Lung POCUS for the Hematologist

Milla Kviatkovsky, DO, MPH UCSD Division of Hospital Medicine



Lung Ultrasound Keys

- Purpose: To answer clinical question at the bedside
- Examples: Yes or no questions
 - Does my patient have a pleural effusion?
 - Is there pulmonary edema?
 - Is there a pneumothorax?
 - Does my patient have a pneumonia?
- Can be more sensitive than CXR



Probe Selection

- Phased Array Probe
- Low Frequency, High Penetration
- Small Footprint to Fit in between rib spaces
- Linear Probe can also be used for specific applications
 - when evaluating for pneumothorax





Patient Position





Image Acquisition

- Probe marker Orientation: patient's head
- Lung Zones:





Lung Anatomy

Rib w/rib shadows

- Use ribs to ID pleural Line (will cast shadow)
- Identify Pleural Line (bright white line)
- Air does not transfer sound, so returns to probe in disorganized fashion





Normal Lung Slide



To assess for lung slide, look between the two ribs, here you can see the two layers of pleura as the hyperechoic "shimmering" line just under the subcutaneous tissue. Also known as "ants marching".



Pneumothorax

- Focus on pleural line
- Linear probe
- Shallow depth
- Absent lung slide
 - Or lung point –for pneumothorax
- Use M-mode







Lung Slide







Lung Point





B-Lines

- Represent Fluid or thickening of Interstitial Tissue
- Vertical lines that originate at the pleural line
- Travel through the depth of the image (at least 12 cm)
- Move back forth with respiration
- Initially are thin, then begin to coalesce



A lines vs. B lines





A Lines: Horizontal lines that represent sound waves bouncing off of highly echogenic pleura and back to probe

B Lines: Vertical artifacts that move with respiration. Represent fluid in alveolar space. If two are more regions with B lines is suggestive of pulmonary edema.



Severity of Pulmonary Edema

Severity Rating	Description
Negative	No B-lines or fewer than 3 discrete B lines seen at any time
Mild	At least 3 discrete B lines per rib space, few in number, intermittently present
Moderate	Many or partially discrete or partially-coalesced B lines, persistently present
Severe	Complete coalescence of B-lines, many in number, persistently present
Negative Mild	Moderate Severe
£3 E2 10-	× ×



Pleural Effusion

- Location: Lung Zone 4/8
- Identify the diaphragm
- Normal lung \rightarrow Mirror artifact
- Fluid above diaphragm \rightarrow no mirror imagine or spine sign



Pleural Effusion



Pleural Effusion vs. Normal Lung



Lung Curtain





In Summary: Lung POCUS

- Answer specific clinical questions
 - Pneumothorax, pulmonary edema, pleural effusion
- Can have improved sensitivity over CXR
- Serial Exams can be performed to monitor patient status
 - Response to diuresis
 - Pre and Post Procedure
 - Stability of pleural effusion
 - Evaluate for pneumothorax

