrating severe haemodynamic compromise and cardiac tamponade. A4C view of patient's heart. RA = right atrium, LA = left atrium, RV = right ventricle, LV = left ventricle, PE = pericardial effusion.

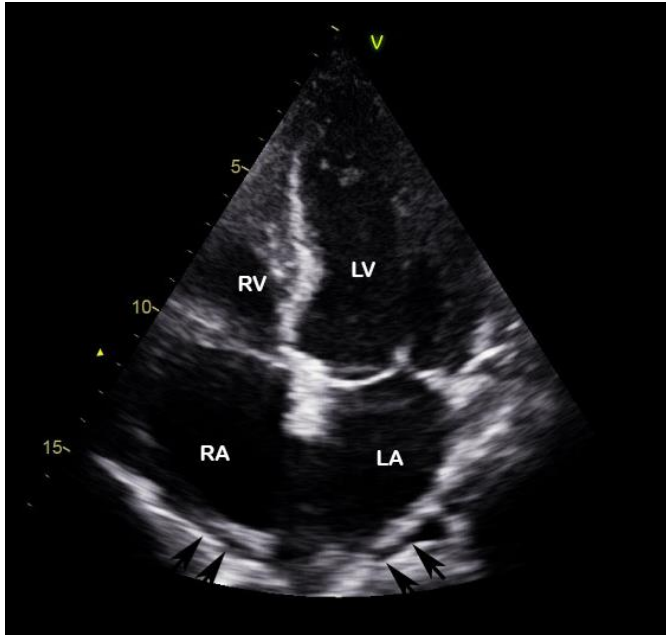


Figure 2. A4C view of patient's heart two weeks after drainage of pericardial effusion revealing no re-accumulation of fluid and no evidence of cardiac tamponade on echocardiogram. RA = right atrium, LA = left atrium, RV = right ventricle, LV = left ventricle, black arrows indicate absence of pathological effusion

Size (mm)	Composition	Onset (weeks)	Distribution	Definition
Small (<10mm)	Transudative	Acute (<1 week)	Circumferential/ generalised	Simple
Moderate (10- 20mm)	Exudative	Subacute (<12 weeks)	Focal/loculated	Complex
Large (>20mm)		Chronic (>12 weeks)		

Table 1. Classifications of pericardial effusions [7]