

SPLENOGONADAL FUSION

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Overview

Splenogonadal fusion (SGF) is a rare presentation, it is a congenital abnormality where accessory splenic tissue develops within the scrotum either by an abnormal connection between the spleen and gonad or ectopic splenic tissue develops / fuses to the gonad with no main spleen connection [1]. The majority of cases are discovered during childhood and because the presentation is most likely to be swelling and enlargement of the testicle, testicular cancer is often suspected as the cause. This may lead to emergency surgical intervention such as surgical exploration or orchidectomy [1]. Early correct diagnosis of the ectopic splenic tissue could avoid further imaging or surgery [2].

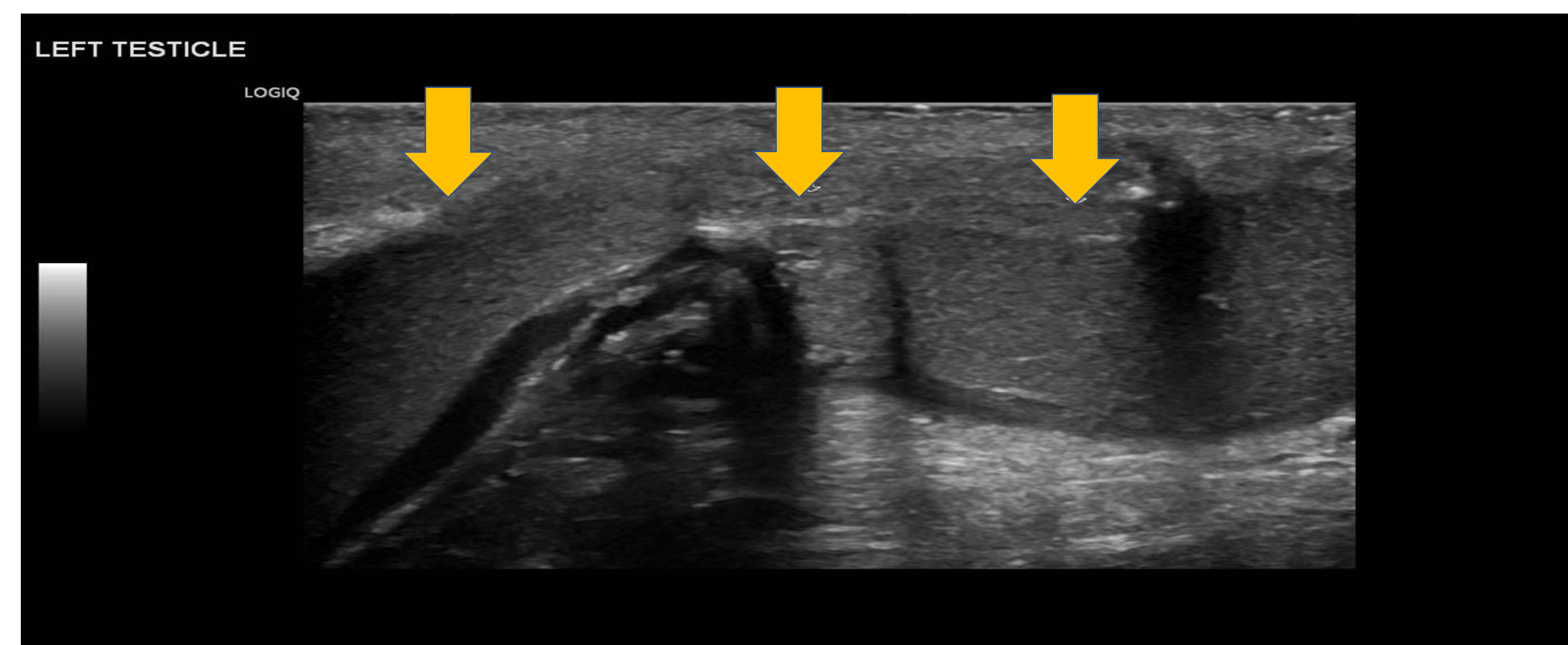
There are two types of fusions; continuous and discontinuous.

