

# FOCUSED ASSESSMENT WITH SONOGRAPHY IN TRAUMA (FAST) AS A MAIN TOOL FOR SUSPECTED BLUNT ABDOMINAL AND THORACO-ABDOMINAL TRAUMA IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

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## Introduction

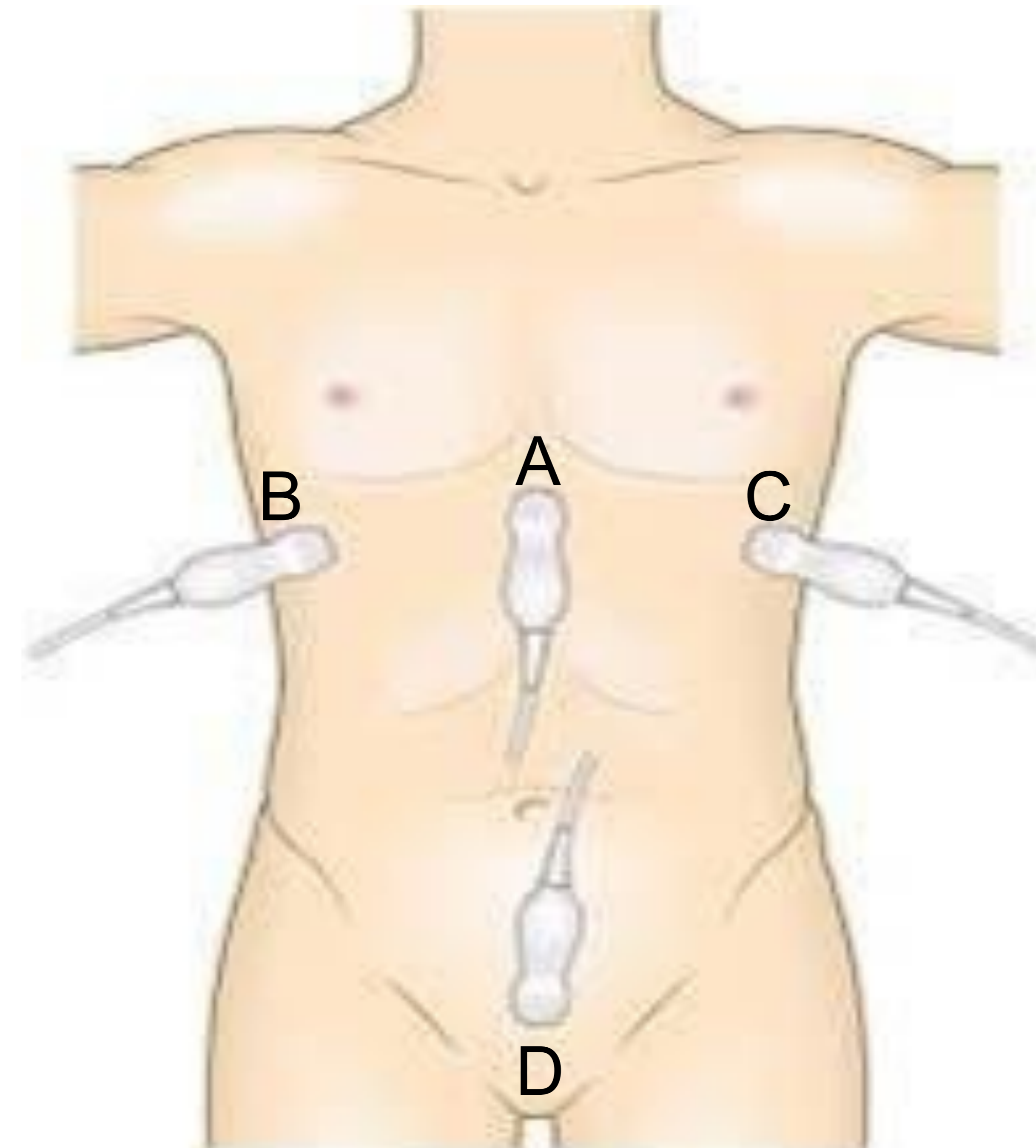
In the present times, trauma has become one of the main causes of emergency treatment of a patient. In blunt trauma, with internal hemorrhage, ultrasonography is an excellent tool for identifying trauma that is invisible on the skin surface. In the trauma detection, ultrasound is mainly used to detect the presence of free fluids as an indicator of abdominal and/or thoraco-abdominal injury.

## Review

There are four main regions where we apply the probe to.

- Subxiphoid region for pericardial effusion or right ventricle collapse.
- Right upper quadrant for liver and kidney injuries.
- Left upper quadrant for spleen and kidney injuries.
- Suprapubic area for detection of free fluid in pelvic region.

Advantages for FAST are many, such as being fast, non-invasive, low cost, repeatable and highly sensible for detection of free fluid. However, there are some shortcomings. In the end, it is a subjective, meaning it depends on the impression of the performer. Usage in emergency medicine most of the time is not performed by a specialist. It has a low sensitivity for hollow organs and is hardly applicable on obese patients. FAST is also used for detection of hemothorax and pneumothorax.



**Conclusion:** Conclusion of this review is that pros are prevailing the cons in case of speaking about application of ultrasound in out-of-hospital emergency services. Ultrasound in emergency medicine may never replace a CT scan in the 'regular' trauma detection but it has a bright future in pre-hospital injury detection and is referent to prompt treatment.

## Reference list

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