

Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) in Children's Surgery in Africa - PAPSA Survey

Please help us by completing this short questionnaire on Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) use in Child Surgery on the African continent.

Eligibility to Complete Survey:

- Location: you must currently work in an African country.
- Role: you should be a surgeon in training or a fully qualified surgeon.
- Speciality: you should work in a surgical speciality that involves operating on children.

Survey Aim:

- To evaluate current access to ultrasound imaging and the use of ultrasound skills amongst surgeons in Africa who treat children.

Definitions:

- 'Point-of-Care Ultrasound' or 'Clinician-Led Ultrasound' refers to the use of portable ultrasound technology by the clinician to assess the patient at the bedside to help clinical decision making or to guide an intervention. It is practiced by clinicians (e.g surgeons, intensivists, emergency physicians) and NOT radiologists/sonographers.

Thank you very much for your support!

PAPSA (Pan-African Paediatric Surgery Association) &
PS-POCUS: Global Paediatric Surgery POCUS Network

Please address any questions to ps.pocus@gmail.com or info@papsa.org

* Indicates required question

1. I agree for my data to be published anonymously. *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes

YOUR Details

Definition: 'Point-of-Care Ultrasound' or 'Clinician-Led Ultrasound' refers to the use of portable ultrasound technology by a clinician to assess the patient at the bedside to help clinical decision making or guide an intervention. It is practiced by clinicians (e.g surgeons, intensivists, emergency physicians) and NOT radiologists/sonographers.

2. What country do you currently work in? *

 Dropdown

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Algeria
- ☐ Angola
- ☐ Benin
- ☐ Botswana
- ☐ Burkina Faso
- ☐ Burundi
- ☐ Cameroon
- ☐ Cape Verde
- ☐ Central African Republic
- ☐ Chad
- ☐ Comoros
- ☐ Côte d'Ivoire
- ☐ Democratic Republic of the Congo
- ☐ Djibouti
- ☐ Egypt
- ☐ Equatorial Guinea
- ☐ Eritrea
- ☐ Ethiopia
- ☐ Gabon
- ☐ Gambia
- ☐ Ghana
- ☐ Guinea
- ☐ Guinea-Bissau
- ☐ Kenya
- ☐ Lesotho
- ☐ Liberia
- ☐ Libya
- ☐ Madagascar
- ☐ Malawi
- ☐ Mali
- ☐ Mauritania
- ☐ Mauritius

- ☐ Morocco
- ☐ Mozambique
- ☐ Namibia
- ☐ Niger
- ☐ Nigeria
- ☐ Republic of the Congo
- ☐ Rwanda
- ☐ São Tomé and Príncipe
- ☐ Senegal
- ☐ Seychelles
- ☐ Sierra Leone
- ☐ Somalia
- ☐ South Africa
- ☐ South Sudan
- ☐ Sudan
- ☐ Swaziland/Eswantini
- ☐ Tanzania
- ☐ Togo
- ☐ Tunisia
- ☐ Uganda
- ☐ Zambia
- ☐ Zimbabwe

3. What is your current role? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Fully Qualified Surgeon (e.g. Consultant/Attending)
- ☐ Trainee Surgeon (e.g. Resident/Fellow/Registrar)
- ☐ Non-Doctor Specialist (e.g. clinical officer/physician assistant/advanced nurse practitioner)
- ☐ Other: _____

4. What is your current (or future) Surgical Speciality (apply all that apply)? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Paediatric Surgery
- ☐ Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery
- ☐ Paediatric Urology
- ☐ General Surgery
- ☐ Urology
- ☐ Plastic Surgery
- ☐ Maxillofacial Surgery
- ☐ Ear, Nose & Throat Surgery
- ☐ Other: _____

5. What level of hospital do you MOSTLY work in? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Tertiary Hospital (i.e main referral hospital, university hospital)
- ☐ Secondary Hospital (i.e. district general hospital)
- ☐ Primary Healthcare Facility (i.e clinic, small local hospital)
- ☐ Both Tertiary & Secondary Hospitals

6. Your hospital belongs to which category (tick all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ government hospital
- ☐ private hospital (non faith-bases)
- ☐ faith-based private hospital
- ☐ Non-governmental institution
- ☐ other
- ☐ Other: _____

7. How many years of experience do you have treating children all together? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ < 2 years
- ☐ 2-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11-20
- ☐ > 21 years

Radiology & Ultrasound Access

This section focuses on access to ultrasound services at your hospital, including ultrasound performed by the Radiology Department (radiologists/ultrasonographers).

