

Ultrasound (≥ PL5)

Clinical Indications:

1. Determining presence of cardiac activity during CPR pulse checks.
2. Extended Focused Assessment by Sonogram for Trauma (EFAST) to diagnose potentially correctable serious injury.
3. Diagnosis of suspected pneumothorax.
4. Determination of fetal cardiac activity in 2nd or 3rd trimester pregnancy, in lieu of doppler heart tones.
5. Ultrasound is an assessment tool which may be performed at any time. Additional diagnostic procedures such as aortic measurement, soft tissue examination, or endotracheal tube placement confirmation may be performed in trained.

Contraindications:

1. None

Notes/Precautions:

1. Do not delay immediately necessary lifesaving procedures to perform ultrasound exam.
2. Do not interrupt CPR just to perform an ultrasound exam. Perform the ultrasound exam during regular pulse check intervals.

Procedure:

1. Ensure proper body substances isolation precautions.
2. Explain procedure to the patient if possible, that you are performing a limited ultrasound exam which involves some gel and will not be painful.
3. Turn on ultrasound.
4. Select appropriate exam present:
 - a. Abdominal: EFAST, cardiac activity, fetal cardiac activity.
 - b. Cardiac: Cardiac activity
 - c. Lung: Pneumothorax
5. Perform ultrasound exam.
6. Clean the probes, cord, screen, and gel bottle with germicidal wipes.
7. Document ultrasound findings and procedure in the ePCR.
 - a. Examples:
 - i. "EFAST indicated no pericardial effusion, intraperitoneal fluid, or pneumothorax."
 - ii. "Fetal cardiac activity confirmed by visualization on ultrasound."
 - iii. "Patient in PEA. During pulse check, no mechanical cardiac activity observed with ultrasound."