

Addressing the Educational Gap in Ultrasound Detection of Endometriosis: A Regional Training Framework from the UK

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“Turning informal peer knowledge into a replicable, scalable regional framework for endometriosis ultrasound triage.”

Objectives

To evaluate perceived educational gaps in endometriosis ultrasound among sonographers, and to develop a targeted training framework supporting ultrasound-based triage — with possible progression to full ultrasound staging — in departments without in-house expertise.

Methods

A service-based needs assessment was conducted through informal discussions with sonologists and endometriosis leads across a regional network, alongside review of current practice and existing consensus approaches, including the IDEA and MUSA frameworks for ultrasound-based endometriosis assessment.

Regional Scope

The programme was delivered across the Black Country hospital network, West Midlands, UK — supporting departments without in-house endometriosis ultrasound expertise.

Results

Sonologists reported limited awareness of endometriosis staging concepts and minimal exposure to dynamic assessment techniques such as sliding sign and site-specific tenderness. In response, a structured regional training programme was developed, comprising focused teaching on key ultrasound markers, simplified triage protocols, remote support, and integration into routine workflows — enabling sonographers to identify features suggestive of advanced disease and trigger appropriate referral.

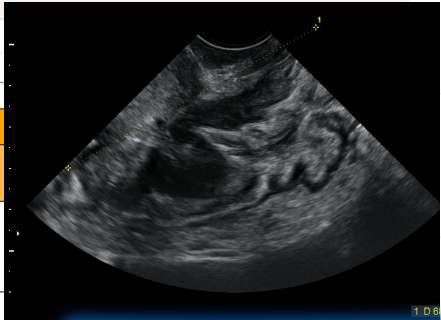
Conclusions

Significant educational gaps limit the effective use of ultrasound in endometriosis pathways. A structured, scalable training framework may support wider adoption of ultrasound-based triage and improve early identification of patients requiring specialist assessment.

Related Training Pathway — ENDO-SCAN Framework

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4
TRAINING	MDT REVIEW	COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT	SUSTAINABILITY
- Structured online learning (ISUOG) - Regional course (RCOG/BSGE) - Supervised scanning session	- Fortnightly MDT review (≥4) - Correlation with MRI & surgery - Structured feedback	- Submit 20 full-length video cases - Supervised review - Competency sign-off	- Ongoing feedback - Correlation with MRI & surgery - Local audit support
Role: Foundational training Escalation: MRI for all suspicion	Role: Pattern recognition Escalation: MRI primary tool	Role: Independent practice with competency confirmation Escalation: MDT/specialist	Role: Continuous improvement Escalation: MDT-led planning
LOW RISK	LOW RISK	MODERATE RISK	MANAGED RISK

Pathway model reproduced for reference from the related ENDO-SCAN framework (Indrielle-Kelly et al., BSGE), illustrating a phased competency and governance structure for sonographer upskilling in endometriosis ultrasound.



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