



Undergraduate POCUS teaching UK universities: prevalence and practice

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Background

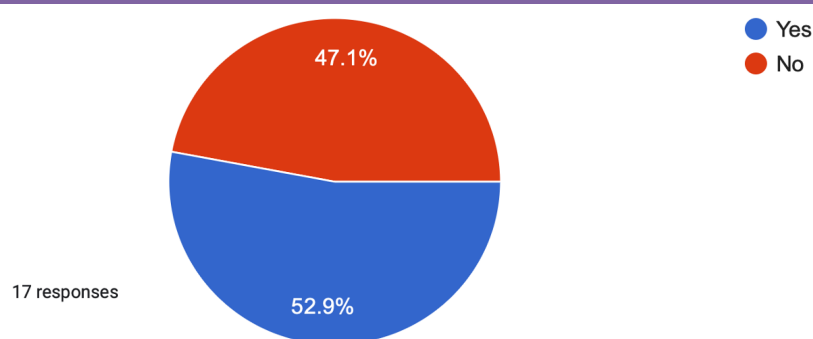
The advent of hand-held ultrasound devices has caused a surge of interest in POCUS¹. Until now, POCUS in the UK has principally been taught in the postgraduate setting. We investigated use of, and attitudes to undergraduate POCUS teaching in the UK.

Methods

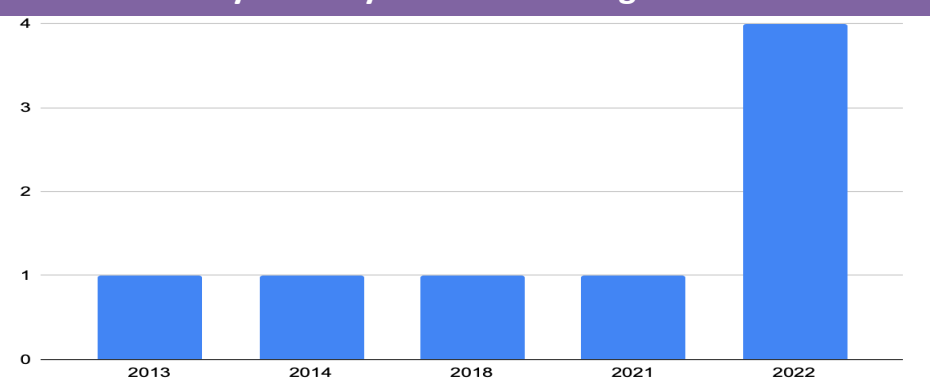
A Google forms survey was distributed via email within a network of undergraduate clinical skills leads at 36 UK medical schools, over a 10 week period in 2023.

Results

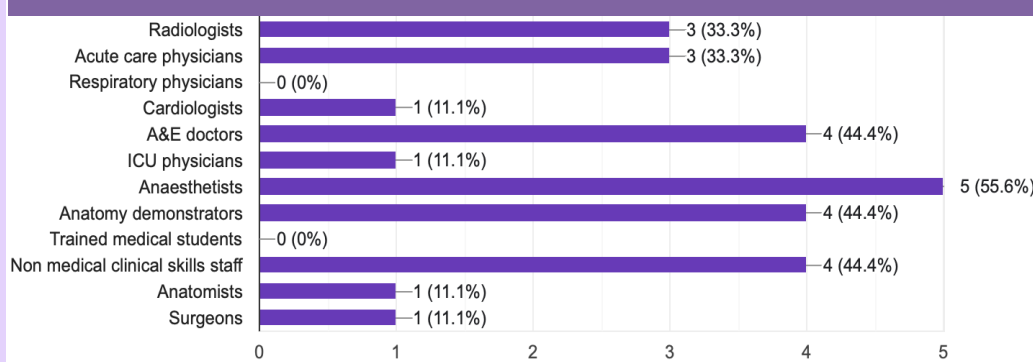
Do you teach undergraduate POCUS in your medical school?



What year did you start teaching POCUS?

