



# *Mapping the Utility of Radiography and Ultrasound for the IMPACT Conditions List*

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# Introduction

- Imaging is central to modern diagnostics. To date, only ultrasound utilized in spaceflight.
- Advancing the level of care on exploration-class missions and permanent off-world habitats will require more advanced imaging capabilities in order to minimize mission medical risk.
- The IMPACT tool suite was designed to allow exploration-class mission trade space assessment.
  - The IMPACT Condition List (ICL) includes 120 possible inflight medical conditions established by expert opinion and flight data



Above top: Butterfly iQ handheld ultrasound  
Above bottom: Ultrasound 2 aboard the ISS

1	Abdominal Wall Hernia	31	Dental Fracture/Exposed Pulp	61	Gravity Well - Entry Motion Sickness	91	Small Bowel Obstruction
2	Abnormal Uterine Bleeding	32	Dental Luxation/Avulsion (Tooth Loss)	62	Gravity Well - Neurovestibular Disturbance	92	Space Adaptation - Back Pain
3	Acute Coronary Syndrome	33	Dislocation - Finger	63	Gravity Well - Orthostatic Intolerance	93	Space Adaptation - Constipation
4	Acute Radiation Syndrome	34	Dislocation - Shoulder	64	Headache	94	Space Adaptation - Epistaxis
5	Allergic Reaction (Mild To Moderate)	35	Diverticulitis, Acute	65	Headache - CO2 Induced	95	Space Adaptation - Headache
6	Altitude Sickness	36	Dust Exposure - Lunar	66	Hearing Loss	96	Space Adaptation - Insomnia
7	Anaphylaxis	37	Ebullism	67	Hearing Loss - Noise-Related	97	Space Adaptation - Nasal Congestion
8	Appendicitis	38	Epistaxis	68	Hemorrhoids	98	Space Adaptation - Space Motion Sickness
9	Arthritis, Acute	39	EVA Related Decompression Sickness	69	Herpes Zoster Reactivation (Shingles)	99	Space Adaptation - Urinary Retention
10	Atrial Fibrillation/ Atrial Flutter	40	EVA Related Dehydration	70	Mouth Ulcer	100	Space Adaptation - Urinary Incontinence
11	Barotrauma (Ear/Sinus Block)	41	EVA Related Fingernail Delamination	71	Nephrolithiasis	101	Spaceflight Associated Neuro-Ocular Syndrome (SANS)
12	Benzodiazepine or Opioid Overdose	42	EVA Related Hand Injury	72	Neuropathy - Central, Impingement Related	102	Sprain/Strain - Back
13	BHP - Adjustment Disorder	43	EVA Related Heat Illness	73	Otitis Externa	103	Sprain/Strain - Lower Extremity
14	BHP - Anxiety	44	EVA Related Paresthesia	74	Otitis Media	104	Sprain/Strain - Neck
15	BHP - Depression	45	EVA Related Shoulder Injury	75	Pancreatitis, Acute	105	Sprain/Strain - Upper Extremity
16	BHP - Grief Reaction	46	EVA Related Suit Contact Injury	76	Pregnancy, First Trimester	106	Streptococcal Pharyngitis
17	BHP - Psychosis Secondary To Depression	47	Eye - Retinal Injury	77	Pregnancy, Risk For	107	Sudden Cardiac Arrest
18	BHP - Sleep Disturbance	48	Eye Foreign Body	78	Prostatitis, Acute	108	Tendinopathy/Enthesopathy/Bursitis/Over-Use Injuries - Lower Extremity
19	BHP - Spaceflight Related Relationship Problems	49	Eye Irritation/Corneal Abrasion/Ulceration	79	Rash, Spaceflight Associated	109	Tendinopathy/Enthesopathy/Bursitis/Over-Use Injuries - Upper Extremity
20	Burn - Chemical Eye	50	Eyelid And Anterior Eye Infection	80	Reactive Airway	110	Toxic Dermal Exposure
21	Burn - Chemical Skin	51	Fracture - Arm	81	Respiratory Failure	111	Toxic Inhalation Exposure
22	Burn - Mild, Thermal	52	Fracture - Cervical Spine	82	Respiratory Tract Infection - Lower	112	Toxic Inhalation Exposure - Combustion Products
23	Burn - Moderate To Severe, Thermal	53	Fracture - Distal Leg	83	Respiratory Tract Infection - Upper	113	Trauma - Abdominal Injury (Blunt)
24	Cerebrovascular Accident	54	Fracture - Femur	84	Seizures	114	Trauma - Chest Injury (Blunt)
25	Cerumen Impaction	55	Fracture - Hand	85	Sepsis	115	Trauma - Minor Head
26	Choking/Obstructed Airway	56	Fracture - Wrist	86	Shock - Cardiogenic	116	Trauma - Severe Head
27	Cholelithiasis/Biliary Colic, Acute	57	Fracture- Thoracic/Lumbar Spine	87	Skin Abrasion	117	Traumatic Hypovolemic Shock
28	Dental Abscess	58	Gastritis/Reflux/Esophagitis	88	Skin Infection - Bacterial	118	Urinary Tract Infection
29	Dental Crown Loss	59	Gastroenteritis/Acute Diarrhea	89	Skin Infection - Viral/Fungal	119	Vaginal Yeast Infection
30	Dental Filling Loss	60	Glaucoma, Acute Angle-Closure	90	Skin Laceration	120	Venous Thromboembolism



