

Point-of-Care ultrasound on oncology inpatients with respiratory abnormalities

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Abstract

Here, we present for the first time a case series demonstrating the ability of Point of Care ultrasonography (POCUS) to contribute clinically significant findings, which may affect the management of oncologic inpatients with respiratory symptoms. This is a pilot, prospective case series of 13 patients with various malignancies admitted to the inpatient oncology ward at a large tertiary medical center.

Patients presenting dyspnea or other respiratory abnormalities were examined by POCUS of the heart, lungs, and IVC. Exam findings were delivered to the patients' treating physicians with no other treatment or management recommendations. Our primary outcome was to assess the association between POCUS findings and the rate of management change among oncology patients with respiratory symptoms. Thirteen cancer patients admitted to the oncology ward that presented with dyspnea or developed a respiratory abnormality during their hospital stay were enrolled in the study. All received POCUS assessment for dyspnea.

The POCUS exam revealed clinically relevant findings and led to alteration management among 11/13 (84%) of patients. Among 6/11 (54.5%) patients, a new procedure was performed (four pleural taps, one pleural drain was removed, one dialysis), in 3/11 patients (27.2%) a new imaging study was ordered (echocardiography in all cases), in 2/11 patients (18.1%) a new consult was requested, and in 3/11 patients (27.2%) a change in medical management was made based on POCUS findings.

Incorporation of POCUS exam into routine diagnostic workup of patients admitted to the oncological ward with new respiratory abnormalities does lead to frequent change in patient management and may potentially improve patient outcomes.



Biography:

Lior Fuchs is Assistant Professor in medicine at Ben Gurion University and a senior intensivist in the Medical ICU at Soroka University Medical Center, both at Beer Sheva Israel. Lior has completed his training in intensive care, and Critical Care Point of Care Ultrasound from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA and is a leader in the field of Point of Care Ultrasound in Israel. He has published more than 25 papers, most of them in the field of the impact of point of care ultrasound on patients management.

Speaker Publications:

1. "The long-term effect of short point of care ultrasound course on physicians' daily practice."
2. "Case Series: Point-of-Care Ultrasound on Oncology Inpatients with Respiratory Abnormalities"
3. "The effect of point of care ultrasonography before urgent orthopedic surgery on anesthetic management - A prospective, pilot study."
4. "Accurate positioning of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation cannulas using real-time trans-thoracic echocardiography"
5. "Early Point-of-Care Ultrasound Assessment for Medical Patients Reduces Time to Appropriate Treatment: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial"

[2nd Global Meeting on Oncology and Radiology;](#)
Webinar- December 10, 2020

Abstract Citation:

Lior Fuchs, Point-of-Care Ultrasound on Oncology Inpatients with Respiratory Abnormalities, Radiology and Oncology 2020, 2nd Global Meeting on Oncology and Radiology; Webinar- December 10, 2020
(<https://radiology-oncology.annualcongress.com/>)