

## **Ultrasound guidance: advances in regional anaesthesia, critical care, and pain medicine**

Since the advent of ultrasound in medical practice, the technology used in medical ultrasounds has been continuously evolving and currently playing a pivotal role in the diagnosis and treatment. Although the science employed in ultrasound devices has a long and interesting history, the introduction of the ultrasound in anaesthesia and critical care was only decades ago. Peripheral nerve blockades have been lagged behind the progress of general anaesthesia until sonography revitalized the technique, increasing the safety of the patients, and improving the efficiency of the clinicians. The ultrasound-guided peripheral nerve blockades and perioperative pain management are among the most frequently discussed and researched topics of clinical anaesthesiology, today.

As the ultrasound provides clinicians an incredible insight into the body, thus not surprisingly, this technology is utilized by many specialties. ICU patients often present with thoracic and abdominal pathologies, making sonography an indispensable tool for prompt diagnosis and treatment. Ultrasound captures images of soft tissues that X-rays reveal not so well, moreover, it is safe, accurate, rapid, and repeatable at the bedside. Recently, ultrasound is recognized as the gold standard for vascular access placement, as well. Since there are dramatic improvements in the quality, cost, and access to ultrasound overall, it is increasingly useful in an expanding variety of settings. Concerning the patients in neuro-intensive care units, ultrasound has become an integral part of monitoring and managing patients with subarachnoid haemorrhage. Besides, it is regarded as the easiest tool for evaluating intracranial vasculature in patients with stroke, or brain death. The sequential assessment of organ systems and the combination of the diagnostic modalities of sonography lead to a symptom-based and sign oriented evaluation for the management of the critically ill. As usual, interventional pain physicians are fascinated by the intersection of technology and health, in this way the use of ultrasound can help facilitate better patient-provider interactions and prevent the patient's conditions from deteriorating.

Probably, there will be no better time for the publication of this special issue because it coincides with what must be one of the most exciting eras of the development of sonography in modern anaesthesia, critical care, and pain management. According to these considerations, it is a pleasure to announce that Signa Vitae is launching this Special Issue entitled "Ultrasound guidance: advances in regional anaesthesia, critical care, and pain medicine".

We encourage experts, clinicians, and researchers interested in this topic to submit their articles. Reviews, original articles, clinical trials, methodology, case reports are particularly welcome. Also, we warmly invite you to submit papers reporting new devices or applications of ultrasound imaging.

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