

Title: Critical Care Ultrasound: A National Survey Across Specialties

Abstract

Purpose: Management of the critically ill requires rapid assessment and differentiation. Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) improves diagnostic accuracy and guides resuscitation. This study sought to describe the use of critical care related POCUS amongst different specialties.

Methods: This study was conducted as an online 18-question survey. Survey questions queried respondent demographics, preferences for POCUS use, and barriers to implementation.

Results: 2735 recipients received and viewed the survey with 416 (15.2%) responses. The majority were pulmonary and critical care medicine (62.5%) and emergency medicine (19.9%) providers. Respondents obtained training through educational courses (26.5%), fellowship (23.9%), residency (21.6%), or self-guided learning (17.2%). POCUS use was common for procedural guidance and diagnostically. Emergency medicine providers were more likely to utilize POCUS to evaluate undifferentiated hypotension (98.5%, $p < 0.001$), volume status and fluid responsiveness (88.2%, $p = 0.005$), and cardiopulmonary arrest (94.1%, $p < 0.001$) compared to other specialties. Limited training, competency, or credentialing were the most common barriers, in up to 39.4% of respondents.

Conclusion: Study respondents utilize POCUS in a variety of clinical applications. However, a disparity in utilization still exists among clinicians who care for the critically ill. Overcoming barriers, such as a lack of formalized training, competency, or credentialing, may lead to increased utilization.

Keywords: Ultrasound, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Education

This is the author manuscript accepted for publication and has undergone full peer review but has not been through the copyediting, typesetting, pagination and proofreading process, which may lead to differences between this version and the [Version record](#). Please cite this article as [doi:10.1002/jcu.22559](https://doi.org/10.1002/jcu.22559).

Introduction

Management of the critically ill requires efficient evaluation and differentiation to identify potential diagnoses, guide resuscitation, and improve outcomes.^{1,2} Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is a noninvasive tool used to answer specific clinical questions in real-time. POCUS improves diagnostic efficiency and accuracy, guides decision-making and increases physician confidence.³⁻⁷ The utility of POCUS in the evaluation of undifferentiated hypotension and shock, cardiopulmonary arrest, dyspnea, resuscitation and procedural guidance is well described in the literature.⁸⁻¹² Moreover, POCUS training and competency guidelines have developed across specialties.¹³⁻¹⁷

In 2001, the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) described POCUS as “a skill integral to the practice of emergency medicine,” and published the first *Emergency Ultrasound Guidelines* defining the scope of practice.¹⁹ These guidelines, updated in 2008 and 2016, recommend POCUS use in the management of the critically ill, including differentiation, physiologic monitoring, and procedural guidance.¹³ Similarly, critical care organizations have developed recommendations regarding POCUS training and practice. The American College of Chest Physicians (ACCP) with *the Société de Réanimation de Langue Française* (2009), and The Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) (2013, 2015, 2016) have each published guidelines detailing the evidence-based recommendations for critical care related POCUS applications, and physician training guidelines.¹⁴⁻¹⁷

However, barriers to critical care POCUS training and practice still exist. In 2010, Eisen et al. electronically surveyed critical care training programs regarding POCUS education. Ninety-two percent (92%) of responding programs felt POCUS education was important and eighty percent (80%) recommended incorporating training into their curriculum; however, few of the programs offered specific POCUS training curricula (lung and pleural (74%), cardiac (55%), vascular diagnostic (33%), and abdominal (37%)) due to the limited experience amongst faculty (41%).²⁰ In 2014, Mosier et al. again surveyed critical care training programs and found a similar lack of formal POCUS curricula (42%) or trained faculty (<33%). Most programs relied on informal bedside teaching (77%).²¹

Despite the potential benefits, it is unclear to what extent POCUS is currently incorporated into the management of the critically ill across specialties. A better understanding of current physician practices, preferences, and barriers to implementation will help guide the development of training curriculum and further establish POCUS amongst specialties. This study sought to describe the use of critical care related POCUS amongst physicians of different specialties.

Materials and Methods

The study protocol was reviewed and approved by the University of Colorado Multiple Institutional Review Board.

Study design: This cross-sectional study was conducted as an online survey electronically mailed to providers across specialties from May 2015 to June 2015. Survey questions were developed with regard to existing national guidelines and literature. Pilot testing was conducted amongst emergency medicine and critical care medicine providers. Feedback and suggestions were incorporated into the final survey instrument to improve question clarity, reliability, relevance and validity.

The survey instrument was divided into sections (appendix A). Section one included respondent demographics, such as level of training, specialty, institutional affiliation type (e.g. academic, community), and prior POCUS training and experience. Section two described respondent annual frequency of use (none, 1-10 scans, 11-25 scans, 26-50 scans, >50 scans) for select diagnostic POCUS applications (abdominal, cardiac, pleural/pulmonary, and vascular (i.e. deep venous thrombus identification)), and preferences for POCUS guidance (primary method, secondary for “rescue” method, or never) in specific procedures (central line placement by anatomic location, paracentesis, thoracentesis, pericardiocentesis). Lastly, respondents were asked to describe frequency of POCUS use (never, rarely, sometimes, often, always) in specific clinical scenarios (undifferentiated hypotension, volume status and fluid responsiveness, cardiopulmonary arrest, and undifferentiated dyspnea). Dependent on the frequency of use in each clinical scenario, respondents were then asked to describe either their preferred POCUS method(s) (sometimes, often, and always responses), or potential barrier(s) to use (never and rarely responses). Individual question response was optional and not required to complete the survey.

The 18-question survey was distributed electronically via the American College of Emergency Physicians - Critical Care Medicine section and the American Thoracic Society - Critical Care Assembly electronic mail listservs on two separate occasions. The selected professional societies membership reflects a broad group of practitioners across multiple specialties. Study data were collected and managed using the REDCap tool (Research Electronic Data Capture, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee).²²

Data Analysis: Unopened and blank survey responses were removed prior to analysis.

