Quantifying the clinical benefits of new imaging technologies: A technology assessment of EOS® 2D/3D X-ray imaging system

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Evaluation of EOS[®] 2D/3D X-ray imaging system

- The first topic for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Diagnostic Assessment Programme
- We performed this diagnostic technology assessment as an independent research group for NICE
- The NICE guidance of EOS[®] 2D/3D imaging system is available on the NICE website (<u>http://www.nice.org.uk</u>)





The EOS® 2D/3D X-ray imaging system

- EOS[®] 2D/3D X-ray Imaging is developed for orthopaedic imaging
- The potential benefits of EOS[®]:
 - Weight bearing (both standing and seated positions)
 - Full body image
 - Simultaneous posteroanterior (PA) and lateral imaging
 - Three-dimensional (3D) image
 - High quality image
 - Low dose radiation

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Indications where the features of EOS[®] may improve patient outcomes

- In children and adolescents:
 - Spinal deformity (principally scoliosis)
 - Leg length discrepancy and alignment
- In adults:
 - Spinal deformity, including degenerative scoliosis, progressive kyphosis and osteoporotic fractures
 - Conditions involving loss of sagittal and coronal balance, including issues relating to hip and knee where full body or full length leg images are currently requested



Scoliosis

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- Scoliosis is a 3D deformity of the spine, characterised by a sideway curve (coronal plane deformity) of ten degrees or more
- Patients with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis often undergo repeated Xray scans in order to monitor the curve progression and determine the severity of the spinal deformity by measuring the degree of spinal curvature (Cobb angle)







Objective

• To evaluate the clinical benefits of the EOS[®] 2D/3D X-ray imaging in patients with orthopaedic conditions



Methods

- A systematic review was performed to assess the clinical effectiveness of the EOS[®] 2D/3D X-ray imaging system for the evaluation and monitoring of relevant orthopaedic conditions
- Cancer risk due to radiation exposure was assessed



Systematic review: clinical effectiveness of the EOS[®] 2D/3D X-ray imaging system

- Intervention
 - EOS[®] 2D/3D X-ray imaging system
- Comparators
 - Technologies used in standard practice, including X-ray film, computed radiography (CR) and digital radiography (DR)
- Participants
 - Patients with any orthopaedic condition
- Study design
 - Comparative studies (comparing EOS[®] with X-ray film, CR or DR)
- Primary outcome: patient health outcomes; Secondary outcomes: Radiation dose and quality of the image



Systematic review: clinical effectiveness of the EOS[®] 2D/3D X-ray imaging system

- Quality Assessment
- The quality of included studies was assessed using the QUADAS quality assessment tool for diagnostic studies
- Additional project-specific quality items were also assessed:
 - The appropriateness of the methods used for measuring radiation dose and image quality
 - Whether the execution of the technologies matched clinical practice

Results

- Three small studies of limited quality were identified (n= 290, the sample size ranging from 50 to 176)
- Two studies compared EOS[®] with film X-ray imaging and one compared EOS[®] with standard CR
- The included patients were primarily children with scoliosis (mean age 14 years where reported)
- None of the studies reported patient health outcomes



Image quality

- All studies found image quality to be comparable or better with EOS[®] overall
- The image quality of studies was not assessed using standard criteria
- None of the studies compared the measurement of the Cobb angle between EOS[®] and film X-ray or CR
- None of the studies assessed the facility for 3D imaging

Harmful effects due to radiation exposure

- Four major reports produced by large radiation protection and safety agencies:
 - BIER VII Phase 2
 - UNSCEAR
 - ICRP publication 103
 - Health Protection Agency (HPA) report
- A systematic review was performed to investigate what specific evidence exists of the adverse effects of diagnostic X-ray radiation in patients with orthopaedic conditions



The four major reports produced by large radiation protection and safety agencies

- Summarised the evidence of harmful effects due to radiation exposure
- Cancer risk and adverse reproductive outcomes are the adverse effects of radiation exposure of key concern
- Developed the risk models for cancer
 - The primary source of cancer risk data was derived from the Life Span Study (atomic bomb survivors)
- The lifetime cancer risk estimates being derived from the risk models in ICRP Publication 103 were used to inform the economic model of this technology assessment



Studies in orthopaedic patients

- Four cohort studies assessing cancer risk associated with diagnostic X-ray radiation, all based on the same cohort of US scoliosis patients (n= 5,573) diagnosed between 1912 and 1965
- The data did not show significant increases in the risk of dying from cancers such as leukaemia, liver, cervical and lung cancer compared with the general US female population
- A significant increase in the risk of dying from breast cancer in spinal curvature patients compared with the general US female population, with standardised mortality ratio (SMR) 1.68 (95% CI 1.38 to 2.02)
- However, the relevance of this result to current clinical practice is questionable

Conclusions

- There was sparse clinical evidence to support the use of EOS[®] in patients with orthopaedic conditions
- There was no evidence of clinical benefits from the innovative features of EOS[®] in terms of:
 - changing clinicians' diagnostic reasoning
 - improving therapeutic management
 - improving patient health outcomes
- Future studies are required to assess patient health outcomes

Conclusions

- In the absence of evidence for other clinical benefits, radiation reduction was considered to be the primary benefit for EOS[®]
- It is difficult to quantify the long-term health benefits associated with the reduced radiation dose seen with EOS®



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