EOS 2D/3D X-ray Imaging System

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Date completed: 16th March 2011

Source of funding: This report was commissioned by the NIHR HTA Programme on behalf of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence as project number HTA 10/67/01

Declared competing interests of the authors
None.

Acknowledgements
We would like to thank the following for providing information and advice: Mr Peter Millner, Consultant Orthopaedic and Spinal Surgeon, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Dr Paul Shrimpton, Leader of Medical Dosimetry Group, Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, Health Protection Agency, Dr Erika Denton, Consultant Radiologist, National Clinical Director for Imaging, Sally MacLachlan, Senior Clinical Officer, Medical Exposure Department, Health Protection Agency, Maxine Clarke, PACS and Radiology IT Manager, Norfolk and Norwich University Foundation Hospital Trust and Peter Howells, Head of Radiation Protection, Leeds General Infirmary.

Rita Santos and Rossella Verzulli for assistance with the analysis of the HES data, Paul Tappenden, Jim Chilcott, Helen Campbell, Nathalie Kulin and Deborah Marshall for

providing results from their cancer models and Simon Walker for advice on the modelling of the effects of radiation exposure.

We would also like to thank the following members of the DAC for additional information and advice: Dr James Rankine, Consultant Radiologist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Dr David Grier, Consultant Paediatric Radiologist, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and Professor Jeremy Fairbank, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust.

The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR HTA Programme. Any errors are the responsibility of the authors.

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1. Definition of terms and list of abbreviations

Technical terms and abbreviations are used throughout this report. The meaning is usually clear from the context, but a glossary is provided for the non-specialist reader.

Definition of terms

Absorbed dose, D

The fundamental dose quantity given by

$$D = \frac{\mathrm{d}\bar{\varepsilon}}{\mathrm{d}m}$$

where $\mathrm{d}\bar{\varepsilon}$ is the mean energy imparted to the matter of mass d*m* by ionising radiation. The unit for absorbed dose is joule per kilogram (J kg^{-1}) and its special name is gray (Gy).

Adverse effect

An abnormal or harmful effect caused by and attributable to exposure to a medication or other intervention (e.g. diagnostic X-ray), which is indicated by some result such as death, a physical symptom or visible illness. An effect may be classed as adverse if it causes functional or anatomical damage, causes irreversible change in the homeostasis of the organism, or increases the susceptibility of the organism to other chemical or biological stress.

Ankylosing spondylitis

A progressive rheumatic condition in which some or all of the joints and bones of the spine fuse together.

Atlantoaxial subluxation

A condition in which the vertebrae of the cervical spine are misaligned, usually as a result of major neck trauma. In severe cases the loosened spine may compress the spinal cord, leading to irreversible neurological damage. Atlantoaxial subluxation is also known as atlantoaxial instability.

Centigray (cGy)

Measurement unit for absorbed dose of ionising radiation (e.g. X-rays). One cGy is 0.01 of a gray, and the gray is defined as the absorption of one joule of energy from ionising radiation by one kilogram of matter, e.g. human tissue.

Cobb angle

The measurement of scoliotic curve severity, obtained from an X-ray. A measurement of less than ten degrees is regarded as normal, between ten degrees and 30 degrees is classed as mild, and anything over 60 degrees is classed as severe.

Computed radiography (CR)

A type of X-ray imaging, used to visualise internal body structures (such as bones) to diagnose and monitor disease or injury. CR uses similar equipment to conventional radiography, except that in place of a film to create the image, an imaging plate is used.

Deforming dorsopathies

Umbrella term for spinal deformity.

Digital radiography (DR)

A type of X-ray imaging, used to visualise internal body structures (such as bones) to diagnose and monitor disease or injury. DR uses a digital image capture device to record the image.

Effective dose, E

The tissue-weighted sum of the equivalent doses in all specified tissues and organs of the body, given by the expression:

$$E = \sum_{T} w_T \sum_{R} w_R D_{T,R} \quad \text{or} \quad E = \sum_{T} w_T H_T$$

where H_T or $w_R D_{T,R}$ is the equivalent dose in a tissue or organ, T, and w_T is the tissue weighting factor. The unit for the effective dose is the same as for absorbed dose, J kg^{-1}, and its special name is sievert (Sv).

Entrance surface dose (ESD)

A method of measuring radiation dose to the body. ESD can be measured using thermoluminescent dosimeters (eg calcium fluoride pellets) or Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dosimeters placed on the patients' skin.

Equivalent dose, H_T

The dose in a tissue or organ T given by:

$$H_{\mathrm{T}} = \sum_{\mathrm{R}} w_{\mathrm{R}} D_{\mathrm{T,R}}$$

where $D_{T,R}$ is the mean absorbed dose from radiation R in a tissue or organ T, and w_R is the radiation weighting factor. Since w_R is dimensionless, the unit for the equivalent dose is the same as for absorbed dose, J kg^{-1}, and its special name is sievert (Sv).

Excess lifetime risk (ELR)

A measure of radiation-associated risk. The ELR is the difference between the proportion of the exposed population who develop or die from the disease and the corresponding proportion in a similar non-exposed population.

Excess relative risk (ERR)

A measure of radiation-associated risk. The ERR is the rate of disease in the exposed population divided by the rate of disease in an unexposed population, minus 1.0.

Exposure

Exposure measures the amount of ionization produced (in coulomb) by an X-ray beam in a kilogram of air. Exposure is directly related to the strength of the radiation source, and is independent of the matter absorbing the radiation itself.

Gray (Gy)

Measurement unit for absorbed dose of ionising radiation (e.g. X-rays). A Gy is defined as the absorption of one joule of energy from ionising radiation by one kilogram of matter, e.g. human tissue.

ICD-10 codes

The ICD is the international standard diagnostic classification for clinical use and health management purposes. It is used to classify diseases and health problems recorded on many types of record, such as death certificates and medical records. ICD-10 is the latest in the series and was endorsed by the 43rd World Health Assembly in May 1990 and came into use in WHO Member States from 1994.

Kyphosis

A curving of the spine that causes rounding of the back, leading to a hunchback posture. Kyphosis can be seen with scoliosis.

Lifetime attributable risk (LAR)

A measure of radiation-associated risk. The LAR describes excess deaths or disease cases over a follow-up period with population background rates determined by the experience of unexposed individuals.

Lordosis

An excessive inward curvature of the spine, usually in the lumbar region, giving a 'swayback' appearance.

Milligray (mGy)

Measurement unit for absorbed dose of ionising radiation (e.g. X-rays). One mGy is 0.001 of a gray, and the gray is defined as the absorption of one joule of energy from ionising radiation by one kilogram of matter, e.g. human tissue.

Millisievert (mSv)

Measurement unit for equivalent dose and effective dose of ionising radiation (e.g. X-rays). One mSv is 0.001 of a sievert, and the sievert is defined as the absorption of one joule of energy from ionising radiation by one kilogram of matter, e.g. human tissue.

Neurofibromatosis

A genetic disorder affecting the nervous system and skin, causing benign tumours to grow on nerves throughout the body.

Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY)

An index of health gain where survival duration is weighted or adjusted by the patient's quality of life during the survival period. QALYs have the advantage of incorporating changes in both quantity (mortality) and quality (morbidity) of life.

Quality of Life

A concept incorporating all the factors that might impact on an individual's life, including factors such as the absence of disease or infirmity as well as other factors which might affect their physical, mental and social well-being.

Scheuermann's disease

Adolescent kyphosis, caused by the wedging together of several vertebrae in a row.

Scoliosis

A 3D deformity of the spine, characterised by a sideways curve of ten degrees or more. This curve causes the spine to twist, which distorts the rib cage and may result in a rib hump.

Sievert (Sv)

Measurement unit for equivalent dose and effective dose of ionising radiation (e.g. X-rays). A Sv is defined as the absorption of one joule of energy from ionising radiation by one kilogram of matter, e.g. human tissue.

Spondylolisthesis

A spinal condition in which one vertebra in the lower part of the spine slips out of position onto the vertebra immediately below it.

Spondylolysis

A stress fracture in the posterior part of the spine known as the pars interarticularis. It is most commonly seen in the fifth lumbar vertebra.

Statistical significance

An estimate of the probability of an association (effect) as large or larger than what is observed in a study occurring by chance, usually expressed as a P-value.

Threshold analysis

Amount of variance needed in parameter values to achieve a specified value. In the context of cost-effectiveness analysis in the UK NHS, this specified value is the cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000-£30,000 per additional QALY gained.

X-ray

X-ray imaging is used to visualise internal body structures (such as bones) to diagnose and monitor disease or injury. Currently available imaging technologies that can be used in an upright weight-bearing position include X-ray film, computed radiography and digital radiography.

List of abbreviations

2D	Two dimensional
3D	Three dimensional
ALARA	As low as reasonably achievable
AP	Anteroposterior
cGy	Centigray
CI	Confidence interval
CR	Computed radiography
CRCE	The Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazard
DR	Digital radiography
EAG	External Assessment Group
ELR	Excess lifetime risk
ERR	Excess relative risk
ESAK	Entrance Surface Air Kerma
ESD	Entrance surface dose
Gy	Gray
HES	Hospital episode statistics
HPA	Health Protection Agency
ICD-10	International Classification of Diseases version 10
ICER	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio
LAR	Lifetime attributable risk
LAT	Lateral
mGy	Milligray
mSv	Millisievert
NHS	National Health Service
NICE	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence
OR	Odds ratio
OSLD	Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dosimeters
PA	Posteroanterior
QALYs	Quality adjusted life years
QoL	Quality of life
RR	Relative risk
SMR	Standardised mortality ratio

Sv	Sievert
TA1	Throughput assumption 1
TA2	Throughput assumption 2
TA3	Throughput assumption 3

2. Executive summary

2.1 Background

EOS is a biplane X-ray imaging system manufactured by EOS imaging (formerly Biospace Med, Paris). It uses slot-scanning technology to produce a high quality image with less irradiation than standard imaging techniques.

The indications in which there may be potential benefit associated with EOS are those that require imaging that is weight-bearing, full body, simultaneous posteroanterior (PA) and lateral, and/or 3D, and where radiation exposure is a concern. The relevant indications are scoliosis, kyphosis, deforming dorsopathies and congenital deformities of the spine, hips or lower limbs.

The relevant comparator imaging technologies are X-ray film, computed radiography (CR) and digital radiography (DR), although film has been replaced by CR and DR in standard UK practice. The primary outcome of interest is radiation-induced risk of cancer.

2.2 Objectives

To determine the clinical and cost-effectiveness of the EOS 2D/3D X-ray imaging system for the evaluation and monitoring of scoliosis and other relevant orthopaedic conditions.

2.3 Methods

A systematic review of the evidence on the clinical effectiveness of EOS, compared with standard film, CR or DR, for monitoring or evaluation of any orthopaedic condition was performed. Ten electronic databases (including MEDLINE and EMBASE), two clinical trials registries and the manufacturer's website were searched up to November 2010. A narrative synthesis was undertaken.

To complement the main sources of data for adverse effects of diagnostic X-ray radiation (reports produced by the large radiation protection and safety agencies), a systematic review of the adverse effects of diagnostic radiation for patients with orthopaedic conditions was performed. Three electronic databases (MEDLINE, EMBASE and the Cochrane Library) were searched up to December 2010. A narrative synthesis was undertaken.

A systematic review was conducted to identify potentially relevant studies for inclusion in the assessment of cost-effectiveness, including full economic evaluations of EOS against any comparators and economic evaluations in the indications of interest where standard X-ray was assessed against any comparator. A decision analytic model was developed to assess the cost-effectiveness of EOS in the relevant indications compared to standard X-ray (CR and DR imaging). The model provided a framework for the synthesis of data from the review of clinical effectiveness of EOS and adverse effects of diagnostic radiation exposure, primarily the risk of cancer, in order to evaluate the potential long-term cost-effectiveness of EOS. The model incorporated a lifetime horizon to estimate outcomes in terms of quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) and costs from the perspective of the NHS.

Patient throughput was expected to be a major determinant of the cost-effectiveness of EOS. A range of scenarios was considered regarding throughput with EOS and standard X-ray, as well as threshold analyses to explore the critical throughput levels to be achieved for EOS to be considered cost-effective. Three alternative assumptions regarding patient throughput were used to examine whether EOS could be shown to be cost-effective:

(1) Throughput assumption TA1 used patient throughput based on Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data, which provided an estimate of the number of examinations per year for each of the various indications at national level;
(2) In recognition that HES may underestimate current X-ray utilisation, throughput assumption TA2 was based on the capacity that a machine could utilise in a working day. TA2 assumed equivalent throughput for EOS and that estimated for standard X-ray at 30 patients per working day, corresponding to an annual throughput of 7,530 visits for scans per year (assuming 251 working days per year); and
(3) Throughput assumption TA3 was based on a higher utilisation for EOS compared to standard X-ray at 48 patients per working day, corresponding to an annual throughput of 12,048 visits for scans per year (assuming 251 working days per year).

Threshold analysis was also undertaken to explore the necessary size of the effects, in terms of QALYs gained from EOS as a result of the nature and quality of the EOS image, over and above those from reduced radiation, for the technology to be cost-effective.

Cost-effectiveness was assessed using incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) for each indication. This was complemented by the threshold analyses to determine the sensitivity of the cost-effectiveness ratio to uncertainty in patient throughput and health benefits associated with EOS.

2.4 Results

Clinical effectiveness

Three controlled trials were identified for the assessment of the comparative clinical effectiveness of EOS. Two studies compared EOS with film X-ray imaging and one study compared EOS with CR. The included studies were small, but of reasonable quality, although some methods were not fully reported in one of the studies. In addition, this study used an earlier version of the technology. Both studies comparing EOS with film X-ray imaging found image quality to be comparable or better with EOS overall. Radiation dose (entrance surface dose) was significantly lower with EOS for all images; ratio of means reported in the better quality study was 5.2 for PA spine and 6.2 for the lateral spine.

The study comparing EOS with CR found image quality to be comparable or better with EOS for the majority of images. Radiation dose (entrance surface dose) was considerably lower with EOS than CR for all images; ratio of means for the centre of the back was 5.9 and for the proximal lateral point 8.8. The lowest ratio of means was at the nape of the neck, which was 2.9.

No other outcomes were reported. There was no evidence from clinical trials that the facilities offered by EOS such as the ability to scan a full body image, removing the need for digital stitching, or the ability to take PA and lateral images simultaneously, so that a 3D image can be produced, translated into patient health benefits.

Adverse effects of diagnostic radiation

The evidence relating to the risks of radiation exposure have been reviewed in the reports of international and UK radiation authorities. Our systematic review contributes an evaluation of the risk of cancer and adverse reproductive outcomes associated with diagnostic X-ray radiation exposure specifically for patients with orthopaedic conditions. Despite the limited data, the findings from our review showed that, when compared with the general female population, there was a clear association between increased risk of breast cancer mortality and diagnostic X-ray exposures for female scoliosis or spinal curvature patients, with a significant radiation dose response. There was a highly significant trend for increased risk of breast cancer with increased cumulative radiation dose, particularly in patients with a family history of breast cancer. Only limited poor quality data were available regarding the risk of adverse reproductive outcomes in orthopaedic patients.

Cost-effectiveness

The systematic review of existing economic evidence identified no studies of EOS that met the inclusion criteria for the review. The searches for economic evaluations in relevant indications did not identify any studies to complement the evaluation of EOS. To address these limitations, a new decision analytic model was developed.

The base-case analysis assumed that radiation doses associated with DR were equivalent to those associated with CR. Therefore, the model assumed that there was no differential effect on health outcomes for CR and DR. Given that DR was more expensive than CR, and was assumed to produce the same outcomes, the cost-effectiveness results were presented for each indication comparing EOS to CR. The ICER for EOS was well above conventional thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 per additional QALY in all indications. Under none of the alternative throughput assumptions, TA1, TA2, or TA3, did EOS appear to be cost-effective at thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY under base-case assumptions.

Threshold analysis on patient throughput showed that 17,700 to 27,600 scans per year (corresponding to a workload of 71 to 110 patient appointments per working day) were needed to achieve an ICER of £20,000 per QALY, or between 15,100 and 26,500 (corresponding to a workload of 60 to 106 patient appointments per working day) for an ICER of £30,000 per QALY. These estimates were based on the assumption that the

throughput for CR was 7,530 scans per year (30 patient appointments per working day). Two-way threshold analysis examining the relationship between the cost-effectiveness of EOS and the throughput of CR and EOS suggested that EOS would not be cost-effective unless its utilisation can be assumed to be markedly greater than CR.

Threshold analysis on the incremental health benefits from sources other than reduced radiation dose suggested that EOS would have to generate significant increases in health benefits to be considered cost-effective under the three throughput assumptions. The absolute QALY gains needed over and above those from reduced radiation varied by the throughput scenario. For the lowest throughput scenario (TA1), the necessary gains ranged from 0.003 to 0.4 (an increase in the order of magnitude of 7 to 697); for the scenario TA2 from 0.002 to 0.003 (an increase in the order of magnitude of 4.8 to 35); and for TA3 from 0.0002 to 0.002 (an increase in the order of magnitude of 2.3 to 17). In judging the plausibility of EOS generating these health gains it should be noted that diagnostic technologies typically achieve small gains in health benefit. This is because any change in diagnostic strategy generally results in a small proportion of patients having a change in diagnosis, and an even smaller proportion experiencing a change in therapeutic intervention which may or may not change health outcomes.

A number of alternative scenarios were considered which varied the assumptions employed as part of the base-case analysis. In all bar three of these scenarios, the ICERs were above conventional thresholds of cost-effectiveness when it was assumed that radiation dose reduction is the only source of health benefit from EOS. The scenarios where the ICER fell below the threshold for two of the indications (late-onset scoliosis and Scheuermann's disease in adolescents) were (i) earlier age of cancer diagnosis compared to the general population; (ii) 0% discount rate per annum; and (iii) an alternative source (BEIR VII report instead of data from the personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from the Health Protection Agency) for the estimate of lifetime attributable risk of radiation-induced cancer.

2.5 Conclusions

The health benefits estimated from EOS as a result of radiation dose reductions are very small. Given the higher price of the EOS equipment, patient throughput is a major determinant of the cost-effectiveness of EOS: the greater the number of procedures that can

be demonstrated compared with those estimated for standard X-ray, the greater the likelihood of cost-effectiveness. Using the estimates of patient throughput at national level from the HES data suggests that EOS is not cost-effective for any of the indications considered. When health benefits from EOS relate only to reduced radiation dose, patient throughput in the region of 15,100 to 26,500 (corresponding to a workload of 60 to 106 patient appointments per working day) for EOS compared to a throughput of only 7,530 for CR (corresponding 30 patient appointments per working day) is needed to achieve an ICER of £30,000 per QALY. EOS can only be shown to be cost-effective when compared to CR if the utilisation for EOS is about twice the utilisation of CR. Since the throughput for CR is not tied to the particular indications for which EOS is potentially of value as CR is routinely used for a much wider set of indications, it is unlikely that the throughput for CR would be considerably lower than for EOS. Patients from this wider set of indications could be used to increase the throughput of EOS to the required levels, but its cost-effectiveness can only be ensured if these additional patients achieve the same incremental health benefits as patients with the primary indications modelled here. If EOS were able to generate health benefits as a result of any changes in therapy as clinicians respond to any changes in the nature and quality of the EOS image compared to standard X-ray, then these may be sufficient for EOS to be considered cost-effective. However, no evidence currently exists on whether these image-related health benefits exist, let alone whether they reach the magnitude necessary for EOS to be cost-effective. Furthermore, these extra health gains would only be possible if a sufficient proportion of patients experienced a change in therapeutic management, with a consequent improvement in outcomes, following the use of EOS rather than CR.

Suggested research priorities

Estimates of likely throughput with EOS are both uncertain (there is little evidence to use for this purpose) and variable (they depend on how many EOS machines are introduced in the NHS and the relevant patient throughput in each centre). For EOS this throughput needs to be based on the patient numbers expected for the indications for which EOS has a potential benefit. This throughput should be defined at national level based on numbers of patients requiring scans and numbers of centres throughout the UK.

There is also a need formally to assess the implications of any changes in the quality and nature of the image with EOS compared to standard X-ray for patient health outcomes, over and above

the reduction in radiation. This will require research to establish, for relevant indications, the proportion of patients for whom use of EOS changes diagnosis and/or therapy, and whether any therapeutic changes result in improved quality adjusted life expectancy.

Implications for service provision

The cost-effectiveness of EOS depends on the feasibility of achieving the critical patient throughput levels. The economic analysis has demonstrated that the ICERs for EOS for the various indications which have been formally modelled are consistently above conventional thresholds of cost-effectiveness unless a minimum throughput of 15,100 scans per year can be achieved. This has implications for service provision. Clinics using EOS would have to be organized in such a manner to ensure that this minimum utilisation is achieved for each centre using EOS. A throughput of 15,100 scans per year is equivalent to 60 patients per working day, over 251 working days per year.

Hence the question is whether such throughput is achievable with current patient numbers, and if so, how many EOS systems would be required. Since the minimum throughput is in the order of 15,000 scans per year, this would require that each centre with an EOS machine would serve enough patients to ensure such utilisation. A wider set of patients, with indications other than those explicitly considered here, could have their scans with EOS to help achieve these 'target' throughput levels. However, the use of such patients would only be cost-effective if the incremental benefits they experience from EOS are similar to those estimated for patients with the indications which have been modelled.

The evidence base for NHS investment in EOS is, therefore, highly uncertain. The upfront capital cost of the machine may represent an irreversible cost to the NHS if research or other information emerging in the future suggests it is not as cost-effective as existing X-ray and if there is limited resale value for the equipment. For this reason, if the NHS decides to invest in EOS, there may be a case for the use of rental agreements rather than outright purchase.

3. Background and definition of the decision problem

3.1 Description of the technology under assessment

EOS is a biplane X-ray imaging system manufactured by EOS imaging (formerly Biospace Med, Paris). It uses slot-scanning technology to produce a high quality image with less irradiation than standard imaging techniques. EOS allows the acquisition of images while the patient is in an upright weight-bearing (or seated or squatting) position, and can image the full length of the body (up to 175 cm), removing the need for digital stitching. The system takes approximately 20 seconds for an adult full body scan and 4-6 seconds to scan the spine, depending on the patient's height. As with the widely accepted standard position for all spine radiographs, the patient being scanned is also required to remain motionless, with their arms folded at 45°, and hold their breath during the scan.

EOS takes PA and lateral images simultaneously, and the digital image is available immediately on a 2D workstation. A 3D image can be reconstructed on the sterEOS workstation using the PA and lateral images and a statistical 3D spine model, generated from a database of scoliotic patients. The reconstruction of a 3D image takes 5 to 10 minutes for each part of the skeleton (e.g. spine or femur).[1]

For EOS to be cost-effective, these benefits relating to the nature of the image need to translate into health benefits for patients. For example, the ability to generate a full body weight bearing scan should provide more accurate diagnostic information, which might translate into an improved management strategy for a patient, and consequently into a health benefit. However, the health gains from developments in diagnostic technologies tend to be relatively small, in comparison with those associated with new therapeutic interventions.

The acquisition cost of the EOS system in the UK is in the region of £400,000, with an annual maintenance cost of £32,000. The maintenance contract covers all parts except X-ray tubes, which require replacement every three to five years at a cost of £25,000, including fitting.[2] In addition to the cost of purchasing and maintaining the equipment, there may be some building costs to provide a suitable location complying with radiation legislation requirements, if existing rooms are not available. EOS requires the same room planning and

shielding as a general X-ray room and the same radiation protection protocols apply. EOS is not currently in use in the NHS.

3.2 Comparators

Currently available imaging technologies that can be used in an upright weight-bearing position include X-ray film, computed radiography (CR) and digital radiography (DR), although film has been replaced by CR and DR in standard UK practice. All of these technologies have higher radiation doses than EOS. X-ray film, CR and DR can only take images from one angle at a time, so simultaneous PA and lateral images are not possible and 3D reconstruction cannot be obtained. When a full body image is required, these conventional X-ray imaging technologies also require adjustment for distortion or digital stitching from multiple images.

The acquisition cost of CR is approximately £95,000, with an annual maintenance cost of approximately £10,000. CR cassettes require replacement every three to five years at a cost of between £150 and £200.[3] The acquisition cost of DR is between approximately £105,000 and £230,000, with an annual maintenance cost of approximately £18,000. Software upgrades to improve the functionality and performance of DR cost approximately £2,000.[3]

3.3 Condition(s) and aetiology(ies)

The indications in which there may be potential benefit associated with EOS are those that require imaging that is weight-bearing, full body, simultaneous posteroanterior (PA) and lateral, and/or 3D, and where radiation exposure is a concern.[4] The NICE scope categorises the indications according to the population affected. In children and adolescents, the relevant indications are spinal deformity (principally scoliosis), and leg length discrepancy and alignment. In adults, the relevant indications are spinal deformity, including degenerative scoliosis, progressive kyphosis and osteoporotic fractures, and conditions involving loss of sagittal and coronal balance, including issues relating to hip and knee where full body or full leg length images are currently requested.

The indications defined in the NICE scope were discussed with clinical experts and a list of relevant indications was developed. Table 3.1 summarises the indications considered in the economic evaluation and their respective ICD-10 codes.

Table 3.1 Indications to be considered in the economic evaluation

Indications to be considered		ICD-10 code
Scoliosis	Congenital	M41 (except M41.4)
	Early-onset idiopathic	
	Adolescent (or late onset) idiopathic	
	Adult	
Kyphosis	Congenital	Q76.4
	Scheuermann's disease	M42
	Ankylosing Spondylitis	M45
Deforming dorsopathies	Umbrella term for spinal deformity	M43
Congenital deformities	Spine	Q67.5, Q76.3, Q77
	Lower limbs	Q68, Q72, Q74
	Hips	Q65, Q77, Q78

Some conditions which were initially considered relevant for the economic evaluation of EOS were subsequently withdrawn from the analysis. These conditions are lordosis, acquired kyphosis, neurofibromatosis, osteoporotic fracture and issues relating to hip and knee replacement where full body or full leg length images are currently requested. Lordosis was not considered due to being very rare on its own. According to clinical experts, lordosis is associated with scoliosis. Therefore the inclusion of scoliosis should also encompass patients with lordosis secondary to scoliosis. Acquired kyphosis and neurofibromatosis were excluded due to high variability in the patient groups and the relatively small numbers of patients requiring surgery. Osteoporotic fracture was not considered as it is usually not associated with spinal deformity.

3.3.1 Scoliosis

Scoliosis is a 3D deformity of the spine, characterised by a sideways curve of ten degrees or more.[5] With this curve there is also a change to the normal front to back curves of the spine and some twisting, which distorts the rib cage and may result in a rib hump. Scoliosis can be broadly categorised as congenital, early-onset idiopathic, late-onset idiopathic, adult and neuromuscular depending on the conditions causing the scoliotic curve and the age at onset. Congenital scoliosis results from anomalies in the formation of the spine *in-utero*. Idiopathic scoliosis, which accounts for 85% of scoliosis cases,[6] refers to a scoliotic curve of unknown

origin. Idiopathic scoliosis can be classified according to the age of onset: early-onset (less than 10 years old) or late-onset or adolescent (10 years or older).[7] Adult scoliosis refers to scoliosis occurring in patients over 20 years old (typically over 50 years old), when skeletal growth has ceased. Neuromuscular scoliosis refers to scoliosis resulting from disorders and impairments of the neurological system, such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida and muscular dystrophies.[7]

Neuromuscular scoliosis was not included in the economic evaluation. The great majority of patients suffering from neuromuscular scoliosis are wheelchair-bound and require a special chair for X-ray imaging. According to clinical experts, these patients would still be imaged with conventional X-ray even if EOS was available in the UK centres.

The prevalence of scoliosis in the UK is not well documented. However, it has been estimated that adolescent idiopathic scoliosis occurs in 1-3% of children between 10 and 16 years of age in the United States.[8] A UK based study of prevalence of idiopathic scoliosis in school children aged 6 to 14 years reported an overall prevalence of 0.5%; 0.1% amongst children aged 6-8 years, 0.3% amongst children aged 9-11 years and 1.2% amongst children aged 12-14 years.[9]

The primary age of onset for idiopathic scoliosis is 10-15 years, it occurs equally amongst boys and girls, but the scoliotic curve is eight times more likely to progress to a magnitude that requires treatment in girls than boys.[6] Progression of scoliosis leads to cosmetic deformity, which in turn can lead to poorer body image perception and problems in psychological and social development, loss of flexibility, cardiopulmonary problems and pain.

There is currently no good evidence that either bracing or physiotherapy alter the long-term natural history of back shape in adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. The decision to offer surgical treatment will depend upon many factors including the degree of curvature of the spine (Cobb angle), rate of progression, cosmetic impact and the patient's age. Whilst only approximately 10% of children with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis require surgical intervention,[10] nearly 95% of children with early onset idiopathic scoliosis go on to require surgical treatment.[7]

Surgery is often not performed until growth of the skeleton is complete or near complete and therefore monitoring can continue for many years.

3.3.2 Kyphosis

Kyphosis is the term describing a curvature of the spine that causes rounding of the back. Kyphosis can result from congenital malformations, degenerative diseases (such as arthritis), osteoporosis with compression fractures of the vertebra, trauma or simply due to poor posture or the natural aging process. Only congenital kyphosis, Scheuermann's disease, and ankylosing spondylitis were considered to be relevant for the economic evaluation of EOS due to the nature of the image and the frequency of imaging required for the monitoring of these patients.

Congenital kyphosis results from anomalies in the formation of the spine *in-utero.* Congenital kyphosis is much less common than congenital scoliosis.[11] The clinical presentation of congenital kyphosis is variable, severe cases may be identified at birth, whilst mild cases may not be identified until adolescence. Congenital kyphosis is a progressive disease, which can cause severe deformity and loss of neurological function if the spinal cord becomes compressed over the kyphotic vertebral region. Progression occurs during rapid periods of spine growth; at ages 1-5 and during adolescence.[12]

Scheuermann's disease is the most common cause of structural kyphosis in adolescence, it is a rigid thoracic kyphosis with vertebral wedging and irregular vertebral end plates. The prevalence of Scheuermann's disease has been estimated at between 0.4 and 8% of the general population. Approximately a third of Scheuermann's disease patients will also have some degree of scoliosis.[13]

Ankylosing spondylitis is a progressive rheumatic condition in which some or all of the joints and bones of the spine fuse together, causing pain and stiffness. The prevalence of ankylosing spondylitis is approximately 0.5% of British men and 0.2% of British women, it typically occurs around the late teens or twenties. A small minority of patients with ankylosing spondylitis will require surgery.[14]

3.3.3 Deforming dorsopathies

Deforming dorsopathies is an umbrella term for spinal deformities in general; it includes spondylolysis, spondylolisthesis, other fusion of spine and atlantoaxial subluxation, amongst others. The inclusion of these conditions should ensure that all indications in which patients can potentially benefit from EOS are considered.

3.3.4 Congenital deformities of the spine, hips and lower limbs

Congenital deformities of the spine, hips and lower limbs result from anomalies in the formation of these structures *in-utero*, these conditions include developmental dysplasia of the hip (affecting 1-2 per 1000 live births),[15] reduction defects of the lower limb and osteochondrodysplasias, amongst others. Minor malformations may not be apparent at birth and may only be identified by routine examinations. More severe malformations can be complex, producing severe deformity. Congenital deformities of the spine, hips and lower limbs are particularly significant indications due to the repeated radiation exposure associated with their monitoring. Furthermore, patients suffering from these conditions are typically very young, and hence more sensitive to the adverse effects of radiation exposure.

3.4 Care pathways

The management of patients with spinal deformity primarily involves monitoring at intervals to assess disease progression and guide treatment decisions. Progression is measured in terms of the degree of the curvature, which is monitored using serial upright weight-bearing X-rays. The frequency of monitoring depends on the age of the patient, their rate of growth at the time and the nature of their curve. The pattern of monitoring for kyphosis and other deforming dorsopathies is broadly similar to that for scoliosis, which tends to range from every four months to almost two years. Patients are also monitored using weight-bearing X-rays pre- and post-operatively, for up to two years or up to the age of 20 years. Patients with congenital deformities of the lower limbs, hips or spine are likely to undergo surgery at a younger age than patients with scoliosis, kyphosis or other deforming dorsopathies, therefore, the duration of the X-ray monitoring is shorter in these patients.

A weight-bearing image is very important in the evaluation of patients with deformities of the spine due to the effect of gravity. The American College of Radiology Practice Guideline for the Performance of Radiography for Scoliosis in Children recommends PA and lateral

radiography of the spine obtained in an upright position for initial or screening examination.[16] Non-weight-bearing images can lead to misinterpretation and misdiagnosis. Full body images can also help prevent misinterpretation of the spinal curvature by providing information about the position of the pelvis and legs.

3.5 Outcomes

3.5.1 Radiation adverse effects

X-rays are a type of ionizing radiation. Exposure to radiation can cause cell damage or cell death, depending not only on the amount and type of radiation but also on the sensitivity of the tissue itself.

The deleterious health effects of radiation exposure depend on the dose received. At high doses, radiation can produce damaging effects which will be evident within a few days of exposure. These effects are termed deterministic or non random, due to presenting a clear relationship between the exposure and the effect. Deterministic effects require radiation doses above a certain threshold, which are extremely rare in diagnostic radiology.[17]

Low-dose radiation exposure, such as diagnostic X-rays, results in stochastic (random) effects, which are only noticeable years after exposure. A cell exposed to radiation may remain unaffected, may die, or may become abnormal. Abnormal cells may become malignant, resulting in cancer, or in the case of reproductive cells, result in heritable defects.[17-19] As the dose of radiation increases, so does the probability that a biological effect will occur. However, even at very low doses, there is some, albeit small, probability that a biological effect will occur. In other words, there is no threshold for the deleterious effects of low-dose radiation exposure: the 'linear-non-threshold' model.[18] This model is a consensus assumption that is used for radiation protection purposes.

Where patient management involves a number of X-rays the increased risk has to be considered. This is of particular concern when X-ray monitoring is conducted throughout childhood and puberty, since children are more sensitive to the harmful effects of radiation than adults and are more likely to manifest radiation-induced changes over their lifetime.[20]

3.5.2 Measures of radiation exposure/dose

Radiation exposure is quantified using specially developed dosimetric quantities, namely exposure, absorbed dose, entrance skin dose, equivalent dose and effective dose. All are measurable quantities except equivalent dose and effective dose, which are derived from the former.[19] See Section 1, Definition of terms, for exact definitions.

Exposure measures the amount of ionization produced (in coulomb) by an X-ray beam in a kilogram of air. Exposure is directly related to the strength of the radiation source, and is independent of the matter absorbing the radiation itself.[17]

The absorbed dose measures the amount of energy deposited in organs and tissues of the human body. Therefore the absorbed dose depends on the type of matter intercepting the X-ray beam. The unit of absorbed dose is the gray (Gy): 1 Gy delivers 1 joule of energy per kilogram of matter.[19]

Absorbed dose fails to consider both the variation in biological effect by the different types of radiation and the different sensitivities of the various tissues of the human body. Therefore the concepts of equivalent dose and effective dose were introduced. Measuring radiation exposure using effective or equivalent doses enables the comparison of radiation exposures and the calculation of a cumulative dose following multiple exposures.[19]

Equivalent dose takes into account the differential ability of radiation to produce adverse effects in human tissues and organs. Equivalent dose is calculated by taking a weighted sum of the absorbed doses received by a particular tissue or organ, weighted by radiation weighting factors. These weighting factors reflect the radiation's deleterious effects. Weighting factors are recommended by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The unit of equivalent dose is the sievert (Sv): 1 Sv corresponds to 1 joule per kilogram.[19]

Effective dose takes into account the sensitivity to radiation of each of the tissues and organs affected by radiation exposure. This quantity allows the comparison between different exposures. Effective dose is calculated by taking a weighted sum of the equivalent doses of the various tissues affected by the radiation. As with equivalent dose, the weighting factors

are recommended by the ICRP.[19] Patient size is also an important factor in determining equivalent dose and effective dose.[17]

As exposure depends on a variety of factors relating to the equipment and protocol, so does effective dose. The estimation of an accurate cumulative lifetime dose associated with diagnostic X-rays requires the effective doses per radiograph relevant to clinical practice in the UK.

3.5.3 Measures of radiation-associated risk

The increase in risk of disease in the exposed population is often expressed as the excess relative risk (ERR) per Gy or per Sv. ERR is the rate of disease in the exposed population divided by the rate of disease in an unexposed population, minus 1.0.[19]

The risk to the exposed population over a lifetime can be expressed in different ways. The excess lifetime risk (ELR) is the difference between the proportion of the exposed population who develop or die from the disease and the corresponding proportion in a similar non-exposed population. The lifetime attributable risk (LAR) describes excess deaths or disease cases over a follow-up period with population background rates determined by the experience of unexposed individuals.[19]

3.5.4 Outcomes included in the assessment

The primary benefit of EOS is to provide radiographic imaging at relatively low dose radiation. Therefore, the model considers the long-term costs and consequences associated with radiation exposure. The model estimates the total radiation exposure to patients over a lifetime for the diagnosis and long-term monitoring of the indications for both standard X-ray (CR and DR imaging) and EOS. The subsequent outcomes from radiation exposure on the risk of cancer and mortality are explicitly modelled to determine the impact on health outcomes and costs to the NHS. Outcomes in the model are expressed in terms of quality adjusted life years (QALYs). The model evaluates costs from the perspective of the NHS and Personal Social Services, expressed in UK £ sterling at a 2011 price base.

The intermediate outcome of image quality is also assessed. Image quality is important because radiographs need to provide the necessary information for accurate diagnosis or monitoring of disease or injury. Radiographic equipment can be used in such a way as to

reduce radiation dose, but this reduction in radiation dose results in a reduction in image quality. Radiation dose should be 'as low as reasonably achievable' (ALARA), this means obtaining the best image quality necessary for the lowest possible radiation dose. Monitoring of scoliosis in children and adolescents does not require high quality images because of the nature of the image required; high contrast bony structure and geometry of the vertebral column, therefore, a low-dose (high-speed) acquisition is appropriate.[20]

The quality of radiographic images can be measured using the European guidelines on quality criteria for diagnostic radiographic images[21] or, for images of children, the European guidelines on quality criteria for diagnostic radiographic images in paediatrics,[22] developed by the European Commission.

A key consideration in the economic modelling is whether evidence exists on how any change in the nature and quality of images with EOS, compared to standard X-ray, impacts on patients' health outcomes. This can only be achieved if such changes result in changes to patients' pathways of care - that is, there are changes in patients' diagnoses and/or therapies which lead directly to gains in quality of life and/or life expectancy.

3.6 Decision problem

The aim of this project is to determine the clinical and cost-effectiveness of the EOS 2D/3D X-ray imaging system for the evaluation and monitoring of scoliosis and other relevant orthopaedic conditions where there may be a potential benefit associated with EOS, namely kyphosis, deforming dorsopathies and congenital deformities of the spine, hips or lower limbs. The relevant comparator imaging technologies are X-ray film, CR and DR, although film has been replaced by CR and DR in standard UK practice. The primary outcome of interest is radiation-associated risk of cancer.

In order to address this decision problem, systematic reviews of EOS and the adverse effects of diagnostic radiation were required. These are described in sections 4.1 and 4.2, respectively. To inform the economic assessment a systematic review of previous economic evaluations was also conducted. This is described in section 4.3. The de novo model and results are presented in sections 4.4 to 4.7.

4. Assessment design and results by condition or aetiology

4.1 Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS

4.1.1 Background

A systematic review was undertaken to assess the clinical effectiveness of EOS for patients with orthopaedic conditions that would benefit from the weight bearing and full-body imaging aspects of the EOS imaging system.

4.1.2 Methods for reviewing the clinical effectiveness of EOS

A systematic review of the evidence on the clinical effectiveness of EOS, compared with standard X-ray technology, for monitoring or evaluation of any orthopaedic condition was conducted following the general principles recommended in CRD's guidance[23] and the QUOROM statement.[24]

4.1.2.1 Search strategy

The aim of the literature searches was to systematically identify all the relevant literature on the EOS imaging system, whilst attempting to remove records in other subject areas which use the same acronym.

The base search strategy was constructed using MEDLINE and then adapted to the other resources searched. The search included the following components:

1. EOS and similar radiography system search terms
NOT
2. Other topics using the EOS acronym

Searches of major bibliographic databases were limited by date (1993 to date), since the prototype of the EOS system was purchased by Biospace Med in 1994. No language, study design or other limits were applied. Reference lists of all included studies, relevant editorials and the NICE scope were hand-searched to identify further relevant studies.

The terms for search strategies were identified through discussion between an Information Specialist and the research team, by scanning the background literature and browsing the

MEDLINE Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). The titles and abstracts of bibliographic records were imported into Endnote bibliographic management software (version X1). Details of the search strategies are presented in Appendix 1.

The following databases were searched for relevant clinical and cost-effectiveness research on 2nd and 3rd November, from 1993 to the most recent date available:

- MEDLINE
- AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine)
- Biosis Previews
- CINAHL
- Cochrane Library (including Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database and NHS Economic Evaluation Database)
- EMBASE
- HMIC (Health Management Information Consortium)
- INSPEC
- ISI Science Citation Index
- PASCAL

The following trials registries were searched on 8th November 2010:

- ClinicalTrials.gov
- Current Controlled Trials

The manufacturer's website (http://www.eos-imaging.com) was also searched for potentially relevant studies.

4.1.2.2 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Two reviewers independently screened all titles and abstracts. Full paper manuscripts of any titles/abstracts that appeared to be relevant were obtained where possible and the relevance of each study independently assessed by two reviewers according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria below. Studies that did not meet all of the criteria were excluded and their

bibliographic details listed with reasons for exclusion. Any discrepancies were resolved by consensus, or consulting a third reviewer if necessary.

Study design

Controlled trials were included in the evaluation of clinical effectiveness, since this study design allows a comparison to be made between the new technology and current practice, which is essential for the economic model.

Intervention

Studies assessing the EOS system were included in the evaluation of clinical effectiveness.

Comparators

Studies that compared EOS with film, CR or DR were included in the evaluation of clinical effectiveness. Studies comparing EOS with CT were not eligible for inclusion; since CT cannot be performed whilst the patient is standing, CT was not deemed to be a relevant comparator.

Participants

Studies that included patients with any orthopaedic condition were included in the evaluation of clinical effectiveness. Studies using healthy volunteers, vertebrae from cadavers or the European Spine Phantom were not eligible for inclusion.

Outcomes

Studies reporting any outcome were included in the evaluation of clinical effectiveness.

4.1.2.3 Data extraction strategy

Data on study and participant characteristics and outcomes were extracted by one reviewer using a standardised data extraction form and independently checked for accuracy by a second reviewer. Disagreements were resolved through consensus. The results of data extraction are presented in Appendix 2.1.

4.1.2.4 Quality assessment strategy

The quality of the included studies was assessed using the QUADAS quality assessment tool for diagnostic studies.[25] An additional six quality items specific to the review were also assessed. Dr David Grier, Consultant Paediatric Radiologist, provided assistance in completing questions relating to the appropriateness of the methods used for measuring radiation dose and image quality, and whether the execution of the intervention and comparator technologies was as it would be in practice. The assessment was performed by one reviewer, and independently checked by a second. Disagreements were resolved through consensus. The results of the quality assessment are presented in Appendix 3.

4.1.2.5 Data analysis

In view of the heterogeneity of the included studies, in terms of participant characteristics and comparator technologies, formal meta-analysis was not appropriate. Therefore, the studies were grouped according to the comparator technology used and a narrative synthesis was presented.

4.1.3 Results of the review of clinical effectiveness of EOS

4.1.3.1 Quantity of research available

A total of 661 records were identified from the clinical effectiveness searches and an additional 22 records were identified via hand searching (see Figure 4.1). Three studies met the inclusion criteria and were included in the review. Two studies compared EOS with film X-ray imaging[26, 27] and one study compared EOS with CR.[28] One of the studies used an earlier version of the technology, referred to as 'the Charpak system', which used the same slot scanning technology, but only one X-ray tube, so could not take AP/PA and lateral images simultaneously.[26] Two studies were published in full, whilst one study was unpublished.[27] The main characteristics of the included studies are presented in Table 4.1. Details of studies excluded at the full publication stage are provided in Appendix 4.1.

Figure 4.1 Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS - Flow diagram of the study selection process

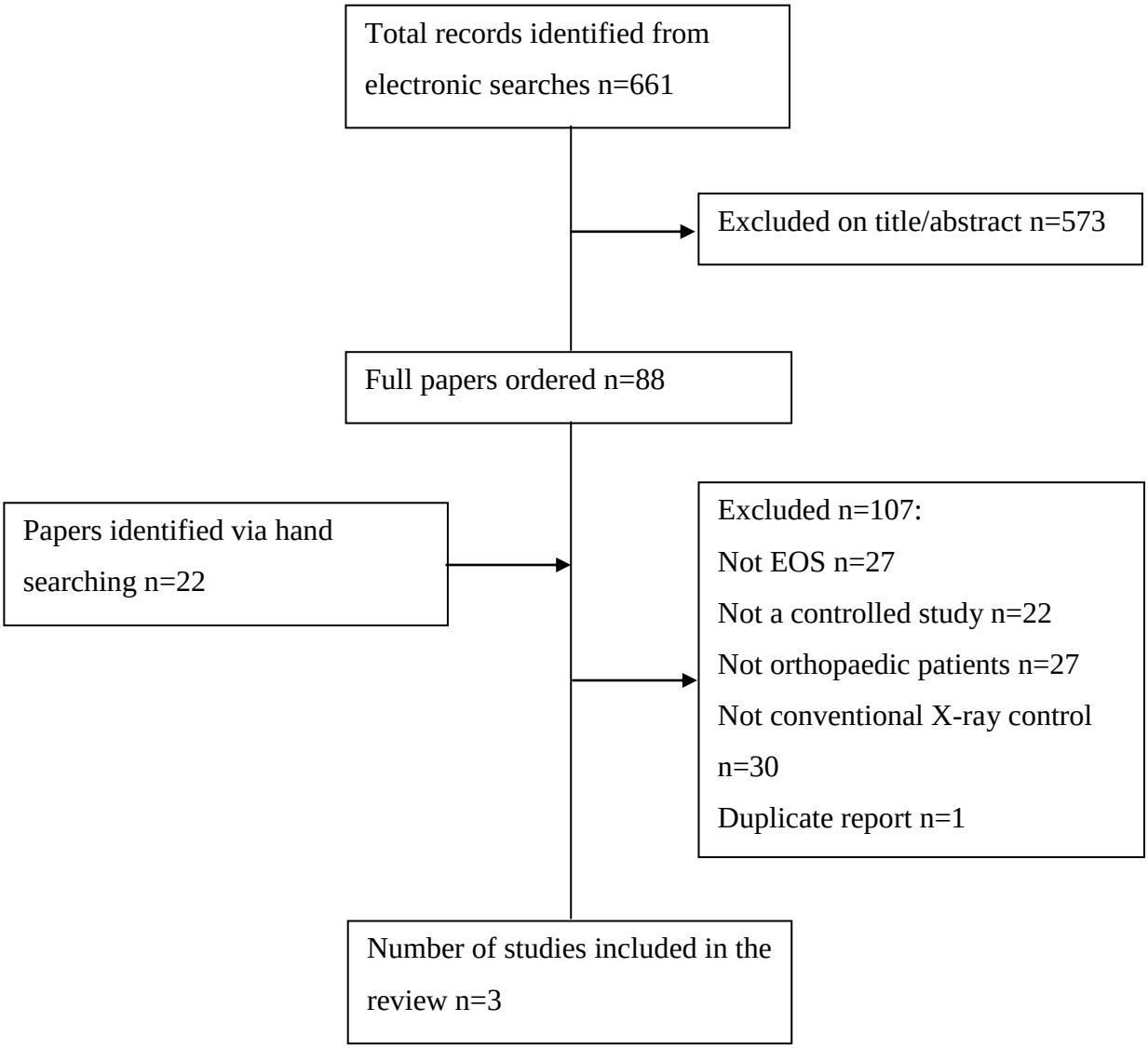


Table 4.1 Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS - Summary of study characteristics and results

	Kalifa (1998)[26]	Le Bras (unpublished)[27]	Deschênes (2010)[28]
Duration of patient recruitment	December 1994 to January 1996	Not reported	Not reported
Patients recruited	176	64	50
Patients analysed	140	Not reported	49
Patient characteristics	Children (>5 years) undergoing follow-up for scoliosis (93) or known hip diseases (47)	Adolescents who required full spine radiographs for scoliosis detection or follow-up	Children undergoing follow-up for scoliosis
Mean age	Not reported	14.7 years (SD 4.8)	14.8 years (SD 3.6)
Proportion male	Not reported	36%	22%
Intervention	EOS (earlier version, referred to as 'the Charpak system')	EOS	EOS
Comparator	Film	Film	Fuji FCR 7501S
Image quality results	Image quality comparable between EOS and film	Image quality comparable or better with EOS for the majority of quality criteria	Image quality comparable or better with EOS for the vast majority of images
Radiation dose results	Mean ESD (mGy): Spine AP: EOS 0.08, film 0.93. Ratio of means: 11.6 Spine PA: EOS 0.07, film 0.92. Ratio of means: 13.1 Spine LAT: EOS 0.13, film 1.96. Ratio of means: 15.1 Pelvis: EOS 0.06, film 1.13. Ratio of means: 18.8	Mean ESD (mGy): Spine PA: EOS 0.23, film 1.2 [*Ratio of means: 5.2 calculated by CRD]* Spine LAT: EOS 0.37, film 2.3 [*Ratio of means: 6.2 calculated by CRD]* Mean ESAK (mGy): Spine PA: EOS 0.12, film 0.81. Average dose reduction of 85% Spine LAT: EOS 0.19, film 1.67. Average dose reduction of 89%	Mean ESD (mGy): Nape of neck: EOS 0.20, CR 0.59. Ratio of means: 2.9 Centre of back: EOS 0.18, CR 1.04. Ratio of means: 5.9 Proximal lateral point: EOS 0.27, CR 2.38. Ratio of means: 8.8 Outer side of proximal breast: EOS 0.11, CR 0.83. Ratio of means: 7.6 Proximal anterosuperior iliac spine: EOS 0.16, CR 1.47. Ratio of means: 9.2 Proximal iliac crest: EOS 0.30, CR 2.47. Ratio of means: 8.2 Distal iliac crest: EOS 0.11, CR 0.73. Ratio of means: 6.5

4.1.3.2 Quality of research available

The three included studies were small, but of reasonable quality, although some methods were not fully reported in the Kalifa study,[26] making it difficult to assess some aspects of

study quality. In addition, this study used an earlier version of the technology, referred to as 'the Charpak system'.

