



MSK

SY20-3

MR Imaging of Arthritis

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MRI is an important tool in pre-operative planning, and operative feedback to radiologists is an important tool for improving MRI diagnostic accuracy. In this session, we use a “case-based” format to review practical lessons from clinical correlation conferences. For each case, we emphasize the important MRI findings that can be missed by radiologists and the clinical significance of these findings that are important to orthopaedists.

The theme of this session is interposition injuries. Interposition injuries are caused by trauma – often with fracture or transient subluxation/dislocation. The best known interposition injury is a displaced ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) tear (Stener lesion) at thumb metacarpophalangeal joint. With these injuries, healing is impeded because the adductor aponeurosis is interposed between the torn UCL and the bone; surgery is considered the treatment of choice.

We review analogous “interposition injuries” in the hand, wrist, elbow, shoulder, ankle, knee, and hip. With the Stener lesion, the torn ligament is displaced away from the bone. With other important interposition injuries, displaced tissue can also displace into a joint, into a fracture bone, into a tendon tear, or into a ligament tear. Interposition injuries can be easily missed, but are important to diagnose and generally must be treated surgically to optimize patient outcomes.

Keywords: Musculoskeletal, MRI, orthopaedic surgery