

Provider perceptions of point-of-care ultrasound in the Emergency Department



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Background

- Bedside ultrasound is a tool being increasingly used for the past ten years among clinicians.
- Technological advancements of ultrasound systems have made them smaller and more portable with increased image resolution, making bedside ultrasound an available, affordable tool in the clinical setting. [1]
- However, acceptance of this technology has been slow. [2]
- Multiple studies have indicated that bedside ultrasound assessments can be successfully used for patient benefit, even if clinician training has been limited. [3-5]

Objective

- The objective of this study was to identify the level of acceptance and value the individual emergency care providers (physicians and midlevel providers) place on the integration of ultrasound into their assessment process.

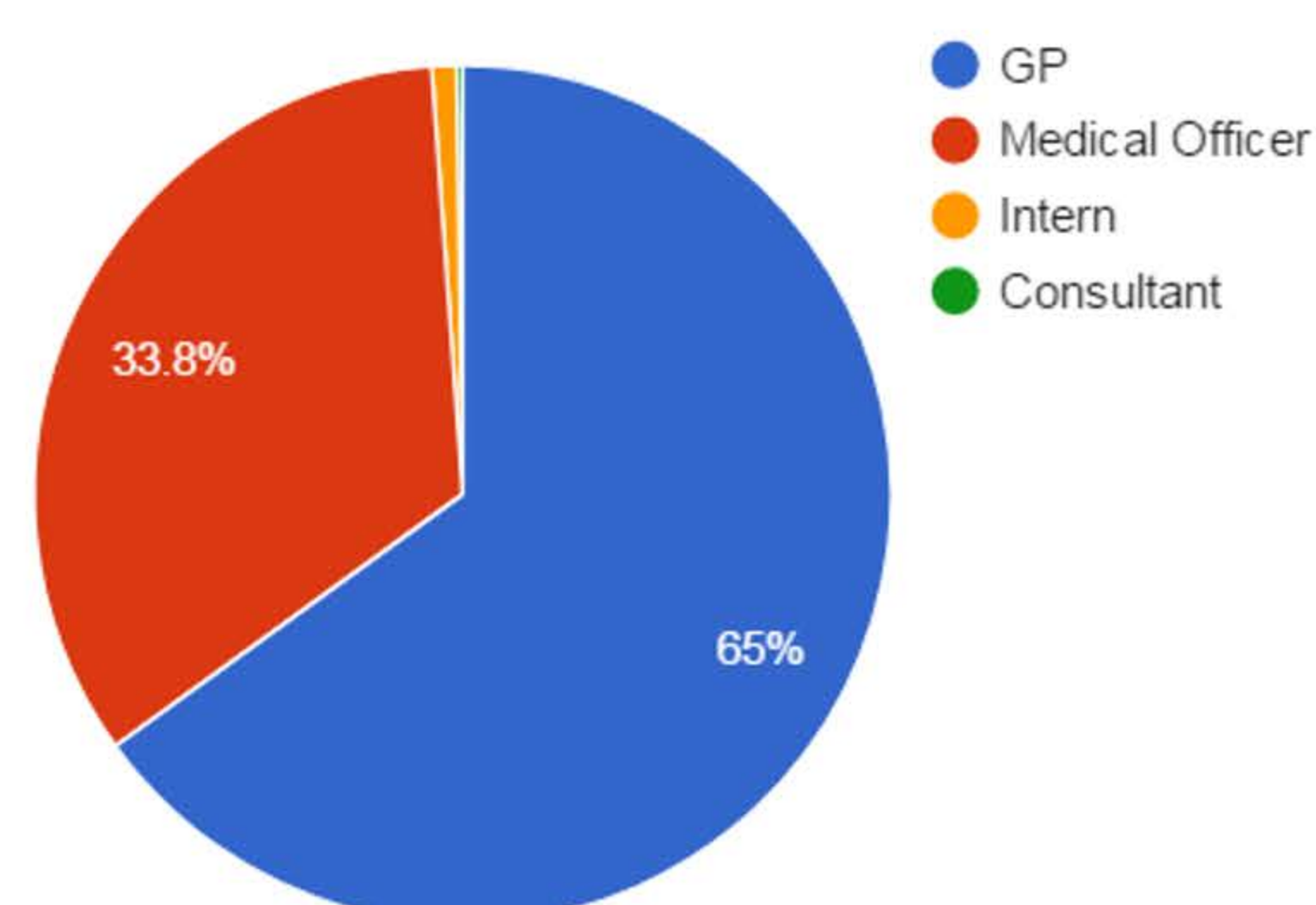
Methods

- This is a mixed-methods study investigating the use of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in the Emergency Department.
- All patients who have POCUS performed in the Emergency Department of Selayang Hospital are entered into a database.
- In addition to collecting this quantitative data, medical providers are requested to complete a qualitative survey which investigates the qualitative aspects of this study, namely:
 - Provider perceptions of POCUS, including satisfaction and perceived utility.
 - Individual provider preferences when using POCUS.
 - Suggestions for improving POCUS integration, equipment and processes.

