MUSCULOSKELETAL

The Lisbon Agreement on femoroacetabular impingement imaging—part 2: general issues, parameters, and reporting

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Abstract

Objectives Imaging assessment for the clinical management of femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) is controversial because of a paucity of evidence-based guidance and notable variability among practitioners. Hence, expert consensus is needed because standardised imaging assessment is critical for clinical practice and research. We aimed to establish expert-based statements on FAI imaging by using formal methods of consensus building.

Methods The Delphi method was used to formally derive consensus among 30 panel members from 13 countries. Forty-four questions were agreed upon, and relevant seminal literature was circulated and classified in major topics to produce answering statements. The level of evidence was noted for all statements, and panel members were asked to score their level of agreement (0–10). This is the second part of a three-part consensus series and focuses on 'General issues' and 'Parameters and reporting'. Results Forty-seven statements were generated and group consensus was reached for 45. Twenty-five statements pertaining to 'General issues' (9 addressing diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and postoperative imaging) and 'Parameters and reporting' (16 addressing femoral/acetabular parameters) were produced.

Conclusions The available evidence was reviewed critically, recommended criteria for diagnostic imaging highlighted, and the roles/values of different imaging parameters assessed. Radiographic evaluation (AP pelvis and a Dunn 45° view) is the cornerstone of hip-imaging assessment and the minimum imaging study that should be performed when evaluating adult patients for FAI. In most cases, cross-sectional imaging is warranted because MRI is the 'gold standard' imaging modality for the comprehensive evaluation, differential diagnosis assessment, and FAI surgical planning.

Key Points

- Diagnostic imaging for FAI is not standardised due to scarce evidence-based guidance on which imaging modalities and diagnostic criteria/parameters should be used.
- Radiographic evaluation is the cornerstone of hip assessment and the minimum study that should be performed when assessing suspected FAI. Cross-sectional imaging is justified in most cases because MRI is the 'gold standard' modality for comprehensive FAI evaluation.
- For acetabular morphology, coverage (Wiberg's angle and acetabular index) and version (crossover, posterior wall, and ischial spine signs) should be assessed routinely. On the femoral side, the head–neck junction morphology (α° and offset), neck morphology (NSA), and torsion should be assessed.

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Introduction

Femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) is a motion-related clinical syndrome characterised by a triad of hip/groin pain, signs of limited motion, and typical imaging findings $[1-3]$ $[1-3]$ $[1-3]$. It results from a conflicting contact between the proximal femur and the acetabular rim [\[1](#page-13-0), [4](#page-14-0)]. The recurring mechanical loading is suggested to contribute to acetabular labral and chondrolabral pathology, pain, and functional impairment and can, ultimately, lead to premature osteoarthritis of the hip [\[5\]](#page-14-0). However, it is imperative to understand that FAI is a dynamic phenomenon and not a static imaging diagnosis. Characteristic osseous morphologies (Cam/Pincer) are necessary to diagnose FAI [\[3\]](#page-14-0), but many individuals with these morphologies are asymptomatic [\[4,](#page-14-0) [6\]](#page-14-0), which warrants caution when interpreting imaging studies [\[7\]](#page-14-0).

Hip pain and FAI remain disputed regarding incidence, diagnosis, prognosis, and management [[2](#page-14-0)–[4\]](#page-14-0). There is no consensus on how to define or classify hip disease although several research groups have put forth guidelines to better define FAI and to facilitate diagnosis and treatment [\[2,](#page-14-0) [3\]](#page-14-0).

Imaging is a pivotal part of the diagnostic workup for FAI. The ultimate goals of imaging are diagnosing hip morphology, detecting osteoarthritis signs, appreciating associated softtissue damage, and considering differential diagnoses [\[3](#page-14-0), [8](#page-14-0), [9\]](#page-14-0). Accordingly, different imaging methods, along with a multitude of imaging parameters [\[8](#page-14-0), [10](#page-14-0)], are used in clinical practice. Preceding research has supported the significance of radiographs on the initial assessment of FAI and recommended the use of cross-sectional imaging to further assess hip morphology and chondrolabral lesions [\[3](#page-14-0), [8](#page-14-0), [11](#page-14-0)].

With regard to imaging parameters, the alpha angle (α°) and femoral torsion (FT), two of the most commonly cited quantitative parameters of the femur [\[12\]](#page-14-0), are controversial mainly owing to their proposed thresholds and methods of assessment [\[10,](#page-14-0) [13,](#page-14-0) [14\]](#page-14-0). On the acetabular side, evaluating version and coverage on radiographs has been reported to have limited reliability [\[15](#page-14-0)–[17\]](#page-14-0), with potential repercussions on patient care. Given the multitude of signs and evolving concepts used in hip-preservation imaging, choosing which imaging parameters and criteria to use can be challenging.

