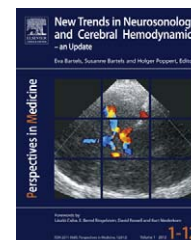




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# An overview of musculoskeletal ultrasound – A thirteen years experience in Pakistan

Syed Amir Gilani\*

Department of Radiological Sciences and Medical Imaging (AISMI), The University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan

## KEYWORDS

Ultrasound;  
Musculoskeletal;  
Shoulder;  
Elbow;  
Wrist;  
Hand;  
Hip;  
Knee;  
Ankle;  
Foot;  
Back;  
Lumbosacral region;  
Calf;  
Thigh

## Summary

**Objective:** (1) To provide an overview on 13 years experience on patients with musculoskeletal disorders in Pakistan. (2) To assess accuracy of ultrasound in musculoskeletal disorders. (3) To determine percentage of different regional pathologies referred for musculoskeletal ultrasound.

**Material and methods:** We scanned 25,437 patients coming from all over Pakistan including 18,715 males and 6722 females from 1 month to 85 years of age.

We used two ultrasound equipments with a multi-frequency (6–14 MHz) linear probe to perform studies in patients with possible musculoskeletal system problems.

**Results:** All patients with different joint or specific problems of musculoskeletal system were scanned, the total number of patients of any specific disorder was calculated and the accuracy of ultrasound was compared with MRI in a given percentage of patients.

**Discussion:** In all musculoskeletal disorders ultrasound was found to be accurate in about 84.8%. It was 83.5% accurate in the cases which went for MRI, its accuracy with other lab tests was 81.2% and that with surgery was 93.3%.

**Conclusion:** Musculoskeletal ultrasound is a very useful tool in almost all disorders of musculoskeletal system and shall be a necessary tool of a physicians, specially a family physician, orthopedic surgeon, physiotherapist and rheumatologist.

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## Introduction

Musculoskeletal ultrasound has been used widely in many radiology services around the world. The use of this tool in the clinician setting is recent. We present our experience of 13 years in musculoskeletal ultrasound. We scanned about 25,437 patients, whereby most of them

complained about different musculoskeletal acute and chronic problems.

## Objective

- (1) To provide an overview on 13 years experience on patients with musculoskeletal disorders in outdoor clinic of our department, Lahore, Pakistan.
- (2) To assess accuracy of ultrasound in musculoskeletal disorders.
- (3) To determine the percentage of different regional pathologies referred for musculoskeletal ultrasound.

\* Tel.: +92 300 8460876; fax: +92 423 7521118.  
E-mail address: [profgilani@gmail.com](mailto:profgilani@gmail.com)

## Material and methods

We scanned 25,437 symptomatic patients coming from all over Pakistan including 18,715 males and 6722 females from 1 month to 85 years of age.

We used two ultrasound equipments with a multi-frequency (6–14 MHz) linear probe to perform studies in

patients with possible musculoskeletal system problems. Age, gender, previous diagnosis and morbidity were registered.

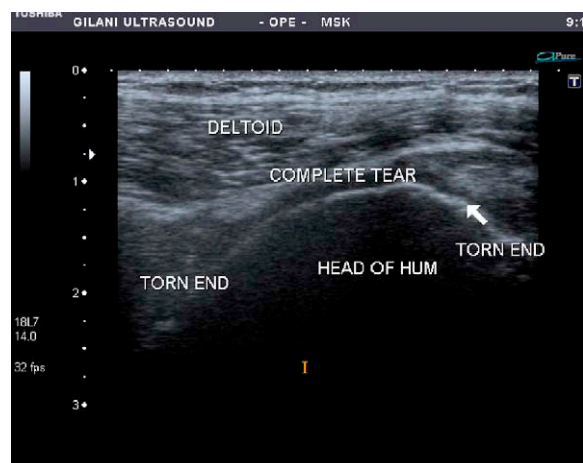


Figure 1 Complete tear of M. supraspinatus.

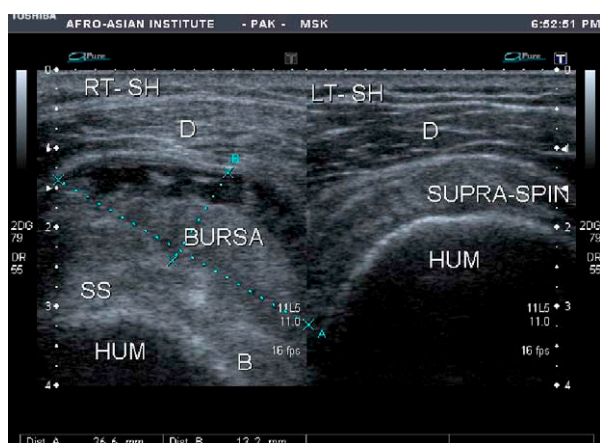


Figure 2 Right shoulder in chronic SASD-bursitis.

