

Ultrasound-Assisted Lumbar Puncture for Obese Pediatric Oncology Patients: A Feasibility Study

Julie Leviter¹, Nina Kadan-Lottick¹, Claudia Auerbach², and Antonio Riera¹

¹Yale University School of Medicine

²Yale University

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Abstract

Lumbar punctures (LPs) are performed frequently on children with leukemia and lymphoma as part of the standard of care. They are typically performed by pediatric oncology providers for both diagnostic and therapeutic interventions with the aid of moderate or deep sedation. Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) has emerged as a promising strategy to aid in lumbar puncture procedures and has been found to be associated with lower number of attempts, and higher success rates. We describe our experience using POCUS to assist with LPs in a subgroup of pediatric oncology patients identified to be procedurally difficult secondary to obesity. This collaboration was well received and resulted in successful LPs in most (8/9) cases. This is a promising modality to improve the delivery of care and LP success in pediatric oncology patients.

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Authors:

Leviter, Julie¹; Kadan-Lottick, Nina S.²; Auerbach, Claudia³; Riera, Antonio⁴

Affiliations:

1. Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, United States.
2. Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Yale University School of Medicine, Yale Cancer Center, New Haven, CT, United States.
3. Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, United States.
4. Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, United States.

Corresponding Author:

Julie Leviter

100 York Street

Suite 1F

New Haven, CT 06511

Phone: 516-840-0073

Fax: 203-737-7447

Julie.leviter@yale.edu

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Abbreviations:

LP Lumbar puncture

POCUS Point-of-Care Ultrasound

CNS Central Nervous System

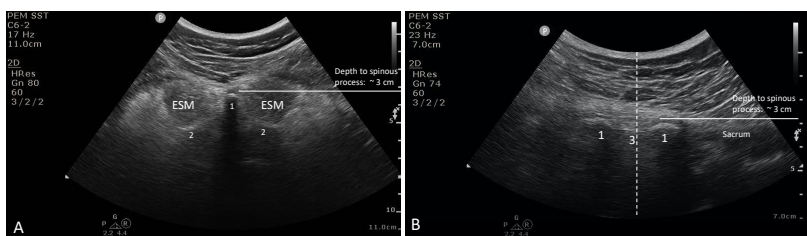
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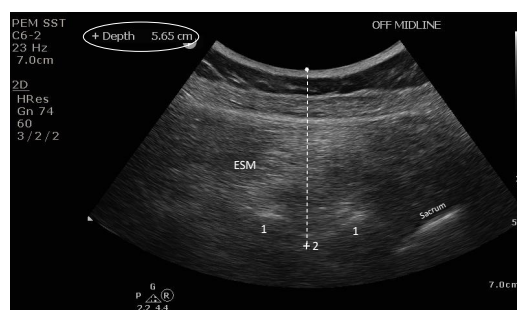
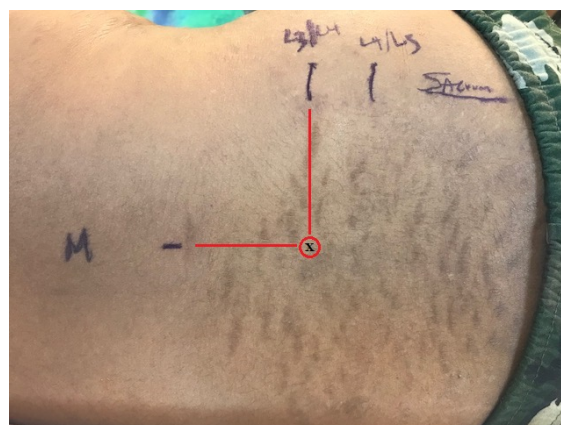
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