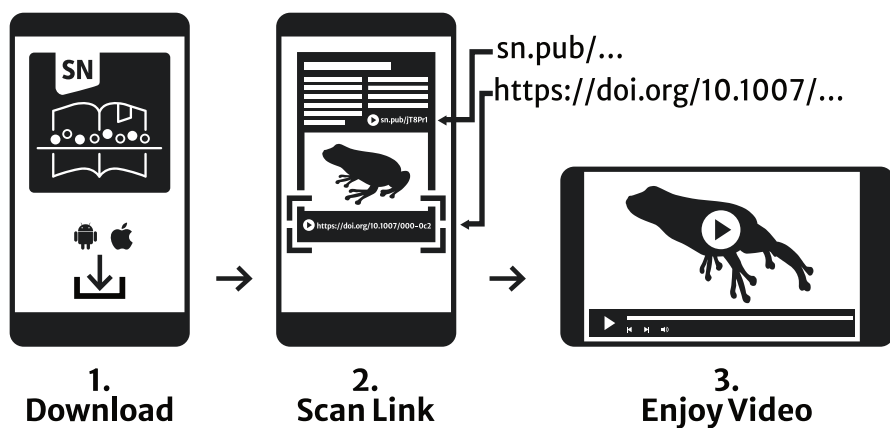

Stress Echocardiography

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Editor

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Introduction

This book has a past. Its various editions and increasing diffusion parallel the growth of stress echocardiography within the scientific community and the clinical arena. The first edition in 1991 consisted of 100 pages, which gradually increased to 700 in the current seventh edition. Since the last 2015 edition, recommendations from the American Society of Echocardiography and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging for applications beyond ischemic heart disease were published in 2016. Guidelines on stress echo in ischemic heart disease were released by the American Society of Echocardiography in 2019. Since 2017, new information has become available regarding the methodology of stress echocardiography, including novel parameters such as B-lines, growing evidence on the prognostic value of coronary flow velocity reserve in the left anterior descending coronary artery, and updated standards for interpretation including quantitative methods of analysis such as artificial intelligence for left ventricular volumes and function. Current clinical practice guidelines of the European Society of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association have incorporated stress echo in many diverse cardiac conditions. The unsurpassed versatility allows for studying virtually all patients, and each one differently. In addition, in a societal climate of increasing demand for economic, ethical, and environmental sustainability, stress echocardiography offers the great advantages of being affordable, radiation-free, and with near-zero carbon emissions. These concepts are now endorsed by the 2023 clinical consensus statement on the clinical use of stress echocardiography of the European Society of Cardiovascular Imaging of the European Society of Cardiology.

The book was single authored in the first edition, up to the record number of 55 contributors in the present edition. They come from 22 countries spanning four continents and represent, in my opinion, some of the best available knowledge and expertise in their respective fields. I am proud and honored that they have accepted the invitation to be a part of this project. At the same time, I aimed to avoid the fragmentation, gaps, and inconsistencies of a multiauthor text. Therefore, I drafted the first version of each chapter. To all of them and to the junior and senior colleagues who have worked with me over the last 40+ years—far too many to be mentioned here—*Grazie*.

Pisa, August 30th, 2023

Eugenio Picano

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