

Point of Care Ultrasound (PoCUS)

Competency Assessment Forms

AORTA

Competency A - Focussed Assessment of the Aorta (AAA) Guidance

Please follow this guidance as closely as possible to ensure consistency between assessors. Ability to enter details, save image/clip and optimize environment only needs to be done once if multiple competencies are being assessed.

- 1. “What are the core indications?”**
e.g. any pt. suspected of having AAA, Elderly pt. with back pain or suspected renal colic, unexplained hypotension. Any questionable indications should be challenged.
- 2. Demonstrates familiarity with the machine controls and transducer handling.**
- 3. Demonstrates an ability to enter patient details as per EDPoCUS policy.**
- 4. “This 70yr old patient presents with hypotension and back pain”**
- 5. “Please show me the views would you use to assess the abdominal aorta”**
- 6. Starts with or increases to enough depth to visualize the vertebral body.**
- 7. “Please point out the structures that you can identify”**
-Must be able to correctly identify vertebral body, aorta, aorta bifurcation, IVC.
-May point out other structures e.g SMA, splenic vein, etc.
- 8. If they fail to mention any one of these structures (vertebral body, aorta, aorta bifurcation, IVC) then ask them to identify it.**
- 9. “How could you improve your image?”**
e.g. firm transducer pressure to displace bowel gas, side view, longitudinal view
- 10. “Please measure the diameter of the aorta”**
- 11. “What is the maximum diameter of a normal aorta?”**
3cm
- 12. “What are the pitfalls of measuring the aorta?”**
e.g. measuring internal diameter, underestimating diameter due to tangent effect, etc
- 13. “Please save an image or clip”**
- 14. “What are the implications for patient management if you are unable to visualize the entire length of aorta?”**
Demonstrates an understanding of the implication of an indeterminate scan

Competency A - Focused Assessment of the Aorta (AAA)

Name: _____ Assessor: _____ Date: _____

Logged Experience: number of scans (circle) 10 25 50+ Number: _____

Experience certified as evidenced by: _____ (signed by Assessor)

Competency component	Trainer's comments recorded during the assessment	Competent?
1. Preparation for the scan <i>Greet the patient appropriately and identify the patient. Demonstrate appropriate attitude and professional manner</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Knowledge of core indications		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Positions the patient correctly and ensures an appropriate environment		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. The scan Sets up the equipment acceptably		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Probe selection, handling and scanning technique		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Identifies Vertebral Body/Shadow	KEY STEP	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Identifies Aorta in TS (LS optional)	KEY STEP	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Identifies IVC		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Measures AP diameter of aorta accurately	KEY STEP	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Thoroughness (subxiphoid to bifurcation)	KEY STEP	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Efficiency / Speed of scan		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Saves/prints/documents (<i>As per local policy</i>)		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Post scan Appropriate interpretation of the findings		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Integrates information correctly into clinical scenario (Defines AAA)		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Prompted <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Self Assessment (circle) : A B C		Competency Level
Guide	Level	Assessor (Print and Sign level)
Virtually no prompting required	A. Advanced / Instructor potential	
Some prompting required	B. Competent to scan and interpret findings independently	
Significant prompting required and/or Any KEY STEP requires prompting	C. Requires reassessment. If scanning alone cannot rely on negative findings	