

POCUS & fluid resuscitation

Intravascular volume assessment is important in all critically ill patients, as both hypo- and hypervolemia are associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Unfortunately, the application of clinical findings, although extremely important and vital for patient assessment, are not sensitive or specific at predicting intravascular volume status, fluid responsiveness, or volume overload. Although novel, and not well studied in veterinary medicine, point-of-care ultrasound shows promise in assessing human patients during fluid resuscitation when clinical parameters may fail, particularly when applied serially. This lecture will explore some of the POCUS assessments that have been used and studied in small animal patients with regards to tailoring fluid therapy, including caudal vena cava assessment, cardiac assessment, and lung evaluation.