



Precision: The X-Factor in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

The introduction of ultrasound into musculoskeletal (MSK) care has been a game-changer, according to David Spinner, MD, Assistant Professor at the Icahn School of Medicine and the Director of Pain Medicine for the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at Mount Sinai. Before ultrasound, specialists relied on their expertise and training in anatomy when making injections below the skin. “We were essentially blind and accuracy was much lower than we thought,” said Dr. Spinner. “Ultrasound has enabled the ability to provide the care that we say we are giving and that we intend to provide.”

As an expert in MSK sonography and the lead editor of *Atlas of Ultrasound Guided Musculoskeletal Injections*, Dr. Spinner is well-versed in the use of ultrasound to guide MSK interventions. What does he value most in his point of care ultrasound system? The level of precision it allows him to bring to patient care.

Precision means performance.

The rapid adoption of ultrasound in MSK care has caused the market to expand. Some companies are manufacturing devices that are

relatively inexpensive but lack the image quality and rich feature sets that specialists need to support MSK interventions and diagnoses. “These machines are not helping physicians provide better care for patients,” said Dr. Spinner. “Like anything else in life, you get what you pay for.”

MSK physicians require a point of care ultrasound system that produces high-quality images and an extremely granular view of a patient’s anatomy so they can zero in on the source of pain and provide treatment with a high degree of accuracy. Physicians need advanced color blocking tools in order to easily yet accurately discern vessels from nerves when placing medication. This accuracy is particularly essential with peripheral neuropathy patients. For Dr. Spinner, his ultrasound system enables him to block pain pathways and signals, which can have a life-changing impact on patients who struggle with chronic pain.

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Dr. David Spinner, Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation, and Pain Management Specialist



Precision means effectiveness.

An effective point of care ultrasound solution enables a level of precision that can have a direct impact on patient safety and the effectiveness of procedures because it gives physicians information possible to avoid complications.

“Safety is key,” said Dr. Spinner. “MSK interventions are often complex and if you are trying to see if a patient has a rotator cuff tear, or if there is an effusion, or if you are trying to place medicine adjacent a nerve next to a vessel, you need reliable and quality images to guide a safe and effective procedure. We should take advantage of advanced technologies that can help us make many interventions safer and more effective.”

It can also improve patient satisfaction. Patients experience less pain when their physician can direct a needle to the intended target on the first attempt. Procedure times can also be considerably faster when guesswork is eliminated.

Precision ultrasound helps you connect with patients.

Ultrasound can act as a teaching tool when interacting with patients during a procedure or scan. Dr. Spinner explained, “People know they have something wrong but they don’t

know the exact terminology or even location. With a rotator cuff tear, we don’t just scan the shoulder. We show the patient exactly what is happening through the scan in front of them. It’s interactive. If the US wasn’t in real-time or they were getting an MRI it couldn’t be interactive. Doing it this way you can really connect with patients and explain what is going on.”

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Some patients also appreciate the peace of mind their physician’s point of care ultrasound gives them. For example, it can clearly show them that fluid was entirely removed, or that medication was placed in the correct location. It helps them know their doctor gave them the appropriate treatment.

With point of care ultrasound, physicians can visualize the structures beneath the skin and provide excellent care.¹ To achieve these goals it is paramount that providers have confidence that their ultrasound consistently produces precise, high-quality imaging.



Precision ultrasound can dramatically impact your MSK practice

- ✓ Increase effectiveness of interventions
- ✓ Reduce procedure time
- ✓ Improve patient satisfaction

To learn more contact your GE Ultrasound specialist or visit gehealthcare.com/poc-products

¹Chen, Kuo-Chih et al. “An Overview of Point-of-Care Ultrasound for Soft Tissue and Musculoskeletal Applications in the Emergency Department.” *Journal of Intensive Care* 4 (2016): 55. PMC. Web. 5 July 2018. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4983782/>

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