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The Westin Bayshore, Vancouver Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada "Children's imaging: Creating change, celebrating success"



## General Pediatric Radiology: Abdomen Pediatric Fluoroscopy: Tips & Tricks







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## **Tips and Tricks Topics**

- Child Life
- Contrast Agents
- Radiation Safety (Low Dose Fluoroscopy)
- Procedural tips & tricks
  - Videofluoroscopic Swallow Studies (VFSS or VSS)
  - Upper GI (UGI)
  - Small Bowel Follow Through (SBFT)
  - Contrast Enema
  - High Pressure Distal Colostogram (for preop Imperforate Anus)
  - Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)
  - Check G-tube or GJ-tube



## Child Life Specialists

- Experts
  - growth and development
- Bridge hospital/home gap
- age matched education
- Help cope





#### **Contrast Selection**

- Know clinical question If you don't know, find out!
- Barium vs water soluble
- Water Soluble
  - Osmolality vs opacity
    - Body serum = 275 to 295 mosm/kg



## Tips on Contrast Agents

- Oral Contrasts
  - Barium
    - Most contrast UGIs and SBFTs except to rule out leak
    - If patient is eating by mouth or fed by GT/GJT usually safe
  - Water Soluble (OFF LABEL)
    - Iodixanol (Visipaque) Nonionic, Isosmotic 320 mg I/mL
      - -Rule out bowel leak
      - -UGI SBFT in premature infants to evaluate for NEC stricture
      - -NO FLUID SHIFTS
    - Ioversol (Optiray) Nonionic, slightly hypertonic 160 mg I/mL
      - -Tube checks
        - » Malfunction
        - » Replaced







## Tips on **Contrast Agents**

#### Rectal Contrasts

- Water Soluble (OFF LABEL)
  - Ionic (Iothalamate Meglumine) Cysto-Conray II
    - -Constipation
    - Evaluate for Hirschsprung
  - Ionic (Diatrizoate Meglumine) Gastrografin
    - -Treatment for Meconium Ileus
    - -Constipation Bowel Mgt pts (potty trained)
  - Nonionic, Isosmotic (Iodixanol) Visipaque
    - -Premature Infants
      - » Evaluate for post-NEC stricture
      - » Postop-evaluate for leak





## **Contrast Selection**

Contrast Agent	Osmolality (mosm/kg water)	lodine (mg/ml)	Cost per 10 mL
E-Z-Paque Barium	0	0	\$0.25
Visipaque 320	290	320	\$13.76
Cysto-Conray 2	400	81	\$1.10
Optiray 320	702	320	\$15.75
Gastrografin	1940	367	\$6.34
Gastroview	2000	367	Not used at CCHMC

\*\*Can dilute contrast as needed\*\*



### **Example Contrast Densities**

- Cysto-Conray 2
- Optiray 160
- Optiray 320
- Visipaque 320
- Thin barium



81 ml/mg 160 ml/mg320 ml/mg 320 ml/mg No iodine



#### Radiation Safety (Low Dose Fluoroscopy)



#### Tips on Keeping Radiation Dose ALARA

- Know indications
- Calibrate Fluoroscope
  - Medical Physicist
- Patient size the dose
  - Measure patient
- Pulsed Fluoroscopy
  - Exam dependent

- Remove grid
- Tube lift lowest setting
- Image acquisition
- Magnification setting
- Collimation
- Gel pad management



## **Known Indications**

- ACR appropriateness Criteria
- Know the history
  - Call if you don't know
- If alternative non-rad test better, call clinician
- Lower dose not performing rad exposing exam



### Calibrate Fluoroscope

- Medical Physicist
- Lowest doses that maintain diagnostic image quality
- Patient-size the technique



## **Patient-Sized Technique**

- Measure thickness
  AP vs Lateral (VSS)
  Medical Physicist
  - Sets dose range for patient thickness



