

Lecture summaries

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Soft Tissue Ultrasonography in Emergent and Critically Ill Veterinary Patients

Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) of the musculoskeletal (MSK) system and soft tissue structures can be valuable for Emergency and Critical Care specialists managing veterinary patients. This lecture highlights how ultrasound can improve decision-making in unstable or painful patients where advanced imaging may not be immediately available.

In the emergency setting, MSK POCUS is particularly useful for assessing trauma, or acute swelling. Ultrasound allows real-time differentiation between different fluid types.

The lecture emphasizes that soft tissue POCUS is not intended to replace other imaging modalities, but rather to serve as a rapid bedside extension to expedite diagnosis and ultimately improve patient outcomes.

Learning goals

1. Identify appropriate soft tissue and musculoskeletal ultrasound applications within point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) for emergency and critical care patients
2. Understand how to perform targeted image acquisition and recognise normal and abnormal ultrasonographic findings of soft tissue structures in acute presentations
3. Select high-yield clinical indications for the use of soft tissue and musculoskeletal POCUS in emergency settings
4. Integrate soft tissue ultrasound findings into timely diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making
5. Recognise the limitations of POCUS when utilised to assess soft tissue and musculoskeletal investigations in emergency scenarios.