Image quality was assessed using appropriate criteria; the Quality criteria for diagnostic radiographic images[29] or the European guidelines on quality criteria for diagnostic radiographic images in paediatrics.[30, 31] At least two radiologists assessed each of the images for quality in all studies.

Radiation dose was measured appropriately; entrance surface dose was measured using individually calibrated thermoluminescent calcium fluoride pellets placed on the patients' skin in the centre of the X-ray beam[26, 27] or Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dosimeters (OSLD) on various locations chosen to assess the main radiosensitive regions of the body.[28] In addition, one study also calculated Entrance Surface Air Kerma (ESAK) from output dose rates of the scanners.[27]

No other outcomes were reported. There was no evidence from clinical trials that the facilities offered by EOS such as the ability to scan a full body image, removing the need for digital stitching, or the ability to take PA and lateral images simultaneously, so that a 3D image can be produced, translated into patient health benefits.

The patients in the included studies were the same type of patient as would receive the test in practice; primarily children with scoliosis, although one study also included children undergoing follow-up examinations for known hip diseases.[26] The whole sample received both tests within an appropriate time period. However, there was the potential for test review bias and/or diagnostic review bias as the results of the other test may have been known to assessors for two of the studies.[26, 27] Only one trial reported using a sample size calculation,[26] but did not report details. This was the largest study with 140 patients included in the analysis; however the authors had intended to recruit 150 participants. In one of the studies almost a third of patients were not included in the analysis of image quality or radiation dose using entrance surface dose.[27]

The execution of EOS and the comparator imaging systems were generally as would be in practice, except that one study used an earlier version of the EOS imaging system (the

Charpak system) and viewed images on laser film, rather than on screen.[26] Two of the studies reported that tube voltage was similar between the two radiographic systems.[27, 28]

4.1.3.3 Synthesis of the included studies

All three studies included children or adolescents with scoliosis, though one study also included children undergoing follow-up examinations for known hip diseases.[26] Where reported, the mean age of patients was 14 years and the majority of patients were female.

Both studies comparing EOS (or the earlier Charpak system) with film X-ray[26, 27] found image quality to be comparable or better with EOS overall. Radiation dose was significantly lower with EOS (or the Charpak system) for all images: ratio of means for PA spine was 5.2[27] (13.1[26]); ratio of means for the lateral spine was 6.2[27] (15.1[26]).

The study comparing EOS with CR[28] found image quality to be comparable or better with EOS for the majority of images. Radiation dose was considerably lower with EOS than CR for all images; ratio of means for the centre of the back was 5.9 and for the proximal lateral point 8.8.[28] The lowest ratio of means was at the nape of the neck, which was 2.9.[28]

The study comparing EOS with CR[28] is the most relevant for current practice, since CR and DR have replaced film X-ray imaging in standard UK practice.

4.1.4 Discussion

This systematic review identified a limited amount of reasonable quality data suggesting that radiation dose is considerably lower with EOS than CR or film X-ray imaging, whilst image quality remains comparable or better with EOS.

The review addressed a clear research question using predefined inclusion criteria. Comprehensive literature searches were performed to locate all relevant published and unpublished studies without any language restrictions, thereby minimising the potential for publication bias and language bias. Hand searching was also performed in order to identify additional relevant studies. We are therefore confident that we have included all relevant studies. However, only three studies comparing EOS with conventional X-ray imaging were identified, one studied an older version of the EOS system and the other two included only a

small number of participants. There are currently no studies comparing the clinical effectiveness of EOS with DR.

Study selection, data extraction and quality assessment procedures were undertaken in duplicate to minimise the potential for reviewer bias or error. Validity assessment was undertaken using a validated checklist for diagnostic studies, with additional project-specific quality assessment items added. Clinical expertise was obtained for completing the additional project-specific quality assessment items. The included studies were of reasonable quality, increasing the validity of the results of this systematic review. The execution of EOS and the comparator imaging systems was generally as it would be in practice. Outcomes assessed in the included studies were image quality and radiation dose. Image quality was assessed by at least two radiologists using appropriate criteria. Radiation dose was measured appropriately.

No other outcomes were assessed in the included studies, such as outcomes relating to the nature of the image and any subsequent patient health benefits.

The studies included children with scoliosis and children undergoing follow-up examinations for known hip diseases, which is representative of children who would be likely to receive EOS in practice. However, no studies assessing EOS in adults were identified. The reduction in radiation dose for adults may not be as substantial as seen in the children included in these studies.

The study by Kalifa (1998)[26] reported a much higher ratio of means for radiation dose. The methods used in this study were not fully reported, for example the authors did not report whether tube voltage was similar between the two radiographic systems. In addition, this study used an earlier version of the technology, referred to as 'the Charpak system'. The Charpak system used the same slot scanning technology as EOS, but only one X-ray tube, so could not take AP/PA and lateral images simultaneously. This study is also likely to have included younger patients than the other two studies; these differences may help to explain the high ratio of means, compared with the other two studies.

4.2 Systematic review of the adverse effects of diagnostic radiation for patients with orthopaedic conditions

4.2.1 Background

With the introduction of new imaging techniques such as digital imaging, there is an increased trend in the annual frequency of medical diagnostic X-ray examinations.[32] As medical diagnostic X-ray radiation exposure continues to grow at a substantial rate, understanding the adverse health effects after exposure is therefore of particular importance. Particular concern has been focused on the relationship between harmful health effects (e.g. cancer risk) of radiation exposure and the cumulative radiation dose.

4.2.2 Methods for reviewing the adverse effects of diagnostic radiation for patients with orthopaedic conditions

Through internet searching and in consultation with experts, we identified four main sources of data for adverse effects of diagnostic X-ray radiation: three international and UK relevant reports; BIER VII Phase 2,[18] UNSCEAR,[32] ICRP publication 103[19] and personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from the Health Protection Agency (HPA).{Shrimpton, #1849} These reports produced by the large radiation protection and safety agencies, and personal communication, are briefly summarised in Section 4.2.3. The data sources of the reports and personal communication were primarily based on the epidemiological data of the Life Span Study of Japanese atomic bomb survivors. None of these reports focused on medical diagnostic radiation exposure in orthopaedic patients, which is the population of interest in the current assessment. Therefore, to complement the current evidence from the reports we conducted a systematic review of the adverse effects of diagnostic radiation for patients with any orthopaedic condition following the general principles recommended in CRD's guidance[23] and the QUOROM statement.[24]

4.2.2.1 Search strategy

Radiation exposure and cancer risk or adverse reproductive outcomes

Searches were conducted in order to identify references on the link between radiation exposure and cancer risk and radiation exposure and adverse reproductive outcomes. The searches were not intended to be exhaustive, but to supplement the key documents on adverse effects of radiation already identified by the project team.

For both cancer risk and adverse reproductive outcomes, an initial set of searches was conducted for published systematic reviews assessing the association of the adverse event and radiation exposure from radiography. Searches were limited using a systematic reviews/meta-analysis filter designed by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination for identification of records for potential inclusion in the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects. A subsequent set of searches then sought to identify evidence from primary studies assessing the association between cancer risk/adverse reproductive outcomes and radiation exposure for each relevant orthopaedic condition included in the review, particularly scoliosis.

The systematic review searches were limited to cancer risk and adverse reproductive outcomes associated with medical radiation for non-malignant conditions, and so excluded all non-medical radiation such as atomic bomb or nuclear accident exposure. Radiation therapy for malignant conditions such as cancer was also excluded. The primary study searches were considered sufficiently focussed by the orthopaedic condition for this limit to not be required.

The base search strategies were constructed using MEDLINE and then adapted to the other resources searched. The searches included the following components:

Systematic review searches

1. Radiography or radiation terms

AND

2. Cancer terms or adverse reproductive outcome terms

AND

3. Systematic review or meta-analysis terms

NOT

4. Non-medical radiation terms and radiotherapy

Primary study searches

1. Radiography or radiation terms

AND

2. Cancer terms or adverse reproductive outcome terms

AND

3. Relevant orthopaedic condition terms

No language or publication date limits were applied. All databases were searched from date of inception to the most recent date available. Reference lists of all included studies and relevant editorials were hand-searched to identify further relevant studies.

The terms for search strategies were identified through discussion between an Information Specialist and the research team, by scanning the background literature and browsing the MEDLINE Medical Subject Headings (MeSH). The titles and abstracts of bibliographic records were imported into Endnote bibliographic management software (version X1). Details of the search strategies are presented in Appendix 1.

The following databases were searched for relevant information on 6-21 December 2010 to the most recent date available.

- MEDLINE
- Cochrane Library (including Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials)
- EMBASE

4.2.2.2 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Two reviewers independently screened all titles and abstracts. Full paper manuscripts of any titles/abstracts that appeared to be relevant were obtained where possible and the relevance of each study independently assessed by two reviewers according to the inclusion and exclusion criteria below. Studies that did not meet all of the criteria were excluded and their bibliographic details listed with reasons for exclusion. Any discrepancies were resolved by consensus, or consulting a third reviewer if necessary.

Study design

Systematic reviews, cohort studies and case control studies were included in the evaluation of adverse effects of medical diagnostic X-ray exposure.

Intervention

Studies were included if they investigated exposure to medical X-ray radiation for diagnostic purposes and the association with risk of cancer or adverse reproductive outcomes. Studies investigating prenatal exposure to medical X-ray radiation or exposure to radiation therapy were excluded.

Participants

Studies of patients with any orthopaedic condition were included in the evaluation of adverse effects of medical diagnostic X-ray exposure.

Outcomes

The eligible outcomes for adverse effects of medical diagnostic radiation exposure were incidence of cancer, cancer mortality and any adverse reproductive outcomes.

4.2.2.3 Data extraction strategy

Data on study and participant characteristics and outcomes were extracted by one reviewer using a standardised data extraction form and independently checked for accuracy by a second reviewer. Disagreements were resolved through consensus. The results of data extraction are presented in Appendix 2.2.

4.2.2.4 Quality assessment strategy

The quality of studies of cancer risk was assessed using the quality assessment tool for cohort studies, adapted from the Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale.[34] The quality of all of the included studies was assessed based on criteria described in CRD's guidance for undertaking systematic reviews.[23] The assessment was performed by one reviewer, and independently checked by a second. Disagreements were resolved through consensus. The results of the quality assessment are presented in the data extraction table (Appendix 2.2).

4.2.2.5 Data analysis

The levels of clinical and methodological heterogeneity were investigated. Given the high degree of clinical heterogeneity between the included studies (e.g. different outcome measures and length of follow-up), pooling studies using standard meta-analytic methods was not appropriate. A narrative synthesis was therefore performed.

4.2.3 International and UK relevant reports of risks from radiation

To identify data and information relating to the risks of cancer and other adverse effects associated with medical diagnostic radiation we conducted internet searches and consulted with experts in the field and identified four key sources of information, namely, BIER VII Phase 2,[18] UNSCEAR,[32] ICRP publication 103[19] and personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from the HPA.{Shrimpton, #1849} This section provides an overview of these reports produced by the large radiation protection and safety agencies and the personal communication.

BIER VII Phase 2

The BIER VII Phase 2 report[18] (produced by the Committee to Assess Health Risks from Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation) is very broad in its scope covering basic aspects of radiation physics and radiation biology, reviews studies of the adverse effects of radiation exposure, atomic bomb, medical, occupational and environmental, and develops risk estimates for lifetime radiation-induced cancer. Importantly for the purposes of the present assessment, the report includes a detailed review of medical radiation studies. Medical radiation studies can be divided into those of radiotherapy used to treat malignant disease, radiotherapy for non-cancerous conditions, and for diagnostic purposes.

Cancer risk associated with radiotherapy

Deriving the risk of cancer due to radiation from studies of cancer radiotherapy is clearly problematic being subject to confounding and limited follow-up data. Studies where radiotherapy was used for benign disease in adults and children were also reviewed. Such studies were from a time when radiotherapy was used for the treatment of a number of benign conditions: skin haemangioma, tinea capitis and enlarged thymus in children; and benign breast and gynaecological disease, ankylosing spondylitis and peptic ulcer in adults. This type of radiotherapy typically uses lower doses than that used in malignant disease and survival after treatment is not shortened by the presence of a life threatening disease. The data from relevant studies of cancer risk associated with radiotherapy for a number of benign diseases showed a wide range for the excess relative risk per Gy of various cancers, differing in the type of cancer and between adults and children.

Cancer risk associated with diagnostic radiation

Studies of the cancer risk associated with medical diagnostic radiation are more directly relevant to the current assessment. BEIR VII Phase 2 reported the results of studies using chest fluoroscopy for follow-up of pulmonary tuberculosis and diagnostic X-rays in adults, and diagnostic and monitoring X-rays in children with scoliosis.

Diagnostic X-rays in adults

The BEIR VII Phase 2 reviewed several studies investigating the association between cancer risk and diagnostic X-rays in adults. The two case-control studies[35] showed significant associations between reported numbers of X-rays and tumours of the parotid gland and chronic myeloid leukaemia. A case control study[36] found that diagnostic X-rays in adults had no association with leukaemia but a positive association with multiple myeloma, but no estimate of risk per dose was presented. Another case control study[37] found no association between diagnostic X-rays and thyroid cancer.

Diagnostic and monitoring X-rays in children with scoliosis

The BEIR VII Phase 2 summarised the findings of a pilot study[38]
and the US Scoliosis Cohort Study.[39] The cohort included only patients diagnosed before age 20 between 1912 and 1965 and the average number of scans per patient was 24.7 (range 0 - 618) and the average cumulative dose to the breast was 0.11 Gy (range 0-1.7 Gy). Mean age at diagnosis of scoliosis was 10.6 years and mean follow-up was 40.1 years. The ERR for women who had at least one radiographic examination was 2.7 (95% CI -0.2 to 9.3).

Risk estimate models for radiation-induced cancer

The BEIR VII Phase 2 developed 'risk models' to estimate the relationship between exposure to ionizing radiation and harmful health effects, primarily based on the cancer incidence data from the Life Span Study for the period 1958-1998 and based on DSO2 (Dosimetry System 2002) dosimetry. These risk models supported the hypothesis that harmfulness of ionizing radiation was a function of dose, and that there was a linear dose-response relationship between exposure to ionizing radiation and the development of radiation-induced solid cancers in humans.[18] Therefore, the BEIR VII Phase 2 proposed the 'linear-non-threshold' model on the basis of the assumption that, in the low dose range, radiation doses greater than zero will increase the risk of excess cancer in a simple proportionate manner.

The BEIR VII Phase 2 presented the results of cancer risk estimate models for the U.S. population. For example, for an exposure scenario of 0.1 Gy at age 10, the LAR of solid cancer incidence (per 100,000 exposed persons) was estimated to be 1330 for males and 2530 for females; the LAR of solid cancer mortality was estimated to be 640 for males and 1050 for females. For an exposure scenario of 0.1 Gy at age 50, the LAR of solid cancer incidence was estimated to be 510 for males and 680 for females; the LAR of solid cancer mortality was estimated to be 290 for males and 420 for females. The estimates showed that females were at higher risk for radiation-induced solid cancer incidence and mortality than males, and that there was a steady decrease in risk with age at exposure for both sexes.

UNSCEAR 2008 (Volume 1)

The UNSCEAR 2008 report (Volume 1)[32] (produced by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation) presents the estimates of the average annual doses of ionizing radiation from all sources, primarily for medical exposures to ionizing radiation and public and occupational exposures to radiation. For medical exposures, the report determines the magnitude of its usage around the globe in the period of 1997-2008 and assesses the trends in radiation exposure from diagnostic radiology, radiation therapy and nuclear medicine. We summarise briefly the data for medical diagnostic radiation and radiation therapy in this section.

Annual frequency of medical diagnostic and therapeutic radiation

The UNSCEAR 2008 estimates for the annual frequency of diagnostic and therapeutic radiation and the doses of these medical radiation exposures were based on published literature on medical exposures and an analysis of the responses to the UNSCEAR Global Survey of Medical Radiation Usage and Exposures for the period 1997-2007. There were approximately 3.6 billion diagnostic radiology X-ray examinations (including dental radiology) undertaken annually in the world. Analyses showed that there were wide variations in the average annual frequency of diagnostic medical and dental radiation examination in the period surveyed, by health-care level (based on the number of physicians per head of population). The annual frequency of medical X-ray examinations was over 65 times more frequent in countries with the highest level of healthcare (those that are relatively more developed) than in countries with a lower level of healthcare.

Trends in radiation exposure from radiation therapy

The estimated annual data on the most common types of radiotherapy during 1997-2007 showed that about 70% of all radiotherapy treatments were administered in countries with the highest level of healthcare. There was an estimated 5.1 million courses of radiotherapy treatment administered annually during this period, up from an estimated 4.3 million in 1988.

Trends in radiation exposure from diagnostic radiology

There is an increased trend in the use of medical diagnostic radiology and the associated exposures globally. The UNSCEAR 2008 report[32] used the collective effective dose to measure the trends. The collective effective dose is calculated as the sum of all individual effective doses over the time period being considered. An increase of approximately 70% of total collective effective dose from medical diagnostic radiation has been observed for the period 1997-2007, with an estimated increased collective effective dose of 1.7 million man Sv (rising from approximately 2.3 million man Sv to 4 million man Sv).

Mean effective dose (mSv) for radiological examinations

Based on the data from the UNSCEAR survey of medical radiation usage and exposures, the report estimated the mean effective dose for different radiological examinations in UK practice. The mean effective dose for each relevant orthopaedic exposure was 1.0 mSv for lumbar Spine X-ray (AP/PA and LAT combined), 0.7 mSv for thoracic spine X-ray (AP and LAT combined), 0.07 mSv for cervical spine X-ray (AP and LAT combined), 0.00 mSv for limbs/joints X-ray, and 0.50 mSv for pelvis/hip X-ray.

ICRP Publication 103

The ICRP publication 103 report[19] (produced by the International Commission on Radiological Protection) provides recommendations and guidance on protection against the risks associated with ionising radiation from artificial sources widely used in medicine, general industry and nuclear enterprises, and from naturally occurring sources. The report updates the radiation and tissue weighting factors in the quantities equivalent and effective dose, updates the estimates of the harmful effect of radiation based on the latest available scientific information of the biology and physics of radiation exposure, and develops risk estimates for lifetime radiation-induced cancer and heritable effects.

Excess cancer and heritable effects associated with radiation

In line with the BEIR VII report,[18] the practical system of radiological protection recommended by the ICRP publication 103 report was based on the assumption of the 'linear-non-threshold' model, i.e. at doses below about 100 mSv a given increment in dose would produce a directly proportionate increment in the risk of cancer and heritable effects attributable to radiation. Assuming a linear response at low doses, the combined detriment due to excess cancer and heritable effects was estimated to be around 5% per Sv.

Risk estimates for radiation-induced cancer

The ICRP publication 103 developed the risk modelling of radiation-induced cancer using the incidence data from the Life Span Study of Japanese atomic bomb survivors with follow-up from 1958 to 1998 for solid cancers. The risk models for solid cancers involved a linear dose response allowing for modifying the effects of sex, age at exposure and attained age. Based on the cancer incidence-based ERR models, for all solid cancers the ERR per Gy at age 70 for exposure at age 30 was estimated to be 0.35 for males and 0.58 for females.

Risk estimates for radiation-induced heritable effects

There was no direct evidence from human studies that exposure of parents to radiation led to excess harmful heritable effects in offspring. The follow-up data of mortality and incidence in the offspring of Japanese Atomic-bomb survivors[40, 41] did not show convincing evidence of heritable effects due to radiation. However, there was compelling evidence of heritable effects associated with radiation exposure in experimental animals (e.g. mice). The risks of radiation-induced heritable effects were therefore developed by extrapolating data on dose response for germ cell mutations from experimental animals to humans.

Based on the ICRP's risk estimates for radiation-induced heritable effects, there was a risk coefficient of 0.54% per Gy for the reproductive population and 0.22% per Gy for the whole population, for the total of three classes of heritable effects (Mendelian diseases, chronic diseases and congenital abnormalities) expressed over two generations.

Personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from the HPA

Data were received on risk modelling of radiation-induced lifetime cancer and heritable effects from medical X-ray examinations, including calculation of the organ and effective doses for common X-ray examinations on adult patients in the UK, and the relationship between lifetime cancer risk and effective dose for common X-ray examinations. We briefly summarise the risk estimates of radiation-induced cancer and heritable effects in this section.

Risk of radiation-induced lifetime cancer by organ, age and sex

The lifetime risks of cancer incidence or mortality per unit dose were predicted as a function of organ, age and sex on the basis of the risk models described in ICPR publication 103,[19] by incorporating typical organ doses for a range of common X-ray examinations derived by Monte Carlo calculation from patient dose data obtained in recent national surveys of UK practice.

The lifetime risk of cancer incidence for each organ was calculated by averaging over all ages in the whole population and both sexes. The estimates for lifetime risk of cancer incidence predicted by HPA calculations were generally in agreement with the ICRP's nominal risk coefficients for most cancers such as lung, stomach, colon, bladder, liver, oesophagus and ovary. There were small discrepancies in terms of cancers of breast, leukaemia and thyroid. However, when taking into account all cancers, the total cancer risk predicted by the HPA calculations provided an adequate approximation to the risk estimate predicted by the ICRP models: 6.38% per Sv versus 6.88% per Sv.

When estimating the lifetime risk of all cancer incidences by age and sex for a composite Euro-American population, the HPA's estimates showed that females were at higher risk than males at all ages, and young children and adolescents were at higher risk than adults for both sexes. For example, young children exposed to radiation at age 0-9 (lifetime risk for all cancers 9.99% per Gy for males, and 12.7 % per Gy for females) were at about twice the risk of adults in their thirties (5.12% per Gy for males, and 6.46% per Gy for females) for both sexes. The estimates showed that the lifetime risk of all radiation-induced cancers was a function of age at exposure and sex (assuming uniform whole-body irradiation), with a steady decrease in the total radiation-induced cancer risk with age at exposure for both sexes and a higher risk in females than males (24 - 47%) at all ages.

The total radiation-induced cancer risk varied with age at exposure and sex, depending critically on which organs were irradiated. The estimates by individual cancer sites showed a steady decrease in risk with age at exposure for certain cancer sites but not for others. There was a steady decrease in risk with age at exposure (for both sexes) for cancers of stomach, colon, breast, liver, thyroid and ovary. It should also be noted that there were variations in the rates of decrease between different organs. The rates of decrease in risk with age at exposure over the first 4 or 5 age bands (up to age 60) were noticeably high for breast cancer and thyroid cancer for females.

Risk of radiation-induced heritable effects

The HPA estimated the risk of radiation-induced heritable effects for patients of reproductive potential for complete X-ray examinations involving significant gonad doses. These predictions were based on the assumption that the risks were independent of patient age for patients of reproductive capacity and naturally fall to zero for those beyond their reproductive years. For relevant orthopaedic conditions, for female patients the risks were highest for X-ray examination of lumbar spine (5.0 per million), followed by pelvis (2.6 per million). For male patients the risks were highest for X-ray examination of both hips (11.5 per million), followed by pelvis (11 per million).

4.2.4 Results of the review of adverse effects of diagnostic radiation for patients with orthopaedic conditions

4.2.4.1 Quantity of research available

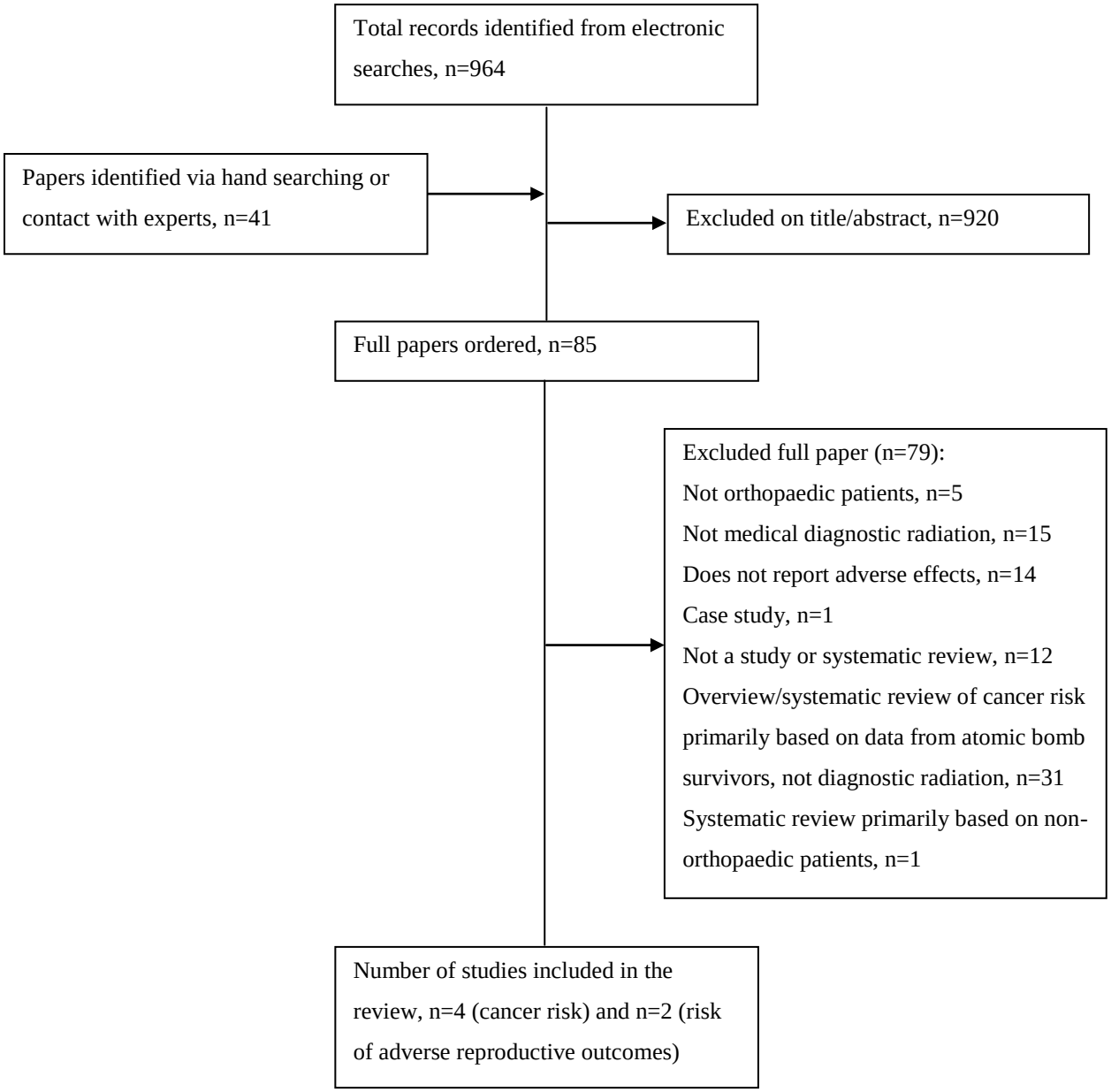
A total of 1005 records were identified from the diagnostic radiation adverse effect searches (see Figure 4.2). The initial set of searches identified 32 systematic reviews or non-systematic overviews assessing the adverse effects of diagnostic radiation exposure. Thirty-one reviews/overviews were excluded, because they discussed the cancer risk estimates associated with radiation exposure or estimated the radiation-associated cancer mortality risk based on data sources that were not from a diagnostic radiation population, such as the BIER VII report[18] and ICRP publication 103.[19]

Only one potentially relevant systematic review of cancer risk associated with diagnostic X-ray exposure[42] was identified. This review assessed the risk of childhood cancer associated

with pre- or postnatal diagnostic X-rays by including 19 case control studies and 6 cohort studies published between 1990 and 2006. However, it should be noted that this review primarily focused on pre-natal radiation exposure for patients with non-orthopaedic conditions; only one included study was of post-natal exposure for those with an orthopaedic condition (scoliosis). Therefore, the review by Schulze-Rath (2008)[42] was excluded due to insufficient relevant evidence for the harmful adverse effects associated with diagnostic X-ray exposure for patients with orthopaedic conditions.

Six primary studies met the inclusion criteria and were included in our review. Four studies investigated the association between cancer risk and diagnostic X-ray exposure,[38, 39, 43, 44] whilst two studies assessed the association between the risk of adverse reproductive outcomes and diagnostic X-ray exposure.[45, 46] Full data extraction is presented in Appendix 2.2 and details of studies excluded at the full publication stage are provided in Appendix 4.2.

Figure 4.2 Review of adverse effects of diagnostic radiation - Flow diagram of the study selection process



4.2.4.2 Cancer risk associated with diagnostic radiation

Quality of research available

The four included studies assessing cancer risk associated with diagnostic X-ray radiation were large prospective cohort studies.[38, 39, 43, 44] The four studies were based on the same cohort of US scoliosis patients and they were conducted by the same group of investigators. The study by Hoffman 1989[38] was a pilot study, which only recruited 1,030 female scoliosis patients diagnosed between 1922 and1965. The following three studies comprised 5,573 female spinal curvature patients diagnosed between 1912 and 1965.[39, 43, 44] The results of quality assessment for these studies are presented in Table 4.2. All studies were available as journal publications.

Table 4.2 Results of quality assessment of cohort study

	US Scoliosis Cohort Study			
	(pilot), 1989[38]	**2000[39]**	**2008[43]**	**2010[44]**
Representativeness of the exposed cohort (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ascertainment of exposure: A) secure record (e.g. medical records) B) drawn from a different source C) written self report D) no description	A	A	A	A
Analyses control for the important confounding factor (s) (Yes/No)	No	No	Yes	Yes
Assessment of outcome : A) independent blind assessment B) record linkage C) self report D) no description	C	B	C	B
Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur? (Yes/No)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Adequacy of follow up of cohorts A) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for B) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introdu ce bias - >=80% patients in follow-up assessment C) <80% patients in follow-up assessment D) no statement	B	B	B	B

*Adapted from the Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale for cohort studies.

In all four studies, the exposed cohort was representative of the patient population with orthopaedic conditions of interest. All the studies applied reliable methods using secure medical records in ascertaining the medical exposure being investigated. Two studies appropriately adjusted for important confounding factors in their analyses.[43, 44] However, there was a failure to control for some important confounding factors (e.g. family history of

breast cancer and reproductive history) in the studies by Hoffman 1989[38] and Doody 2000,[39] which may have compromised the validity of study results.

In terms of assessment of outcomes, two studies[39, 44] appropriately used reliable methods in assessing outcomes, since both studies used formal records of death certificate to evaluate the outcome of mortality. However, there was potential recall bias in the other two studies,[38 43] as the authors relied on self-report for breast cancer incidence and family history of breast cancer in their studies.

All the four studies had greater than 80% of patients in follow-up assessment. The relatively low numbers of loss to follow-up from these studies were unlikely to introduce bias to the analyses. Apart from the pilot study by Hoffman 1989,[38] the majority of included studies[39, 43-44] had adequate duration of follow-up for outcomes to occur, with the mean length of follow-up ranging from 39.5 to 46.9 years. Additionally, the estimate of cumulative radiation dose was unlikely to be reliable in all four studies,[38, 39, 43, 44] as the authors acknowledged that it may be subject to error.

Synthesis of the included studies

The main characteristics and results of the included studies are presented in Table 4.3. All four studies (based on the same US scoliosis cohort) included children or adolescents with scoliosis and other spinal curvatures. In the included studies, the mean age of patients at follow-up ranged from 41.4 to 58 years. All included patients were female. The vast majority of patients had scoliosis and the proportion of patients with idiopathic scoliosis ranged from 49.2% to 60%. Where reported, the mean age of patients at scoliosis or curvature diagnosis was about 11 years old.

Table 4.3 Review of cancer risk associated with diagnostic radiation exposure - Summary of study characteristics and results

	US Scoliosis Cohort Study (pilot), 1989[38]	US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2000[39]	US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2008[43]	US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2010[44]
Mean age at follow-up; Male (%)	41.4 years; 0%	51 years (range 2-89); 0%	51 years (range 30-84); 0%	58 years (range 2.1-96.5); 0%
Dates of recruitment	From 1935 to 1965 (year of diagnosis 1922 to 1965)	Not stated (year of diagnosis 1912 to 1965)	Not stated (year of diagnosis 1912 to 1965)	Not stated (year of diagnosis 1912 to 1965)
Number of patients recruited/analysed;	1,030; of which 856 responded to the questionnaire/telephone interview (either in person (818), or a surrogate response was received for deceased patients (38)). 973 patients were included in the analyses, as 51 patients could not be located, and dates of X-rays were missing for 6 patients.	5,573; of which vital status was determinable for 4,971 patients. 5,466 patients were included in the subgroup analyses, as 34 patients contributed no woman years of follow-up, 18 patients had missing exit dates and 55 were known to have died but the cause of death was unknown.	3,010 female scoliosis patients (analysis cohort).	5,573; of which vital status was determinable for 5,513 patients. Risk of dying from cancer was assessed for the subgroup of 3121 women who completed the health survey in the previous study.[43]
Disease characteristics	60% of participants had idiopathic scoliosis.	The vast majority of patients had scoliosis (92.7%). Around half of patients (49.2%) had idiopathic disease. Most patients were diagnosed at the age of 10 or above (62.7%).	59% patients had idiopathic scoliosis. Mean age at scoliosis diagnosis was 11 years (range 0-19).	The mean age at curvature diagnosis was 10.6 years (range 0-19.9).
Length of follow-up	The average length of follow-up for the 973 patients with usable follow-up information was 25.6 years.	The average length of follow-up was 40.5 years.	The mean length of follow-up was 39.5 years (range 13-68).	The mean length of follow-up was 46.9 years.

Table 4.3 (continued) Review of cancer risk associated with diagnostic radiation exposure – Summary of study characteristics and results

	US Scoliosis Cohort Study (pilot), 1989[38]	US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2000[39]	US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2008[43]	US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2010[44]
Primary analyses	Incidence of breast cancer Observed breast cancers vs. expected breast cancers: 11 vs. 6 Standardised incidence ratio (SIR‡): 1.82, 90% CI 1.0 to 3.0.	All cause mortality: Standardised mortality ratio (SMR*): 1.71, 95% CI 1.6 to 1.8. Breast cancer mortality: SMR 1.69, 95% CI 1.3 to 2.1. Leukaemia mortality: SMR 1.21, 95% CI 0.6 to 2.3. Lung cancer mortality: SMR 0.73, 95% CI 0.5 to 1.1.	Radiation dose response (during 118,905 woman-years of follow-up with median 35.5 years based on 78 cases of invasive breast cancer): Excess relative risk (ERR)/Gy = 2.86, 95% CI -0.07 to 8.62; P = 0.058 Radiation dose response (for women who reported a family history of breast cancer in first- or second-degree relatives) : ERR/Gy = 8.37, 95% CI 1.50 to 28.16. Effect of modification for radiation dose response for breast cancer by any family history of breast cancer: P=0.03.	All cause mortality: SMR** 1.46, 95% CI 1.39 to 1.54 Cancer mortality: SMR 1.08, 95% CI 0.97 to 1.20. Breast cancer mortality : SMR 1.68, 95% CI 1.38 to 2.02. Liver cancer mortality: SMR 0.17, 95% CI 0.00 to 0.94. Cervical cancer mortality: SMR 0.31, 95% CI 0.06 to 0.92. Lung cancer mortality : SMR 0.77, 95% CI 0.59 to 1.00.

Secondary/ subgroup analyses	Breast cancer risk Patients aged 15 or over at the time of their first X-ray: SIR 3.1, 90% CI 1.4 to 6.2. Patients for whom time since first X-ray was 30 years or more: SIR 2.4, 90% CI 0.9 to 5.0; trend for increased risk with time (P=0.02). Patients who received a total of 30 X-rays or more: SIR 2.0, 90% CI 0.07 to 4.7 Patients who received a total of 60 X-rays or more: SIR 3.1, 90% CI 1.1 to 7.1 Patients who had a radiation dose to the breast of 20 rad or more : SIR 3.4, 90% CI 1.2 to 7.8; trend for increased risk with increased dose (P=0.08).	Breast cancer mortality Patients aged 10 or over at the time of diagnosis: SMR 2.01, 95% CI 1.5 to 2.6. Patients with neuromuscular scoliosis : SMR 2.09, 95% CI 1.4 to 3.1. Patients with unknown etiology: SMR 2.61, 95% CI 1.1 to 5.1. Patients with a maximum curve magnitude of 30 to 59 degrees: SMR 2.29, 95% CI 1.3 to 3.8. Patients who had surgery: SMR 2.52, 95% CI 1.7 to 3.6. Patients receiving 50 or more X-rays: SMR 3.86, 95% CI 1.9 to 6.9. Patients with a cumulative dose of 20 or more cGy to the breast: SMR 3.36, 95% CI 2.0 to 5.3. Patients aged 10 to 13 years at the time of their first X-ray: age 10-11 SMR 3.36, 95% CI 2.1 to 5.1; age 12-13 SMR 1.85, 95% CI 1.2 to 2.8) Patients with a longer time since their first X-ray: 30-39 yrs SMR 2.43, 95% CI 1.6 to 3.6; 40 or more	Breast cancer risk Patients receiving 60 or more X-rays with mean total dose 33.5 cGy vs. patients receiving 1-9 X-rays with mean total dose 3 cGy: RR 3.14, 95% CI 1.33 to 7.44 Test for trend for total number of X-Rays (P= 0.12) Patients with a second-degree relative affected by breast cancer vs. patients with no known family history of breast cancer: RR 2.71, 95% CI 1.57 to 4.66 Test for trend for family history of breast cancer (P= 0.008) Patients with 3-5 relatives or 1-2 relatives with breast cancer vs. patients with no known relatives with breast cancer: RR 5.65, 95% CI 1.73 to 18.5 and RR 2.12, 95% CI 1.32 to 3.41, respectively. Test for trend for number of relatives with breast cancer (P= 0.0003). Patients with a family history of early-onset breast cancer (diagnosed before age 50) vs. patients with no known family history of early-onset breast cancer: RR 2.84, 95% CI 1.10 to 6.03 Test for trend for family history of early-onset breast cancer (P= 0.03).	Breast cancer mortality Patients who received 50 or more X-rays (involving exposure to the breasts) vs. those receiving less than 25 X-rays: RR 2.7, 95% CI 1.3 to 5.5. Patients with a cumulative breast dose of 30 cGy or more vs. those with a cumulative dose of 0-9 cGy; RR 2.4, 95% CI 1.2 to 4.8). P for trend = 0.001. ERR/Gy = 3.9, 95% CI 1.0 to 9.3.

		years SMR 2.07, 95% CI 1.5 to 2.8. Test for trend: Trend for increased risk of breast cancer as the number of radiograph exposures increased (P= 0.0006). Trend for increased risk of breast cancer with increased cumulative radiation dose (P= 0.001).		

‡In Hoffman 1989, SIRs equal the number of observed cases divided by the number of expected cases based on the Connecticut Tumor Registry.
*In Doody 2000, SMRs were calculated by dividing the number of observed deaths by the number of expected deaths based on the general population of white females in the United States (US).
**In Ronckers 2010, SMRs equal the number of observed deaths divided by the number of expected deaths based on US population rates from 1925 to 2002.

Cancer mortality

There was a non-significant difference in the risk of dying from cancer in female spinal curvature patients compared with the general population (standardised mortality ratio (SMR) 1.08, 95% CI 0.97 to 1.20).[44] The data did not show significant increases in the risk of dying from other cancers such as leukaemia, liver, cervical and lung cancer (see Table 4.2).

Breast cancer mortality

Two of the studies reported a significant increase in the risk of dying from breast cancer in spinal curvature patients compared with the general population, with SMR 1.69 (95% CI 1.3 to 2.1)[39]and SMR 1.68 (95% CI 1.38 to 2.02).[44]

There was a highly significant trend for increased risk of breast cancer mortality with increased cumulative radiation dose (P= 0.001).[44] Compared with patients with a cumulative dose of 0-9 cGy, patients with a cumulative breast dose of 30 cGy or more were significantly associated with a higher risk of dying from breast cancer (relative risk (RR) 2.4, 95% CI 1.2 to 4.8).[44]

Compared with patients receiving less than 25 X-rays, a significant increase in the risk of dying from breast cancer was observed in patients who received 50 or more X-rays (involving exposure to the breasts) (RR 2.7, 95% CI 1.3 to 5.5).[44] The ERR for breast cancer mortality increased significantly as the radiation dose to the breast increased (ERR/Gy = 3.9, 95% CI 1.0 to 9.3).[44]

The study by Doody (2000)[39] assessed the relationship between breast cancer mortality risk and age at radiation exposure. The female scoliosis patients aged 10 or over at the time of diagnosis of scoliosis were significantly associated with an increased risk of dying of breast cancer compared with the general population (SMR 2.01, 95% CI 1.5 to 2.6). Stratification analyses showed that there was a higher risk of dying from breast cancer in female scoliosis patients aged 10-11 at the time of their first X-ray exposure (SMR 3.36, 95% CI 2.1 to 5.1), compared with the risk in those aged 12-13 at the time of their first X-ray exposure (SMR 1.85, 95% CI 1.2 to 2.8).[39] However, this analysis was not adjusted for family history of breast cancer or reproductive history.

Breast cancer risk

There was a significant trend for increased risk of breast cancer with increased number of radiograph exposures (P= 0.0006) and with increased cumulative radiation dose (P= 0.001).[39] This finding was not adjusted for family history of breast cancer or reproductive history.

A later study, based on the radiation dose response during 118,905 woman-years of follow-up with median 35.5 years based on 78 cases of invasive breast cancer, reported a marginal significance of radiation dose response for breast cancer risk amongst female scoliosis patients: the ERR/Gy was 2.86 (95% CI -0.07 to 8.62; P= 0.058).[43] A subgroup analysis showed a significant effect of modification for radiation dose response for breast cancer by any family history of breast cancer **(**P= 0.03). Among women who reported a family history of breast cancer in first- or second-degree relatives, a highly significant radiation dose response was observed: the ERR/Gy was 8.37 (95% CI 1.50 to 28.16).[43] However, these analyses were susceptible to recall bias, since the authors relied on self-report for breast cancer incidence and family history of breast cancer.

Summary of evidence

Evidence for the cancer risk associated with diagnostic X-ray radiation exposure in patients with orthopaedic conditions is limited to that from four studies all based on the same US scoliosis cohort. Based on the data from the study with the longest follow-up and largest sample size,[44] there was good evidence of an increase in the risk of breast cancer mortality in female spinal curvature patients compared with the general population and a significant radiation dose response was observed. There was a highly significant trend for increased risk of breast cancer mortality with increased cumulative radiation dose.

An earlier analysis[43] revealed a marginal significance of radiation dose response for breast cancer risk amongst female scoliosis patients. It was noteworthy that this radiation dose response was significant in patients with a family history of breast cancer.[43] However, these findings may have been subject to the possibility of recall bias.

The data did not show significant increases in the risk of dying from other cancers such as leukaemia, liver, cervical and lung cancer.

4.2.4.3 Risk for adverse reproductive outcomes associated with diagnostic radiation

Quality of research available

The two included studies assessing the risk of adverse reproductive outcomes associated with diagnostic X-ray radiation were controlled retrospective cohort studies, one of which[46] had a large sample size. The exposed cohort in both studies was representative of the patient population with orthopaedic conditions of interest. In both studies, the details of pregnancies and offspring were obtained by personal interview or postal questionnaire, thereby introducing the potential for recall bias. In particular, the information on spontaneous abortion in both studies was unlikely to be accurate, since early miscarriage may have been forgotten or unrecognised.

In terms of the assessment of other reproductive outcomes, all causes of stillbirths and neonatal deaths and diagnosis of abnormalities requiring hospitalisation were confirmed objectively in the study by Cox (1964).[45] However, none of the responses on reproductive outcomes from the study by Goldberg (1998)[46] were validated objectively.

It should be noted that some other factors (e.g. family history, maternal health during pregnancy and exposure to X-ray radiation during pregnancy) may have influenced the reproductive outcomes in both studies. The failure to adjust for these confounding factors in the analyses may have threatened the validity of the study findings.

Synthesis of the included studies

The main characteristics and results of the included studies are presented in Table 4.4. Full data extraction is presented in Appendix 2.2. Both studies included cases who were females exposed to multiple X-rays for an orthopaedic condition during childhood or adolescence. However, one was very small (only 91 cases and 157 controls), 49% of controls were male, the cases had been examined for congenital dislocation of the hip and about 36% of X-ray examinations were performed during pregnancy,[45] which was a confounding factor for the outcomes of interest. The other study had fewer confounding factors, the cases being adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients and the study was much larger (1292 cases and 1134 controls).[46]

Table 4.4 Review of adverse reproductive outcomes associated with diagnostic radiation exposure – Summary of study characteristics and results

Outcomes	**Goldberg (1998)[46]** (Exposed group vs. non-exposed group)	**Cox (1964)[45]** (Exposed group vs. non-exposed group)
	Exposed group n= 1292 (adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients)	Exposed group n= 91 (congenital dislocation of the hip + 36% of X-ray examinations performed during pregnancy)
	Non-exposed group n= 1134	Non-exposed group n= 157 (77 males)
Unsuccessful attempts at pregnancy	Adjusted odds ratio (OR)* 1.33, 95% CI 0.84 to 2.13	*NR*
Stillbirths	Adjusted OR§ 0.38, 95% CI 0.15 to 0.97	2% (4/200) vs. 0.8% (3/375); p= 0.34 OR** 2.53, 95% CI 0.56 to 11.42
Neonatal deaths	*NR*	0% vs. 1.9%; p= 0.10 *NC*
Spontaneous abortions	Adjusted OR‡ 1.35, 95% CI 1.06 to 1.73	10.3% (23/223) vs. 8.6% (38/442); p= 0.58 OR** 1.22, 95% CI 0.71 to 2.11
Abnormalities in offspring	*NR*	12.9% (26/202) vs. 5.7% (23/404); p= 0.004 OR** 2.45, 95% CI 1.36 to 4.41

NR: not reported; *NC*: not calculable.
*Variables adjusted in analyses: alcohol consumption, smoking status, body mass index.
§Variables adjusted in analyses: smoking status.
‡Variables adjusted in analyses: alcohol consumption, age of mother, education, body mass index.
**Unadjusted OR calculated by report authors from numerator and percentages.

The results of the small study[45] indicated an association between radiation exposure and increased stillbirths, spontaneous abortion and abnormalities in offspring; this last result being highly statistically significant (p=0.004). Any lack of statistical significance for the former outcomes probably reflects a lack of power in the analysis. However, these results are subject to strong confounding factors, in particular the exposure to radiation during pregnancy. The results of this study cannot be interpreted as reliable, nor are they generalisable to a population exposed at times other than pregnancy.

The larger study in a sample of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients found a statistically significant association between radiation exposure and a reduction in stillbirths but an increase in spontaneous abortion.[46] It found a non-significant association with unsuccessful attempts at pregnancy and did not report on neonatal deaths or abnormalities in offspring. However, this study may have been subject to recall bias (particularly for spontaneous abortion) and limited statistical power. Furthermore, the results were not adjusted

consistently for potential confounding factors such as age of mother, smoking status and alcohol consumption.

Overall, the poor quality limited data did not show evidence of an increased risk of stillbirths associated with diagnostic X-ray exposure during childhood and adolescence for patients with orthopaedic conditions but indicated an increased risk of spontaneous abortions.