There is a lack of current best evidence on the diagnostic imaging pathway for FAI, partly due to the heterogeneity in the definition of hip-related pain and also due to no consensus among experts on which imaging modalities, diagnostic criteria, and parameters should be assessed routinely [[8](#page-14-0), [18](#page-14-0)]. The aim of this Delphi-based consensus is to establish evidence-based statements using formal methods of consensus building among an expert group. The current work, which belongs to a three-part series, presents recommendations on the imaging diagnosis, parameters, differential diagnosis, and postoperative imaging of FAI.

Methods

Institutional Review Board approval was not required as patients are not involved. This consensus is a part of a collaborative project aimed at establishing expert-based statements on FAI imaging. Following the first overview paper [\[19\]](#page-14-0) (The Lisbon Agreement on femoroacetabular impingement imaging. Part 1: overview by Mascarenhas et al, published in European Radiology), two additional detailed manuscripts address and discuss all produced statements (Part 2 and Part 3). This manuscript corresponds to Part 2 of the consensus, focusing on 'General issues, parameters, and reporting'.

Given the paucity of high-level evidence for assessment of FAI-related imaging, clinical consensus is lacking. Accordingly, collecting experts' opinions using formal methods of consensus development, such as the Delphi method, is an acceptable way of creating practice recommendations [[20](#page-14-0), [21\]](#page-14-0). This method involves a sequence of discussion rounds to determine experts' opinions on controversial topics, drafted on the basis of the existing literature to produce a final consensus agreement. Full details of the Delphi method, including (1) participants, (2) consensus method, (3) literature review and scoring evidence levels set by the Oxford Centre for Evidence-based Medicine [\[22](#page-14-0)], (4) drafting of statements, (5) final scoring and data analyses, and (6) paper drafting, are reported as Supplementary Material.

Results and discussion

Delphi process

Thirty panellists (21 musculoskeletal radiologists and 9 orthopaedic surgeons) comprised this consensus initiative. Nineteen (90.4%) of the radiologists had more than 10 years of experience in musculoskeletal imaging, and 18 had special dedication and/or expertise in hip imaging. All orthopaedic surgeons had more than 10 years of experience in hip-preservation surgery (HPS). Thirty, 28, 27, and 26 participants completed rounds 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively (6 orthopaedic surgeons and 20 radiologists answered the final round). The overall dropout rate was 13% (33% among orthopaedic surgeons and 5% among radiologists).

Forty-seven statements were generated and distributed among the topics 'General issues' (9 statements), 'Parameters and reporting' (16 statements), 'Radiographic assessment' (8 statements), 'Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) evaluation' (12 statements), and 'Ultrasound' (2 statements). At the end of the Delphi process, 'group consensus' was obtained for 45 statements. In the following paragraphs, we present the statements concerning Part 2, followed by a summary of the panel's discussions.

Statements and recommendations

The pathway for the imaging management and assessment of suspected FAI (Fig. [1](#page-3-0)), along with statements on the diagnosis, differential diagnoses, and postoperative imaging of FAI (Table [1\)](#page-4-0), was put forth by the panel.

1. General issues

1a. Diagnosis and imaging

Radiographs should be used as the first-line assessment of suspected FAI, because they allow an overall evaluation of the pelvis and hips, as well as exclusion of other causes of symptoms [[3,](#page-14-0) [8](#page-14-0), [23](#page-14-0)]. Conjointly, radiographs and MRI are the preferred imaging modalities used to characterise hip pathomorphology and for treatment planning [\[8](#page-14-0), [10,](#page-14-0) [23\]](#page-14-0).

For an initial diagnostic approach, standard imaging should include two radiographs: an anteroposterior (AP) view of the pelvis and a lateral view of the hip [[3](#page-14-0), [8,](#page-14-0) [10\]](#page-14-0). The shape and orientation of the acetabulum may be assessed on the AP radiograph. The morphology of the proximal femur is best assessed on the orthogonal view of the femoral neck [[3,](#page-14-0) [8,](#page-14-0) [11,](#page-14-0) [24](#page-14-0)] (Fig. [2\)](#page-5-0). Femoral head–neck (FHN) asphericity in hips with FAI is most often localised in the anterosuperior region $[6, 9, 25]$ $[6, 9, 25]$ $[6, 9, 25]$ $[6, 9, 25]$ $[6, 9, 25]$ $[6, 9, 25]$ $[6, 9, 25]$. Although not accepted unanimously, these asphericities are usually best shown with a Dunn 45° view (hips in 45° of flexion and 20° of abduction) [\[26](#page-14-0)–[28\]](#page-14-0).