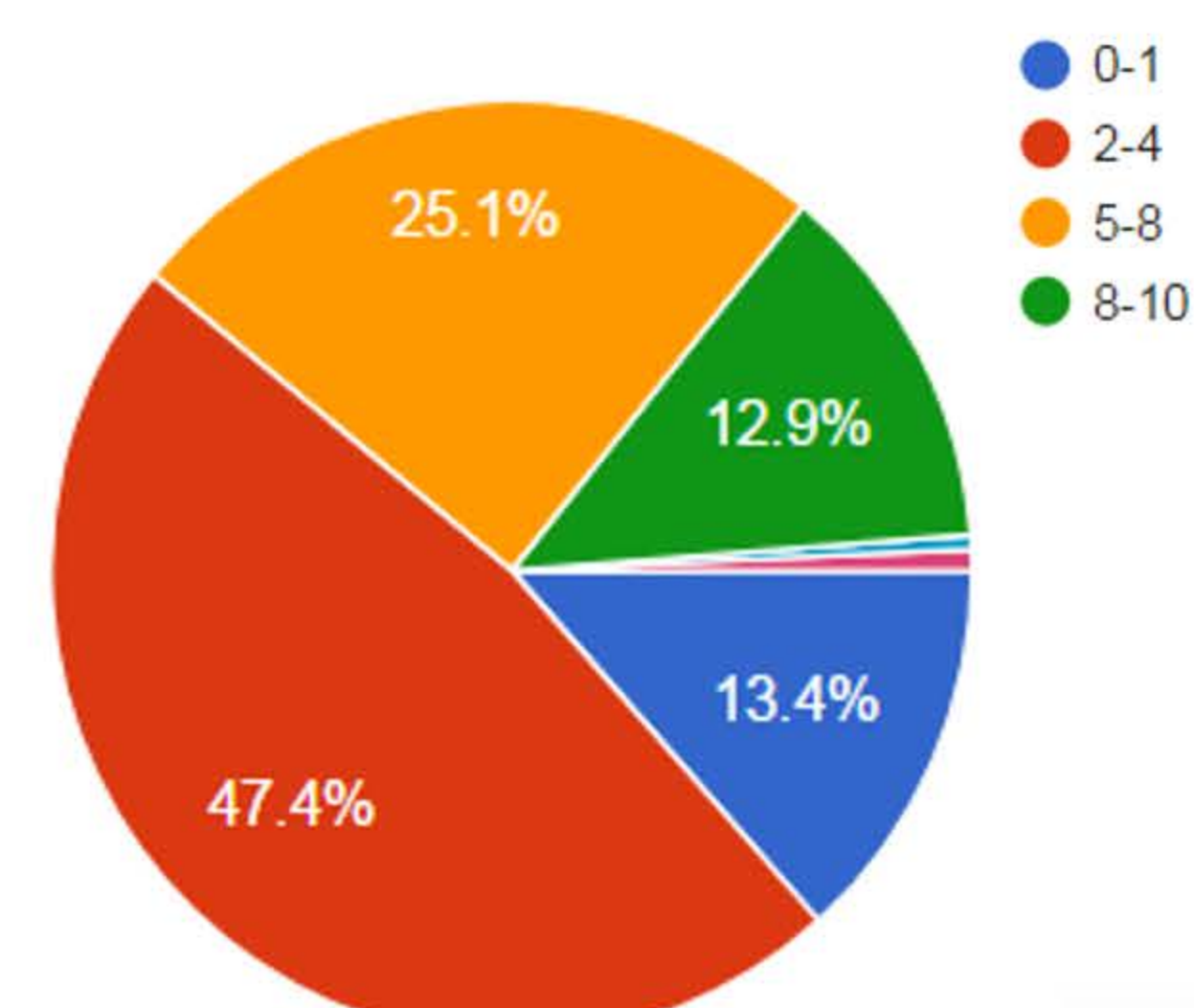
Results

- To date, 429 patient encounters have been recorded in the patient database for the study.
- In addition to this, 424 medical provider survey forms have been completed.
- Outlined are interim results from this provider survey.

Provider level



Time qualified (years)

