

SRU Case of the Day 2023



Meaghan Reid MD MSc

Radiology Resident PGY-2

University of Calgary

David Burrowes MD FRCPC

Assistant Clinical Professor

University of Calgary

Cumming School of Medicine

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

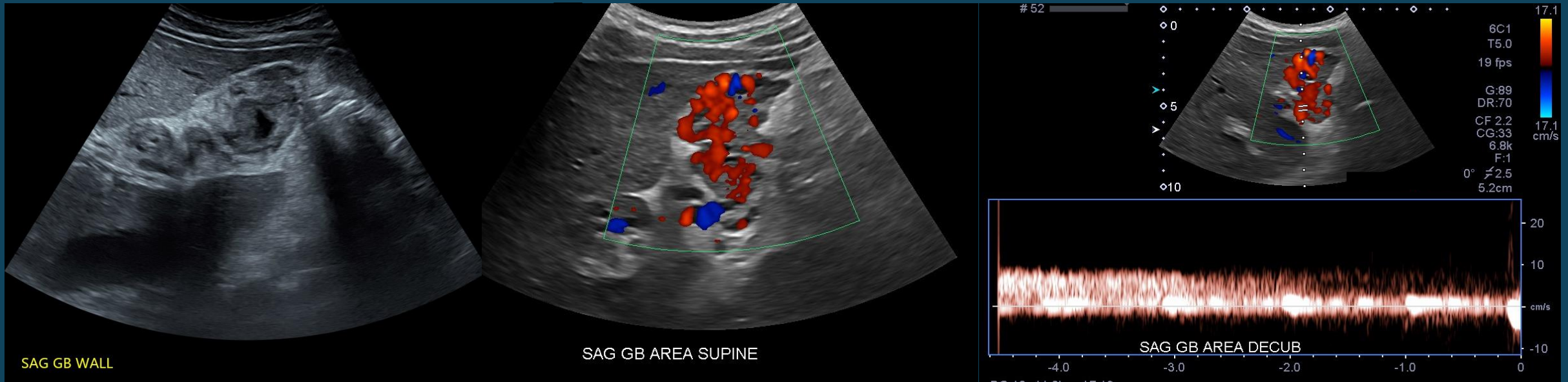
dpburrow@ucalgary.ca



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CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

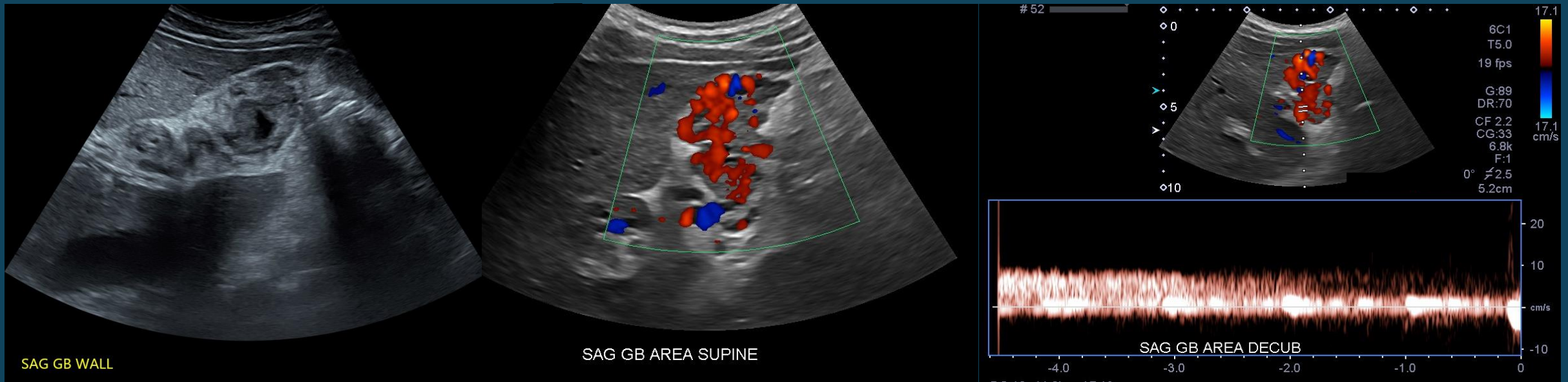
Case 1

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

