SRU Case of the Day 2023

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Case 1

42M with chronic portal vein thrombosis. What is the cause of the gallbladder finding?
Case 1: Key Findings

Irregular thickened gallbladder wall with serpentine vessels in the gallbladder wall on Doppler. Vessels show venous flow on spectral Doppler. Findings are consistent with Gallbladder Varices in this patient with known chronic portal vein thrombosis.
Gallbladder Varices

- Rare collaterals that develop in patients with portal HTN
  - Thought to represent portosystemic shunt or porto-portal bypass around focally thrombosed segment of portal vein
- Incidence of 12-30% of patients with portal HTN
  - Particularly high association among patients with portal vein thrombosis, as seen in this case
- Most commonly asymptomatic and treated conservatively, but can rarely cause spontaneous hemobilia, intraabdominal bleeding or gallbladder rupture
- Imaging findings:
  - Colour Doppler: Serpentine areas of venous flow within/around thickened gallbladder wall
  - CT/MRI: Irregular, nodular enhancement of the gallbladder wall and/or multiple enhancing small vessels in the pericholecystic fat