8. What imaging do you have access to at the hospital you mainly work in? (tick all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Xrays
- ☐ Ultrasound
- ☐ CT
- ☐ MRI
- ☐ Interventional Radiology
- ☐ Nuclear Medicine Scans

9. In your job, how frequently do you request an ULTRASOUND for a child patient from the Radiologist/Sonographer? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ every day
- ☐ every week
- ☐ every months
- ☐ less than once per months
- ☐ Never
- ☐ Not applicable as we do not have ultrasound at our institution

10. In your hospital is the Radiologist/Sonographer available every day of the week to perform an ultrasound?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, there is a radiologist/sonographer available 7 days a week
- ☐ Yes, there is a radiologist/sonographer available during normal working days
- ☐ There is a radiologist/sonographer available on only some days of the week
- ☐ There is NO radiologist/sonographer available

11. Does your Radiologist/Sonographer perform ultrasound outside of normal working hours (i.e. overnight, weekend, public holiday)? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable as we do not have ultrasound at our institution

12. If you request an ultrasound for an acute/emergency admission, how long does it usually take the Radiologist/Sonographer to perform and report the ultrasound? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ <2 hour
- ☐ 3-6 hours
- ☐ 7-12 hours
- ☐ 13-24 hours
- ☐ >24 hours
- ☐ Not applicable as we do not have ultrasound at our institution

13. Do any of the following BARRIERS- infrastructure related apply to accessing ultrasound services at your hospital? (tick all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ We do not have enough ultrasound machines
- ☐ Ultrasound machines are usually broken
- ☐ We do not have portable ultrasound machines
- ☐ Electricity is unreliable
- ☐ Patients have to be transferred a long distance to the ultrasound department
- ☐ Ultrasound gel is difficult to access
- ☐ NO major logistical barriers to ultrasound access

14. Do any of the following BARRIERS- human resources related apply to accessing ultrasound services at your hospital? (tick all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ We do not have enough radiologists/sonographers
- ☐ ONLY Radiologists/Sonographers are allowed to use the ultrasound machines
- ☐ radiologist/sonographers available not skilled/comfortable with paediatric ultrasound
- ☐ no human resource barriers

15. Do any of the following BARRIERS - financial barriers apply to accessing ultrasound services at your hospital? (tick all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Patients have to pay for an ultrasound scan
- ☐ No financial constraints
- ☐ Other: _____

16. In your hospital, have you seen any of these doctors regularly performing ultrasound as clinician ultrasound for children? (tick all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Emergency Physicians
- ☐ Intensive Care Physicians
- ☐ Cardiologists
- ☐ Paediatricians
- ☐ Paediatric Surgeons
- ☐ General Surgeons
- ☐ Urologists
- ☐ Trauma and Orthopedics
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Other: _____

YOUR experience using Point-of-Care Ultrasound in children (POCUS)

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17. Do you have ultrasound skills? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, I feel confident to diagnose paediatric surgery conditions (FAST and other)
- ☐ Yes, I feel confident to do a paediatric FAST scan for trauma
- ☐ I am somewhat able to get an image
- ☐ No, I cannot see anything on an ultrasound image
- ☐ I, never used ultrasound
- ☐ Other: _____

18. If you have ultrasound skills, how did you learn them? (tick all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

- ☐ I do NOT have ultrasound skills
- ☐ I attended a formal ultrasound training course
- ☐ I learnt from a colleague
- ☐ I learnt during medical school
- ☐ I taught myself
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Other: _____

19. If you have ultrasound skills what do you use them for? (tick all that apply)

Check all that apply.

