MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee



MRI Protocols

- Ankle
- Anterior Chest Wall in Arthritis
- Cervical Spine in Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Elbow
- Foot
- Hand and Wrist
- Hip
- Knee
- Sacroiliac Joints
- Shoulder
- Spine in Spondyloarthritis
- Temporomandibular Joint
- Whole Body MRI for Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis

Ankle

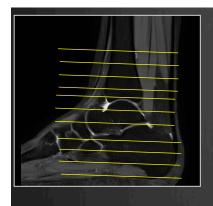
MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee



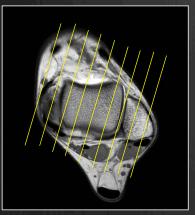
MRI scan

- Patient in supine position with feet first
- Dedicated coil
- Foot close to neutral position, avoiding any plantar or dorsiflexion

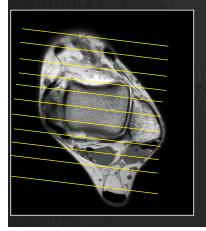
Localizer



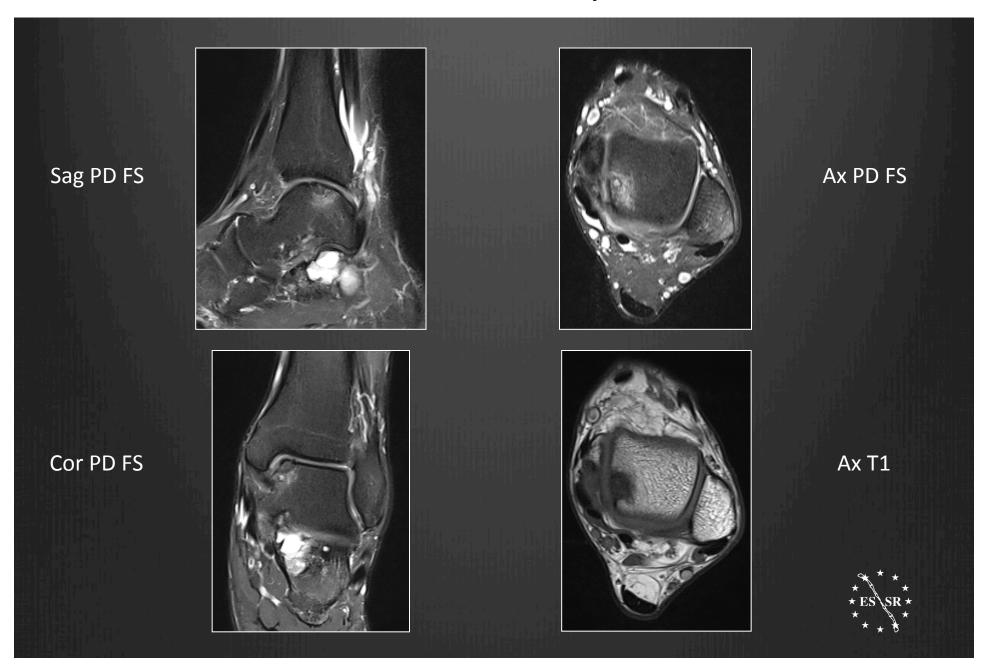
Axial plane: 90° alignement to the tibia



Sagittal plane: 90° alignement to the intermalleolar axis; the skin surrounding the hindfoot has to be included



Coronal plane: aligned to the intermalleolar axis



MRI protocol

Recommended Sequences	FOV (mm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Sag PD FS	180	3	80-100	10-20	320 x 288
Cor PD FS	160	3	80-100	10-20	256x230
Ax PD FS	160	3	80-100	10-20	256x218
Ax T1	160	3	500	20	256x18
CE-Sag T1 FS*	180	3	650-750	18	320x288
CE Ax T1 FS*	160	3	650-750	18	256x218

^{*}if optimal assessment of synovitis/osteitis is needed

Anterior Chest Wall in Arthritis

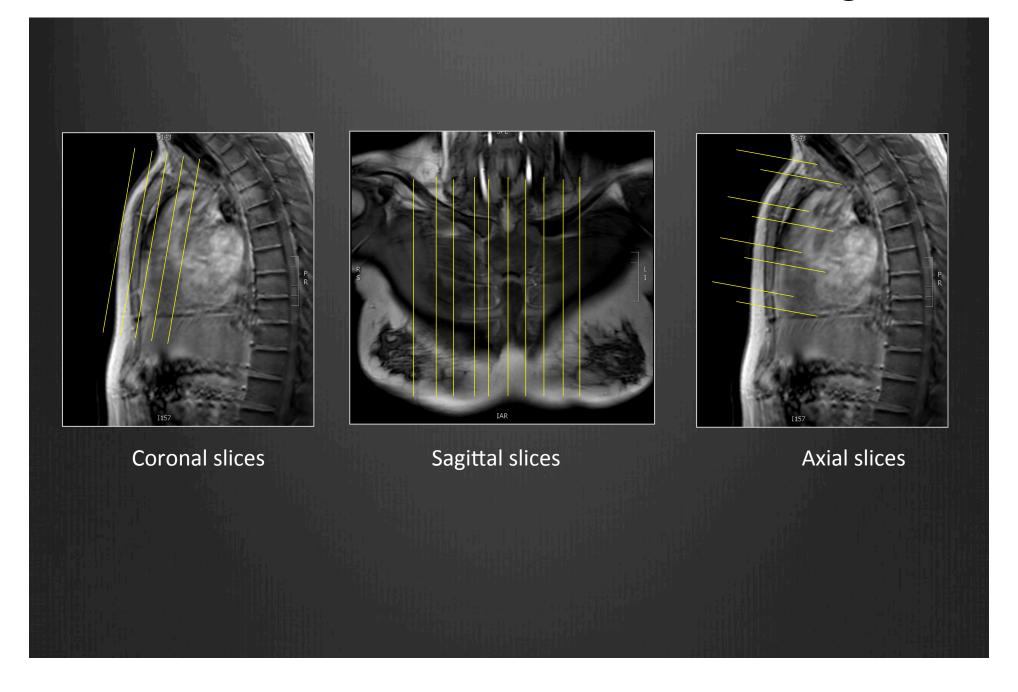
MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee



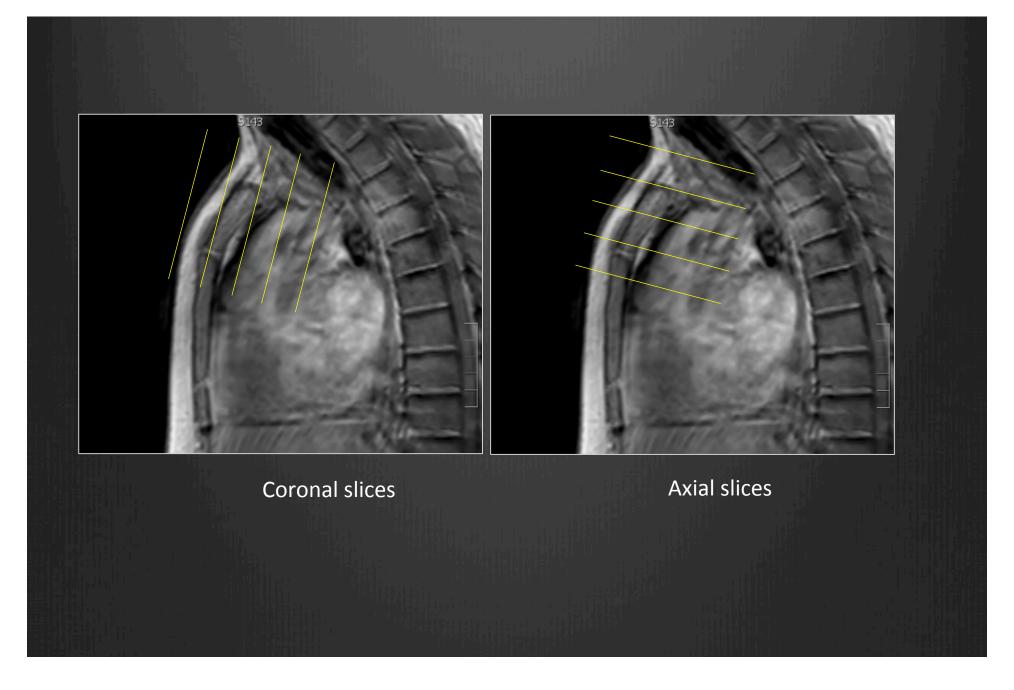
MRI scan

- Patient in prone or supine position
- Surface coil
- Coil size depends on the examined area: whole stenocosto-clavicular region or sterno-clavicular joints