FAI is a dynamic phenomenon in which a structurally predisposed hip with minimal activity may become symptomatic and, conversely, a structurally normal hip may become symptomatic only with extreme activity/range of motion [[2,](#page-14-0) [23\]](#page-14-0). Accordingly, in clinical practice, providing definite criteria to establish the diagnosis of FAI is challenging. However, in research and clinical trial settings, specific group classification using imaging criteria is important to establish homogeneous study groups. Therefore, based on published evidence and panel consensus, Pincer and Cam criteria are suggested (Table [2](#page-6-0)).

a) Cam criteria

Statement: The main imaging criterion for defining Cam morphology is an alpha angle $> 60^\circ$ at any location around the anterosuperior FHN junction. Other measurements are used to a lesser extent, such as the head–neck offset and offset ratio.

Statement: A threshold of 60° is recommended for the alpha angle because higher values are reported to be clinically more relevant. An anterior femoral offset < 8 mm may be regarded as 'abnormal'.

Since the original description of the α° [\[12](#page-14-0)], there has been much debate regarding its thresholds, though current evidence suggests that the α° should be defined according to the FHN location and sex [\[3](#page-14-0), [6](#page-14-0), [13,](#page-14-0) [25\]](#page-14-0). Based on cross-sectional studies (comparing asymptomatic individuals with Cam-type FAI patients) and on the natural course of FAI (short- and mid-term osteoarthritis progression in symptomatic hips with an α° > 60 $^{\circ}$), an α ^o threshold of 60 $^{\circ}$ may be recommended (at any location) [[6](#page-14-0), [25](#page-14-0), [29](#page-14-0), [30](#page-14-0)]. Furthermore, recent research suggests that a Cam morphology with α° measurements above 57–60° at the 1:30- to 2-o'clock position is strongly associated with symptoms.

Statement: An anteroposterior radiograph of the pelvis and a lateral view of the hip are the minimum imaging studies that should be performed when assessing patients for FAI.

Fig. 1 Pathway for the imaging management and assessment of femoroacetabular impingement (FAI). An AP pelvis radiograph and a lateral femoral neck view of the symptomatic hip should be initially performed to assess pelvis and hip morphology (namely to identify Cam or Pincer morphologies). Frequently, if exclusion of other causes of hip pain or if further assessment of hip morphology and associated

Using this threshold would optimise discriminative power while favouring specificity [\[30,](#page-14-0) [31\]](#page-14-0). Nevertheless, caution is recommended because several patients with Cam morphology have signs of impingement with an α° < 60°, whereas others above that cut-off value will remain asymptomatic [\[4](#page-14-0), [13](#page-14-0), [31](#page-14-0)]. Considering that substantial overlap exists, additional clinical and imaging variables should be investigated, such as the combination with certain anatomical factors (e.g. decreased FT, acetabular morphology, spinopelvic parameters), sex, and athletic performance [[4](#page-14-0), [31](#page-14-0), [32\]](#page-14-0). Other measurements are used to a lesser extent, such as the FHN offset (FO) and offset ratio [\[33](#page-14-0)–[36\]](#page-15-0). Only limited data exist for the anterior FO, although a value of < 8 mm has been reported as 'abnormal' [\[33,](#page-14-0) [35,](#page-15-0) [37](#page-15-0)].

b) Pincer criteria

Statement: Pincer morphology can be due to acetabular retroversion and/or overcoverage. Criteria for retroversion on imaging are a crossover sign, posterior wall sign, or ischial spine sign. Overcoverage is indicated by protrusio acetabuli, centre-edge angle of Wiberg (W-CEA) $\geq 40^{\circ}$, or acetabular index < 0°.

Imaging signs of Pincer morphology include evidence of increased acetabular coverage and of abnormal acetabular version. Caution is warranted when interpreting radiographs, because pelvic tilt and rotation are known to affect some of these parameters (particularly AP coverage and retroversion) [[38\]](#page-15-0). Although

cartilage/labral lesions is warranted, cross-sectional imaging is appropriate to thoroughly appreciate differential diagnosis. In doubtful cases, diagnostic hip injections may be necessary to confirm the hip as the source of pain. AP, antero-posterior; CT, computed tomography; MRI, magnetic resonance; MRA, magnetic resonance arthrography; OA, osteoarthritis

generally supported by the literature [\[39\]](#page-15-0), further research is needed to define more precisely the value of radiographic signs in the diagnosis of Pincer morphologies, as well as the clinical relevance of cross-sectional imaging in this setting. Based on the above-mentioned rationale and the considerations below (see 'acetabular parameters'), published evidence and panel consensus, Pincer criteria are suggested (Table [2\)](#page-6-0).

Statement: The radiologist should not state that abnormal signs and parameters are indicative of FAI in an asymptomatic patient.

