

**SAH & RNS Critical Care US Course:**  
**ALGORITHMS**

**FOR ALL SCANS:**

- Curved (abdominal) probe
- FAST preset
- Turn off compounding/ multibeam, tissue harmonics

**ARRESTED PATIENT (modified SESAME protocol)**

Questions:

1. Is there a reversible cause?
2. Are both lungs ventilating?

Steps:

1. Heart: single view (subcostal easiest)
  - a. Heartbeat?
  - b. Pericardial effusion?
  - c. Left ventricle
  - d. Right ventricle
2. Lungs: single view (highest point of anterior chest):
  - a. lung sliding?
3. Think:
  - a. IVC?
  - b. AAA?
  - c. Free fluid?

**SHOCKED PATIENT (modified FALLS protocol)**

Questions:

1. Should I give more fluid?
2. Why is the patient shocked?

Steps:

1. Anterior lungs: the BLUE points
  - a. Lung sliding?
  - b. Profile: A / B / AB / C?
2. Heart: single view (subcostal easiest)
  - a. Pericardial effusion?
  - b. Left ventricle
  - c. Right ventricle

3. IVC (subcostal)
  - a. Size?
  - b. Resp collapse?
  
4. Think:
  - a. AAA?
  - b. Free fluid?
  - c. DVT?

**BREATHLESS PATIENT (modified BLUE protocol)**

Question: Why is the patient breathless?

Steps:

1. Anterior lungs: the BLUE points
  - a. Lung sliding?
  - b. Profile: A / B / AB / C?
  
2. Leg veins: bilateral compression DVT scan
  - a. Upper femoral
  - b. Lower femoral
  - c. Popliteal or below knee
  
3. posterior lungs: PLAPS points
  
4. Heart and IVC (as for shocked patient)