**Adequacy of lateral knee radiographs performed for trauma**

**Descriptor:**

An audit of the performance of knee radiographs in trauma, looking specifically at congruity of the lateral and medial femoral condyles  as well as, under or over-exposure.

**Background:**

Conspicuity of joint effusions and lipohaemarthroses are optimised by adequately exposed true lateral knee radiographs.

## The Cycle

**The standard:**

All horizontal beam lateral knee radiographs for trauma should have:

1) Adequate exposure

2) Medial and lateral femoral condyles congruous within 7mm

**Target:**

95% compliance with both standards.

## Assess local practice

**Indicators:**

Proportion of trauma knee radiographs deemed adequate by the above two criteria.

**Data items to be collected:**

For each knee x-rayed, document whether:

1) Exposure adequate

2) Femoral condyles congruous within 7mm

**Suggested number:**

Typical numbers of knees examined: 20 depending on A+E throughput.

**Suggestions for change if target not met:**

• Education of (and by) experienced radiographer and radiologists

• Reading reference given

**Resources:**

- Questionnaire

- Excel or similar spreadsheet to tabulate responses and analyse statistics

- Five hours work

**References:**

1. Fuller MJ Lateral Knee Radiography - <http://www.wikiradiography.net/page/Lateral_Knee_Radiography>
2. The WikiRadiography forms a particularly rich web resource.<http://www.wikiradiography.net/page/Applied_Radiography_-_by_M.J.Fuller>
3. Merrill's Atlas of Radiographic Positions and Radiologic Procedures, (Editor: Philip W. Ballinger) 10th Edition (2003).
4. Tai AW et al Accuracy of Cross-Table Lateral Knee Radiography for Evaluation of Joint Effusions AJR 2009; 193:W339- W344 [http://www.ajronline.org/content/193/4/w339.full.pdf+html](http://www.ajronline.org/content/193/4/w339.full.pdf%2Bhtml)

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