Magnetic Resonance Imaging of Minor Trauma: January 2014

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Utility of MR In Musculoskeletal Imaging

- NoninvasiveMultiplanar
- capabilities
- No ionizing radiation
- High sensitivity with excellent spatial resolution=early detection



How Does MRI Form A Picture?

- Fat and Water in the Human body have an abundance of protons
- They resonate in a random frequency and orientation



A Paradox

- "Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumbnail." HD Thoreau, *Walden*, "Where I Lived and What I Lived For" (1854)
- "Simplify, but don't oversimplify" A. Einstein
- For today, we're going with the Concordian



Basics Imaging of The Musculoskeletal System

- Radiographs are insensitive to nondisplaced fractures, infiltrative processes and marrow edema states
- Think of Radiographs as the "sed rate" of imaging









CT versus MRI

- Insensitive to occult bone marrow edema
- Can be useful to define fracture planes, avulsions
- Beneficial for incomplete or non-union, due to "edge enhancement"
- Can show small osseous bodies, define osteoid matrices and calcific periosteal reactions
- Compliments MRI in certain fractures such as Lisfranc fracture dislocations, subtalar and tibial plateau fractures



Imaging versus Physical Examination

: 12:0+0 192 x 16 SVE-10

1: R3.2 (CO (

- Gym Story
- "A man's got to know his limitations" – Eastwood
- "So do we clinicians..." Robbins



Hamstring Muscle Complex

- Osseous avulsions often seen in adolescents -incomplete fusion of ischial tuberosities
- Radiographs can often be helpful as edema can hide small osseous avulsions on MRI
- Under 2 cm of distraction: conservative tx
- Tendon avulsion; callus or hematoma-can cause sciatic neuropathy



Ischial Tuberosity Avulsion-(origin injury)

• T-1 weighted image







Hamstring Tears

- Spectrum of tendon tearing, osseous or apophyseal avulsion, vs muscle strain
- Span two joints, eccentric contraction
- Heal slowly and recur, multiple levels
- Mimic fractures and adjacent sciatic sx
- MRI locates site and helps with treatment and prognosis





Triceps tear/avulsion of the posterior component

- Combined lateral and long head of triceps muscle-laminar anatomy
- Medial head inserts as an anterior muscle in many patients
- Pitchers, football linemen and weightlifters
- Repetitive activities, olecranon bursitis
- Partial injuries can be hard to distinguish from complete on MRI

"Completed" Proximal Femoral Stress Fracture (Marathon Runner)





Femoral Neck Stress Fractures in Runners

- · Difficult to diagnose
- Referrred pain to back and thigh
- Failure to diagnose can lead to AVN, ORIF, or THR in otherwise young, healthy athletes
- Stress, insufficiency, and pathologic fractures- risk factors important
- Vitamin D deficiency, osteopenia, steroids



ACL insufficiency

- Primary restraint to anterior translation of the tibia with respect to femur
- Anteromedial band tighter in flexion
- Posterolateral band tight in extension
- Early diagnosis prevents re-injury, meniscal tears, secondary injury to primary restraints, chondral injuries





Triplanar Radiographically occult fracture

























Edema and periosteal reaction diaphysis

- Stress fracture
- Osteomyelitis
- Ewing Sarcoma
- EG (Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis)
- Metatastaic neuroblastoma
- Clinical information and radiographic correlation is essential & follow-up

52 year-old female with knee pain/negative X ray

DOM / MID



47 year old male; seizure 3 weeks ago. Severe pain on ambulation.

Tendon Pathology

 Fifty-year old female with shoulder pain and weakness

Rotator Cuff Tendon Tear

- Size
- Location
- Depth
- Retraction
- Musculature
- AC Joint arthrosis
- AC joint morphology
- Associated pathology







































The Paradox of Fitness

 "The human body is the one machine that becomes stronger the more it is used."
 -Motto Painted on the Old Lowell YMCA circa 1965

"All matter proceeds toward entropy." -Albert Einstein

My Corollary

• The axial and appendicular joints undergo progressive attrition as a result of chronic repetitive trauma. This process is accelerated by acute tensile forces, loading stress, congenital, acquired, or developmental biomechanical imbalance.

Lowell, Massachusetts

- Jack Kerouac
- James Abbott McNeill Whistler
- Whistler's mother
- Ed McMahon
- Senator Paul Tsongas
- Bette Davis
- Michael Chicklis
- Olympia Dukakis
- Mickey Ward
- Eastern Branch of the Hell's Angels!















































Risk Factors for Osteonecrosis

- Clinical worst case:
- An alchoholic skindiver, with Gaucher's disease and sickle cell anemia, crashes car, and gets pancreatitis















42 year old male with pes planus, medial pain, rule out PTT tear



Sesamoid pathology

- Sesamoiditis / Stress reaction

 - Low or normal T1, increase T2/Stir
 No fracture line or arthritic change.
 Often adjacent edema / Fibular sesamoid involvement
- Sesamoid fracture
 - Often difficult to distinguish from Bi-partite sesamoid (Look at size, cortex)
- Avascular necrosis

 - Low all sequences, no enhancement
 Early increase T2 / Stir: Very difficult to distinguish from sesamoditis / stress rxn / contusion

Hallucal Sesamoids/Anatomic **Considerations**

- Plantar plate
- Intersesamoid Ligament
- First MPJ integrity
- Crista
- Capsular ligaments
- FHB tendons
- FHL tendons









