

Musculoskeletal imaging

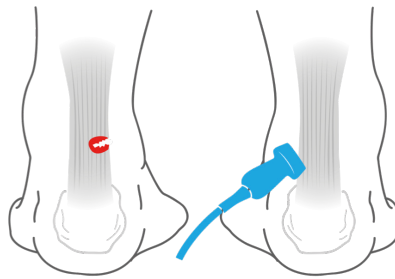
IDENTIFYING TENDON INJURIES

Why use ultrasound for tendon injuries?

Ultrasound identification of a tendon injury increases the specificity of a clinical diagnosis, provides patients with a visual depiction of their injury, and may reduce unnecessary radiographs.

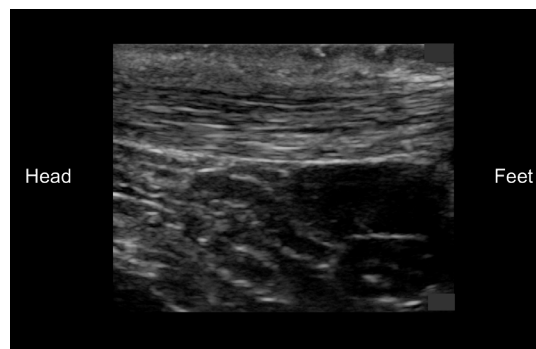
Technique

Use a high frequency linear transducer. Examine the site of pain in long- and short-axis, and in comparison to the unaffected side.



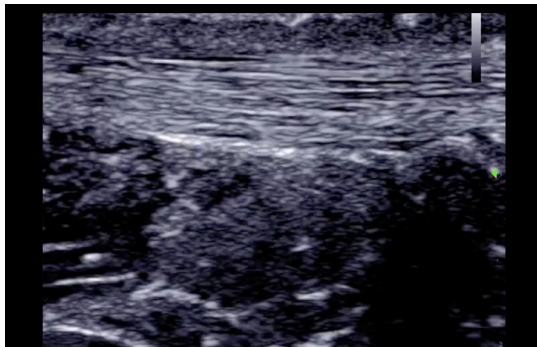
Anatomy

Normal tendons have an organized fibrillar pattern. Movement of the tendon can be visualized to evaluate for tendon integrity.

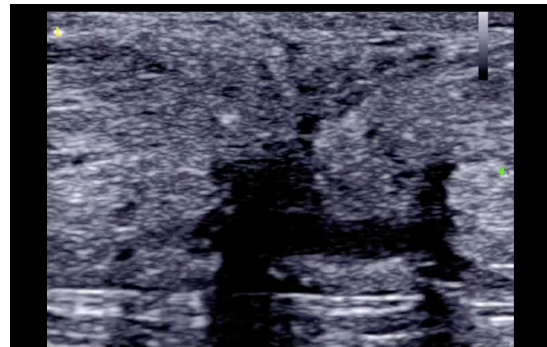


Tendon injury

Complete disruption of a tendon produces a disruption of the fibrillar pattern. Hypoechoic material represents blood or edema. Tendon rupture can be complete or partial.



Unaffected



Affected

Tendonitis is common and can be seen on ultrasound as fluid surrounding the tendon. Ultrasound cannot be used to distinguish the etiology of the tendonitis.

