



The Push for POCUS: Is there an interest in ultrasound training within a large Internal Medicine residency program?

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Introduction

- Point of care ultrasound (POCUS) is the use of ultrasound by a provider to aid in patient evaluation and management.
- While now commonly used in emergency medicine and surgical specialties, POCUS has not been readily adopted among Internal Medicine (IM) physicians as a tool to aid in diagnosis and bedside procedures.



Figure 1 (left): Residents practicing carotid ultrasound imaging.



Figure 2 (right): Parasternal long axis view of the heart via ultrasound.

Aims

- Gauge interest in POCUS training among IM residents within a large, academic program.
- Understand barriers for IM residents in using US for diagnostic imaging that directs medical management..

Methods

- Surveys were emailed to 108 PGY 1-3 IM resident physicians at the Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center program.
- Questions revolved around their assessment of POCUS utility and any limitations/barriers to achieving proficiency using POCUS as a diagnostic tool in practice

Results

- 64 out of 108 residents responded to the survey (59% response rate).
- 98% of respondents stated that POCUS contributes to faster and better diagnoses within IM.
- 80% of residents responded that “POCUS is useful for me personally in acute patient care.”

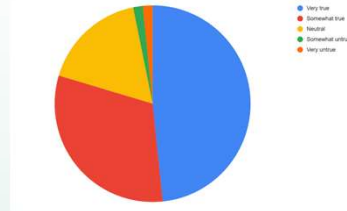


Figure 3: Response to the question: POCUS is useful for me personally in acute patient care.

- However, 49% responded “less comfortable/very uncomfortable” with ultrasound for day-to-day diagnostics. Only 3.1% responded “very comfortable.”
- The most common barrier identified was insufficient practice time (72%), insufficient training available (70%), and insufficient POCUS knowledge (62.5%).
- 86% of residents reported anticipating using POCUS in their career.

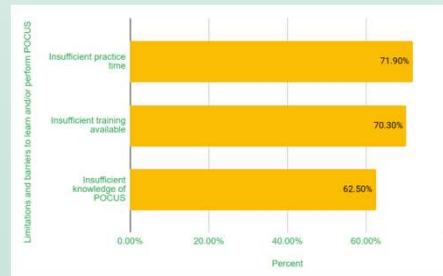


Figure 4: Perceived limitations and barriers to learn and/or perform POCUS.

Conclusion

WSU/DMC IM residents are interested in POCUS training for diagnostic and procedural uses but do not feel comfortable using it due to insufficient practice and training.

Ways to Address Barriers to Using POCUS

- Incorporating more POCUS within didactic sessions
- Workshops in collaboration with other specialties (such as emergency medicine and radiology)
- POCUS track offering interested residents online training modules and in-person practice sessions with an attending experienced in POCUS.

References

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