

## Musculoskeletal imaging

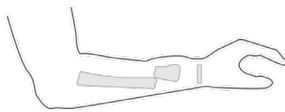
# APPLYING POINT-OF-CARE ULTRASOUND TO MUSCULOSKELETAL STRUCTURES

Evaluation of soft tissue for abscess or cellulitis is a core point-of-care ultrasound application.

Musculoskeletal (MSK) complaints represent up to 25% of acute care complaints, but MSK topics typically represent a disproportionately small amount of medical training.

Point-of-care ultrasound can improve the accuracy of physical diagnosis and expedite patient care.

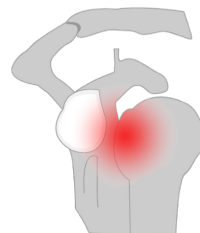
Common applications include assessment for



Fractures



Tendon injury



Dislocations



Effusions

### Benefits

MSK ultrasound can help reduce unnecessary radiation, direct the need for further testing, and guide procedures or the need for immobilization.

### Caveats

1. Image in multiple planes.
2. Scan the area of maximal pain.
3. Compare to the unaffected side.
4. Approach the scan with a specific diagnosis in mind.
5. Recognize that MSK ultrasound is more specific than sensitive.
6. Obtain complementary imaging if needed.