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Breakout Session Common Radiology Cases

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Disclosures:

• No financial disclosures

Objectives:

- Basic radiographic evaluation of major joints
- Basics of CT, MRI, and contrast
- Indications for cross sectional imaging and arthrography
- Common radiology cases along the way

Radiography basics

- Please begin all workups with radiographs
- We need at least two views
- Please make sure to cover the area of pain and adjacent joints



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Radiography basics

- Additional views may be helpful depending on question being asked
 - Oblique c-spine: foramina
 - Oblique l-spine: pars
 - Spine flex extension
- Lower extremity weight bearing



Radiography basics

- A: Alignment
- B: Bones
- C: Cartilage
- s: soft tissues, effusions, etc.



CT Uses and Indications

- CT: Uses photons (radiation) to image patients
- Inferior to MRI for soft tissue contrast and bone marrow abnormalities
- Wonderful for specific indications:
 - Complex trauma and fracture characterization
 - Finding small intra-articular fragments
 - Fracture healing
 - Post operative joint/spine imaging if significant metal fixation causing artifact on MRI
 - May need intra-articular or intra-thecal contrast injection
 - Pre-surgical planning fractures, arthrodesis, arthroplasty

MRI Uses and Indications

- MRI: Imaging is performed via magnetization of hydrogen. No radiation. Much slower than CT.
- Superior for soft tissue contrast and anatomy
- Wonderful for specific indications:
 - Internal derangement of joints
 - Muscular/soft tissue injury
 - Soft tissue masses
 - Marrow replacing lesions, non displaced fracture detection
 - Bone and soft tissue infection

MRI Signal

- Imaging is dependent upon tissue dependent parameters related to magnetization and proton (H) density as well as the pulse sequence being utilized
- Typical exams will include ~ 4-6 sequences in different anatomic planes
- Common sequences:
 - T1
 - T2
 - PD
- These may or may not include fat suppression

MRI Signal

- T1: Fluid hypointense (dark)
- T2: Fluid hyperintense (bright)
 - Often fat suppressed
 - STIR: more homogeneous fat suppression but slower and cannot be used with contrast
- PD: Signal proportional to proton density not magnetic relaxation time

MRI Signal

• T1

• Bright

- Fat
- Gadolinium
- Subacute blood
- Protein
- Melanin

• Dark

- Fluid/edema
- Fibrous tissue
- Cortical bone
- Old blood/hemosiderin
- Metal/air- susceptibility artifact
- Flowing blood

• T2

• Bright

- Fluid/edema
- Most neoplasms
- Fat -unless we change that
- Gadolinium
- Subacute blood
- Dark
 - Fibrous tissue
 - Cortical bone
 - Old blood/hemosiderin
 - Metal/air- susceptibility artifact
 - Flowing blood

Basic MRI: General Points

- T1:
 - Anatomy
 - Marrow replacement
- T2:
 - Identifying pathology
 - Ligaments and tendons
 - Cartilage
 - Marrow edema





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Basic MRI: General Points

- MRI without contrast
 - Most joint and spine evaluations
 - Diagnostic for osteomyelitis
- MRI with contrast
 - Only arthrograms
- MRI with and without contrast
 - Tumors, cystic vs solid, mass detection
 - Infection: abscess, viable vs non viable tissue
 - Inflammation: arthritis, synovitis, tenosynovitis, myositis
 - Similar indications in spinal imaging

Basic MRI: Arthrography

- Injection of intra-articular contrast solution
 - Fluoroscopic or ultrasound guidance
 - MRI: Gadolinium based contrast agent
 - CT: lodine based contrast agent
- Distension of joint
 - Expose apposed structures, separate structures to increase conspicuity
- Contrast
 - Brightness of contrast in cartilage defects, labral tears, meniscal tears increases ability to detect small abnormalities



Basic MRI: Athrography

- Shoulder: Instability, labral tear, ?? Rotator cuff
- Elbow: UCL, RCL, LUCL
- Wrist: Scapholunate, lunotriquetral, TFCC
- Hip: Labrum, FAI
- Knee: Re-tear of repaired meniscus
- Ankle: ?? ATFL
- All joints: Chondrosis/Osteochondral lesions, loose bodies



Basic MRI: Summary

• CT

- Acute trauma
- Complex fracture classification
- Surgical planning
- Post operative imaging
- MR contraindications

- MRI
 - Derangement of joints, intra-articular pathology
 - Soft tissue injury
 - Bone/soft tissue infection
 - Tumor staging
 - Marrow
 - Arthritis imaging

Shoulder

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Shoulder: Radiographic Anatomy





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Shoulder: Radiographic Anatomy





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- Neer classification
 - Defines parts as pieces of humerus displaced by > 1cm or rotated by > 45 degrees
- Other methods of classification
 - A0/0TA
- CT may be helpful if considering surgical management





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Knee

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Knee: Radiographic Anatomy



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Hip

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Elbow

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Elbow: Radiographic Anatomy



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Wrist: Radiographic Anatomy





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Ankle/Foot

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Ankle: Radiographic Anatomy



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Foot: Radiographic Anatomy



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Thank you!

• Questions?