4.2.5 Discussion

This systematic review identified a limited number of relevant studies assessing the association between the risk of cancer or adverse reproductive outcomes and diagnostic X-ray exposure. Based on the quality assessment using the pre-specified criteria, the majority of included studies evaluating cancer risk associated with diagnostic radiation were of reasonable quality. All the data from the four included studies were derived from the same large US scoliosis cohort, only differing in terms of the outcome measures, methods of analysis and length of follow-up. It should also be noted that the findings from most studies were based on patient samples exposed to X-rays before 1965. Therefore, these findings may not be generalisable to the current scoliosis patients since radiation dose of modern machines has been reduced and other methods are now used to minimise organ dose.

The quality of two studies assessing the risk of adverse reproductive outcomes associated with diagnostic X-rays was poor, due to the potential for substantial recall bias and failure to adjust for important confounding factors in the analyses.

The US scoliosis cohort studies provided evidence of increased breast cancer mortality risk in female spinal curvature patients who were exposed to multiple X-rays. The data demonstrated a significant trend for increased risk of breast cancer mortality as the cumulative radiation dose to the breast increased. Data showed a marginal significance of radiation dose response for breast cancer risk amongst female scoliosis patients, which was statistically significant in those reporting a family history of breast cancer.

The data did not show significant increases in the risk of dying from other cancers such as leukaemia, liver, cervical and lung cancer.

There were only sparse poor quality data available assessing the risk of abnormal reproductive outcomes in adulthood associated with medical diagnostic X-ray radiation exposure received in childhood and adolescence for orthopaedic conditions. The limited and poor quality data did not show an increased risk of stillbirths for patients exposed to diagnostic X-rays but indicated an increased risk of spontaneous abortion.

4.2.6 Conclusions

The evidence relating to the risks of radiation exposure has been reviewed in the reports of international and UK radiation authorities. Our systematic review contributes an evaluation of the risk of cancer and adverse reproductive outcomes associated with diagnostic X-ray radiation exposure specifically for patients with orthopaedic conditions. Despite the limited data, the findings from our review showed that, when compared with the general female population, there was a clear association between increased risk of breast cancer mortality and diagnostic X-ray exposures for female scoliosis or spinal curvature patients, with a significant radiation dose response. There was a highly significant trend for increased risk of breast cancer with increased cumulative radiation dose, particularly in patients with a family history of breast cancer. Only limited poor quality data were available regarding the risk of adverse reproductive outcomes in orthopaedic patients.

4.3 Review of existing economic evaluations

4.3.1 Methods

Systematic searches of the literature were conducted to identify potentially relevant studies for inclusion in the assessment of cost-effectiveness. Three separate searches were undertaken to identify:

1) Full economic evaluations of EOS against any comparators. A broad range of study designs were considered including economic evaluations conducted alongside randomised or non-randomised comparator trials, modelling studies, cost analyses, and analyses of administrative databases.

Searches for economic evaluations were conducted as part of the EOS systematic review literature searches, as described earlier (Section 4.1.2.1). The following electronic sources were searched for relevant published literature: MEDLINE, EMBASE, CINAHL, HMIC, ISI

Science Citation Index and the Cochrane Library (including the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (CDSR), the Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE), the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Database, the NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED) and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials). Full details of the search strategies are presented in Appendix 1.

2) Economic evaluations in the indications of interest, where standard X-ray was assessed against other comparators. These searches were conducted with a view to gaining insights into the modelling methods, structural assumptions and sources of data (including costs) that might be employed in the development of a new decision analytic model for EOS. These studies were not subject to a formal review unless they complemented the evaluation of EOS. The searches did not specifically search for cost data on EOS, as this would have been retrieved by the generic searches conducted for EOS. They were not intended to be exhaustive, but to identify the most relevant publications in the subject area.

The following electronic databases were searched on 15 November 2010 from 2000 to the most recent date available:

- EconLit
- EMBASE
- MEDLINE
- NHS Economic Evaluation Database

Full details of the search strategies are presented in Appendix 1.

3) Quality of life and cost data for the relevant indications. The searches were conducted to provide potential sources of data, highlight areas of uncertainty and provide benchmark values on which to compare quality of life and cost estimates employed in the *de novo* economic evaluation. Again, the searches were not intended to be exhaustive, but to identify the most relevant publications in the subject area.

The following electronic databases were searched on 22 November 2010 from 2000 to the most recent date available:

- Cochrane Library (including the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials and the NHS Economic Evaluation Database)
- EconLit
- EMBASE
- MEDLINE

Full details of the search strategies are presented in Appendix 1.

The assessment of all retrieved titles and abstracts for inclusion was undertaken independently by two reviewers, and discrepancies resolved by consensus. The quality of any cost-effectiveness studies identified would be assessed according to the methods guidance for economic evaluations developed by NICE.[47]

The manufacturer of EOS imaging system was requested to provide any information and relevant literature on the costs and potential benefits of EOS, including economic evaluation studies. Economic evaluations received from the manufacturer are discussed below.

4.3.2 Results

The systematic literature search identified no economic evaluation studies of EOS that met the inclusion criteria for the review. The searches for economic evaluations in relevant indications did not identify any studies that would complement the evaluation of EOS.

The manufacturer provided four electronic files relating to economics of the EOS system: the recommendation of CEDIT (*Comité d'Evaluation et de Diffusion des Innovations Technologique* – Committee for the Evaluation and Diffusion of Innovative Technologies),[48] and three costing analyses, one for the French setting,[49] and two focusing on the US setting.[50, 51]

None of the files provided by the manufacturer was a full economic evaluation that compared two or more options and considered both costs and consequences (including cost-

effectiveness, cost-utility or cost-benefit analyses). The CEDIT compared the costs and throughput of EOS with conventional X-ray (CR and DR).[48] Potential health benefits of the intervention were not considered in the analysis. The CEDIT estimated the average real cost of an EOS examination to be 74€, assuming an activity level of 5,000 examinations per year. It concluded that the acquisition of an EOS system is justified for 1) centres undertaking a minimum of 4,000 whole-spine X-rays per year, assuming a fixed reimbursement price of approximately 108€ per procedure; 2) centres undertaking a minimum of 5,000 examinations per year (composed of 50% whole spine X-rays, 25% of lower limbs X-rays and 25% of pelvis X-rays). CEDIT's full report was not made available to the EAG. Therefore, the EAG was unable to review the analysis and relate its validity to the UK setting.

The costing analysis for the French setting consisted of a financial analysis of the potential revenue that could be achieved through the acquisition of EOS, based on tariff prices for different types of radiographs.[49] This analysis is not considered relevant to the perspective of the UK NHS, which operates a tariff based on healthcare resource groups and not individual procedures.

The two costing analyses for the US setting were based on projected Medicare and private fees for each X-ray scan and projected activity for the EOS system.[50, 51] The increase in revenue from the use of EOS compared to conventional X-ray was due to a projected increase in the quantity of scans undertaken through the acquisition of EOS. Similarly to the analyses for the French setting, these studies are not considered relevant to the perspective of the UK NHS. Neither study compared EOS with an alternative technology, nor considered the potential health benefits to patients. Consequently, these costing studies are not considered further in the assessment of the cost-effectiveness of EOS.

The following section presents a new decision analytic model that has been developed to provide an assessment of the cost-effectiveness of EOS in the context of the UK NHS.

4.4 Description of decision analytic model

4.4.1 Overview

A decision analytic model was developed to formally assess the cost-effectiveness of EOS for monitoring the indications listed in Table 3.1 from the perspective of the UK NHS. The model provides a framework for the synthesis of data from the review of clinical effectiveness of EOS (Section 4.1) and other relevant parameters, such as the risk of cancer from radiation exposure, in order to evaluate the potential long-term cost-effectiveness of EOS. The relevant comparators to EOS are standard X-ray computed radiography (CR) and digital radiography (DR).

The primary benefit of EOS is to provide radiographic imaging at relatively low dose radiation. Therefore, the model considers the long-term costs and consequences associated with radiation exposure. The model estimates the total radiation exposure to patients over a lifetime for the diagnosis and long-term monitoring of the indications for both standard X-ray (CR and DR imaging) and EOS. The subsequent outcomes from radiation exposure on the risk of cancer and mortality are explicitly modelled to determine the impact on health outcomes and costs to the NHS.

In addition, threshold analysis is undertaken to assess the magnitude of health benefit over and above that associated with reduction in radiation which EOS would need to achieve to be considered cost-effective. This would relate to any changes in the pathway of care for patients resulting from the use of EOS rather than standard X-ray - i.e. changes in diagnosis and/or therapy which ultimately have a positive impact on patients' life expectancy or quality of life. Outcomes in the model are expressed in terms of quality adjusted life years (QALYs). The model evaluates costs from the perspective of the NHS and Personal Social Services, expressed in UK £ sterling at a 2011 price base. Both costs and outcomes are discounted using a 3.5% annual discount rate, in line with current guidelines.[47] All stages of the work were informed by discussion with our clinical advisors to provide feedback on specific aspects of the analysis such as the modelling approach, data inputs and assumptions.

The following sections outline the structure of the model and provide an overview of the key assumptions and data sources used to populate the model in detail.

4.4.2 Modelling approach

The model estimates the total radiation exposure over the monitoring period for the various indications. In order to estimate the lifetime radiation dose due to diagnostic imaging, the model requires the following inputs for each of the indications considered:

- The average patient age at diagnosis
- The frequency of monitoring over a lifetime
- Differences in monitoring for patients where surgery is indicated
- Type of radiographs used for diagnosis and monitoring
- Radiation dose associated with each type of radiograph

The frequency of monitoring over a patient's lifetime depends on age at diagnosis, pattern of monitoring, child and adolescent growth and whether surgery is indicated. The radiation dose for each type of radiograph used during diagnosis and monitoring is estimated. The lifetime risk of cancer attributable to radiation exposure (LAR) is then calculated. Subsequent health effects from cancer in terms of reductions in life expectancy and quality of life, as well as an increase in costs, are modelled using previously developed cancer screening models. Figure 4.3 shows a simple schematic picture of the modelling approach.

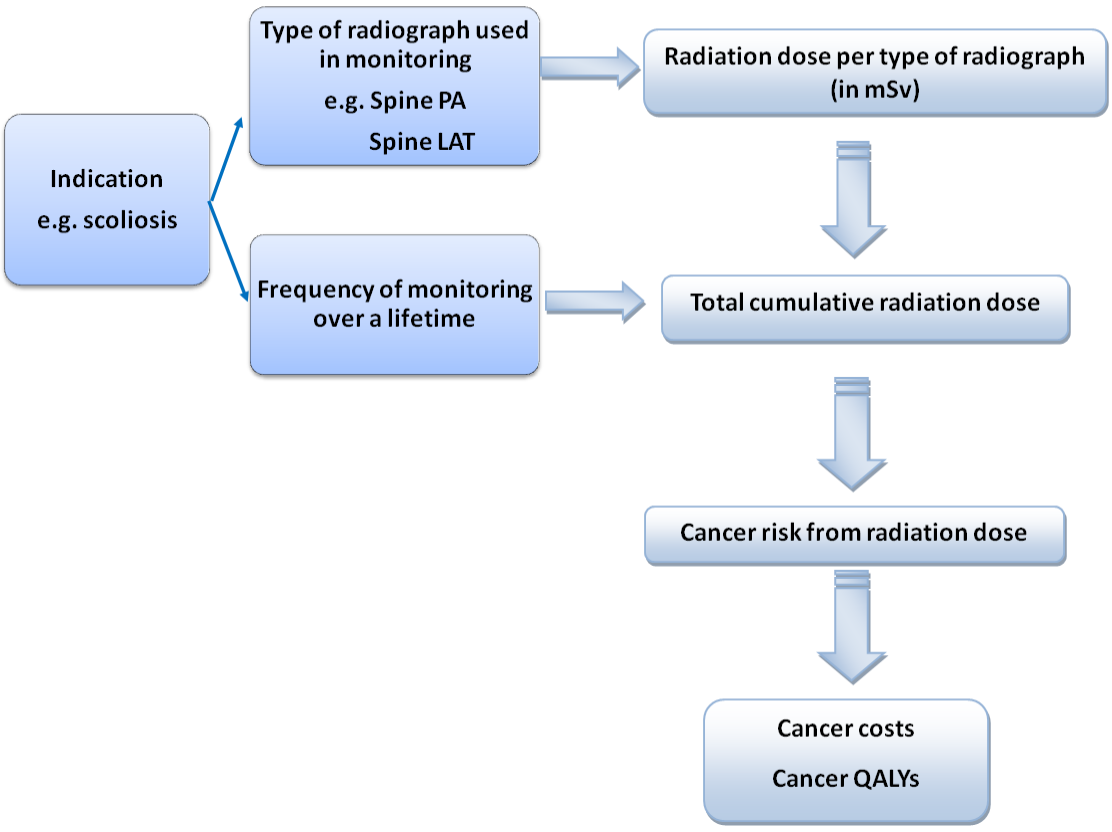
As well as a potential reduction in radiation dose, and hence cancer risk, the use of EOS may have implications for the quality and nature of the image. This may have knock-on effects on medical or surgical care with consequent implications for patients' health outcomes. Threshold analyses are undertaken to explore the necessary size of these effects, in addition to the impact of cancer risks, in order for EOS to be considered cost-effective.

The cost-effectiveness of EOS is evaluated by comparing the costs and health outcomes associated with EOS with those from standard X-ray. The model will ascertain whether the additional costs of EOS are offset by the reduction in cancer risk achieved through reduced lifetime radiation exposure. Resource utilisation and costs were estimated for EOS and its comparators, with particular attention given to patient throughput. Patient throughput is likely to be a major determinant of the cost-effectiveness of EOS. The average cost per procedure of EOS or standard X-ray decreases with utilisation: the greater the number of procedures undertaken, the lower the average cost. Estimates of likely throughput with EOS

are both uncertain (there is little reliable evidence to use for this purpose) and variable (they depend on how many EOS scanners are introduced in the NHS and the relevant patient throughput in each centre). The same applies for standard X-ray. A range of scenarios is considered regarding throughput with EOS and standard X-ray, as well as threshold analysis to explore the critical throughput levels to be achieved for EOS to be considered cost-effective.

The following sections provide a detailed overview of the model inputs and the main assumptions. A base-case analysis is then undertaken using a particular set of assumptions. A series of detailed scenario analyses follow, exploring the impact of a range of alternative assumptions on the overall cost-effectiveness results. Threshold analyses are used to explore the parameter values required to generate a cost-effectiveness ratio acceptable to the UK NHS.

Figure 4.3 Schematic picture of the modelling approach



4.5 Model Inputs

4.5.1 Types of Radiograph

In order to estimate the cumulative radiation dose of EOS and standard X-ray, it is necessary to identify the types and numbers of radiographs used for the monitoring of each indication. Different indications require specific types of radiographs for diagnosis and monitoring. In the absence of published literature, expert advice was used to establish the type of radiograph required for monitoring each of the indications. Table 4.5 summarises the type of radiograph required for monitoring each indication.

Table 4.5 Type of radiograph used for monitoring by indication (source: expert clinical advice)

Indication	Type of Radiograph	
	Children	**Adolescents and adults**
Scoliosis Congenital kyphosis Ankylosing spondylitis Scheuermann's disease Other deforming dorsopathies Congenital deformities of spine	- Spine PA or AP - Spine LAT	- Thoracic spine PA or AP - Thoracic spine LAT - Lumbar spine PA or AP - Lumbar spine LAT
Congenital deformities of lower limbs and hips	- Frontal femur - Frontal lower legs - Pelvis PA	- Frontal femur - Frontal lower legs - Pelvis PA

PA, posteroanterior view; AP, anteroposterior view; LAT, lateral view.

Frontal spine radiographs are usually performed in the PA position in order to reduce irradiation of the sensitive organs. However, in some cases AP views are taken, either to reduce image distortion or in patients who have difficulty in standing without support.[52]

4.5.2 Monitoring pattern

The monitoring pattern for each indication relates to how often patients are scanned throughout their lifetime. The frequency of monitoring depends on the age at diagnosis, the pattern of monitoring, child and adolescent growth, whether surgery is indicated and the age at which patients have surgery.

Given the limited evidence in the published literature, expert advice was sought to establish for the average patient and for each indication, the monitoring pattern, the age at diagnosis,

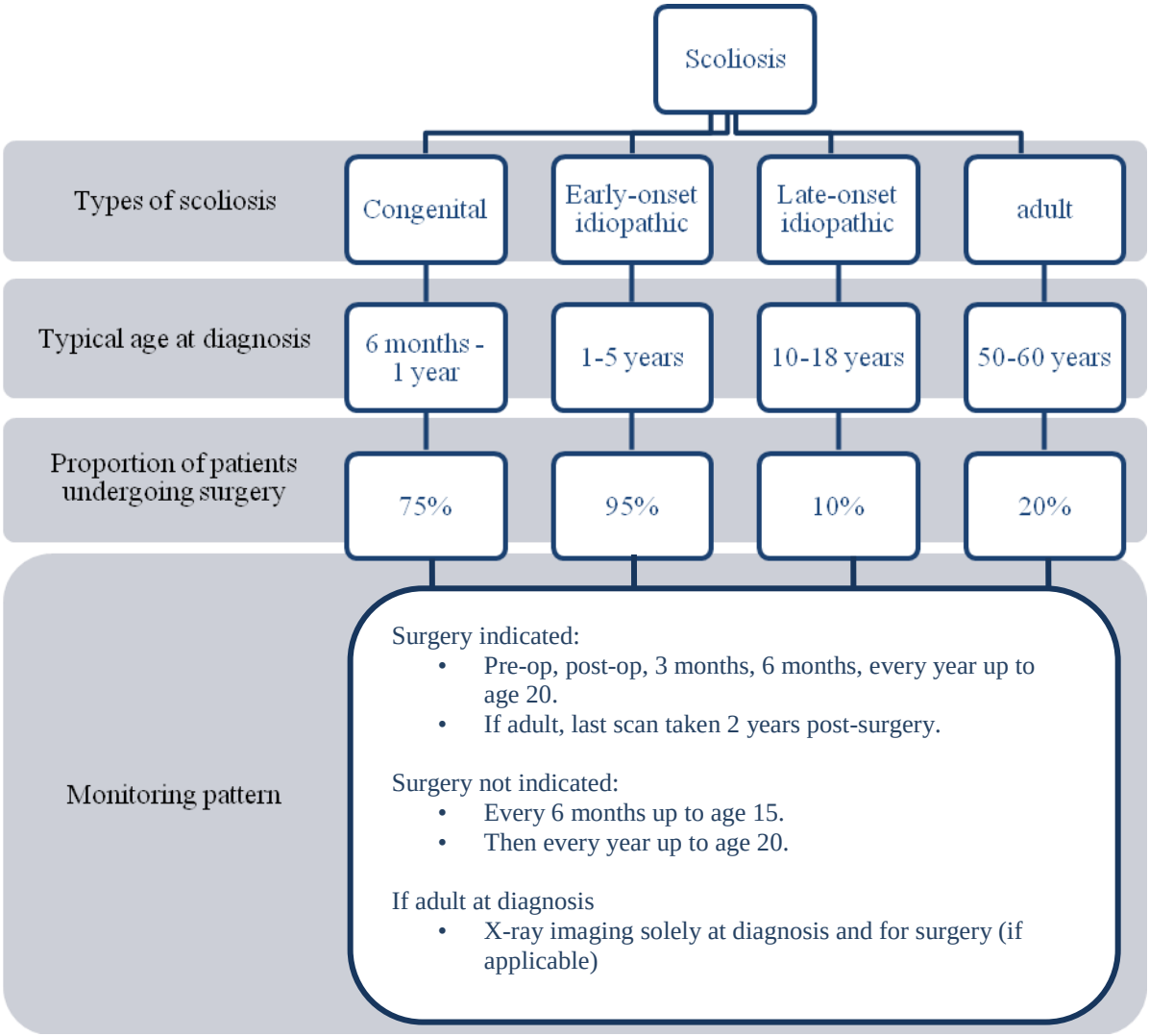
age at surgery and the proportion of patients undergoing surgery. Inevitably there will be considerable variability around this average.

In the absence of formal evidence, where surgery is indicated, it is assumed to take place two years post-diagnosis for scoliosis, congenital kyphosis and Scheuermann's disease. For ankylosing spondylitis and congenital deformities of spine, hips and limbs, surgery is assumed to take place at the same age as the first scan for spinal deformity. Details of the monitoring pattern assumptions made for each indication are summarised in Figures 4.4 to 4.7, and are briefly described below.

Scoliosis

For the four scoliosis indications (congenital, early-onset idiopathic, late-onset idiopathic and adult), when spine surgery is indicated the patient has to be scanned pre-operatively. Following surgery, a patient is assumed to be scanned post-operatively, at 3 months, 6 months, and then every year up to age 20. The last scan for an adult patient (over 18 years of age) is assumed to occur two years after surgery. If surgery is not indicated, the average patient with scoliosis is assumed to be scanned every 6 months up to age 15, then every year thereafter up to cessation of skeletal growth. Cessation of skeletal growth varies between individuals, but it is assumed that the average point of cessation is at age 20. Figure 4.4 summarises the age at diagnosis, the proportion of patients undergoing surgery and the monitoring pattern for scoliosis assumed in the model.

Figure 4.4 Monitoring pattern for scoliosis



Kyphosis

Kyphosis can be sub-divided into congenital and acquired. Acquired kyphosis can be caused by a variety of indications. However, for the evaluation of EOS, only Scheuermann's disease and ankylosing spondylitis were considered within the scope, in addition to congenital kyphosis (see Section 3.1).

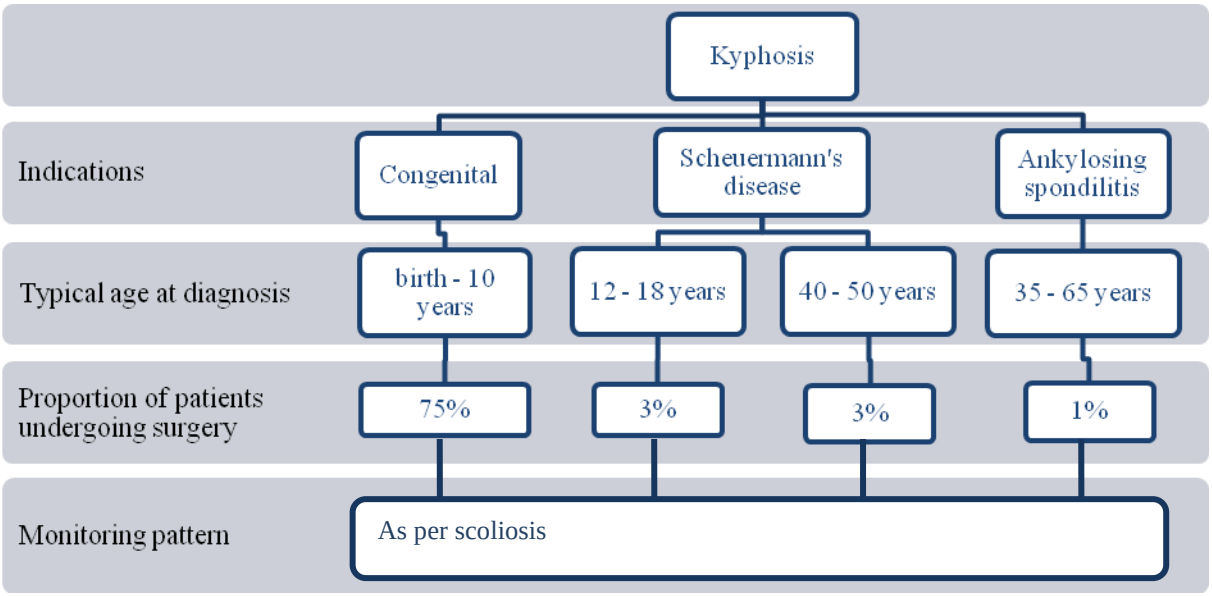
Patients with congenital kyphosis may be diagnosed between birth and 10 years old. X-ray imaging is usually taken every 6 months to 1 year up to cessation of skeletal growth. Depending on the location of the kyphotic curve, patients may develop compensatory

lordosis, which can be associated with secondary scoliosis. X-ray imaging for congenital kyphosis is assumed to follow the same monitoring pattern as congenital scoliosis.
Patients with ankylosing spondylitis typically present with spinal deformity between the ages of 35 and 65 years. X-ray imaging is usually taken at diagnosis but it is assumed that regular monitoring is not required. A small proportion of patients with ankylosing spondylitis may undergo spine surgery. The monitoring of these patients is assumed to follow the same pattern as spine surgery in adult scoliosis.

Scheuermann's disease can be diagnosed during adolescence or adulthood. It is assumed that patients in their mid-teens, largely male, are managed the same as adolescent scoliosis. Adult patients typically present between the ages of 40 and 50 years. X-ray imaging is taken at diagnosis but it is assumed that regular monitoring is not required. From discussions with clinical experts, it is also assumed that around 3% of patients with Scheuermann's disease require spine surgery. The monitoring of these patients is assumed to follow the same pattern as spine surgery in scoliosis.

Figure 4.5 summarises the age at diagnosis, the proportion of patients undergoing surgery and the monitoring pattern for the kyphotic indications assumed in the model.

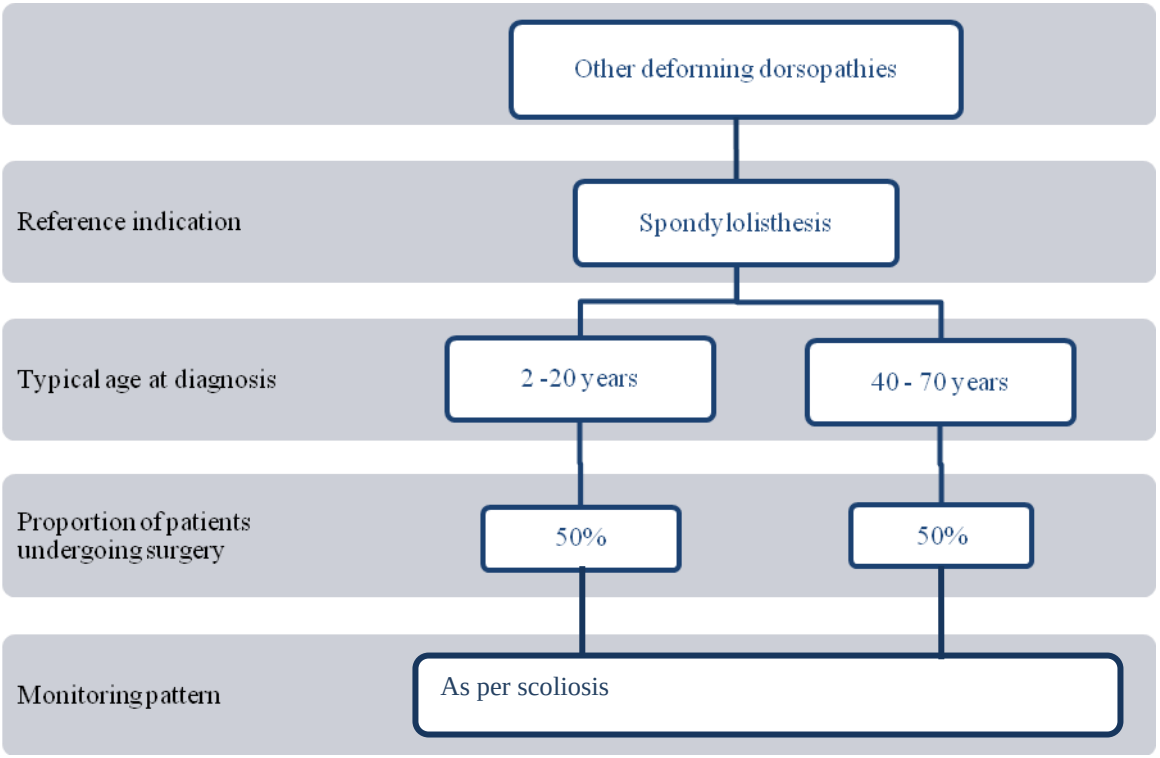
Figure 4.5 Monitoring pattern for kyphosis



Other deforming dorsopathies

For other deforming dorsopathies that don't fall under the indications of scoliosis or kyphosis, spondylolisthesis was used as a reference indication. Children and adolescents under the age of 20 years are assumed to be scanned every year up to cessation of skeletal growth. X-ray imaging for adults, who typically present after the age of 40 years, is assumed to follow the same monitoring pattern as above for scoliosis. From discussions with clinical experts, it is assumed that 50% of patients with deforming dorsopathies require spine surgery. Figure 4.6 summarises the age at diagnosis, the proportion of patients undergoing surgery and the monitoring pattern for deforming dorsopathies assumed in the model.

Figure 4.6 Monitoring pattern for deforming dorsopathies

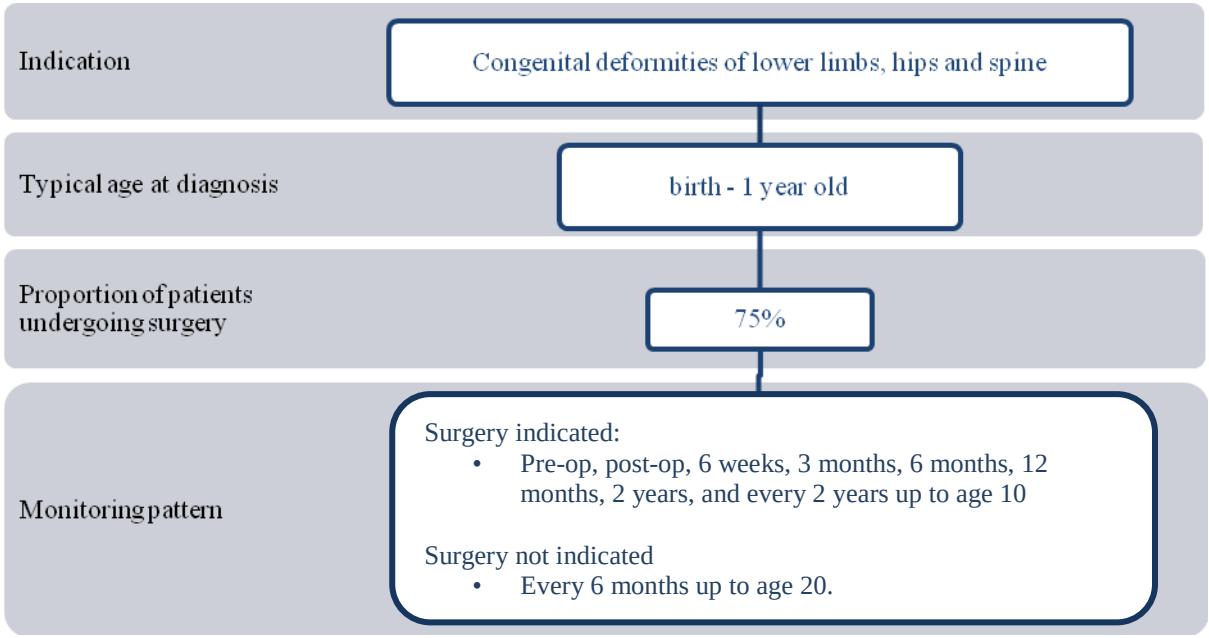


Congenital deformities of lower limbs, hips and spine

Congenital deformities encompass a number of indications, which makes it difficult to define precisely an average pattern of monitoring. The model assumes that a patient is diagnosed at birth and undergoes surgery at one year if surgery is indicated. X-ray imaging is assumed to take place pre-operatively, post-operatively, 6 weeks post-surgery, 12 weeks, 6 months, 12

months, 2 years and every 2 years up to age 10. Inevitably there will be considerable variability around this average. For patients who do not undergo surgery, X-ray imaging is assumed every 6 months up to age 20 years. Figure 4.7 summarises the age at diagnosis, the proportion of patients undergoing surgery and the monitoring pattern for congenital deformities assumed in the model.

Figure 4.7 Monitoring pattern for congenital deformities



4.5.3 Radiation dose

Radiation dose associated with standard X-ray

The Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE), formerly the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), of the Health Protection Agency (HPA), collects information on patients undergoing medical and dental X-ray examinations and interventional procedures in the UK NHS and independent sector and stores it in the National Patient Dose Database (NPDD). The purpose of the NPDD is to monitor trends in patient doses and provide national reference doses.[53] Every five years, the HPA reports these national measures of dose. In a personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from HPA,[33] typical organ doses and effective doses were estimated for a range of diagnostic X-ray examinations from UK data for 2005. Effective doses were calculated using tissue weighting factors recommended by the ICRP Publication 103[19] and ICRP Publication 60.[54]

Table 4.6 provides a summary of the effective doses for adult patients for the radiographs of interest in Section 4.5.1. The effective dose ranges from 0.14 to 0.39 mSv for the thoracic and lumbar spine. The estimates are considered to represent the best available evidence of radiation dose associated with diagnostic radiographs in the UK. However, the estimates are based on data collected between 2001 and 2006 and less than a quarter of the total rooms recorded information on the type of imaging equipment for the radiographic examinations. Of the rooms where this detail was recorded, 55% used a film-screen combination, 40% used CR and 5% used DR.[53] Generally, doses were reported to be similar between the three types of system, with a few exceptions in which significant reductions were achieved with CR.[53] In the absence of formal evidence, the model assumes equivalent effective doses for CR and DR. An alternative scenario examines a reduction of two-thirds in effective dose for DR compared to CR.[55]

Table 4.6 Effective doses for adult patients by type of radiograph[33]

Radiograph	Effective dose (mSv)
Thoracic spine AP	0.24
Thoracic spine LAT	0.14
Lumbar spine AP	0.39
Lumbar spine LAT	0.21
Pelvis AP	0.28
Femur AP	0.011
Knee AP	0.0001

Organ and effective doses for children might be expected to be lower than for adults if full optimisation of the exposure conditions to the size of the patient is practiced during radiographic examinations.[33] Data obtained for adults[33] included examples of estimated effective doses to children for three radiographic examinations of the chest, abdomen and pelvis/hips when following guidelines of best practice[56] and compared these doses to those of adults. Of these examinations, only the pelvis/hips are of interest for the indications in Section 3.3. The effective dose for children and adolescents aged between 1 and 15 years ranged from 0.01 to 0.11 mSv for pelvis/hips AP. This was comparable to 0.42 mSv for the same radiograph in adults.

A review of the literature for effective doses for children identified a study by Hansen *et al* (2003)[52] which examined spine radiographs in children and adolescents. Examinations were undertaken in a small sample of 49 children using plain film and 21 using CR.[52] These doses were used to provide estimates for radiographs of the spine PA, spine AP, and spine LAT in children and adolescents. For the pelvis, the doses from the NPDD were used.[33] In the absence of evidence for the femur and lower legs in children, the dose ratio between adult and children for pelvis AP was applied to the adult doses in Table 4.6 to obtain an estimate of effective dose in children. Table 4.7 provides a summary of the effective doses for children for the radiographs of interest.

Table 4.7 Effective doses (mSv) for children and adolescents by type of radiograph

	Age range (years)	**1 - 2**	**3 - 6**	**7 - 12**	**13 - 18**	**Source**
Type of radiograph	Spine AP	0.0600	0.0490	0.0290†	0.0300†	Hansen 2003[52]
	Spine PA	0.0600†	0.0490	0.0290	0.0300	
	Spine LAT	0.0780‡	0.0780	0.0580	0.0480	
	Age range (years)	**1-4**	**5-9**	**10-14**	**>15**	
Type of radiograph	Pelvis AP	0.01	0.06	0.08	0.11	Paul Shrimpton, HPA[33]
	Femur AP§	0.00022	0.00154	0.00209	0.00286	Modified from Paul Shrimpton, HPA[33]
	Knee AP§	0.000002	0.000014	0.000019	0.000026	
	Ratio of doses children : adults	0.02	0.14	0.19	0.26	

†Spine AP/PA assumed the same as spine PA/AP where data was not available.
‡Spine LAT for age 1-2 years assumed the same as 3-6 years as data was not available.
§Based on ratio of adult to children doses observed for Pelvis AP when following guidelines of best practice [56] .

Radiation dose associated with EOS

The systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS described in Section 4.1 identified three relevant studies comparing the radiation dose associated with EOS to standard X-ray:

- Kalifa (1998) compared EOS with film radiography in 140 children aged over 5 years.[26]
- Le Bras (unpublished) compared EOS with film radiography in adolescents.[27]
- Dechenes (2010) compared EOS with CR in 49 children.[28]

In summary, Kalifa (1998) and Le Bras (unpublished) report entrance surface dose (ESD) for different types of radiographs for both EOS and film X-ray.[26, 27] Deschenes (2010) reports ESD to specific locations irradiated in the body.[28] The ratio of mean ESD between standard

X-ray and EOS varies largely depending on the study and type of X-ray examination (Table 4.1). Kalifa (1998) reported ratios between 11.6 and 18.8 for spine AP, PA, LAT and pelvis,[26] while ratios of 5.2 for spine PA and 6.2 for spine LAT can be estimated from Le Bras (unpublished).[27] The ratio of mean ESD in the more recent study by Deschenes (2010) varies between 2.9 and 9.2 depending on the body site.[28]

As discussed in section 4.1, there is considerable uncertainty regarding the reduction of radiation dose achieved with EOS, both within and between studies. The ratios of mean ESD reported in Dechenes (2010) are approximately in line with the ratios reported in Le Bras (unpublished).[27, 28] In contrast, the dose reduction reported in Kalifa (1998) is much higher.[26] The reason behind this discordance in results is not clear but may be due to the older technology used in Kalifa (1998) in comparison to the more recent studies. As none of the studies reported standard deviations or confidence intervals, the full extent of uncertainty in these estimates is unknown.

In order to reflect the uncertainty and heterogeneity, no formal synthesis of these studies was attempted. The model assumes a mean dose reduction of 6.73, which corresponds to the average of the values reported in Dechenes and Le Bras.[27, 28] The sensitivity of the results to this assumption will be explored by examining an extreme scenario of a high dose reduction with ratio of means equal to 18.83, corresponding to the highest dose reduction observed across the three studies.

It is worth noting that effective dose was not used as the comparative measure of radiation exposure in these studies. All three studies reported entrance surface dose. ESD does not account for the variation in radio-sensitivity of the different organs of the body, the thickness of the patient's body and the distribution of absorbed dose. Following the advice of experts, it was considered appropriate to use the ratio of mean ESD applied to effective dose as a first approximation for the reduction in radiation exposure achieved with EOS, on the assumption that X-ray beam sizes, anatomical positions and radiation qualities are similar.

4.5.4 Cancer risk due to radiation exposure

As discussed in Section 3.5, radiation from diagnostic X-rays can result in stochastic (random) effects, which are only noticeable years after exposure. Diagnostic X-rays are the largest man-made source of radiation exposure to the general population, contributing to around 14% of total annual exposure worldwide from all sources.[32] A review of the literature in Section 4.2 identified four sources of data on the effects of low levels of ionizing radiation on health:

1) BEIR VII Phase 2 - Health risks from exposure to low levels of ionizing radiation by the National Academy of Sciences, published in 2006.[18]
2) UNSCEAR 2008 – Sources and effects of ionizing radiation by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects of atomic radiation.[32]
3) ICRP Publication 103 – The 2007 Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.[19]
4) Personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from HPA.[33]

Each of these sources estimated the risk of cancer based on epidemiological data from: 1) the Japanese atomic bomb survivors; 2) medical radiation studies; 3) occupational radiation studies; and 4) environmental radiation studies. The majority of what is known about the effects of low level ionizing radiation is from the epidemiological data of the Life Span Study of atomic bomb survivors. The latest report by the Life Span Study is based on data of over 80,000 atomic bomb survivors who were within 10 km of the hypocenter, as well as around 25,000 individuals who were not in the cities at the time of the bombing, and followed for over 40 years.[18]

Epidemiological data on radiation-induced cancers has been historically analysed using dose response models of excess absolute risk and excess relative risk. The simplest model and the one most favoured assumes that the risk caused by the exposure is proportional to the baseline risk as well as to the exposure.[18, 19, 32] These models follow a linear non-threshold approach, which implies that the risk of cancer is proportional to exposure in a linear way and that there is no safe exposure dose.[18, 19, 32, 57, 58] Therefore, the total cumulative lifetime cancer risk can be obtained by adding the cancer risk associated with each radiographic examination.

In a personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from HPA (discussed in Section 4.5.3), lifetime risk of radiation-induced cancer was calculated as a function of age at exposure and sex according to the risk models in ICRP Publication 103.[19] Table 4.8 provides a summary of the lifetime cancer risk per unit dose for all cancers by age and sex at exposure. Similar risk estimates are available in the BEIR VII report[18] for the US population and these were used as part of a sensitivity analysis.

Table 4.8 Lifetime risks of cancer incidence for all cancers by age and sex at exposure for uniform whole body irradiation[33]

	Risk of all cancers (per unit Gy[§])	
Age at exposure (years)	**Males**	**Females**
0-9	0.0999	0.1270
10-19	0.0800	0.0994
20-29	0.0623	0.0795
30-39	0.0512	0.0646
40-49	0.0422	0.0562
50-59	0.0327	0.0441
60-69	0.0223	0.0320
70-79	0.0132	0.0194
80-89	0.0055	0.0075
90-99	0.0004	0.0002

[§]Note: X-rays have a radiation factor of 1; a uniform absorbed dose of 1 Gy of radiation to the whole body is equal to an effective dose of 1 Sv.

The lifetime risks of radiation-induced cancer in Table 4.8 were applied to the effective dose estimates for each type of radiograph (Section 4.5.3) used during diagnosis and monitoring of the indications to estimate a total risk of cancer attributable to radiation exposure for standard X-ray. The ratio of reduction in radiation associated with EOS was then applied to obtain a reduced risk of radiation-induced cancer for EOS. Table 4.9 summarises the lifetime cancer risk for EOS compared to standard X-ray for the indications, taking account of the frequency of monitoring.

Table 4.9 Lifetime risk of cancer attributable to radiation exposure for EOS compared to standard X-ray by indication

	Lifetime cancer risk[*]:	
Indication	**Standard X-ray**	**EOS**
Congenital scoliosis	0.0009949	0.0001478
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	0.0009139	0.0001358
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	0.0008079	0.0001200

Adult scoliosis	0.0000903	0.0000134
Congenital kyphosis	0.0009043	0.0001343
Congenital deformities	0.0003750	0.0000557
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	0.0006101	0.0000906
Scheuermann's disease adult	0.0000583	0.0000087
Ankylosing spondylitis	0.0000403	0.0000060
Deforming dorsopathies adolescent	0.0009954	0.0001479
Deforming dorsopathies adult	0.0001693	0.0000252

*Assuming 50% males, 50% females.

4.5.5 Consequences of cancer

The effects of radiation exposure on the risk of cancer are related to final health outcomes from cancer, expressed in quality-adjusted life years (QALYs). This is necessary in order to provide an indication of the net health effect of EOS, relative to its additional cost and the effects of standard X-ray, in units which permit comparison with other uses of health service resources.

Cancer results in a decrease in life expectancy and quality of life, as well as an increase in costs. In order to estimate the costs and QALYs associated with cancer, previously developed cancer models were sought. The School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR) at the University of Sheffield has undertaken comprehensive assessments of the economic burden of treating colorectal and prostate cancer.[59 60 61] In collaboration with Paul Tappenden from ScHARR, costs and outcomes for colorectal and prostate cancer were obtained.[59 60 61] These cancer models were able to provide an estimate of the number of life years and QALYs lost from the point of cancer diagnosis to death for an average age of diagnosis compared to the general population. In addition, total costs from the point of clinically confirmed cancer diagnosis to death were obtained for both colorectal and prostate cancer, based on treatments used in current practice.

Similar models were also obtained for breast and lung cancer.[62 63 64] These models provided an average age of diagnosis, average costs, life years and QALYs from the point of cancer diagnosis to death. With the exception of prostate cancer, all models were run probabilistically, in that each input in the model was entered as an uncertain rather than a fixed parameter. The results in the form of a set of probabilistic sensitivity analysis (PSA) simulations were read directly into our model to allow exploration of the sensitivity of the cost-effectiveness results to uncertainty in the cancer estimates. Table 4.10 provides a

summary of the total costs and QALYs lost due to cancer for the four cancers where access to an economic model was available.

Table 4.10 Total costs and QALYs lost due to cancer, discounted at 3.5% per annum to age of cancer diagnosis[59 62 63 64 60 61]

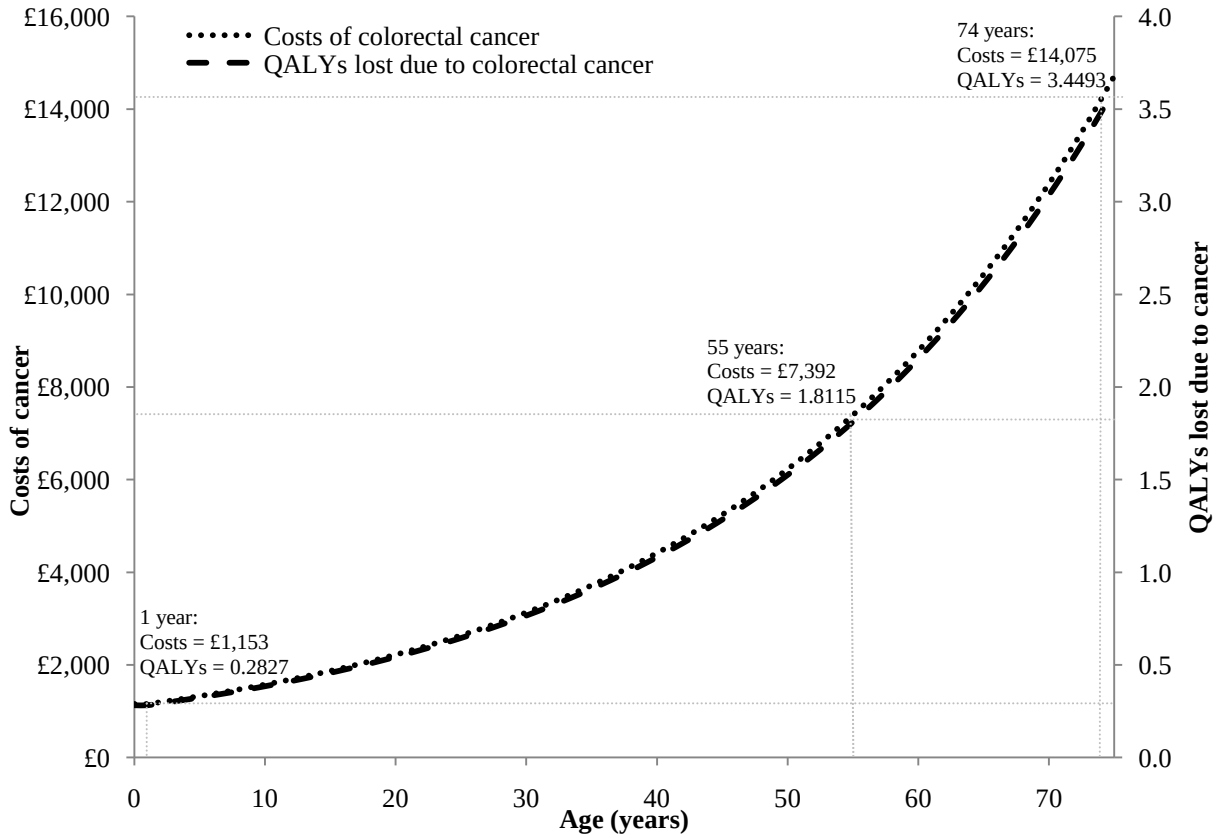
Cancer	Age of diagnosis	Costs of cancer	QALYs lost due to cancer
Breast	40 years	£14,990	5.6988
Breast	60 years	£13,927	3.4219
Lung	72 years	£22,712	6.8011
Colorectal	74 years	£14,075	3.4493
Prostate	74 years	£12,389	4.6226

In the absence of cancer models for all types of cancer, a weighted average of costs and QALYs for the four cancers was used to provide an estimate of costs and QALYs associated with all cancer. This weighting was based on the incidence of radiation-induced cancer reported by type of cancer in BEIR VII.[18] For males, the weights were approximately 46% colorectal, 42% lung and 12% prostate, while for females the weights were 16% colorectal, 50% lung and 34% breast.

An underlying assumption of the model is that radiation exposure results in a higher risk of cancer incidence, but it is unclear whether the age of cancer diagnosis would differ from that of the general population. In the absence of formal evidence, the model assumes the same age of cancer diagnosis as the average patient in the general population with such a diagnosis, although this assumption is explored using scenario analysis. This assumption could have a marked impact on the cost-effectiveness results due to the effects of discounting. Future costs and QALYs are discounted back to their present value to reflect a positive rate of time preference; i.e. benefits obtained today are preferred to benefits accrued in the future.[65] For children and adolescents, this means that the effects of cancer, which is assumed to occur at a much later age in life, are considerably reduced. For adults, the age of diagnosis for spinal deformities is closer to the age of cancer occurrence than in children and adolescents. Hence the present value of the consequences of cancer is greater for adults than for children and adolescents.