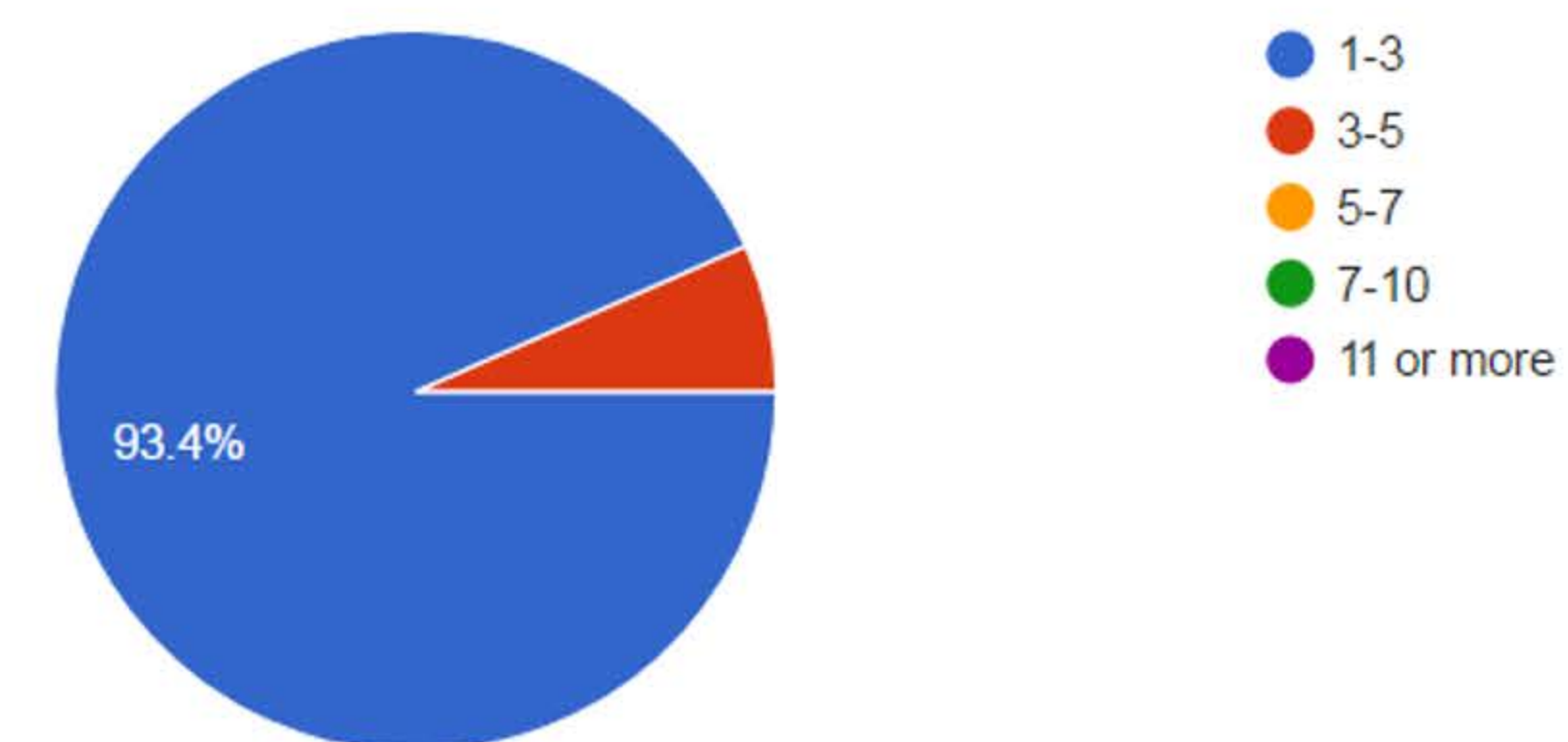


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