European Respiratory Society statement on thoracic ultrasound

Christian B. Laursen 1,2, Amelia Clive3,4, Rob Halifax5,6, Pia Iben Pietersen1,2,7, Rachelle Asciak5,6, Jesper Rømhild Davidsen 1,2,8, Rahul Bhatnagar3,4, Eihab O. Bedawi 5,6, Niels Jacobsen1,2,7, Courtney Coleman9, Anthony Edey10, Gabriele Via11, Giovanni Volpicelli12, Gilbert Massard13, Francesco Raimondi14, Matthew Evison15, Lars Konge16, Jouke Annema17, Najib M. Rahman5,6,18,19,20 and Nick Maskell3,4,20

Affiliations: 1Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark. 2Dept of Clinical Research, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark. 3Academic Respiratory Unit, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK. 4Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust, Bristol, UK. 5Oxford Centre for Respiratory Medicine, Churchill Hospital, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford, UK. 6Oxford Respiratory Trials Unit, Nuffield Dept of Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. 7Regional Center for Technical Simulation, Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark. 8South Danish Center for Interstitial Lung Diseases (SCILS), Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark. 9European Lung Foundation, Sheffield, UK. 10Dept of Radiology, Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust, Bristol, UK. 11Cardiac Anesthesia and Intensive Care, Cardiocentro Ticino, Lugano, Switzerland. 12Dept of Emergency Medicine, Ospedale San Luigi Gonzaga, Torino, Italy. 13Faculty of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. 14Division of Neonatology, Section of Pediatrics, Dept of Translational Medical Sciences, Università “Federico II” di Napoli, Naples, Italy. 15Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, UK. 16Copenhagen Academy for Medical Education and Simulation, The Capital Region of Denmark, Centre for HR, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark. 17Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Amsterdam UMC, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 18Laboratory of Pleural and Lung Cancer Translational Research, Nuffield Dept of Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. 19National Institute for Health Research, Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. 20Joint last authors.

Correspondence: Christian B. Laursen, Odense University Hospital, Dept of Respiratory Medicine, Sdr. Boulevard 29, Odense 5000, Denmark. E-mail: christian.b.laursen@rsyd.dk

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Continued clinical use and research has established thoracic ultrasound as a key tool and skill for the modern pulmonologist https://bit.ly/3cCL6KS


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ABSTRACT  Thoracic ultrasound is increasingly considered to be an essential tool for the pulmonologist. It is used in diverse clinical scenarios, including as an adjunct to clinical decision making for diagnosis, a real-time guide to procedures and a predictor or measurement of treatment response. The aim of this European Respiratory Society task force was to produce a statement on thoracic ultrasound for pulmonologists using thoracic ultrasound within the field of respiratory medicine. The multidisciplinary panel performed a review of the literature, addressing major areas of thoracic ultrasound practice and application. The selected major areas include equipment and technique, assessment of the chest wall, parietal pleura, pleural effusion, pneumothorax, interstitial syndrome, lung consolidation, diaphragm assessment, intervention guidance, training and the patient perspective. Despite the growing evidence supporting the use of thoracic ultrasound, the published literature still contains a paucity of data in some important fields. Key research questions for each of the major areas were identified, which serve to facilitate future multicentre collaborations and research to further consolidate an evidence-based use of thoracic ultrasound, for the benefit of the many patients being exposed to clinicians using thoracic ultrasound.

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