Figure 4.8 illustrates the effect of discounting on the valuation of the consequences of cancer for the costs and QALYs lost associated with colorectal cancer. At the average age of colorectal cancer diagnosis, costs and QALYs of colorectal cancer are valued at £14,075 and 3.4493 respectively (see Table 4.10). However, patients enter the model at the age of diagnosis of the relevant orthopaedic indication. Consequently, the costs and QALYs of the cancer occurring in the future are discounted back to that age. In congenital scoliosis, for example, patients are assumed to be diagnosed at 1 year old. Therefore, the future costs accrued and QALYs lost due to cancer are discounted back to 1 year old and are valued at £1,153 and 0.2827 respectively. Conversely, in adult scoliosis, patients undergo their first scan at 55 years old. Therefore, costs and QALYs of cancer are discounted back to 55 years old, and are valued at £7,392 and 1.8115.

Figure 4.8 Discounting costs and QALYs lost from colorectal cancer to age of diagnosis



4.5.6 Costs of EOS and standard X-ray

The cost-effectiveness of EOS is evaluated by comparing the additional costs of EOS to the reduction in consequences achieved through reduced radiation exposure compared to standard X-ray. Therefore, an estimate of the average cost per procedure of EOS, CR and DR is required.

The average cost of an examination is determined by the set-up cost, annual recurring costs and per patient costs. The set-up costs consist of the fitting out of a suitable room, the capital cost of the machine, and the installation costs of the technology (if not included with the capital cost of the machine). The recurring costs consist of the annual maintenance costs, the costs involved in replacing equipment and overheads. Per patient costs consist of the consumables utilised for each procedure and of the staff required. Table 4.11 summarises the costs included in the average cost per procedure.

Table 4.11 Costs included in the average cost per procedure

Set-up costs:	
Fitting out a suitable room	Fitting out a suitable location complying with radiation legislation requirements
Capital cost of machine	Capital cost to include all aspects of workstation and software
Installation costs	Installation including workstation and software
Recurring costs:	
Annual maintenance costs	Service contract
Equipment replacement costs	Replacement parts as required
Overheads	For example, electricity, heating
Per patient costs:	
Consumables	Consumables required per patient visit
Staffing costs	Number and type of staff involved and grade
Useful life of technology	
Technology lifetime	Lifetime of a new system until requiring replacement

In estimating the costs of EOS and standard X-ray, it is assumed that some categories of cost are equivalent for the two modalities. This assumed equivalence applies to the costs of fitting out a suitable room for the equipment, installation costs, overheads and staff costs. All other costs potentially differ by the type of procedure and are described below.

Costs of EOS

The systematic review of EOS did not retrieve any published information on its costs (see Section 4.1). In the absence of published literature, the information provided by the manufacturer was used to estimate the costs of EOS (Table 4.12).

Table 4.12 Costs of EOS provided by the manufacturer (2010/2011 prices[§])

Costs	Contract 1	Contract 2
Set-up costs[†]	£400,000	£400,000
Recurring costs [‡]		
Maintenance	£32,000 per year	£48,000 per year
Other	£25,000 (X-ray tube)	-
Useful life of EOS	10 years	

[§]Note: Prices shown exclude VAT. The model includes VAT at 20%.
[†]Set-up costs include the capital cost of the complete EOS system, staff training and installation costs.
[‡]The manufacturer has two service contracts available; both include replacement of detectors, but contract 2 also includes replacement of X-ray tubes. An X-ray tube requires replacement every 3 to 5 years.

Costs of CR and DR

The systematic review of the literature on costs relating to standard X-ray did not identify any studies providing costs of CR or DR in the UK setting. In the absence of formal literature, expert advice was sought from manufacturers and hospital accounting systems to provide information on the costs of CR and DR. Table 4.13 provides a summary of the estimated costs for CR and DR.

Table 4.13 Costs of CR and DR (2010/2011 prices) [§]

Costs	CR	DR
Set-up costs	£95,000	£167,500*
Recurring costs		
Maintenance	£10,000 per year	£18,000 per year
Others	£150-£200 (cassette) [‡]	£2000 (software upgrades) [†]
Useful life of technology	10 years	

[§]Note: Prices shown exclude VAT. The model includes VAT at 20%.
*The value of £167,500 is an average of the cost of a single detector (£105,000) and a dual detector (£230,000).
[‡]A cassette requires replacement every 3 to 5 years.
[†]Software upgrades were assumed to take place every four years.

Patient throughput

Patient throughput is likely to be a major determinant of the cost-effectiveness of EOS. The average cost per procedure of EOS or standard X-ray decreases with utilisation: the greater the number of procedures undertaken, the lower the average cost.

An estimate of patient throughput is needed in order to allocate the fixed costs of providing diagnostic services (e.g. capital costs, maintenance) to the level of the individual procedure and hence to the average patient based on the number of diagnostic procedures they are assumed to require. For EOS this throughput needs to focus on the types of patient numbers expected for the indications for which EOS has a potential benefit. In principle, this throughput can be defined at a national level (e.g. England) - the number of centres for which EOS is purchased then determines how this national throughput is allocated to particular equipment and hence the average cost per procedure. For standard X-ray, the throughput of patients is not tied to the particular indications for which EOS is potentially of value because the equipment can be routinely used for a much wider set of indications.

As a first approximation of throughput for EOS, hospital episode statistics (HES) data were explored. The objective was to provide an estimate of the number of examinations per year performed for each of the indications considered potentially relevant for EOS. HES data consists of three datasets containing details of all admissions to NHS hospitals in England: admitted patients, which includes inpatients and day-cases; outpatients; and accident and emergency patients. The HES data are based on financial years, and it has been collected since 1989-90. The most recent collection available at the time of this analysis was for 2008/09.[66]

The inpatient dataset for 2008/09 was the source used for the estimates on number of procedures undertaken for each relevant indication. These estimates rely on the assumption that each patient episode is associated with a radiography examination. Table 4.14 summarises the number of episodes per indication in 2008/09 obtained from the HES inpatient dataset. These episodes represent an estimate of the total expected patient throughput across England in one year. Appendix 5 provides a more detailed breakdown of the number of episodes and patients per 4-digit ICD-10 code.

Table 4.14 Number of episodes (patient throughput) per indication in 2008/09 calculated from Hospital Episode Statistics for 2008-09

Indication	Episodes
Congenital scoliosis	153
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	292
Late-onset scoliosis	1,827
Adult scoliosis	1,841
Congenital kyphosis	167
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	52
Scheuermann's disease adult	27
Ankylosing spondylitis	1,109[§]
Deforming dorsopathies adolescent	132
Deforming dorsopathies adults	5,323
Congenital deformities of spine, hip and lower limbs	5,959
TOTAL	16,882

[§]Note: For ankylosing spondylitis, it was assumed that each patient between 35 and 65 years old in HES is associated with one radiographic procedure, due to the nature of the indication.

It is recognised that these figures are likely to underestimate the current X-ray utilisation by patients with the relevant indications being assessed for EOS. This is because many patients are outpatients and, therefore, their visits will not appear as inpatient episodes. However, the outpatient HES dataset could not be used to quantify patient throughput due to very low numbers of episodes recorded in the outpatient database for the indications of interest. Appendix 6 summarises the outpatient attendance for the relevant diagnosis codes during 2008-09. Hence, HES data are used as one of three alternative assumptions on patient throughput. A second assumption uses the same patient throughput as that assumed for standard X-ray (30 patients per working day - see below), and a third assumption uses a higher utilisation for EOS compared to standard X-ray - that is, 48 patients per working day.

As described above, CR and DR systems are routinely used for indications other than those specified in the NICE scope for EOS. Estimates on the throughput of CR and DR should reflect current practice in the NHS. The literature searches on the costs of standard X-ray did not identify any relevant publications to guide estimates of throughput. Due to the lack of published literature, expert advice was sought to provide estimates of throughput for radiography rooms in NHS hospitals.

Patient throughput depends on the type of examination and on patient characteristics. Some examinations such as chest X-ray may require shorter appointments and therefore daily throughput could be higher. On the other hand, some patients with mobility difficulties may require a longer appointment slot, reducing daily throughput. In order to reflect the variation in current practice, and based on expert advice, the base-case assumed a standard X-ray throughput of 30 patients per working day, assuming 251 working days per year.

Table 4.15 provides a summary of the assumptions used in the model for the costs of EOS, CR and DR.

Table 4.15 Summary of the assumptions employed in the model for the costs of EOS, CR and DR

Element of cost	Assumption
Costs not considered in the economic evaluation	The following costs were assumed equivalent across EOS, CR and DR: - Fitting a suitable room - Overhead costs - Per patient costs (consumables and staffing)
Costs considered in the economic evaluation	The following costs are considered in the economic evaluation: - Capital cost of the machine - Annual maintenance cost - Equipment replacement or upgrade
Patient throughput for EOS	Inpatient Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data for 2008/09 is assumed representative of the average yearly utilisation.
	Number of scans per year estimated for EOS assumes that every hospital visit is associated with a radiography examination.
Patient throughput for standard X-ray	30 patients per day over 251 working days a year.
Annual equivalent costs	A discount rate of 3.5% per annum and a useful lifetime of the equipment of 10 years are assumed to translate capital costs into annual equivalent costs.[65]

Average cost per scan for EOS

An acquisition cost of £400,000 for EOS results in an annual cost of £48,097, annuitized over 10 years at a rate of 3.5% per annum. The additional costs of the service contract and equipment replacement give a total cost of £86,347 per year without replacement of X-ray tubes (contract 1), or a total cost of £96,097 with the replacement of X-ray tubes (contract 2). The model assumes the cheaper contract (contract 1) would be selected by the NHS.

Applying the estimates of annual patient throughput (Table 4.14) to one centre with a single EOS machine gives a cost per scan for each indication, as shown in Table 4.16. For indications where the patient throughput is low, the cost per scan for that indication is high. In order to give EOS a conservative or optimistic estimate, the cost per scan was obtained by grouping the patient throughput by indication. For example, the cost per scan for each of the four scoliosis indications was based on the total throughput for scoliosis, i.e. the sum of 153, 292, 1827 and 1841 for congenital, early-onset idiopathic, late-onset idiopathic and adult scoliosis, respectively. These estimates (in the last column of Table 4.14) were used in the base-case analysis as one throughput assumption.

It is important to note that the underlying assumption in the cost estimates presented in Table 4.16 is that there is only one centre in the UK with a single EOS machine. Increasing the number of centres in the UK with EOS (i.e. dividing the throughput for the relevant indications between more machines), increases the average cost per scan. For example, if there are two EOS machines in the UK, the cost per scan doubles, since the throughput represents the expected patient numbers per annum at national level for the indications for which EOS has a potential benefit. However, there may be indications other than those formally modelled here for which EOS could be used. Adding these additional patients to the throughput for EOS would reduce the average cost per scan. The implications of adding such patients to the EOS throughput for health outcomes are unknown. The analysis considers the implication of adding these other patients to EOS throughput for the cost effectiveness of the system by examining a scenario where EOS is used at 'full capacity' (i.e. 48 patients per working day). Throughput based on full capacity corresponds to a cost per scan of £8.60.

Table 4.16 Average cost per scan for EOS for each indication based on HES data, assuming one machine in the UK[§]

Indication	Patient throughput by indication	Patient throughput by grouped indications	Cost per scan by indication	Cost per scan by grouped indications
Congenital scoliosis	153	4,113	£677.23	£25.19
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	292	4,113	£354.85	£25.19
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	1,827	4,113	£56.71	£25.19
Adult scoliosis	1,841	4,113	£56.28	£25.19
Congenital kyphosis	167	6,126	£620.45	£16.91
Congenital deformities	5,959	6,126	£17.39	£16.91

Indication	Patient throughput by indication	Patient throughput by grouped indications	Cost per scan by indication	Cost per scan by grouped indications
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	52	79	£1,992.61	£1,311.59
Scheuermann's disease adult	27	79	£3,837.62	£1,311.59
Ankylosing spondylitis	1,109	1,109	£93.43	£93.43
Deforming dorsopathies adolescent	132	5,455	£784.97	£18.99
Deforming dorsopathies adults	5,323	5,455	£19.47	£18.99
All indications	16,882	16,882	£6.14	£6.14

[§]Note: Costs include VAT at 20%.

Average cost per scan for CR and DR

The acquisition cost of standard X-ray is estimated as £95,000 for CR and £167,500 for DR. These capital costs result in an annual cost of £11,423 for CR and £20,140 for DR, annuitized over a useful life of the equipment of 10 years at a rate of 3.5% per annum. The additional costs of the service contract and equipment replacement, including VAT at 20%, give a total cost of £25,760 and £46,369 per year for CR and DR, respectively.

For standard X-ray, the throughput of patients is not tied to the particular indications for which EOS is potentially of value because the equipment is routinely used for a much wider set of uses. As discussed above, the base-case assumed a standard X-ray throughput of 30 patients per working day, assuming 251 working days per year. Therefore, the average cost per scan is based on the average activity per patient visit. Table 4.17 summarises the cost per scan for CR and DR with 100% utilisation of a machine.

Table 4.17 Average cost per scan for CR and DR with 100% utilisation of one machine

Patient throughput	Throughput per year	Cost per scan for CR	Cost per scan for DR
30 patients per working day*	7,530	£3.42	£6.16

*Implied average time per scan of 16 minutes.

4.6 Analytic methods

4.6.1 Base-case analysis

The model results are presented according to a particular set of assumptions employed as part of the base-case analysis. The impact of employing alternative assumptions is then explored using different scenarios. The cost-effectiveness of EOS, in each of the indications, is evaluated by comparing the additional costs of EOS to the reduction in consequences achieved through reduced lifetime radiation exposure compared to standard X-ray. Mean costs and QALYs for EOS, CR and DR are calculated and their cost-effectiveness compared using conventional decision rules, estimating incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) as appropriate.[67] The ICER presents the additional costs that one intervention incurs over another and compares this with the additional benefits. To provide a reference point, NICE uses a threshold cost per QALY of around £20,000-£30,000 to determine whether an intervention represents good value for money in the NHS.[47] Consequently, if the ICER is below £20,000 then EOS should be considered potentially cost-effective. ICERs within the range (i.e. between £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY) are considered borderline and an ICER above £30,000 is not typically considered cost-effective. When more than two interventions are being compared the ICERs are calculated using the following process:

i) The interventions are ranked in terms of cost (least expensive to most costly).
ii) If an intervention is more expensive and less effective than any other intervention, then the intervention is said to be dominated and is excluded from the calculation of the ICERs.
iii) The ICERs are calculated for each successive alternative, from the cheapest to the most costly. If the ICER for a given intervention is higher than that of any more effective intervention, then this intervention is ruled out on the basis of extended dominance.

The base-case analysis assumes that the radiation dose associated with DR is equivalent to the radiation dose of CR. Therefore, there is no differential effect on health outcomes for CR and DR. Given that DR is more expensive than CR and is assumed to produce the same outcomes, DR is ruled out on the basis that it is dominated by CR. Thus, the base-case analysis simplifies to a comparison of the total costs and QALYs of EOS and CR. CR also represents the majority of

standard X-ray imaging equipment in current use in the NHS. An alternative scenario compares EOS to DR assuming a lower radiation dose for DR.

Patient throughput is likely to be a major determinant of the cost-effectiveness of EOS since the average cost per procedure of EOS decreases with utilisation. However, throughput is highly uncertain (there are no reliable data available to provide estimates) and potentially variable between centres. Furthermore, in principle, the use of EOS in the NHS could be centrally planned in such a way that the throughput of patients using the technology could be determined - e.g. by locating EOS in one specialist or a small number of specialist centres to which patients with particular indications could be sent. Therefore, EOS throughput can be seen as a matter of policy choice in its own right rather than an uncertain parameter to estimate.

Although throughput estimates were obtained from HES, as discussed in Section 4.5.6, these are likely to underestimate the true utilisation of X-rays for the relevant indications. Consequently, the base-case results are presented using three alternative throughput assumptions for EOS:

1) Throughput assumption 1, known as TA1. Under this assumption, patient throughput is based on HES data and grouped by indications. For example, the cost-effectiveness of EOS in congenital scoliosis is based on the total throughput for scoliosis as a whole from the HES data (i.e. includes congenital, early-onset idiopathic, late-onset idiopathic and adult scoliosis)
2) Throughput assumption 2, known as TA2. Patient throughput is based on a capacity of 30 patients per working day, corresponding to a total thoughput of 7,530 per year. This is equivalent to the throughput assumed for CR.
3) Throughput assumption 3, known as TA3. Patient throughput is based on 'full capacity' of 48 patients per working day for EOS, corresponding to a total thoughput of 12,048 per year. Under this assumption, the throughput for CR remains at 30 patients per working day.

Threshold analysis is also used to establish what patient throughput would be required to achieve an ICER of £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY.

On the benefits side, the model formally assesses the potential reduction in radiation dose, and hence cancer risk, from EOS compared to standard X-ray. Although there is no evidence to

confirm this, the use of EOS may have implications for the quality and nature of the image, which in turn could have beneficial effects on medical or surgical management with consequent positive implications for patients' health outcomes. Due to a lack of formal evidence and insufficient time formally to elicit estimates from clinical experts, the model was unable to explore these implications explicitly. Instead, threshold analyses are undertaken to explore the necessary size of these health effects, in addition to the impact of cancer risk, in order for EOS to be considered cost-effective. These are reported as the additional QALY gains that EOS would need to generate, over and above those associated with reduced radiation, for the technology to be cost-effective assuming a threshold of £20,000.

4.6.2 Scenario analysis

A number of alternative scenarios are considered in which the assumptions employed as part of the base-case analysis are varied. These analyses are undertaken to assess the robustness of the base-case results to variation in (i) the sources of data used to populate the model and (ii) alternative assumptions relating to the model.

Table 4.18 summarises the alternative scenarios considered. For each element, the position in the base-case analysis is outlined, alongside the alternative assumption applied. The cost-effectiveness of EOS is considered under each of the scenarios for each of the indications. The same throughput assumptions and threshold analyses outlined above are also undertaken for each of the scenarios.

Table 4.18 Details of the key elements of the base-case analysis and the variation used in the scenario analysis

Scenario	Element	Position in base-case analysis	Variation in scenario analysis
1	Age of cancer diagnosis	Radiation exposure results in a higher risk of cancer incidence but the age of cancer diagnosis is the same as the general population	For children and adolescents, the age of cancer diagnosis is earlier than the general population
2	Discount rate	3.5% applied to both costs and outcomes	0% applied to both costs and outcomes
3	Effect of EOS on radiation dose	Mean dose reduction of 6.73 (ratio of means comparing EOS to standard X-ray)	High dose reduction with ratio of means 18.83, corresponding to the highest dose reduction in the study by Kalifa[26]
4	Uncertainty in the costs and QALYs lost due to cancer	Deterministic estimates of mean costs and QALYs lost from cancer models	To explore uncertainty in estimates, probabilistic sensitivity analysis of costs and QALYs lost due to cancer
5	Lifetime risk of radiation-induced cancer	Recent estimates by the HPA based on risk models in ICRP Publication 103[33]	Risk estimates reported in BEIR VII for a 1999 US population[18]
6	Radiation dose for DR	Radiation dose for DR is equivalent to dose for CR. CR dominates DR.	Radiation dose for DR is reduced to two-thirds the dose for CR. EOS is compared to DR.

4.7 Cost-effectiveness results

4.7.1 Results of the base-case analysis

Table 4.19 reports the total costs and QALYs for EOS compared to CR in each indication, under throughput assumption 1 (TA1) (throughput based on HES data). The ICER for EOS is well above conventional thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 per additional QALY in all indications. The incremental costs of EOS relative to CR range from £49 to £8,702 across the indications, while the incremental QALYs range from 0.000086 to 0.000869. The marked variation in the ICERs across the indications is largely due to different throughput for the grouped indications of scoliosis (4,113 patients per year), congenital kyphosis and deformities (6,126 patients per year), Scheuermann's disease (79 patients per year), ankylosing spondylitis (1,109 patients per year), and deforming dorsopathies (5,455 patients per year). Due to small patient numbers at national level for Scheuermann's disease, it is unlikely that EOS could ever be considered cost-effective in this indication alone under these assumptions regarding throughput.

Table 4.20 examines alternative assumptions regarding patient throughput. Under TA2, patient throughput is based on the capacity of EOS at 30 patients per working day (equivalent to CR). This throughput corresponds to a much higher utilisation of EOS compared to the estimates from HES. For example, the throughput from HES varies between 79 and 6,126 patients per year across the indications (see Table 4.19), while 30 patients per working day corresponds to an utilisation of 7,530 per year. This higher utilisation assumes that the NHS can find enough patients for each indication to use the machine at a workload of 30 patients per working day. If, to satisfy this level of throughput, patients with indications other than that formally evaluated are included, the estimated ICERs assume that EOS generates the same clinical benefit for those other indications as the one formally modelled. Despite the higher utilisation, the ICERs under TA2 are well above conventional thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 per additional QALY in all indications. The lowest ICER is for deforming dorsopathies in adults at £96,983 per QALY.

Table 4.20 also considers an even higher utilisation for EOS compared to CR. Under throughput assumption TA3, it is assumed that EOS can work at a full capacity of 48 patients per working day, which corresponds to 12,048 scans per year, an increase of 60% in

utilisation compared to CR. In this case, it is assumed that the machine is used intensively and enough patients are available to achieve this workload. Again, if there are not enough patients with the indications of interest, achieving the estimated ICERs would require the assumption that the equipment is also used for other indications with the same health benefits as the indication of interest. The resulting ICERs in Table 4.20 under TA3 are all above £30,000 per QALY. The results of the base-case analysis therefore suggest that EOS is not cost-effective for any indication under the three alternative throughput assumptions.

A threshold analysis for patient throughput is also shown in Table 4.20 to establish what patient throughput would be required to achieve an ICER of £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY for each indication. For a threshold of £20,000, the throughput ranges from 17,700 to 27,600 scans per year, which corresponds to a workload of 71 to 110 patient appointments per working day. For the threshold of £30,000, the throughput ranges from 15,100 to 26,500, corresponding to a workload of 60 to 106 patients per day. Therefore, EOS would have to be used much more intensively than conventional X-rays in order to be cost-effective under base case assumptions. Under throughput assumption TA3, one EOS machine at full capacity could perform 12,048 scans per year, corresponding to 48 patient appointments per day. In order for EOS to be considered cost-effective, utilisation would have to increase by at least 25% from 12,048 to 15,100 scans per year. It is also worth noting that these throughput estimates are based on the assumption that utilisation of CR is 7,530 scans per year, corresponding to just 30 appointments per day. If patient throughout for CR is higher in practice, EOS utilisation would have to increase yet further in order for EOS to become cost-effective.

Figure 4.9 illustrates the cost-effectiveness of EOS based on the relationship between throughput for EOS and CR for the four indications which are closest to being potentially cost-effective. In each of the figures, the throughput for CR (x-axis) and EOS (y-axis) is varied from 0 to 20,000 scans per year to determine what throughput is required for EOS to be considered cost-effective. The lines create two 'borders' of cost-effectiveness at the thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY, respectively. The area to the left of the second line represents the region where the ICER for EOS is below £30,000 per QALY; the area between the lines represents the region where the ICER is between £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY; and the area to the left of the first line represents the region where the ICER is

below £20,000 per QALY. Figure 4.9 shows that EOS can only be considered cost-effective if it is used much more intensively than CR. For example, if utilisation of CR is in the region of 7,530 scans per year (corresponding to 30 patients per working day), EOS would need to be used at a capacity of 18,600 scans per year (corresponding to a workload of 74 patients per working day) in order to be considered more cost-effective than CR at a threshold of £30,000 per QALY. Alternatively, if full capacity for EOS is considered to be at 12,048 scans per year, the utilisation for CR would need to be lower than 4,000 scans per year (or less than 15 patients per working day) in order for EOS to be cost-effective at conventional thresholds. In summary, EOS can only be shown to be cost-effective when patient throughput for EOS is around double the throughput for CR.

The base-case analysis has established that EOS requires a minimum of 15,100 scans per year in order to be considered cost-effective under conventional cost-effectiveness thresholds. HES data suggests that there are at least 16,882 scans per year at national level across all indications. Therefore, in order for EOS to be considered cost-effective, it must be assumed that the minimum throughput of 15,100 scans per year can be achieved in one centre with a single EOS machine at a workload of 60 patients per working day or, if EOS is used in more than one centre, additional patients can be identified to achieve that throughput with other types of indications for which EOS can achieve the same health benefit.

The estimated ICERs in Tables 4.19 and 4.20 rely on the underlying assumption that the only health benefit from EOS is reduced radiation exposure and, therefore, reduced risk of cancer compared with conventional X-ray. Although there is no evidence to confirm this, the use of EOS may have implications for the quality and nature of the image, which in turn could have beneficial health effects. Table 4.21 presents threshold analysis to show the necessary size of these health effects, in addition to the impact of cancer risk, in order for EOS to be considered cost-effective. The table reports the number of additional QALYs, over and above those associated with reduced radiation, required to achieve an ICER of £20,000/QALY under throughput assumptions TA1, TA2 and TA3. Under TA1, health outcomes would need to increase by between 0.003 and 0.435 QALYs (factors of between 7 and 749 relative to the health benefits estimated from reduced radiation dose) to generate an ICER within acceptable thresholds. Similarly, under TA2, health benefits would need to increase by between 0.001 and 0.003 QALYs (factors of between 4 and 35 compared with

radiation only). Under the most optimistic assumption of throughput, TA3, health benefits would need to increase by between 0.0002 and 0.002 QALYs (factors between 2.3 and 17.5).

Table 4.19 Base-case estimates of total costs and QALYs for EOS and computed radiography

Indication	Total QALYs		Incremental QALYs EOS vs. CR	Throughput based on HES TA1	Total Costs		Incremental Costs EOS vs. CR	ICER
	CR	EOS			CR	EOS		EOS vs. CR
Congenital scoliosis	24.6962	24.6969	0.000655	4,113	£77.19	£551.90	£474.72	£724,903
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	24.6207	24.6213	0.000623	4,113	£70.87	£506.19	£435.32	£699,162
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	23.4768	23.4776	0.000810	4,113	£32.47	£218.55	£186.09	£229,855
Adult scoliosis	14.9069	14.9071	0.000230	4,113	£8.74	£57.47	£48.74	£212,030
Congenital kyphosis	24.3772	24.3778	0.000674	6,126	£67.53	£322.58	£255.04	£378,388
Congenital deformities	24.6967	24.6969	0.000247	6,126	£58.64	£285.79	£227.15	£918,618
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	23.3582	23.3588	0.000624	79	£24.96	£8,726.64	£8,701.68	£13,938,864
Scheuermann's disease adult	17.5999	17.6000	0.000104	79	£4.51	£1,562.65	£1,558.14	£15,018,084
Ankylosing spondylitis	16.3470	16.3471	0.000086	1,109	£4.00	£99.44	£95.45	£1,106,210
Deforming dorsopathies non adult	23.9112	23.9120	0.000869	5,455	£53.95	£283.04	£229.09	£263,576
Deforming dorsopathies adults	14.9067	14.9071	0.000431	5,455	£16.12	£79.84	£63.73	£147,863

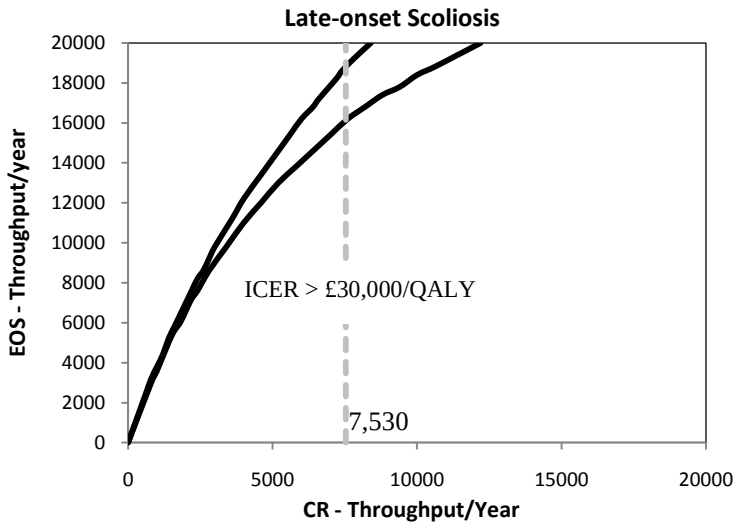
TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput is based on the HES data and grouped by indication, e.g. the throughput for congenital scoliosis is based on the total throughput for scoliosis.

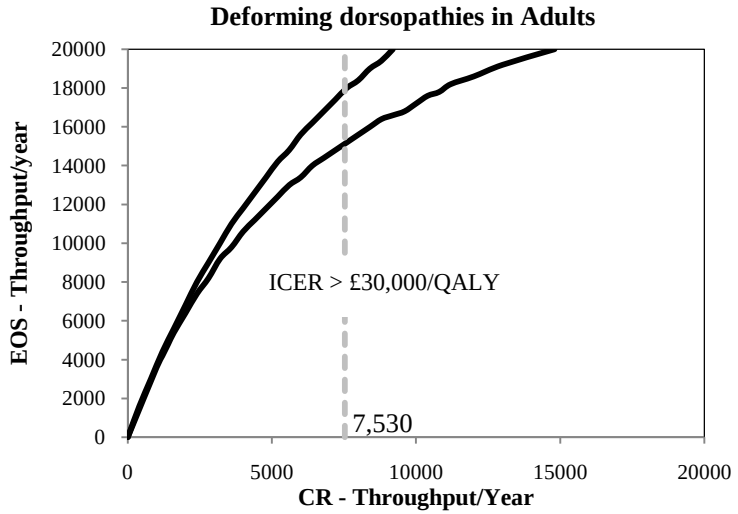
Table 4.20 Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for alternative throughput for EOS and throughput required to achieve an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of £20,000 and £30,000 per additional QALY under base-case assumptions.

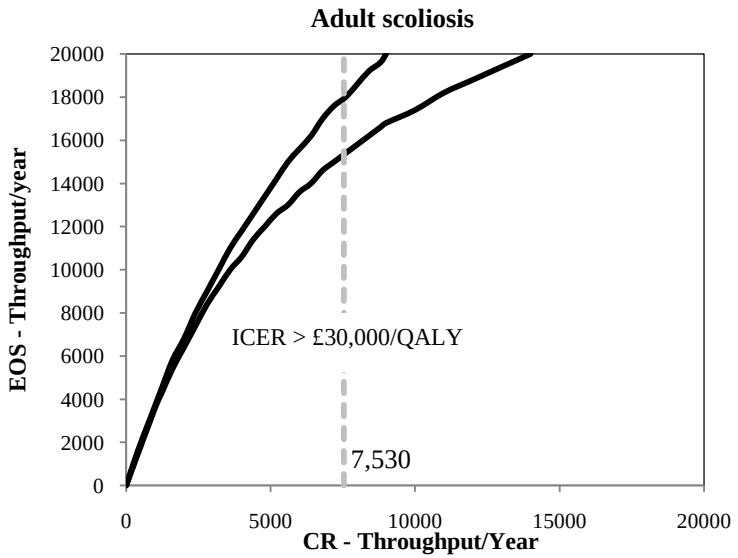
Indication	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for alternative throughput:			Throughput required for threshold of:	
	Throughput based on HES data (TA1)	Throughput based on capacity at 30 patients per day – same as CR (TA2)	Throughput based on full capacity at 48 patients per day (TA3)	£20,000/QALY	30,000/QALY
Congenital scoliosis	£724,903	£342,703	£170,185	25,200	23,500
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	£699,162	£330,479	£164,061	25,000	23,300
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	£229,855	£107,590	£52,401	18,600	15,900
Adult scoliosis	£212,030	£98,846	£47,756	17,900	15,200
Congenital kyphosis	£378,388	£289,252	£143,405	24,400	22,600
Congenital deformities	£918,618	£703,218	£350,776	27,600	26,500
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	£13,938,864	£107,191	£52,196	18,600	15,900
Scheuermann's disease adult	£15,018,084	£115,158	£55,904	18,900	16,300
Ankylosing spondylitis	£1,106,210	£123,951	£60,332	19,400	16,900
Deforming dorsopathies non adult	£263,576	£173,983	£85,659	21,700	19,400
Deforming dorsopathies adults	£147,863	£96,983	£46,823	17,700	15,100

TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput based on HES data and grouped by indications.
TA2, Throughput assumption 2 – patient throughput based on capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 30 patients per working day for 251 working days per year, equivalent to the utilisation of CR.
TA3, Throughput assumption 3 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 48 patients per working day for 251 working days per year, while utilisation of CR is 30 patients per working day.

Figure 4.9 Two-way threshold analysis for the throughput of EOS and CR







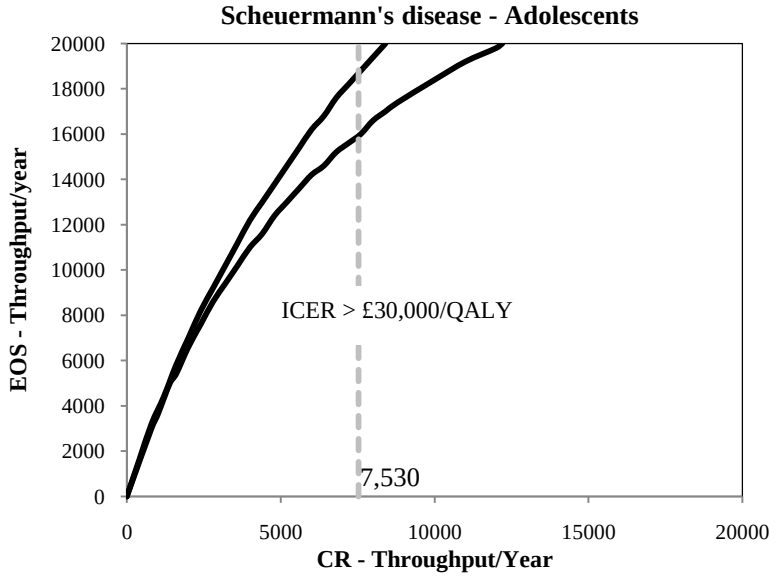


Table 4.21 Additional number of QALYs required to achieve an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio of £20,000 per additional QALY under base-case assumptions

Indication	Incremental QALYs EOS vs. X-ray (base-case)	QALYs for threshold of £20,000 for TA1	Ratio TA1 : base-case	QALYs for threshold of £20,000 for TA2	Ratio TA2 : base-case	QALYs for threshold of £20,000 for TA3	Ratio TA3 : base-case
Congenital scoliosis	0.000655	0.02374	36	0.01122	17.1	0.00557	8.5
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	0.000623	0.02177	35	0.01029	16.5	0.00511	8.2
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	0.000810	0.00930	11	0.00436	5.4	0.00212	2.6
Adult scoliosis	0.000230	0.00244	11	0.00114	4.9	0.00055	2.4
Congenital kyphosis	0.000674	0.01275	19	0.00975	14.5	0.00483	7.2
Congenital deformities	0.000247	0.01136	46	0.00869	35.2	0.00434	17.5
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	0.000624	0.43508	697	0.00335	5.4	0.00163	2.6
Scheuermann's disease adult	0.000104	0.07791	749	0.00060	5.8	0.00029	2.8
Ankylosing spondylitis	0.000086	0.00477	55	0.00053	6.2	0.00026	3.0
Deforming dorsopathies non adults	0.000869	0.01145	13	0.00756	8.7	0.00372	4.3
Deforming dorsopathies adults	0.000431	0.00319	7	0.00209	4.8	0.00101	2.3

TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput based on HES data and grouped by indications.
TA2, Throughput assumption 2 – patient throughput based on capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 30 patients per working day for 251 working days per year, equivalent to the utilisation of CR.
TA3, Throughput assumption 3 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 48 patients per working day for 251 working days per year, while utilisation of CR is 30 patients per working day.

4.7.2 Results of the scenario analysis

Tables 4.22 to 4.28 detail the results of the alternative scenarios for each indication under the same throughput assumptions analysed in the base-case. The results of the threshold analysis for health benefits (expressed in QALYs) and yearly throughput (expressed in number of scans per year) required in order to achieve an ICER of £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY are also presented. The results across the alternative scenarios draw similar conclusions to those from the base-case analysis. The results support the view that the main driver of cost-effectiveness is patient throughput for EOS compared to standard X-ray.

Under throughput assumptions TA1 and TA2, the ICERs are well above conventional thresholds of cost-effectiveness irrespective of the scenario in all indications. For throughput assumption TA3, in all bar one scenario which was a reduction in the discount rate from 3.5% to 0% per annum (Table 4.23), the ICER was above £20,000 per QALY across the various indications. This scenario demonstrates the effects of discounting future costs and benefits from cancer developed later in life back to present values to explain the results of the modelling but it does not illuminate any specific policy option.

In two other scenarios under TA3, the ICERs fall between £20,000 and £30,000 per additional QALY for two of the indications (late-onset scoliosis and Scheuermann's disease in adolescents). These two scenarios are:

(i) An earlier age of cancer diagnosis compared to the general population (Table 4.22). The age of cancer diagnosis from radiation-induced cancer is assumed to occur at 55 years old for lung, prostate and colorectal cancer compared to an average age of 72-74 years old for these cancers in the general population.

(ii) An alternative source for the estimate of lifetime attributable risk of radiation-induced cancer (Table 4.26). The BEIR VII Phase 2 report, which estimates the risk of cancer incidence for a 1999 US population, was used instead of the data from the personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from HPA.

4.7.3 Discussion

Whether or not EOS is considered a cost-effective use of NHS resources hinges on two key issues. The first is the number of patients using the equipment on an annual basis. This measure of throughput determines the number of patients over which the fixed capital costs of EOS are allocated - the greater the throughput the lower the average cost per scan. There are no reliable data on the current number of scans undertaken in the NHS for the indications which have the greatest potential benefit for EOS. Although numbers have been derived from HES, these are likely to be significant under-estimates. Furthermore, even if accurate data were available on numbers of scans undertaken in the NHS for the indications of interest, the throughput of EOS, if it were to be introduced, would depend on the number of centres in which it was installed and how intensively it was used during the average working day, both of which are, in principle, policy decisions.

The cost-effectiveness modelling has, therefore, not sought to use a single set of patient throughput estimates for EOS. Rather, it has looked at three alternative assumptions of throughput: that based on HES data (TA1); that similar to the throughput assumed with CR - 30 patients per working day or 7,530 per year (TA2); and more intensive use of EOS - 48 patients per working day or 12,048 scans per year, an increase of 60% in utilisation compared to CR (TA3). Under base-case assumptions, the ICERs of EOS for all indications are well above £30,000 per QALY whatever the throughput scenario assumed (Table 4.20).

Hence the levels of annual throughput with EOS which would generate ICERs of £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY are reported (Table 4.20). In order for EOS to be considered cost-effective, utilisation would have to increase by at least 25% from above the highly intensive TA3 throughput assumption to 15,100 scans per annum. If an insufficient number of patients with the relevant indications can be identified to achieve this level of utilisation, it would have to be assumed that any other patients identified with other indications to increase utilisation would experience the same health benefits as for the indications of interest. Furthermore, these throughput 'thresholds' are based on the assumption that utilisation of CR is 7,530 scans per year, corresponding to just 30 appointments per day. If CR were to be used more intensively then the throughput of EOS would need to increase yet further to be cost-effective. These conclusions are not greatly influenced by the alternative assumptions explored in further scenario analyses (Tables 4.22-4.27). Only one alternative assumption -

that cancer incidence due to X-ray radiation occurs earlier in life than in other patients with cancer diagnosis - generates ICERs below £30,000 per QALY gained: for adolescent or late onset scoliosis and adolescent Scheuermann's disease.

The other key issue on which the cost-effectiveness of EOS hinges is the source of the health benefits assumed for the technology. The base-case assumption is that health benefit is derived solely from reduced radiation dose and hence lower incidence of cancer. Although no evidence has been identified to sustain it, there may be health benefits from EOS as a result of the nature and quality of the image which prompts therapeutic changes and hence better outcomes. Given an absence of any evidence on such outcomes, the gain in QALYs with EOS from this source which would be necessary for EOS to achieve cost-effectiveness is reported, using the different throughput scenarios (Table 4.21). In order to assess how plausible these QALY gains are, it may be helpful to think about the factor increase they represent over and above the health improvement from reduced radiation dose alone: between 7 and 749 times under TA1; between 4 and 35 under TA2; and between 2.3 and 17.5 under TA3. In other words, the health gains from any therapeutic changes to the EOS image would need to be orders significantly greater than those from reduced radiation dose alone.

Another way of assessing the plausibility of the necessary QALY gains is to compare them with the QALY gains estimated for other diagnostic tests based on firmer evidence. In many situations the health gains from changes in diagnostic technologies tend to be relatively small as only a proportion of patients have their diagnoses altered as a result, a smaller proportion still experience a therapeutic change and a yet smaller group actually has a change in outcomes. For example, in evaluating different diagnostic strategies for coronary artery disease in patients of 55 years of age, Garber and Solomon found differences in lifetime QALYs of between 0.001 and 0.025 across six diagnostic strategies.[68]

4.7.4 Conclusions

There are major uncertainties in the evidence necessary to assess the cost-effectiveness of EOS in the NHS. Even under extreme assumptions about the intensity with which EOS could be used in routine practice, the ICERs for EOS generally do not fall below £30,000 per QALY. The conclusion that EOS has potential to be cost-effective is, therefore, likely to rest on the plausibility of the additional QALY gains that might be expected as a result of any

therapeutic responses to the nature of the quality of the EOS image compared to standard X-ray.

Table 4.22 Scenario 1: Earlier age of cancer diagnosis compared to the average age in the general population

Indication	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for alternative throughput:			Throughput required for threshold of:	
	Throughput based on HES data (TA1)	Throughput based on capacity at 30 patients per day – same as CR (TA2)	Throughput based on full capacity at 48 patients per day (TA3)	£20,000/QALY	30,000/QALY
Congenital scoliosis	£332,424 (0.02370, 16.6)*	£156,867 (0.01118, 7.8)	£77,623 (0.00553, 3.9)	21,400	18,800
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	£320,601 (0.02173, 16.0)	£151,252 (0.01025, 7.6)	£74,811 (0.00507, 3.7)	21,100	18,600
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	£101,970 (0.00925, 5.1)	£47,431 (0.00430, 2.4)	£22,813 (0.00207, 1.1)	12,900	10,200
Adult scoliosis	£212,030 (0.00244, 10.6)	£98,846 (0.00114, 4.9)	£47,756 (0.00055, 2.4)	17,900	15,000
Congenital kyphosis	£170,762 (0.01271, 8.5)	£130,406 (0.00971, 6.5)	£64,373 (0.00479, 3.2)	20,200	17,500
Congenital deformities	£422,201 (0.01134, 21.1)	£323,074 (0.00868, 16.2)	£160,880 (0.00432, 8.0)	25,100	23,300
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	£6,125,407 (0.43504, 306.3)	£46,542 (0.00331, 2.3)	£22,372 (0.00159, 1.1)	12,800	10,100
Scheuermann's disease adult	£15,018,084 (0.07791, 750.9)	£115,158 (0.00060, 5.8)	£55,904 (0.00029, 2.8)	18,900	16,300
Ankylosing spondylitis	£1,106,210 (0.00477, 55.3)	£123,951 (0.00053, 6.2)	£60,332 (0.00026, 3.0)	19,400	16,900
Deforming dorsopathies non adult	£117,001 (0.01140, 5.9)	£77,040 (0.00751, 3.9)	£37,645 (0.00367, 1.9)	16,500	13,600
Deforming dorsopathies adults	£147,863 (0.00319, 7.4)	£96,983 (0.00209, 4.8)	£46,823 (0.00101, 2.3)	17,700	15,100

*Figures in parenthesis are the additional QALYs needed, over and above those from radiation reduction, to achieve a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, and the ratio of these additonal QALYs to those generated from radiation reduction.

TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput based on HES data and grouped by indications.

TA2, Throughput assumption 2 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 30 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, equivalent to the utilisation of CR.

TA3, Throughput assumption 3 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 48 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, while utilisation of CR is 30 appointment slots per day.

Table 4.23 Scenario 2: Discount rate 0% per annum

Indication	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for alternative throughput:			Throughput required for threshold of:	
	Throughput based on HES data (TA1)	Throughput based on capacity at 30 patients per day – same as CR (TA2)	Throughput based on full capacity at 48 patients per day (TA3)	£20,000/QALY	30,000/QALY
Congenital scoliosis	£129,386 (0.03001, 6.5)*	£59,765 (0.01386,3.0)	£28,339 (0.00657, 1.4)	14,300	11,700
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	£126,571 (0.02697, 6.3)	£58,428 (0.01245, 2.9)	£27,670 (0.00590, 1.4)	14,200	11,500
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	£51,270 (0.00963, 2.6)	£22,658 (0.00425, 1.1)	£9,742 (0.00183, 0.5)	8,200	6,200
Adult scoliosis	£125,099 (0.00254, 6.3)	£57,570 (0.00117, 2.9)	£27,088 (0.00055, 1.4)	14,000	11,400
Congenital kyphosis	£71,310 (0.01501, 3.6)	£53,892 (0.01134, 2.7)	£25,393 (0.00534, 1.3)	13,600	11,000
Congenital deformities	£154,951 (0.01355, 7.7)	£117,986 (0.01032, 5.9)	£57,504 (0.00503, 2.9)	19,200	16,500
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	£3,298,534 (0.46721, 164.9)	£22,867 (0.00324, 1.1)	£9,843 (0.00139, 0.5)	8,200	6,200
Scheuermann's disease adult	£6,264,843 (0.07910, 313.2)	£46,002 (0.00058, 2.3)	£21,276 (0.00027, 1.1)	12,400	9,900
Ankylosing spondylitis	£528,197 (0.00478, 26.4)	£57,570 (0.00052, 2.9)	£27,088 (0.00025, 1.4)	14,000	11,400
Deforming dorsopathies non adult	£53,997 (0.01249, 2.7)	£34,766 (0.00804, 1.7)	£15,808 (0.00366, 0.8)	10,600	8,300
Deforming dorsopathies adults	£88,489 (0.00337, 4.4)	£57,570 (0.00219, 2.9)	£27,088 (0.00103, 1.4)	14,000	11,400

*Figures in parenthesis are the additional QALYs needed, over and above those from radiation reduction, to achieve a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, and the ratio of these additonal QALYs to those generated from radiation reduction.

TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput based on HES data and grouped by indications.

TA2, Throughput assumption 2 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 30 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, equivalent to the utilisation of CR.

TA3, Throughput assumption 3 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 48 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, while utilisation of CR is 30 appointment slots per day.

Table 4.24 Scenario 3: High radiation dose reduction of 18.83 times lower for EOS compared to CR (base-case value 6.73)

Indication	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for alternative throughput:			Throughput required for threshold of:	
	Throughput based on HES data (TA1)	Throughput based on capacity at 30 patients per day – same as CR (TA2)	Throughput based on full capacity at 48 patients per day (TA3)	£20,000/QALY	30,000/QALY
Congenital scoliosis	£651,517 (0.02372, 32.6)*	£307,851 (0.01121, 15.4)	£152,727 (0.00556, 7.6)	24,700	22,900
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	£628,371 (0.02176, 31.4)	£296,859 (0.01028, 14.8)	£147,220 (0.00510, 7.4)	24,600	22,700
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	£206,379 (0.00929, 10.3)	£96,441 (0.00434, 4.8)	£46,816 (0.00211, 2.3)	17,800	15,100
Adult scoliosis	£190,298 (0.00243, 9.5)	£88,525 (0.00113, 4.4)	£42,586 (0.00054, 2.1)	17,100	14,400
Congenital kyphosis	£339,938 (0.01274, 17.0)	£259,788 (0.00974, 13.0)	£128,646 (0.00482, 6.4)	23,900	22,000
Congenital deformities	£825,701 (0.01135, 41.3)	£632,018 (0.00869, 31.6)	£315,110 (0.00433, 15.8)	27,300	26,200
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	£12,533,206 (0.43507, 626.7)	£96,081 (0.00334, 4.8)	£46,631 (0.00162, 2.3)	17,800	15,100
Scheuermann's disease adult	£13,503,559 (0.07791, 675.2)	£103,187 (0.00060, 5.2)	£49,908 (0.00029, 2.5)	18,200	15,500
Ankylosing spondylitis	£994,323 (0.00477, 49.7)	£111,099 (0.00053, 5.6)	£53,894 (0.00026, 2.7)	18,700	16,100
Deforming dorsopathies non adult	£236,700 (0.01144, 11.8)	£156,140 (0.00755, 7.8)	£76,721 (0.00371, 3.8)	21,100	18,600
Deforming dorsopathies adults	£132,600 (0.00318, 6.6)	£86,850 (0.00208, 4.3)	£41,747 (0.00100, 2.1)	16,900	14,300

*Figures in parenthesis are the additional QALYs needed, over and above those from radiation reduction, to achieve a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, and the ratio of these additonal QALYs to those generated from radiation reduction.

TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput based on HES data and grouped by indications.

TA2, Throughput assumption 2 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 30 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, equivalent to the utilisation of CR.TA3, Throughput assumption 3 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 48 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, while utilisation of CR is 30 appointment slots per day.