Continuous -

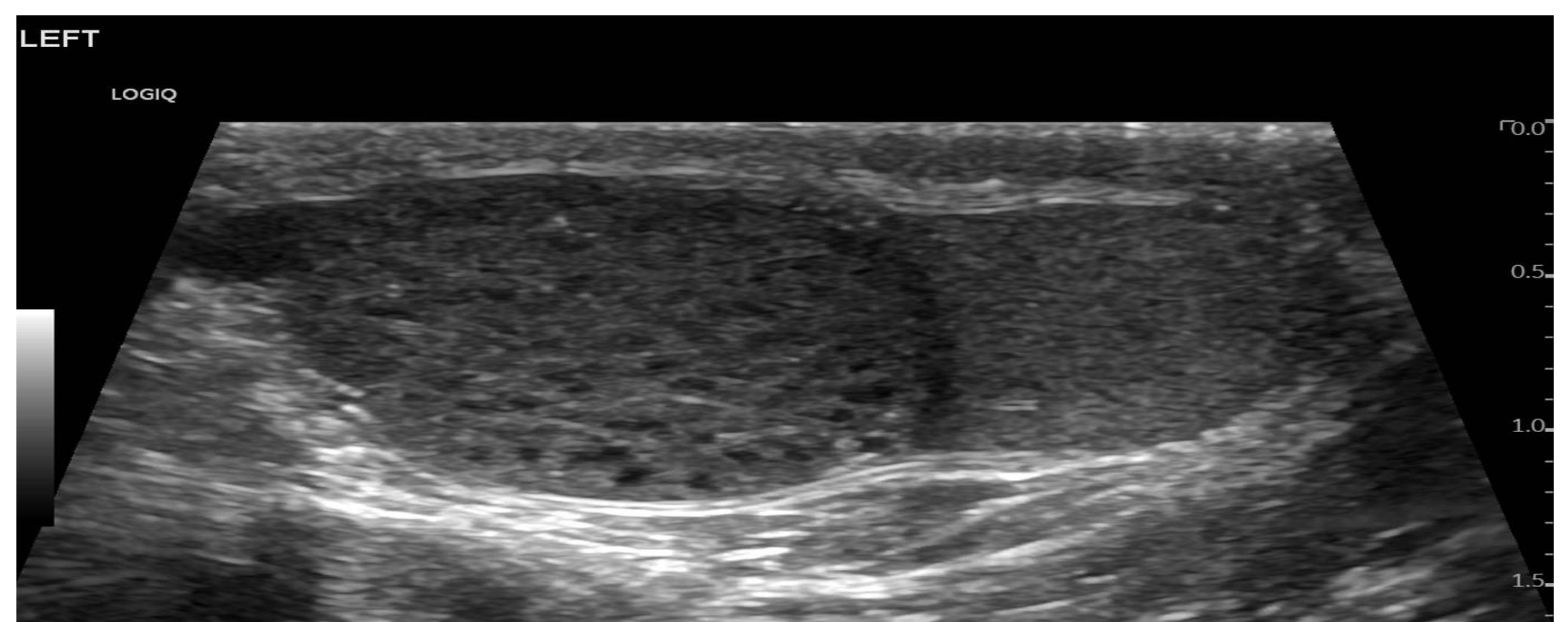
The gonad is connected to the spleen by a retroperitoneal cord of splenic tissue or a fibrous cord with nodules of splenic tissue. This type can be associated with other congenital anomalies.

Discontinuous –

There are ectopic splenic tissue present in the gonad. This may appear as a well encapsulated extra testicular homogenous hypoechoic mass with vascularity.



