
Tatsuhito Akimoto, Dr Chris Wright, Dr Pauline Reeves, & James Harcus
Tatsuhito Akimoto is a PhD student at SHU (tatsuhito.akimoto@gmail.com)

INTRODUCTION
“Preliminary Clinical Examination” (PCE) is defined as: “the practice of radiographers whereby they assess imaging appearances, make informed clinical judgements and decisions and communicate these in unambiguous written forms to referrers”.
A lack of evidence regarding the diagnostic radiographers’ ability to accurately comment is perceived as one of the barriers to the implementation of PCE.
The aim of this project was to develop a robust scoring system that enables comprehensive evaluation of PCE quality regardless of profession.

METHODOLOGY
Final year diagnostic radiography students (n=87) participated in an image interpretation test, consisting of 30 musculoskeletal images with equal prevalence of normal and abnormal status, developed using Radbench.
Sensitivity, specificity and accuracy were calculated based on their image classification.
PCE comments were marked by using the WWH scoring system (developed from the WWH approach) along with the Radbench system. The same comments were marked with the scoring system used in the rapid reporting session of the final fRCR Part B examination for comparison.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION
Mean accuracy, sensitivity and specificity based on binary logic were 73.3%, 79.6% and 67.1% respectively although once the accuracy of the PCE is considered these reduce regardless of the scoring system because often the decision was ‘right but for the wrong reason’. PCE commentary results in differences between the fRCR and WWH scoring approaches.

Example of the WWH approach

REFERENCES

CONCLUSION
On the basis that the radiographer written PCE needs to be accurate and reliable in order to aid patient triage by the referring clinician, the WWH approach to scoring provides a more robust assessment than fRCR relative to the actual diagnosis, and is therefore recommended as a more desirable approach.