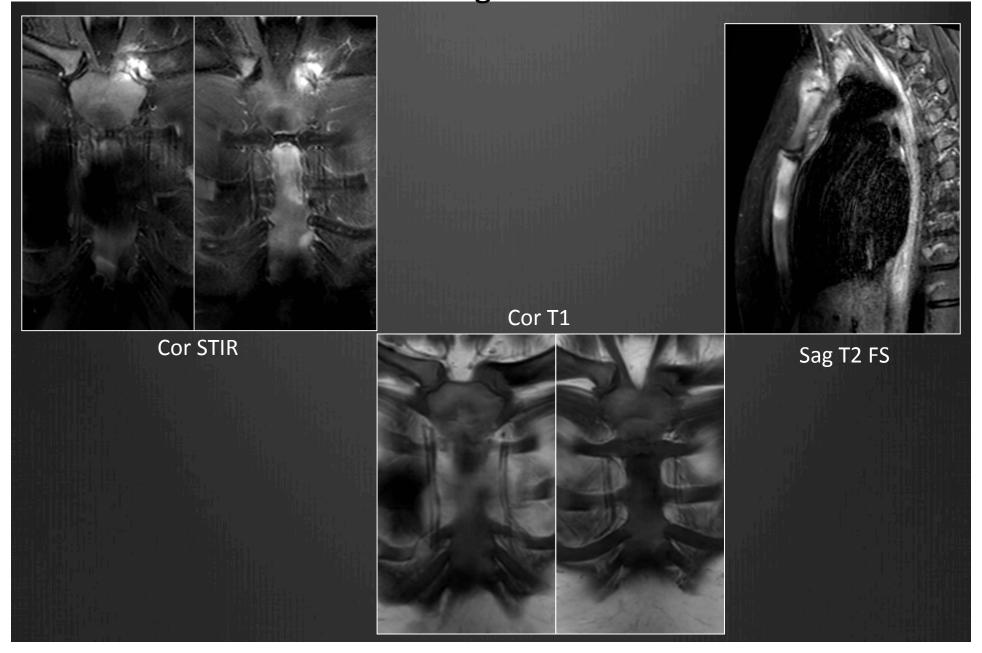
Localizers whole sterno-costo-clavicular region



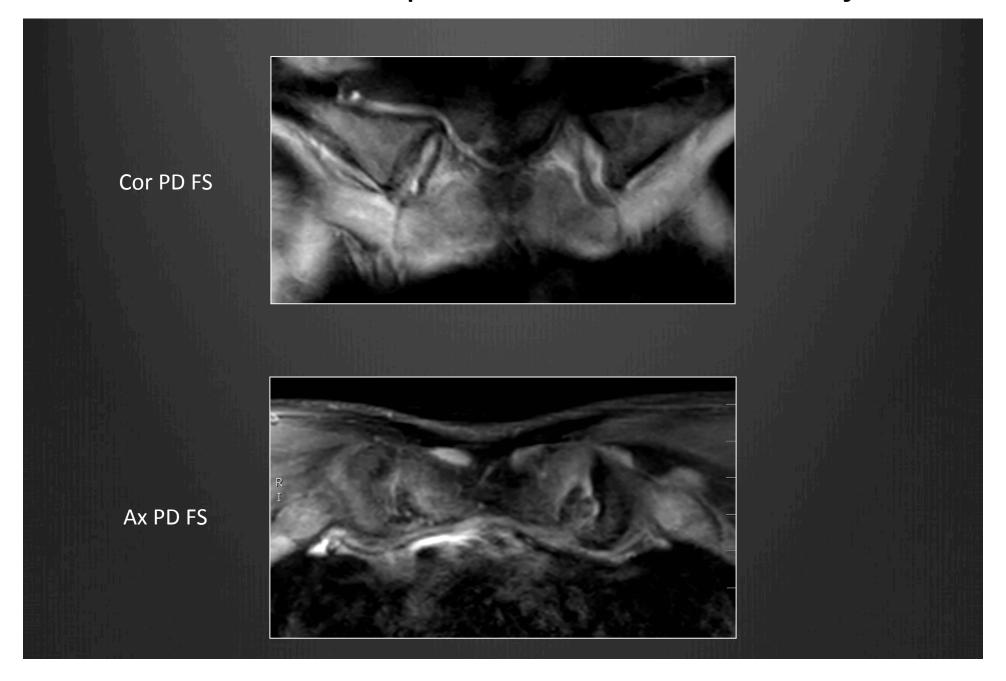
Localizers sterno-clavicular joint



Recommended sequences whole sterno-costo-clavicular region



Recommended sequences sterno-clavicular joint



MRI protocol whole sterno-costo-clavicular region

	FOV (mm)	Slice (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Cor T1	300	3	500-700	10-20	320
Cor STIR	300	3	2200-2600	60-80	320
Sag or Ax T2	300	3	2400-2800	65-85	320

MRI protocol sterno-clavicular joint

	FOV (mm)	Slice (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Cor PD FS	250	3	1900-2100	15-25	400
Ax PD FS	250	3	1900-2100	15-25	400
T1 FS	250	3	500-700	10-20	400
CE T1 FS*	250	3	500-700	10-20	400

*if optimal assessment of synovitis/osteitis is needed

Cervical Spine in Rheumatoid Arthritis

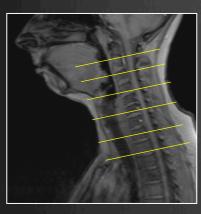
MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee



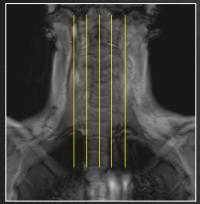
MRI scan

Patient positioning: Head first supine Coils: Head and neck Immobilize the head with cushions