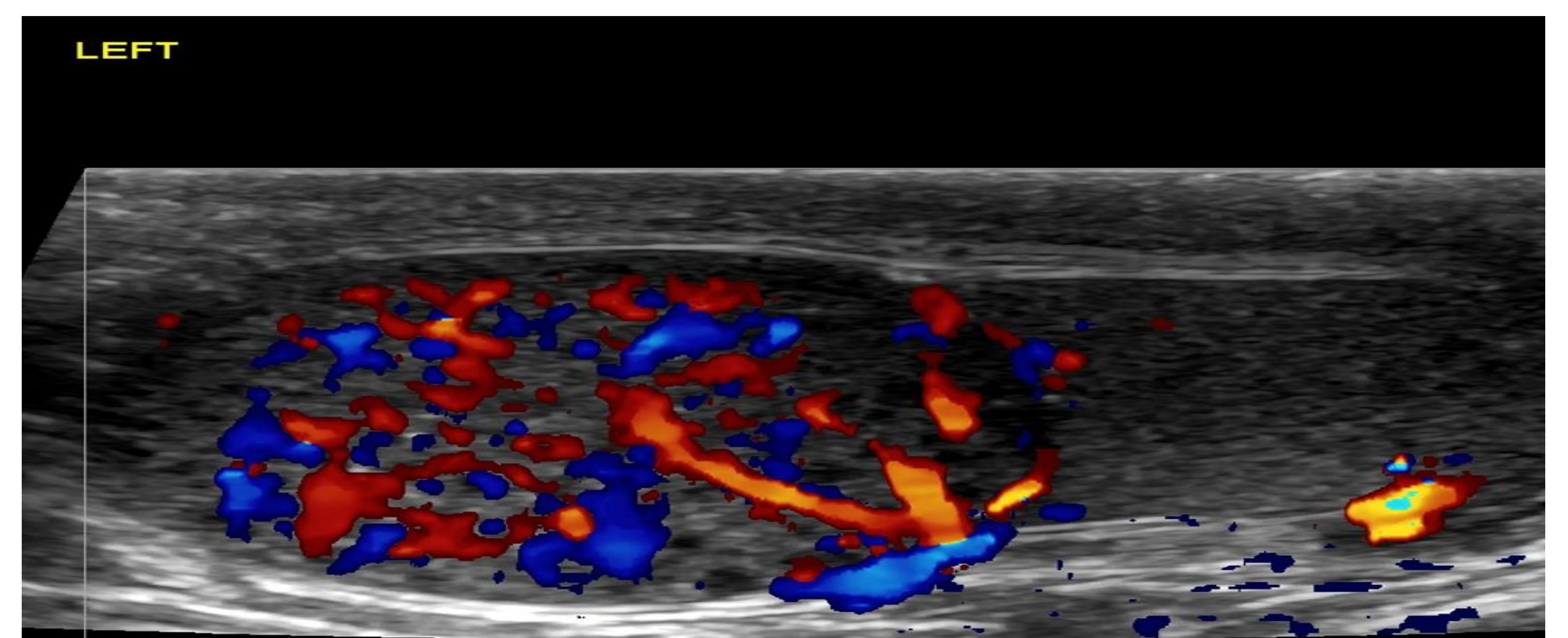
Fibrous cord of splenic tissue attached to the left testicle



