

## **W29**

### **Point of care ultrasonography (POC-US) in family medicine - present and perspectives**

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The point of Care Ultrasonography - performed by the clinician at the site of patient care, both in the medical office and at home, to guide the case management in the early diagnosis with targeted purpose. It represents basically, an extension and complement, to clinical examination of the physician to achieve a positive and differential diagnosis. POC-US is now a tool in development, who can complement physical examination of the family doctors, and can guide the case management to the bedridden patients. We need training and quality standards, to ensure us, that this will be done in a way with positive benefits for our patients, being useful, the implementation of ultrasound standards and practice guidelines to primary care level. It involves personal contact between doctor and patient at "bedside", it is a fast in real time method, repetitive and harmless but dependent on the experience and expertise of the examiner. A new opportunity for POC-US represents the application in primary care of the medical projects related to "telemedicine" connections among specialists and family doctors for enhanced patient management. New techniques for ultrasound diagnosis and follow-up of patients with acute or chronic diseases are a real challenge for primary care. The challenges are both the continuous need for training and acquiring new multidisciplinary skills and learning of information from other areas of science. Educational needs of GPs on new methods and technologies are increasing, but the resources and infrastructure are limited now. It is thus necessary, collaboration among family physicians trainers or academics, on the one hand, and to the other, of specialty physicians in the preparation and continuing medical education in family medicine. Early diagnosis can help to save many patients in primary care. Therefore, we will involve, to inform family physicians about the latest diagnostic and treatment protocols in clinical ultrasound.