

Chris Kennedy

1. VECCUS – Strengths and weaknesses of veterinary POCUS

Since its introduction in small animal emergency medicine almost two decades ago by S. Boysen et al.¹, point-of-care ultrasonography, PoCUS, has become an important and integrated part of the diagnostic work-up process. As with every new asset to our extensive diagnostic toolbox, a critical appraisal is now-and-again necessary to evaluate its use and suggested advantages. This helps us determine how it can be used now and to develop its use in the future. Does PoCUS, as it is performed now, deserve its reputation? Has it become an indispensable diagnostic tool to be used in almost every emergency patient? Or is its reputation inflated beyond its ability to deliver results? Worse, is PoCUS potentially misleading, leading to false affirmations, false paradigms and inappropriate treatments? In this session, Joris and Chris will highlight pros and cons of PoCUS.

2. Specialist – Cardiac trauma

In this session we will explore mechanisms of cardiac trauma and discuss methods to evaluate cardiac function and consequences of trauma.

3. Specialist – Diastology and filling pressures

In the emergency and critical care field, we give much attention to the systolic function of the heart, particularly the left ventricle. However, we often fail to consider the “dark side” of cardiology: diastology, the study of the heart when it is not contracting. Diastology plays an important role in maintaining cardiac output and oxygen delivery. In critical care, diastolic function *per se* is difficult to assess, as hypotension, hypovolaemia and acute cardiac dysfunction complicate interpretation. However, if the goal of the intensivist is to optimize filling pressures, we can use principles of diastology to predict these pressures and infer the fluid tolerance status of the heart.