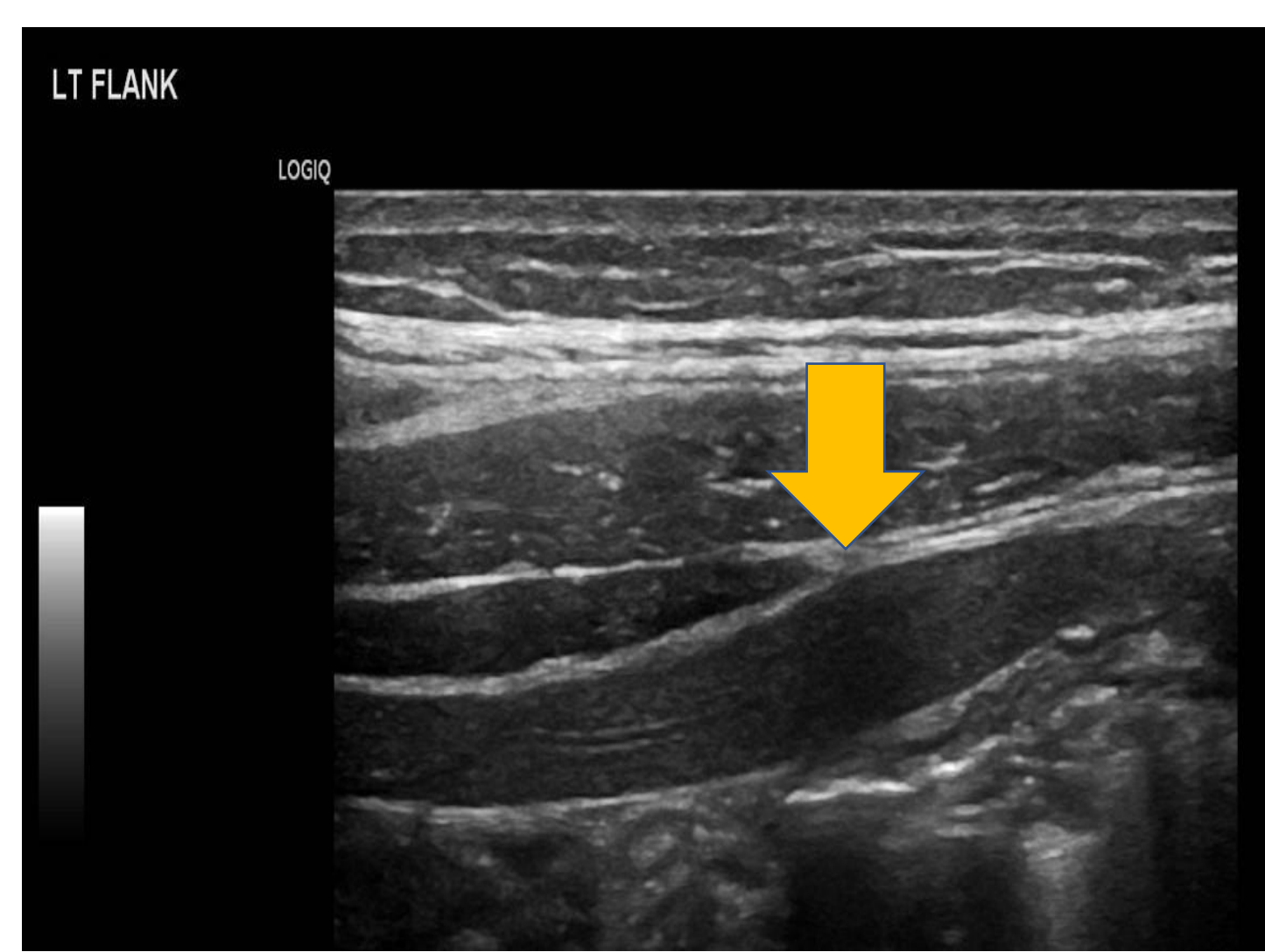
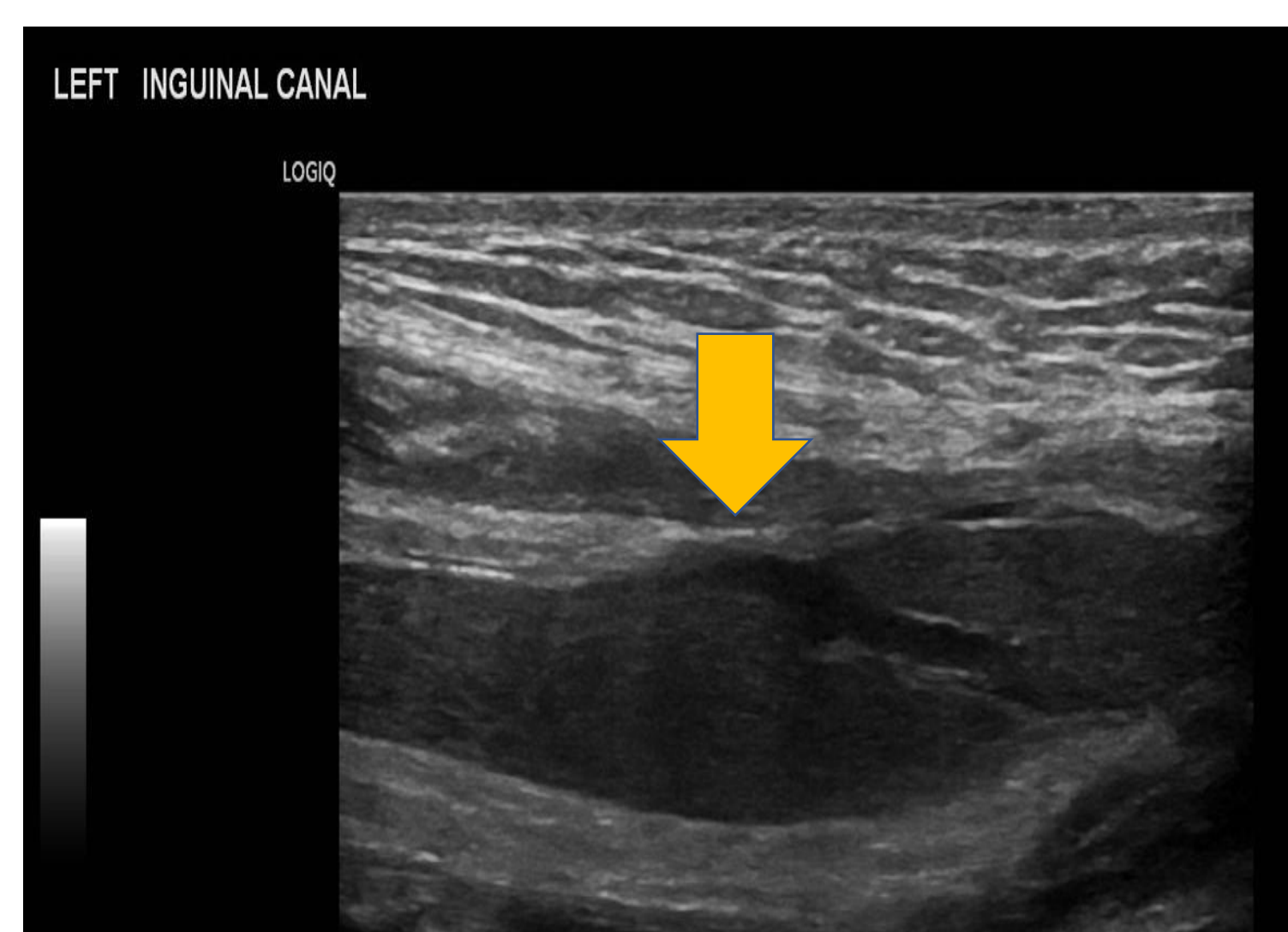
Ectopic spleen fused to the left testicle



