Reviewer’s report

Title: Could the use of bedside lung ultrasound reduce the number of chest X-rays in the Intensive Care Unit?

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Reviewer: Anita Orlando

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Page 7, line 40: It would be useful to better describe the scanning technique: which probe has been used and what type of scan (longitudinal or transversal). Have you collected data on LUS scores?

Have you adopted a protocol to decide when to perform Chest Xrays after 2012? Have you reported your LUS findings in the clinical notes or in a dedicated sheet? It would be useful to know better your decision algorithm. Even if the study is retrospective and it’s difficult to obtain data on LUS technique, any information would be useful to understand how LUS has been implemented in your everyday clinical practice.

Page 8, line 38-39: It would be of interest to know how many chest x-rays were normal and how many were pathological in the two groups because the actual reduction in Chest x-rays could be mainly a reduction of normal scans, suggesting that the issue was that too many "useless" x-rays were performed in the group A, and LUS allows in an initial phase to reduce these scans, rather than helping in the pathological diagnostic process. In any case, the contribution of LUS would be significant and useful, this suggestion is just to promote a better understanding of the LUS acquisition process in the clinical practice.

Page 11, line 17: Have you observed any changings in the number of performed CT scans in the two groups? It would be interesting to know it.

Page 12, line 20: Do you have any data about LUS in your patients? Can you tell if LUS were normal/pathological? It would be interesting to compare LUS and Xrays in your cohorts to better understand if the x-rays reduction was mainly due to normal x-rays reduction or not.

Table 1: The high number of surgical admissions suggest that the potential application of a standardized protocol for LUS application and Chest Xrays avoidance in your reality is feasible. For short ICU stays, where Xrays are often routinely performed just before patients' transfer, it could be of high significance and also interesting for a prospective study.
Moreover, I would add an ICU duration stay line.

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Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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