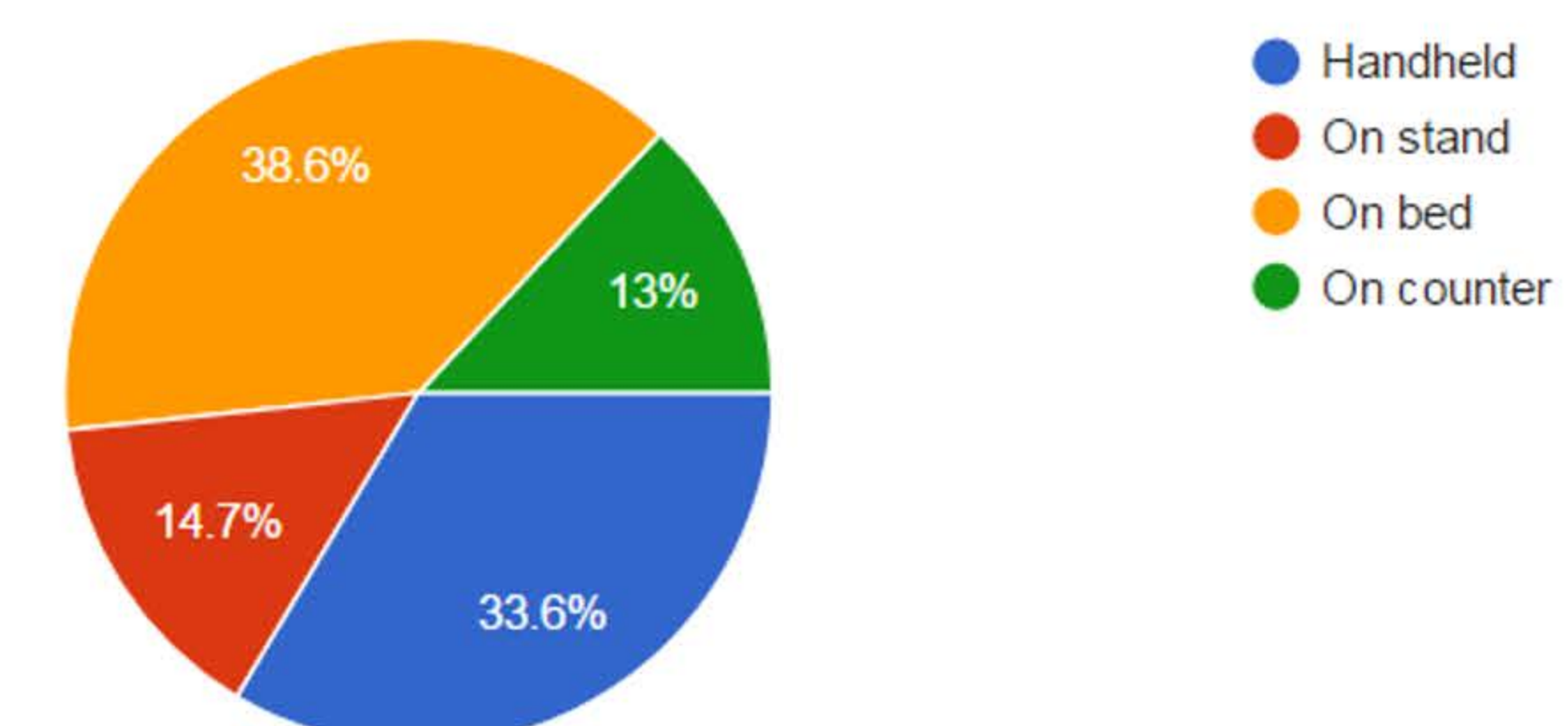
How often did you need to exchange probes during the course of assessment and management?

