Increasing Bone Scan Capacity
by
Optimizing Appointments

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Background

- Bone scan is an essential part of staging in prostate cancer

- Significant backlog due to COVID-19

- Increased post pandemic demand

- Bone scans traditionally planar only

- SPECT CT can be added to clarify areas of concern on planar imaging
Background

- Planar imaging = 30 minutes.
- SPECT CT one body part = 15 minutes.
- SPECT CT two body parts = 30 minutes.
- Therefore, each scan can take up between 30 minutes to 60 minutes.
- Traditionally 60 minutes appointments
Purpose

Identify ways to increase bone scan capacity by optimizing the appointment times
Method

• Retrospective:
  • All bone scans performed in 12 months (prostate cancer)

• Data collected:
  • Planar only, one / two body part SPECT CT
  • Recent / upcoming CT imaging
Results

- 53% of patients required planar imaging only
- 24% of patients needed additional one body part SPECT CT
- 23% of patients needed additional two body part SPECT CT
- None of the patients with recent CT within 4 weeks required any SPECT CT (unless a lesion identified on recent CT needed further characterisation)
Change

• Review previous and pending imaging when vetting

• Offer 30min appointments for patients with recent cross-sectional imaging
Summary of Results

- Capacity increased between 25% to 100%
- Bone scan waiting list reduced
- Other imaging pathways are also getting reviewed for optimization
Conclusion

- Optimization of healthcare services is vital

- Above retrospective QIP identified risk stratification methods to increase imaging capacity

- Background clinical knowledge of radiologists can add value to service improvement
Thank you

Any questions?