Although FAI-associated morphologies may be mentioned in the radiological report, interpretation should be undertaken in conjunction with the clinical history and physical examination $[4, 6, 6]$ $[4, 6, 6]$ $[4, 6, 6]$ $[4, 6, 6]$ $[4, 6, 6]$ [40](#page-15-0)]. Similarly, deviations from currently accepted reference intervals (RefInts) in the morphological evaluation of the hip in asymptomatic individuals (or with unknown clinical status) should be handled with caution. Most imaging parameters classically related to FAI are present in a large proportion of asymptomatic individuals, suggesting that currently accepted thresholds may need to be redefined or cautiously interpreted/applied [[4](#page-14-0), [6,](#page-14-0) [25,](#page-14-0) [31\]](#page-14-0).

1b. Differential diagnosis

Statement: Potential extra-articular sources of hip pain should always be sought clinically when assessing patients with FAI; in selected cases, cross-sectional imaging is warranted.

Table 1 Statements on diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and postoperative imaging of femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) with levels of evidence (LOE). The listed levels of agreement represent the percentage of votes ≥ 8 on a 0–10 scale. All listed statements obtained group consensus. AP, anteroposterior; COS, crossover sign; CT, computed tomography; CTA, CT arthrography; FHN, femoral headneck; IQR, interquartile range; ISS, ischial spine sign; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; MRA, MR arthrography; PWS, posterior wall sign; Q1, 1st quartile; Q3, 3rd quartile; T, Tesla; W-CEA, centre-edge angle of Wiberg

*Level of evidence 5 represents expert opinion

Comprehensive imaging is crucial to assess intra- and extra-articular disease [\[31](#page-14-0)] as well as for surgical planning. Considering that several conditions can mimic and/or frequently coexist with FAI, if other potential causes of hip pain are not considered, patients may fail to improve after surgery or conservative treatment [[41](#page-15-0)–[43](#page-15-0)] (Table [3\)](#page-7-0). Diagnostic injections may prove useful to confirm the hip as the source of symptoms [[44\]](#page-15-0) (Fig. [1\)](#page-3-0).

Fig. 2 Parameters for the imaging assessment of the hip and pelvis in a patient with hip pain and suspected femoroacetabular impingement (FAI). Evaluating different features, namely (1) acetabular (coverage, version), (2) femoral (FHN junction, femoral neck-shaft angle, and femoral torsion), and (3) spinopelvic parameters (pelvic incidence,

1c. Postoperative imaging

Statement: Radiographs are the initial imaging modality for evaluating symptoms following FAI surgery. MRI, MRA, and, occasionally, CT (or CTA) should be used if the symptoms are not explained by the radiographs and/or if further anatomical information is desired.

Radiographs (AP pelvis and a lateral hip view) are obtained routinely after HPS and as follow-up imaging. They are useful for assessment of bone morphology (residual deformities and/ or bone over-resection) and to assess heterotopic ossification [\[45,](#page-15-0) [46\]](#page-15-0). In cases of persistent hip pain (i.e. 6 months after surgery), MRI or magnetic resonance arthrography (MRA) should be considered [[45](#page-15-0), [46\]](#page-15-0) to evaluate the surgical repair and to exclude complications. Unilateral high-resolution (1.5 T or 3 T) MRI or MRA should be undertaken, and their data should be compared with preoperative examinations. CT is particularly useful to evaluate the following: (i) delayed or non-union after peri-acetabular or trochanteric osteotomy; (ii) osteochondroplasty (over- or under-resection); (iii) complications such as fractures or heterotopic ossification [[46](#page-15-0)].

pelvic tilt, and sacral slope; see Supplementary Fig. 3 and Supplementary Table 8 for illustration and definitions), allows to define different pathomorphologies (bottom line). Ultimately, any combination of these morphologies may be present (4), reflecting impingement, instability, and/or microinstability. FHN, femoral head–neck

Although ultrasound is rarely used, it might be helpful to diagnose fluid collections, effusion, and deep venous thrombosis, as well as for image-guided aspiration [\[46\]](#page-15-0).

Statement: Following FAI surgery, the underlying Cam-type and/or Pincer-type morphology, as well as the potential radiographic progression of hip osteoarthritis, should be assessed appropriately.

Recommended imaging outcome measures to evaluate postoperative results are the following: (i) α° and FO for Cam correction; (ii) W-CEA, AI, and crossover sign for Pincer correction [\[47](#page-15-0)]; (iii) radiographic progression of osteoarthritis. Furthermore, clinical correlation with patient-reported outcome measures is suggested [\[3](#page-14-0)].

2. Parameters and reporting

The recommended imaging parameters of the hip/pelvis to be assessed in a patient with suspected FAI (Fig. 2) and corresponding consensus statements were put forth by the panel (Tables [4](#page-8-0) and [5\)](#page-10-0).

