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DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY BETWEEN ULTRASOUND AND RADIOGRAPHY IN DETECTING GREENSTICK FRACTURE WITH VARIOUS ANGULATIONS ON PEDIATRIC BY USING HOMEMADE DISTAL RADIUS PHANTOM

Nurul Aisyah Mohammad Noor, Lyana Shahirah Mohamad Yamin

Centre of Medical Imaging, Universiti Teknologi MARA, MALAYSIA

E-mail: nrlasyh97@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to compare the effectiveness of the ultrasound and radiography in detecting greenstick fracture with different angulations on pediatric by using homemade distal radius phantom. Ten homemade phantoms consist of chicken leg bones and gelatine had been prepared to represent the pediatric distal radius. There are two sets of phantoms where each contain two normal chicken leg bones and three chicken leg bones with different angulations of greenstick fracture start with 10°, 20° and 30°. Three emergency physicians were then evaluated all of the phantoms through ultrasound images and radiographic images to obtain diagnostic accuracy results. Based on the result, ultrasound has high specificity (100%) with low sensitivity (55.6%) while the radiography has low specificity (50.0%) and sensitivity (44.4%). From this study, the ultrasound is more effective in detecting greenstick fracture with different angulations on pediatric distal radius by using the phantoms as compared to radiography test.

Keywords: ultrasound, radiography, greenstick fracture, diagnostic accuracy, pediatric, angulations

1. INTRODUCTION

A forearm fracture is the third most common pediatric fracture and 82.5% of forearm fractures are greenstick fractures [1]. The gold standard for examining suspected fracture is conventional radiography however, ultrasound has been recommended as the alternative method [2]. A few reports showed that radiology studies have high frequency of negative results which indicates that an alternative diagnosis is necessary to reduce unnecessary exposure to the pediatric [3]. Hence, ultrasound is suggested due to the absence of ionizing radiation [4]. The research aims to compare the effectiveness of ultrasound and radiography in detecting the greenstick fracture with different angulations on pediatric distal radius by using phantom. In order to meet the research goal, it is pertinent to measure the diagnostic accuracy of ultrasound and radiography in detecting the greenstick fracture with various angulations.

2. METHOD

Figure 1 showed the process on making the homemade distal radius phantom to mimic the pediatric distal radius.



Step 1: Soaked ten chicken leg bones into white vinegar for three weeks.

Step 2: Six chicken leg bones were broken into greenstick fracture with angulations of 10°, 20° and 30°.

Step 3: Place the chicken leg bones into plastic ice cream tube filled with gelatine and then label each phantom

Figure 1. The process of making homemade distal radius

As for the data collection, three emergency physicians need to detect the greenstick fracture based on the angulations presented by analysing the radiographic and ultrasound images of each phantom. Mann-Whitney test was used to compare the diagnostic accuracy between ultrasound and radiography in detecting greenstick fracture with different angulations.

3. FINDINGS AND ARGUMENTS

According to the result, ultrasound has high specificity (100%) and low sensitivity (55.6%) which means that it able to correctly rule out negative cases and get fewer false positive results whereas radiography has low specificity (50.0%) and sensitivity (44.4%) which showed that it unable to obtain more positive cases of the fracture as well as getting high rate of false positives. The ultrasound appeared to have higher accuracy as the images obtained showed clear view the outline of the bones. This is because by using the ultrasound, the dense nature of bone causes reflection of the ultrasound waves, allowing a clear distinction from the soft-tissue envelope and creating a hyperechoic (bright) reflection from the cortical surface. This makes it easier for making a diagnosis when trying to identify the greenstick fracture when the fractures can be visualized as a break in the smooth cortical contour. Based on Mann-Whitney test, the p-value is 0.037 which showed that there is significant different of diagnostic accuracy between ultrasound and radiography in detecting greenstick fracture with various angulations.

4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In conclusion from this study, ultrasound is more effective in detecting greenstick fracture with different angulations on pediatric distal radius by using the phantoms compared to the radiography. For suggestion, future researcher should use human patient as a subject as there might be some differences from human bones in radiographic and ultrasound images compare to the animal mode.

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Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Perak Kampus Seri Iskandar 32610 Bandar Baru Seri Iskandar, Perak Darul Ridzuan, MALAYSIA Tel: (+605) 374 2093/2453 Faks: (+605) 374 2299



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