Specialties with a limited number of respondents were grouped, where appropriate, to increase sample size for analysis (e.g. anesthesiology and anesthesia critical care). "Other" responses, which could not be logically placed within the existing specialty groups, were added into an artificial "'other' critical care" group for analysis (critical care-other n=6, emergency medicine-critical care n=5, pediatric critical care n=3, surgical and trauma critical care n=3). The remaining responses which were unable to be grouped as above were removed prior to analysis (family medicine n=1, pediatrics n=1, medical student n=2). Partially completed surveys were analyzed, where appropriate, which resulted in different response totals by individual corresponding questions.

For each POCUS application, respondent average annual use was compared across specialties as percentages for each response option (none, 1-10 scans, 11-25 scans, 26-50 scans, >50 scans). For preferences in procedural guidance, respondents were also compared as

percentages across specialties for each response option (primary method, secondary or “rescue” method, or never).

In evaluating POCUS preferences and barriers for specific clinical scenarios, Likert-scale responses were dichotomized. Respondents who reported using POCUS “sometimes,” “often” or “always” were collapsed as one group for preference analysis. Similarly, “rarely” or “never” respondents were collapsed together for analysis of barriers. Results are reported as totals and percentages, where appropriate.

Respondent POCUS preferences for each clinical presentation were compared by application and specialty. Total frequencies for each application were compared by specialty for statistical significance within each clinical scenario using chi-square tests. A $p < 0.05$ is considered statistically significant. Data were processed and analyzed using SPSS® Version 21 (Released 2012. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 21.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.).

Results

The survey was distributed electronically to 5,712 providers using the American College of Emergency Physicians - Critical Care Medicine Section (n=782) and the American Thoracic Society - Critical Care Assembly (n=4,930) electronic mail listservs. Of these invitations, 2735 (55%) were viewed. A total of 416 (15.2%) anonymous responses were received. 75 (18%) blank responses were removed prior to analysis.

Respondent demographics, including level of experience, institutional affiliation, and POCUS training, across specialties are presented in Table 1. The majority of respondents were pulmonary and critical care medicine (213/341, 62.5%) and emergency medicine (68/341, 19.9%) providers. Respondents were most commonly faculty (231/341, 67.7%), and worked in an academic or university setting (232/341, 68.0%). Emergency medicine providers (50/68, 73.5%, $p < 0.001$) were more likely to have obtained POCUS training during residency as compared to other specialties (24/275, 8.7%). The remaining specialties most commonly obtained POCUS training through a POCUS educational course (91/343, 26.5%), critical care fellowship (82/343, 23.9%), or self-guided learning (59/343, 17.2%).

The average number of annual POCUS scans (none, 1-10 scans, 11-25 scans, 26-50 scans, >50 scans) for each diagnostic application type (abdominal, cardiac, pleural/pulmonary, and vascular) and preferences for procedural guidance (primary method, secondary or “rescue” method, never) are demonstrated as percentages by specialty in Figures 1 and 2. Overall, POCUS use was more common (all but “none” respondents) for cardiac (83.5%) and pleural/pulmonary applications (92.4%) than abdominal (70.4%) and vascular (66.7%).

Frequencies of respondents across specialties who preferred POCUS procedural guidance were: for central vascular access: femoral 211/342 (61.7%), internal jugular 299/343 (87.2%), subclavian 79/341 (23.2%), paracentesis 277/341 (81.2%), pericardiocentesis 185/317 (58.4%) and thoracentesis 312/343 (91.0%).

Respondent POCUS application preferences for specific clinical presentations are demonstrated as frequencies across specialties in Figure 3. Note the variation in response totals across specialties, as detailed below. Frequency of POCUS use for undifferentiated hypotension were: “sometimes” 76/343 (22.2%), “often” 100/343 (29.2%), and “always” 101/343 (29.4%). Of respondents who used POCUS to evaluate undifferentiated hypotension (277/343, 80.8%), frequencies of use across specialties were: anesthesia/anesthesia critical care 7/8 (87.5%), cardiac critical care 6/9 (66.7%), emergency medicine 67/68 (98.5%), internal medicine 21/27 (77.8%), pulmonary and critical care medicine 163/214 (76.1%), and “other” critical care 13/17 (76.0%). Within the group of respondents who utilize POCUS to evaluate undifferentiated hypotension, a focused cardiac evaluation (e.g. evaluation of cardiac structure and contractility, pericardial effusion and cardiac tamponade, right ventricle strain, etc., 94.6%, $p < 0.001$) was more common than each of the other applications, apart from central venous vasculature evaluation (e.g. evaluation of inferior vena cava or internal jugular diameter, etc., 91.7%, $p = 0.179$). Emergency medicine providers were more likely to use POCUS to evaluate undifferentiated hypotension (67/68, 98.5%, $p < 0.001$) as compared to all other specialties combined (210/275, 76.4%).

Frequencies of POCUS use for evaluating volume status and fluid responsiveness were: “sometimes” 91/343 (26.5%), “often” 112/343 (32.6%), and “always” 55/343 (16.0%). Of respondents who used POCUS to evaluate volume status and fluid responsiveness (258/343, 75.2%), frequencies of use across specialties were: anesthesia/anesthesia critical care 7/8 (87.5%), cardiac critical care 7/9 (77.8%), emergency medicine 60/68 (88.2%), internal medicine

20/27 (74.1%), pulmonary and critical care medicine 151/214 (70.1%), and “other” critical care 13/17 (76.5%). Within the group of respondents who utilize POCUS to evaluate volume status and fluid responsiveness, the most commonly selected POCUS application was central venous dynamic analysis (e.g. inferior vena cava or internal jugular respirophasic variation, etc.) in both spontaneously breathing (203/258, 78.7%, $p<0.001$) and mechanically ventilated patients (200/258, 77.5%, $p<0.001$). Emergency medicine providers were more likely to use POCUS to evaluate volume status and fluid responsiveness (60/68, 88.2%, $p=0.005$) as compared to all other specialties combined (198/275, 72%).