## *Goal*

→ To evaluate the clinical utility of ultrasound (US) and radiography (XR) for the diagnosis and management of each of the ICL conditions

## *Purpose*

→ To identify the conditions for which XR adds value and thereby define the needed capabilities of an inflight portable XR system



# *Methods*

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- **All scoring was recorded with evidence tracing and evidence level scoring**

# *Methods*

- Utility was rated on a semi-quantitative scale from 0 to 2.
- 0: No or negligible utility
- 1: Some utility but not a necessity or low sensitivity/specificity; not routinely utilized in terrestrial practice
- 2: Necessary or terrestrial standard of care for diagnosis or management

# Methods

- For each utility score, evidence supporting that score was rated on an alphabetical scale, approximately corresponding to the USPSTF evidence levels:
  - **A High:** Endorsement by professional society guidelines OR Evidence from a systematic review or meta-analysis of all relevant randomized controlled trials
  - **B Moderate:** Evidence from evidence summaries or guidelines developed from systematic reviews of non-randomized studies
  - **C Low-Moderate:** Evidence from meta-syntheses of a group of descriptive or qualitative studies, evidence summaries of individual studies, one properly designed randomized controlled trial
  - **D Low:** Evidence from nonrandomized controlled clinical trials, nonrandomized clinical trials, cohort studies, case series, case reports, and individual qualitative studies OR Expert opinion without evidence level above
  - **X Reviewer experience:** Experience of SMEs, including the authors'



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- Ultrasound operator skill is assumed to be high enough to replicate literature.
- Utility score has no bearing on MEDPRAT ability/inability to treat

## *Process Example:*

# Diagnosis: Cholelithiasis/biliary colic, acute

- Condition: Cholelithiasis/biliary colic, acute
  - Best case: A course of uncomplicated biliary colic which resolves spontaneously or causes minimal disturbance requiring only symptomatic pain management.
  - Worst case: Acute cholecystitis with likely complications requiring significant pain management, antibiotic administration, and likely definitive surgical management.
- Translation of condition to symptom/complaint:
  - Acute atraumatic abdominal pain, acute atraumatic epigastric abdominal pain
- Evaluation of ACR and ACEP guidelines for matches:
  - Exact Match, "Right upper quadrant pain. Suspected biliary disease. Initial imaging."
  - Exact Match, "Acute nonlocalized abdominal pain. Not otherwise specified. Initial imaging."
- Rate on 0-2 scale based on ACR guidelines of "usually appropriate", "may be appropriate", and "usually not appropriate", using highest score from any match:
  - "US abdomen: Usually appropriate" → US utility score of 2 for diagnosis
  - "Radiography abdomen: May be appropriate" → XR utility score of 1 for diagnosis
- Determine via two independent assessments if any unique or complementary capabilities exist:
  - YES, both modalities: US for superior gallbladder evaluation, XR for bowel gas pattern, overall stool burden, bowel obstruction, etc.

## *Process Example:*

### Management: Cholelithiasis/biliary colic, acute

- Condition: Cholelithiasis/biliary colic, acute
  - Best and worst cases unchanged
  - Symptom/complaint unchanged
- Identification of management options for condition or explicitly stated complication of condition
  - “...likely definitive surgical management” → Potential use of percutaneous cholecystostomy
- Rate both imaging modalities for their use in the identified intervention on a 0-2 scale based on “No or negligible utility”, “Some utility and/or not necessary”, and “Necessary OR terrestrial standard of care OR high quality evidence supporting utility”
  - US: Necessary for cholecystostomy tube placement (in absence of CT) → 2
  - XR: Brief fluoroscopy/serial radiograph as adjunct is terrestrial standard of care to confirm placement (though not necessary) → 2
- Assess for unique capabilities
  - Yes, both. US required for placement. XR allows for potential cholecystogram.

# *Process Example:*

## Diagnosis: Fracture - Femur

- Condition: Fracture - Femur
  - Best case: A closed, non-comminuted, non-segmented, non-displaced, or minimally displaced fracture resulting in no neurovascular compromise to the affected limb.
  - Worst case: A fracture that is: open, comminuted, segmented, moderately to severely displaced, intra-articular, or results in neurovascular compromise to the affected limb, likely requiring surgical intervention.
- Translation of condition to symptom/complaint:
  - Acute injury to thigh
- Evaluation of ACR guidelines for matches:
  - ACR Exact Match, "Acute hip pain. Fall or minor trauma. Suspect fracture. Initial imaging."
- Rate on 0-2 scale based on the ACR guidelines of "usually appropriate", "may be appropriate", and "usually not appropriate":
  - ACR: "US hip: Usually not appropriate" → US utility score of 0 for diagnosis
  - ACR: "Radiograph: Usually appropriate" → XR utility score of 2 for diagnosis
- Rapid systematic review for US utility given score of 0 or 1:
  - Identification of observational studies demonstrating efficacy, increase score to 2 but assign D as evidence level (A evidence level if ACR guideline)
- Determine via two independent assessments if any unique or complementary capabilities exist:
  - Yes, US. US: can evaluate directly for vascular, ligament or tendon injury.