423 responses



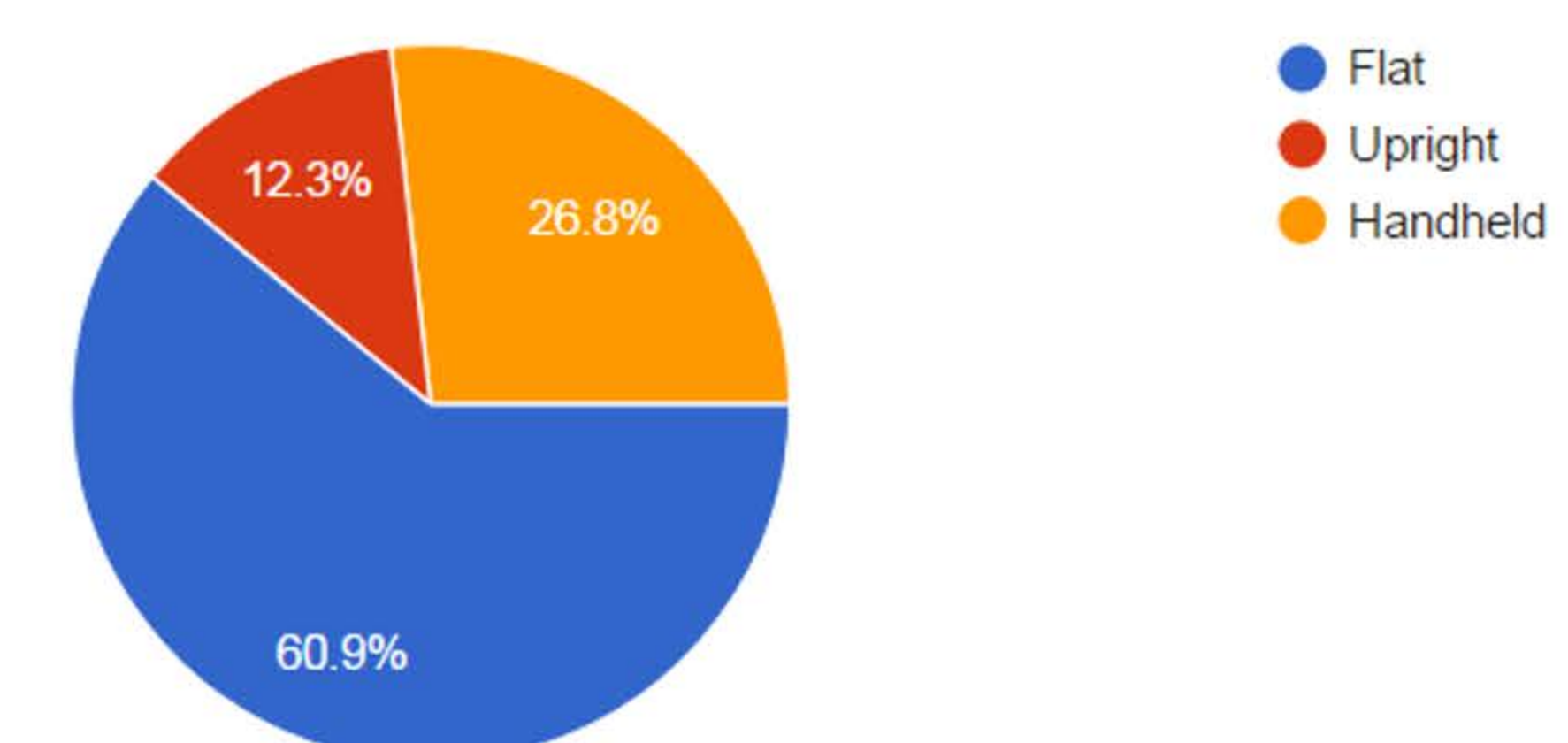
Where did you put the device when utilizing it?