Frequencies of POCUS use for evaluating cardiopulmonary arrest were: “sometimes” 77/343 (22.4%), “often” 72/343 (21.0%), and “always” 73/343 (21.2%). Of respondents who used POCUS to evaluate cardiopulmonary arrest (222/343, 64.7%), frequencies of use across specialties were: anesthesia/critical care 6/8 (75%), cardiac critical care 8/9 (88.9%), emergency medicine 64/68 (94.1%), internal medicine 13/27 (48.1%), pulmonary and critical care medicine 120/214 (56.1%), and “other” critical care 11/17 (64.7%). Within the group of respondents who utilize POCUS to evaluate cardiopulmonary arrest, the most common POCUS application was identification of reversible causes of arrest (213/222, 95.9%, $p<0.001$). Emergency medicine providers were more likely to utilize POCUS to evaluate cardiopulmonary arrest (64/68, 94.1%, $p<0.001$) as compared to all other specialties combined (158/275, 57.5%).

Frequencies of POCUS use for evaluating undifferentiated dyspnea were: “sometimes” 103/342 (30.1%), “often” 72/342 (21.1%), and “always” 32/342 (9.4%). Of respondents who used POCUS

to evaluate undifferentiated dyspnea (207/342, 60.5%), frequencies of use across specialties were: anesthesia/anesthesia critical care 5/8 (62.5%), cardiac critical care 7/9 (77.8%), emergency medicine 47/68 (69.1%), internal medicine 14/27 (51.9%), pulmonary and critical care medicine 121/213 (56.8%), and “other” critical care 13/17 (76.5%). Within the group of respondents who utilize POCUS to evaluate undifferentiated dyspnea, the most commonly selected POCUS application for evaluating undifferentiated dyspnea was pneumothorax identification (191/207, 92.3%, $p < 0.001$).

Barriers to POCUS implementation for specific clinical presentations are demonstrated as frequencies in Figure 4. Frequencies of respondents who stated they “rarely” or “never” use POCUS for each clinical presentation were respectively: undifferentiated hypotension 35/343 (10.2%), 32/343 (9.2%), volume status and fluid responsiveness 45/343 (13.0%), 41/343 (11.8%), cardiopulmonary arrest 60/343 (17.3%), 62/343 (17.9%), and undifferentiated dyspnea 58/343 (16.9%), 77/343 (22.4%). For each clinical presentation, respondents most commonly identified a lack of ultrasound training, competency, or credentialing, as compared to other barriers (undifferentiated hypotension 35/66, 53%, volume status and fluid responsiveness 35/85, 41.2%, cardiopulmonary arrest 32/121, 26.4%, and undifferentiated dyspnea 33/135, 24.4%, $p < 0.001$).

Discussion

Multiple professional organizations recommend POCUS use in the management of the critically ill. Despite this, POCUS is not universally integrated within residency and fellowship training

curricula.^{20, 21} An understanding of current POCUS use, preferences and barriers may help further expand training curricula and promote use and collaboration across specialties. To our knowledge, this is the first study to describe individual practitioners' POCUS use in the management of the critically ill across different specialties.

ACEP, ACCP, and SCCM each recommend POCUS use to aid in diagnostic evaluation and procedural guidance.¹³⁻¹⁵ Furthermore, SCCM guidelines contain evidence-based recommendations for specific POCUS applications and clinical presentations.^{16, 17} Overall, amongst study respondents, annual POCUS use was more common for the cardiac (SCCM recommendation: 1B-2C, 83.5%) and pleural/pulmonary diagnostic applications (1A-2B, 92.4%), as compared to abdominal (1B-2C, 70.4%) and vascular (1B, 66.7%). Similarly, respondents preferred POCUS procedural guidance for central vascular access (femoral (1A, 61.7%), internal jugular (1A, 87.2%), subclavian (2C, 23.2%)), paracentesis (1B, 81.2%), pericardiocentesis (58.4%) and thoracentesis (1B, 91.0%). Despite recommendations, across multiple national organizations, POCUS utilization was not universal amongst study respondents. Currently, potential exists for the continued expansion of POCUS use in common applications, such as peripheral or central venous access guidance.

In each clinical scenario surveyed, respondents utilized an assortment of POCUS applications. For patients presenting with undifferentiated hypotension (1B), POCUS was utilized across specialties (80.8%), with emergency medicine providers reporting the highest use (98.5%). Amongst study respondents, a focused evaluation of the heart (94.6%) and central venous

vasculature (91.7%), were the most commonly utilized applications. Numerous POCUS-guided approaches for hypotension and shock differentiation currently exist.^{8, 24, 25} Each is performed through a sequential visual assessment of multiple organ systems in order to identify potential causes of hypotension. While each utilizes a variety of different applications, evaluation of the heart and inferior vena cava is common amongst most. Study respondents POCUS use in undifferentiated hypotension was consistent with guideline and literature recommendations.