## **Patient-sized Technique**

- 24 30 cm
- 20 24 cm
- 17 20 cm
- 14 17 cm
- 11 14 cm
- 8 11 cm
- 5 8 cm

**Courtesy of Keith Strauss** 







## Pulsed Fluoroscopy - Pulse Rate

#### **Total Dosage**



## Fluoroscopy Pulse Rate by Exam

DEFAULT FLUORO PULSE RATES/PER EXAM- PPS (PULSE PER SECOND) 3 SETTINGS PER EXAM				
20 / 15 / 10	15/4/2	4 / 2 / 1'	8 / 4 / 1'	
VSS	ESOPHAGRAM	UĠI / SBFT	CHEST/ DIAPHRAGM	
	UGI	SMALL BOWEL		
		CONTRAST ENEMA		
		COLOSTOGRAM		
		FISTULAGRAM		
		VCUG		
		NEPHROSTOGRAM		
		CLOACAGRAM		
		CYSTOGRAM		
		GENERAL FLUORO		





## **Remove the Grid**

- In vs out of beam
- Out if pt < 12 cm
  - ↓ exposure 30%
  - Loss of contrast







Courtesy of Keith Strauss

## Tube Lift

Off: SSD\* 51 cm
On: SSD\* 65 cm
Less magnification
Increased sharpness
Dose reduction of 20%

\*SSD = Source Subject Distance SSD aka SOD (Source Object Distance)

http://xrayphysics.com/radio.html





# Image Acquisition



Image Capture

Fluorograph

Radiograph



## Image Acquisition

- 10 image captures (hold) ~ 1 fluorograph
- 4 fluorographs ~ 1 radiograph
- 1 radiograph ~ 40 image captures (hold)
- Average procedure ~ 6-8 fluorographs
- Radiographs could be  $\geq \frac{1}{2}$  the procedure dose!



## Image Acquisition





#### So, If Taking Scout or Delayed Images.....

- If chest or abdomen fits in field of II
  - Take Fluorographic scout image
- If patient too big too fit in field of II
  - Take Radiographic scout image



## **Magnification Mode**

- Dose  $\alpha$  1/FoV
- Use sparingly
- Magnify on PACS









## **Magnification Mode**

FoV Size	Dose Increase
31 cm	0%
25 cm	24%
20 cm	55%
17 cm	81%

#### Percentage of Doseage Increase





## Be Aware of Image Intensifier Position

• Lower position II  $\alpha$  Low Magnification  $\alpha$  Low Dose





## Collimation





## Gel Pad

- Increases patient comfort
- ~30 ↑ in dose for overhead radiographs
  Remove for radiographs





## Tips and Tricks: VFSS

- Collimate mouth-pharynx-upper airway
- Pulse rate 30 vs 15 PPS
- Include multiple swallows for each food/liq
- Follow to GEJ at least once
- Incidental esophageal findings
- Rare cricopharyngeal achalasia



#### Collimate mouth-pharynx-upper airway





#### Videofluoroscopic Swallowing Study (VSS)

Controversy: continuous fluoro vs pulsed fluoro for VSS

Can we use pulsed fluoroscopy to decrease the radiation dose during video fluoroscopic feeding studies in children?

M.D. Cohen\*

CONCLUSION: Decreasing the fluoroscopic pulse rate cannot be used as a method of decreasing radiation dose during performance of video fluoroscopic studies because it will potentially result in non-detection of episodes of supraglottic penetration of liquid barium.

#### Theoretical, No supporting clinical evidence

#### Videofluoroscopic Swallowing Study (VSS)

- Pharyngeal phase duration 500 msec
- At 30 pps 33 msec between frames
- At 15 pps 66 msec between frames

Clinical Radiology (2009) 64, 70-73

- Therefore theoretically there are multiple frames
   during which aspiration could be seen
  - -The aspiration itself
  - -Contrast in the trachea
- 30 vs 15 cannot be distinguished by human eye



#### Follow to GEJ at least once





#### Incidental esophageal findings







#### Tips on **Performing Diagnostic UGI**



#### Tips and Tricks: Esophagram/UGI

- NPO times:
  - Neonates/young infants = 2-3 hours
  - Older infants/children = 4 hours
  - Adolescents = 6-8 hours
- Exceptions for emergent studies


