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## **NOVEL RESEARCH SHOWS THE VALUE OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY WITH ULTRASOUND ENHANCING AGENTS IN COMPLEX CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE PATIENTS**

Durham, NC, June 17, 2021 – Echocardiography (heart ultrasound) with ultrasound enhancing agents (UEAs) has proven to be a valuable imaging procedure after surgery for children born with single ventricle congenital heart disease (CHD). This heart defect occurs when one of the two pumping chambers in the heart, called ventricles, is not large enough or strong enough to work correctly. Research being presented at the [ASE 2021 Scientific Sessions Virtual Experience](#), June 18-21, 2021, highlights how echocardiography with UEAs (agents that do not involve radiation) in CHD patients postoperatively can improve diagnostic capabilities and decrease the need for additional testing.

Children with single ventricle CHD require multiple surgeries. The second surgery is typically a superior cavopulmonary connection (SCPC). This surgery increases blood flow to the lungs and makes it easier for the heart to pump blood. If clinical concerns arise after surgery, echocardiography alone can be insufficient for diagnosis and patients often undergo additional testing with exposure to radiation and anesthesia. The *Novel Utilization of Ultrasound Enhancing Agents Following Superior Cavopulmonary Connection* research study examined the use of UEAs in this pediatric CHD population for the first time.

Lead author on research, Kasey Chaszczewski, MD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, explained "Echocardiography with ultrasound enhancing agents can be a valuable tool in the assessment of patients with complex congenital heart disease. In a population of patients with single ventricle heart disease, the use of ultrasound enhancing agents produced an ultrasound image comparable to what an x-ray with contrast (dye) would typically provide and improved our assessment for postoperative obstruction. As experience with ultrasound enhancing agents grows in the congenital heart disease population, there may be opportunities to decrease invasive and costly procedures, while expediting the care of patients in need of intervention."

This research will be presented as a part of the ASE 2021 Scientific Sessions online, June 18-21, 2021. To schedule an interview with the author, please contact [Angie Porter](#).

### **About ASE**

*ASE is the Society for Cardiovascular Ultrasound Professionals™. ASE is the largest global organization for cardiovascular ultrasound imaging serving physicians, sonographers, nurses, veterinarians, and scientists and as such is the leader and advocate, setting practice standards and guidelines for the field. The Society is committed to advancing cardiovascular ultrasound to improve lives. For more information about ASE, visit: [ASEcho.org](http://ASEcho.org) and follow us [@ASE360](https://twitter.com/ASE360). For more information about the ASE 2021 Scientific Sessions Virtual Experience visit: [ASEScientificSessions.org](http://ASEScientificSessions.org) and follow #ASE2021. All ASE 2021 abstracts can be [viewed online](#).*