

Lecture summaries

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POCuS in Human Intensive Care: Competence, Confidence and Clinical Consequences

This lecture will take a case-based approach to describe the indications and usage of point of care ultrasound (PoCUS) in adult human intensive care settings. I will summarise commonly used ultrasound examinations, and then using real life clinical cases demonstrate the challenges associated with safe and effective use of PoCUS in adult human ICU. These include design and delivery of training pathways, awareness and acceptance of limitations of utility of focused PoCUS, ongoing accreditation and development, and information governance. I will also discuss how human fallibility can lead to incorrect diagnoses and treatment decisions due to overreliance on PoCUS.

Learning goals

1. Develop an understanding of the scope of point of care US in adult human ICU in the UK
2. Gain knowledge of the benefits, limitations and challenges of accredited training pathways in PoCUS in human adult ICU
3. Describe limitations of diagnostics using PoCUS in human adult critical care