2a. Femoral parameters

Table 2 Criteria proposed by the panel for classifying Pincer and Cam morphology in a research/clinical trial setting (regardless of the symptomatic state), corresponding to statements on Table [1](#page-4-0) (Pincer and

Cam criteria). FHN, femoral head–neck; W-CEA, centre-edge angle of Wiberg; COS, crossover sign

*At any location around the FHN junction. Evaluation using radiography (preferably assessed by an AP pelvis and Dunn 45°) and CT or MRI (with radial imaging/reformats)

**Usually used at an anterior location around the FHN junction (3 o'clock). Evidence is scarce to support its use in other FHN locations. Evaluation using radiography (preferably assessed by a cross-table view) and CT or MRI (with radial imaging/reformats)

ǂ Corresponding to cranial retroversion in non-dysplastic hips

⁺ Evaluation of standardised AP pelvic radiographic images is required

++Confirmation of the presence of acetabular retroversion using CT or MRI may be recommended due to false positive COS in pelvic radiographs

+++Evaluation using MRI or CT (adequately centred and corrected for tilt on the coronal plane and rotation in the axial plane)

The most commonly described parameters to evaluate femoral morphology can be divided according to the main features that they assess: joint congruency, femoral head (FH) sphericity, and other important parameters, such as neck orientation in the coronal (neck-shaft angle (NSA)) and axial (torsion) planes (Fig. [3](#page-10-0) and Supplementary Table 1).

a1) Neck-shaft angle

Statement: A standardised AP radiograph of the pelvis, or CT and/or MRI in the coronal femoral neck plane should be used for measuring the neck-shaft angle.

depending on differences on the measurement methods and rotation correction used [\[48](#page-15-0)] (Supplementary Table 2) and, to a small extent, with age (values decrease with age) and sex (higher mean values have been observed in females) [\[48](#page-15-0), [49\]](#page-15-0).

CT coronal reformats of the proximal femur or coronal oblique MRI in the femoral neck plane allow a correct anatomical measurement of the NSA. In a recent series of 800 asymptomatic hips, Boese et al reported CT-based positionally corrected NSA mean values of 130° ± 5.9°. The difference between corrected/non-corrected measurements in that study was \sim 3° [\[49](#page-15-0)]. Mascarenhas et al reported a CT-based 95% RefInts of $120-141^\circ$ in 1111 asymptomatic hips [[6\]](#page-14-0).

a2) Femoral head–neck junction

Statement: The classic reference range for a 'normal' NSA derived from radiographs is $120-135^\circ$, for coxa vara is $\leq 120^\circ$, and for coxa valga is $>$ 135°. On CT, the reference NSA range is 120–140°.

Radiographs remain the clinical/research standard for evaluation of the NSA. However, a generally accepted measurement method is lacking [[48\]](#page-15-0) (Supplementary Fig. 1), because hip rotation and femoral torsion are known to influence NSA assessment. Accordingly, published RefInts vary widely **Statement:** Radial MRI or CT are the most accurate imaging modalities for assessing the femoral head–neck junction. Radiographs, although less precise, may also be used to depict Cam morphology.

Statement: The alpha angle is convenient to assess the FHN junction but has limited discriminatory power. Femoral offset is another useful parameter, but is less well established.

-Ischiofemoral impingement -Subspine impingement

Table 3 Differential diagnosis of FAI-related pain: an overview of possible causes of intra-articular and extra-articular causes of hip pain. PVNS, pigmented villonodular synovitis

Arthritis (autoimmune, reactive, or infectious) and synovial disorders (PVNS, chondromatosis)

Cam morphology corresponds to an asphericity of the FHN junction, most commonly at an anterosuperior location $(1-2)$ o'clock on the clock face), and is usually assessed by measuring the α° [[3](#page-14-0), [12\]](#page-14-0). Importantly, Cam morphology has been detected in all populations, although few scholars have used the same case definitions, whereas others have used different definitions for males/ females [[4,](#page-14-0) [8\]](#page-14-0), employed various imaging modalities, or measured the α° at different FHN positions [[4,](#page-14-0) [6,](#page-14-0) [13,](#page-14-0) [30\]](#page-14-0) (see also Cam criteria above).

The α° and FO describe different features of the FHN junction. The α° reflects the proximal aspect of the asphericity, whereas the FO describes the width of the femoral neck relative to the FH [\[8](#page-14-0), [10,](#page-14-0) [35,](#page-15-0) [50](#page-15-0)] (Fig. [4](#page-11-0) and Supplementary Fig. 2). Although these parameters are useful to quantify the morphology of the FHN junction, caution is warranted when using them in routine clinical practice. The α° is controversial due to its moderate reproducibility, moderate discriminative ability, and lack of conclusive data on 'ideal' threshold values [\[8,](#page-14-0) [18,](#page-14-0) [31\]](#page-14-0) (Supplementary Tables 3 and 4).

a3) Femoral torsion

Statement: CT or MRI are the recommended imaging modalities for measurement of femoral torsion.