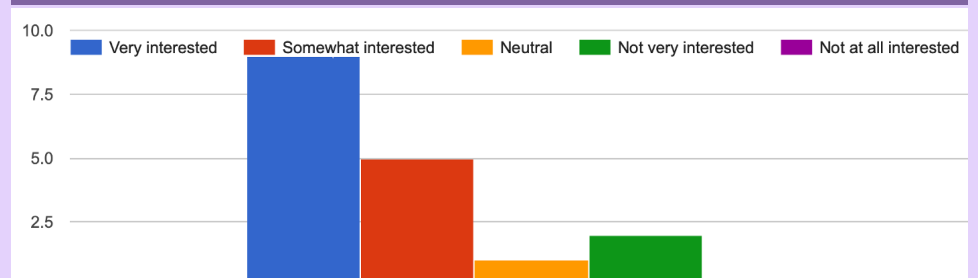


Who teaches POCUS?

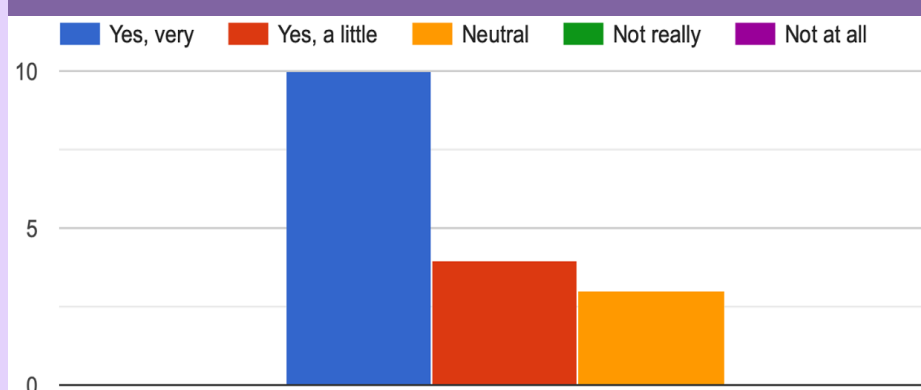


There was a sharp increase in POCUS teaching in 2022. Total time spent on POCUS teaching per student is 5-6 hours in 2 institutions, 3-4 hours in 3 institutions, and 2 hours in 3 institutions.

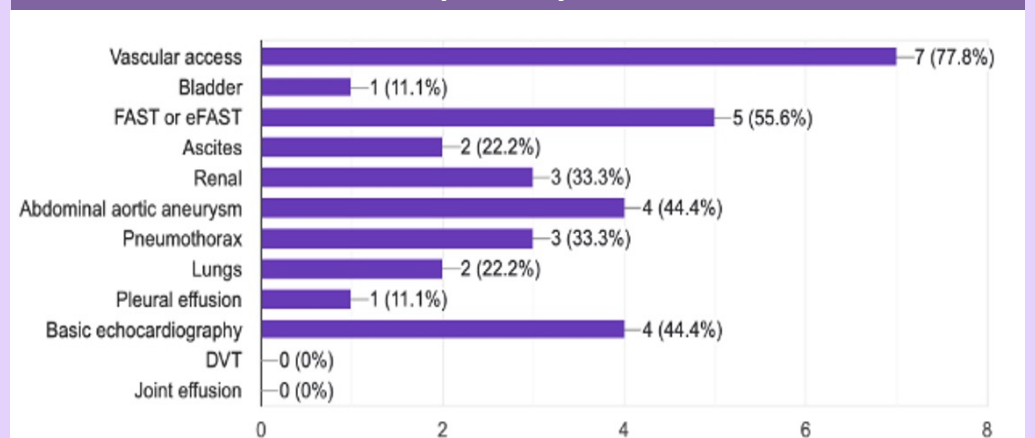
How interested are you in developing POCUS in the undergrad curriculum?



Do you think POCUS would be beneficial to your student's future career?



What topics do you teach?



'I think its a great idea to introduce them to POCUS at a basic level however there is NO space in the undergrad curriculum - Everything keeps getting added and nothing is taken out'
Anon clinical skills lead

Conclusions

Although POCUS teaching to undergraduate medical students is increasing in the UK, provision is patchy, with little consistency of topics taught. Lack of time, lack of standardised curriculum, resources, and unavailability of skilled teachers are all barriers. The short teaching time given to undergraduate POCUS means it is unlikely to result in clinical competence. It is however, thought likely that POCUS will form part of future clinical practice. Consideration should be given to national standardisation of learning objectives in undergraduate POCUS teaching².

References

1. Toru Kameda et al J Medical Ultrasonics 2002;49:217
2. Richard A. Hoppmann et al J Ultrasound 2022;14:31