

## Ultra-sound: A New Armament in Anesthesia

Recently ultrasound is increasingly being used in various scenario of anesthetic practice, be it in intensive care or theater or even at patient assessment. Point of care ultrasound POCUS has become an essential tool in modern patient care. Recent data has shown that non-radiologists are doing major bulk of US guided procedures.<sup>1</sup>

Ultrasound guidance helps to perform various invasive procedures with enhanced procedural success, decreased complications, shorter time requirement and improved satisfaction of the patient as well as the performer. Evidence in various studies supports that there is significant increase in patient safety & complications, thus actually reducing cost of the patient.<sup>2</sup>

Ultrasound can be used from a difficult I/V line to placement of transvenous pacemaker or central venous access. All sorts of nerve block when judiciously done can give comfort to a trauma patient or increases safety in compromised patients to a level that seems a blessing indeed. Bedside patient evaluation from emergency room to intensive care units for volume status or ascertaining collection of fluids in different cavities, or for assessment of Pulmonary edema or for a quick look into myocardium or valves or for presence of thrombus can be rewarding when sustenance of life depends on time.

But to reap all the benefits of technology, we need to train our human resources as success depends

on proper training, competence and skill. Although cost of machines may be a hindrance in spreading this service nationwide, little endeavor may achieve a lot as there are ultra-sound machines in most district hospitals and most private clinics where surgery is done. Academic hospitals should extend their training facilities to all provider. For patient service all concern should work together for access to USEquipment by fellow colleagues. At the end of day patient service matters and all professionals should be proud to provide enhanced services to patients who deserve it.

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