Evaluation of a Multidisciplinary Ultrasound Experience in a Critical Care Fellowship

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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

• Ultrasound within the field of critical care has been increasingly utilized and there is a need for proliferation of education within programs.
• There is little information on the effect of a multidisciplinary approach to ultrasound education.
• Beginning in 2017, weekly “ultrasound rounds” were conducted with EM Ultrasound and Surgical Critical Care (SCC) fellowships to utilize techniques to assess a broad array of pathology.
• Rounds were created to help assist with improved exposure, overall technique and comfort with difficult exams.
• The purpose of this survey was to further broaden the educational experience within the ultrasound fellowship by assessing how much fellows have gained with this new curriculum.

METHODS

• A survey of 19 questions was conducted with current SCC fellows at OHSU (n=4).
• There was a 100% response rate.
• Survey was aimed at overall comfort of certain exams including cardiac ultrasound, screening for DVT, and biliary pathology.
• Assessed the current fellows’ outlook on multidisciplinary rounds and how this has affected their training.

RESULTS

• Fellows reported varied experiences in ultrasound prior to fellowship as shown below.
• All responders rated the experience helpful and reported an increase in ultrasound use secondary to the experience.
• Median scores increased in all areas except FAST exam and procedure guidance, reaching statistical significance in cardiac function evaluation (1.5 vs. 4, p=0.02).

IMPACT & EFFECTIVENESS

• A multidisciplinary approach to ultrasound education would be beneficial to SCC fellows and increase their knowledge, use and interpretation of multiple different pathologies in ICU patients.
• Further studies will be aimed at inclusion of EM Ultrasound fellows in this curriculum and initiation of case logs for each fellow.

References: