60M, history withheld

Jeffrey Guzelian MD
Right Heart Failure
Venous doppler of the lower extremities demonstrates pulsatile reversal of flow in the bilateral common femoral veins (arrows). The patient had a history of pulmonary arterial hypertension.
Right heart failure

- Lower limb pulsatile retrograde venous Doppler waveform has 94% specificity and PPV for right heart failure (defined as right atrial pressure > 8mm Hg).
- Pulsatile retrograde flow can result from a large $a$ wave (contraction of an overdistended right atrium) or a large complex retrograde component consisting of a large $a$ wave, a reversed systolic wave (tricuspid incompetence), and a prominent retrograde $v$ wave (right atrial overfilling).

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