Table 4.25 Scenario 4: Uncertainty in costs and QALYs lost due to cancer from probabilistic sensitivity analysis

Indication	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for alternative throughput:			Throughput required for threshold of:	
	Throughput based on HES data (TA1)	Throughput based on capacity at 30 patients per day – same as CR (TA2)	Throughput based on full capacity at 48 patients per day (TA3)	£20,000/QALY	30,000/QALY
Congenital scoliosis	£726,300 (0.02374, 35.2)*	£344,018 (0.01122, 16.4)	£170,750 (0.00557, 8.7)	25,300	23,600
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	£700,510 (0.02177, 34.0)	£331,747 (0.01029, 15.8)	£164,606 (0.00511, 8.4)	25,000	23,400
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	£230,264 (0.00930, 11.2)	£107,978 (0.00436, 5.1)	£52,562 (0.00212, 2.7)	18,700	15,900
Adult scoliosis	£212,068 (0.00244, 10.6)	£98,825 (0.00114, 4.9)	£47,727 (0.00055, 2.3)	17,900	15,200
Congenital kyphosis	£379,090 (0.01275, 18.4)	£290,331 (0.00975, 13.8)	£143,866 (0.00483, 7.4)	24,500	22,700
Congenital deformities	£920,397 (0.01136, 44.7)	£705,929 (0.00869, 33.6)	£351,950 (0.00434, 18.0)	23,700	26,600
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	£13,962,807 (0.43508, 678.4)	£107,566 (0.00335, 5.1)	£52,350 (0.00163, 2.7)	18,800	16,000
Scheuermann's disease adult	£15,022,108 (0.07791, 747.9)	£115,125 (0.00060, 5.7)	£55,873 (0.00029, 2.7)	19,100	16,400
Ankylosing spondylitis	£1,106,403 (0.00477, 55.1)	£123,925 (0.00053, 6.1)	£60,295 (0.00026, 2.9)	19,500	16,900
Deforming dorsopathies non adult	£264,045 (0.01145, 12.8)	£174,613 (0.00756, 8.3)	£85,923 (0.00372, 4.4)	21,700	19,500
Deforming dorsopathies adults	£147,890 (0.00319, 7.4)	£96,963 (0.00209, 4.8)	£46,794 (0.00101, 2.3)	17,800	15,200

*Figures in parenthesis are the additional QALYs needed, over and above those from radiation reduction, to achieve a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, and the ratio of these additonal QALYs to those generated from radiation reduction.

TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput based on HES data and grouped by indications.

TA2, Throughput assumption 2 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 30 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, equivalent to the utilisation of CR.

TA3, Throughput assumption 3 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 48 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, while utilisation of CR is 30 appointment slots per day.

Table 4.26 Scenario 5: Lifetime attributable risk of radiation-induced cancer from BEIR VII Phase 2 report for a 1999 U.S. population[18]

Indication	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for alternative throughput:			Throughput required for threshold of:	
	Throughput based on HES data (TA1)	Throughput based on capacity at 30 patients per day – same as CR (TA2)	Throughput based on full capacity at 48 patients per day (TA3)	£20,000/QALY	30,000/QALY
Congenital scoliosis	£347,698 (0.02363, 17.4)*	£163,585 (0.01112, 8.2)	£80,480 (0.00547, 4.0)	21,400	18,900
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	£341,733 (0.02167, 17.1)	£160,753 (0.01019, 8.0)	£79,061 (0.00501, 4.0)	21,300	18,800
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	£122,084 (0.00920, 6.1)	£56,428 (0.00425, 2.8)	£26,792 (0.00202, 1.3)	14,000	11,300
Adult scoliosis	£139,505 (0.00242, 7.0)	£64,404 (0.00112, 3.2)	£30,504 (0.00053, 1.5)	14,800	12,200
Congenital kyphosis	£192,523 (0.01266, 9.6)	£146,837 (0.00966, 7.3)	£72,086 (0.00474, 3.6)	20,700	18,200
Congenital deformities	£374,116 (0.01131, 18.7)	£285,990 (0.00864, 14.3)	£141,797 (0.00429, 7.1)	24,400	22,500
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	£7,679,190 (0.43501, 384.0)	£57,753 (0.00327, 2.9)	£27,450 (0.00155, 1.4)	14,100	11,500
Scheuermann's disease adult	£10,392,181 (0.07790, 519.6)	£78,597 (0.00059, 3.9)	£37,590 (0.00028, 1.9)	16,200	13,500
Ankylosing spondylitis	£641,063 (0.00476, 32.1)	£70,521 (0.00052, 3.5)	£33,568 (0.00025, 1.7)	15,500	12,800
Deforming dorsopathies non adult	£134,040 (0.01133, 6.7)	£87,997 (0.00744, 4.4)	£42,606 (0.00360, 2.1)	17,200	14,500
Deforming dorsopathies adults	£98,121 (0.00315, 4.9)	£63,959 (0.00205, 3.2)	£30,281 (0.00097, 1.5)	14,700	12,100

*Figures in parenthesis are the additional QALYs needed, over and above those from radiation reduction, to achieve a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, and the ratio of these additonal QALYs to those generated from radiation reduction.

TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput based on HES data and grouped by indications.

TA2, Throughput assumption 2 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 30 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, equivalent to the utilisation of CR.

TA3, Throughput assumption 3 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 48 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, while utilisation of CR is 30 appointment slots per day.

Table 4.27 Scenario 6: Radiation dose associated with DR is assumed to be two-thirds the dose associated with CR, and EOS is compared with DR

Indication	Incremental cost-effectiveness ratio for alternative throughput:			Throughput required for threshold of:	
	Throughput based on HES data (TA1)	Throughput based on capacity at 30 patients per day – same as CR (TA2)	Throughput based on full capacity at 48 patients per day (TA3)	£20,000/QALY	30,000/QALY
Congenital scoliosis	£951,590 (0.02077, 47.6)*	£378,290 (0.00826, 18.9)	£119,513 (0.00261, 6.0)	15,700	15,200
Early-onset idiopathic scoliosis	£917,832 (0.01905, 45.9)	£364,807 (0.00757, 18.2)	£115,181 (0.00239, 5.8)	15,600	15,100
Adolescent or late-onset scoliosis	£302,372 (0.00816, 15.1)	£118,974 (0.00321, 5.9)	£36,191 (0.00098, 1.8)	13,600	12,600
Adult scoliosis	£279,161 (0.00214, 14.0)	£109,384 (0.00084, 5.5)	£32,750 (0.00025, 1.6)	13,400	12,300
Congenital kyphosis	£453,042 (0.01018, 22.7)	£319,337 (0.00717, 16.0)	£100,567 (0.00226, 5.0)	15,400	14,900
Congenital deformities	£1,099,020 (0.00906, 55.0)	£775,919 (0.00640, 38.8)	£247,256 (0.00204, 12.4)	16,000	15,900
Scheuermann's disease adolescent	£20,866,045 (0.43420, 1043.3)	£118,535 (0.00247, 5.9)	£36,043 (0.00075, 1.8)	13,600	12,600
Scheuermann's disease adult	£22,481,769 (0.07775, 1124.1)	£127,381 (0.00044, 6.4)	£38,500 (0.00013, 1.9)	13,700	12,700
Ankylosing spondylitis	£1,610,462 (0.00463, 80.5)	£137,074 (0.00039, 6.9)	£41,646 (0.00012, 2.1)	13,900	13,000
Deforming dorsopathies non adult	£326,591 (0.00946, 16.3)	£192,203 (0.00557, 9.6)	£59,717 (0.00173, 3.0)	14,700	14,000
Deforming dorsopathies adults	£183,651 (0.00264, 9.2)	£107,330 (0.00154, 5.4)	£32,090 (0.00046, 1.6)	13,300	12,300

*Figures in parenthesis are the additional QALYs needed, over and above those from radiation reduction, to achieve a cost-effectiveness threshold of £20,000 per QALY, and the ratio of these additonal QALYs to those generated from radiation reduction.

TA1, Throughput assumption 1 – patient throughput based on HES data and grouped by indications.

TA2, Throughput assumption 2 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 30 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, equivalent to the utilisation of CR.

TA3, Throughput assumption 3 – patient throughput based on full capacity (100% utilisation) of EOS at 48 appointment slots per day for 251 days per year, while utilisation of CR is 30 appointment slots per day

5 Discussion

5.1 Statement of principal findings

The systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS found a limited amount of reasonable quality data suggesting that radiation dose is considerably lower with EOS than CR or film X-ray imaging; whilst image quality remains comparable or better with EOS. No evidence was found on the impact of EOS on patients' pathways of care or ultimate health outcomes.

A decision analytic model was developed to assess the cost-effectiveness of EOS in the relevant indications compared to standard X-ray (CR and DR imaging). The model provided a framework for the synthesis of data from the review of clinical effectiveness of EOS and adverse effects of diagnostic radiation exposure, such as the risk of cancer, in order to evaluate the potential long-term cost-effectiveness of EOS. The model incorporated a lifetime horizon to estimate outcomes in terms of quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) and costs from the perspective of the NHS. Cost-effectiveness was assessed using incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) for each indication. This was complemented by threshold analysis to determine the sensitivity of the cost-effectiveness threshold to uncertainty in the assumed base-case parameters.

The ICERs for EOS, for the various indications considered, were well above conventional thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 per additional QALY in all indications. Patient throughput was a major determinant of the cost-effectiveness of EOS. A range of scenarios was considered regarding throughput with EOS and standard X-ray, as well as threshold analysis to explore the critical throughput levels to be achieved for EOS to be considered cost-effective. Three alternative assumptions regarding patient throughput were used to examine whether EOS could be shown to be cost-effective:

(1) Throughput assumption TA1 used patient throughput based on HES data, which provided an estimate of the number of examinations per year for each of the various indications at national level;
(2) In recognition that HES may underestimate current X-ray utilisation, throughput assumption TA2 was based on the capacity that a machine could utilise in a

working day. TA2 assumed equivalent throughput for EOS and standard X-ray at 30 patients per working day, corresponding to an annual throughput of 7,530 scans per year (assuming 251 working days per year);

(3) Throughput assumption TA3 was based on a higher utilisation for EOS compared to standard X-ray at 48 patients per working day, corresponding to an annual throughput of 12,048 scans per year (assuming 251 working days per year).

Under none of the alternative throughput assumptions did EOS appear to be cost-effective at thresholds of £20,000 and £30,000 per QALY under base-case assumptions.

The threshold analysis on patient throughput showed that 17,700 to 27,600 scans per year (corresponding to a workload of 71 to 110 patient appointments per working day) were needed to achieve an ICER of £20,000 per QALY, or between 15,100 and 26,500 (corresponding to a workload of 60 to 106 patient appointments per working day) for an ICER of £30,000 per QALY. These estimates were based on the assumption that the throughput for CR was 7,530 scans per year (30 patient appointments per working day). Two-way threshold analysis examining the relationship between the cost-effectiveness of EOS and the throughput of CR and EOS suggested that EOS would not be cost-effective unless its utilisation can be assumed to be markedly greater than CR. For example, in deforming dorsopathies of adults, which is the closest indication to being potentially cost-effective, the minimum throughput for EOS to generate an ICER below £30,000 per QALY would be 15,100 scans per year, as long as the throughput for CR is 7,530 scans per year.

The base-case analysis assumed that any health benefit from EOS would come through reduced radiation doses. Although no evidence exists to confirm it, EOS may confer health benefits through the nature and quality of its images influencing the results of therapeutic interventions such as surgery. To address this issue and in the absence of formal evidence, threshold analysis was used to calculate the necessary health gain from the EOS image, over and above benefit from reduction in radiation dose, to achieve acceptable ICERs. This analysis suggested that the necessary absolute QALY gains from non-radiation sources varied by the throughput scenario. For the lowest throughput scenario (TA1), the necessary gains ranged from 0.003 to 0.4 (an increase in the order of magnitude of 7 to 697); for the scenario

TA2 from 0.002 to 0.003 (an increase in the order of magnitude of 4.8 to 35); and for TA3 from 0.0002 to 0.002 (an increase in the order of magnitude of 2.3 to 17).

Judgments regarding the plausibility of these necessary QALY gains may be aided by a comparison with the QALY gains estimated for other diagnostic tests based on firmer evidence. In many situations the health gains from changes in diagnostic technologies tend to be relatively small as only a proportion of patients have their diagnoses altered as a result, and a smaller proportion still experience a therapeutic change. For example, in evaluating different diagnostic strategies for coronary artery disease in patients of 55 years of age, Garber and Solomon found differences in lifetime QALYs of between 0.001 and 0.025 across six strategies.[68]

A number of alternative scenarios were considered which varied the assumptions employed as part of the base-case analysis. Under throughput assumptions TA1 and TA2, EOS was not cost-effective across any of the scenarios considered when reduced radiation dose is assumed to be the only source of health benefit. For throughput assumption TA3, in all bar one scenario, which was a reduction in the discount rate from 3.5% to 0% per annum, the ICER was above £20,000 per QALY across the various indications. This scenario demonstrated the effects of discounting future costs and benefits from cancer developed later in life back to present values to explain the results of the modelling but it does not illuminate any specific policy option.

In two other scenarios, the ICERs fell between £20,000 and £30,000 per additional QALY for two of the indications (late-onset scoliosis and Scheuermann's disease in adolescents): (i) for a scenario which considered an earlier age of cancer diagnosis compared to the general population and (ii) for a scenario which used an alternative source (BEIR VII report instead of the personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from HPA) for the estimate of lifetime attributable risk of radiation-induced cancer. However, for EOS to be cost-effective in these indications, the throughput must be twice that for CR.

5.2 Strengths and limitations of the assessment

Strengths

We conducted a rigorous systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS, which addressed a clear research question using predefined inclusion criteria. Comprehensive literature searches were performed to locate all relevant published and unpublished studies without any language restrictions, thereby minimising the potential for publication bias and language bias. Hand searching was also performed in order to identify additional relevant studies. We are therefore confident that we have included all relevant studies.

Study selection, data extraction and quality assessment procedures were undertaken in duplicate to minimise the potential for reviewer bias or error. Validity assessment was undertaken using a validated checklist for diagnostic studies, with additional project-specific quality assessment items added. Clinical expertise was obtained for completing the additional project-specific quality assessment items.

The included studies were of reasonable quality, increasing the validity of the results of the systematic review. Due to the high degree of clinical heterogeneity identified between included studies, a narrative synthesis was appropriate.

Similarly to the systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS, a comprehensive search was conducted to identify potentially relevant studies for inclusion in the assessment of cost-effectiveness, including full economic evaluations of EOS against any comparators and economic evaluations in the indications of interest where standard X-ray was assessed against any comparator. No studies were found, so a new decision analytic model was developed to provide an assessment of the cost-effectiveness of EOS from the perspective of the NHS and Personal Social Services. This model is the first to fully quantify the long-term costs and health consequences associated with diagnostic imaging using EOS.

The model provided a framework for the synthesis of data from the review of clinical effectiveness of EOS and adverse effects of diagnostic radiation exposure. Radiation exposure increases the risk of cancer, which, in turn, is associated with an increase in health care costs and loss of life years and quality of life. These costs and health consequences were combined with the costs of monitoring patients for the various indications to provide an

estimation of total costs and health outcomes from diagnostic imaging with EOS compared to standard X-ray. Cost-effectiveness was assessed using incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICERs) for each indication. This was complemented with threshold analysis in order to determine the critical throughput levels and additional QALYs (from sources other than reduced radiation) needed to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of EOS under conventional thresholds.

The estimation of lifetime cancer risk attributable to radiation exposure from diagnostic X-ray imaging was based on the most up-to-date evidence on the effects of ionizing radiation. Four key sources of information, namely, BIER VII Phase 2,[18] UNSCEAR,[32] ICRP publication 103[19] and personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from HPA{Shrimpton, #1849} were identified. These include comprehensive reports, produced by large international radiation protection and safety agencies, examining the risk of radiation-induced cancer. For the base-case analysis, we used the most recent data from a personal communication with Paul Shrimpton from HPA,{Shrimpton, #1849} which calculated organ and effective doses for common X-ray examinations on adult patients in the UK and investigated the relationship between lifetime cancer risk and effective dose for common X-ray examinations. The estimates are based on the most recent models by the International Commission on Radiological Protection.[19] For the scenario analysis, the BIER VII Phase 2,[18] report was used as an alternative source to estimate cancer risk due to radiation exposure. Both data sources take account of long-term evidence on the adverse effects of radiation exposure based on epidemiological data from the atomic bomb survivor studies, medical radiation studies, occupational and environmental studies.

Limitations

The main limitation of the systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS was the limited data available. Only three studies comparing EOS with conventional X-ray imaging were identified, and two of the studies only included a small number of participants. There were no studies comparing EOS with DR, and no studies assessing the clinical effectiveness of EOS in adults. There were also no studies to confirm or refute the fact that EOS may confer health benefits over and above those associated with reduced radiation exposure through the nature and quality of its images, which could influence the results of therapeutic interventions such as surgery.

The major determinant of the cost-effectiveness of EOS is patient throughput. Throughput is highly uncertain and potentially variable between centres. There are no reliable data available to provide estimates of throughput at national level. The HES data for inpatient episodes during 2008-09 is likely to underestimate current X-ray utilisation by patients with the various indications of interest. This is because many patients will receive X-ray imaging as outpatients, but the outpatient HES data records very low numbers of patient visits for these indications. This uncertainty is a key limitation of the economic model.

Given this uncertainty about likely thoughput with EOS, three alternative assumptions were employed in the analysis: 1) throughput estimates based on the number of inpatient episodes as recorded in HES; 2) throughput estimates based on a capacity of 30 patients per working day for EOS and CR; and 3) throughput estimates based on a capacity of 48 patients per working day for EOS and 30 patients per day for CR. Threshold analyses were also used to determine the levels of throughput required to achieve an ICER within an acceptable range of cost-effectiveness. These critical levels provide an estimate of the throughput needed but judgement is required on the feasibility of achieving these levels. In principle, the use of EOS in the NHS could be centrally planned in such a way that the throughput of patients using the technology could be determined - e.g. by locating EOS in one or a small number of specialist centres to which patients with particular indications could be sent. Therefore, EOS throughput can be seen as a matter of policy choice in its own right rather than an uncertain parameter to estimate.

Uncertainty in the model inputs was not fully explored due to a lack of standard deviations or confidence intervals reported in the published literature for most of the parameters. The model was constructed to be run probabilistically but only the outcomes from cancer (costs and QALYs associated with cancer) were entered as an uncertain rather than a fixed parameter, as the uncertainty in all other parameters was unknown. As a result, uncertainty in the cost-effectiveness results was not presented.

5.3 Uncertainties

Despite comprehensive searches of the literature for available research evidence a number of uncertainties remain. Firstly, it is uncertain how generalisable to the UK context the findings of the clinical evaluation of EOS are. EOS is currently not available in the UK. Only three

studies, which were undertaken outside the UK, have compared EOS with conventional X-ray imaging of film and CR, and two of these studies have only included a small number of participants. There have been no studies comparing EOS with DR and no studies assessing the clinical effectiveness of EOS in adults. Therefore, it is unclear how representative these studies are to the practice of diagnostic imaging in the UK.

The model evaluates the cost-effectiveness of EOS through reducing the amount of radiation exposure to patients over the monitoring period for the various indications. The estimates for radiation dose associated with each type of radiograph used during diagnosis and monitoring may not accurately represent the radiation exposure to patients. The best available evidence was used, based on the doses recorded in the UK National Patient Dose Database, but no estimate of uncertainty was presented on the average values.

In addition, the data were collected between January 2001 and February 2006, hence radiation dose may be out-dated from doses used in current practice. Data were collected in 316 hospitals and clinics, which represent only 23% of the institutions with diagnostic X-ray facilities in the UK. Therefore, the data may not represent the majority of radiographs taken in the NHS. Furthermore, information on the type of equipment used was only provided for 24% of the rooms. The majority of these used a film-screen combination, 40% used CR and 5% used DR. At present, film-screen radiography is no longer used in the NHS and expert advice suggested that CR represents the majority of equipment used in current practice.
The model formally assesses the potential reduction in radiation dose, and hence cancer risk, from EOS compared to standard X-ray. However, there remains uncertainty as to whether EOS has implications for the quality and nature of the image, which in turn could have beneficial effects on medical or surgical management with consequent positive implications for patients' health outcomes. Due to a lack of formal evidence and insufficient time formally to elicit estimates from clinical experts, the model was unable to explore these implications explicitly.

5.4 Other relevant factors

A wider set of patients, with indications other than those explicitly considered here, could have their scans with EOS to help achieve these 'target' throughput levels. However, the use of such patients would only be cost-effective if the incremental benefits they experience from

EOS are similar to those estimated for patients with the indications which have been modelled.

The evidence base for NHS investment in EOS is, therefore, highly uncertain. The upfront capital cost of the machine may represent an irreversible cost to the NHS if research or other information emerging in the future suggests it is not as cost-effective as existing X-ray and if there is limited resale value for the equipment.[69] For this reason, if the NHS decides to invest in EOS, there may be a case for the use of rental agreements rather than outright purchase.

6. Conclusions

Radiation dose is considerably lower with EOS than CR or film X-ray imaging, whilst image quality remains comparable or better with EOS.

Patient throughput is the major determinant of the cost-effectiveness of EOS. The average cost per procedure of EOS decreases with utilisation. Therefore, the greater the number of procedures that can be demonstrated compared with those for standard X-ray, the greater the likelihood of cost-effectiveness. Using the estimates of patient throughput at national level from the HES data suggests that EOS is not cost-effective for any of the indications considered. Patient throughput in the region of 15,100 to 26,500 (corresponding to a workload of 60 to 106 patient appointments per working day) for EOS compared to a throughput of only 7,530 for CR (corresponding to a workload of 30 patient appointments per working day) is needed to achieve an ICER of £30,000 per QALY. EOS can only be shown to be cost-effective when compared to CR if the utilisation for EOS is about double the utilisation of CR. Since the throughput for CR is not tied to the particular indications for which EOS is potentially of value, as the equipment can be used for a much wider set of uses, it is unlikely that the throughput for CR would be considerably lower than for EOS. The conclusion that EOS has potential to be cost-effective is, therefore, likely to rest on the plausibility of the additonal QALY gains that might be expected as a result of any therapeutic responses to the nature of the quality of the EOS image compared to standard X-ray.

6.1 Implications for service provision

The cost-effectiveness of EOS depends on the feasibility of achieving the critical patient throughput levels. The economic analysis has demonstrated that the ICERs for EOS for the various indications are consistently above conventional thresholds of cost-effectiveness unless a minimum throughput of 15,100 scans per year can be achieved. This has implications for service provision - the NHS would need to reconfigure services. Clinics using EOS would have to be organised in such a manner to ensure that this minimum utilisation is achieved for each centre using EOS. A throughput of 15,100 scans per year is equivalent to 60 patient appointments per working day, over 251 working days per year.
A key question is whether such throughput is achievable with current patient numbers, and if so, how many EOS systems would be required. Since the minimum throughput is in the

order of 15,000 scans per year, this would require that each centre with an EOS machine would serve enough patients to ensure such utilisation. It may be possible to identify patients with conditions other than those formally assessed here for whom EOS could reasonably be used instead of standard X-ray and hence increase throughput to the necessary thresholds. However, this would only be a cost-effective option if the health benefits experienced by those patients were comparable to the main indications considered in the modelling.

There is also an impact on patients or carers. The acquisition of one EOS system would require patients and carers to travel to the facility, further comprising the achievement of utilisation required for the technology to become cost-effective.

The evidence base for NHS investment in EOS is, therefore, highly uncertain. The upfront capital cost of the machine may represent an irreversible cost to the NHS if research or other information emerging in the future suggests it is not as cost-effective as existing X-ray and if there is limited resale value for the equipment.[69] For this reason, if the NHS decides to invest in EOS, there may be a case for the use of rental agreements rather than outright purchase.

6.2 Suggested research priorities

The benefits to patients from reduced radiation with EOS appear minimal. Further research is required in order to establish the nature and extent of any additional benefits to the patient. There is a need to formally assess the implications of any changes in the quality and nature of the image with EOS compared to standard X-ray for patient health outcomes, over and above the reduction in radiation. This will require research to establish, for relevant indications, the proportion of patients for whom use of EOS changes diagnosis and/or therapy, and whether any therapeutic changes result in improved quality adjusted life expectancy.

Estimates of likely throughput with EOS are both uncertain (there is little evidence to use for this purpose) and variable (they depend on how many EOS machines are introduced in the NHS and the relevant patient throughput in each centre). For EOS this throughput needs to be based on the patient numbers expected for the indications for which EOS has a potential benefit. This throughput should be defined at national level based on numbers of patients requiring scans and number of centres throughout the UK.

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8. Appendices

Appendix 1 Literature search strategies

Searches for review of clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of EOS

Date searches conducted: 2-8 November 2010

Limits: 1993 – date

Records found (after deduplication and hand-sifting for relevance): 661
Records found (before deduplication): 1,811

Databases searched:

MEDLINE
AMED
Biosis Previews
CINAHL
Cochrane Library
- Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews
- DARE
- Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials
- HTA Database
- NHS Economic Evaluation Database

EMBASE
HMIC
INSPEC
ISI Science Citation Index
PASCAL

Trials registries searched:

Clinical Trials.gov
Current Controlled Trials

Search strategies:

MEDLINE & MEDLINE In Process (OvidSP)
1993 – October Week 3 2010
Date searched: 02/11/10
Records found: 388

1 ((low dose or ultralow dose) adj (digital x-ray$ or digital xray$ or digital radiograph$ system$ or x-ray imag$ or xray imag$ or 2d 3d x-ray$ or 2d 3d xray$)).ti,ab. (14)
2 charpak.ti,ab. (3)
3 (multiwire chamber$ or multi wire chamber$).ti,ab. (7)
4 slot scan$.ti,ab. (41)
5 ((biplanar or bi planar) adj2 (radiograph$ or x-ray$ or xray$)).ti,ab. (160)
6 stereoradiograph$.ti,ab. (110)
7 eos.ti,ab. (980)

Lines 1-7 capture terms for EOS and general terms for this radiography system
8 (eosinophil$ or schizophreni$ or end of synthesis or essential oil$ or protein$ or (ethanolamine adj2 sulphate) or endogenous opioid system$ or (early onset adj2 (sepsis or septic?emia)) or early onset sarcoidois or ceramide$ or ikaros or genome$ or (equation$ adj2 state$) or composite or zinc or sodium).ti,ab. (2362051)
9 7 not 8 (276)
Line 9 excludes records where EOS is commonly used as an acronym in other subject areas
10 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 9 (593)
11 exp animals/ not humans/ (3586189)
12 10 not 11 (502)
Line 12 excludes animal-only studies
13 limit 12 to yr="1993 -Current" (388)
Line 13 limits the search results to 1993-date

Key:
/ = indexing term (MeSH heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

AMED (OvidSP)
1993 – October 2010
Date searched: 02/11/10
Records found: 28

1. ((low dose or ultralow dose) adj (digital x-ray$ or digital xray$ or digital radiograph$ system$ or x-ray imag$ or xray imag$ or 2d 3d x-ray$ or 2d 3d xray$)).ti,ab.
2. charpak.ti,ab.
3. (multiwire chamber$ or multi wire chamber$).ti,ab.
4. slot scan$.ti,ab.
5. ((biplanar or bi planar) adj2 (radiograph$ or x-ray$ or xray$)).ti,ab.
6. stereoradiograph$.ti,ab.
7. eos.ti,ab.
8. (eosinophil$ or schizophreni$ or end of synthesis or essential oil$ or protein$ or (ethanolamine adj2 sulphate) or endogenous opioid system$ or (early onset adj2 (sepsis or septic?emia)) or early onset sarcoidois or ceramide$ or ikaros or genome$ or (equation$ adj2 state$) or composite or zinc or sodium).ti,ab.
9. 7 not 8
10. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 9
11. limit 10 to yr="1993 -Current"

Key:
/ = indexing term (MeSH heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

BIOSIS Previews (ISI Web of Knowledge)
1993 – 2008
Date searched: 03/11/10
Records found: 193

9 193 #7 OR #6 OR #5 OR #4 OR #3 OR #2 OR #1
Refined by: Concept Codes=(06504, RADIATION BIOLOGY - RADIATION AND ISOTOPE TECHNIQUES OR 24004, NEOPLASMS - PATHOLOGY, CLINICAL ASPECTS AND SYSTEMIC EFFECTS OR 18002, BONES, JOINTS, FASCIAE, CONNECTIVE AND ADIPOSE TISSUE - ANATOMY OR 18004, BONES, JOINTS, FASCIAE, CONNECTIVE AND ADIPOSE TISSUE - PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY OR 18006, BONES, JOINTS, FASCIAE, CONNECTIVE AND ADIPOSE TISSUE - PATHOLOGY OR 12504, PATHOLOGY - DIAGNOSTIC OR 25000, PEDIATRICS OR 11310, CHORDATE BODY REGIONS - BACK AND BUTTOCKS OR 06502, RADIATION BIOLOGY - GENERAL OR 11102, ANATOMY AND HISTOLOGY - GROSS ANATOMY OR 00530, GENERAL BIOLOGY - INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION, RETRIEVAL AND COMPUTER APPLICATIONS OR 01012, METHODS - PHOTOGRAPHY OR 11106, ANATOMY AND HISTOLOGY - RADIOLOGIC ANATOMY OR 18001, BONES, JOINTS, FASCIAE, CONNECTIVE AND ADIPOSE TISSUE - GENERAL AND METHODS)
Databases=PREVIEWS Timespan=1993-2008
# 8 425 #7 OR #6 OR #5 OR #4 OR #3 OR #2 OR #1
Databases=PREVIEWS Timespan=1993-2008
# 7 322 Topic=(eos not (composite or zinc or sodium or "equation* state*" or ceramide* or ikaros or genome or "early onset sarcoidois" or ("early onset" same (sepsis or septicemia or septicaemia)) or "endogenous opioid system*" or (ethanolamine same sulphate) or "essential oil*" or protein* or eosinophil* or schizophreni*))
Databases=PREVIEWS Timespan=1993-2008
# 6 35 Topic=(stereoradiograph*)
Databases=PREVIEWS Timespan=1993-2008
# 5 61 Topic=((biplanar or "bi-planar") same (radiograph* or x-ray* or xray*))
Databases=PREVIEWS Timespan=1993-2008
# 4 7 Topic=("slot scan*")
Databases=PREVIEWS Timespan=1993-2008
# 3 0 Topic=("multiwire chamber*" or "multi wire chamber*")
Databases=PREVIEWS Timespan=1993-2008
# 2 1 Topic=(charpak)
Databases=PREVIEWS Timespan=1993-2008
# 1 7 Topic=(("low dose" or "ultralow dose") same ("digital x-ray*" or "digital xray*" or "digital radiograph* system*" or "x-ray imag*" or "xray imag*" or "2d 3d x-ray*" or "2d 3d xray*"))

Key:
Topic= searches terms in Title, Abstract, Author Keywords and Keywords Plus fields
* = truncation
" " = phrase search
same = terms within same sentence

Biosis Previews (Dialog)
2008-2010
Date searched: 03/11/10
Records found: 47

S (low(w)dose or ultralow(w)dose)(n)(digital(w)x(w)ray? or digital(w)xray? or digital(w)radiograph?(w)system? or x(w)ray(w)imag? or xray(w)imag? or 2d(w)3d(w)x(w)ray? or 2d(w)3d(w)xray)
S charpak
S multiwire(w)chamber? or multi(w)wire(w)chamber?
S slot(w)scan?
S (biplanar or bi(w)planar)(2n)(radiograph? or x(w)ray? or xray?)
S stereoradiograph?
S eos
Ss s1:s7
S composite or zinc or sodium or (equation?(w)state) or ceramide? or ikaros or genome or (early(w)onset(w)sarcoidois) or ((early(w)onset)(2n)(sepsis or septicemia or septicaemia)) or

(endogenous(w)opioid(w)system?) or (ethanolamine(2n)sulphate) or essential(w)oil? or protein? or eosinophil? or schizophreni?
S s8 not s9
S s10/2008:2010
S s11/HUMAN
S CC=(06504 OR 24004 OR 18002 OR 18004 OR 18006 OR 12504 OR 25000 OR 11310 OR 06502 OR 11102 OR 00530 OR 01012 OR 11106 OR 18001)
S s12 and s13

Key:
? = truncation
(w) = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
(n) = terms adjacent to each other (any order)
(2n) = terms within 2 words of each other (any order)
CC=Concept code (for subject area limitation)
S s10/2008:2010 – limits set 10 to records published between 2008-2010 (inclusive)

CINAHL (EBSCO)
1993 – date
Date searched: 02/11/10
Records found: 25

S22 S21 Limiters - Published Date from: 19930101-20101231
S21 S7 not s20 (26)
S20 S8 or S9 or or S10 or S11 or S12 or S13 or S14 or S15 or S16 or S17 or S18 or S19 (67105)
S19 composite or zinc or sodium (14583)
S18 equation* n2 state* (11)
S17 ceramide* or ikaros or genome* (3192)
S16 "early onset sarcoidois" (0)
S15 "early onset" n2 (sepsis or septicemia or septicaemia) (0)
S14 "endogenous opioid system*" (26)
S13 ethanolamine n2 sulphate (0)
S12 protein* (41211)
S11 "essential oil*" (773)
S10 "end of synthesis" (0)
S9 schizophreni* (8346)
S8 eosinophil* (1630)
S7 eos (51)
S6 stereoradiograph* (7)
S5 (biplanar or "bi planar") n2 (radiograph* or x-ray* or xray*) (0)
S4 "slot scan*" (3)
S3 "multiwire chamber*" or "multi wire chamber*" (0)
S2 charpak (1)
S1 ("low dose" or "ultralow dose") n1 ("digital x-ray*" or "digital xray*" or "digital radiograph* system*" or "x-ray imag*" or "xray imag*" or "2d 3d x-ray*" or "2d 3d xray*") (0)

Key
* = truncation
" " = phrase search
n1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
n2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Cochrane Library
1993 - 2010 Issue 10
Date searched: 03/11/10
Records found:

CDSR (0)
DARE (0)
CENTRAL (14)
HTA (2)
NHS EED (1)

#1 ("low dose" next ("digital x ray*" or "digital xray*" or "digital radiograph* system*" or "x ray imag*" or "xray imag*" or "2d 3d x ray*" or "2d 3d xray*")):ti,ab 0
#2 ("ultralow dose" next ("digital x ray*" or "digital xray*" or "digital radiograph* system*" or "x ray imag*" or "xray imag*" or "2d 3d x ray*" or "2d 3d xray*")):ti,ab 0
#3 charpak:ti,ab 2
#4 ("multiwire chamber*" or "multi wire chamber"):ti,ab 0
#5 "slot scan*":ti,ab 0
#6 (biplanar near/2 (radiograph* or "x ray" or xray*)):ti,ab 2
#7 ("bi planar" near/2 (radiograph* or "x ray*" or xray*)):ti,ab 0
#8 stereoradiograph*:ti,ab 4
#9 eos:ti,ab 40
#10 (eosinophil* or schizophreni* or "end of synthesis" or "essential oil*" or protein*):ti,ab 29905
#11 (ethanolamine near/2 sulphate):ti,ab 5
#12 ("endogenous opioid system*"):ti,ab 76
#13 ("early onset" near/2 (sepsis or septicemia or septicaemia)):ti,ab 17
#14 "early onset sarcoidois":ti,ab 0
#15 (ceramide* or ikaros or genome*):ti,ab 228
#16 (equation* near/2 state*):ti,ab 0
#17 (composite or zinc or sodium):ti,ab 19086
#18 (#10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17) 48219
#19 (#9 AND NOT #18) 13
#20 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #19) 21
#21 (#20), from 1993 to 2010 17

Key
* = truncation
" " = phrase search
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
near/2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)
next = terms are next to each other

EMBASE (OvidSP)
1993 –Week 43 2010
Date searched: 02/11/10
Records found: 463

1 ((low dose or ultralow dose) adj (digital x-ray$ or digital xray$ or digital radiograph$ system$ or x-ray imag$ or xray imag$ or 2d 3d x-ray$ or 2d 3d xray$)).ti,ab. (14)
2 charpak.ti,ab. (3)
3 (multiwire chamber$ or multi wire chamber$).ti,ab. (4)
4 slot scan$.ti,ab. (41)
5 ((biplanar or bi planar) adj2 (radiograph$ or x-ray$ or xray$)).ti,ab. (169)
6 stereoradiograph$.ti,ab. (114)
7 eos.ti,ab. (1180)
8 (eosinophil$ or schizophreni$ or end of synthesis or essential oil$ or protein$ or (ethanolamine adj2 sulphate) or endogenous opioid system$ or (early onset adj2 (sepsis or septic?emia)) or early onset sarcoidois or ceramide$ or ikaros or genome$ or (equation$ adj2 state$) or composite or zinc or sodium).ti,ab. (2434795)
9 7 not 8 (378)
10 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 9 (701)
11 animal/ or nonhuman/ (5139514)
12 exp human/ (12060870)

13 11 not (11 and 12) (4127271)
14 10 not 13 (594)
15 limit 14 to yr="1993 -Current" (463)

Key:
/ = indexing term (EMTREE heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

HMIC (OvidSP)
1993 – September 2010
Date searched: 02/11/10
Records found: 0

1. ((low dose or ultralow dose) adj (digital x-ray$ or digital xray$ or digital radiograph$ system$ or x-ray imag$ or xray imag$ or 2d 3d x-ray$ or 2d 3d xray$)).ti,ab.
2. charpak.ti,ab.
3. (multiwire chamber$ or multi wire chamber$).ti,ab.
4. slot scan$.ti,ab.
5. ((biplanar or bi planar) adj2 (radiograph$ or x-ray$ or xray$)).ti,ab.
6. stereoradiograph$.ti,ab.
7. eos.ti,ab.
8. (eosinophil$ or schizophreni$ or end of synthesis or essential oil$ or protein$ or (ethanolamine adj2 sulphate) or endogenous opioid system$ or (early onset adj2 (sepsis or septic?emia)) or early onset sarcoidois or ceramide$ or ikaros or genome$ or (equation$ adj2 state$) or composite or zinc or sodium).ti,ab.
9. 7 not 8
10. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 9
11. limit 10 to yr="1993 -Current"

Key:
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

INSPEC (OvidSP)
1993 –Week 42 2010
Date searched: 02/11/10
Records found: 138

1. ((low dose or ultralow dose) adj (digital x-ray$ or digital xray$ or digital radiograph$ system$ or x-ray imag$ or xray imag$ or 2d 3d x-ray$ or 2d 3d xray$)).ti,ab.
2. charpak.ti,ab.
3. (multiwire chamber$ or multi wire chamber$).ti,ab.
4. slot scan$.ti,ab.
5. ((biplanar or bi planar) adj2 (radiograph$ or x-ray$ or xray$)).ti,ab.
6. stereoradiograph$.ti,ab.
7. eos.ti,ab.
8. (eosinophil$ or schizophreni$ or end of synthesis or essential oil$ or protein$ or (ethanolamine adj2 sulphate) or endogenous opioid system$ or (early onset adj2 (sepsis or septic?emia)) or early onset sarcoidois or ceramide$ or ikaros or genome$ or (equation$ adj2 state$) or composite or zinc or sodium).ti,ab.
9. 7 not 8

10. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 9
11. "X-rays and particle beams (medical uses) ".cc.
12. "Patient diagnostic methods and instrumentation ".cc.
13. "X-ray techniques: radiography and computed tomography (biomedical imaging/measurement) ".cc.
14. biomedical imaging/ or diagnostic radiography/ or medical image processing/ or x-ray imaging/
15. radiography/
16. or/11-15
17. 10 and 16
18. limit 17 to yr="1993 -Current"

Key:
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)
.cc. = classification code

PASCAL (Dialog)
1993-2010
Date searched: 03/11/10
Records found: 27

S ((low(w)dose or ultralow(w)dose)(n)(digital(w)x(w)ray? or digital(w)xray? or digital(w)radiograph?(w)system? or x(w)ray(w)imag? or xray(w)imag? or 2d(w)3d(w)x(w)ray? or 2d(w)3d(w)xray))/ET
S charpak
S (multiwire(w)chamber? or multi(w)wire(w)chamber?) /ET
S (slot(w)scan?) /ET
S ((biplanar or bi(w)planar)(2n)(radiograph? or x(w)ray? or xray?)) /ET
S (stereoradiograph?) /ET
S eos/ET
Ss s1:s7
S composite or zinc or sodium or (equation?(w)state) or ceramide? or ikaros or genome or (early(w)onset(w)sarcoidois) or ((early(w)onset)(2n)(sepsis or septicemia or septicaemia)) or (endogenous(w)opioid(w)system?) or (ethanolamine(2n)sulphate) or essential(w)oil? or protein? or eosinophil? or schizophreni? or earth(w)observing
S s8 not s9
S s10/1993:2010
S (Radiography or Radiology or Image reconstruction or Image processing or Image quality or Scanning or X ray or EOS system or Tridimensional image or X ray Radiography or Digital radiography or Medical imagery or Spinal cord disease or Vertebral canal or Cervical spine)/DE
S s11 and s12

Key:
? = truncation
(w) = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
(n) = terms adjacent to each other (any order)
(2n) = terms within 2 words of each other (any order)
/ET = English title
/DE = Descriptor field
S s10/1993:2010 – limits set 10 to records published between 1993-2010 (inclusive)

Science Citation Index (ISI Web of Knowledge)
1993 – date
Date searched: 02/11/10

Records found: 482

#9 482 #7 OR #6 OR #5 OR #4 OR #3 OR #2 OR #1
Refined by: Subject Areas=(MEDICAL INFORMATICS OR SURGERY OR IMAGING SCIENCE & PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY OR RADIOLOGY, NUCLEAR MEDICINE & MEDICAL IMAGING OR PEDIATRICS OR ORTHOPEDICS OR MEDICINE, GENERAL & INTERNAL OR ENGINEERING, BIOMEDICAL)
8 4,854 #7 OR #6 OR #5 OR #4 OR #3 OR #2 OR #1
7 4,533 Topic=(eos not (composite or zinc or sodium or "equation* state*" or ceramide* or ikaros or genome or "early onset sarcoidois" or ("early onset" same (sepsis or septicemia or septicaemia)) or "endogenous opioid system*" or (ethanolamine same sulphate) or "essential oil*" or protein* or eosinophil* or schizophreni*))
6 51 Topic=(stereoradiograph*)
5 132 Topic=((biplanar or "bi-planar") same (radiograph* or x-ray* or xray*))
4 63 Topic=("slot scan*")
3 52 Topic=("multiwire chamber*" or "multi wire chamber*")
2 21 Topic=(charpak)
1 25 Topic=(("low dose" or "ultralow dose") same ("digital x-ray*" or "digital xray*" or "digital radiograph* system*" or "x-ray imag*" or "xray imag*" or "2d 3d x-ray*" or "2d 3d xray*"))

Key:
Topic= searches terms in Title, Abstract, Author Keywords and Keywords Plus fields
Subject Areas = subject category
* = truncation
" " = phrase search
same = terms within same sentence

Clinical Trials.gov
http://www.clinicaltrials.gov/

Date searched: 08/11/10
Records found: 24

eos NOT (schizophrenia OR protein OR sepsis OR eosinophil OR sarcoidosis OR genome OR copd OR septicemia)

"ultra low dose digital x-ray" OR "ultralow dose digital x-ray" OR "ultra low dose digital xray" OR "ultralow dose digital xray"

"digital radiography system" OR "3d x-ray" OR "3d xray"

charpak OR "multiwire chamber" OR "multi wire chamber" OR "slot scanner" OR "slot scanning" OR stereoradiography

"biplanar radiography" OR "bi planar radiography" OR "biplanar xray" OR "bi planar xray" OR "biplanar x-ray" OR "bi planar x-ray"

Key:
" " = phrase search

Current Controlled Trials
http://controlled-trials.com/mrct/

Date searched: 08/11/10
Records found: 28

eos NOT (schizophrenia OR protein OR sepsis OR eosinophil OR sarcoidosis OR genome OR copd OR septicemia)

ultra low dose digital x-ray OR ultralow dose digital x-ray OR ultra low dose digital xray OR ultralow dose digital xray

digital radiography system OR x-ray imaging OR xray imaging OR 3d x-ray OR 3d xray

charpak OR multiwire chamber OR multi wire chamber OR slot scanner OR slot scanning OR stereoradiography

biplanar radiography OR bi planar radiography OR biplanar xray OR bi planar xray OR biplanar x-ray OR bi planar x-ray

Searches for costs of digital and computed radiography

Date searches conducted: 15 November 2010

Limits: 2000 – most recent date available

Records found (after deduplication): 545
Records found (before deduplication): 394

Searches use an economic search filter based on that which is used for identification of economic evaluations and other cost studies for inclusion in the NHS Economic Evaluation Database (NHS EED).

Databases searched:
MEDLINE
EconLit
EMBASE
NHS Economic Evaluation Database

Search Strategies:

MEDLINE & MEDLINE In Process (Ovid)
2000 – November Week 1 2010
Date searched: 15/11/10
Records found: 215

1 (digital adj (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab. (2143)
2 (computed adj (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab. (1012)
3 (computer adj2 (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab. (381)
4 or/1-3 (3356)
Lines 4 combines x-ray terms
5 economics/ (26019)
6 exp "costs and cost analysis"/ or Cost Allocation/ or Cost-Benefit Analysis/ or Cost Control/ or Cost of Illness/ or Cost Sharing/ or Health Care Costs/ or Health Expenditures/ (154720)
7 exp "economics, hospital"/ or Hospital Charges/ or Hospital Costs/ (16995)
8 economics, medical/ (8336)
9 economics, nursing/ (3827)
10 (economic$ or cost$ or price or prices or pricing).tw. (368815)
11 (expenditure$ not energy).tw. (14503)

12 (value adj1 money).tw. (20)
13 budget$.tw. (15317)
14 (utili?ation or throughput or through put).ti,ab. (131597)
15 or/5-14 (593004)
Line15 combines economic evaluation terms
16 ((energy or oxygen) adj cost).ti,ab. (2375)
17 (metabolic adj cost).ti,ab. (618)
18 ((energy or oxygen) adj expenditure).ti,ab. (13328)
19 or/16-18 (15702)
20 15 not 19 (588726)
Line 20 excludes irrelevant records referring to energy expenditure
21 4 and 20 (241)
Line 21 combines x-ray terms and economic evaluation terms
22 Radiographic Image Interpretation, Computer-Assisted/ec (1)
23 Radiographic Image Interpretation/ec (1)
24 *Radiology Department, Hospital/ec (373)
25 *Technology, Radiologic/ec (70)
26 radiographic image enhancement/ec (94)
27 or/22-26 (522)
Line 27 combines relevant MeSH subject heading limited by the 'economics' subheading
28 21 or 27 (732)
Line 28 combines lines 21 and 27
29 exp animals/ not humans/ (3598672)
30 28 not 29 (724)
Line 30 excludes animal-only studies
31 limit 30 to yr="2000 - 2010" (253)
Line 31 limits to references published between 2000 and 2010
32 (mammography or mammogram$ or dental or dentist$ or lung or lungs or tuberculosis).ti,ab. (670019)
33 31 not 32 (215)
Line 33 excludes mammography, dental, lung and tuberculosis x-rays

Key:
/ = indexing term (MeSH heading)
/ec = indexing term (MeSH heading) limited to 'economic' subheading
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

EconLit (Ovid)
2000 – October 2010
Date searched: 15/11/10
Records found: 1

1 (digital adj (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab. (1)
2 (computed adj (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab. (0)
3 (computer adj2 (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab. (0)
4 or/1-3 (1)
5 limit 4 to yr="2000 -Current" (1)

Key:
$ = truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)

adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

EMBASE (Ovid)
2000 – 2010 Week 44
Date searched: 15/11/10
Records found: 279

1 (digital adj (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab,ot. (2351)
2 (computed adj (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab,ot. (1087)
3 (computer adj2 (radiograph$ or xray$ or x-ray$)).ti,ab,ot. (421)
4 *digital radiography/ (1742)
5 *computer assisted radiography/ (254)
6 *radiology department/ (2603)
7 or/1-6 (7374)
8 Health Economics/ (29673)
9 exp Economic Evaluation/ or Cost Benefit Analysis/ or Cost Control/ or Cost Effectiveness Analysis/ or Cost Minimization Analysis/ or Cost of Illness/ or Cost Utility Analysis/ (160878)
10 exp Health Care Cost/ or Health Care Financing/ or Nursing Cost/ or Hospital Cost/ (154337)
11 (econom$ or cost$ or price or prices or pricing).ti,ab,ot. (434362)
12 (expenditure$ not energy).ti,ab,ot. (16470)
13 (value adj2 money).ti,ab,ot. (859)
14 budget$.ti,ab,ot. (17570)
15 (utili?ation or throughput or through put).ti,ab,ot. (148570)
16 or/8-15 (726240)
17 (metabolic adj cost).ti,ab,ot. (623)
18 ((energy or oxygen) adj cost).ti,ab,ot. (2460)
19 ((energy or oxygen) adj expenditure).ti,ab,ot. (14500)
20 or/17-19 (16937)
21 16 not 20 (721679)
22 7 and 21 (959)
23 exp ANIMAL/ (1635235)
24 exp animal experiment/ (1400150)
25 Nonhuman/ (3525296)
26 (rat or rats or mouse or mice or hamster or hamsters or animal or animals or dog or dogs or cat or cats or bovine or sheep).ti,ab,sh,ot. (3961093)
27 or/23-26 (5691873)
28 exp human/ (12073160)
29 exp human experiment/ (283292)
30 28 or 29 (12074541)
31 27 not (27 and 30) (4506199)
32 22 not 31 (934)
33 limit 32 to yr="2000 -Current" (327)
34 (mammography or mammogram$ or dental or dentist$ or lung or lungs or tuberculosis).ti,ab. (712037)
35 33 not 34 (279)

Key:
/ = indexing term (EMTREE heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab,ot = terms in either title, original title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

NHS Economic Evaluation Database (Cochrane Library)

2000 – 2010 Issue 11
Date searched: 15/11/10
Records found: 50

#1 ("digital radiograph*" or "digital xray*" or "digital x-ray*"):ti,ab 9
#2 ("computed radiograph*" or "computed xray*" or "computed x-ray*"):ti,ab 7
#3 ((computer near/2 radiograph*) or (computer near/2 xray*) or (computer near/2 x-ray*)):ti,ab 9
#4 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Interpretation, Computer-Assisted, this term only 157
#5 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Enhancement, this term only 328
#6 MeSH descriptor Radiology Department, Hospital, this term only 86
#7 MeSH descriptor Technology, Radiologic, this term only 50
#8 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7) 588
#9 (mammography or mammogram* or dental or dentist* or lung or lungs or tuberculosis):ti,ab 23847
#10 (#8 AND NOT #9) 486
#11 (#10), from 2000 to 2010 265

Key
* = truncation
" " = phrase search
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
near/2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Searches for quality of life data

Date searches conducted: 22 November 2010

Limits: 2000 – most recent date available

Records found (after deduplication): 1226
Records found (before deduplication): 644

Searches use a quality of life search filter which was adapted for the purpose of this study to be of high precision and lower sensitivity.