Deep gluteal syndrome Tumours and pseudotumours of the hip and pelvis

CT and MRI are the most commonly used modalities to assess FT, because they are validated and, in general, considered to provide accurate and reliable measurements [[51](#page-15-0), [52\]](#page-15-0). MRI may be preferred to avoid radiation exposure. Biplanar radiographs with three-dimensional (3D) modelling are an alternative to cross-sectional imaging and provide comparable results to those obtained with CT/MRI [\[53](#page-15-0), [54](#page-15-0)]. Analysis of 3D datasets holds promise to become a more accurate method of FT quantification [\[55\]](#page-15-0).

Statement: Several methods of measurement of femoral torsion have been reported, resulting in different reference intervals. There is insufficient evidence to support a single method over the others.

The methods for assessing FT differ mainly in the definition of the centre of the neck and proximal femoral axis, which yields different values [[52,](#page-15-0) [56](#page-15-0), [57](#page-15-0)]. The method described by Murphy et al has been reported to be more accurate compared to true anatomic femoral torsion although no method can be

Table 4 Statements on imaging parameters used in the assessment of femoroacetabular impingement (FAI) with evidence levels. The listed levels of agreement represent the percentage of votes ≥ 8 on a 0–10 scale. All listed statements obtained group consensus. AP, anteroposterior; CEA, centre-edge angle; CT, computed tomography; FHN, femoral head–neck; IQR, interquartile range; LOE, level of evidence; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; NSA, neck-shaft angle; $Q1$, 1st quartile; $Q3$, 3rd quartile; T, tesla; W-CEA, centre-edge angle of Wiberg

Table 4 (continued)

recommended over another [\[58](#page-15-0)]. It is imperative to use the same method consistently if results are to be comparable (Fig. [5](#page-12-0)).

Statement: The normal femoral antetorsion in adults should be $\sim 13^{\circ}$ with a standard deviation of \sim 10° using the method of Reikeras et al (1983)

The reported RefInts of FT vary significantly. A multitude of reasons may explain such variation, but the measurement method employed accounts largely for the discrepant values. In a study comparing different measurement methods, mean values ranged from 11.4 ± 7.4 to $22.4 \pm 6.8^{\circ}$ [[56\]](#page-15-0). Thus, distinct RefInts should be considered according to the method used. Sutter et al reported a mean value of 12.8 ± 10.1 ° in asymptomatic adults using MRI based on the method of Reikeras and colleagues [\[51](#page-15-0)]. Other authors have obtained similar results using an equivalent methodology (Supplementary Table 5).

2b. Acetabular parameters

Overall, the most commonly described parameters to assess acetabular morphology can be divided according to the main features that they measure: depth, coverage, or orientation (Fig. [6](#page-13-0) and Supplementary Table 6).

b1) Coverage

Statement: An AP radiograph of the pelvis should be the first-line modality for assessing acetabular coverage.

Statement: The centre-edge angle of Wiberg and the acetabular index should be assessed routinely in the evaluation of acetabular coverage.

An AP radiograph of the pelvis should be the initial examination for assessing acetabular coverage. However, cross-sectional imaging may also be used because it provides similar measurements for most parameters [[59,](#page-15-0) [60](#page-15-0)]. Conflicting reports exist regarding the effect of pelvic positioning on radiographic parameters Table 5 Overview of most relevant femoral and acetabular parameters, notes, and recommendations for research and clinical practice (refer to text for details). COS, crossover sign; CT, computed tomography; FHN, femoral head–neck junction; L-CEA, lateral centre-edge angle; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; W-CEA, centre-edge angle of Wiberg

of coverage, although tilt and rotation seem to mainly influence the radiographic signs of acetabular retroversion [\[38,](#page-15-0) [61\]](#page-15-0).

The centre-edge angle of Wiberg (W-CEA) and acetabular index (AI) are the most often used parameters of superior– lateral coverage [\[62,](#page-15-0) [63\]](#page-15-0). Anterior and posterior acetabular coverage may be quantified using anterior wall and posterior wall indices [[64\]](#page-15-0). Other parameters, such as the anterior centre-edge angle, extrusion index, or Sharp angle, are used less frequently [\[6](#page-14-0), [25,](#page-14-0) [65\]](#page-16-0). Protrusio acetabuli should always be noted because it is a clinically relevant condition [\[47\]](#page-15-0).

