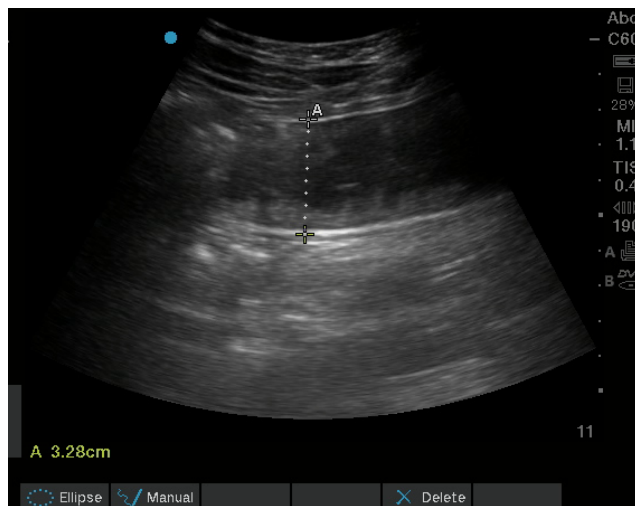


Small Bowel Obstruction

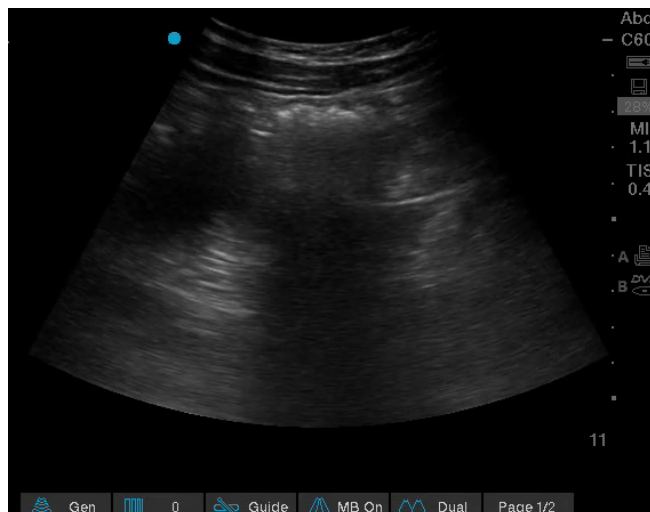
Case Background:

Middle-aged gentleman with a past medical history of abdominal surgery 10 years ago s/p gunshot wound presented umbilical abdominal pain that started 30 minutes prior to arrival. They decided to do a point-of-care bedside ultrasound, which showed dilated loops of small bowel with bi-directional peristalsis. CT confirmed high grade small bowel obstruction. Images below:

Dilated bowel lumen:



Bi-directional peristalsis:



“Swirling” of bowel contents:



Main Sono Findings:

1. Dilated loops of bowel > 2.5cm
2. Bowel wall thickening > 3mm
3. Hyperechoic material moving back and forth within the bowel
4. May see adjacent free fluid between loops of bowel

The Evidence: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28797559/>

More learning: <https://www.coreultrasound.com/uotw-20/>

You can find more images of SBO at <https://www.thepocusatlas.com/bowel/>

CoreEM article: <https://coreem.net/core/small-bowel-obstruction/>