

Virtual echocardiography repository for collaboration, sharing and learning

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A new web based echocardiography resource called EchoJournal (<http://www.echojournal.org/>) has been created for the echo video clip sharing community. EchoJournal is an on-line ultrasound video sharing website and discussion board. It enables users to upload, store and discuss echocardiography video clips. The website is free for anyone to use but it is mainly intended for physicians and other health care professionals who use echocardiography in their practice.

This video-sharing site encourages the upload of transthoracic and transesophageal loops for discussion and storage. Using EchoJournal, it is possible to:

- upload videos;
- make friends, follow their video feeds, discuss the videos, and keep in touch;
- comment on uploaded videos and discuss unknown cases;
- download videos onto your own computer for future use;
- create groups/communities for your academic department or university.

EchoJournal combines many of the features familiar to users of other video-sharing sites, including:

- easy video uploading with step-by-step video upload for quick and easy creation of videos;
- each uploaded video has an permalink to a specific URL;
- each video has a video player source code for you to easily embed a movie into other web pages;
- automatic looping makes discussion with others easy.

Once the video has been uploaded it is possible to edit video file details (e.g. video title, description); set video as public/private; enable or disable comments/ratings/embed video; delete any comment on your own videos and remove your uploaded videos. Numerous channels focus on whatever the user's interest or level of education might be, from students to practising physicians, and there are sections for unique or unknown cases.

The Echojournal.org site is simple, clean and effective. The early video uploads are of good to high quality and should prompt useful and open discussion.

It is an interactive multimedia video site, designed to present transthoracic and transesophageal video loops for sharing, discussion and storage. EchoJournal features easy uploading, and annotating utility for commenting, discussions, and the ability to create targeted content for an academic department, professional group, or university.

The site will be curated by David E. Winchester, MD, a Cardiology Fellow at the University of Florida, who has already uploaded many interesting cases.

Features of EchoJournal:

- there are channels of the site focused towards whatever your interest or level of education might be, from medical students to practising physicians, and sections for unique or unknown cases;
- you can download videos or link directly to your website for your next presentation;
- you can create your own profile;

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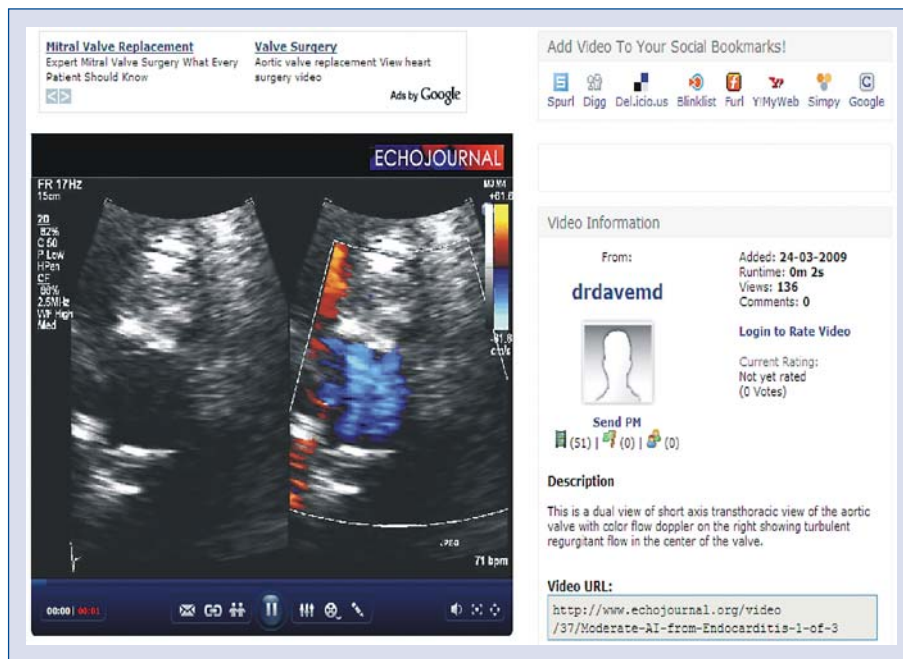


Figure 1. An EchoJournal content presentation and navigation site.

— you can rate other videos and discuss unknown cases.

Figure 1 shows a sample of site content. The site user may select high quality video clips featuring specific cardiac abnormalities. Each clip has a unique URL that can be linked to the user’s repository/reference library.

For example, the clip showing a regurgitant turbulent flow through the center of the valve is available under: <http://www.echojournal.org/video/37/Moderate-AI-from-Endocarditis-1-of-3>.

EchoJournal is an example of an on-line collaborative medicine at its best.

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References

<http://www.echojournal.org/>