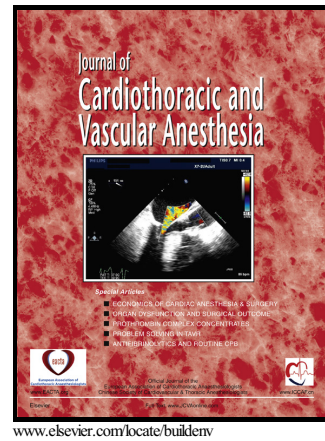


Author's Accepted Manuscript

Concerning Perioperative Pulmonary Acceleration
Time by TEE

Claude Tousignant



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Concerning perioperative pulmonary acceleration time by TEE

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Dear Editor,

We thank Dr. Kumar and Dr. Jayant for the letter, which highlights the challenges of, and need for accurate assessment of pulmonary hemodynamics in the perioperative period.

Assessment of acceleration time (AT) by transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) in the equivalent transthoracic (TTE) location is very difficult. In the upper esophageal view, the image is frequently obstructed by the trachea or does not align with the Doppler plane.

Given this constraint we decided to assess other more easily obtained sample locations (by TEE), fully cognizant that they would not necessarily be comparable to those obtained using TTE. We were aware of flow disturbances that occur in the pulmonary tree, especially in disease and that these may significantly impact measurements (1,2). We wondered whether alternate TEE views could provide some worthwhile information for assessments of the pulmonary vasculature in the operating room.

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