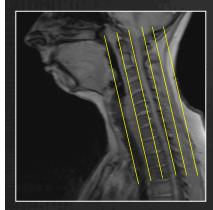
Localizer



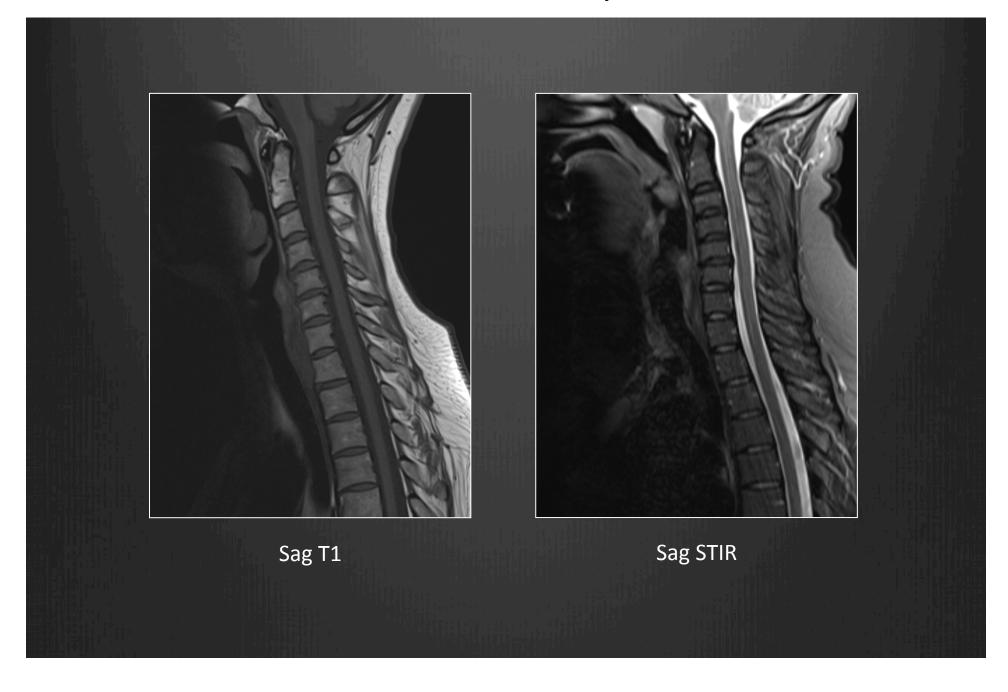
Axial plane: cover the entire cervical spine

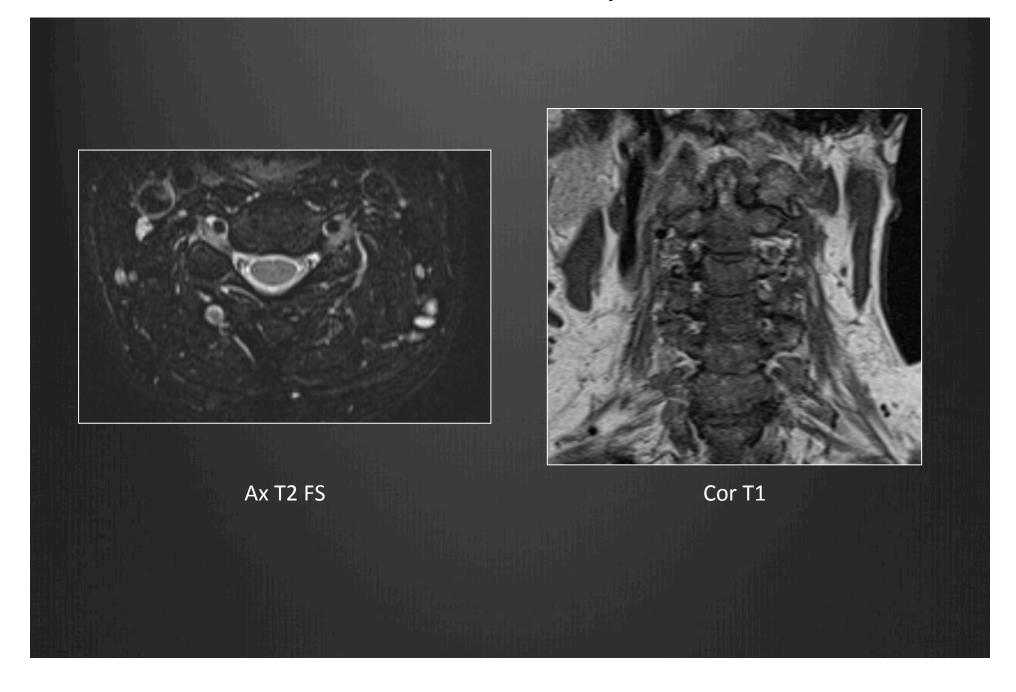


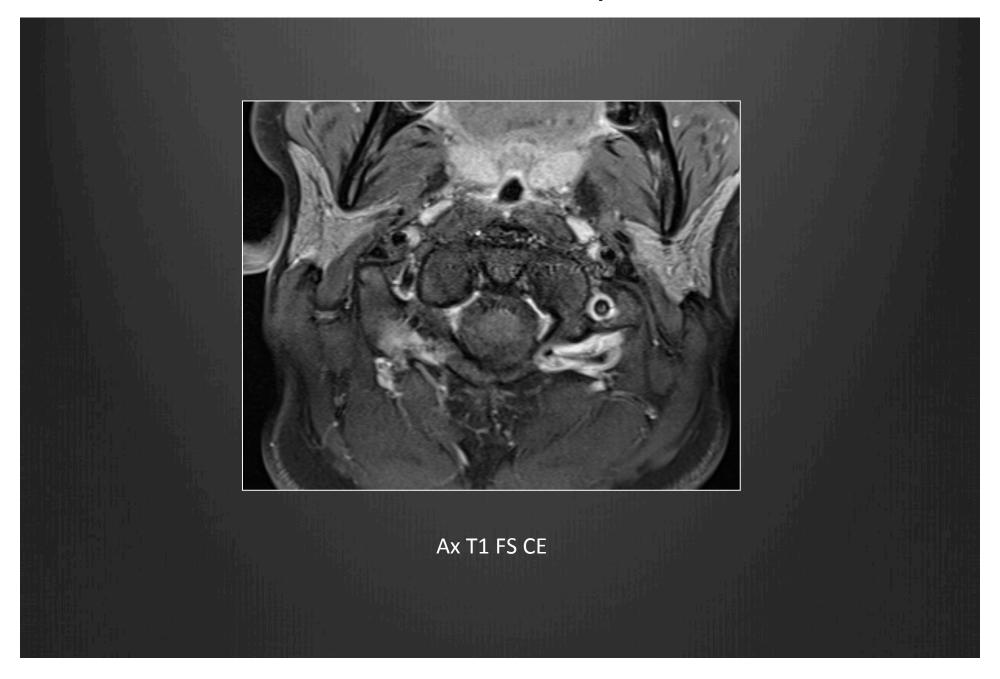
Sagittal plane: from the right to the left transverse process



Coronal plane: cover the entire vertebral column







MRI protocol

Recommended Sequences#	FOV (mm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Sag T1	280	3	4500	92	288x512
Sag STIR	300	3	3500	70	224x320
Ax T1	240	3	649	10	288x384
Ax T2 FS ^a	160	3	568	19	224x320
Sag CE T1 FS*	300	3	600	11	224x320
Ax CE T1 FS*	240	3	700	10	288x384

[#]Coronal T1 in cases with atlantoaxial and/or atlanto-occipital changes suggesting lateral or rotatory subluxation

^aAxial T2 FS of the atlantoaxial, atlanto-occipital and, when needed, subaxial region

^{*}Postcontrast sagittal and axial T1 (FS) for clear delineation of active inflammation

Elbow

MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee

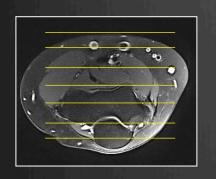


MRI scan

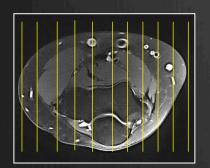
Patient positioning (depends on the habitus and range of motion)

- supine position with flex coil
- •prone (Superman position) with knee or flex coil