POCUS use for evaluating volume status and fluid responsiveness (1B) was less common amongst study respondents (75.2%). The most commonly selected POCUS application was central venous dynamic analysis (static and dynamic caval index measurement) in both spontaneously breathing (no recommendation, 78.7%) and mechanically ventilated patients (1B, 77.5%). Moreover, techniques beyond the scope of current POCUS guidelines, such as left ventricle outflow tract velocity-time integral (LVOT-VTI) measurements, were also utilized (62%). Recent literature suggests that central venous pressure (CVP) is insufficient to predict fluid responsiveness.²⁶ Additionally, as many as fifty-percent of hemodynamically unstable patients may not respond to empiric fluid loading, with over-resuscitation resulting in potentially worsened outcomes.^{27, 28} POCUS assessment of volume status and preload responsiveness, specifically in septic shock (1C), allows providers to more precisely resuscitate critically ill patients. As providers embrace critical care-related POCUS, novel applications, such as LVOT-VTI, are likely to continue to develop.²⁹

In the evaluation of cardiopulmonary arrest (1B-2C), emergency medicine providers (94.1%) were significantly more likely to perform POCUS as compared to the other specialties (57.5%). Amongst study respondents, POCUS was most commonly utilized to identify the potentially reversible causes of arrest (2C, 95.9%). Physicians traditionally employ the Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) algorithm to guide resuscitation in cardiopulmonary arrest and manage potentially reversible causes. POCUS offers providers the opportunity to predict resuscitation outcomes, efficiently differentiate pulseless electrical activity (PEA) from profound hypotension, and identify treatable etiologies of cardiac arrest such as severe left ventricular dysfunction (1C), pericardial effusion and tamponade (1B), pulmonary embolism (1C), hypovolemia (1B), and tension pneumothorax (1A).¹⁰ Further incorporation of POCUS-guided interventions within cardiopulmonary resuscitation guidelines may expand use amongst non-emergency medicine specialties.

As compared to the previous clinical scenarios, POCUS evaluation of undifferentiated dyspnea (1A-2B) was more evenly performed across specialties (60.5%), with pneumothorax identification (1A, 92.3%) as the most commonly utilized application amongst respondents. The potential etiologies associated with undifferentiated dyspnea are numerous. The sensitivity and specificity of POCUS for identification of pneumothorax (1A), pleural effusion (1A), and interstitial and parenchymal disease (2B) has been demonstrated to be comparable to plain film radiography.³⁰⁻³² Furthermore, POCUS allows for real-time and serial evaluations, while minimizing radiation exposure. Study results indicate the potential for further expansion of POCUS use in undifferentiated dyspnea.

However, amongst study respondents, barriers to POCUS use still exist. A lack of formal training, competency, and credentialing were most commonly cited. Survey respondents obtained POCUS training in a variety of formats, including; educational courses (26.5%), critical care fellowships (23.9%), and residency training (21.6%). POCUS training and competency guidelines exist for multiple specialties.¹³⁻¹⁵ Emergency medicine providers are required to obtain POCUS experience during residency training.³³ Amongst study respondents, emergency medicine respondents were more likely to obtain POCUS experience during training (73.5%) as compared to the other disciplines (23.9%). These findings are consistent with previous studies, which demonstrated limited formal POCUS curricula amongst critical care programs.²¹ Further development and implementation of formalized training curricula during residency and fellowship, may increase POCUS use.

In 1999, the American Medical Association (AMA) recommended the requirements for POCUS competency and credentialing should be defined by the individual practitioner's specialty.³⁴ Emergency departments employ departmental ultrasound directors to help develop institutional credentialing guidelines, and to ensure practitioners meet and maintain these requirements. Unlike emergency medicine providers, who more commonly obtain experience during residency training, critical care providers may be encouraged to obtain post-graduate external certification, such as the Examination of Special Competence in Adult Echocardiography (ASCeXAM), in order to demonstrate competency.¹⁵ Such additional requirements may further discourage POCUS use. Specialties may consider the continued

development of POCUS leadership positions within departments to ensure providers meet institutional training, competency, and credentialing standards, without external certification requirements.

We recognize certain limitations to this survey study. First, lower than expected number of responses were obtained. Further non-responder follow-up, beyond the initial distributions, and demographic information were not available. Second, while respondents represented a variety of specialties, levels of experience and institutional affiliations, the majority were pulmonary and critical care medicine and emergency medicine practitioners in academic or university settings. Despite attempts to appropriately condense respondent groups, multiple specialties may be underrepresented. While this may limit generalizability, with the overall number of responses, from a broad group of providers, we feel that these results have significance and meet study objectives. Third, we recognize the potential for selection bias in the study respondents, as those with POCUS experience and interest may have been more likely to complete the survey. Furthermore, survey responses are self-reported. The potential impact of this selection and non-response bias could not be fully assessed, as further information regarding non-responders was not available. As a result, study findings may overestimate POCUS use and preference, which limits further interpretation. Conversely, the challenges and barriers of ultrasound adoption may be underrepresented. Increased emphasis on POCUS training and resource investment may overcome persistent barriers to implementation.

POCUS is an important tool in the evaluation and management of the critically ill. Study respondents across specialties utilized POCUS in a variety of clinical applications. However, a lack of formal POCUS training, competency, and credentialing is still a common barrier. The potential exists for increased formalized training, expanded clinical use, and further development of POCUS leadership. Collaboration across disciplines may guide specialties through the “ultrasound revolution”.¹⁶

References

1. Rhodes A, Evans LE, Alhazzani W, et al. Surviving Sepsis Campaign: International Guidelines for Management of Sepsis and Septic Shock: 2016. *Intensive Care Med.* 2017;43:304.
2. Newgard CD, Meier EN, Bulger EM, et al. ROC Investigators. Revisiting the “Golden Hour”: An Evaluation of Out-of-Hospital Time in Shock and Traumatic Brain Injury. *Ann Emerg Med* 2015;66:30.
3. Durston W, Carl ML, Guerra W, et al. Comparison of quality and cost-effectiveness in the evaluation of symptomatic cholelithiasis with different approaches to ultrasound availability in the ED. *Am J Emerg Med* 2001;19:260.
4. Blaivas M, Sierzenski P, Plecque D, et al. Do emergency physicians save time when locating a live intrauterine pregnancy with bedside ultrasonography? *Acad Emerg Med* 2000;7:988.