# *Process Example:* Management: Femur fracture

- Condition: Fracture - Femur
  - Best and worst cases unchanged
  - Symptom/complaint unchanged
- Identification of management options for condition or explicitly stated complication of condition
  - “...open, comminuted, segmented, moderately to severely displaced, intra-articular, or results in neurovascular compromise to the affected limb, likely requiring surgical intervention.” → Potential need for reduction and fixation
- Rate both imaging modalities for their use in the identified intervention on a 0-2 scale based on “No or negligible utility”, “Some utility and/or not necessary”, and “Necessary OR terrestrial standard of care OR high quality evidence supporting utility”
  - XR: Brief fluoroscopy/radiograph is terrestrial standard of care to confirm satisfactory alignment post-reduction → 2
  - US: Not routine clinical practice, raters unsure of score.
- Rapid systematic review for US for post-reduction alignment
  - Identification of observational studies for other long bones post-reduction showing some efficacy → 1
- Assess for unique capabilities
  - None for postreduction alignment assessment

# Results

Phase of care	Utility score: US > XR	Utility score: XR > US	Utility score: XR = US	XR provides unique, complementary capabilities but possesses </= utility score
<b>Diagnosis</b> # of conditions, % of total	<b>16</b> <b>(13%)</b>	<b>14</b> <b>(12%)</b>	<b>27</b> <b>(23%)</b>	<b>12</b> <b>(10%)</b>
<b>Management</b> # of conditions, % of total	<b>7</b> <b>(6%)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(10%)</b>	<b>18</b> <b>(15%)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(8%)</b>

# Results – XR for Diagnosis

## → XR surpasses ultrasound

- Arthritis, acute
- Choking/obstructed airway
- Dental abscess
- Dental crown loss
- Dental filling loss
- Dental fracture/exposed pulp
- Dental luxation/avulsion (tooth loss)
- Dust exposure – Lunar
- Fracture – Cervical spine
- Fracture – Thoracic/lumbar spine
- Gastritis/reflux/esophagitis
- Neuropathy – Central, impingement related
- Toxic inhalation exposure
- Toxic inhalation exposure – combustion products

## → XR equal to or less than US but unique/complementary capabilities

- Abdominal wall hernia
- Acute coronary syndrome
- Appendicitis
- Atrial fibrillation/atrial flutter
- Cholelithiasis/biliary colic, acute
- Diverticulitis, acute
- Ebullism
- Eye foreign body
- Nephrolithiasis
- Trauma – abdominal injury (blunt)
- Trauma – chest injury (blunt)
- Traumatic hypovolemic shock

# Results – XR for Management

→ XR surpasses ultrasound

→ Choking/obstructed airway

→ Ebullism

→ EVA related decompression sickness

→ Fracture – cervical spine

→ Fracture – distal leg

→ Fracture – femur

→ Fracture – hand

→ Fracture – wrist

→ Fracture - thoracic/lumbar spine

→ Trauma – chest injury (blunt)

→ XR equal to or less than US but unique capabilities

→ Appendicitis

→ Cholelithiasis

→ Diverticulitis, acute

→ Nephrolithiasis

→ Reactive airway (now removed from list)

→ Seizures

→ Cardiogenic shock

→ Sudden cardiac arrest

→ Trauma - chest injury (blunt)

→ Traumatic hypovolemic shock

# Discussion

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- Radiography would provide complementary or superior imaging capabilities relative to US for diagnosis of 22% of ICL conditions and for management in 16%
- Dental disease, musculoskeletal trauma, inhalational injury/exposure comprise majority, though XR also provides auxiliary capabilities with respect to the acute abdomen and its interventions as well as medical device placement
- Presence of IV/enteric contrast material (e.g. Omnipaque) uniquely extends the utility of XR for conditions as gastritis/reflux



Above top: Handheld radiography system  
Above bottom: Portable radiography equipment in parabolic flight

# Next Steps

- Shift from qualitative to quantitative assessment to allow for possible eventual incorporation into MEDPRAT
  - How much risk would XR buy down? And at what mass/volume/power penalty?
  - First step is including incidence data for each condition
- Concretely define which capabilities are needed to maximize XR utility
  - What kVp, mA, detector size are needed to image our conditions of concern?
- Expanded XR capabilities
  - Can we get a high enough frame rate for basic fluoroscopy? If we rotate patient, can we develop limited cone beam CT capability?



# *Thank you for your time and attention!*

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