

Acquiring POCUS Equipment: Considerations and Advice

October 6, 2022

Questions & Answers

Presenter, Michael Wagner, MD, FACP

Do you have advice for improving faculty familiarity with POCUS devices? There's a significant amount of inertia among faculty in my facility due to lack of comfort at department head and leadership level with these devices	Other than structured training, no other advice. It is a common problem/barrier. Some pocus courses (like ours in Greenville SC) allow you to bring your own devices and provide training on the device. but that is course dependent.
What do you think about Sonoque?	i personally have not tried them but having looked into it extensively online, i think there are enough flags about the device/company that it is worth the slightly extra cost to have the peace of mind to work with the other listed companies in the webinar. if you have \$1000 but not \$3000 and would not be too put out if it stopped working after 6 months, and you are using outside the US, might be worth trying.
is butterfly also good for uploading to EMR?	It can be depending on your local IT dept. As I mentioned, it took us several years to get it approved and work out the security issues.
From your experience and expertise, what's the most cost effective and easy use device for the outpatient office? Accessing vasculature for intravenous access in the office setting. Thanks	Vscan Air probably give you most functionality, but if it was purely for vascular access and nothing else, probably a linear lumify probe.
I find butterfly IQ image quality quite poor compared to Lumify, especially cardiac probe. Any experience with the newer ButterflyIQplus?	We have some iQs and some iQ+. Cardiac imaging quality is better in the iQ+ and also comes with nifty features like being able to do long and short axis just from the PLAX position. That said, image quality for cardiac in particular is not as good as the vscans that we also have (IMO). lung preset on iQ definitely better than lung on the vscan extend.
Any general tips on helping obtain hospital specific credentialing for POCUS use by Hospitalists?	Yes, lots, but none that i can easily answer here. would be a whole talk.
for a residency program with basic use in-patient (cardiac, lung, abdomen, DVT), potentially some clinic (MSK and soft tissue), looking for handheld - butterfly vs vscan thoughts?	It depends of course... both will give you full function scanning for applications you described. if investing in a single probe and 1 account to be shared among lots of users, id probably pick the vscan air. if looking to create multiple individual accounts, you'll need a group or enterprise subscription so consider this in your costs but a butterfly iQ probe would be where i would start with several probes (1 probe :10-15 users)
yes they sell their cloud seperating \$420 a year unless you get enterprise subscription and then cost depends	agree

(to answer butterfly question)	
Any cardiac pocus options that are compatible with IOS, I don't think KOSMOS is. Looking for something that has color, b mode, m mode.	for IOS, iQ, clarius, vscan air, and lumify are all currently compatible and have cardiac features you mention. expect kosmos release and ios compatible probe in <6 months but that depends on the company and FDA etc etc.
Did you see AI was mostly with echonous?	yes though automated features (like B-line counting) are available on other probes too
Very basic question Why 2 probes vs. 1?	to cover both high and low frequency scanning- high frequency for shallow structures, low frequency for deeper structures. See early slides in webinar. as of now, butterfly iq is the only company that makes a single probe that can adequately scan both superficial and deep. Vscan air and extend has 2 probes built into 1 device so provide similar scope.
Any thoughts on quality of MSK image (superficial) between butterfly vs clarius vs lumify?	can definitely comment on butterfly vs lumify (latter is much better IMO) but not clarius. for MSK applications though it is worth noting clarius makes a linear probe up to 20MHZ that is 5395 +subscription- so resolution might be best with that one but again i havent tested it myself.
comment - would be great to hear a lecture by ACP about curriculum - education and clinical integration of pocus in future, thank you Dr. Wagner	agree, thank you for your comments/questions