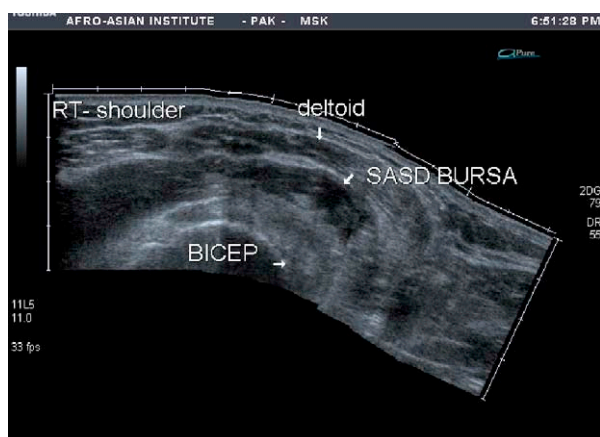


Figure 3 Panoramic view of right SASD bursitis.

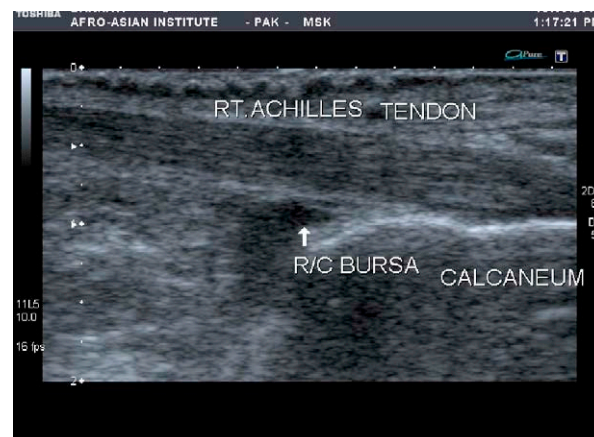


Figure 4 Right retrocalcaneal bursitis.

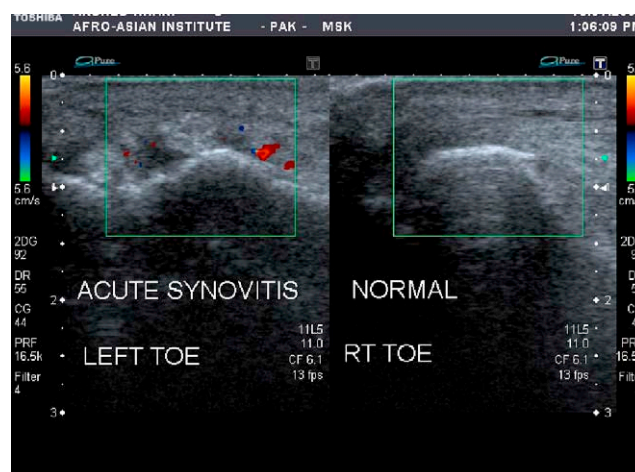


Figure 5 Left toe acute synovitis-Rheumatoid arthritis.

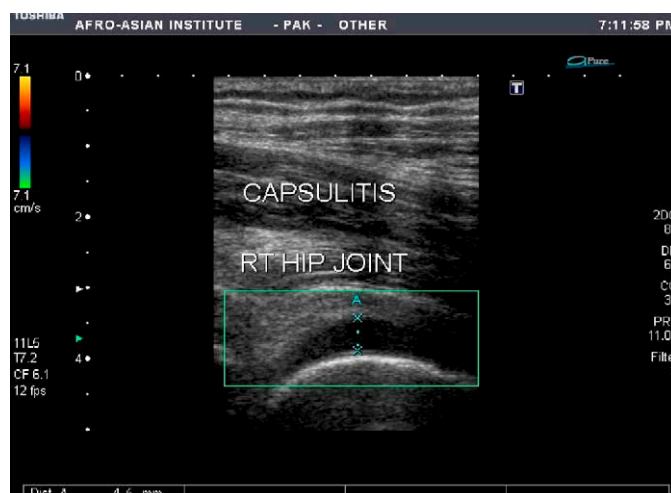


Figure 6 Right hip joint showing acute capsulitis.

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