Localizer



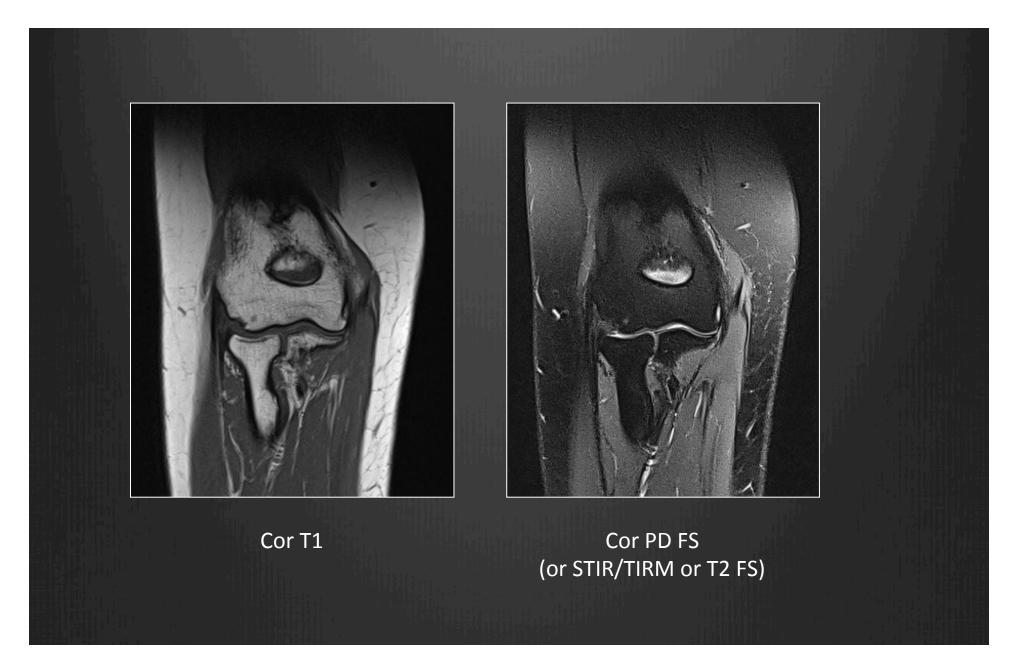
Coronal plane: cover the entire joint from the anterior to the posterior skin surface

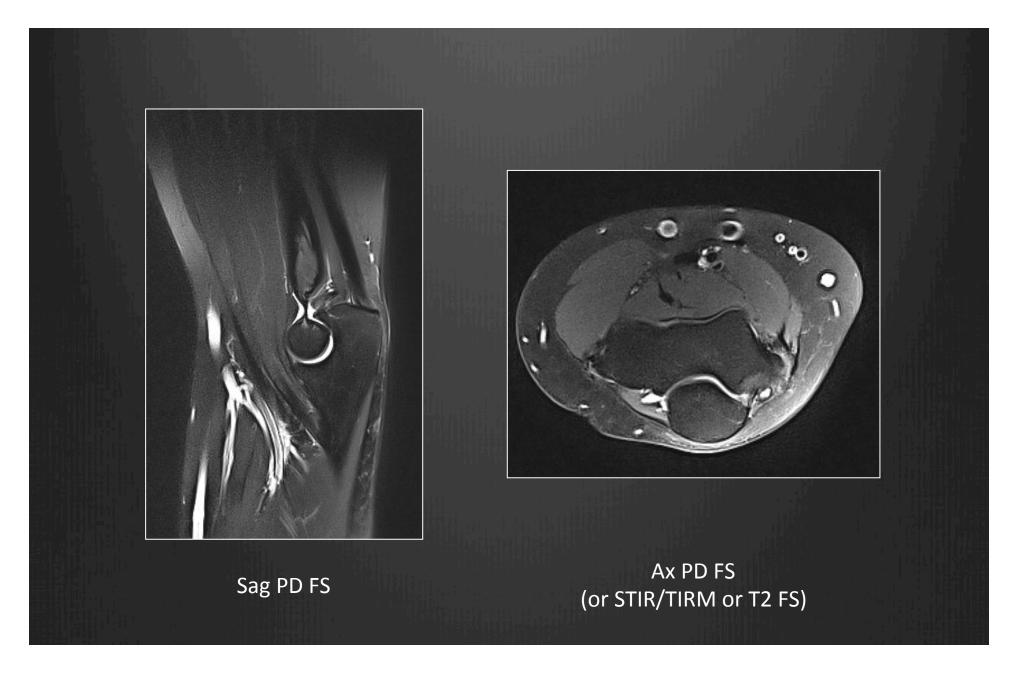


Sagittal plane: cover the entire joint from the medial to the lateral side

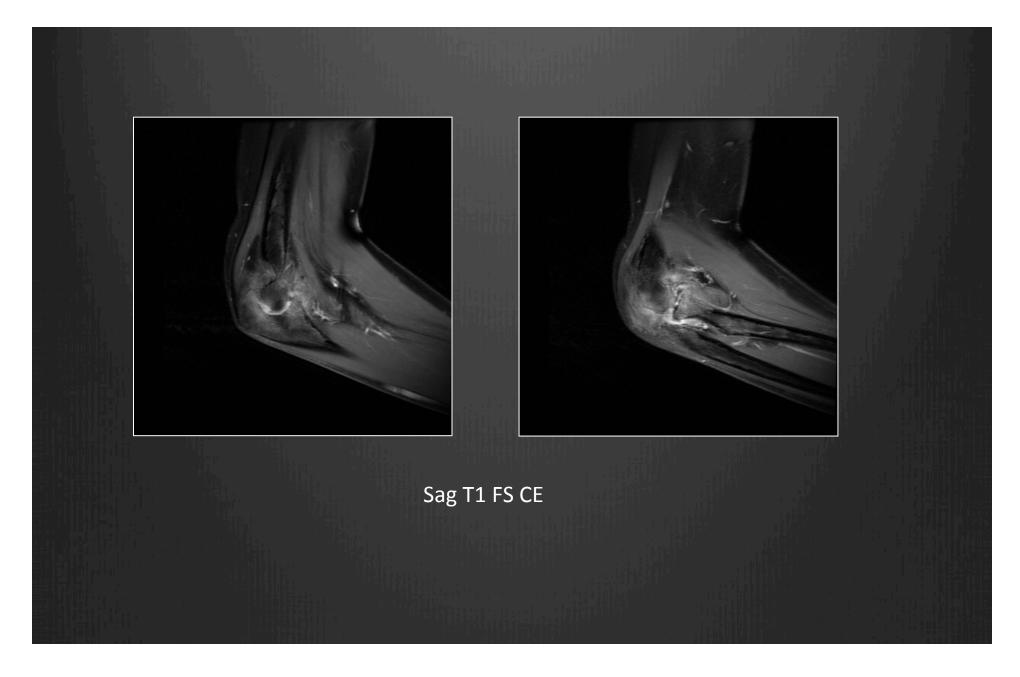


Axial plane: from two slices above the olecranon fossa to two slices below the radial tuberosity





Optional Sequences



MRI protocol

Recommended Sequences ¹	FOV (mm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Cor T1	160x160	2.5	765	11	320x304
Ax PD FS	150x150	3	2200	57	384x384
Sag PD FS	160x160	2.5	4340	72	384x384
Cor PD FS	160x160	2.5	2000	61	384x384
CE T1 FS*	160x160	2.5	400	15	384x384

¹Modified parameters should be applied with T2 FS and STIR/TIRM

*if optimal assessment of synovitis/osteitis is needed

Foot

MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee



MRI scan

Patient in supine position with feet first

Foot in slight (10 degree) plantar flexion

Surface coil

Adequate immobilisation (padding)

