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Use and Education of Point-of-Care Ultrasound in Pediatric Emergency Medicine in Saudi Arabia

Abdullah S Alzayedi*, Alzayedi AS^{1,2}, Azizalrahman AA³, AIMadi HA¹, Althekair AM¹, Blaivas M⁴ and Karakitsos D¹

¹King Saud Medical City, Children's Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

²King Fahad Medical City, Children's Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

³Prince Sultan Medical City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

⁴University of South Carolina school of Medicine, USA

Objectives: Point-of-care ultrasound (US) is an emerging tool used by pediatric emergency physicians in the last decade. Currently in the Middle East, point-of-care US use and education are at an early stage, with no designed curriculum or guidelines for its implementation in pediatric emergency medicine (EM). The objective of this article is to describe the clinical and educational uses of point-of-care US among certified pediatric EM physicians.

Methods: A 19-question survey was sent to all certified pediatric emergency physicians and fellows in pediatric emergency fellowships in Saudi Arabia in February 2016. Reminders were sent weekly for 4 weeks.

Results: The response rate was 84 of 88 (95%). Fifty-one of 84 (61%) reported using point-of-care US. Focused assessment with sonography for trauma was the most frequent use of point-of-care US (37%), followed by procedures (19%). The most common barrier for not using point-of-care US was limited training (86%). The most preferred tool for point-of-care US teaching was courses by EM physicians. Currently, there is no specific curriculum designed for pediatric EM in the Middle East.

Conclusions: Despite the multiple applications of point-of-care US in pediatric EM, its use is still limited. Formal point-of-care US training with bedside sessions and courses was the most preferred method of education. A designed curriculum needs to be implemented in pediatric emergency fellowships in Saudi Arabia.

Biography:

Abdullah S Alzayedi is a pediatric emergency consultant who did 4-year residency program in Saudi Arabia then he joins the Fellowship in pediatric emergency program for 2 years in 2017. He had a passion in the development of work environment with quality ensuring methods. His interest in the field of Pediatric is both clinical and academic. For the last 2 years, his main focus was on clinical work and house staff teaching. Abdullah Alzayedi anxiously looking forward to being a leading physician and role model for medical staff. He like sharing knowledge and doing research in the pediatric emergency field.