5. Laursen CB, Sloth E, Lambrechtsen J, et al. Focused sonography of the heart, lungs, and deep veins identifies missed life-threatening conditions in admitted patients with acute respiratory symptoms. *Chest* 2013;144:1868.
6. Haydar SA, Moore ET, Higgins GL 3rd, et al. Effect of bedside ultrasonography on the certainty of physician clinical decision making for septic patients in the emergency department. *Ann Emerg Med* 2012;60:346.
7. Kendall JL, Hoffenberg SR, Smith RS. History of emergency and critical care ultrasound: the evolution of a new imaging paradigm. *Crit Care Med* 2007;35:S126.
8. Perera P, Mailhot T, Riley D, et al. The RUSH exam: Rapid Ultrasound in SHock in the evaluation of the critically ill patient. *Ultrasound Clin* 2012;7:255.
9. Jones AE, Tayal VS, Sullivan DM, et al. Randomized, controlled trial of immediate versus delayed goal-directed ultrasound to identify the cause of nontraumatic hypotension in emergency department patients. *Crit Care Med* 2004;32:1703.
10. Blaivas M, Fox JC. Outcome in cardiac arrest patients found to have cardiac standstill on the bedside emergency department echocardiogram. *Acad Emerg Med* 2001;8:616.
11. Volpicelli G, Elbarbary M, Blaivas M, et al. International Liaison Committee on Lung Ultrasound (ILC-LUS) for International Consensus Conference on Lung Ultrasound (ICC-LUS). International evidence-based recommendations for point-of-care lung ultrasound. *Intensive Care Med* 2012;38:577.
12. Leung J, Duffy M, Finckh A. Real-Time Ultrasonographically-Guided Internal Jugular Vein Catheterization in the Emergency Department Increases Success Rates and Reduces Complications : A Randomized, Prospective Study. *Ann Emerg Med* 2006;48:540.

3. American College of Emergency Physicians. Emergency ultrasound guidelines. *Ann Emerg Med* 2009;53:550.
4. Mayo PH, Beaulieu Y, Doelken P, et al. American College of Chest Physicians/La Société de Réanimation de Langue Française statement on competence in critical care ultrasonography. *Chest* 2009;135:1050.
5. Pustavoitau A, Blaivas M, Brown SM, et al. Recommendations for Achieving and Maintaining Competence and Credentialing in Critical Care Ultrasound with Focused Cardiac Ultrasound and Advanced Critical Care Echocardiography. Available at: <http://journals.lww.com/ccmjournal/Documents/Critical%20Care%20Ultrasound.pdf>. Accessed July 4, 2016.
6. Frankel HL, Kirkpatrick AW, Elbarbary M, et al. Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Bedside General and Cardiac Ultrasonography in the Evaluation of Critically Ill Patients-Part I: General Ultrasonography. *Crit Care Med* 2015;43:2479.
7. Levitov A, Frankel HL, Blaivas M, et al. Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of Bedside General and Cardiac Ultrasonography in the Evaluation of Critically Ill Patients-Part II: Cardiac Ultrasonography. *Crit Care Med* 2016;44:1206.
9. Hockberger RS, Binder LS, Graber MA, et al. American College of Emergency Physicians Core Content Task Force II. The model of the clinical practice of emergency medicine. *Ann Emerg Med* 2001;37:745.
0. Eisen LA, Leung S, Gallagher AE, et al. Barriers to ultrasound training in critical care medicine fellowships: a survey of program directors. *Crit Care Med* 2010;38:1978.

1. Mosier JM, Malo J, Stolz LA, et al. Critical care ultrasound training: a survey of US fellowship directors. *J Crit Care* 2014;29:645.
2. Harris PA, Taylor R, Thielke R, et al. Research electronic data capture (REDCap)--a metadata-driven methodology and workflow process for providing translational research informatics support. *J Biomed Inform* 2009;42:377.
3. Labovitz AJ, Noble VE, Bierig M, et al. Focused cardiac ultrasound in the emergent setting: a consensus statement of the American Society of Echocardiography and American College of Emergency Physicians. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 2010;23:1225.
4. Jensen MB, Sloth E, Larsen KM, et al. Transthoracic echocardiography for cardiopulmonary monitoring in intensive care. *Eur J Anaesthesiol* 2004;21:700.
5. Atkinson PR, McAuley DJ, Kendall RJ, A et al. Abdominal and Cardiac Evaluation with Sonography in Shock (ACES): an approach by emergency physicians for the use of ultrasound in patients with undifferentiated hypotension. *Emerg Med J* 2009;26:87.
6. Marik PE, Baram M, Vahid B. Does central venous pressure predict fluid responsiveness? A systematic review of the literature and the tale of seven mares. *Chest* 2008;134:172.
7. Boyd JH, Forbes J, Nakada TA, et al. Fluid resuscitation in septic shock: A positive fluid balance and elevated central venous pressure are associated with increased mortality. *Crit Care Med* 2011;39:259.
8. Marik PE, Lemson J. Fluid responsiveness: an evolution of our understanding. *Br J Anaesth* 2014;112:617.
9. Blanco P, Aguiar FM, Blaivas M. Rapid Ultrasound in Shock (RUSH) Velocity-Time Integral: A Proposal to Expand the RUSH Protocol. *J Ultrasound Med.* 2015;34:1691.

