Role of Radiology

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Simple X-ray (RX) and ultrasound are the first imaging modality, allowing to answer the greater part of clinical questions.

Other imaging techniques like computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance (MR) also have an important role. They are usually reserved for cases in which they can be fundamental to decide a treatment or to indicate the necessity of a bone biopsy. The former implies a relatively high radiation burden, and must be used carefully.

MR has evolved allowing images of whole body in a reasonable time and appraising the dynamics of the bone blood flow through the administration of intravenous contrast and the acquisition of multiphase angiographic sequences. The great tissue anatomic resolution of MR and the absence of radiation are very important in paediatric patients, although the need for sedation is a definite flaw. Articles published recently confront MR and BS in several clinical situations with diverse luck for each one of them, but MRI is rising to be the first imaging modality in children's skeletal problems.

References