ASE – Sunday, June 12, 2022

Educator Summit: Contrast and Competency

Rich Palma discussed the need for education to include indications, scope, and importance of the use of contrast along with technical considerations. The multiple guideline documents as well as SDMS scope of practice support sonographers gaining intravenous access with IV insertion training.

He stressed the need for contrast use in suboptimal studies as well as the accuracy it provides in LV size and function, with excellent correlatin to MRI.

The first case study demonstrated what appears to be left ventricular hypertropy, but in actuality when the trabeculations filled with contrast it became apparent that there was eccentric hypertrophy, not concentric.

Another case study showed a well-delineated thrombus with contrast, and another revealed an apical aneurysm. He stressed that students need to understand the use of alternative views and sweeping through the heart.

Monet Strachan addressed how she was able to put together a “program flex” proposal for her institution to consider allowing sonographers to start IVs and inject UEAs.

The resources she used were the ASE Contrast Zone and multiple Guidelines documents. She created course syllabi for IV start and UEA training and developed powerpoint lecture template on IV and UEA administration, including videos, test questions and competency documentation templates. Training is renewed yearly.

Merri Bremer spoke to creating IV/UEA training in an academic facility with a large number of trainees. She stressed the importance considering both the regional and institutional scopes for training, the value of these skills and whether they are transferable to other environments/institutions/regions. She included internal resources in her policies, including nursing, nuclear department, radiology and ECG. Always follow legal and institutional policies and determine minimal standards.

Some suggestions/tips were:

* Utilize your clinical site(s) protocols and expertise (interdisciplinary)
* Live practice in a lab
* Supplement with video
* Consider vendor support
* Follow up with clinical experience and competency testing