30. Rozycki GS, Pennington SD, Feliciano DV. Surgeon-performed ultrasound in the critical care setting: Its use as an extension of the physical examination to detect pleural effusion. *J Trauma* 2001;50:636.
31. Blaivas M, Lyon M, Duggal S. A prospective comparison of supine chest radiography and bedside ultrasound for the diagnosis of traumatic pneumothorax. *Acad Emerg Med* 2005;12:844.
32. Lichtenstein DA, Lascols N, Mezière G, et al. Ultrasound diagnosis of alveolar consolidation in the critically ill. *Intensive Care Med* 2004;30:276.
33. Lewis RE, Pearl M, Nomura JT, et al. CORD-AEUS: consensus document for the emergency ultrasound milestone project. *Acad Emerg Med* 2013;20(7):740.
34. American Medical Association. Policy Sunset Report for 2000 AMA Socioeconomic Policies. Privileging for Ultrasound Imaging. Available at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/resources/doc/cms/a10-cms-rpt-6.pdf>. Accessed Dec 23, 2016.

Figure Legends

Figure 1: Frequency of survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound application use across specialties.

Figure 2: Frequency of survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound procedural use across specialties.

Figure 3: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound preferences for specific clinical presentations across specialties.

Figure 4: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound barriers to implementation for specific clinical presentations.

Accepted Article

Table 1: Survey respondent demographic characteristics across specialties

		Specialties						Total
		Anesthesia/ Anesthesia Critical Care	Cardiac Critical Care	Emergency Medicine	Internal Medicine	Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine	“Other” Critical Care [*]	
What is your level of experience?	Faculty	7 (87.5)	6 (66.7)	34 (50.0)	7 (25.9)	165 (77.5)	12 (75.0)	231 (67.7)
	Fellow	1 (12.5)	2 (22.2)	9 (13.2)	6 (22.2)	46 (21.6)	4 (25.0)	68 (19.9)
	Resident	0	1 (11.1)	25 (36.8)	14 (51.8)	2 (0.9)	0	42 (12.3)
	Total	8	9	68	27	213	16	341
What is your primary institutional affiliation?	Academic or University setting	5 (62.5)	7 (77.8)	50 (73.5)	15 (55.6)	143 (67.5)	12 (70.6)	232 (68.0)
	Community setting, non- teaching	1 (12.5)	1 (11.1)	2 (2.9)	2 (7.4)	26 (12.3)	1 (5.9)	33 (9.7)
	Community setting, teaching	2 (25.0)	1 (11.1)	16 (23.5)	10 (37.0)	43 (20.3)	4 (23.5)	76 (22.3)
	Total	8	9	68	27	212	17	341
How did you primarily obtain training in point-of- care ultrasound?	Critical Care Fellowship	2 (25.0)	2 (22.2)	7 (10.3)	8 (29.6)	58 (27.1)	5 (29.4)	82 (23.9)
	Not trained in the use of point-of-care ultrasound	0	0	0	2 (7.4)	23 (10.75)	1 (5.9)	26 (7.6)
	Post-training institutional credentialing program	0	0	1 (1.5)	0	4 (1.9)	1 (5.9)	6 (1.7)
	Residency training	1 (12.5)	3 (33.3)	50 (73.5)	8 (29.6)	8 (3.7)	4 (23.5)	74 (21.6)
	Self-guided learning	3 (37.5)	2 (22.2)	1 (1.5)	6 (22.2)	45 (21.0)	2 (11.8)	59 (17.2)
	Ultrasound Fellowship	0	1 (11.1)	3 (4.4)	0	0	1 (5.9)	5 (1.5)
	Ultrasound training course	2 (25.0)	1 (11.1)	6 (8.8)	3 (11.1)	76 (35.5)	3 (17.6)	91 (26.5)
Total	8	9	68	27	214	17	343	

^{*}Includes Surgical Critical Care, Internal Medicine Critical Care, “Other” Critical Care, Pediatric Critical Care, and Emergency Medicine Critical Care. Percentages are represented in parenthesis.

Accepted

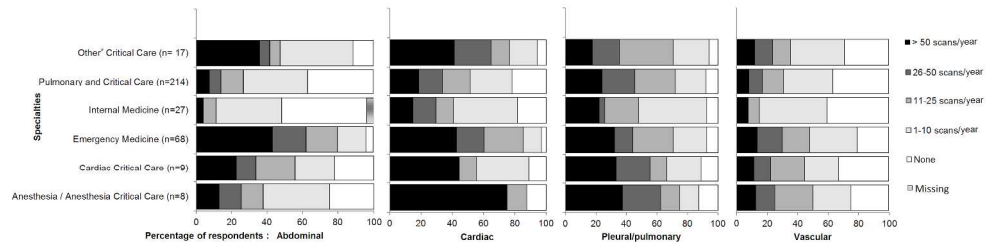


Figure 1. Frequency of survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound application use across specialties

