In acute aortic dissection, we commonly perform echocardiography at the bedside in the ICU and move directly to the operating room without any further tests when the diagnosis is confirmed (Figure 12.7).

Multiple studies have defined the relative roles of these powerful tests in aortic imaging for trauma, aneurysm, and dissection. In cases of aortic dissection, a common issue for house officers, all three of these techniques have sensitivities and specificities in the 98% or higher range.

Figures 12.8 to 12.11 present some valuable specifics regarding aortic imaging that will be of use to the house officer.