Localizer



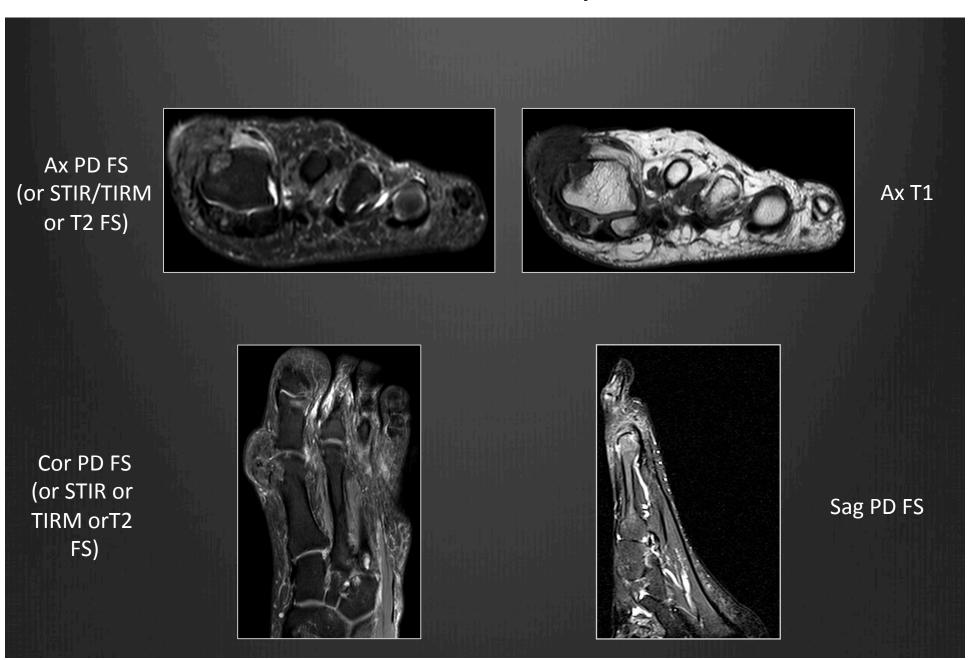
Axial plane: perpendicular to the metatarsal and phalanges bones. Cover the foot from the tip of the toe to the tarsal bones



Coronal plane: parallel to the metatarsal and phalanges bones. Cover the foot from the dorsal to the plantar surface



Sagittal plane: parallel to the metatarsal and phalanges bones. Cover the foot from side to side



MRI protocols

Recommended Sequences	FOV (cm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Sag PD FS	8-10	3	3500	40	288x384
Ax STIR or T2 FS or PD FS	8-10	3	1800	25	192x256
Ax T1	8-10	3	400	15	288x380
Cor T2 FS or STIR or PD FS	8-10	3	3000	110	256x220

Hand and Wrist

MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee



MRI scan

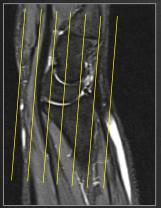
- Patient head first, prone with arm up (e.g., Superman position)
- Wrist/hand at the centre of the bore to ensure field homogeneity
- Coils: dedicated wrist/hand coil
- Immobilisation: tape hand to maintain position



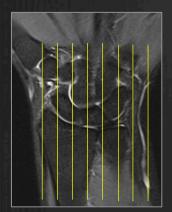
Localizer wrist



Axial plane: from 3-4 cm proximal to the radiocarpal joint to 2 cm distal to the carpometacarpal joint

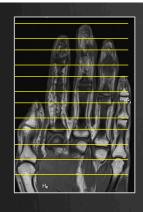


Coronal plane: skin to skin traversing the joint anteriorly to posteriorly to include the same field of view as the axial images



Sagittal plane: skin to skin perpendicular to the coronal

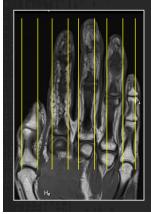
Localizer Hand



Axial plane: from 2 cm proximal to the most proximal joint to 2 cm distally to the most distal joint of interest

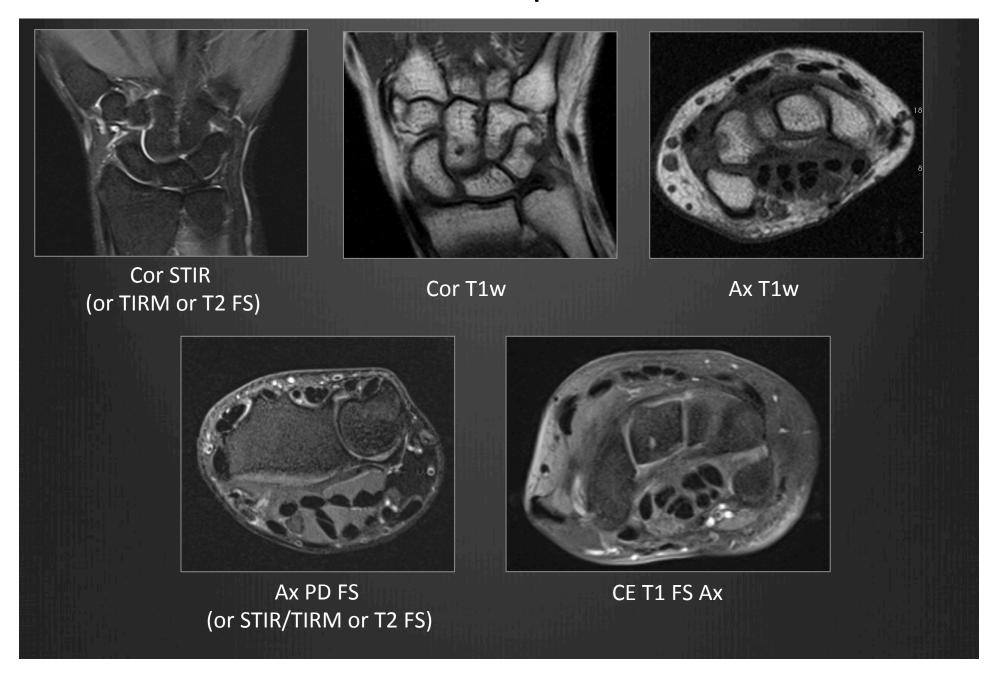


Coronal plane: skin to skin traversing the joint anteriorly to posteriorly to include the same field of view as the axial images

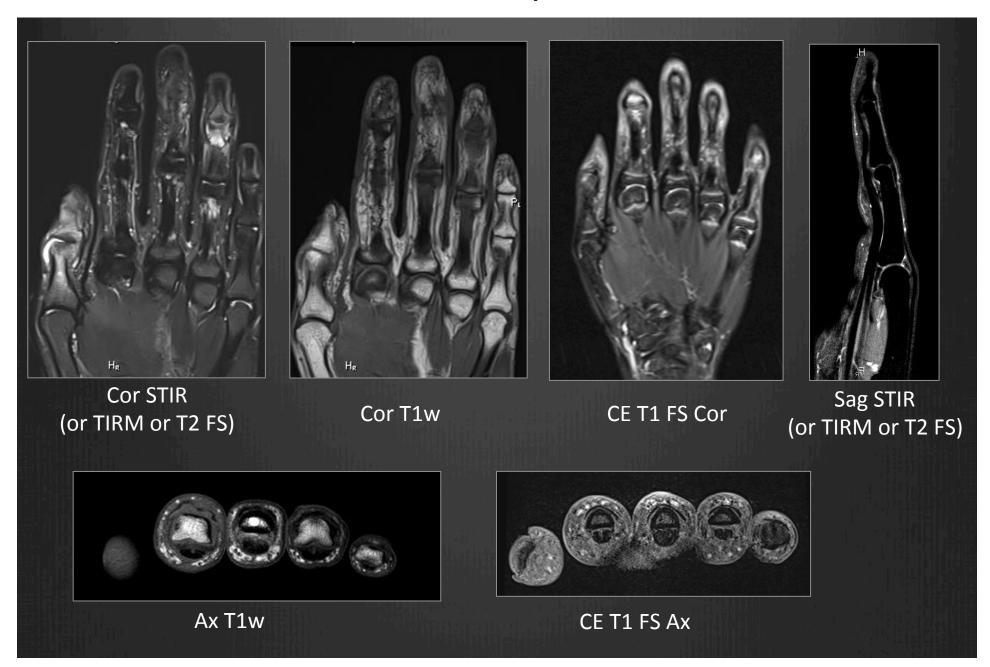


Sagittal plane: skin to skin perpendicular to the coronal plane, to include the same field of view as the axial images

