

Clinical radiology feedback on practice: discrepancy meeting

Title and Description of Activity or Event

Date: June 2014

Which category of activity does this match?

Feedback on practice: Departmental Quarterly Discrepancy Meeting

What have you learned as a result of the activity?

- * We discussed a child who had undergone corrective spinal surgery.
- * I reported one of the postoperative radiographs and learnt that I had missed a displaced hook at the upper end of the left rod, which was subsequently detected on a CT scan.

What has been the short and long term impact on your professional practice and patient care?

- * I reviewed the radiological appearance of correctly positioned surgical hooks.
- * This case highlighted to me and my colleagues the difficulties associated with reporting these images, which might be of reduced quality given the scoliosis, in situ spinal rods and postoperative nature of the imaging.
- * I will carry out careful and systematic review of post-operative spine radiographs. Careful review of these radiographs should prevent potential consequences of unidentified displaced hooks.

State any action points to be carried out following this activity

- * Systematic review of images to assess hook position.
- * Careful comparison with previous radiographs if available.
- * Caution with wording of the radiology report, including a comment on image quality.
- * Have a relatively low threshold for recommending CT.
- * The departmental goal may be summarised as:
- * No patient with a displaced hook should go undiagnosed for more than 2 days after his/her post-operative spine radiograph. This allows time for a CT scan to be obtained if necessary
- * An audit will be performed in 12 months' time to assess Departmental practice.