Plantar Fasciits

- Windlass Mechanism
- Enthophyte
- Marrow Stress edema
- Intrinsic foot muscle atrophy
- Baxter's nerve entrapment



















Posterior Tibial Tendon Tear

- Type I: Hypertrophic Type II :Attrition/partial tear
- Type III: Complete tear with tendon gap
- PTT dysfunction can occur without morphologic alteration
- morphologic alteration of the tendon





Peroneal Tendon Tears

- Tenosynovitis
- Type I hypertrophic longitudinal split tears
- Subluxation from retromalleolar groove
- Peroneus Longus
- Peroneus Quartus





Peroneal Subluxation/Retinacular "Stripping"



SUMMARY

- MRI is useful for diagnosis of radiographically occult injuries of the foot and ankle.
- Alters the management and improves the outcome of many disorders that would otherwise go undetected, especially, cartilage tendon and ligament injuries associated with fractures.
- · Few Pathologies Occur in Isolation
- Pattern Recognition "Tells the Story" of underlying etiology



Concept of "Cascading Pathology"

- · A healthy joint is a balanced joint
- Rigid "Fixed" Stabilizers (Bones)
- Ligamentous stabilizers
- Dynamic Stabilizers (Tendons, Fascia)
- Effectors (muscles)
- Few injuries occur in isolation





Example of Cascading Pathology

- POSTERIOR TIBIAL TENDINOPATHY
- Flexor substitution, overburdened tibiospring
- Medial crural fascia, marrow stress edema
- Midfoot pronation
- ATT, peroneal, Achilles tendonopathy
- Heel valgus/peroneal entrapment
- Sinus tarsi syndrome
- Plantar fasciitis
- Talonavicular arthrosis; pes planovalgus

Characterization of Tarsal Coalitions

- Multiplanar
- Can identify edema along osseous, fibrous or chondral neoarticulations
- Associated ligament and tendon pathology (tears, tenosynovitis, hypoplasia)
- Supplements radiographic findings (talar beaking, "C-sign", ball-and-socket tibiotalar joint, "ant eater sign")

Secondary Signs of an Unbalanced Foot

- Plantar Fasciitis
- Sinus tarsi syndrome
- Achilles
 Tendinopathy
- "taut" subtalar ligaments, anterior talofibular ligament

















Posterior Tibial Tendon

- Early PTT Dysfunction Medial crural fascial edema, marrow stress Late: Collapsing Pes Planovalgus Deformity Heel valgus, peroneal subluxation

- Plantar fasciitis
- Achilles tendonopathy
- Flexor substitution
- ATT tear





Calcaneal Eversion/Peroneal Tendon Impingment



Secondary Findings of Posterior Tibial Tendon Dysfunction

- Sinus tarsitis
- Achilles tendinosis
- Peroneal
- tendinopathy
- Plantar fasciitis
- Baxter's denervatio of abductor digiti quinti













Peroneus Longus Tears

- Follow tendon into cubital tunnel
- Associated with peroneal ossicles
- Associated with hypertrophic peroneal calcaneal tubercle











Flexor Hallucis Longus Tear/61 year-old female with squatting injury









Torn Anterior Talofibular Ligament/Meniscoid Lesion







CHRONIC PLANTARIS TENDON TEAR

- ABRUPT ONSET OF CALF PAIN
- CAN IMITATE DVT OR CALF SARCOMA
- LOW SIGNAL ON ALL SEQUENCES
- MORE LOCALIZED THAN "COMPARTMENT SYNDROMES"









Acute Myotendinous Strain in a 50 year-old Marathon Runner

Tendinosis, Retrocalcaneal Bursitis, Haglund Deformity & Stress Edema



Complete Traumatic Achilles Tendon Rupture

- Avascular critial "watershed zone"
- Assess insertionMusculotendinous
- Junction

 Plantaris tendon
 integrity



Utility of MRI for Achilles Repair

- Three phases of repair: Inflammatory, angiogenesis, and remodeling.
- MRIs of 68 Achilles tears, 47 repaired
- On T2 weighted images, low signal should be present by six weeks post op with no bright fluid signal (Scheidler et al, 2006 RSNA abstract)
- Persistent fluid signal correlates with persistent symptoms and less favorable outcome
- Explosive acceleration athletes less than 30 are more prone to re-tear, even after rehabilitation (Am Journal of Sportsmedine, January 2005)

Pre and Post Operative Haglund/Partial Retear

















"Healed" Achilles Tendon Tear

- Retraction
- Attrition
- Deficient plantar flexion
- Tendon lengthening



Severely Thickened Achilles

- Chronic partial tearing is most common or post op
- "Lumpy Bumpy" deposition diseases
- Xanthoma
- Amyloid
- Tophus





Post-operative Achilles Tendon 75 y-old with trauma; intact repair







Tarsal Tunnel/Anatomy of the Medial and Lateral Plantar Nerves























Rheumatoid Arthritis

- MTP joints often first affected in RA.
 Often before wrist and hand.
- Fifth MTP most common affected.
- Generally, bilateral and symmetric

Rheumatoid Arthritis

- 3 types of lesions
 - Marrow edema: Ill-defined high T2 signal
 - Pre-erosions (bone defects, subcortical cyst): Sharp margins with intact cortex
 - Erosions: Sharp margins with cortical disruption
- Usually at "bare area" of met head



- Synovial hypertrophy (pannus) with or without effusion
- Must be careful with timing of contrast. Contrast will diffuse into joint , overestimate degree of synovitis (important for monitoring)

1/20/2014

