



Preface

The expectations of sports medicine physicians and orthopaedic surgeons are rising regarding image quality and precision of diagnosis. Unfortunately, many sites do not have dedicated musculoskeletal radiologists to insure appropriate protocolling of MRIs. As a result, the image quality is often borderline or inadequate. This results in a number of scans having to be repeated at another facility in order to have appropriate anatomical coverage and spatial/contrast resolution to accurately answer the clinical question.

As such, I was asked by the sports sub-committee of the ESSR to coordinate the production of guidelines for the imaging of sports injuries. We gathered 10 subspecialized musculoskeletal radiologists from various countries in Europe to insure that the guidelines reflect practice patterns and preferences across Europe.

The goal of these guidelines is to insure that sites without experience in the sports imaging field, including those with older MR systems, will be able to produce images of sufficient quality to enable an accurate diagnosis and avoid the need to re-scan patients. It is not our intention to provide the most state-of-the-art, latest generation, ultra-high resolution protocols.

We hereby provide an open-access easy-to-use reference document for technologists and radiologists which we hope will aid them in achieving acceptable quality when imaging sports injuries even if they lack experience in sports imaging protocols and/or do not have a latest generation MR system.

Respectfully submitted,

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