

## Variation in training and use of the focused assessment with sonography in trauma (FAST)

Susan Steinemann, Mayumi Fernandez



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**ABSTRACT:****BACKGROUND:**

Training in ultrasound is variable among residents and practicing traumatologists. Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma (FAST) may be underused in non-urbanized areas, possibly due to lack of training.

**METHODS:**

State trauma registry data from January 2014-June 2016 were reviewed for FAST results. Trauma practitioners were surveyed querying training, confidence, and obstacles to performing FAST.

**RESULTS:**

12,855 records revealed highest FAST use at the urban Level II center (39%,  $p<.0001$ ). Despite similar injury patterns, non-urban / Level III centers' frequency of FAST was only 1-28%. 39 practitioners were surveyed, those with training (54%) were more likely to use FAST ( $p<.05$ ). 61% of practitioners outside the Level II center cited lack of confidence in their ability to perform FAST as the primary reason for omitting the exam.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

FAST is relatively underused in non-urbanized areas of the state. Lack of confidence in ability to perform FAST was cited as the primary barrier.

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