844x210mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Accepted Article

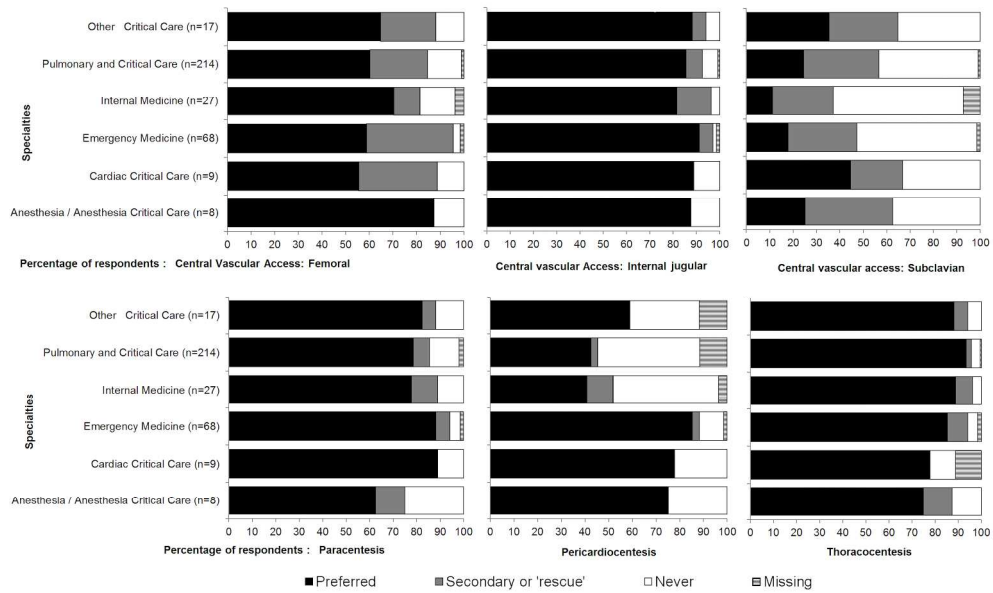


Figure 2: Frequency of survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound procedural use across specialties.

560x336mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Accepte

Figure 3: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound preferences for specific clinical presentations across specialties.

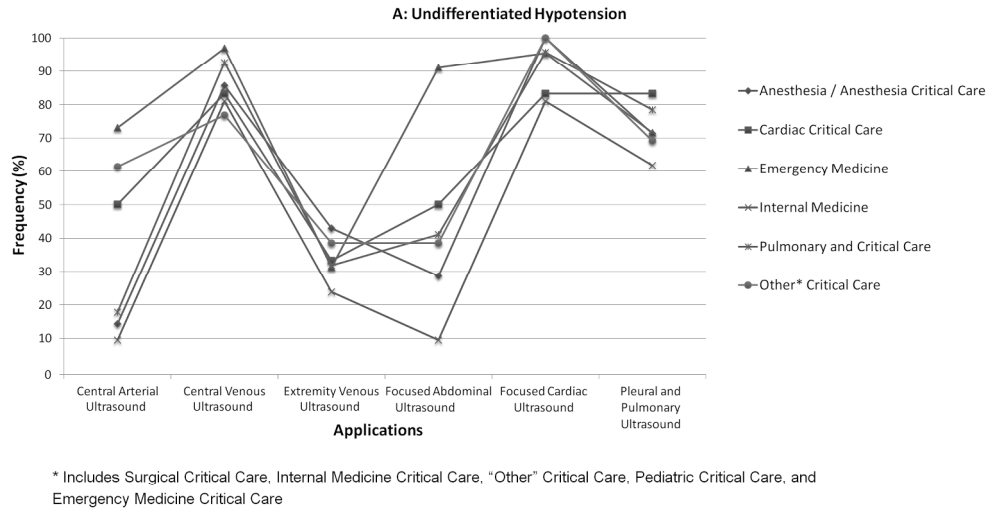


Figure 3: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound preferences for specific clinical presentations across specialties.

592x371mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Accept

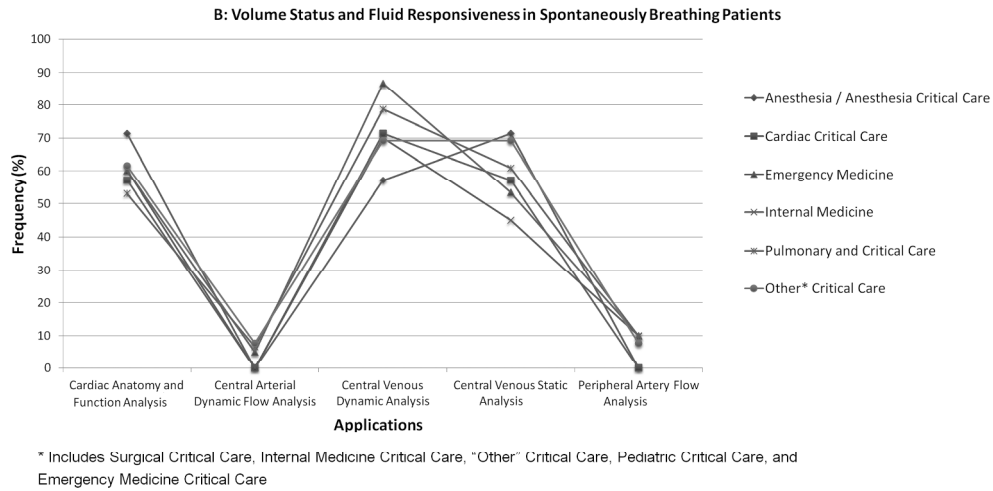


Figure 3: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound preferences for specific clinical presentations across specialties.

