REVOLUTIONIZING IMPACT OF POINT OF CARE ULTRASOUND (POCUS): A GAME-CHANGER FOR DECISION MAKING AT BEDSIDE ESPECIALLY IN EMERGENCY OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

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Dear Editor,

I am writing to highlight the transformative potential of Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) in emergency obstetrics and gynecology. It provides immediate bedside imaging, enabling life-saving decisions without delays. Its portability, cost-effectiveness, and ability to minimize patient movement make it indispensable in busy, resource-limited settings. Its capacity to streamline care, improve outcomes, and reduce strain on overburdened healthcare systems caught my attention. It is not just a tool-it's a paradigm shift in emergency obstetrics and gynecology, and its widespread adoption deserves prioritization.

Unlike traditional ultrasound, which often requires scheduling and specialized technicians, trained professionals can perform Point-of-Care Ultrasound at the bedside, promoting a patient-centered approach.[1,2] In obstetrics, it is invaluable for assessing fetal viability, gestational age, fetal presentation, and complications like placental abnormalities or ectopic pregnancies. A recent multicenter cohort study by Knights et al. demonstrated that POCUS in the third trimester reduced undiagnosed breech presentations at term from 16.5% to 3.5% ($p < 0.001$), significantly improving perinatal outcomes.[3] In gynecology, Point-of-Care Ultrasound aids in diagnosing ovarian cysts, fibroids, torsion, and pelvic inflammatory disease, often avoiding invasive procedures.[4,5] Vinayak et al. showed that training midwives in rural areas to use Point-of-Care Ultrasound with tablet platforms improved diagnostic capabilities in low-resource settings.[2] Similarly, Prasad et al. emphasized the importance of training midwives to determine fetal presentation using handheld devices, calling it "the need of the hour" to reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity.[6]

However, successful implementation hinges on proper training to ensure accurate image acquisition and interpretation. Structured training programs have been shown to improve the reliability of Point-of-Care Ultrasound findings significantly.[7]

I believe this technology deserves to be highlighted for its far-reaching implications in transforming maternal and gynecological healthcare globally.

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