

BASIC ULTRASOUND KNOWLEDGE AMONG YOUNG GASTROENTEROLOGISTS: AN ITALIAN SURVEY

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A survey of 110 young Italian gastroenterologists found that while 55% had completed more than 300 abdominal ultrasound examinations (EFSUMB Level 1 competency), ultrasound training remains heterogeneous with most learning from residents rather than formal courses.

KEY POINTS

- Of 110 survey respondents under 40 years old, 58.9% learned ultrasound during residency from other residents and only 8.2% attended specific ultrasound courses.
- Participants performed a median of 320 upper abdomen and 240 bowel ultrasound examinations, with 55% completing independently more than 300 abdominal ultrasound examinations meeting EFSUMB Level 1 sonographer criteria.
- Respondents who felt confident performing abdominal ultrasound independently scored significantly higher on the knowledge test at multivariate analysis.
- 74.5% of respondents believe ultrasound education is valuable for their future clinical practice, though no standardized training exists among Italian universities.
- The authors conclude that competence suffers from heterogeneous teaching and recommend gastroenterology schools provide standardized theoretical and practical ultrasound education.

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