Recommended sequences - Wrist



Recommended sequences - Hand



MRI protocols

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Recommended Sequences	FOV (cm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Cor STIR or T2 FS	8-10	3/3D#	1800	25	320x240
Cor T1	8-10	3/3D#	400	15	320x240
Ax PD FS or STIR or T2FS	8-10	3/3D#	3500	40	320x240/320x450
Ax T1	8-10	3/3D#	400	15	320x240/320x450
Sag PD FS	8-10	3/3D#	3500	40	320x240/320x450
CE T1 FS*	8-10	3/3D#	400	15	320x240/320x450

#3D sequences are performed to allow the evaluation of small (< 3mm) and/or oblique structures

*if optimal assessment of synovitis/osteitis is needed

Hip

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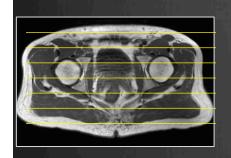


MRI scan

- Patient in supine position with the feet first
- Hips in 15º internal rotation
- Coils: large flexible
- Immobilisation: Tape toes to maintain position



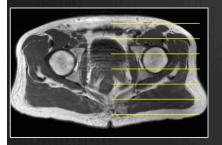
Localizer



Pelvis coronal plane: large FOV (i.e., 30-40 cm) from the sacroiliac joints to the pubic symphysis



Hip axial plane: anterior iliac spine through lesser trochanter

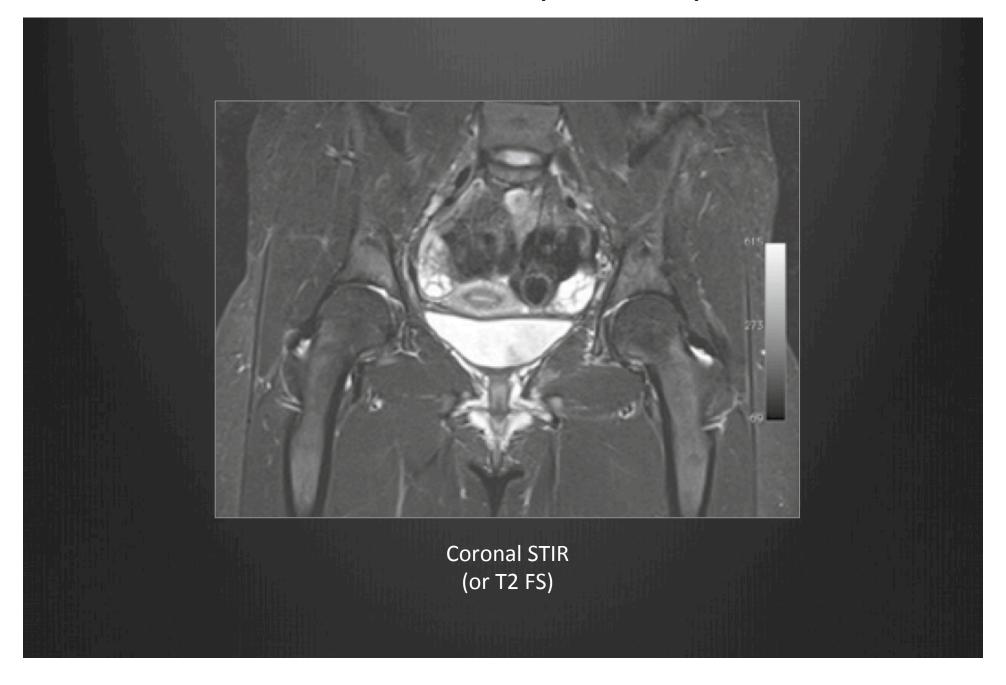


Hip coronal plane: skin to skin traversing anteriorly to posteriorly the acetabular columns to include the entire bony pelvis and tendon insertions

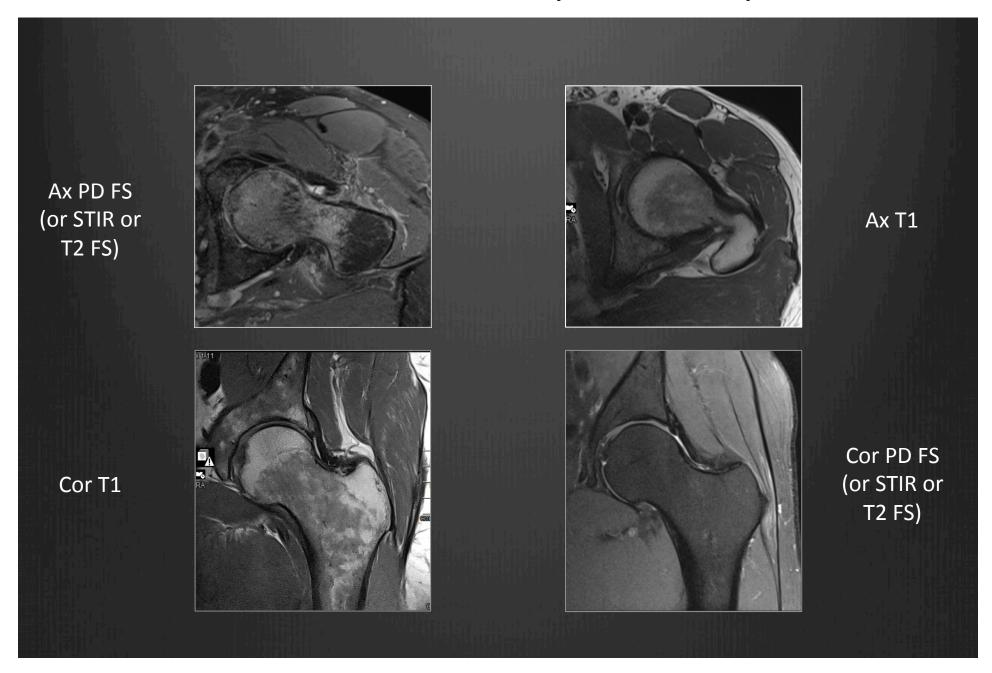


Hip sagittal plane: medial acetabular wall through greater trochanter

Recommended sequences: pelvis



Recommended sequences: Hip



MRI protocol

Recommended Sequences	FOV (mm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Pelvis Cor STIR	300	5/3D	1800	25	320X240
Hip Cor STIR	300	5/3D	1800	25	320X240
Hip Cor T1	300	5/3D	400	15	320X240
Hip Ax PD FS	300	5/3D	2000	15	320X240/384x268
Hip Ax T1	300	5/3D	400	15	320X240/384x268
Hip CE T1 FS*	300	5/3D	400	15	320X240/384x268

