



# Point-of-Care Ultrasound as a Tool for Family Medicine

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## CURRENT SELECTION

### Article for Discussion

Andersen CA, Holden S, Vela J, Rathleff MS, Jensen MB. Point-of-care ultrasound in general practice: a systematic review. *Ann Fam Med*. 2019;17(1):61-69.

### Discussion Tips

Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) is a low cost, accessible imaging modality. Despite its growing popularity, POCUS training in family medicine residencies is limited and it is used by less than 10% of practicing family physicians for nonobstetrical examinations.<sup>2,3</sup> This systematic review provides an opportunity to review the published literature on the use of and training for POCUS among general practitioners.

### Discussion Questions

- What is a systematic review? What is a meta-analysis? How are they related?

- What is the Cochrane Collaboration? What is PRISMA?
- What questions are asked by this review?
- Were appropriate studies included in the authors' search?
- How were studies included or excluded? Were included studies relevant to the authors' question?
- What are the main findings?
- Were any meta-analyses completed? If not, why?
- What are sensitivity and specificity?
- What is the well-established problem of screening in a population with low pretest probability? What are false positives and why is this a relevant concept?
- How does this review advance beyond previous research and clinical practice on this topic?
- How might this review change your practice? How might it influence graduate medical education?
- How feasible is point-of-care ultrasound for your practice?
- What clinical applications of POCUS are most/least relevant to your practice?
- What future research would be most valuable to pursue?

## References

1. Stange KC, Miller WL, McLellan LA, et al. *Annals Journal Club: It's time to get RADICAL.* *Ann Fam Med*. 2006;4(3):196-197. <http://annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/4/3/196>.
2. Hall JW, Holman H, Bornemann P, et al. Point of care ultrasound in family medicine residency programs: a CERA study. *Fam Med*. 2015;47(9):706-711.
3. Clinical Procedures Performed by Physicians at their Practice (as of December 31, 2017)—About Us. [http://www.aafp.org/about/the-aafp/family-medicine-facts/table-12\(rev\).html](http://www.aafp.org/about/the-aafp/family-medicine-facts/table-12(rev).html). Accessed Dec 13, 2018.