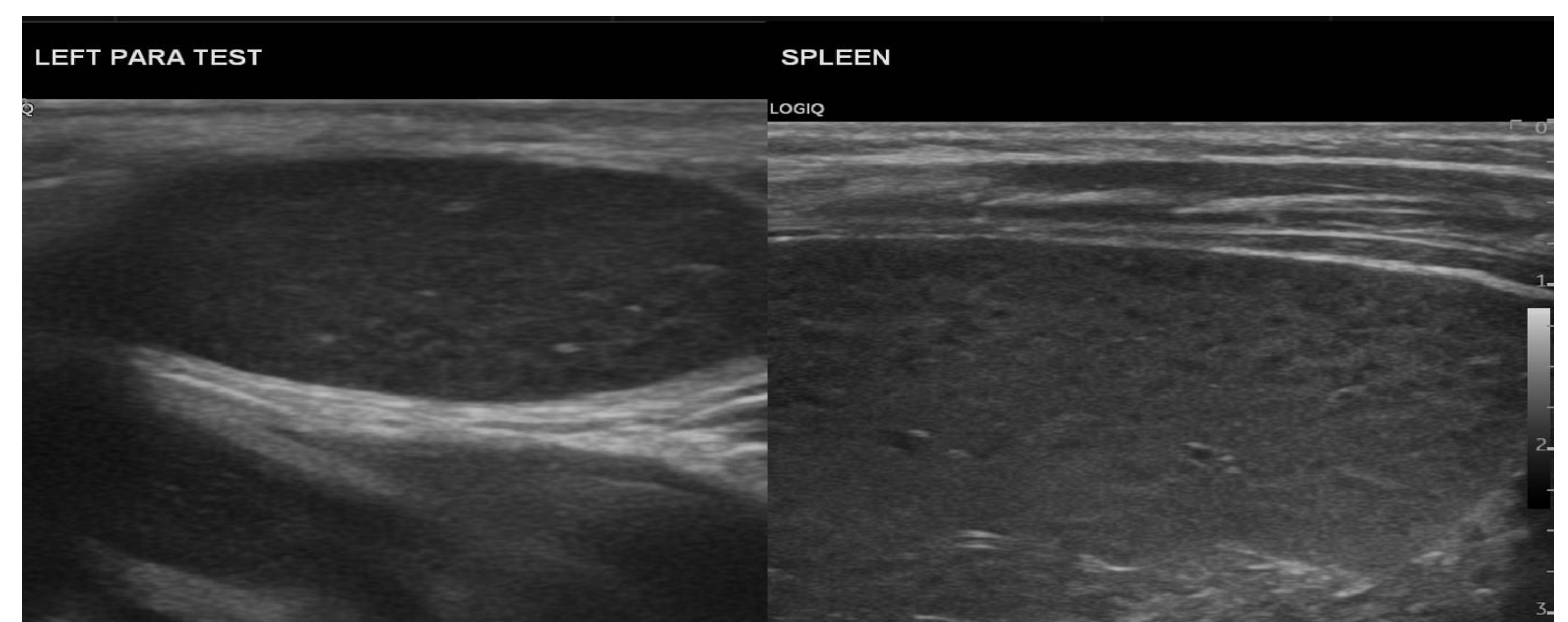
Fibrous cord can be followed just inferior to the spleen coursing through the left iliac fossa and left inguinal canal into the left hemi-scrotum 25 cm x 0.8 cm.



Vascularity of the splenic tissue fused to the left testicle



Splenic cord at left inguinal canal and splenic cord at the left flank.



Similar echotexture of the spleen and ectopic spleen at the testicle

Conclusion: In both of these cases splenic tissue was easily identifiable by ultrasound. Neither patient required surgical intervention, and will be followed up yearly with an ultrasound.

References:
1. Chen G., Wang X., Zhao Y. *et al.* Splenogonadal fusion: a case report and review of the literature. *BMC Urology*. 2021; 21 (16). DOI :10.1186/s12894-021-00781-zor
2. Qadeer A., Quincey C., Gill K., *et al.* Splenogonadal fusion: a radiological-pathological correlation and review of the literature. *Radiology Case reports*. 2020; 15 (10): 1817-1822.