Special Issue

Lung Ultrasound: A Leading Diagnostic Tool

Message from the Guest Editors

Nowadays, the diagnostic value of the artefactual information provided by lung ultrasound (LUS) is widely recognized by physicians. By carefully observing LUS images, an expert physician can derive important information regarding the nature of a pulmonary disease. The mechanisms at the basis of the vertical artifacts have also been investigated and similar events have been replicated on lung models in various research laboratories. Over the years, thoracic ultrasound has been extensively applied to assess numerous pleural and lung diseases (effusions, pneumothorax, consolidations, interstitial diseases involving the surface of the lung, and, recently, COVID pulmonary involvement). Sometimes its diagnostic capability is reported as being better than that of traditional imaging techniques (chest radiography and CT). Even though the debate on the safety of ultrasound is still open, thoracic ultrasound is mostly accepted as an inexpensive and minimally invasive technique and, due to this additional aspect, LUS is becoming a leading diagnostic tool in the work-up of many cardio-respiratory diseases.

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