Databases searched:
- **MEDLINE**
- **EconLit**
- **EMBASE**
- **NHS Economic Evaluation Database**
- **Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials**

Search Strategies:

MEDLINE and MEDLINE In Process (Ovid) 2000 – November Week 2 2010
Date searched: 22/11/10
Records found: 541

1 *spinal curvatures/ or *kyphosis/ or *scheuermann disease/ or *lordosis/ or *scoliosis/ or *spinal osteochondrosis/ or *spondylolysis/ or *spondylolisthesis/ (14857)
2 *Spondylitis, Ankylosing/ (7860)
3 *Leg Length Inequality/ (1512)
4 *Enchondromatosis/ (330)
5 *neurofibromatoses/ or *neurofibromatosis 1/ or *neurofibromatosis 2/ (7176)
6 *Hypophosphatemic Rickets, X-Linked Dominant/ (122)

7 scoliosis.ti,ab. (11652)
8 (kyphosis or lordosis or flatback syndrome).ti,ab. (6509)
9 (spondylolysis or spondylolisthesis or atlantoaxial subluxation or vertebral subluxation).ti,ab. (3737)
10 deforming dorsopath$.ti,ab. (1)
11 (valgus deformit$ or flexion deformit$).ti,ab. (1717)
12 ((limb$ length$ or leg length$) adj1 (unequal or inequalit$ or discrepancy or misalignment)).ti,ab. (1512)
13 ((spine or spinal) adj2 osteochondrosis).ti,ab. (163)
14 scheuermann$ disease.ti,ab. (314)
15 (ollier$ disease or enchondromatosis).ti,ab. (339)
16 neurofibromatosis.ti,ab. (8940)
17 hypophosphat?emic rickets.ti,ab. (688)
18 proximal focal femoral deficiency.ti,ab. (24)
19 fibular hemimelia.ti,ab. (75)
20 hemi hypertrophy.ti,ab. (26)
21 skeletal dysplasia$.ti,ab. (1492)
22 short stature.ti,ab. (6495)
23 tumo?r reconstruction.ti,ab. (42)
24 blount$ disease.ti,ab. (209)
25 *Hip Dislocation, Congenital/ (5316)
26 (congenital adj3 (subluxation or deformity or deformities or dislocation or malformation$ or bowing or defect or defects)).ti,ab. (27385)
27 (hip or hips or spine or spinal or knee or knees or femur or femurs or tibia or tibias or fibula or fibulas or leg or legs or musculoskeletal or lower limb$ or pelvic girdle or bony thorax or cervical rib$).ti,ab. (459952)
28 26 and 27 (3947)
29 arthrogryposis multiplex congenita.ti,ab. (465)
30 *Spina Bifida Occulta/ (1273)
31 spina bifida occulta.ti,ab. (398)
32 *Klippel-Feil Syndrome/ (561)
33 klippel feil syndrome.ti,ab. (507)
34 congenital spondylolisthesis.ti,ab. (12)
35 exp *Osteochondrodysplasias/ (18120)
36 short rib syndrome.ti,ab. (16)
37 chondrodysplasia punctata.ti,ab. (531)
38 achondroplasia.ti,ab. (1132)
39 ((dystrophic or chondroectodermal or spondyloepiphyseal or polyostotic fibrous or progressive diaphyseal or metaphyseal) adj1 dysplasia$).ti,ab. (1165)
40 osteogenesis imperfecta.ti,ab. (3114)
41 osteopetrosis.ti,ab. (1787)
42 enchondromatosis.ti,ab. (164)
43 multiple congenital exostoses.ti,ab. (2)
44 osteoporotic fracture$.ti,ab. (3466)
45 or/1-25 (59426)
46 or/28-44 (30011)
47 45 or 46 (84956)

Line 47 combines terms for the relevant orthopaedic conditions

48 (utilit$ approach$ or health gain or hui or hui2 or hui3).ti,ab. (1095)
49 (health measurement$ scale$ or health measurement$ questionnaire$).ti,ab. (30)
50 health related quality of life.ti,ab. (14187)
51 (utility weight$ or utility value$ or preference weight$ or quality weight$).ti,ab. (710)
52 (standard gamble$ or categor$ scal$ or linear scal$ or linear analog$ or visual scal$ or magnitude estimat$).ti,ab. (3738)
53 (time trade off$ or rosser$ classif$ or rosser$ matrix or rosser$ distress$ or hrqol).ti,ab. (4961)
54 (index of wellbeing or index of well being or quality of wellbeing or quality of well being or qwb).ti,ab. (362)
55 (multiattribute$ health ind$ or multi attribute$ health ind$).ti,ab. (2)
56 (health utilit$ index or health utilit$ indices).ti,ab. (472)
57 (health utilit$ scale$ or classification of illness state$).ti,ab. (8)
58 health state$ utilit$.ti,ab. (170)

59 (multiattribute$ utilit$ or multi attribute$ utilit$).ti,ab. (150)
60 health utilit$ scale$.ti,ab. (7)
61 (euro qual or euro qol or eq-5d or eq5d or eq 5d or euroqual or euroqol).ti,ab. (2200)
62 (qualy or qaly or qualys or qalys or quality adjusted life year$).ti,ab. (4528)
63 (sf36 or sf 36).ti,ab. (9563)
64 (short form 36 or shortform 36 or sf thirtysix or sf thirty six or shortform thirtysix or shortform thirty six or short form thirtysix or short form thirty six).ti,ab. (4447)
65 (sf 6d or sf6d or short form 6d or shortform 6d or sf six$ or shortform six$ or short form six$).ti,ab. (231)
66 *"Quality of Life"/ (38142)
67 *"Quality-Adjusted Life Years"/ (1079)
68 or/48-67 (58367)

Line 69 combines quality of life terms

69 exp animals/ not humans/ (3599786)
70 68 not 69 (58124)

Line 70 excludes animal-only studies

71 limit 70 to yr="2000 -Current" (44103)
72 47 and 71 (541)

Line 72 limits to references published between 2000 and 2010

Key:
/ = indexing term (MeSH heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Cochrane Library 2000 – Issue 11 2010
Date searched: 23/11/10
Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials
Records found: 88
NHS Economic Evaluation Database (Cochrane Library)
Records found: 14

#1 MeSH descriptor Spinal Curvatures, this term only 6
#2 MeSH descriptor Kyphosis, this term only 67
#3 MeSH descriptor Scheuermann Disease, this term only 1
#4 MeSH descriptor Lordosis, this term only 25
#5 MeSH descriptor Scoliosis, this term only 179
#6 MeSH descriptor Spinal Osteochondrosis, this term only 0
#7 MeSH descriptor Spondylolysis, this term only 8
#8 MeSH descriptor Spondylolisthesis, this term only 62
#9 MeSH descriptor Spondylitis, Ankylosing, this term only 362
#10 MeSH descriptor Leg Length Inequality, this term only 36
#11 MeSH descriptor Enchondromatosis, this term only 0
#12 MeSH descriptor Neurofibromatoses, this term only 0
#13 MeSH descriptor Neurofibromatosis 1, this term only 10
#14 MeSH descriptor Neurofibromatosis 2, this term only 2
#15 MeSH descriptor Hypophosphatemic Rickets, X-Linked Dominant, this term only 1
#16 scoliosis:ti,ab 255
#17 (kyphosis or lordosis or "flatback syndrome"):ti,ab 152
#18 (spondylolysis or spondylolisthesis or "atlantoaxial subluxation" or "vertebral subluxation"):ti,ab 119
#19 "deforming dorsopath*":ti,ab 0
#20 ("valgus deformit*" or "flexion deformit*"):ti,ab 0

#21 "unequal limb* length*":ti,ab 0
#22 "unequal leg* length*":ti,ab 0
#23 "leg length* inequalit*":ti,ab 0
#24 "limb* length* inequalit*":ti,ab 0
#25 "leg length* discrepancy*":ti,ab 8
#26 "limb* length* discrepancy*":ti,ab 9
#27 "leg length* misalignment*":ti,ab 0
#28 "limb* length* misalignment*":ti,ab 0
#29 (spine near/2 osteochondrosis):ti,ab 0
#30 (spinal near/2 osteochondrosis):ti,ab 2
#31 ("lower limb*" near/3 "congenital* deform*"):ti,ab 0
#32 (leg near/3 "congenital* deform*"):ti,ab 0
#33 (legs near/3 "congenital* deform*"):ti,ab 0
#34 "scheuermann* disease":ti,ab 0
#35 ("ollier* disease" or enchondromatosis):ti,ab 0
#36 neurofibromatosis:ti,ab 15
#37 ("hypophosphatemic rickets" or "hypophosphataemic rickets"):ti,ab 9
#38 "proximal focal femoral deficiency":ti,ab 0
#39 "fibular hemimelia":ti,ab 0
#40 "hemi hypertrophy":ti,ab 0
#41 "skeletal dysplasia*":ti,ab 2
#42 "short stature":ti,ab 228
#43 ("tumor reconstruction" or "tumour reconstruction "):ti,ab 0
#44 "blount* disease":ti,ab 0
#45 MeSH descriptor Hip Dislocation, Congenital, this term only 60
#46 (congenital and (subluxation or deformity or deformities or dislocation or malformation* or bowing or defect or defects)):ti,ab 305
#47 (hip or hips or spine or spinal or knee or knees or femur or femurs or tibia or tibias or fibula or fibulas or leg or legs or musculoskeletal or "lower limb"* or "pelvic girdle" or "bony thorax" or "cervical rib*"):ti,ab 27305
#48 (#46 AND #47) 15
#49 "arthrogryposis multiplex congenita":ti,ab 0
#50 MeSH descriptor Spina Bifida Occulta, this term only 3
#51 "spina bifida occulta":ti,ab 1
#52 MeSH descriptor Klippel-Feil Syndrome, this term only 1
#53 "klippel feil syndrome":ti,ab 1
#54 "congenital spondylolisthesis":ti,ab 0
#55 MeSH descriptor Osteochondrodysplasias explode all trees 47
#56 "short rib syndrome":ti,ab 0
#57 "chondrodysplasia punctata":ti,ab 0
#58 achondroplasia:ti,ab 6
#59 ((dystrophic or chondroectodermal or spondyloepiphyseal or "polyostotic fibrous" or "progressive diaphyseal" or metaphyseal) and dysplasia*):ti,ab 0
#60 "osteogenesis imperfecta":ti,ab 35
#61 osteopetrosis:ti,ab 1
#62 enchondromatosis:ti,ab 0
#63 "multiple congenital exostoses":ti,ab 0
#64 "osteoporotic fracture*":ti,ab 63
#65 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18) 986
#66 (#19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR #24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #29 OR #30 OR #31 OR #32 OR #33 OR #34 OR #35 OR #36 OR #37 OR #38 OR #39) 42
#67 (#40 OR #41 OR #42 OR #43 OR #44 OR #45) 289
#68 (#48 OR #49 OR #50 OR #51 OR #52 OR #53 OR #54 OR #55 OR #56 OR #57 OR #58 OR #59 OR #60 OR #61 OR #62 OR #63 OR #64) 134
#69 (#65 OR #66 OR #67 OR #68) 1422
#70 MeSH descriptor Quality of Life, this term only 11382
#71 MeSH descriptor Quality-Adjusted Life Years, this term only 2759
#72 ("utilit* approach*" or "health gain" or hui or hui2 or hui3):ti,ab 109

#73 ("health measurement* scale*" or "health measurement* questionnaire"):ti,ab 4
#74 "health related quality of life":ti,ab 2640
#75 ("utility weight*" or "utility value*" or "preference weight*" or "quality weight*"):ti,ab 13
#76 ("standard gamble*" or "categor* scal*" or "linear scal*" or "linear analog*" or "visual scal*" or "magnitude estimat*"):ti,ab 153
#77 ("time trade off*" or "rosser* classif*" or "rosser* matrix" or "rosser* distress*" or hrqol):ti,ab 695
#78 ("index of wellbeing" or "index of well being" or "quality of wellbeing" or "quality of well being" or qwb):ti,ab 66
#79 ("multiattribute* health ind*" or "multi attribute* health ind*"):ti,ab 0
#80 ("health utilit* index" or "health utilit* indices"):ti,ab 0
#81 ("health utilit* scale*" or "classification of illness state*"):ti,ab 0
#82 "health state* utilit*":ti,ab 0
#83 ("multiattribute* utilit*" or "multi attribute* utilit*"):ti,ab 0
#84 "health utilit* scale*":ti,ab 0
#85 ("euro qual" or "euro qol" or "eq-5d" or eq5d or "eq 5d" or euroqual or euroqol):ti,ab 586
#86 (qualy or qaly or qualys or qalys or "quality adjusted life year*"):ti,ab 559
#87 (sf36 or "sf 36"):ti,ab 1864
#88 ("short form 36" or "shortform 36" or "sf thirtysix" or "sf thirty six" or "shortform thirtysix" or "shortform thirty six" or "short form thirtysix" or "short form thirty six"):ti,ab 793
#89 ("sf 6d" or sf6d or "short form 6d" or "shortform 6d" or "sf six*" or "shortform six*" or "short form six*"):ti,ab 71
#90 (#70 OR #71 OR #72 OR #73 OR #74 OR #75 OR #76 OR #77 OR #78 OR #79 OR #80 OR #81 OR #82 OR #83 OR #84 OR #85 OR #86 OR #87 OR #88 OR #89) 16224
#91 (#69 AND #90) 113
#92 (#91), from 2000 to 2010 107

Key
* = truncation
" " = phrase search
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
near/2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Econlit (Ovid) 2000 to October 2010
Date searched: 22/11/10
Records found: 1

1 scoliosis.ti,ab. (0)
2 (kyphosis or lordosis or flatback syndrome).ti,ab. (0)
3 (spondylolysis or spondylolisthesis or atlantoaxial subluxation or vertebral subluxation).ti,ab. (0)
4 deforming dorsopath$.ti,ab. (0)
5 (valgus deformit$ or flexion deformit$).ti,ab. (0)
6 ((limb$ length$ or leg length$) adj1 (unequal or inequalit$ or discrepancy or misalignment)).ti,ab. (0)
7 ((spine or spinal) adj2 osteochondrosis).ti,ab. (0)
8 ((lower limb$ or leg or legs) adj3 congenital$ deform$).ti,ab. (0)
9 scheuermann$ disease.ti,ab. (0)
10 (ollier$ disease or enchondromatosis).ti,ab. (0)
11 neurofibromatosis.ti,ab. (0)
12 hypophosphat?emic rickets.ti,ab. (0)
13 proximal focal femoral deficiency.ti,ab. (0)
14 fibular hemimelia.ti,ab. (0)
15 hemi hypertrophy.ti,ab. (0)
16 skeletal dysplasia$.ti,ab. (0)
17 short stature.ti,ab. (6)
18 tumo?r reconstruction.ti,ab. (0)
19 blount$ disease.ti,ab. (0)

20 (congenital adj3 (subluxation or deformity or deformities or dislocation or malformation$ or bowing or defect or defects)).ti,ab. (4)
21 (hip or hips or spine or spinal or knee or knees or femur or femurs or tibia or tibias or fibula or fibulas or leg or legs or musculoskeletal or lower limb$ or pelvic girdle or bony thorax or cervical rib$).ti,ab. (288)
22 20 and 21 (0)
23 arthrogryposis multiplex congenita.ti,ab. (0)
24 spina bifida occulta.ti,ab. (0)
25 klippel feil syndrome.ti,ab. (0)
26 congenital spondylolisthesis.ti,ab. (0)
27 short rib syndrome.ti,ab. (0)
28 chondrodysplasia punctata.ti,ab. (0)
29 chondrodysplasia punctata.ti,ab. (0)
30 achondroplasia.ti,ab. (0)
31 ((dystrophic or chondroectodermal or spondyloepiphyseal or polyostotic fibrous or progressive diaphyseal or metaphyseal) adj1 dysplasia$).ti,ab. (0)
32 osteogenesis imperfecta.ti,ab. (0)
33 osteopetrosis.ti,ab. (0)
34 enchondromatosis.ti,ab. (0)
35 multiple congenital exostoses.ti,ab. (0)
36 osteoporotic fracture$.ti,ab. (6)
37 or/1-19 (6)
38 or/22-36 (6)
39 37 or 38 (12)
40 (utilit$ approach$ or health gain or hui or hui2 or hui3).ti,ab. (192)
41 (health measurement$ scale$ or health measurement$ questionnaire$).ti,ab. (0)
42 health related quality of life.ti,ab. (92)
43 (utility weight$ or utility value$ or preference weight$ or quality weight$).ti,ab. (111)
44 (standard gamble$ or categor$ scal$ or linear scal$ or linear analog$ or visual scal$ or magnitude estimat$).ti,ab. (91)
45 (time trade off$ or rosser$ classif$ or rosser$ matrix or rosser$ distress$ or hrqol).ti,ab. (72)
46 (index of wellbeing or index of well being or quality of wellbeing or quality of well being or qwb).ti,ab. (12)
47 (multiattribute$ health ind$ or multi attribute$ health ind$).ti,ab. (0)
48 (health utilit$ index or health utilit$ indices).ti,ab. (31)
49 (health utilit$ scale$ or classification of illness state$).ti,ab. (1)
50 health state$ utilit$.ti,ab. (23)
51 (multiattribute$ utilit$ or multi attribute$ utilit$).ti,ab. (81)
52 health utilit$ scale$.ti,ab. (1)
53 (euro qual or euro qol or eq-5d or eq5d or eq 5d or euroqual or euroqol).ti,ab. (68)
54 (qualy or qaly or qualys or qalys or quality adjusted life year$).ti,ab. (278)
55 (sf36 or sf 36).ti,ab. (24)
56 (short form 36 or shortform 36 or sf thirtysix or sf thirty six or shortform thirtysix or shortform thirty six or short form thirtysix or short form thirty six).ti,ab. (8)
57 (sf 6d or sf6d or short form 6d or shortform 6d or sf six$ or shortform six$ or short form six$).ti,ab. (21)
58 or/40-57 (861)
59 39 and 58 (1)
60 limit 59 to yr="2000 -Current" (1)

Key:
$ = truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

EMBASE (Ovid) 2000 - 2010 Week 46

Date searched: 22/11/10
Records found: 582

1 *scoliosis/ or *idiopathic scoliosis/ or *kyphoscoliosis/ or *kyphosis/ (12000)
2 *lordosis/ or *scheuermann disease/ or *spondylolisthesis/ or *spondylolysis/ (4397)
3 *atlantoaxial subluxation/ (399)
4 *ankylosing spondylitis/ (9024)
5 *valgus deformity/ (384)
6 *leg length inequality/ (1161)
7 *enchondromatosis/ (251)
8 *neurofibromatosis/ (8764)
9 *familial hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *x linked hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria/ (156)
10 scoliosis.ti,ab. (12272)
11 (kyphosis or lordosis or flatback syndrome).ti,ab. (6857)
12 (spondylolysis or spondylolisthesis or atlantoaxial subluxation or vertebral subluxation).ti,ab. (4032)
13 deforming dorsopath$.ti,ab. (1)
14 (valgus deformit$ or flexion deformit$).ti,ab. (1783)
15 ((limb$ length$ or leg length$) adj1 (unequal or inequalit$ or discrepancy or misalignment)).ti,ab. (1507)
16 ((lower limb$ or leg or legs) adj2 congenital$ deform$).ti,ab. (0)
17 ((spine or spinal) adj2 osteochondrosis).ti,ab. (164)
18 scheuermann$ disease.ti,ab. (333)
19 (ollier$ disease or enchondromatosis).ti,ab. (335)
20 neurofibromatosis.ti,ab. (9835)
21 hypophosphat?emic rickets.ti,ab. (753)
22 proximal focal femoral deficiency.ti,ab. (31)
23 fibular hemimelia.ti,ab. (70)
24 hemi hypertrophy.ti,ab. (20)
25 *bone dysplasia/ (3136)
26 skeletal dysplasia$.ti,ab. (1621)
27 *short stature/ (2636)
28 short stature.ti,ab. (7177)
29 tumo?r reconstruction.ti,ab. (47)
30 *Blount disease/ (78)
31 blount$ disease.ti,ab. (203)
32 *congenital hip dislocation/ (4080)
33 (congenital adj3 (subluxation or deformity or deformities or dislocation or malformation$ or bowing or defect or defects)).ti,ab. (29479)
34 (hip or hips or spine or spinal or knee or knees or femur or femurs or tibia or tibias or fibula or fibulas or leg or legs or musculoskeletal or lower limb$ or pelvic girdle or bony thorax or cervical rib$).ti,ab. (506364)
35 33 and 34 (4106)
36 arthrogryposis multiplex congenita.ti,ab. (475)
37 *occult spinal dysraphism/ (56)
38 spina bifida occulta.ti,ab. (398)
39 *Klippel Feil syndrome/ (584)
40 klippel feil syndrome.ti,ab. (522)
41 congenital spondylolisthesis.ti,ab. (10)
42 exp *chondrodysplasia/ (2310)
43 short rib syndrome.ti,ab. (18)
44 *chondrodysplasia punctata/ (602)
45 chondrodysplasia punctata.ti,ab. (559)
46 *achondroplasia/ (1261)
47 achondroplasia.ti,ab. (1177)
48 ((dystrophic or chondroectodermal or spondyloepiphyseal or polyostotic fibrous or progressive diaphyseal or metaphyseal) adj1 dysplasia$).ti,ab. (1170)
49 *osteogenesis imperfecta/ (3178)
50 osteogenesis imperfecta.ti,ab. (3277)

51 osteopetrosis.ti,ab. (1838)
52 *enchondromatosis/ (251)
53 enchondromatosis.ti,ab. (167)
54 multiple congenital exostoses.ti,ab. (2)
55 *SPONDYLOEPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA/ (304)
56 *fragility fracture/ (1656)
57 osteoporotic fracture$.ti,ab. (4181)
58 or/1-32 (66204)
59 or/35-57 (22326)
60 58 or 59 (84393)
61 *"quality of life"/ or *quality adjusted life year/ or *"quality of life index"/ or *short form 12/ or *short form 20/ or *short form 36/ or *short form 8/ (34848)
62 (utilit$ approach$ or health gain or hui or hui2 or hui3).ti,ab,ot. (1965)
63 (health measurement$ scale$ or health measurement$ questionnaire$).ti,ab,ot. (43)
64 health related quality of life.ti,ab,ot. (16562)
65 (utility weight$ or utility value$ or preference weight$ or quality weight$).ti,ab,ot. (883)
66 (standard gamble$ or categor$ scal$ or linear scal$ or linear analog$ or visual scal$ or magnitude estimat$).ti,ab,ot. (3915)
67 (time trade off$ or rosser$ classif$ or rosser$ matrix or rosser$ distress$ or hrqol).ti,ab,ot. (5875)
68 (index of wellbeing or index of well being or quality of wellbeing or quality of well being or qwb).ti,ab,ot. (393)
69 (multiattribute$ health ind$ or multi attribute$ health ind$).ti,ab,ot. (2)
70 (health utilit$ index or health utilit$ indices).ti,ab,ot. (536)
71 (health utilit$ scale$ or classification of illness state$).ti,ab,ot. (6)
72 health state$ utilit$.ti,ab,ot. (215)
73 (multiattribute$ utilit$ or multi attribute$ utilit$).ti,ab,ot. (181)
74 health utilit$ scale$.ti,ab,ot. (5)
75 (euro qual or euro qol or eq-5d or eq5d or eq 5d or euroqual or euroqol).ti,ab,ot. (2828)
76 (qualy or qaly or qualys or qalys or quality adjusted life year$).ti,ab,ot. (5392)
77 (sf36 or sf 36).ti,ab,ot. (11417)
78 (short form 36 or shortform 36 or sf thirtysix or sf thirty six or shortform thirtysix or shortform thirty six or short form thirtysix or short form thirty six).ti,ab,ot. (4801)
79 (sf 6d or sf6d or short form 6d or shortform 6d or sf six$ or shortform six$ or short form six$).ti,ab,ot. (269)
80 or/61-79 (61502)
81 exp ANIMAL/ (1638643)
82 exp animal experiment/ (1402804)
83 Nonhuman/ (3534351)
84 (rat or rats or mouse or mice or hamster or hamsters or animal or animals or dog or dogs or cat or cats or bovine or sheep).ti,ab,sh,ot. (3970200)
85 or/81-84 (5705932)
86 exp human/ (12100407)
87 exp human experiment/ (283763)
88 86 or 87 (12101788)
89 85 not (85 and 88) (4515714)
90 80 not 89 (61086)
91 limit 90 to yr="2000 -Current" (46540)
92 60 and 91 (582)

Key:
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? = embedded truncation
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adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Searches for radiation exposure and cancer risk

Date searches conducted: 6 December 2010

Limits: No date limits applied

1. Systematic Reviews

Records found (after deduplication): 191
Records found (before deduplication): 207

Databases searched:
- **MEDLINE**
- **Cochrane Library**
  - **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews**
  - **DARE**
- **EMBASE**

Search Strategies:

MEDLINE and MEDLINE In Process (Ovid) 1950 – November Week 3 2010
Date searched: 07/12/10
Records found: 120

1 exp Neoplasms, Radiation-Induced/ (15568)
2 radiography/ or radiographic image enhancement/ or radiographic image interpretation, computer-assisted/ or exp radiography, thoracic/ or exp tomography, x-ray/ or Tomography, X-Ray Computed/ (299342)
3 exp neoplasms/ (2199022)
4 2 and 3 (99908)
5 radiation.ti,ab. and 4 (5936)
6 radiography/ae or radiographic image enhancement/ae or radiographic image interpretation, computer-assisted/ae or exp radiography, thoracic/ae or exp tomography, x-ray/ae or Tomography, X-Ray Computed/ae (2121)
7 3 and 6 (705)
8 ((radiography or xray$ or x-ray$) and (cancer$ or neoplasm$ or malignan$ or tumor$ or tumour$)).ti,ab. (20440)
9 radiation.ti,ab. (201125)
10 8 and 9 (3255)
11 1 or 5 or 7 or 10 (23741)
Line 11 combines all the terms in sets 1, 5, 7 and 10 which relate to the cancer adverse effects of radiation
12 systematic$ review$.ti,ab. (28073)
13 meta-analysis as topic/ (11028)
14 meta-analytic$.ti,ab. (2429)
15 meta-analysis.ti,ab,pt. (39637)
16 metanalysis.ti,ab. (100)
17 metaanalysis.ti,ab. (825)
18 meta analysis.ti,ab. (28152)
19 meta-synthesis.ti,ab. (97)
20 metasynthesis.ti,ab. (70)
21 meta synthesis.ti,ab. (97)
22 meta-regression.ti,ab. (1026)
23 metaregression.ti,ab. (148)
24 meta regression.ti,ab. (1026)

25 (synthes$ adj3 literature).ti,ab. (1008)
26 (synthes$ adj3 evidence).ti,ab. (2478)
27 integrative review.ti,ab. (414)
28 data synthesis.ti,ab. (5909)
29 (research synthesis or narrative synthesis).ti,ab. (329)
30 (systematic study or systematic studies).ti,ab. (5616)
31 (systematic comparison$ or systematic overview$).ti,ab. (1353)
32 evidence based review.ti,ab. (825)
33 comprehensive review.ti,ab. (4303)
34 critical review.ti,ab. (8691)
35 quantitative review.ti,ab. (355)
36 structured review.ti,ab. (319)
37 realist review.ti,ab. (12)
38 realist synthesis.ti,ab. (7)
39 or/12-38 (92622)
40 review.pt. (1587483)
41 medline.ab. (37708)
42 pubmed.ab. (12244)
43 cochrane.ab. (16961)
44 embase.ab. (14312)
45 cinahl.ab. (5378)
46 psyc?lit.ab. (839)
47 psyc?info.ab. (4549)
48 (literature adj3 search$).ab. (15124)
49 (database$ adj3 search$).ab. (14297)
50 (bibliographic adj3 search$).ab. (814)
51 (electronic adj3 search$).ab. (4493)
52 (electronic adj3 database$).ab. (5251)
53 (computeri?ed adj3 search$).ab. (2159)
54 (internet adj3 search$).ab. (1092)
55 included studies.ab. (3019)
56 (inclusion adj3 studies).ab. (3278)
57 inclusion criteria.ab. (19917)
58 selection criteria.ab. (14376)
59 predefined criteria.ab. (710)
60 predetermined criteria.ab. (571)
61 (assess$ adj3 (quality or validity)).ab. (27853)
62 (select$ adj3 (study or studies)).ab. (28090)
63 (data adj3 extract$).ab. (18583)
64 extracted data.ab. (3997)
65 (data adj2 abstracted).ab. (2353)
66 (data adj3 abstraction).ab. (546)
67 published intervention$.ab. (77)
68 ((study or studies) adj2 evaluat$).ab. (74611)
69 (intervention$ adj2 evaluat$).ab. (4341)
70 confidence interval$.ab. (149317)
71 heterogeneity.ab. (69784)
72 pooled.ab. (30954)
73 pooling.ab. (5787)
74 odds ratio$.ab. (98780)
75 (Jadad or coding).ab. (99087)
76 or/41-75 (573641)
77 40 and 76 (74609)
78 review.ti. (195610)
79 78 and 76 (23543)
80 (review$ adj4 (papers or trials or studies or evidence or intervention$ or evaluation$)).ti,ab. (72323)
81 39 or 77 or 79 or 80 (190532)

Line 81 combines sets 39, 77, 79 and 80 containing terms for systematic reviews or meta-analyses

82 11 and 81 (417)
Line 82 combines radiation and cancer with systematic review/meta analysis terms
83 animals/ not (animals/ and humans/) (3521885)
84 82 not 83 (409)
Line 84 excludes animal-only studies
85 exp Radiotherapy/ (115830)
86 Nuclear Power Plants/ or Nuclear Reactors/ or Radioactive Hazard Release/ or Nuclear Warfare/ or chernobyl nuclear accident/ (11283)
87 Occupational Diseases/ or Occupational Exposure/ or Environmental Exposure/ (137244)
88 "Ultraviolet Rays"/ or sunlight/ (64697)
89 Cellular Phone/ (2097)
90 (radiotherapy or radiation therapy).ti,ab. (124381)
91 or/85-90 (399744)
92 84 not 91 (120)
Line 92 excludes non-diagnostic radiation

Key:
/ = indexing term (MeSH heading)
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? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Cochrane Library
All years - 2010 Issue 11
Date searched: 06/12/10
Records found:
CDSR (2 - hand sifted for relevance: 0 relevant records found)
DARE (6 - hand sifted for relevance: 1 relevant record found)

#1 MeSH descriptor Neoplasms, Radiation-Induced explode all trees 80
#2 MeSH descriptor Radiography, this term only with qualifier: AE 11
#3 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Enhancement explode all trees with qualifier: AE 23
#4 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Interpretation, Computer-Assisted, this term only with qualifier: AE 0
#5 MeSH descriptor Radiography, Thoracic explode all trees with qualifier: AE 3
#6 MeSH descriptor Tomography, X-Ray explode all trees with qualifier: AE 16
#7 MeSH descriptor Tomography, X-Ray Computed, this term only with qualifier: AE 15
#8 (#2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7) 36
#9 MeSH descriptor Neoplasms explode all trees 41225
#10 (#8 AND #9) 10
#11 ((radiography or xray* or x-ray*) and (cancer* or neoplasm* or malignan* or tumor* or tumour*)):ti,ab 378
#12 radiation:ti,ab 5866
#13 (#11 AND #12) 56
#14 (#1 OR #10 OR #13) 140

Key:
* = truncation
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
Qualifier: AE = applies ‘Adverse Effects’ limit to MeSH headings

EMBASE (Ovid) 1980 – 2010 Week 48
Date searched: 07/12/10
Records found: 86

1 radiation induced neoplasm/ (199)
2 radiography/ (249960)
3 thorax radiography/ (79329)
4 tomography/ (12797)
5 computer assisted tomography/ (364509)
6 digital radiography/ (2953)
7 computer assisted radiography/ (621)
8 or/2-7 (630912)
9 exp neoplasm/ (2509506)
10 8 and 9 (195807)
11 radiation.ti,ab. and 10 (9305)
12 ((radiography or xray$ or x-ray$) and (cancer$ or neoplasm$ or malignan$ or tumor$ or tumour$)).ti,ab. (22901)
13 radiation.ti,ab. (217761)
14 12 and 13 (3619)
15 1 or 11 or 14 (12487)
16 exp meta analysis/ or "systematic review"/ (70957)
17 meta-analys$.ti,ab. (38595)
18 metaanalys$.ti,ab. (1838)
19 meta analys$.ti,ab. (38595)
20 review$.ti. (222383)
21 overview$.ti. (27758)
22 (synthes$ adj3 (literature$ or research$ or studies or data)).ti,ab. (17777)
23 pooled analys$.ti,ab. (2875)
24 ((data adj2 pool$) and studies).mp. (3165)
25 (medline or medlars or embase or cinahl or scisearch or psychinfo or psycinfo or psychlit or psyclit).ti,ab. (45869)
26 ((hand or manual or database$ or computer$) adj2 search$).ti,ab. (20057)
27 ((electronic or bibliographic$) adj2 (database$ or data base$)).ti,ab. (7122)
28 ((review$ or overview$) adj10 (systematic$ or methodologic$ or quantitativ$ or research$ or literature$ or studies or trial$ or effective$)).ab. (257499)
29 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 (542709)
30 (retrospective$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (80224)
31 (case$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (80768)
32 (record$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (17192)
33 (patient$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (128790)
34 (patient$ adj2 chart$).ti,ab,sh. (5601)
35 (chart$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (23716)
36 (case$ adj2 report$).ti,ab,sh. (364721)
37 (rat or rats or mouse or mice or hamster or hamsters or animal or animals or dog or dogs or cat or cats or bovine or sheep).ti,ab,sh. (3976038)
38 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 (4600047)
39 29 not 38 (392620)
40 editorial.pt. (360486)
41 letter.pt. (710085)
42 40 or 41 (1070571)
43 39 not 42 (380560)
44 exp animal/ (1640039)
45 exp nonhuman/ (3542502)
46 44 or 45 (5166244)
47 exp human/ (12122948)
48 46 not (46 and 47) (4145607)
49 43 not 48 (370621)
50 15 and 49 (467)
51 exp radiotherapy/ (264670)
52 exp "nuclear energy and related phenomena"/ (21573)
53 atomic warfare/ (3194)
54 occupational disease/ (48382)

55 occupational exposure/ (52954)
56 environmental exposure/ (58300)
57 exp ultraviolet radiation/ (70076)
58 sunlight/ (8169)
59 mobile phone/ (3187)
60 (radiotherapy or radiation therapy).ti,ab. (141833)
61 or/51-60 (552391)
62 50 not 61 (86)

Key:
/ = indexing term (EMTREE heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

2. Primary Studies

Records found (after deduplication): 255
Records found (before deduplication): 323

Databases searched:
MEDLINE
Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials
EMBASE

Search Strategies:

MEDLINE and MEDLINE In Process (Ovid) 1950 – November Week 3 2010
Date searched: 07/12/10
Records found: 198

1 exp Neoplasms, Radiation-Induced/ (15568)
2 radiography/ or radiographic image enhancement/ or radiographic image interpretation, computer-assisted/ or exp radiography, thoracic/ or exp tomography, x-ray/ or Tomography, X-Ray Computed/ (299342)
3 exp neoplasms/ (2199022)
4 2 and 3 (99908)
5 radiation.ti,ab. and 4 (5936)
6 radiography/ae or radiographic image enhancement/ae or radiographic image interpretation, computer-assisted/ae or exp radiography, thoracic/ae or exp tomography, x-ray/ae or Tomography, X-Ray Computed/ae (2121)
7 3 and 6 (705)
8 ((radiography or xray$ or x-ray$) and (cancer$ or neoplasm$ or malignan$ or tumor$ or tumour$)).ti,ab. (20440)
9 radiation.ti,ab. (201125)
10 8 and 9 (3255)
11 1 or 5 or 7 or 10 (23741)
Line 11 combines all the terms in sets 1, 5, 7 and 10 which relate to the cancer adverse effects of radiation
12 *spinal curvatures/ or *kyphosis/ or *scheuermann disease/ or *lordosis/ or *scoliosis/ or *spinal osteochondrosis/ or *spondylolysis/ or *spondylolisthesis/ (15153)
13 *Spondylitis, Ankylosing/ (7888)
14 *Leg Length Inequality/ (1579)
15 *Enchondromatosis/ (333)
16 *neurofibromatoses/ or *neurofibromatosis 1/ or *neurofibromatosis 2/ (7199)

17 *Hypophosphatemic Rickets, X-Linked Dominant/ (125)
18 scoliosis.ti,ab. (11882)
19 (kyphosis or lordosis or flatback syndrome).ti,ab. (6610)
20 (spondylolysis or spondylolisthesis or atlantoaxial subluxation or vertebral subluxation).ti,ab. (3831)
21 deforming dorsopath$.ti,ab. (1)
22 (valgus deformit$ or flexion deformit$).ti,ab. (1791)
23 ((limb$ length$ or leg length$) adj1 (unequal or inequalit$ or discrepancy or misalignment)).ti,ab. (1577)
24 ((spine or spinal) adj2 osteochondrosis).ti,ab. (165)
25 scheuermann$ disease.ti,ab. (319)
26 (ollier$ disease or enchondromatosis).ti,ab. (347)
27 neurofibromatosis.ti,ab. (8998)
28 hypophosphat?emic rickets.ti,ab. (694)
29 proximal focal femoral deficiency.ti,ab. (25)
30 fibular hemimelia.ti,ab. (81)
31 hemi hypertrophy.ti,ab. (26)
32 skeletal dysplasia$.ti,ab. (1507)
33 short stature.ti,ab. (6527)
34 tumo?r reconstruction.ti,ab. (42)
35 blount$ disease.ti,ab. (215)
36 *Hip Dislocation, Congenital/ (5559)
37 (congenital adj3 (subluxation or deformity or deformities or dislocation or malformation$ or bowing or defect or defects)).ti,ab. (27671)
38 (hip or hips or spine or spinal or knee or knees or femur or femurs or tibia or tibias or fibula or fibulas or leg or legs or musculoskeletal or lower limb$ or pelvic girdle or bony thorax or cervical rib$).ti,ab. (466155)
39 37 and 38 (4105)
40 arthrogryposis multiplex congenita.ti,ab. (477)
41 *Spina Bifida Occulta/ (1281)
42 spina bifida occulta.ti,ab. (401)
43 *Klippel-Feil Syndrome/ (564)
44 klippel feil syndrome.ti,ab. (513)
45 congenital spondylolisthesis.ti,ab. (12)
46 exp *Osteochondrodysplasias/ (18249)
47 short rib syndrome.ti,ab. (16)
48 chondrodysplasia punctata.ti,ab. (531)
49 achondroplasia.ti,ab. (1143)
50 ((dystrophic or chondroectodermal or spondyloepiphyseal or polyostotic fibrous or progressive diaphyseal or metaphyseal) adj1 dysplasia$).ti,ab. (1169)
51 osteogenesis imperfecta.ti,ab. (3150)
52 osteopetrosis.ti,ab. (1803)
53 enchondromatosis.ti,ab. (168)
54 multiple congenital exostoses.ti,ab. (2)
55 osteoporotic fracture$.ti,ab. (3485)
56 or/12-36 (60396)
57 or/39-55 (30360)
58 56 or 57 (86126)

Line 58 combines all the terms in sets 12 to 36 and 39 to 55 relating to the orthopaedic conditions of interest

59 11 and 58 (198)

Line 59 combines radiation adverse effect terms and the orthopaedic terms

Key:
/ = indexing term (MeSH heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Cochrane Library)
All years - 2010 Issue 11
Date searched: 08/12/10
Records found: 27

#1 MeSH descriptor Neoplasms, Radiation-Induced explode all trees 80
#2 MeSH descriptor Radiography, this term only with qualifier: AE 11
#3 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Enhancement explode all trees with qualifier: AE 23
#4 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Interpretation, Computer-Assisted, this term only with qualifier: AE 0
#5 MeSH descriptor Radiography, Thoracic explode all trees with qualifier: AE 3
#6 MeSH descriptor Tomography, X-Ray explode all trees with qualifier: AE 16
#7 MeSH descriptor Tomography, X-Ray Computed, this term only with qualifier: AE 15
#8 (#2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7) 36
#9 MeSH descriptor Neoplasms explode all trees 41225
#10 (#8 AND #9) 10
#11 ((radiography or xray* or x-ray*) and (cancer* or neoplasm* or malignan* or tumor* or tumour*)):ti,ab 378
#12 radiation:ti,ab 5866
#13 (#11 AND #12) 56
#14 (#1 OR #10 OR #13) 140
#15 MeSH descriptor Radiotherapy explode all trees 4243
#16 MeSH descriptor Nuclear Power Plants, this term only 0
#17 MeSH descriptor Nuclear Reactors, this term only 8
#18 MeSH descriptor Radioactive Hazard Release, this term only 14
#19 MeSH descriptor Nuclear Warfare, this term only 5
#20 MeSH descriptor Chernobyl Nuclear Accident, this term only 3
#21 MeSH descriptor Occupational Diseases, this term only 706
#22 MeSH descriptor Occupational Exposure, this term only 374
#23 MeSH descriptor Environmental Exposure, this term only 370
#24 MeSH descriptor Ultraviolet Rays, this term only 417
#25 MeSH descriptor Sunlight, this term only 199
#26 MeSH descriptor Cellular Phone, this term only 133
#27 (radiotherapy or "radiation therapy"):ti,ab 8906
#28 (#15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR #24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27) 12577
#29 (#14 AND NOT #28)

Key:
* = truncation
" " = phrase search
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
Qualifier: AE = applies 'Adverse Effects' limit to MeSH headings

EMBASE (Ovid) 1980 – 2010 Week 48
Date searched: 07/12/10
Records found: 98

1 radiation induced neoplasm/ (199)
2 radiography/ (249960)
3 thorax radiography/ (79329)
4 tomography/ (12797)
5 computer assisted tomography/ (364509)
6 digital radiography/ (2953)
7 computer assisted radiography/ (621)
8 or/2-7 (630912)
9 exp neoplasm/ (2509506)
10 8 and 9 (195807)

11 radiation.ti,ab. and 10 (9305)
12 ((radiography or xray$ or x-ray$) and (cancer$ or neoplasm$ or malignan$ or tumor$ or tumour$)).ti,ab. (22901)
13 radiation.ti,ab. (217761)
14 12 and 13 (3619)
15 1 or 11 or 14 (12487)
16 *scoliosis/ or *idiopathic scoliosis/ or *kyphoscoliosis/ or *kyphosis/ (12010)
17 *lordosis/ or *scheuermann disease/ or *spondylolisthesis/ or *spondylolysis/ (4404)
18 *atlantoaxial subluxation/ (400)
19 *ankylosing spondylitis/ (9051)
20 *valgus deformity/ (386)
21 *leg length inequality/ (1163)
22 *enchondromatosis/ (252)
23 *neurofibromatosis/ (8770)
24 *familial hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *x linked hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria/ (156)
25 scoliosis.ti,ab. (12287)
26 (kyphosis or lordosis or flatback syndrome).ti,ab. (6879)
27 (spondylolysis or spondylolisthesis or atlantoaxial subluxation or vertebral subluxation).ti,ab. (4040)
28 deforming dorsopath$.ti,ab. (1)
29 (valgus deformit$ or flexion deformit$).ti,ab. (1788)
30 ((limb$ length$ or leg length$) adj1 (unequal or inequalit$ or discrepancy or misalignment)).ti,ab. (1510)
31 ((lower limb$ or leg or legs) adj2 congenital$ deform$).ti,ab. (1)
32 ((spine or spinal) adj2 osteochondrosis).ti,ab. (164)
33 scheuermann$ disease.ti,ab. (333)
34 (ollier$ disease or enchondromatosis).ti,ab. (336)
35 neurofibromatosis.ti,ab. (9848)
36 hypophosphat?emic rickets.ti,ab. (754)
37 proximal focal femoral deficiency.ti,ab. (31)
38 fibular hemimelia.ti,ab. (70)
39 hemi hypertrophy.ti,ab. (20)
40 *bone dysplasia/ (3140)
41 skeletal dysplasia$.ti,ab. (1627)
42 *short stature/ (2642)
43 short stature.ti,ab. (7194)
44 tumo?r reconstruction.ti,ab. (47)
45 *Blount disease/ (78)
46 blount$ disease.ti,ab. (203)
47 *congenital hip dislocation/ (4081)
48 (congenital adj3 (subluxation or deformity or deformities or dislocation or malformation$ or bowing or defect or defects)).ti,ab. (29521)
49 (hip or hips or spine or spinal or knee or knees or femur or femurs or tibia or tibias or fibula or fibulas or leg or legs or musculoskeletal or lower limb$ or pelvic girdle or bony thorax or cervical rib$).ti,ab. (507710)
50 48 and 49 (4111)
51 arthrogryposis multiplex congenita.ti,ab. (475)
52 *occult spinal dysraphism/ (56)
53 spina bifida occulta.ti,ab. (398)
54 *Klippel Feil syndrome/ (584)
55 klippel feil syndrome.ti,ab. (523)
56 congenital spondylolisthesis.ti,ab. (10)
57 exp *chondrodysplasia/ (2310)
58 short rib syndrome.ti,ab. (18)
59 *chondrodysplasia punctata/ (602)
60 chondrodysplasia punctata.ti,ab. (559)
61 *achondroplasia/ (1263)
62 achondroplasia.ti,ab. (1179)

63 ((dystrophic or chondroectodermal or spondyloepiphyseal or polyostotic fibrous or progressive diaphyseal or metaphyseal) adj1 dysplasia$).ti,ab. (1172)
64 *osteogenesis imperfecta/ (3181)
65 osteogenesis imperfecta.ti,ab. (3283)
66 osteopetrosis.ti,ab. (1842)
67 *enchondromatosis/ (252)
68 enchondromatosis.ti,ab. (168)
69 multiple congenital exostoses.ti,ab. (2)
70 *SPONDYLOEPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA/ (305)
71 *fragility fracture/ (1676)
72 osteoporotic fracture$.ti,ab. (4212)
73 or/16-47 (66329)
74 or/50-72 (22393)
75 73 or 74 (84577)
76 15 and 75 (98)

Key:
/ = indexing term (EMTREE heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Searches for radiation exposure and adverse reproductive outcome risk

Date searches conducted: 21 December 2010

Limits: No date limits applied

1. Systematic Reviews

Records found (after deduplication): 353
Records found (before deduplication): 318

Databases searched:
- **MEDLINE**
- **Cochrane Library**
  - **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews**
  - **DARE**
- **EMBASE**

Search Strategies:

MEDLINE and MEDLINE In Process (Ovid) 1950 – November Week 3 2010
Date searched: 21/12/10
Records found: 93

1 radiography/ or radiographic image enhancement/ or radiographic image interpretation, computer-assisted/ or exp radiography, thoracic/ or exp tomography, x-ray/ or Tomography, X-Ray Computed/ (299620)
2 radiation dosage/ or radiation injuries/ (50902)
3 radiation.ti,ab. (201611)
4 (radiography or xray$ or x-ray$).ti,ab. (207809)
5 or/1-4 (677940)