Fig. 3 Imaging parameters to describe femoral morphology. See Supplementary Table 1 for definitions. a Offset and offset ratio, (b) osseous convexity of the femoral head neck junction, (c) alpha angle and omega angle, and (d) neck-shaft angle or centrum collum diaphyseal (CCD) angle. S, superior; a, anterior

Fig. 4 a Right hip cross-table lateral view. To calculate the offset, three parallel lines are drawn: the first line passes through the centre of the long axis of the femoral neck; the second line, through the anterior aspect of the femoral neck; and the third line, through the anterior aspect of the femoral head. The head–neck offset is calculated by measuring the distance between the second and third lines. b Alpha angle measurement in a right hip MRI arthrogram, according to method 1 originally described by Nötzli in an arthro-MRI examination (also known as the '3-point method'): place a circle adjusted over the contour of the femoral head (dotted blue circle). The femoral neck axis (FNA) is defined as a line passing through the femoral head centre (FHC) and the centre of the neck (FNC) at its narrowest point (i.e. place a circle [not shown] with its corresponding diameter [dotted blue line] at the shortest possible distance between the anterior [ventral] and posterior [dorsal] outline of the femoral neck). Next, a line is drawn connecting the centre of these two circles. Then, a line is drawn connecting the FHC to the point where the contour of the femoral head or head–neck junction first exited the femoral head circle. The alpha angle is the angle formed by these two lines. A, anterior; P, posterior; M, medial; L, lateral

Coxa profunda should not be used to define acetabular overcoverage [[66\]](#page-16-0).

Statement: The centre-edge angle (CEA) on AP radiographs of the pelvis is measured using the centre of the femoral head and two distinct landmarks at the lateral acetabular roof: the outer edge of the acetabular sourcil, or the most lateral aspect of the bony acetabulum. The CEA values obtained using these two landmarks often are not identical and represent different areas of coverage in the 3D geometry of the acetabulum.

On an AP radiograph of the pelvis, two types of CEA should be distinguished and stated clearly: the sourcil-edge CEA (W-CEA), which represents anterosuperior coverage,

and the bone-edge or lateral CEA (L-CEA), which represents superolateral coverage [\[63,](#page-15-0) [67](#page-16-0)] (Fig. [6g\)](#page-13-0). They are both useful and complementary for assessing acetabular coverage.

Statement: For the CEA of Wiberg, the classical radiographic-based reference intervals are $\leq 20^{\circ}$ for undercoverage, 20–25° for borderline undercoverage, 25–39° for normal coverage, and $\geq 40^{\circ}$ for overcoverage. An acetabular index of $\leq 0^{\circ}$ on an AP radiograph of the pelvis is classically accepted as overcoverage, whereas a value $> 13^{\circ}$ represents undercoverage.

The cut-off values for the W-CEA reported originally by Wiberg [\[68](#page-16-0)] have been considered the RefInt values and are recommended by this consensus group.

A recent large population-based study [[69](#page-16-0)] and other studies (Supplementary Table 7) reported RefInts for the W-CEA and AI, which are significantly broader compared with the classical thresholds. Interestingly, if these updated RefInts were to be used, many hips considered 'pathologic' using the classical RefInt would now be classified as 'normal'. This observation strongly suggests the need to update the thresholds used in the classification of lateral acetabular coverage based, for example, on the natural course of the disease.

Statement: There is insufficient evidence to recommend the routine reporting of posterior and anterior acetabular coverage in clinical practice, though they may be relevant in specific clinical situations, such as in specialised hip-preservation units and in research settings.

On an AP radiograph of the pelvis, anterior and posterior acetabular coverage corresponds to the overlap of the anterior and posterior acetabular walls with the FH. It may be quantified by the percentage of the FH covered by each wall [\[65](#page-16-0)] or by anterior wall/posterior wall indices [\[64\]](#page-15-0) (Supplementary Table 6).

b2) Version

Statement: An AP radiograph of the pelvis should be used for the initial assessment of acetabular version. However, CT or MRI should be considered if clinical and radiographic evaluations are suggestive of acetabular malversion.

Statement: On an AP radiograph of the pelvis, the crossover sign should be assessed routinely. The posterior wall sign and the ischial spine sign should also be assessed.

Statement: An isolated positive crossover sign is an indication of focal cranial retroversion, whereas a positive crossover sign combined with a posterior wall sign and ischial spine sign is an indication of global retroversion.

Fig. 5 Assessment of femoral torsion on cross-sectional imaging (selected methods represented; not comprehensive). On consecutive strict axial images over the proximal femur, determine the femoral head centre (FHC) (yellow circle and yellow line). Definition of the femoral neck axis (green line) can be obtained by several methods. Lee (red bar): A line is drawn on the first image on which the FHC can be connected with the most cephalic junction of the greater trochanter and the femoral neck; Reikeras (light-blue bar): A line connecting the FHC with the femoral neck centre is drawn on an image, where the anterior and posterior cortices run parallel to each other. Tomczak (dark-blue bar): The FHC is connected with the centre of the greater trochanter at the

with the centre of the base of the femoral neck directly superior to the lesser trochanter. Then, over the distal femur, draw a tangent to the posterior aspect of the femoral condyles (blue line; choosing the slice where the condyles are more prominent). The angle between both lines represents the femoral torsion. Although some of these reference points are located on different adjacent slices, modern workstations should allow drawing and modifying a line across multiple images in one series or, alternatively, different slices can be superimposed on a single image with the help of postprocessing software