414 responses

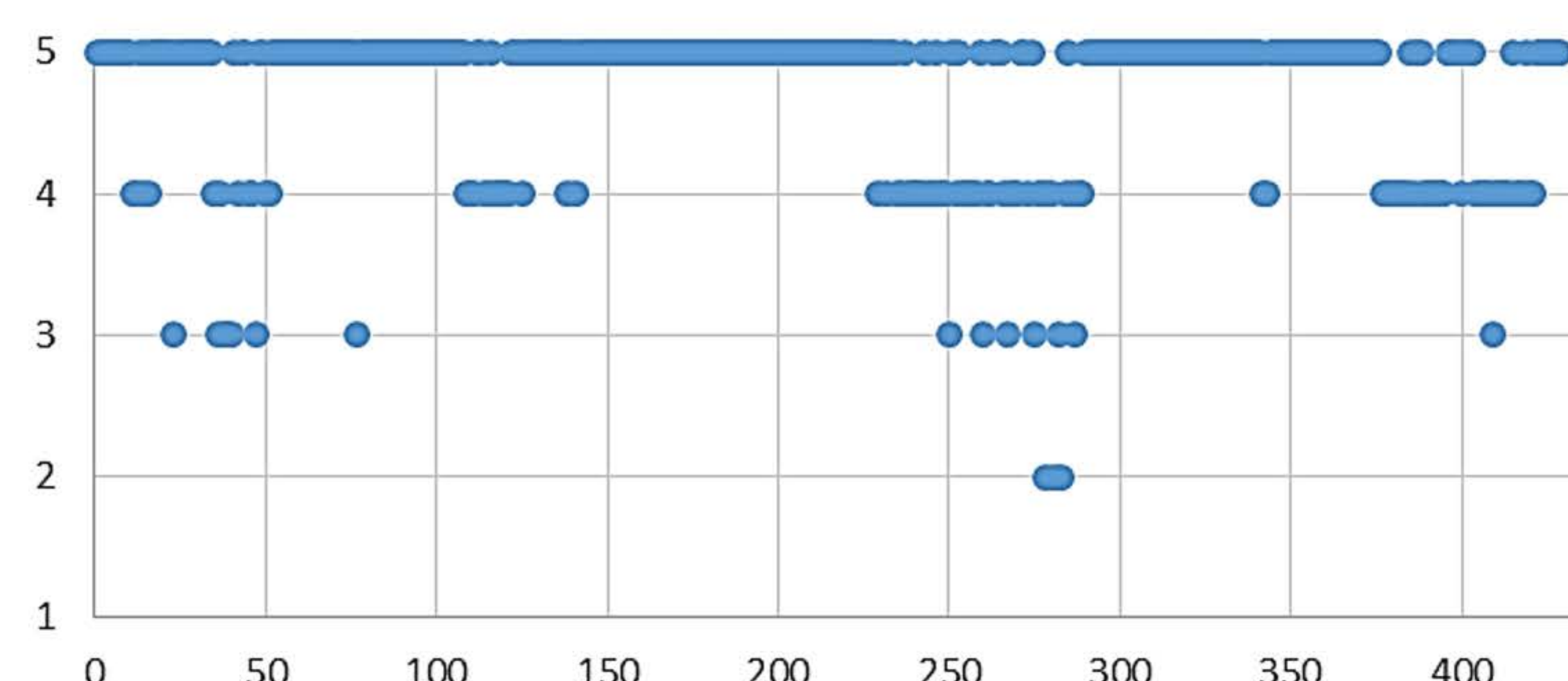


In what position did you place the ultrasound during the use?

422 responses



How useful did you find ultrasound in assisting in the diagnosis of the patient? (5=very useful; 1= not useful)



Provider Feedback

- 337 (80.6%) providers indicated little to no difficulty in switching probes throughout the examination.
- 359 (86.9%) providers were able to find adjustments on the device to improve image as required.
- 361 (87%) providers were able to apply their training and mentoring in ultrasound successfully.
- Recommendations made by providers:
 - Sharper/clearer image (48)
 - Video capability (10)
 - M mode option (7)
 - Waist strap for device (3)

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- For further information email mchristie@resuscitationgroup.com