

What users have to say about the ALOKA ProSound Alpha 6 in action

Dr Julene Carvalho, a Paediatric and Fetal Cardiologist has used ALOKA systems for most of her career. She specializes in fetal heart imaging in high-risk pregnancies using ultrasound and has a special interest in early scans (<16 weeks). This, she says, can be a technically demanding task.

“To put it in perspective, at 13 weeks, the diameter of both the aortic and pulmonary valves is around 1.2 – 1.3 mm. To be able to see the fetal heart through the maternal abdomen and define whether the structures are normal and whether valves are opening and closing normally requires good ultrasound resolution of small structures.

Dr Carvalho has been using ALOKA’s ProSound Alpha 10 ultrasound system since its launch. Before that, she had used ALOKA’s ProSound 5500, as well as other units.

On Monday 10th August 2009, Dr Carvalho tested the ProSound Alpha 6 during an all-day diagnostic ultrasound cardiac scanning session. During clinic, she saw a range of cases, including 13 week and routine 18-23 week scans; follow up cases where fetuses had been previously diagnosed with heart abnormalities and fetuses with suspected abnormalities where it was necessary to make an accurate diagnosis. Here she describes how it went.

“I normally use the Alpha 10 which gives me a clear picture of the fetal heart and the opportunity to enhance the quality of information with good color flow Doppler. It also offers alternative forms of Doppler, such as Power Doppler imaging and eFlow technology - the latter is particularly helpful in early scans. The image quality is very high, with clear definition of anatomy and physiology and provides me with the information that I need.

With the Alpha 6, I ran my clinic in the normal way. For all my patients I got all the required information without any problems and the eFlow with the Alpha 6 was just as impressive as on the Alpha 10.”

Throughout Dr. Carvalho’s clinic, an ALOKA application specialist was on-hand to help her optimize the Alpha 6, but before the end of morning clinic, she was already confident with the system.

“Because the panel layout of Alpha 6 is very similar to Alpha 10 and the scan quality was very good, there was no need for me to use the Alpha 10.”

Dr Carvalho

Consultant and Reader in Fetal and Paediatric Cardiology based at both Royal Brompton Hospital and St. George’s Hospital, London, UK

Videos from case studies can be seen at: www.thefetalheart.org