Line 5 combines radiation terms in lines 1 to 4

6 exp Infertility/ or Fertility/ (73130)
7 (infertility or infertile or subfertility or subfertile or fertility or fertile).ti,ab. (82964)
8 "Abortion, Spontaneous"/ (12909)
9 "Fetal Death"/ (21935)
10 *"Pregnancy Complications"/ (47506)
11 *"Pregnancy Outcome"/ (10741)
12 ((fetal or foetal) adj1 death).ti,ab. (4573)
13 (human reproduction or reproductive system).ti,ab. (5699)
14 exp Urogenital System/co, in, re [Complications, Injuries, Radiation Effects] (19839)
15 ((pregnant or pregnancy) adj2 (complicat$ or difficult$ or problem$ or unsuccessful$)).ti,ab. (10490)
16 adverse reproductive outcome$.ti,ab. (254)
17 stillbirth$.ti,ab. (6024)
18 or/6-17 (228167)

Line 18 combines infertility and reproductive problem terms in lines 6 to 17

19 5 and 18 (7933)

Line 19 combines radiation terms and infertility/reproductive problem terms

20 systematic$ review$.ti,ab. (28245)
21 meta-analysis as topic/ (11048)
22 meta-analytic$.ti,ab. (2444)
23 meta-analysis.ti,ab,pt. (39834)
24 metanalysis.ti,ab. (100)
25 metaanalysis.ti,ab. (824)
26 meta analysis.ti,ab. (28338)
27 meta-synthesis.ti,ab. (98)
28 metasynthesis.ti,ab. (72)
29 meta synthesis.ti,ab. (98)
30 meta-regression.ti,ab. (1033)
31 metaregression.ti,ab. (149)
32 meta regression.ti,ab. (1033)
33 (synthes$ adj3 literature).ti,ab. (1016)
34 (synthes$ adj3 evidence).ti,ab. (2489)
35 integrative review.ti,ab. (416)
36 data synthesis.ti,ab. (5916)
37 (research synthesis or narrative synthesis).ti,ab. (332)
38 (systematic study or systematic studies).ti,ab. (5639)
39 (systematic comparison$ or systematic overview$).ti,ab. (1358)
40 evidence based review.ti,ab. (827)
41 comprehensive review.ti,ab. (4327)
42 critical review.ti,ab. (8720)
43 quantitative review.ti,ab. (357)
44 structured review.ti,ab. (323)
45 realist review.ti,ab. (12)
46 realist synthesis.ti,ab. (7)
47 or/20-46 (93071)
48 review.pt. (1589337)
49 medline.ab. (37901)
50 pubmed.ab. (12371)
51 cochrane.ab. (17095)
52 embase.ab. (14429)
53 cinahl.ab. (5428)
54 psyc?lit.ab. (839)
55 psyc?info.ab. (4678)
56 (literature adj3 search$).ab. (15204)
57 (database$ adj3 search$).ab. (14377)
58 (bibliographic adj3 search$).ab. (822)
59 (electronic adj3 search$).ab. (4518)
60 (electronic adj3 database$).ab. (5276)

61 (computeri?ed adj3 search$).ab. (2163)
62 (internet adj3 search$).ab. (1096)
63 included studies.ab. (3044)
64 (inclusion adj3 studies).ab. (3299)
65 inclusion criteria.ab. (20025)
66 selection criteria.ab. (14415)
67 predefined criteria.ab. (717)
68 predetermined criteria.ab. (572)
69 (assess$ adj3 (quality or validity)).ab. (27970)
70 (select$ adj3 (study or studies)).ab. (28195)
71 (data adj3 extract$).ab. (18679)
72 extracted data.ab. (4031)
73 (data adj2 abstracted).ab. (2359)
74 (data adj3 abstraction).ab. (548)
75 published intervention$.ab. (77)
76 ((study or studies) adj2 evaluat$).ab. (74888)
77 (intervention$ adj2 evaluat$).ab. (4365)
78 confidence interval$.ab. (150097)
79 heterogeneity.ab. (70008)
80 pooled.ab. (31066)
81 pooling.ab. (5803)
82 odds ratio$.ab. (99301)
83 (Jadad or coding).ab. (99338)
84 or/49-83 (576005)
85 48 and 84 (74777)
86 review.ti. (196122)
87 86 and 84 (23679)
88 (review$ adj4 (papers or trials or studies or evidence or intervention$ or evaluation$)).ti,ab. (72618)
89 47 or 85 or 87 or 88 (191304)
Line 89 combines sets 47, 85, 87 and 88 containing terms for systematic reviews or meta-analyses
90 19 and 89 (100)
Line 90 combines radiation and infertility problems with systematic review/meta analysis terms
91 exp animals/ not humans/ (3607750)
92 90 not 91 (93)
Line 92 excludes animal-only studies

Key:
/ = indexing term (MeSH heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Cochrane Library
All years - 2010 Issue 12
Date searched: 21/12/10
Records found:
CDSR (2 - hand sifted for relevance: 0 relevant records found)
DARE (2 - hand sifted for relevance: 0 relevant record found)

#1 MeSH descriptor Radiography, this term only 154
#2 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Enhancement, this term only 328
#3 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Interpretation, Computer-Assisted, this term only 157
#4 MeSH descriptor Radiography, Thoracic explode all trees 303
#5 MeSH descriptor Tomography, X-Ray explode all trees 2867

#6 MeSH descriptor Tomography, X-Ray Computed, this term only 2596
#7 MeSH descriptor Radiation Dosage, this term only 382
#8 MeSH descriptor Radiation Injuries, this term only 617
#9 (radiography or xray* or x-ray*):ti,ab 3880
#10 radiation:ti,ab 5867
#11 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10) 12938
#12 MeSH descriptor Infertility explode all trees 1593
#13 MeSH descriptor Fertility, this term only 123
#14 (infertility or infertile or subfertility or subfertile or fertility or fertile):ti,ab 2535
#15 MeSH descriptor Abortion, Spontaneous, this term only 251
#16 MeSH descriptor Fetal Death, this term only 188
#17 MeSH descriptor Pregnancy Complications explode all trees 6279
#18 MeSH descriptor Pregnancy Outcome, this term only 2157
#19 ("fetal death" or "foetal death"):ti,ab 101
#20 ("human reproduction" or "reproductive system"):ti,ab 143
#21 MeSH descriptor Urogenital System explode all trees with qualifiers: CO,IN,RE 167
#22 ((pregnan* near/2 complicat*) or (pregnan* near/2 difficult*) or (pregnan* near/2 problem*) or (pregnan* near/2 unsuccessful*)):ti,ab 353
#23 "adverse reproductive outcome*":ti,ab 0
#24 stillbirth*:ti,ab 143
#25 (#12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR #24) 10438
#26 (#11 AND #25) 98

Key:
* = truncation
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
Qualifier: CO = applies 'Complications' limit to MeSH headings
Qualifier: IN = applies 'Injuries' limit to MeSH headings
Qualifier: RE = applies 'Radiation effects' limit to MeSH headings
" " = phrase search
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
near/2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

EMBASE (Ovid) 1980 – 2010 Week 50
Date searched: 21/12/10
Records found: 260

1 radiography/ (250023)
2 thorax radiography/ (79635)
3 tomography/ (12834)
4 computer assisted tomography/ (365687)
5 digital radiography/ (2955)
6 computer assisted radiography/ (622)
7 radiation dose/ (78208)
8 radiation injury/ (36833)
9 radiation.ti,ab. (218310)
10 (radiography or xray$ or x-ray$).ti,ab. (217251)
11 or/1-10 (1032688)
12 exp infertility/ (72065)
13 exp fertility/ (41798)
14 (infertility or infertile or subfertility or subfertile or fertility or fertile).ti,ab. (87517)
15 spontaneous abortion/ (18553)
16 fetus death/ (17751)
17 *pregnancy complication/ (43020)
18 *pregnancy outcome/ (4808)
19 ((fetal or foetal) adj1 death).ti,ab. (4843)

20 (human reproduction or reproductive system).ti,ab. (8600)
21 ((pregnant or pregnancy) adj2 (complicat$ or difficult$ or problem$ or unsuccessful$)).ti,ab. (11528)
22 adverse reproductive outcome$.ti,ab. (253)
23 stillbirth$.ti,ab. (6100)
24 exp *genital system/ (201259)
25 or/12-24 (406357)
26 11 and 25 (9507)
27 exp meta analysis/ or "systematic review"/ (71246)
28 meta-analys$.ti,ab. (38842)
29 metaanalys$.ti,ab. (1854)
30 meta analys$.ti,ab. (38842)
31 review$.ti. (222916)
32 overview$.ti. (27800)
33 (synthes$ adj3 (literature$ or research$ or studies or data)).ti,ab. (17811)
34 pooled analys$.ti,ab. (2896)
35 ((data adj2 pool$) and studies).mp. (3174)
36 (medline or medlars or embase or cinahl or scisearch or psychinfo or psycinfo or psychlit or psyclit).ti,ab. (46068)
37 ((hand or manual or database$ or computer$) adj2 search$).ti,ab. (20126)
38 ((electronic or bibliographic$) adj2 (database$ or data base$)).ti,ab. (7156)
39 ((review$ or overview$) adj10 (systematic$ or methodologic$ or quantitativ$ or research$ or literature$ or studies or trial$ or effective$)).ab. (258419)
40 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 or 38 or 39 (544295)
41 (retrospective$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (80558)
42 (case$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (80894)
43 (record$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (17255)
44 (patient$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (129259)
45 (patient$ adj2 chart$).ti,ab,sh. (5622)
46 (chart$ adj2 review$).ti,ab,sh. (23812)
47 (case$ adj2 report$).ti,ab,sh. (365713)
48 (rat or rats or mouse or mice or hamster or hamsters or animal or animals or dog or dogs or cat or cats or bovine or sheep).ti,ab,sh. (3981033)
49 41 or 42 or 43 or 44 or 45 or 46 or 47 or 48 (4606912)
50 40 not 49 (393807)
51 editorial.pt. (361349)
52 letter.pt. (711270)
53 51 or 52 (1072619)
54 50 not 53 (381711)
55 exp animal/ (1640043)
56 exp nonhuman/ (3549954)
57 55 or 56 (5173697)
58 exp human/ (12141885)
59 57 not (57 and 58) (4150708)
60 54 not 59 (371742)
61 26 and 60 (260)

Key:
/ = indexing term (EMTREE heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

2. Primary Studies

Records found (after deduplication): 237

Records found (before deduplication):

Databases searched:

MEDLINE
Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials
EMBASE

Search Strategies:

MEDLINE and MEDLINE In Process (Ovid) 1950 – November Week 3 2010
Date searched: 21/12/10
Records found: 56

1 radiography/ or radiographic image enhancement/ or radiographic image interpretation, computer-assisted/ or exp radiography, thoracic/ or exp tomography, x-ray/ or Tomography, X-Ray Computed/ (299620)
2 radiation dosage/ or radiation injuries/ (50902)
3 radiation.ti,ab. (201611)
4 (radiography or xray$ or x-ray$).ti,ab. (207809)
5 or/1-4 (677940)
Line 5 combines radiation terms in lines 1 to 4
6 exp Infertility/ or Fertility/ (73130)
7 (infertility or infertile or subfertility or subfertile or fertility or fertile).ti,ab. (82964)
8 "Abortion, Spontaneous"/ (12909)
9 "Fetal Death"/ (21935)
10 *"Pregnancy Complications"/ (47506)
11 *"Pregnancy Outcome"/ (10741)
12 ((fetal or foetal) adj1 death).ti,ab. (4573)
13 (human reproduction or reproductive system).ti,ab. (5699)
14 exp Urogenital System/co, in, re [Complications, Injuries, Radiation Effects] (19839)
15 ((pregnant or pregnancy) adj2 (complicat$ or difficult$ or problem$ or unsuccessful$)).ti,ab. (10490)
16 adverse reproductive outcome$.ti,ab. (254)
17 stillbirth$.ti,ab. (6024)
18 or/6-17 (228167)
Line 18 combines infertility and reproductive problem terms in lines 6 to 17
19 5 and 18 (7933)
Line 19 combines radiation terms and infertility/reproductive problem terms
20 *spinal curvatures/ or *kyphosis/ or *scheuermann disease/ or *lordosis/ or *scoliosis/ or *spinal osteochondrosis/ or *spondylolysis/ or *spondylolisthesis/ (15159)
21 *Spondylitis, Ankylosing/ (7894)
22 *Leg Length Inequality/ (1579)
23 *Enchondromatosis/ (333)
24 *neurofibromatoses/ or *neurofibromatosis 1/ or *neurofibromatosis 2/ (7204)
25 *Hypophosphatemic Rickets, X-Linked Dominant/ (126)
26 scoliosis.ti,ab. (11906)
27 (kyphosis or lordosis or flatback syndrome).ti,ab. (6638)
28 (spondylolysis or spondylolisthesis or atlantoaxial subluxation or vertebral subluxation).ti,ab. (3836)
29 deforming dorsopath$.ti,ab. (1)
30 (valgus deformit$ or flexion deformit$).ti,ab. (1793)
31 ((limb$ length$ or leg length$) adj1 (unequal or inequalit$ or discrepancy or misalignment)).ti,ab. (1585)
32 ((spine or spinal) adj2 osteochondrosis).ti,ab. (166)
33 scheuermann$ disease.ti,ab. (319)
34 (ollier$ disease or enchondromatosis).ti,ab. (347)
35 neurofibromatosis.ti,ab. (9017)
36 hypophosphat?emic rickets.ti,ab. (694)
37 proximal focal femoral deficiency.ti,ab. (25)
38 fibular hemimelia.ti,ab. (81)

39 hemi hypertrophy.ti,ab. (26)
40 skeletal dysplasia$.ti,ab. (1512)
41 short stature.ti,ab. (6542)
42 tumo?r reconstruction.ti,ab. (42)
43 blount$ disease.ti,ab. (215)
44 *Hip Dislocation, Congenital/ (5560)
45 (congenital adj3 (subluxation or deformity or deformities or dislocation or malformation$ or bowing or defect or defects)).ti,ab. (27716)
46 (hip or hips or spine or spinal or knee or knees or femur or femurs or tibia or tibias or fibula or fibulas or leg or legs or musculoskeletal or lower limb$ or pelvic girdle or bony thorax or cervical rib$).ti,ab. (467120)
47 45 and 46 (4110)
48 arthrogryposis multiplex congenita.ti,ab. (478)
49 *Spina Bifida Occulta/ (1281)
50 spina bifida occulta.ti,ab. (403)
51 *Klippel-Feil Syndrome/ (564)
52 klippel feil syndrome.ti,ab. (513)
53 congenital spondylolisthesis.ti,ab. (12)
54 exp *Osteochondrodysplasias/ (18261)
55 short rib syndrome.ti,ab. (16)
56 chondrodysplasia punctata.ti,ab. (533)
57 achondroplasia.ti,ab. (1144)
58 ((dystrophic or chondroectodermal or spondyloepiphyseal or polyostotic fibrous or progressive diaphyseal or metaphyseal) adj1 dysplasia$).ti,ab. (1170)
59 osteogenesis imperfecta.ti,ab. (3152)
60 osteopetrosis.ti,ab. (1803)
61 enchondromatosis.ti,ab. (168)
62 multiple congenital exostoses.ti,ab. (2)
63 osteoporotic fracture$.ti,ab. (3497)
64 or/20-44 (60504)
65 or/47-63 (30395)
66 64 or 65 (86264)
Line 66 combines all the terms in sets 20 to 44 and 47 to 63 relating to the orthopaedic conditions of interest
67 19 and 66 (59)
Line 66 combines radiation, infertility and the orthopaedic conditions of interest
68 exp animals/ not humans/ (3607750)
69 67 not 68 (56)
Line 69 excludes animal-only records

Key:
/ = indexing term (MeSH heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj1 = terms within one word of each other (any order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Cochrane Library)
All years - 2010 Issue 12
Date searched: 21/12/10
Records found: 93

#1 MeSH descriptor Radiography, this term only 154
#2 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Enhancement, this term only 328
#3 MeSH descriptor Radiographic Image Interpretation, Computer-Assisted, this term only 157
#4 MeSH descriptor Radiography, Thoracic explode all trees 303
#5 MeSH descriptor Tomography, X-Ray explode all trees 2867

#6 MeSH descriptor Tomography, X-Ray Computed, this term only 2596
#7 MeSH descriptor Radiation Dosage, this term only 382
#8 MeSH descriptor Radiation Injuries, this term only 617
#9 (radiography or xray* or x-ray*):ti,ab 3880
#10 radiation:ti,ab 5867
#11 (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10) 12938
#12 MeSH descriptor Infertility explode all trees 1593
#13 MeSH descriptor Fertility, this term only 123
#14 (infertility or infertile or subfertility or subfertile or fertility or fertile):ti,ab 2535
#15 MeSH descriptor Abortion, Spontaneous, this term only 251
#16 MeSH descriptor Fetal Death, this term only 188
#17 MeSH descriptor Pregnancy Complications explode all trees 6279
#18 MeSH descriptor Pregnancy Outcome, this term only 2157
#19 ("fetal death" or "foetal death"):ti,ab 101
#20 ("human reproduction" or "reproductive system"):ti,ab 143
#21 MeSH descriptor Urogenital System explode all trees with qualifiers: CO,IN,RE 167
#22 ((pregnan* near/2 complicat*) or (pregnan* near/2 difficult*) or (pregnan* near/2 problem*) or (pregnan* near/2 unsuccessful*)):ti,ab 353
#23 "adverse reproductive outcome*":ti,ab 0
#24 stillbirth*:ti,ab 143
#25 (#12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR #24) 10438
#26 (#11 AND #25) 98

Key:
* = truncation
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
Qualifier: CO = applies 'Complications' limit to MeSH headings
Qualifier: IN = applies 'Injuries' limit to MeSH headings
Qualifier: RE = applies 'Radiation effects' limit to MeSH headings
" " = phrase search
:ti,ab = terms in either title or abstract fields
near/2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

EMBASE (Ovid) 1980 – 2010 Week 50
Date searched: 21/12/10
Records found: 88

1 radiography/ (250023)
2 thorax radiography/ (79635)
3 tomography/ (12834)
4 computer assisted tomography/ (365687)
5 digital radiography/ (2955)
6 computer assisted radiography/ (622)
7 radiation dose/ (78208)
8 radiation injury/ (36833)
9 radiation.ti,ab. (218310)
10 (radiography or xray$ or x-ray$).ti,ab. (217251)
11 or/1-10 (1032688)
12 exp infertility/ (72065)
13 exp fertility/ (41798)
14 (infertility or infertile or subfertility or subfertile or fertility or fertile).ti,ab. (87517)
15 spontaneous abortion/ (18553)
16 fetus death/ (17751)
17 *pregnancy complication/ (43020)
18 *pregnancy outcome/ (4808)
19 ((fetal or foetal) adj1 death).ti,ab. (4843)

20 (human reproduction or reproductive system).ti,ab. (8600)
21 ((pregnant or pregnancy) adj2 (complicat$ or difficult$ or problem$ or unsuccessful$)).ti,ab. (11528)
22 adverse reproductive outcome$.ti,ab. (253)
23 stillbirth$.ti,ab. (6100)
24 exp *genital system/ (201259)
25 or/12-24 (406357)
26 11 and 25 (9507)
27 *scoliosis/ or *idiopathic scoliosis/ or *kyphoscoliosis/ or *kyphosis/ (12027)
28 *lordosis/ or *scheuermann disease/ or *spondylolisthesis/ or *spondylolysis/ (4407)
29 *atlantoaxial subluxation/ (400)
30 *ankylosing spondylitis/ (9077)
31 *valgus deformity/ (387)
32 *leg length inequality/ (1165)
33 *enchondromatosis/ (253)
34 *neurofibromatosis/ (8786)
35 *familial hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *autosomal dominant hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *x linked hypophosphatemic rickets/ or *hereditary hypophosphatemic rickets with hypercalciuria/ (156)
36 scoliosis.ti,ab. (12315)
37 (kyphosis or lordosis or flatback syndrome).ti,ab. (6896)
38 (spondylolysis or spondylolisthesis or atlantoaxial subluxation or vertebral subluxation).ti,ab. (4050)
39 deforming dorsopath$.ti,ab. (1)
40 (valgus deformit$ or flexion deformit$).ti,ab. (1795)
41 ((limb$ length$ or leg length$) adj1 (unequal or inequalit$ or discrepancy or misalignment)).ti,ab. (1514)
42 ((lower limb$ or leg or legs) adj2 congenital$ deform$).ti,ab. (1)
43 ((spine or spinal) adj2 osteochondrosis).ti,ab. (164)
44 scheuermann$ disease.ti,ab. (333)
45 (ollier$ disease or enchondromatosis).ti,ab. (337)
46 neurofibromatosis.ti,ab. (9869)
47 hypophosphat?emic rickets.ti,ab. (754)
48 proximal focal femoral deficiency.ti,ab. (31)
49 fibular hemimelia.ti,ab. (70)
50 hemi hypertrophy.ti,ab. (20)
51 *bone dysplasia/ (3142)
52 skeletal dysplasia$.ti,ab. (1633)
53 *short stature/ (2653)
54 short stature.ti,ab. (7234)
55 tumo?r reconstruction.ti,ab. (47)
56 *Blount disease/ (78)
57 blount$ disease.ti,ab. (203)
58 *congenital hip dislocation/ (4084)
59 (congenital adj3 (subluxation or deformity or deformities or dislocation or malformation$ or bowing or defect or defects)).ti,ab. (29597)
60 (hip or hips or spine or spinal or knee or knees or femur or femurs or tibia or tibias or fibula or fibulas or leg or legs or musculoskeletal or lower limb$ or pelvic girdle or bony thorax or cervical rib$).ti,ab. (509423)
61 59 and 60 (4119)
62 arthrogryposis multiplex congenita.ti,ab. (475)
63 *occult spinal dysraphism/ (56)
64 spina bifida occulta.ti,ab. (398)
65 *Klippel Feil syndrome/ (584)
66 klippel feil syndrome.ti,ab. (524)
67 congenital spondylolisthesis.ti,ab. (10)
68 exp *chondrodysplasia/ (2312)
69 short rib syndrome.ti,ab. (18)
70 *chondrodysplasia punctata/ (602)
71 chondrodysplasia punctata.ti,ab. (559)
72 *achondroplasia/ (1263)
73 achondroplasia.ti,ab. (1180)

74 ((dystrophic or chondroectodermal or spondyloepiphyseal or polyostotic fibrous or progressive diaphyseal or metaphyseal) adj1 dysplasia$).ti,ab. (1175)
75 *osteogenesis imperfecta/ (3186)
76 osteogenesis imperfecta.ti,ab. (3288)
77 osteopetrosis.ti,ab. (1845)
78 *enchondromatosis/ (253)
79 enchondromatosis.ti,ab. (169)
80 multiple congenital exostoses.ti,ab. (2)
81 *SPONDYLOEPIPHYSEAL DYSPLASIA/ (305)
82 *fragility fracture/ (1694)
83 osteoporotic fracture$.ti,ab. (4222)
84 or/27-58 (66487)
85 or/61-83 (22442)
86 84 or 85 (84779)
87 26 and 86 (88)

Key:
/ = indexing term (EMTREE heading)
$ = truncation
? = embedded truncation
.ti,ab. = terms in either title or abstract fields
adj = terms adjacent to each other (same order)
adj2 = terms within two words of each other (any order)

Appendix 2.1 Data extraction table - Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS

<table>
<tr><th>Study details and design</th><th>Participant details</th><th>Intervention/Comparators</th><th>Outcomes /Analyses</th><th>Results</th></tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalifa et al. 1998,[26] France

Type of publication:
Full publication

Funding:
CEDIT, French Ministry of Health, Agence Nationale pour la Valorisation de la Recherche, Biocrit, Baxter SA and Cogema

Study design:
Diagnostic cohort study

Setting:
Outpatient

Duration of recruitment:
From December 1994 to January 1996</td>
<td>Inclusion/exclusion criteria: Patients at potentially higher risk due to X-ray exposures (paediatric patients with repeated examinations). Children of at least the age of 5 years undergoing follow-up examinations for known hip diseases (e.g. congenital dislocation and osteonecrosis). Children undergoing follow-up radiography for scoliosis.

Number recruited:
N=176 (the number of patients with known hip diseases or scoliosis not reported)

Number analysed:
N=140 (93 with scoliosis and 47 with known hip disease). 36 patients were excluded from analysis because examination was inadequate, film was</td>
<td>Intervention:
The Charpak system. Digital images were analysed on radiographic laser film and not on the screen.

Comparator:
Film X-ray imaging.

Number of patients

Intervention: Charpak X-ray imaging system
No. recruited: 176
No. analysed: 140 (93 with scoliosis and 47 with known hip disease)

Comparator: Film X-ray imaging
No. recruited: 176
No. analysed: 140 (93 with scoliosis and 47 with known hip disease)

Number of images

Intervention: Charpak X-ray imaging system
No. obtained: not reported</td>
<td>Outcome measures:
1) Radiation dose. Entrance surface dose was measured using individually calibrated thermoluminescent calcium fluoride pellets placed on the patients' skin in the centre of the X-ray beam.

2) Quality of image was assessed using the criteria defined by the Commission of the European Communities. Image quality was assessed as 'good', 'poor' or 'no agreement (between assessors)'.

Number of assessors:
All images assessed by two senior radiologists; bone detail reviewed by a senior orthopaedic surgeon

Analysis of image quality:
Two approaches were used:
1) a criterion was considered present if seen by one reader, or
2) a criterion was considered present if seen by both readers.
The authors do not report which analysis was used in the results</td>
<td>Entrance surface dose (mGy) Mean (range)

Spine AP
Charpak system vs. Film: 0.08 (0.02 to 0.19) vs. 0.93 (0.47 to 2.15)
Ratio of means: 11.6

Spine PA
Charpak system vs. Film: 0.07 (0.01 to 0.2) vs. 0.92 (0.44 to 2.14)
Ratio of means: 13.1

Spine LAT
Charpak system vs. Film: 0.13 (0.03 to 0.84) vs. 1.96 (0.46 to 3.43)
Ratio of means: 15.1

Pelvis
Charpak system vs. Film: 0.06 (0.01 to 0.21) vs. 1.13 (0.47 to 7.48)
Ratio of means: 18.8

Quality of image

Image quality comparison between Charpak system and film
<table>
<tr><th>Film</th><th colspan="3">Charpak system</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Good</td><td>Poor</td><td>No agreement</td></tr>
<tr><td>Spine</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>
</td>
</tr>
</table>

	given to patient without a duplicate being retained or due to double counting. **Mean Age (SD):** Not reported **Male (%):** Not reported **Disease History:** *Mean (SD) duration* Not reported The authors reported that a similar study was conducted on chest films in adults.	No. analysed: 93 spinal images and 47 pelvis images **Comparator: Film X-ray imaging** No. obtained: not reported No. analysed: 93 spinal images and 47 pelvis images	presented. **Statistical analyses:** The inter-observer agreement of image quality was assessed using the kappa coefficient. The potential for unbalancing of agreement in favour of one imaging system was analysed by MacNemar's test or Bowder's test of symmetry.	<table><tr><td>Good</td><td>61</td><td>2</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Poor</td><td>5</td><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>No agreement</td><td>10</td><td>0</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Kappa coefficient for inter-observer agreement 0.15 (SE 0.10) Bowder's test P value 0.50</td></tr><tr><td>Pelvis</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Good</td><td>44</td><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Poor</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>No agreement</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td colspan="4">Kappa coefficient for inter-observer agreement -0.03 (SE 0.02) Bowder's test P value 0.56</td></tr></table> For the pelvis imaging, certain criteria were slightly less favourable with the Charpak system, especially for the details of cancellous bone, fine analysis of the cortex and visibility of periarticular fat lines. For the spine imaging, there was no significant difference in terms of the quality criteria between the Charpak system and film images. However, the Charpak system images were associated with improved visibility of iliac crests and vertebral pedicles compared with conventional films. The Charpak system showed a lack of spatial resolution compared with film. **Inter-observer agreement on image quality** Significant disagreements between readers were observed for both X-ray systems.

Le Bras et al.,[27] Brussels and France **Type of publication:** Unpublished study **Funding:** European Union through the "GROWTH" program. Lead author was employed by Biospace Med, manufacturer of EOS device. **Study design:** Diagnostic cohort study **Setting:** Outpatient **Duration of recruitment:** Not reported	**Inclusion/exclusion criteria:** Adolescents who required full spine radiographs for scoliosis detection or follow-up. (No further details were reported) **Number recruited:** N=64 **Number analysed:** Not reported **Mean Age (SD):** 14.7 (4.8 years) **Male (%):** N=23(35.9%) **Disease History:** *Mean (SD) duration* Not reported	**Intervention:** EOS X-ray imaging system. Tube voltage similar to that of the film X-ray. High contrast spatial resolution was set to 2 1p/mm. Images were viewed on a CRT-screen with a standard DICOM viewer. **Comparator:** Film X-ray imaging. Large screen-film cassette (30 x 90 cm, 5 1p/mm, 400 speed class) with an anti-scatter grid (ratio 8:1). Films were observed directly on a viewing box. ***Number of patients*** **Intervention: EOS X-ray imaging system** No. recruited: 64 No. analysed: Not stated. **Comparator: Film X-ray imaging** No. recruited: 64 No. analysed: Not stated. ***Number of images*** **Intervention: EOS X-ray imaging system** No. obtained: 62 PA images	**Outcome measures:** 1) Radiation dose. Entrance surface dose (ESD) was measured using thermoluminescent detectors placed on the patients' skin in the centre of the X-ray beam. In addition, Entrance Surface Air Kerma (ESAK) was calculated from output dose rates of EOS and film X-ray. Equations for calculating ESAK were reported. Because simultaneous images are taken during EOS, the two thermoluminescent detectors placed on the patients' skin at the central axis of each projection received a spurious contribution of dose due to the orthogonal X-ray beam simultaneously produced during the scan; therefore, a correction factor was applied to the thermoluminescent detector results. 2) Quality of image was assessed using European guidelines on quality criteria for diagnostic radiographic pediatric images. The inclusion criteria and reproduction criteria were evaluated as 'Yes', 'No' or 'Doubt'. An image blackening criterion was	***Entrance Surface Air Kerma (mGy) Mean (Standard deviation (SD))*** **PA full spine views** EOS vs. film: 0.12 (0.03) vs. 0.81(0.24) ($p<0.001$) Average dose reduction of 85% **LAT full spine views** EOS vs. film: 0.19 (0.04) vs. 1.67(0.65) ($p<0.001$) Average dose reduction of 89% ***Entrance Surface Dose (mGy) Mean (SD)*** **PA full spine views** EOS vs. film: 0.23 (0.10) without correction factor applied/0.18 (0.07) with correction factor applied vs. 1.2 (0.32) ($p<0.001$) Average dose reduction of 85% (with correction factor applied) **LAT full spine views** EOS vs. film: 0.37 (0.14) without correction factor applied/0.27 (0.10) with correction factor applied vs. 2.3 (1.1) ($p<0.001$) Average dose reduction of 89% (with correction factor applied) ***Quality of image*** **Image quality comparison between EOS and film** **PA images** EOS images were significantly better for 4 criteria (reproduction of vertebral bodies and pedicles, image blackening and image informative contribution) than film images ($p<0.05$). For the other three inclusion

		and 57 LAT images No. analysed: 44 PA images and 41 LAT images for image quality. 59 PA images and 52 LAT images for radiation dose using ESAK. 46 PA images and 36 LAT images for radiation dose using entrance surface dose. **Comparator: Film X-ray imaging** No. obtained: 62 PA images and 57 LAT images No. analysed: 44 PA images and 41 LAT images for image quality. 59 PA images and 52 LAT images for radiation dose using ESAK. 46 PA images and 36 LAT images for radiation dose using entrance surface dose.	assessed as 'too clear', 'too black' or 'optimal'. A criterion relating to radiograph diagnostic information contribution was evaluated as 'Non-contributive', 'Not very contributive', 'Contributive' or 'Very Contributive'. A diagnostic contribution criterion was graded as 'Yes' or 'No'. All criteria were summed to obtain a global score for each scan. The maximum possible score was 13 for PA scans and 10 for LAT scans. **Number of assessors:** All images assessed by two radiologists. **Statistical analyses:** The comparative paired scores of image quality were assessed using the non-parametric Wilcoxon test. The inter-observer agreement of image quality was assessed using the kappa coefficient.	criteria and the diagnostic contribution criterion, no significant difference was found between EOS and film images (P>0.05). In terms of reproduction of articular, spinous and transverse processes, one outcome assessor found a significant difference in favour of EOS (p<0.01), but the second found a non-significant difference (P>0.05). **LAT images** EOS images were significantly better on five out of eight quality criteria than film images (p<0.001). For the diagnostic contribution of coccyx inclusion, no significant difference was found between EOS and film images (P>0.05). In terms of inclusion of the skull base, one outcome assessor found a significant difference in favour of film (P=0.05), but the second found a non-significant difference (P>0.05). **Global image quality** EOS images had a significantly higher global image quality score for PA and LAT radiographs than film images (p<0.001). **Inter-observer agreement on image quality: Film** PA images: Kappa coefficient 0.76<K<1for all criteria (very good agreement) LAT images: Kappa coefficient 0.70<K<1 (good or very good agreement) for all criteria except for lumbar vertebrae reproduction (Kappa coefficient=0.55; moderate agreement) **Inter-observer agreement on image quality: EOS** PA images: Kappa coefficient 0.60<K<0.70 for 7

				criteria (good agreement). Kappa values cannot be calculated for two criteria (iliac crests inclusion and diagnostic contribution). Kappa coefficient <0.1 (very poor agreement) for the criterion of coccyx inclusion and image blackening. The authors state that this is due to the sensitivity of the Kappa method when scores are grouped at only one level; agreement was actually >95%. LAT images: Informative contribution criterion (Kappa coefficient=0.55; moderate agreement); skull base inclusion (Kappa coefficient = 0.27; poor agreement); thoracic spine reproduction (kappa coefficient=0.30; poor agreement); for the other four criteria, the Kappa values could not be calculated or showed a very poor agreement (Kappa coefficients not reported). Again, the authors state that this is due to the sensitivity of the Kappa method when scores are grouped at only one level; agreement was actually ≥95%. All results are taken from the text of the results section, several tables (providing more detailed results) were mentioned in the text, but were missing from the report. Therefore, these figures have not been checked against the tables. Missing tables were 4a and 4b – ESAK values; 5a and 5b – ESD values; 6 and 7 – quality criteria scores; and figure 3 – box plots of global image quality scores.

Deschênes et al. 2010,[28] Canada **Type of publication:** Full publication **Funding:** Biospace Med **Study design:** Diagnostic cohort study **Setting:** Outpatient **Duration of recruitment:** Not reported	**Inclusion/exclusion criteria:** Patients who required spine radiographs were recruited. The background of the paper states that the study was of patients followed up for scoliosis. **Number recruited:** N=50 **Number analysed:** N=49. One patient's radiographs had to be rejected due to a technical problem during image acquisition. **Mean Age (SD):** 14.8 (3.6) years **Male (%):** N=11 (22%) **Disease History:** *Mean (SD) duration* Not reported	**Intervention:** EOS X-ray imaging system. Distance between sources and detectors is 1.3m, with patient standing at approximately 1m of both sources. **Comparator:** Fuji FCR 7501S. Distance between source and imaging plates is 1.83m, with patient standing approximately 30cm from the plate. PA and sagittal views of the spine were taken, including at least the last cervical vertebra and the pelvis. Comparable quality of images was obtained using the same radiograph tube voltage on both systems, while tube currents were selected to match signal-to-noise ratios on a phantom. On CR, dose was increased with respect to patients' thickness of the iliac crests (full details were reported). ***Number of patients*** **Intervention: EOS X-ray**	**Outcome measures** 1) Radiation dose. Entrance surface dose was measured using Optically Stimulated Luminescence Dosimeters (OSLD), on 13 locations chosen to assess the main radiosensitive regions of the body. 7/13 dosimeters' locations were selected to evaluate entrance surface dose, based on their position relative to the beam. 2) Quality of image was assessed using a questionnaire based on the European Guidelines for Quality Criteria for Diagnostic Radiographic Images in Pediatrics, adapted by medical experts to fit scoliosis. The visibility of each structure was assessed on a four-level scale: structure not detectable; structure visible but features not perceptible; features discernible but not clearly defined; features clearly defined. **Number of assessors:** All images assessed by two orthopedists and two radiologists. Images were anonymised. **Statistical analyses:** A simple assessment of the	***Entrance surface dose (mGy) Mean (range)*** **Nape of the neck** EOS vs. CR: 0.20 vs. 0.59 Ratio of means: 2.9 **Centre of the back** EOS vs. CR: 0.18 vs. 1.04 Ratio of means: 5.9 **Proximal lateral point** EOS vs. CR: 0.27 vs. 2.38 Ratio of means: 8.8 **Outer side of the proximal breast** EOS vs. CR: 0.11 vs. 0.83 Ratio of means: 7.6 **Proximal anterosuperior iliac spine** EOS vs. CR: 0.16 vs. 1.47 Ratio of means: 9.2 **Proximal iliac crest** EOS vs. CR: 0.30 vs. 2.47 Ratio of means: 8.2 **Distal iliac crest** EOS vs. CR: 0.11 vs. 0.73 Ratio of means: 6.5 ***Quality of image*** **Image quality comparison between EOS and CR System** | | EOS = CR | EOS > CR | CR > EOS |

		imaging system No. recruited: 50 No. analysed: 49 **Comparator: Computed radiography (CR)** (Fuji FCR 7501S) No. recruited: 50 No. analysed: 49 ***Number of images*** **Total number of images** No. obtained: not reported No. analysed: n=196 **Intervention: EOS X-ray imaging system** No. obtained: not reported No. analysed: 98 **Comparator: Computed radiography (CR)** (Fuji FCR 7501S) No. obtained: not reported No. analysed: 98	comparative paired scores of image quality between EOS and CR was performed. The comparative paired visibility scores were assessed using the Non-parametric Wilcoxon test. Inter-observer agreement was assessed using an analysis of variance test.	<table><tr><td>Global image quality</td><td>50.5%</td><td>46.7%</td><td>2.8%</td></tr><tr><td>Structures visibility</td><td>61.9%</td><td>32.4%</td><td>5.7%</td></tr></table> **Comparison of visibility scores** Compared with CR, the visibility on EOS images is significantly better for all structures in the PA view (P< 0.006) and for all structures in sagittal view (P< 0.037) except for the lumbar spinous process, for which CR has better visibility (P< 0.003). **Inter-observer agreement on the visibility of structures** For PA views, all outcome assessors agreed on the visibility of all structures, except that one assessor disagreed on the lumbar transverse process. For sagittal views, all outcome assessors agreed on all structures above the lumbar region. However, results are less consistent for the lumbar region.

Appendix 2.2 Data extraction table - Systematic review of the adverse effects of diagnostic radiation for patients with orthopaedic conditions

Study details	Participant details	Outcomes measured	Results	Comments on quality
Cox, 1964[45] **Type of publication:** Journal article **Country of origin:** Canada **Source of funding:** Supported by a research grant allocated by the Province of Ontario under the National Grants Programme. **Study design:** Controlled cohort study **Aim of study:** To detect any indications of genetic damage from radiation in the offspring of	**Inclusion/exclusion criteria:** Cases: Married women who were at least 20 years of age at the onset of the study, who had been patients at The Hospital for Sick Children for congenital dislocation of the hip in 1925 or later were eligible for inclusion. Patients who lived more than 200 miles away from Toronto, or who could not be located or personally consulted were excluded. Controls: Married male and female siblings of the cases. **Dates of recruitment:** 1925 – not reported (although participants had to be at least 20 years of age at the onset of the study).	**Outcome measures:** 1) Mean X-ray dose per child. 2) Number and type of X-rays received since childhood. 3) Details of pregnancies and offspring. **Methods used for collecting data:** 1) Mean X-ray dose per child was estimated using the mean number of films per child and the mean dose from an anteroposterior (AP) film. The mean number of pelvic X-ray exposures for both married and unmarried female patients was estimated using medical records and X-ray films that were still on file at The Hospital for Sick Children. For each film the age of the child, type of projection, and whether or not the pelvis was enclosed in a plaster cast were recorded. Data were available for 30 patients. Mean X-ray dose was estimated using tissue-equivalent wax phantoms. Ionisation chambers were used to measure the dose	**Cases:** **Mean number of pelvic X-ray exposures during the course of treatment and follow-up:** 37.4 (at age 0-2 years: 8.7, at age 3-7 years: 13.9, at age 8-11 years: 8.1, at age 12-16 years: 6.7). Mean number of exposures whilst patient in plaster: 11.4. **Mean X-ray dose measured on phantoms:** age 6 months AP: 108 mrads, age 4 years AP: 140 mrads, age 12 years AP: 180 mrads. **Total mean X-ray dose per child:** 6.1 rads (5.58 rads (at age 0-2 years: 0.96 rads, at age 3-7 years: 1.95 rads, at age 8-11 years: 1.46 rads, at age 12-16 years: 1.21 rads) + 0.51 rads owing to increase in exposure of average 45 mrads for each exposure through a plaster cast). The authors state that this estimate is subject to a number of errors and is probably considerably lower than the actual mean dose received. **Number and type of X-rays received since childhood:** 56 cases had received pelvic X-rays prior to conception of their last child; 33 exposures during pregnancy and 58 exposures when not pregnant. The authors estimated the mean adult ovarian radiation dose as 1.4 rads per woman, making the total estimated mean ovarian dose per patient a minimum of 7.5 rads (up to a maximum of 20).	The estimate of total mean X-ray dose is unlikely to be a reliable estimate; the authors acknowledge that it is subject to a number of errors. The majority of cases had received pelvic X-rays prior to conception of their last child; including 33 exposures during pregnancy, which may have had an impact on pregnancies and offspring. Details of pregnancies and offspring were obtained by personal interview/questionnaire, which may be subject to recall bias. The authors acknowledge that information on spontaneous abortion is unlikely to be accurate; early miscarriage may have been forgotten or unrecognised. However, causes of still births and neonatal deaths and

women treated during childhood for congenital dislocation of the hip.	**Number recruited:** 91 cases and 157 controls. **Age:** All cases were aged 20 - 40 years at the onset of the study (none were aged over 40 at follow up). **Male (%):** 0 cases and 77 (49%) controls. **Disease characteristics:** Cases: Childhood congenital dislocation of the hip.	absorbed in the region of the ovaries in three phantoms, representing sizes for six months, four years and 12 years. Present techniques were altered to approximate techniques of the 1920 to 1940 period by using maximum field size, removing filters (with the exception of 1mm aluminium, which was an integral part of the machine), and the value for milliamperes x seconds (mas) was increased by a factor of four to account for increases in film and screen speeds. The focus field distance was 40 inches for all measurements. Films were made in the AP position and the lateral position. 2) Number and type of X-rays received since childhood and 3) details of pregnancies and offspring. Cases: Personal histories were obtained by interview, usually in the participant's own home. If the participant had died as an adult, a member of their immediate family was interviewed. Participants were asked similar information about their married siblings (the control group). Controls: The control group were interviewed (n=57) or sent a questionnaire (n=96) in order to verify and add information about	**Cases and Controls:** **Details of pregnancies and offspring:** There was no significant difference between cases and controls in the number of offspring (201 versus 402) or the proportion of male offspring (49% versus 53%). **Stillbirths (at least 28 weeks gestation) and neonatal deaths (within 28 days after birth):** There was no significant difference between cases and controls in the number of stillborn offspring (4 (2%) versus 3 (0.8%); p=0.34) or neonatal deaths (0 versus 8 (1.9%); p=0.10). **Spontaneous abortions (earlier than 28 weeks gestation):** There was no significant difference between cases and controls in the number of spontaneous abortions (23 (10.3% of pregnancies) versus 38 (8.6% of pregnancies); p=0.58). **Frequency of abnormal offspring (including still born offspring):** There was a statistically significant difference in the proportion of offspring with abnormalities between cases and controls (26 (12.9%) versus 23 (5.7%); P=0.004). There was a statistically significant difference in the proportion of offspring with more severe abnormalities (i.e. those requiring hospitalisation, and excluding hernia) (15 (7.5%) versus 10 (2.5%); P=0.008). The congenital abnormalities requiring hospitalisation for offspring of cases were : anencephalus, hydrocephalus, mongolism, intestinal atresia, harelip and cleft palate, hemangioma of scrotum, facial pigmented nevus, cavernous plantar hemangioma, shoulder and abdominal hemangiomata, duchenne muscular dystrophy,	diagnosis of abnormalities requiring hospitalisation were confirmed objectively. Using siblings as controls appears to be appropriate, as they share a greater similarity in social, economic and genetic background than unrelated controls. Other factors that may have influenced birth weight and congenital abnormalities were not reported, such as illness/injury during pregnancy, pre-term birth, family history, etc. The authors do not report the reasons for the 33 X-ray exposures amongst the cases during pregnancy.

		themselves and their families. If the participant had died as an adult, a member of their immediate family responded. Four control group participants were not surveyed. Cases and controls: Causes of still births and neonatal deaths were confirmed by the office of the Registrar General of the Province of Ontario. Each diagnosis of abnormalities requiring hospitalisation was confirmed by the hospital at which treatment was carried out. **Statistical analyses:** Chi squared tests were used. **Length of follow-up:** Not reported.	torticollis, undescended testes, bilateral clubfoot, bilateral nerve deafness (in 2 siblings). Abnormalities not requiring hospitalisation for offspring of cases were: inguinal hernia (n=4), umbilical hernia, inguinal hernia and umbilican hernia, strabismus, flexion deformity of toe, overlapping toes, hemangioma (n=2). The congenital abnormalities requiring hospitalisation for offspring of controls were: anencephalus (n=2), hydrocephalus (n=2), spina bifida, pyloric stenosis (n=2), dermoid cyst of orbit, congenital heart disease, tracheoesophageal fistula with immaturity. Abnormalities not requiring hospitalisation for offspring of controls were: inguinal hernia (n=3), umbilical hernia, epigastric hernia, hernia unspecified, strabismus (n=4), shortening of leg, bilateral tibial torsion, metatarsus varus. **Birth weight:** Mean birth weight for male offspring was lower for cases than controls (3175g versus 3320g; P>0.025). However, when birth weights were compared within birth orders, there were no significant differences. Mean birth weight for male offspring was lower than the Ontario population mean birth weight using birth data from 1960 (3385g; P<0.001). There was no significant difference in mean birth weight for female offspring between cases and controls (3149g versus 3212g), or the Ontario population mean birth weight (3255g). **Authors' conclusions:** The frequencies of stillbirths, infant deaths and spontaneous abortions were similar for irradiated mothers and controls.	

			The proportion of males tended to be lower among the offspring of cases than among offspring of controls. The frequency of abnormal offspring was significantly higher among the exposed mothers. The mean birth weights of offspring, particularly males, appeared to be lower for the offspring of exposed mothers than of controls.	
Goldberg, 1998[46] **Type of publication:** Journal article **Country of origin:** Canada **Source of funding:** Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada, Université de Montréal, and Le Fonds de la recherché en santé du Québec (FRSQ). **Study design:** Controlled retrospective cohort study **Aim of study:**	**Inclusion/exclusion criteria:** Cases: Female patients included in the Ste-Justine Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Cohort Study were eligible for inclusion. The Ste-Justine Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Cohort Study included 2,092 children and young adults referred to Ste-Justine Hospital, Montreal, for the diagnosis and management of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. Of the 1,793 females included, the authors were able to trace 88.8%, of which 80.3% returned their questionnaires (1,292). Controls: 1,134 women selected randomly from the general population,	**Outcome measures:** 1) Organ-specific doses from diagnostic radiography for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. 2) Adverse reproductive outcomes. **Methods used for collecting data:** 1) For each spinal radiograph (35.6 x 91.4 cm films) the authors abstracted the data of the radiograph and the orientation (anteroposterior, lateral posteroanterior or oblique) from the hospital chart. Absorbed X-ray doses to the ovaries were calculated by incorporating characteristics of the radiographs with data from a Monte Carlo procedure that provided estimates of the absorption of energy in human tissue. The organ-specific doses for each radiographic view, age group and sex were calculated. Then doses were assigned for each radiograph and summed for each patient. 2) Participants completed a postal questionnaire that included	Cases and controls were fairly evenly matched in terms of education, marital status, alcohol consumption, self-perception of health, body mass index and physical recreational activity. A higher proportion of cases lived in Montreal, fewer cases were aged 15-24, more cases were aged 30-34 and there was a higher proportion of 'never smokers' amongst the cases. **Organ-specific radiation dose:** The mean dose to the ovaries was 0.925 cGy (standard deviation 0.760). **Reproductive outcomes:** Difference between cases and controls in the number of: Unsuccessful attempts at pregnancy 49 (3.8%) versus 32 (2.8%) adjusted OR 1.33, 95% CI 0.84 to 2.13 Stillbirths 6 (0.5%) versus 19 (1.5%) adjusted OR 0.38, 95% CI 0.15 to 0.97 Low birth weight infants 74 (6.4%) versus 94 (7.6%) adjusted OR 0.84, 95% CI 0.59 to 1.21 Infants with congenital malformations 47 (4.0%) versus 36 (2.9%) adjusted OR 1.20, 95% CI 0.78 to	This was a large cohort study, however some of the events were rare (such as stillbirth). Details of pregnancies and offspring were obtained by postal questionnaire, which may be subject to recall bias. None of the responses on reproductive outcomes were validated objectively. The authors acknowledge that this study is open to errors in recall, in particular information on spontaneous abortion is unlikely to be accurate; early miscarriage may have been forgotten or unrecognised. The authors presented the results as adjusted odds ratios, with no indication of which results were statistically significant, and which were likely to be due to chance.

