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University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Victor Babeş" Timişoara, Romania

ABC in ultrasonography-ultrasound for the students

In December 2011, the Ultrasound Teaching Center Timişoara, Center of Excellence of the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) organized the first Ultrasound Course for the students of the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Victor Babeş" Timişoara, Romania, with the title "ABC in Sonography", the students being directly involved in organizing the event.

Ultrasonography is an important clinical tool and can play a significant role in the development of diagnostic abilities for medical doctors. That is why, we are interested in bringing the students in the ultrasonography world.

This course was designed as an introduction in this field. For the start we presented the main indications and the usefulness of abdominal ultrasound in the diagnosis of different pathologies as well as the main sections used for the abdominal ultrasound examination. It was an interactive session, with real time images, for a better understanding of the ultrasound technique. This was followed by a live demonstration of a normal abdominal ultrasound examination, with all the sections needed, and several hands on sessions, in which every student performed at least one abdominal ultrasound examination with the direct help of a tutor, followed by several self examinations (hand-on). In these sessions the students were able to interact directly with several tutors, to ask questions in order to understand the technique of the examination as well as the ultrasound semiology.

The Course duration was 2 full days, with half a day theoretical courses and 1 day and half hands-on sessions.



At the end of the course the students received a certificate of attendance. Both sides, the tutors and the students, agreed to continue these courses with an advanced ultrasound course for the students. 8 doctors were involved as tutors and 30 students attended the course.

Ultrasound is a clinical tool very useful for the clinician due to the large amount of information offered regarding the abdominal pathology. That is why for most of the users is as important as the stethoscope for the cardiologist, as important as a third arm. The advantage of integrating ultrasound information in the clinical algorithm, together with the history and the physical examination, makes the diagnosis easier, more rapid and more accurate. On the other hand even if the gained information is not conclusive, it is useful for planning the next step for a correct diagnosis. Understanding of all these advantages raised students' interest for this wonderful method.

So, this optional course was appreciated as a very useful one, even by the most skeptical students, and was ended by a very nice initiative from the students: a charity event for the patients.

The ultrasound world is opened to anybody that wants to enter it!

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