

only 6% of trainees are trained in this technique. Therefore there are fewer opportunities for training as evidenced by 39% of trainees not performing paracentesis within 12 months. Most still feel competent to perform paracentesis but this study raises questions regarding maintaining procedural competency and who will train the trainees in the future. If the trend towards ultrasound guidance continues it should become a skill all trainees must learn.

## Ascites

OP 037

### ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCE OF TRAINEES IN PALLIATIVE MEDICINE TO ABDOMINAL PARACENTESIS

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**Background** Abdominal paracentesis is widely used as a symptom control measure for malignant ascites. In the UK, ultrasound guided insertion has become standard practice in some specialist palliative care units. This has resulted in variation in practice between units, inconsistent training opportunities and perceived difficulties for trainees to achieve procedural competencies.

**Aim** The aim of this study was to establish the views of Palliative Medicine trainees on their experience, competency and the role of ultrasound in paracentesis.

**Methods** An online questionnaire was sent out to all trainees registered with The Association of Palliative Medicine. 81/230 trainees responded (35%). 72 % were in their final year of training.

**Results** In the preceding 12 months 75% of trainees had performed paracentesis on less than three occasions, 39% had not put in a single drain. 49% of trainees anticipated difficulties in achieving the required procedural competence by the end of training due to fewer opportunities, often having to arrange specific clinical attachments to meet the training objectives. In 33% of units all cases were ultrasound guided yet only 5/81 trainees were trained to use ultrasound. 78% trainees felt competent to insert a drain without ultrasound although 39% believed all drains should be placed under ultrasound guidance.

**Conclusions** Paracentesis is a mandatory skill required to complete training in Palliative Medicine. This study has shown that many units only perform ultrasound guided procedures and yet