^{*}if optimal assessment of synovitis/osteitis is needed

Knee

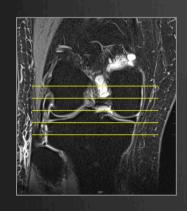
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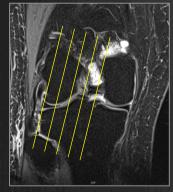
MRI scan

- Patient in supine position with feet first
- Knee coil
- Immobilise the knee with cushions
- Three-plane localizer

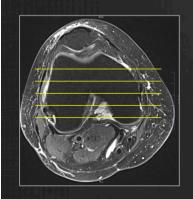
Localizers



Axial plane: parallel to the knee joint line

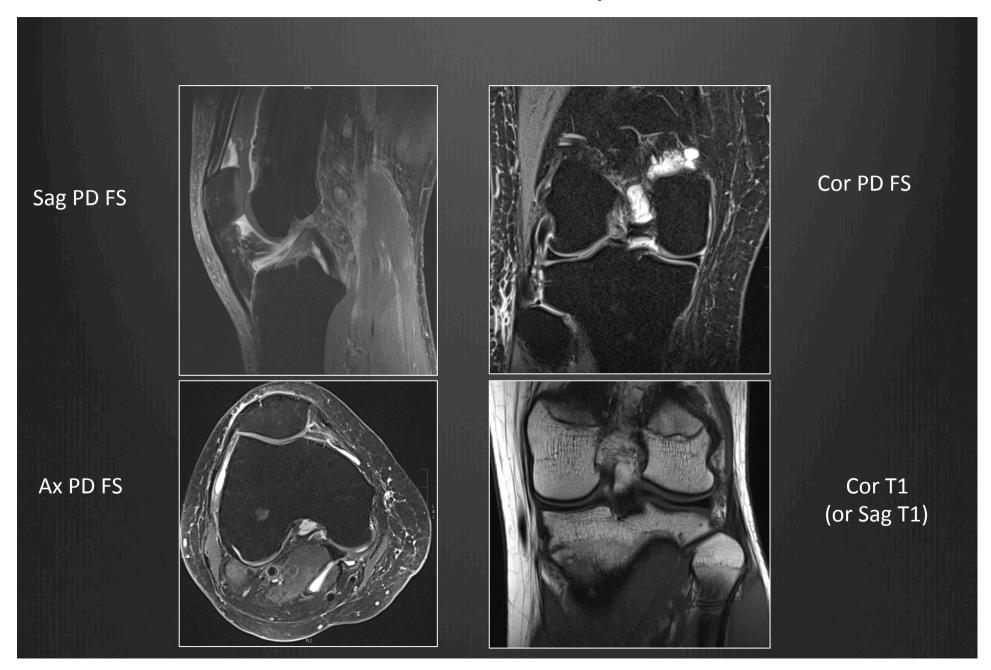


Sagittal plane: parallel to the medial facet of lateral condyle



Coronal plane: parallel to posterior facets of the femoral condyles

Recommended Sequences



Recommended Sequences



MRI protocol

Recommended Sequences	FOV (mm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Sag PD FS	160	3	3570	39	288x384
Cor PD FS	160	3	3570	39	288x384
Ax PD FS	160	3	3570	39	288x384
Cor T1 (or Sag T1)	180	3	470	13	358x512
CE T1 FS*	180	3	470	13	358x512

*if optimal assessment of synovitis/osteitis is needed

Shoulder

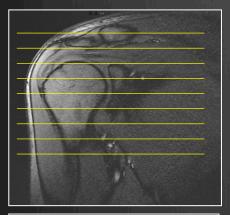
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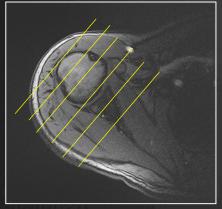
MRI scan

- Patient in supine position
- Shoulder coil
- The arm alongside and parallel to the body in neutral to slight external rotation
- Coronal oblique images parallel to the supraspinatus tendon
- Glenohumeral and acromioclavicular joints are included

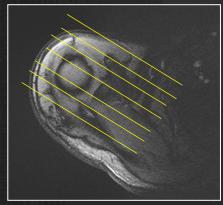
Localizer



Axial plane: from the acromioclavicular joint to two slices below the inferior glenohumeral ligament

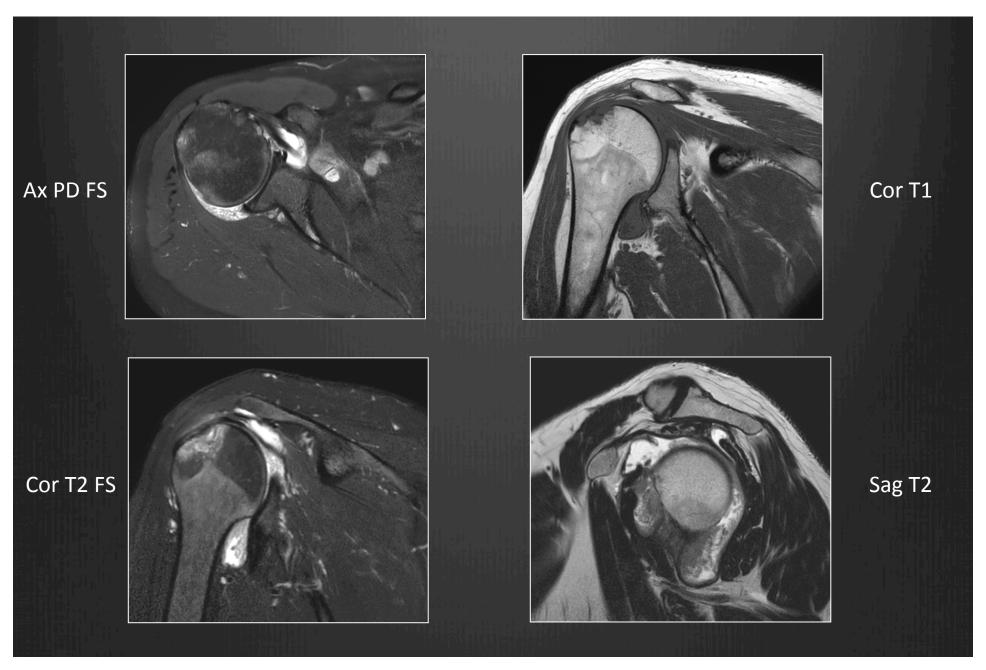


Sagittal plane: from the deltoid muscle to two slices medial to the glenoid

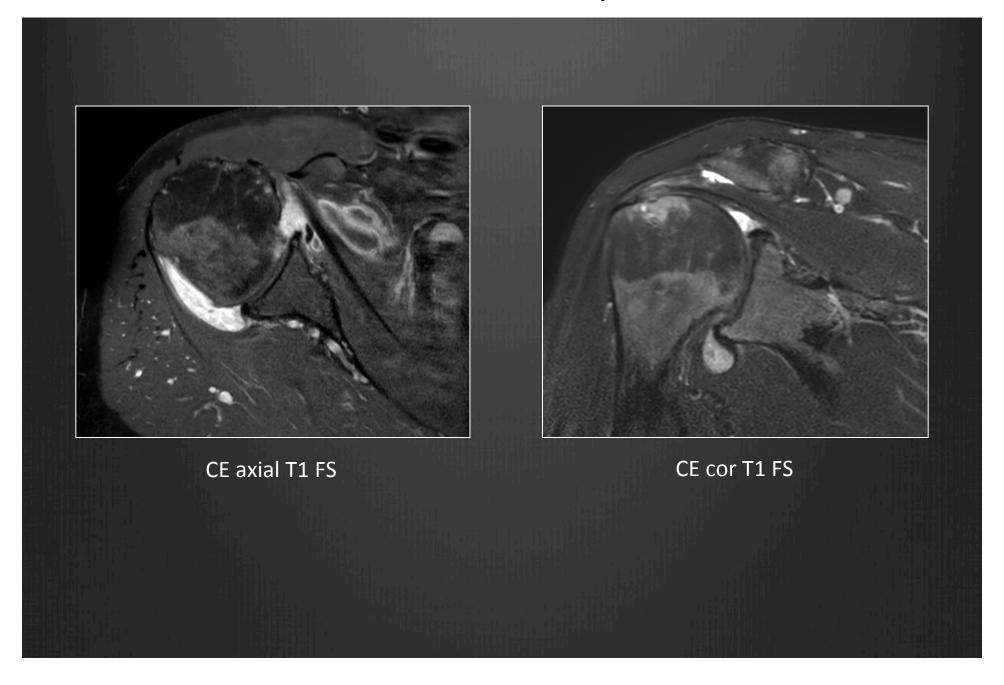


Coronal plane: from the anterior margin of the coracoid process to two slices posterior to the humeral head