### **Positioning Controls Bolus**

- Left hand tower, right hand patient
- Hold patient at thigh
- Positioning emphasizes control of contrast bolus
- Start Left Lateral and then AP esophagus, mouth to GEJ
- RAO positioning to open up antrum-pylorus-bulb
- FIRST lateral passage thru duodenum
- Straight AP DJJ
- LPO DJJ over bulb
- Intermittent pulsed fluoroscopy



### Left Lateral and AP esophagus to GEJ











### RAO Open Up Antrum-Pylorus-Bulb





#### Lateral vs RAO





### Rare Antral Abnormality - Web





### FIRST Lateral Pass Thru Duodenum







# LPO DJJ Over Bulb







### **Clips of Esophagus and Duodenum**





# More Tips and Tricks: D<sub>x</sub> UGI

- Knowing you're truly lateral
- Knowing you're truly AP
- Knowing you are RAO



#### Knowing You're Truly Lateral - Esophagus





#### Knowing You're Truly Lateral - Duodenum







# Knowing You're Truly AP - DJJ







# Base of the Heart







### Vertebral Pedicles and Ribs

- Ribs not symmetric
- Pedicles not symmetric
- DJJ appears abnormal





# Why Positioning So Important

- Biggest pitfalls:
  - -Rotation on frontal Call malrotated
    - Published articles succumb
  - -No Lateral entire duodenum
    - Is duodenum retroperitoneal?
  - -No RAO miss antral web due to overlap



# Small Bowel Follow-Through

- Equivocal Malrotation on UGI
  - Evaluate cecal position follow through
- Inflammatory bowel disease
  - Alternate supine and prone overheads
- Small bowel obstruction post NEC ? Stricture
  - Follow till small bowel evacuated



# **Cecal Position**

- Get delayed images
- More delayed the better
- Shouldn't equivocate
- Spot views can help
- Rotate sl left of AP



# Small Bowel Follow-Through

- Keep stomach filled
  SB completely filled
  Compare regions of SB
  Abnormal areas stick out
- Alternate supine & prone KUB
  - Self compression on prone





# Spot Images TI and Cecum

- Spot images
  - Abnormal areas on overhead KUBs
  - Terminal Ileum
  - Location cecum in equivocal DJJ
  - LPO, prone& lay on balloon





# Small Bowel Follow-Through

#### Obstruction

- Fill till obstruction or TI
- Follow till contrast evacuated from SB
- Partially obstructedDilated loops with residual contrast





# Tips and Tricks: Contrast Enema

- Contrast selection
- Enema tip selection
- Positioning
- Control the flow
- Foley balloon positioning
- When to reflux into TI



# Tips on **Contrast Agents**

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# **Enema Tip Selection**

Green	Blue	Pink	Foley
Preemie	5 months – 2 years	3+ years	0-5 months (balloon out/in)
	Eval for Hirschsprung's Disease	Eval for Hirschsprung's Disease Bowel Mgt Eval	Neurogenic bowel Bowel Mgt
			Anorectal malformation



# Positioning

- Important images:
  - Lateral/AP recto-sigmoid as far to splenic flexure
    - Contrast flowing when taking images!
    - Turn off when turning patient
  - AP Full colon in constipation/BM cases
  - Post-evac diaper or bathroom (not routine drain)
  - Drain if small pt and no spont evac
    - To avoid fluid shift induced dehydration/vomiting





# **Contrast Enema - Positioning**

- Premature
- Post-NEC
- ? Stricture
- Balloon inflate w fluoro
- 50 mL syringe
- Iodixanol



# Control flow

- Flowing when taking Images
- Turn off when repositioning patient
- In neonates for bowel obstruction
  - If make Dx Hirschsprung's, STOP
  - If microcolon, Reflux TI to further eval
- Constipation w/u Fill colon, no TI reflux



# **Foley Balloon Positioning**







# When to Reflux into TI

- Entire colon small in NB
  MI vs atresia vs Total colonic HD
- NL CE in W/U for SBO
  - Premie with h/o NEC
  - Post-op SBO



