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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Pars Interarticularis Injury in Elite Athletes – The Role of Imaging in Diagnosis and Management

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Highlights:

- Adolescents/ young adult athletes are particularly vulnerable to pars injuries due to their immature/ developing skeleton.
- Pars injuries are especially prevalent in certain sports including tennis and cricket, and can result in significant away-from-play time and even early retirement from sports.
- Medical imaging in particular MRI and SPECT-CT plays a pivotal role by providing early diagnosis and accurate staging, and consequently allowing optimal and tailored management/ rehabilitation.
- A number of special considerations should be taken into account when choosing the most appropriate imaging pathway, including radiation dose, type of sports and its associated risk of pars injury/ recurrence, clinical/ professional context and stake (e.g competition schedule, stage of sports season, previous injuries).
- We propose a management-centred, risk/context/stake-stratified imaging algorithm to serves as a guide for imaging pars injury in the young elite athletes.

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