To assess the association between exposure to low dose ionising radiation from diagnostic radiography received in adolescence and subsequent adverse reproductive outcomes in adulthood.	identified using residential, non-confidential telephone numbers. Controls were approximately frequency-matched to cases according to age and general area of residence. **Dates of recruitment:** Cases were recruited to the Ste-Justine Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis Cohort Study from 1960 to 1979. Dates of recruitment of the control group are not stated. **Number recruited:** 1,292 cases and 1,134 controls. **Age:** 15 to >45. The majority of patients were aged 25-39 years. **Male (%):** 0 **Disease characteristics:** Cases: adolescent idiopathic scoliosis.	questions on the following reproductive outcomes: lack of success in becoming pregnant after attempting to do so, and result of each pregnancy (live birth, spontaneous abortion or stillbirth). For each live birth participants were asked the birth weight and whether the baby was diagnosed as having a congenital malformation. Low birth weight was categorised as <2,500 grams). **Statistical analyses:** The authors used logistic regression to analyse unsuccessful attempts at pregnancy. Other binary pregnancy outcomes were analysed using logistic regression that accounted for the clustered nature of data through the Generalised Estimating Equations framework (GEE), since clustering can occur from women having multiple pregnancies, with the consequence that multiple adverse outcomes are positively correlated. Analyses were conducted using cumulative ovarian dose as a continuous linear variable, and according to quartiles. Analyses were conducted using the control group as a baseline category (no radiation exposure in adolescence from scoliosis), and excluding the control group, but comparing within	1.84. Spontaneous abortions 209 (12.8%) versus 158 (9.7%) adjusted odds ratio 1.35, 95% confidence interval 1.06 to 1.73. **Subgroup analysis (quartiles of dose, cGy):** When comparing adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients at higher organ specific doses to those in the lowest dose group (0-0.312 cGy), none of the reproductive outcomes were significantly different between groups. However, the outcome low birthweight (<2,500gm) almost reached statistical significance when the highest dose group (≥1.444 cGy) was compared with the lowest dose group: 33 (8.5%) versus 9 (3.6%); adjusted odds ratio 2.34, 95% confidence interval 1.0 to 5.6. **Authors' conclusions:** Associations between adverse reproductive outcomes and radiotherapy have been observed previously, but this is the first study in which an association with birth weight has been found with diagnostic radiography.	The authors also acknowledge that other factors may have affected reproductive outcomes, such as age of the mother and smoking during pregnancy. The authors acknowledge that chance or some undetected bias in selecting persons into the control group may account for the fact that they observed a dose-response relationship in the adolescent idiopathic scoliosis group for low birth weight, but there was a lower proportion of low-birth weight infants in this group compared with the control group. Other factors may have been involved, such as medical conditions during pregnancy, gestational age or sex of the infant.

		the cases between levels of dose. GEE was used to analyse birth weight as a continuous variable, assuming a Gaussian error structure. Sensitivity analyses were conducted to verify assumptions about cut-points and linearity. 16 pairs of twins were excluded from the analyses (due to their lower birth weight). Covariates included in the final models were those variables found from univariate logistic regression analysis to be associated with each of the outcomes under consideration (e.g. education, alcohol consumption, smoking status, body mass index and occupation). **Length of follow-up:** Not reported.		
US Scoliosis Cohort Study (pilot), 1989[38] **Type of publication:** Journal article **Country of origin:** USA	**Inclusion/exclusion criteria:** Women with a confirmed diagnosis of scoliosis or kyphosis who were seen at one of four medical facilities in the Minneapolis-St Paul, MN area. Patients were excluded if they were diagnosed after	**Outcome measures:** 1) Radiation dose estimation. 2) Observed and expected breast cancers. **Methods used for collecting data:** 1) Information on diagnosis and treatment of scoliosis were abstracted from medical records from the participating hospitals. Counts of all X-rays were obtained	**Radiation dose estimation:** The average number of X-rays taken per patient was 41.5 (range 0 to 618) and were given over an average of 8.7 years. Among the 951 women for whom a dose of radiation to the breast could be estimated, the average dose was 12.8 rad (range 0 to 159 rad). Average doses to the thyroid and active bone marrow were 6.9 rad and 3.3 rad, respectively. **Observed and expected breast cancers:** The proportion of patients who had a history of breast cancer was higher than the number expected (11	This was a large cohort study; however there were only 11 cases of breast cancer. The authors acknowledge that their findings require confirmation by larger studies. The authors acknowledge that the radiation dose estimation may be subject to

Source of funding: Public Health Service contracts from the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services; the Scoliosis Research Society; the Twin Cities Scoliosis Research Fund; and the Medical Education and Research Foundation of Gillette Children's Hospital, St Paul, MN. **Study design:** Uncontrolled retrospective cohort study **Aim of study:** To determine whether X-ray exposures during scoliosis treatment in the past might be	1965, were older than 19 years at diagnosis, survived less than 3 years after diagnosis, or had a history of cancer or radiotherapy. **Dates of recruitment:** 1935 to 1965 (year of diagnosis 1922 to 1965) **Number recruited:** 1,030; of which 856 responded to the questionnaire/telephone interview (either in person (818), or a surrogate response was received for deceased patients (38)). 973 patients were included in the analyses, as 51 patients could not be located, and dates of X-rays were missing for 6 patients. **Age:** Mean age at follow-up was 41.4 years. **Male (%):** 0 **Disease characteristics:**	by reviewing actual films or estimating numbers from radiology reports in the medical records, film jackets or radiology log books. The authors collected data on whether the breasts were in the primary X-ray beam for particular X-ray procedures for a sample of patients, and then estimated this for the entire population. Data on stage of breast development was obtained from photographic, descriptive or X-ray evidence. Radiation doses to the breast (and other organs) were estimated using data on the number of X-rays per patient, the type of examination and the machines and techniques in use at the time of the X-ray. The dose absorbed by breast tissue was estimated by medical physicists (AP exposure assumed). 2) Participants completed a telephone interview or postal questionnaire on various medical conditions, breast cancer and relevant cancer risk factors. Pathological confirmation of breast cancer cases was obtained from the hospital of diagnosis or treatment. A subgroup of women (n=465) attended one of the medical facilities for a scoliosis follow-up examination or sent a current radiograph for review.	versus 6 expected cases; SIR 1.82, 90% CI 1.0 to 3.0). **Subgroup analyses:** When examining the number of cases of breast cancer by age, time since first X-ray, and radiation exposure, there was a higher incidence of breast cancer, compared with the expected incidence, for patients aged 15 or over at the time of their first X-ray (SIR 3.1, 90% CI 1.4 to 6.2), patients for whom time since first X-ray was 30 years or more (SIR 2.4 (90% CI 0.9 to 5.0) trend for increased risk with time P=0.02), patients who received a total of 30 or 60 X-rays or more (SIRs 2.0 90% CI 0.07 to 4.7 and 3.1, 90% CI 1.1 to 7.1 respectively) and patients who had a radiation dose to the breast of 20 rad or more (SIR 3.4, 90% CI 1.2 to 7.8) (trend for increased risk with increased dose P=0.08). No patients were diagnosed with breast cancer within 15 years of their first X-ray, which was expected. Risk of breast cancer increased with increasing radiation dose to the breast within both the group of women who had had a full-term pregnancy, and the group of women who had not. Patients with more severe scoliosis were less likely to have had a full-term pregnancy. **Authors' conclusions:** These data suggest that frequent exposure to low-level diagnostic radiation during childhood or adolescence may increase the risk of breast cancer.	error. Other factors that may have influenced breast cancer incidence were not adjusted for, such as age at menarche, history of benign breast disease and family history of breast cancer. The authors acknowledge that factors associated with severe scoliosis, such as inability to carry a pregnancy to term, might influence the results, since nulliparous women are at higher risk for breast cancer. Therefore, the observed association between higher number of X-rays (more common for more severe scoliosis) and breast cancer may have been influenced by this risk factor.

associated with a detectable risk of breast cancer.	60% of participants had idiopathic scoliosis.	**Statistical analyses:** Person-years of follow-up began 3 years after the date of the first X-ray exposure or scoliosis diagnosis and ended at the date of breast cancer diagnosis, death or date of last known vital status. Expected numbers of breast cancers were calculated by multiplying age-, sex- and calendar time-specific breast cancer incidence rates from the Connecticut Tumor Registry by the appropriate person-years of follow-up. The standardised incidence ratio (SIR; the ratio of observed cases to expected cases) was calculated, with 90% confidence intervals (CI). Tests of trend of increasing SIR with time and dose were performed by applying the multiplicative models of Breslow et al. Tests were one-sided. **Length of follow-up:** The average length of follow-up for the 973 patients with usable follow-up information was 25.6 years.		
US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2000[39] **Type of publication:** Journal article	**Inclusion/exclusion criteria:** Women with a confirmed diagnosis of scoliosis, kyphosis, lordosis or kyphoscoliosis who	**Outcome measures:** 1) Radiation dose estimation. 2) Mortality rates. 3) Breast cancer mortality rates.	**Radiation dose estimation:** The total number of X-rays recorded was 137,711. Most X-rays (77.3%) were of the spine and approximately 64% were AP. The average number of X-rays taken per patient was 24.7 (range 0 to 618). The average estimated cumulative dose to the breast per patient was 10.8 cGy (range 0 to 170).	

Country of origin: USA **Source of funding:** The National Cancer Institute, U.S. Public Health Service, Bethesda, Maryland. **Study design:** Uncontrolled retrospective cohort study **Aim of study:** To evaluate patterns in breast cancer mortality among women with scoliosis, with special emphasis on risk associated with diagnostic radiograph exposures.	were seen at any of 14 large orthopaedic medical centres in the United States (including those patients enrolled in the pilot study)[38]. 161 patients with congenital scoliosis were included in the pilot study, however, no additional patients with congenital scoliosis were enrolled in this study. Exclusion criteria included patients who were diagnosed after 1965, were older than 19 years at diagnosis, or had a history of cancer or radiotherapy or other characteristics that could have been associated with multiple radiograph exposures at other institutions. **Dates of recruitment:** Not stated (year of diagnosis 1912 to 1965) **Number recruited:** 5,573; of which vital status was determinable for 4,971 patients.	**Methods used for collecting data:** 1) Information on diagnosis and treatment of scoliosis were abstracted from medical records from the participating hospitals. Data on X-ray date, field, view, position, presence of an orthosis, radiograph size, whether the breast was in the X-ray beam and radiograph machine parameters were collected from radiology reports, radiographs, radiograph jackets and radiology log books. Dose to the breast was estimated for each examination in which the breast was definitely or probably in the radiation beam (89% X-rays); examinations in which the breast was not exposed to the beam were assumed to contribute no dose. The breast dose was estimated for preteens (aged <13 years) at a depth of 1.0cm, and for adults (aged ≥13 years) at 2.5cm. Doses were calculated for each examination according to the year of X-ray examination (separately for the years 1920-39, 1940-59, 1966-75, and 1976-89). Information was not sufficient to estimate doses for 13.5% radiographic examinations, they were assigned the mean dose for all other examinations received by the same patient or other similar	**Mortality rates:** 985/4,971 patients (20%) were confirmed deceased with death certificate, 61 (1%) were presumed deceased with cause of death unknown. There was a statistically significant increase in the risk of dying of all causes for patients with scoliosis, compared with the general population (SMR 1.71, 95% CI 1.6 to 1.8), primarily of infectious, circulatory, respiratory, and musculoskeletal conditions. There was a statistically significant increase in the risk of dying of breast cancer for patients with scoliosis, compared with the general population (77 versus 45.6 expected deaths; SMR 1.69, 95% CI 1.3 to 2.1). The risk of dying of leukaemia or lung cancer were not significantly different between scoliosis patients and the general population (SMR 1.21, 95% CI 0.6 to 2.3; 9 cases and SMR 0.73, 95% CI 0.5 to 1.1; 29 cases, respectively). Significant dose response relationships were observed for deaths from infectious, circulatory, respiratory, digestive and musculoskeletal conditions. **Subgroup analyses:** **Breast cancer deaths by scoliosis characteristics**: There was a statistically significantly higher risk of dying of breast cancer, compared with the expected number of deaths, for patients aged 10 or over at the time of diagnosis (SMR 2.01, 95% CI 1.5 to 2.6),	

	5,466 patients were included in the subgroup analyses, as 34 patients contributed no woman years of follow-up, 18 patients had missing exit dates and 55 were known to have died but the cause of death was unknown. **Age:** Mean age at follow-up was 51 years (range 2-89). **Male (%):** 0 **Disease characteristics:** The vast majority of patients had scoliosis (92.7%). Around half of patients (49.2%) had idiopathic disease. Most patients were diagnosed at the age of 10 or above (62.7%).	patients. 2 and 3) Follow-up data were obtained from the Social Security Administration, Health Care Financing Administration, National Death Index, town books, motor vehicle bureaus, credit companies, the U.S. Postal Service, telephone directory assistance, commercial telephone listings and neighbour search databases. Death certificates were obtained for decedents from state vital statistics offices and causes of death were coded trained nosologists. Mortality rates of patients were compared with that of white females in the United States. **Statistical analyses:** Person-years of follow-up began at the date of scoliosis diagnosis for patients from the 10 expanded study centres and 3 years after scoliosis diagnosis for the pilot study patients. Follow-up ended at the date of death, date of last known vital status or 01/01/97. Expected numbers of deaths, by cause, were calculated by multiplying the age- and calendar-specific woman-years at risk, in 5-year intervals, by the corresponding mortality rates in the general population. Standardised mortality	patients diagnosed between 1940 and 1959 (SMR 2.35, 95% CI 1.6 to 3.3), patients with neuromuscular scoliosis (SMR 2.09, 95% CI 1.4 to 3.1) or unknown etiology (SMR 2.61, 95% CI 1.1 to 5.1), patients with a maximum curve magnitude of 30 to 59 degrees (SMR 2.29, 95% CI 1.3 to 3.8) or unknown magnitude (SMR 1.55, 95% CI 1.2 to 2.0), patients who had surgery (SMR 2.52, 95% CI 1.7 to 3.6) and patients who had a higher number of surgeries (2 surgeries: SMR 2.79, 95% CI 1.4 to 5.0, 3 surgeries: SMR 3.83, 95% CI 1.7 to 7.5). Statistical tests for trend when adjusted for radiation dose were only statistically significant for age at scoliosis diagnosis p=0.02 **Breast cancer deaths by radiation exposure characteristics:** There was a statistically significantly higher risk of dying of breast cancer, compared with the expected number of deaths, for patients with a higher number of X-rays, particularly patients receiving 50 or more X-rays (SMR 3.86, 95% CI 1.9 to 6.9), patients with a higher cumulative radiation dose to the breast, particularly patients with a cumulative dose of 20 or more cGy (SMR 3.36, 95% CI 2.0 to 5.3), those aged 10 to 13 years at the time of their first X-ray (age 10-11 SMR 3.36, 95% CI 2.1 to 5.1, age 12-13 SMR 1.85, 95% CI 1.2 to 2.8), those with a longer time since their first X-ray (30-39 yrs SMR 2.43, 95% CI 1.6 to 3.6 and 40 or more years SMR 2.07, 95% CI 1.5 to 2.8), and those who were older at study exit (45-49 years SMR 2.19, 95% CI 1.2 to 3.6 and 50 or more SMR 1.74, 95% CI 1.3 to 2.3). Statistical tests for trend when adjusted for radiation dose were only statistically significant for age at first radiographic exam (p=0.01)	

		ratios (SMRs) were calculated by dividing the number of observed deaths by the number of deaths expected. Exact and asymptotic methods were used to calculate 95% CIs and statistical significance levels for SMRs, RRs, and tests for non-homogeneity and trend among different levels of factor. **Length of follow-up:** The average length of follow-up was 40.5 years.	**Authors' conclusions:** These data suggest that exposure to multiple diagnostic radiographic examinations during childhood and adolescence may increase the risk of breast cancer among women with scoliosis; however, potential confounding between radiation dose and severity of disease and thus with reproductive history may explain some of the increased risk observed.	
US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2008[43] **Type of publication:** Journal article **Country of origin:** USA **Source of funding:** Intramural Research Program of the NIH, National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer	**Inclusion/exclusion criteria:** US Scoliosis Cohort Study patients (see above).[39] Of the 5,573 eligible patients, 19% were lost to follow-up and 16% were deceased. The authors contacted 3,620 (65%) patients. 3,121 patients (86%) participated in the health survey; 6% refused, 4% were unable to participate due to illness, language problems, or other reasons and 4% did not	**Outcome measures:** 1) Radiation dose estimation. 2) Breast cancer risk. **Methods used for collecting data:** 1) Information on diagnosis and treatment of scoliosis were abstracted from medical records from the participating hospitals. Data on X-ray date, field, view, position, presence of an orthosis, radiograph size, whether the breast was in the X-ray beam and radiograph machine parameters were collected from radiology reports, radiographs, radiograph jackets and radiology log books. (As Doody et al. 2000)[39]	**Radiation dose estimation:** The mean number of breast exposed X-rays taken per patient was 26.8 (range 0 to 332). The mean estimated cumulative dose to the breast per patient was 12.1 cGy (range 0 to 111). **Breast cancer:** 88 women reported breast cancer and one woman reported a non-defined cancer. Invasive breast cancer was confirmed for 68 women. Eleven women had a confirmed diagnosis of in situ breast cancer, which was not included in most of the analyses. 78 confirmed or non-denied invasive breast cancers were included in the analyses. Compared with patients who received 1-9 X-rays (mean total dose 3 cGy), patients who received 60 or more X-rays (mean total dose 33.5 cGy) had a statistically significantly higher risk of breast cancer (RR 3.14, 95% CI 1.33 to 7.44). p for trend for total number of X-Rays = 0.12.	This was a very large cohort study; although there were still only 78 confirmed or non-denied cases of breast cancer. The authors acknowledge that the estimate of cumulative radiation dose to the breast may be subject to error. The authors also acknowledge that breast cancer rates amongst scoliosis patients may be higher than the general population, due to risk factors other than radiation exposure (such as

Epidemiology and Genetics. **Study design:** Uncontrolled retrospective cohort study **Aim of study:** To quantify the radiation dose-response relationship for fractionated exposures at a vulnerable age, assess whether known breast cancer risk factors modify dose response, and explore possible developmental intervals of increased radiation sensitivity.	respond. An additional 111 patients were excluded because they had congenital scoliosis, so were likely to have had radiographic examinations for concomitant medical conditions in other hospitals. **Dates of recruitment:** Not stated (year of diagnosis 1912 to 1965) **Number recruited:** 3,010 female scoliosis patients (analysis cohort). **Age:** Mean age at follow-up was 51 years (range 30-84). **Male (%):** 0 **Disease characteristics:** 59% patients had idiopathic scoliosis. Mean age at scoliosis diagnosis was 11 years (range 0-19).	Dose to the breast was estimated for each examination in which the breast was definitely or probably in the radiation beam (89% X-rays); examinations in which the breast was not exposed to the beam were assumed to contribute no dose. The breast dose was estimated for preteens (aged <13 years) at a depth of 1.0cm, and for adults (aged ≥13 years) at 2.5cm. Doses were calculated for each examination according to the year of X-ray examination. (As Doody et al. 2000)[39] 245 scoliosis patients had no X-rays recorded in their medical records, these patients were recorded as having a breast dose of 0 cGy and were the 'minimally exposed' group in the analyses. 2) Participants completed a telephone interview (live patients with a US telephone number) or postal questionnaire (patients who were included in the original pilot study[38] or who had no telephone number available) on medical and reproductive history, family history of cancer and other characteristics. Treating physicians were contacted for written medical confirmation of self-reported breast cancers. Family history of breast cancer was defined as breast cancer in a first- or second-	Compared with patients who had a baby when aged less than 25 years, patients who had no children, or had children aged 35 or over had a statistically significantly higher risk of breast cancer (RR 2.13, 95% CI 1.21 to 3.75 and RR 3.02, 95% CI 1.03 to 8.87, respectively). p for trend for age at first live birth = 0.03. Post-menopausal women were at a significantly higher risk than pre-menopausal women (RR 3.13, 95% CI 1.38 to 7.09). p for trend = 0.004. Women with an annual household income of $60,000 or more were at a significantly higher risk than women with a household income below $30,000 (RR 2.84, 95% CI 1.52 to 5.30). p for trend for household income = 0.003. Women with a second-degree relative affected by breast cancer were at a significantly higher risk than women with no known family history of breast cancer (RR 2.71, 95% CI 1.57 to 4.66). p for trend for family history of breast cancer = 0.008. Women with 3-5 relatives with breast cancer were at the highest risk (RR 5.65, 95% CI 1.73 to 18.5), whilst women with 1-2 relatives with breast cancer were also at a significantly higher risk than those with no known relatives with breast cancer (RR 2.12, 95% CI 1.32 to 3.41). p for trend for number of relatives with breast cancer = 0.0003. Women with a family history of early-onset breast cancer (diagnosed before age 50) were at a significantly higher risk than women with no known family history of early-onset breast cancer (RR 2.84, 95% CI 1.10 to 6.03). p for trend for family history	reproductive characteristics). The authors also acknowledge the potential for bias, when relying on self-report for breast cancer and family history of breast cancer. They state that the risks associated with family history of breast cancer may be overestimated in the study, since patients with breast cancer are more likely to report complete family histories of breast cancer, than women without breast cancer.

		degree blood relative (mother, sister, daughter, grandmother or aunt) as reported by the patient. Age at breast budding was estimated as 3 years prior to the age at menarche, as reported by the patient. **Statistical analyses:** Woman-years of follow-up began at the date of scoliosis diagnosis until the date of first breast cancer diagnosis or survey completion. All woman-years were cross-classified by time-dependent variables for age, total breast dose, and by breast cancer risk factors and scoliosis characteristics. Excess relative risk per unit dose was calculated. Subgroup analyses were used to assess whether the dose response differed according to specific epidemiological characteristics (breast cancer risk factors). Enhanced sensitivity to radiation according to breast development stage (before breast budding, between breast budding and menarche, between menarche and birth of a first child and after birth of a first child) was also assessed. Results were presented as relative risks (RR) with 95% confidence intervals (CI). **Length of follow-up:** The mean length of follow-up was 39.5 years (range 13-68).	of early-onset breast cancer = 0.03. There were no statistically significant differences associated with curve magnitude, parity, education level or reported alcohol use or smoking status. The authors report that risk was not related to age at menarche, oral contraceptive use or hormone replacement therapy (data not shown). Adjustment for age at birth of first child, menopausal status at questionnaire completion, household income and family history of breast cancer significantly improved the statistical fit of the model, therefore these factors were included as additional baseline term covariates in all subsequent analyses. Compared with patients with breast doses less than 10 cGy, those with doses of 20 to 29 or 30 or above cGy had a statistically significant double risk of breast cancer. The radiation dose response for breast cancer was statistically significantly modified by any family history of breast cancer (p=0.03): Excess relative risk (ERR)/Gy = 8.37 (95% CI 1.50, 28.16) There was no evidence of variation in the risk of breast cancer when assessing subgroups according to breast development stage.	

US Scoliosis Cohort Study, 2010[44] **Type of publication:** Journal article **Country of origin:** USA **Source of funding:** Intramural Research Program of the National Institutes for Health, National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics. **Study design:** Uncontrolled retrospective cohort study **Aim of study:** To describe the spectrum of cancer mortality after an average	**Inclusion/exclusion criteria:** US Scoliosis Cohort Study patients (see above).[39] Of the 5,573 eligible patients, the authors were able to determine vital status for 5,513 (99%). **Dates of recruitment:** Not stated (year of diagnosis 1912 to 1965) **Number recruited:** 5,573; of which vital status was determinable for 5,513 patients. Risk of dying from cancer was assessed for the subgroup of 3121 women who completed the health survey in the previous study.[43] **Age:** Mean age at follow-up was 58 years (range 2.1-96.5). **Male (%):**	**Outcome measures:** 1) Radiation dose estimation. 2) Cancer mortality rates. **Methods used for collecting data:** 1) Information on diagnosis and treatment of scoliosis were abstracted from medical records from the participating hospitals. Data on X-ray date, field, view, position, presence of an orthosis, radiograph size, whether the breast was in the X-ray beam and radiograph machine parameters were collected from radiology reports, radiographs, radiograph jackets and radiology log books. (As Doody et al. 2000)[39] Cumulative radiation doses to the breast, thyroid gland, lung, ovary and bone marrow were estimated for each patient based on their age at examination, year of examination and the characteristics of the X-ray, listed above. (As Doody et al. 2000)[39] 2) Vital status was determined up to 31 December 2004; causes of death were obtained from death certificates or the National Death Index (NDI).	**Radiation dose estimation:** The total number of X-rays recorded was 137,711. The average number of X-rays taken per patient, that included exposure to the breast, was 22.9 (range 0 to 553). The average estimated cumulative dose to the breast per patient was 10.9 cGy (maximum 170). The average estimated cumulative dose to the lung per patient was 4.1 cGy (maximum 67.6 cGy). The average estimated cumulative dose to the active bone marrow per patient was 1.0 cGy (maximum 16 cGy). The average estimated cumulative dose to the thyroid gland per patient was 7.4 cGy (maximum 137 cGy). The average estimated cumulative dose to the ovary per patient was 2.7 cGy (maximum 33.7 cGy). **Cancer mortality rates:** 1527/5513 patients (28%) were dead, 3,614 (66%) were alive and 372 (7%) were lost to follow-up. There was a statistically significant increase in the risk of dying of all causes for patients with curvature, compared with the general population (SMR 1.46, 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.39 to 1.54). There were a total of 355 cancer deaths amongst the curvature patients, which was not significantly different to that of the general population (SMR 1.08, 95% CI 0.97 to 1.20). Breast cancer was the only cancer where there was a statistically significant increase in risk amongst curvature patients, compared with the general population (SMR 1.68, 95% CI 1.38 to 2.02). There	This was a very large cohort study, although numbers of patients dying from many of the cancers assessed were very low. The estimate of cumulative radiation dose to the breast may be subject to error. The authors acknowledge that breast cancer rates amongst scoliosis patients may be higher than the general population, due to risk factors other than radiation exposure (such as reproductive characteristics). This study only assessed cancer mortality rates, not cancer incidence rates; other characteristics of curvature patients may affect their eligibility for/response to treatment, which may impact on survival rates. The authors acknowledge that by relying on cancer mortality data, it was not feasible to study cancers with low lethality, such as thyroid cancer.

follow-up of 47 years, 8 years longer than the earlier report.[39] In addition, to evaluate risks for all cancers and assess potential confounding.	0 **Disease characteristics:** The mean age at curvature diagnosis was 10.6 years (range 0-19.9).	Risk of dying from cancer in the subgroup of 3121 women who completed the health survey in the previous study[43] was assessed to allow for adjustment for known cancer risk factors. Mortality rates of patients were compared with that of females in the United States. **Statistical analyses:** Woman-years of follow-up began at the date of curvature diagnosis and ended at the date of death, date of last known vital status or 31/12/04. Expected numbers of deaths, by cause, were calculated by multiplying the age- and calendar year-specific woman-years at risk, in 5-year intervals, by the corresponding mortality rates in the general population. Standardised mortality ratios (SMRs) were calculated by dividing the number of observed deaths by the number of deaths expected. Breast doses were lagged 10 years before cancer diagnosis for cases and study exit for non-cases to allow for latency. Relative risks for breast cancer mortality and lung cancer mortality according to spinal curvature history were estimated using a Cox proportional hazards model with age	were 112 deaths from breast cancer. Other cancer sites where risk was increased (though not statistically significantly) were: Oral cavity SMR 1.93, 95% CI 0.77 to 3.98 Oesophagus SMR 1.42, 95% CI 0.38 to 3.63 Pancreas SMR 1.17, 95% CI 0.68 to 1.87 Bone SMR 1.91, 95% CI 0.21 to 6.90 Melanoma of skin SMR 1.29, 95% CI 0.47 to 2.81 Uterine corpus SMR 1.02, 95% CI 0.44 to 2.00 Bladder SMR 1.34, 95% CI 0.36 to 3.42 Brain and CNS SMR 1.48, 95% CI 0.81 to 2.48 There were significantly fewer deaths from liver and cervical cancer amongst the curvature patients, compared with the general population (SMR 0.17, 95% CI 0.00 to 0.94 and SMR 0.31, 95% CI 0.06 to 0.92, respectively), however these were based on very small numbers of deaths of these cancers (1 and 3, respectively). The number of patients dying of lung cancer was lower than the general population (57 patients, SMR 0.77, 95% CI 0.59 to 1.00), although this result was not statistically significant. The authors state that these types of cancer are smoking-related. **Subgroup analyses:** Risk of death from breast cancer did not vary significantly by age at curvature diagnosis, type of curvature, aetiology, maximum curve magnitude or number of spinal surgeries. However, there was an increase in risk of dying from breast cancer amongst patients who received 50 or more X-rays (involving exposure to the breasts), compared with those receiving less than 25 X-rays (relative risk (RR) 2.7, 95% CI 1.3 to 5.5). Patients with a cumulative breast dose of 30 cGy or more had a statistically significantly higher risk of dying of	

		as the time scale. Excess relative risk per unit dose was calculated. **Length of follow-up:** The mean length of follow-up was 46.9 years.	breast cancer than those with a cumulative dose of 0-9 cGy (RR 2.4, 95% CI 1.2 to 4.8). p for trend = 0.001. ERR/Gy = 3.9 (95% CI 1.0 to 9.3). Amongst the subgroup of 3121 patients who responded to the health survey in the previous study,[43] 30 patients died of breast cancer and 17 patients died of lung cancer between 1993 and 2004. Results of subgroup analyses were broadly similar to results for the entire cohort. Risk of lung cancer was strongly associated with cigarette smoking and alcohol use, but not with scoliosis characteristics or with category of estimated lung dose. **Authors' conclusions:** Women who were diagnosed with scoliosis before 1965 have increased risk of breast cancer, clearly related to radiation exposure from diagnostic radiographs during the period 1920 – 1980, when doses were much higher than they are today. Mortality rates from cancers other than breast cancer were lower than expected.	

Appendix 3 Quality assessment - Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS

Item	Quality assessment criteria	Study		
		Kalifa et al. 1998[26]	**Le Bras et al.[27] (unpublished)**	**Deschênes et al. 2010[28]**
1	Was the spectrum of patients representative of the patients who will receive the test in practice?	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
2	Were selection criteria clearly described?	**Yes**	**No**	**No**
3	Is the reference standard likely to correctly classify the target condition?	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
4	Is the time period between reference standard and index test short enough to be reasonably sure that the target condition did not change between the two tests?	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
5	Did the whole sample or a random selection of the sample, receive verification using a reference standard of diagnosis?	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
6	Did patients receive the same reference standard regardless of the index test result?	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
7	Was the reference standard independent of the index test (i.e. the index test did not form part of the reference standard)?	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
8	Was the execution of the index test described in sufficient detail to permit replication of the test?	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**
9	Was the execution of the reference standard described in sufficient detail to permit its replication?	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**
10	Were the index test results interpreted without knowledge of the results of the reference standard?	**Unclear**	**No**	**Yes**
11	Were the reference standard results interpreted without knowledge of the results of the index test?	**Unclear**	**No**	**Yes**
12	Were the same clinical data available when test results were interpreted as would be available when the test is used in practice?	**Unclear**	**Unclear**	**Unclear**
13	Were uninterpretable/intermediate test results reported?	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
14	Were withdrawals from the study explained?	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**

N/A = not applicable

Additional quality items:

1) **Sample size calculation used?**
2) **Was the method of measuring radiation dose appropriate for both the intervention and comparator technologies?**
3) **Was the method of measuring image quality appropriate for both the intervention and comparator technologies?**
4) **Was the execution of the intervention technology as it would be in practice?**
5) **Was the execution of the comparator technology as it would be in practice?**
6) **Any other comments**

Kalifa et al. 1998:

1) Yes; but no details were reported. The authors intended to recruit 150 participants; only 140 participants were included in analysis.
2) Yes; basic, but appropriate.
3) Unclear. Appropriate criteria used, however, it is not clear if results were reported for 'agreed results' or if seen by one reader. Not stated how results were categorised as 'good' or 'poor' – cut-off not defined.
4) No; the apparatus used for the paper appears to be a 'bespoke' unit (the 'Charpak system'), but appears to be similar in many ways to EOS. In addition, digital images were viewed on radiographic laser film, rather than on the screen, which is not as it would be in practice.
5) Yes.
6) Contradiction in text: 'All images were analysed separately by two senior radiologists… All discordant results between independent viewers were further reviewed to achieve a consensus verdict.' Page 558. 'Comparison between the two systems was made on the frequency with which each radiologist perceived the information as 'available' or 'not available'. There was no attempt to obtain consensus between readers.' Page 559.

Le Bras et al.:

1) Not reported.
2) Yes.
3) Yes.
4) Yes.
5) Yes.
6) Lots of withdrawals from the analysis: of 62 PA images obtained only 44 were assessed for image quality, 59 for radiation dose using ESAK and 46 for radiation dose using ESD; of 57 LAT images obtained only 41 were assessed for image quality, 52 for radiation dose using ESAK and 36 for radiation dose using ESD.

Deschenes et al. 2010:

1) Not reported.
2) Yes; basic, but appropriate.
3) Yes.
4) Yes.
5) Yes.

Appendix 4.1 Table of excluded studies with rationale - Systematic review of the clinical effectiveness of EOS

Study details	Reason for exclusion
[70]	Not controlled study
[71]	Not conventional X-ray control
[72]	Not controlled study
[73]	Not controlled study
[74]	Not controlled study
Alison (2009)[75]	Not controlled study
Assi (2007)[76]	Not conventional X-ray control
Aubin (1997)[77]	Not EOS
Azmy (2010)[78]	Not orthopaedic patients
Barthe (2004)[79]	Not orthopaedic patients
Baru (1998)[80]	Not EOS
Benameur (2005)[81]	Not EOS
Benameur (2005)[82]	Not conventional X-ray control
Benameur (2001)[83]	Not conventional X-ray control
Benameur (2003)[84]	Not conventional X-ray control
Bertrand (2005)[85]	Not orthopaedic patients
Bertrand (2008)[86]	Not orthopaedic patients
Billuart (2008)[87]	Not orthopaedic patients
Breton (2010)[88]	Not orthopaedic patients
Chaibi (2010)[89]	Not conventional X-ray control
Chaibi (2010)[90]	Not conventional X-ray control
Charpak (2005)[91]	Not controlled study
Chateil (2005)[92]	Not controlled study
Cheriet (2007)[93]	Not EOS
Comite d'Evaluation et de Diffusion des Innovations Technologiques (1996)[94]	Not controlled study
Comite d'Evaluation et de Diffusion des Innovations Technologiques (2007)[48]	Not controlled study
Cresson (2010)[95]	Not orthopaedic patients
Cresson (2009)[96]	Not conventional X-ray control
de la Simone (2010)[97]	Not controlled study
Deschênes[98]	Not controlled study
Deschênes (2009)[99]	Duplicate publication (abstract for included study)
Deschênes (2003)[100]	Not conventional X-ray control
Depres (2005)[101]	Not conventional X-ray control
Douglas (2008)[102]	Not EOS
Douglas (2004)[103]	Not EOS
Dubousset[104]	Not conventional X-ray control
Dubousset (2005)[105]	Not controlled study
Dubousset (2005)[106]	Not controlled study
Dubousset (2008)[107]	Not controlled study
Dubousset (2010)[108]	Not controlled study
Dubousset (2007)[109]	Not controlled study
Dumas (2008)[110]	Not EOS
Dumas (2004)[111]	Not orthopaedic patients
Dumas (2003)[112]	Not EOS

Dumas (2002)[113]	Not conventional X-ray control
Dumas (2003)[114]	Not conventional X-ray control
Dumas (2005)[115]	Not orthopaedic patients
Gangnet (2006)[116]	Not orthopaedic patients
Gangnet (2003)[117]	Not EOS
Gille (2007)[118]	Not EOS
Glard (2008)[119]	Not EOS
Glard (2009)[120]	Not EOS
Guenoun (2010)[121]	Not conventional X-ray control
Hascall (2002)[122]	Not EOS
Humbert (2008)[123]	Not orthopaedic patients
Humbert (2009)[124]	Not conventional X-ray control
Humbert (2008)[125]	Not conventional X-ray control
Illes[126]	Not controlled study
Illes[127]	Not conventional X-ray control
Illes (2010)[128]	Not conventional X-ray control
Janssen (2009)[129]	Not orthopaedic patients
Jolivet (2010)[130]	Not conventional X-ray control
Journe (2010)[131]	Not orthopaedic patients
Kadoury (2008)[132]	Not EOS
Kadoury (2009)[133]	Not EOS
Kalifa (1996)[134]	Not controlled study
Lafage (2002)[135]	Not EOS
Laporte (2004)[136]	Not EOS
Laporte (2002)[137]	Not EOS
Laville (2009)[138]	Not orthopaedic patients
Lazennec[139]	Not conventional X-ray control
Le Bras (2003)[140]	Not orthopaedic patients
Le Bras (2004)[141]	Not orthopaedic patients
Le Bras (2002)[142]	Not orthopaedic patients
Le Bras (2003)[143]	Not orthopaedic patients
Mitton (2007)[1]	Not orthopaedic patients
Mitton (2006)[144]	Not orthopaedic patients
Mitton (2000)[145]	Not EOS
Mitulescu (2002)[146]	Not EOS
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence[2]	Not controlled study
Ngoc Hoan (1979)[147]	Not EOS
Node-Langlois (2003)[148]	Not EOS
Novosad (2002)[149]	Not EOS
Obeid[150]	Not conventional X-ray control
Ohl (2010)[151]	Not orthopaedic patients
Pomero (2003)[152]	Not conventional X-ray control
Pomero (2004)[153]	Not conventional X-ray control
Rillardon (2005)[154]	Not conventional X-ray control
Rousseau (2007)[155]	Not orthopaedic patients
Sabourin (2010)[156]	Not conventional X-ray control
Sandoz (2008)[157]	Not orthopaedic patients
Sapin de Brosses (2010)[158]	Not orthopaedic patients
Sapin (2008)[159]	Not conventional X-ray control
Sapin (2007)[160]	Not orthopaedic patients

Sato (2004)[161]	Not EOS
Sauli (1995)[162]	Not controlled study
Schlatterer (2009)[163]	Not conventional X-ray control
Sebag[164]	Not controlled study
Situ (2009)[165]	Not EOS
Steffen (2008)[166]	Not conventional X-ray control
Steffen (2010)[167]	Not conventional X-ray control
Sudhoff (2007)[168]	Not conventional X-ray control
Sushkov (2008)[169]	Not EOS
Vital (2008)[170]	Not controlled study
Wahrburg (2000)[171]	Not EOS
Zheng (2006)[172]	Not orthopaedic patients
Zheng (2008)[173]	Not orthopaedic patients

Appendix 4.2 Table of excluded studies with rationale - Systematic review of the adverse effects of diagnostic radiation for patients with orthopaedic conditions

Study details	Reason for exclusion
Aguilar Naranjo (1987)[174]	Not a study or systematic review
Anasti (1998)[175]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Ashley (2005)[176]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Atkinson (2009)[177]	Not a study or systematic review
Bailey (2010)[178]	Not orthopaedic patients
Baker (2006)[179]	Not a study or systematic review
Barcellos-Hoff (2009)[180]	Not orthopaedic patients
Berrington de Gonzalez (2004)[181]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Berrington de Gonzalez (2009)[182]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Berrington de Gonzalez (2010)[183]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Bone (2000)[184]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Brenner (2001)[185]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Brenner (2004)[186]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Butler (1986)[187]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Campbell (1972)[188]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Chawla (2010)[189]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Chew (1991)[190]	Case study
Colditz (1997)[191]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Committee to Assess Health Risks from Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation (2006)[18]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Cozen (1999)[192]	Not a study or systematic review
De Smet (1981)[193]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Don (2004)[194]	Not a study or systematic review
Don (2004)[195]	Not a study or systematic review
Dreyer (1982)[196]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Dutkowsky (1990)[197]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Einstein (2007)[198]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Friedler (1996)[199]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Frik (1972)[200]	Not a study or systematic review
Gerber (2010)[201]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Goss (1998)[202]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Hallen (1992)[203]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Hart (2002)[204]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Hart (2002)[205]	Not an assessment of adverse effects

Hart (2004)[206]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Hart (2007)[53]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Hart (2009)[207]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Hendry (1989)[208]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Hrabovszky (1964)[209]	Not a study or systematic review
Hughes (2005)[210]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Huncharek (2002)[211]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Huppmann (2010)[212]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Infante-Rivard (2000)[213]	Not orthopaedic patients
Jansen-van der Weide (2010)[214]	Not orthopaedic patients
Kelsey (1979)[215]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Kline (1998)[216]	Not a study or systematic review
Kratzsch (1972)[217]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Leone (2010)[218]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Levy (1994)[219]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Levy (1996)[220]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
LiVolsi (1978)[221]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Mahmoud (2007)[222]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Mills (2006)[223]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Muirhead (1991)[224]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Muirhead (1991)[225]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Nash (1979)[226]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Neta (2000)[227]	Not a study or systematic review
Nussbaum (1994)[228]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Pape (1963)[229]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Preston (2004)[230]	Not a study or systematic review
Rao (1984)[231]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Rice (2007)[232]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Richter (1979)[233]	Not an assessment of adverse effects
Rohrer (2010)[234]	Not orthopaedic patients
Ron (2003)[235]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Ronckers (2005)[236]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Royal (2008)[237]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Sadetzki (2009)[238]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Samet (1997)[239]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Sankaranarayanan (1995)[240]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Schulze-Rath (2008)[42]	Systematic review of pre/post-natal diagnostic X-ray, not primarily orthopaedic patients

Semelka (2007)[241]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Singletary (2003)[242]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Smith (2007)[243]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Smith-Bindman (2009)[244]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Soffer (1990)[245]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Solheim (1967)[246]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Stein (2008)[247]	Not medical diagnostic radiation
Theocharopoulos (2009)[248]	Review primarily based on data from atomic bomb survivors or radiation therapy, not diagnostic radiation
Woods (1987)[249]	Not a study or systematic review

Appendix 5 Number of Episodes and number of patients per ICD-10 code during 2008/09

Indication per 4-digit ICD-10 code	Episodes	Patients
M41.0 Infantile idiopathic scoliosis	270	150
M41.1 Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis	803	564
M41.2 Other idiopathic scoliosis	265	195
M41.3 Thoracogenic scoliosis	26	19
M41.5 Other secondary scoliosis	96	69
M41.8 Other forms of scoliosis	192	149
M41.9 Scoliosis, unspecified	2,308	1,667
M42.0 Juvenile osteochondrosis of spine	52	42
M42.1 Adult osteochondrosis of spine	6	6
M42.9 Spinal osteochondrosis, unspecified	21	15
M43.0 Spondylolysis	499	431
M43.1 Spondylolisthesis	4,674	3,885
M43.2 Other fusion of spine	82	77
M43.3 Recurrent atlantoaxial subluxation with myelopathy	17	13
M43.4 Other recurrent atlantoaxial subluxation	32	24
M43.5 Other recurrent vertebral subluxation	25	23
M43.8 Other specified deforming dorsopathies	60	51
M43.9 Deforming dorsopathies, unspecified	66	44
M45. Ankylosing spondylitis (between 35 and 65 years old)	3,445	1,109
Q65.0 Congenital dislocation of hip, unilateral	1,079	681
Q65.1 Congenital dislocation of hip, bilateral	437	253
Q65.2 Congenital dislocation of hip, unspecified	182	137
Q65.3 Congenital subluxation of hip, unilateral	136	98
Q65.4 Congenital subluxation of hip, bilateral	55	38
Q65.5 Congenital subluxation of hip, unspecified	39	28
Q65.6 Unstable hip	183	172
Q65.8 Other congenital deformities of hip	1,842	1,423
Q65.9 Congenital deformity of hip, unspecified	116	100
Q67.5 Congenital deformity of spine	170	116
Q68.2 Congenital deformity of knee	65	53
Q68.3 Congenital bowing of femur	1	1
Q68.4 Congenital bowing of tibia and fibula	17	13
Q68.5 Congenital bowing of long bones of leg, unspecified	9	8
Q68.8 Other specified congenital musculoskeletal deformities	209	184
Q72.0 Congenital complete absence of lower limb(s)	2	2
Q72.1 Congenital absence of thigh and lower leg with foot present	2	2
Q72.2Congenital absence of both lower leg and foot	1	1
Q72.3 Congenital absence of foot and toe(s)	8	8
Q72.4 Longitudinal reduction defect of femur	46	37
Q72.5 Longitudinal reduction defect of tibia	9	8
Q72.6 Longitudinal reduction defect of fibula	17	12
Q72.7 Split foot	1	1
Q72.8 Other reduction defects of lower limb(s)	124	94
Q72.9 Reduction defect of lower limb, unspecified	47	43
Q74.1 Congenital malformation of knee	129	127
Q74.2 Other cong malformation of lower limb(s) incl pelvic girdle	363	342

Q74.3 Arthrogryposis multiplex congenita	79	45
Q74.8 Other specified congenital malformations of limb(s)	69	57
Q74.9 Unspecified congenital malformation of limb(s)	16	15
Q76.2 Congenital spondylolisthesis	16	15
Q77.1 Thanatophoric short stature	2	2
Q77.2 Short rib syndrome	2	2
Q77.3 Chondrodysplasia punctata	44	31
Q77.4 Achondroplasia	126	86
Q77.5 Dystrophic dysplasia	2	2
Q77.6 Chondroectodermal dysplasia	1	1
Q77.7 Spondyloepiphyseal dysplasia	39	23
Q77.8 Oth osteochondrodysplas with defect growth tub bone spine	25	10
Q78.1 Polyostotic fibrous dysplasia	87	50
Q78.3 Progressive diaphyseal dysplasia	5	5
Q78.5 Metaphyseal dysplasia	11	8
Q78.8 Other specified osteochondrodysplasias	127	99
Q78.9 Osteochondrodysplasia, unspecified	19	12
Q76.3 Congenital scoliosis due to congenital bony malformation	153	104
Q76.4 Other congenital malformations of spine, not associated with scoliosis	167	142

Appendix 6 Number of outpatients appointments per ICD-10 code during 2008/09

Indication per 4-digit ICD-10 code		Outpatient appointments
R69.X	Unknown and unspecified causes of morbidity	58,768,712
M40.0	Postural kyphosis	3
M40.2	Other and unspecified kyphosis	16
M40.5	Lordosis, unspecified	4
M41.1	Juvenile idiopathic scoliosis	1
M41.2	Other idiopathic scoliosis	5
M41.4	Neuromuscular scoliosis	0
M41.9	Scoliosis, unspecified	67
M42.0	Juvenile osteochondrosis of spine	4
M42.9	Spinal osteochondrosis, unspecified	3
M43.0	Spondylolysis	6
M43.1	Spondylolisthesis	10
M43.2	Other fusion of spine	5
M43.8	Other specified deforming dorsopathies	1
M43.9	Deforming dorsopathy, unspecified	4
M45.X	Ankylosing spondylitis	1,338
Q65.2	Congenital dislocation of hip, unspecified	1
Q65.6	Unstable hip	1
Q65.8	Other congenital deformities of hip	34
Q67.3	Plagiocephaly	3
Q67.5	Congenital deformity of spine	5
Q67.6	Pectus excavatum	2
Q68.0	Congenital deformity of sternocleidomastoid muscle	1
Q68.2	Congenital deformity of knee	18
Q68.8	Other specified congenital musculoskeletal deformities	2
Q74.0	Oth cong malformation of upper limb(s) inc shoulder girdle	9
Q74.1	Congenital malformation of knee	5
Q74.8	Other specified congenital malformations of limb(s)	1
Q75.9	Congenital malformation of skull and face bones, unspecified	1
Q76.1	Klippel-Feil syndrome	4
Q76.4	Oth cong malformation of spine not associated with scoliosis	2
Q76.5	Cervical rib	9
Q76.6	Other congenital malformations of ribs	1
Q77.3	Chondrodysplasia punctata	2
Q77.4	Achondroplasia	1
Q78.0	Osteogenesis imperfecta	20
Q78.1	Polyostotic fibrous dysplasia	3
Q78.4	Enchondromatosis	1
Q78.8	Other specified osteochondrodysplasias	2
Q85.0	Neurofibromatosis (nonmalignant)	87