595x323mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Accepted

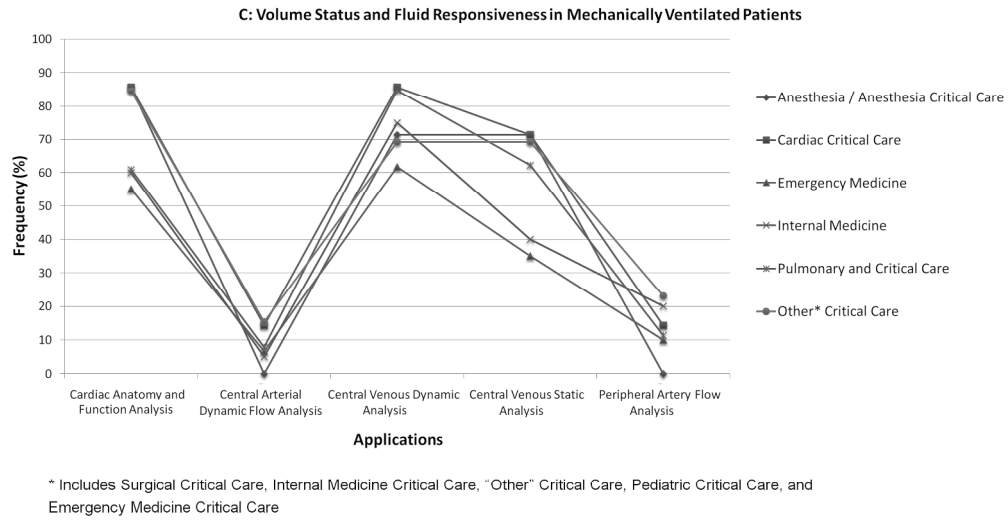


Figure 3: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound preferences for specific clinical presentations across specialties.

591x341mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Accepte

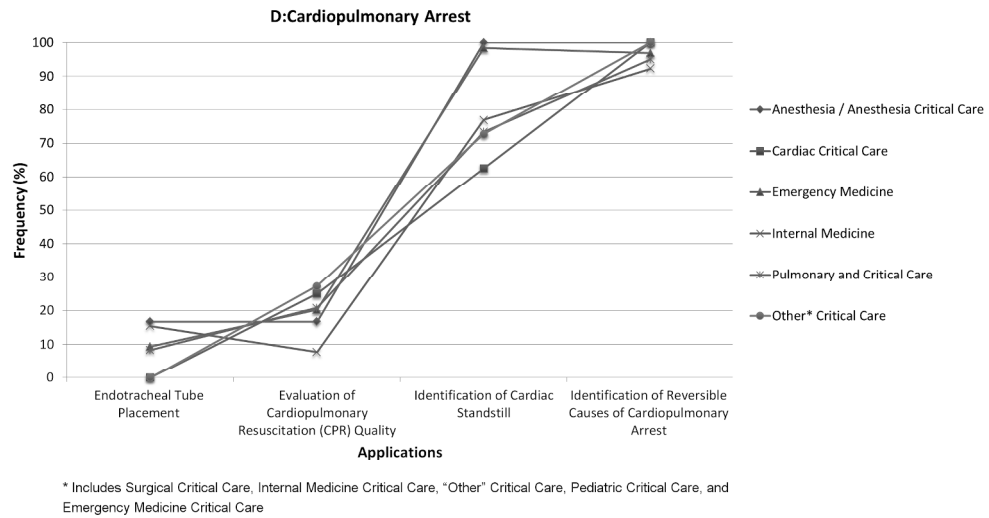


Figure 3: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound preferences for specific clinical presentations across specialties.

679x374mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Accepted

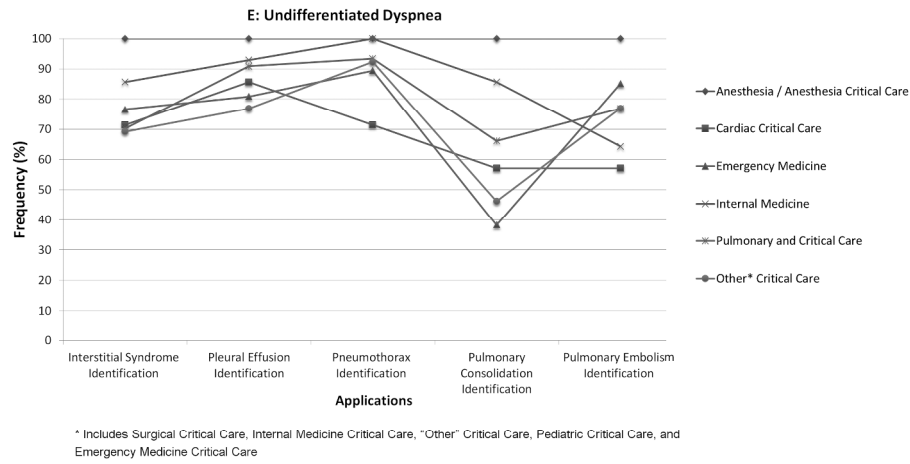


Figure 3: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound preferences for specific clinical presentations across specialties.

684x366mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Accepted

Figure 4: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound barriers to implementation for specific clinical presentations.

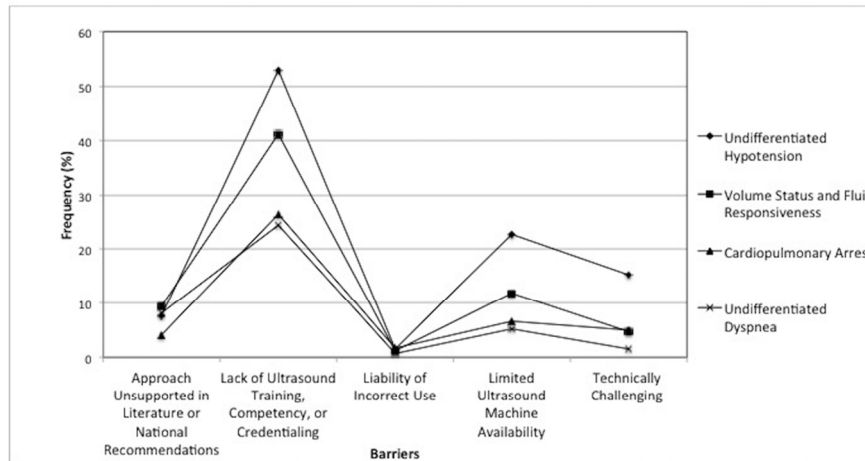


Figure 4: Survey respondent point-of-care ultrasound barriers to implementation for specific clinical presentations.

104x81mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Accepted