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Educational Abstract

Topics: Musculoskeletal Imaging, Pediatric Radiology

Keywords: Paediatric Scoliosis

Standardized Reporting of Paediatric Scoliosis Series Facilitates Referral and Enhances Specialist Service Use

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Introduction

Writing a good radiology report for paediatric scoliosis requires understanding of the etiology, natural progression of the condition as well as the nomenclature used by orthopedic surgeons.

Objectives:

To audit the compliance of radiographic technique and the adequacy of radiology reports for pediatric scoliosis series in accordance with the the ACR-SPR-SSR guideline (American College of Radiology – Society of Paediatric Radiology – Society of Skeletal Radiology) at a regional Hospital in Hong Kong.

Methodology:

56 cases of pediatric (<18yro) scoliosis were identified. Data was collected on the radiographic technique, image quality and the radiology reports.

A reaudit was carried out after the following intervention measures were employed: 1) a new radiographic departmental protocol 2) Standardization of reporting 3) Designating cases to be reported by the paediatric radiology team

4) Educational lecture 5) Provision of 'cheat sheets' on reporting stations

Results and Outcomes

Inadequacies were identified in the radiographic technique. 1) 97% of cases used AP rather than PA technique 2) 77% radiographs had inadequate inclusion of the pelvis.

70% of radiology reports did not comment on osseous abnormalities. Only 5% had skeletal maturity reported. 50% did not measure Cobb angles while 35% overcalled scoliosis.

Significant improvement in compliance to the international guideline on both radiographic technique and reporting of scoliosis were seen in the second audit cycle.

Conclusion:

Standardized radiology reports can help clinicians refer more severe scoliosis cases for earlier specialist attention, and reassure the non-scoliosis cases with minimal spinal listing thus reducing unnecessary use of specialist resources.

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