# High Pressure Distal Colostograms

- Foley catheter inside MF
- Balloon  $\leq$  size of bowel
- Pressure to distend rectum
  - Flat rectum not enough
  - Round rectum adequate





# Tips and Tricks: VCUG

- Review R & B US
- Catheter insertion
- Cyclic studies
- Estimating bladder volume

- Oblique images
- Grading VUR
- Thick bladder wall



# Review Renal & Bladder US

- Bladder
  - Ureterocele, stone, thick?
- Kidney
  - Pelvocaliectasis, hydroureter, stone, urothelial thickening, duplication suggested?



### **Catheter Insertion**

- Infants and older = 8 Fr, newborns = 5 Fr
- Lidocaine for boys  $\geq$  4 years old
- "Down Angle" in  $\hfill \square$
- Gentle forward pressure at sphincter in  $\mathcal{J}$
- If cath in vagina, leave in and place another



# Cyclic Study

- $\geq$  2 cycles of filling and voiding
  - Age < 1 year old</p>
  - Febrile UTI (presumed pyelonephritis)
  - US showing dilated IRCS and/or ureter
  - Marked discrepancy in renal size ? scarring
  - VUR on prior study (15% more VUR)



### **Bladder Volume**

- Child < 1 y.o.: weight (in kg) x 7 = \_\_\_\_ mL
- Child > 1 y.o.: (Age + 2) x 30 = \_\_\_\_ mL
- Max limit = 2x calculated volume

> 2x bladder volume associated increased risk urinary retention



# **Oblique Images**




#### VCUG – Importance of Correct ObliqueViews





![](_page_72_Picture_3.jpeg)

# Grading VUR

- Grade 1: ureter only
- Grade 2: renal pelvis
- Grade 3: renal pelvis, mild dilatation
- Grade 4: tortuous ureter
- Grade 5: tortuous ureter, severe dilatation

• IRR is added descriptor to any grade

![](_page_73_Picture_7.jpeg)

## Thickened Wall

![](_page_74_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_74_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Tips on checking G-Tube placement

- Positioning
- Contrast outline balloon IN stomach
- What if contrast only in duodenum?

![](_page_75_Picture_4.jpeg)

## Positioning for G tube check

2 images
≈ R decub positioning
• Tube parallel to table
■ Supine

![](_page_76_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Images - Normal

![](_page_77_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_77_Picture_2.jpeg)

### What about this G Tube?

![](_page_78_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Balloon in Pylorus or duodenal bulb

![](_page_78_Picture_3.jpeg)

### And This One?

![](_page_79_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Balloon in Stoma Tract**

![](_page_79_Picture_3.jpeg)

# Tips on checking GJ-Tube Malfunction

- Possible malfunctions
  - Clogged
  - Fell out
  - Broken
  - Leaking from stoma
  - Formula is draining from G-port

![](_page_80_Picture_7.jpeg)

# Tips on checking GJ-Tube Malfunction

- Possible malfunctions
  - Clogged
  - Fell out
  - Broken
  - Leaking from stoma
  - Formula is draining from G-port

![](_page_81_Picture_7.jpeg)

#### Fell Out and Replaced

![](_page_82_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_82_Picture_2.jpeg)

### GJ Advanced Too Much, Balloon in Duoden in Guilling in the second second

# Formula is draining from G-port

- Possible etiologies
  - J port migrated into stomach
  - Communication J to G (???)
- What do you do? Inject J port

### **J** Port Injection

![](_page_84_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_84_Picture_2.jpeg)

### Hole between J port and G port

![](_page_84_Picture_4.jpeg)

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  - Upper GI (UGI)
  - Small Bowel Follow Through (SBFT)
  - Contrast Enema
  - High Pressure Distal Colostogram (for preop Imperforate Anus)
  - Voiding Cystourethrogram (VCUG)
  - Check G-tube or GJ-tube

![](_page_85_Picture_12.jpeg)