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Title: A study of suspected pulmonary embolism (PE) in pregnancy management and a survey of guideline awareness

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Body: Introduction: A recent report showed PE as a major cause of maternal death in the UK (CMACE,BJOG 2011;118(Suppl.1):1-203); delays in diagnostic tests, treatment and poor knowledge of radiological safety are contributing factors. The Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists provides a protocol for suspected PE (Greer, I.A.et al.RCOG Green-top Guideline No.28 Feb 2007). Aims:To gauge the level of guideline-awareness in medical trainees and evaluate the management of suspected PE in pregnancy in a UK District Hospital. Methods: A survey of medical trainee knowledge of investigative pathways, radiation-exposure risks and guideline awareness. We also analysed management of pregnant women with suspected PE between 2009-11. Results: 76% of medical trainees and 58% of Respiratory SpRs were unaware of guidelines and had poor knowledge of radiation risks.

Table 1

Fetal	Actual	Average Score	Difference
USS	1	1	0.0
CXR	2	2.4	0.4
CTPA	3	3.8	0.8
QSCAN	4	2.7	-1.3

Respondents' score of relative radiation risk to fetus: lowest (1) to highest (4) from the four most commonly used investigations. N=25 Respondents.

41 women had symptoms of PE and were investigated as shown.

3 patients had PE confirmed(7.3%). Only 15% of women were investigated as per RCOG guidelines.

Conclusion: Our study revealed poor guideline-awareness for PE in pregnancy highlighting the need for better dissemination of these guidelines to medical trainees.