



MEDIA RELEASE

For Public Release: **Immediate**

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January 2019

POCUS: Useful to Rule in Retinal Detachment, but not as the Sole Means to Rule it Out

DES PLAINES, IL — Emergency providers can reliably use ocular point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) to diagnose retinal detachment (RD) with high specificity after a short, one-time training course, but using it as a screening tool alone to rule out RD is not recommended for less experienced sonographers given a relatively low sensitivity when used for this purpose. That is the finding of a [study](#) to be published in the January 2019 issue of *Academic Emergency Medicine (AEM)*, a journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM).

The lead author of the [study](#) is Daniel J. Kim, MD, Vancouver General Hospital, Department of Emergency Medicine, Vancouver, British Columbia, *Canada*. The findings of the study are discussed in a recent [AEM podcast](#), Test Characteristics of Point of Care Ultrasound for the Diagnosis of Retinal Detachment in the Emergency Department.

The authors suggest that specificity can be improved upon with additional training and, in the hands of a more experienced sonographer, POCUS may also be used as a tool to successfully rule-out retinal detachment.

Commenting on the study is Anthony J. Weekes, MD, professor of emergency medicine and Ultrasound Fellowship Director at Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Kim and colleagues show us that, for multiple providers with different experience levels, ocular ultrasound has intermediate accuracy for retinal detachment. Other clinically important diagnoses can mimic the appearance of retinal detachment or be missed by ocular ultrasound. Providers should seek prompt ophthalmology evaluations for patients with ultrasound findings of retinal detachment whereas providers with limited ultrasound experience should seek early ophthalmology evaluations for symptomatic patients without findings" commented Anthony J. Weekes, MD MSc, professor of emergency medicine and director of the emergency ultrasound fellowship at Carolinas Medical Center, North Carolina.

ABOUT ACADEMIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Academic Emergency Medicine, the monthly journal of Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, features the best in peer-reviewed, cutting-edge original research relevant to the practice and investigation of emergency care. The above study is published open access and can be downloaded by following the DOI link: <https://doi.org/10.1111/acem.13454>. Journalists wishing to interview the authors may contact Stacey Roseen at sroseen@saem.org.

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