

Lung ultrasound

RECOGNIZING VIRAL LUNG INFECTIONS

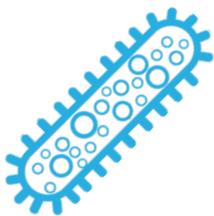
The majority of lower respiratory infections result from viral illnesses. Lung ultrasound can be used to support a clinical impression of a viral infection. This can be useful in pediatric patients, and help avoid the radiation of a chest x-ray.

Common lung ultrasound findings in viral respiratory infections

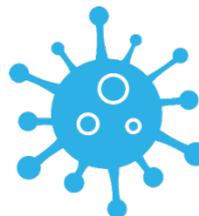
- Normal lung
- Vertical comet tail artifacts / sonographic B lines
- Irregular, thickened pleura
- Small subpleural consolidations

Distinguishing viral and bacterial infections

In general, the pattern of lung ultrasound findings can help differentiate viral and bacterial infections. Some findings can overlap; interpret the ultrasound in light of the patient's condition and the likelihood of a particular illness.



- Focal abnormality
- Single consolidation
- Larger consolidation
- Air bronchogram



- Diffuse abnormalities
- Multiple consolidations
- Smaller consolidation

Atypical pneumonia

Pneumonia due to atypical organisms such as mycoplasma may demonstrate a diffuse B line pattern. Influenza virus may also create the appearance of diffuse B lines on ultrasound.