- ☐ I do NOT have ultrasound skills
- ☐ I use ultrasound to diagnose and guide treatment decisions
- ☐ I use ultrasound for interventions eg abscess drainage
- ☐ Both to assess/diagnose patients AND to guide interventions
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Other: _____

20. If you have ultrasound skills, how competent do you feel? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I do NOT have ultrasound skills
- ☐ I have skills but do NOT feel competent
- ☐ I have basic competence
- ☐ I am competent but CANNOT teach others
- ☐ I am competent AND can teach others

21. If you have ultrasound skills, how often do you use them in your clinical practice? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I do NOT have ultrasound skills
- ☐ every day
- ☐ weekly
- ☐ at least monthly
- ☐ less than once per months
- ☐ Never

22. If you have ultrasound skills, how many patients do you think you have performed ultrasound on (for any reason) in the last 6 months *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I do NOT have ultrasound skills
- ☐ <10 patients
- ☐ <50 patients
- ☐ 50-100 patients
- ☐ 100-250 patients
- ☐ 250-500 patients
- ☐ 500-1000 patients
- ☐ >1000 patients

23. Which paediatric conditions do you use already ultrasound for OR would like to learn ultrasound for? *

Check all that apply.

	I already USE my ultrasound skills for this	I want to LEARN ultrasound skills for this	I can TEACH other ultrasound for this	I do NOT want ultrasound skills for this
Acute scrotum (e.g torsion/hydrocoele)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Abdominal tumours	☐	☐	☐	☐
Biliary conditions	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bone fractures	☐	☐	☐	☐
Bowel obstruction	☐	☐	☐	☐
Constipation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hernias	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hip ultrasound	☐	☐	☐	☐
Hydronephrosis	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intussusception	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lung ultrasound (e.g pneumothorax/effusion)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Malrotation volvulus	☐	☐	☐	☐
Neonatal abdominal conditions (e.g. NEC)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Neonatal cranial ultrasound	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ovarian (e.g. torsion/cysts/tumour)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pneumoperitoneum	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pyloric stenosis	☐	☐	☐	☐
Urinary retention	☐	☐	☐	☐

Renal tract stones	☐	☐	☐	☐
Spinal ultrasound	☐	☐	☐	☐
Soft tissue lesions	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trauma (eFAST)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Undescended testis	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ultrasound-guided vascular access	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ultrasound-guided abscess drainage	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ultrasound-guided local anaesthetic blocks	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ultrasound-guided biopsy	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ultrasound-guided nephrostomy	☐	☐	☐	☐

24. Are there any OTHER conditions/procedures you already USE ultrasound for?

25. Are there any OTHER conditions/procedures you would like to LEARN ultrasound for?

26. Do you want to attend a Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) Course for Paediatric Surgical Conditions? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, I think this would be useful for my practice
- ☐ No, I do not think this would be useful for my practice

27. Do you have access to an ultrasound machine YOU could use at work?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Yes, I have my own personal ultrasound machine
- ☐ Yes, OUR department has an ultrasound machine that I can use
- ☐ Yes, ANOTHER department has an ultrasound machine that I can use
- ☐ No, I do not have access to an ultrasound machine that I can use at work

28. Which ultrasound machine do you have access to?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ hand held device
- ☐ table machine- laptop like- possible to carry around
- ☐ regular static machine
- ☐ I do not have access to any ultrasound machine
- ☐ Other: _____

29. Do you think ultrasound skills should be included in the surgical training curriculum for your speciality? *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ I strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree or disagree
- ☐ disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Other: _____

30. Which one of the statements do you MOST agree with?

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Surgeons do NOT need ultrasound skills
- ☐ Surgeons should have ultrasound skills ONLY to guide interventions
- ☐ Surgeons should have ultrasound skills to diagnose simple conditions AND guide interventions

31. Do you have any comments you would like to share with us?

32. Please give us your email address if you would like to be contacted about ultrasound training and research opportunities.

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