

Introducing the SONO case series

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Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is a core skill for the modern emergency physician with competency in basic scans now a requirement of many training programmes around the world. In the UK the RCEM curriculum requires those achieving their certificate for the completion of training to be competent in a limited number of basic applications such as FAST (Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma), basic ECHO in life support, ultrasound-guided vascular access techniques and abdominal aorta assessment. However, POCUS has much more to offer in terms of diagnosis, resuscitation, procedural guidance and real-time haemodynamic monitoring in the ED. In our experience, the benefits of ED USS are often in scans out-with the limited requirements of the curriculum. POCUS is

a powerful tool that increases the accuracy of the clinical examination and has the potential to expedite care as well as improve patient safety.

Recent advances in USS technology, including the development of more affordable ultraportable hand-held devices will inevitably lead to more emergency medicine clinicians using this technology at the bedside and in exploring novel ways to use it for our patients. POCUS is now available in settings where other modalities such as CT/MRI are limited or even unavailable. POCUS is increasingly used internationally, in resource poor areas and on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic, wherever and whenever other modalities are unavailable. The inevitable consequence is that there will be an appetite for improving sonographic skills among our *EMJ* readers.

This month sees the first in a series of SONO cases published in the *EMJ*. This will be a regular feature of the journal and is a case-based approach to demonstrate how ED USS can influence and improve patient care. The cases range from those that will reinforce (and perhaps reintroduce) the basics of ED USS competency, but they will also include those that stretch and challenge us to use this incredibly valuable tool. The series is led by Dr Sally

Graglia and her team of emergency physicians from San Francisco where ED USS is a well-established standard of practice. Our ambition is that the series will inspire, promote and expand the safe use of USS delivered and led by emergency physicians in the UK and across the world.

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