Assessment of acetabular version with an AP radiograph of the pelvis [\[39](#page-15-0)] is paramount because surgical planning for correcting abnormal version is usually based on radiographic retroversion [[70](#page-16-0), [71](#page-16-0)]. Nevertheless, measurements of acetabular version on radiographs have been reported to be less reliable compared with those obtained using cross-sectional/ 3D imaging [\[16,](#page-14-0) [17\]](#page-14-0), which may quantify individual acetabular morphologies more accurately. Limitations in radiographic evaluation are mainly inherent to the imaging modality and pelvic tilt [\[17](#page-14-0)].

The crossover sign, posterior wall sign, and ischial spine sign (Fig. [6\)](#page-13-0) should be assessed because there is evidence that, depending on the presence of different signs and degree of acetabular retroversion, different surgical approaches may be considered. Accordingly, in contrast to cranial acetabular retroversion, patients with a global retroversion may benefit from pelvic reorientation instead of trimming of the acetabular rim [[72](#page-16-0)].

Caution is warranted because of the following: (a) these radiographic signs are commonly present among asymptomatic individuals [\[73](#page-16-0)], (b) their accuracy per se is questionable [\[17](#page-14-0), [39,](#page-15-0) [73](#page-16-0)]. Although the clinical added value of advanced imaging remains to be established, it should be considered when clinical and radiographic findings are consistent with Pincer FAI and retroversion.

Conclusions

Standardised plain radiographs, including AP pelvis and a Dunn 45° view, are the initial imaging diagnostic tools for assessment of hip pain and FAI. Thorough analyses of imaging parameters are paramount to identify osseous morphologies consistent with FAI and to exclude other structural disorders. MRI allows for further characterisation of hip

Fig. 6 Imaging parameters to describe acetabular morphology. a Coxa profunda. **b** Protrusio acetabuli. **c** Centre-edge angle (CEA). The Wiberg-CEA (WCEA) is formed between a vertical line crossing the centre of the femoral head, perpendicular to the horizontal line uniting the inferior margins of both teardrops, and a line connecting the centre of the femoral head to the lateral margin of the acetabular bone dense area (known as the acetabular sourcil). The lateral CEA (L-CEA) is formed between the vertical line described and a line connecting the centre of the femoral head to the far lateral margin of the acetabulum. d Posterior wall sign, ischial spine sign, and crossover sign. e Anterior and posterior

acetabular wall index. f Acetabular index. g The W-CEA should be distinguished from the L-CEA, as the most lateral point to consider would be the lateral end of the sourcil (W-CEA) rather than the most lateral rim of the acetabulum (L-CEA). Frequently, these two reference points might coincide. See Supplementary Table 6 for definition of the most relevant parameters. IIL, ilioischial line; AF, acetabular fossa; FH, femoral head; V, vertical; E, lateral edge of the sourcil; C, femoral head centre; I, medial edge of the sourcil; TD, tear drop; IS, ischial spine; PB, pelvic brim; PW, posterior wall; AW, anterior wall; a, neck axis

morphology and chondrolabral disease, as well as differential diagnosis evaluation.

The first Delphi-based consensus for imaging of FAI was developed. The panel critically reviewed the available evidence, imaging parameters, classification criteria, and recommended pathways for diagnostic workup. The resulting consensus can serve as a tool to reduce variability in clinical practice and guide further research for FAI management.

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Statistics and biometry Several authors have significant statistical expertise. No complex statistical methods were necessary for this paper.

Informed consent Written informed consent was not required for this study because it did not directly involve patients.

Ethical approval Institutional Review Board approval was not required because the study did not directly involve patients or any intervention.

Study subjects or cohorts overlap This is the second part of a 3-part consensus series. 'Lisbon agreement on FAI imaging-part 1: overview' has been published in ER.

Regarding the consensus, forty-seven statements were generated in total (in Part 1, we only addressed 17 of these 47 statements).

Part 2: 'The Lisbon Agreement on femoroacetabular impingement imaging—part 2: general issues, parameters, and reporting'. Twenty-five statements specifically pertaining to 'General issues' (nine addressing diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and postoperative imaging) and 'Parameters and reporting' (16 addressing femoral/acetabular parameters) were produced and developed.

Part 3: 'The Lisbon Agreement on femoroacetabular impingement imaging-part 3: imaging techniques'. Twenty-two statements specifically pertaining to "Imaging techniques" were generated and developed. Eight statements on "Radiographic assessment" and 12 statements on "MRI evaluation" gained consensus.

Methodology

• Delphi-based consensus study

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