Recommended sequences



Recommended sequences



MRI protocol

	FOV (mm)	Slice (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Ax PD FS	180	3	2500-5000	10-30	300 x 250
Cor T1	180	3	450-650	10-20	300 x 250
Cor T2 FS	180	3	3000-5000	60-100	300 x 250
Sag T2	180	3	3000-5000	60-100	300 x 250
CE T1 FS*	180	3	450-650	10-20	300 x 250
Cor PD (optional)	180	3	3000	30	300 x 250

^{*}if optimal assessment of synovitis/osteitis is needed

Sacroiliac Joints

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MRI scan

Patient in supine position with the feet first Spine coil or body phased array coil

Localizer



Oblique coronal plane: parallel to the long axis of the sacrum - tangent to the posterior surface of S2

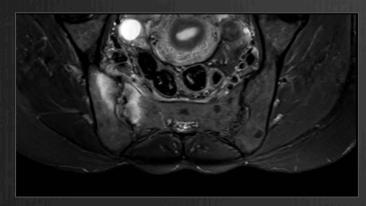


Oblique axial plane: perpendicular to the coronal orientation

Recommended sequences



Obl cor T1



Obl axial STIR

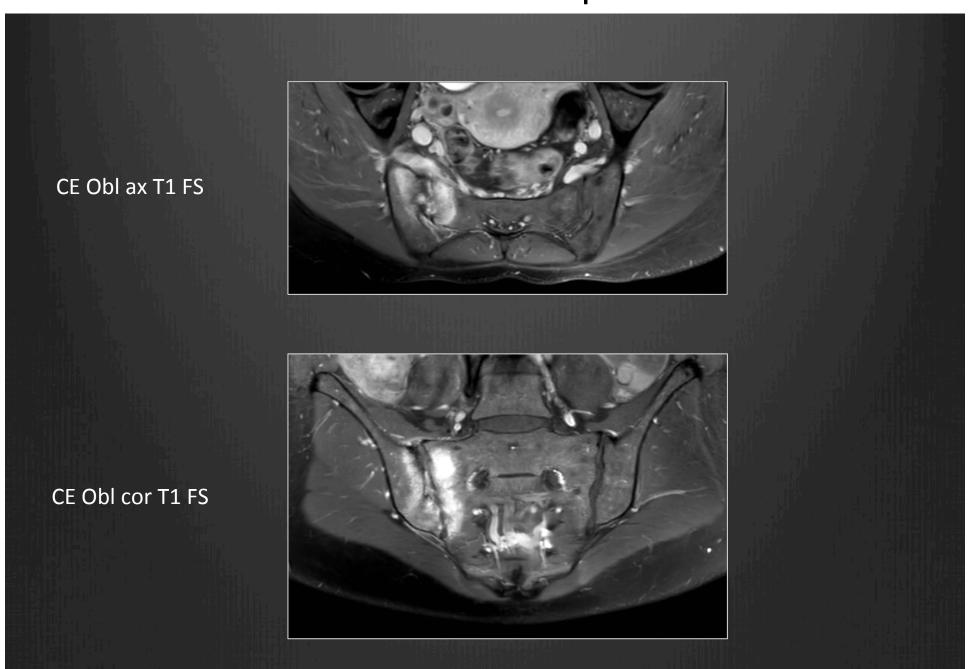


Obl cor T1FS



Obl cor T2 FS or STIR or TIRM or PD FS

Recommended sequences



MRI protocols

Recommended Sequences	FOV (cm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
Obl cor T1	24-30	3 (max 4)	400-700	8-20	>350
Obl cor T1 FS	24-30	3 (max 4)	400-700	8-20	>350
Obl cor T2 fat sat	24-30	3 (max 4)	4000-6000	60-90	>350
Obl cor STIR	24-30	3 (max 4)	3000-6000	60-90	>350
Obl axial STIR	20-25	3 (max 4)	3000-6000	60-90	>350
CE Obl cor T1 FS	24-30	3 (max 4)	400-700	8-20	>350
CE Obl axial T1FS	20-25	3 (max 4)	400-700	8-20	>350

Spine in Spondyloarthritis

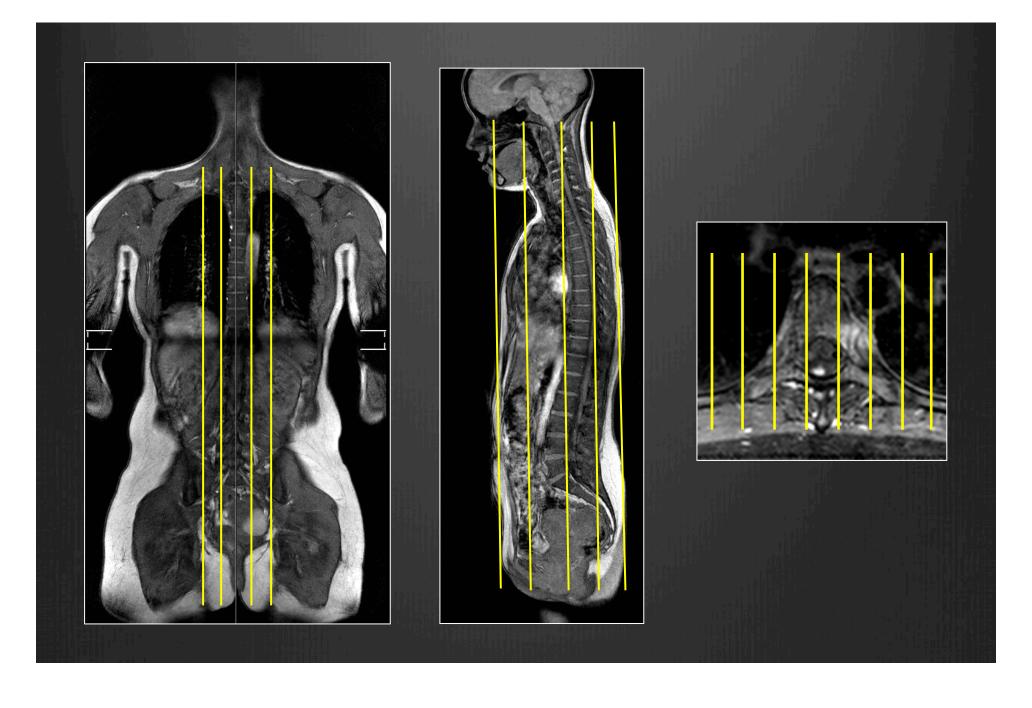
MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee



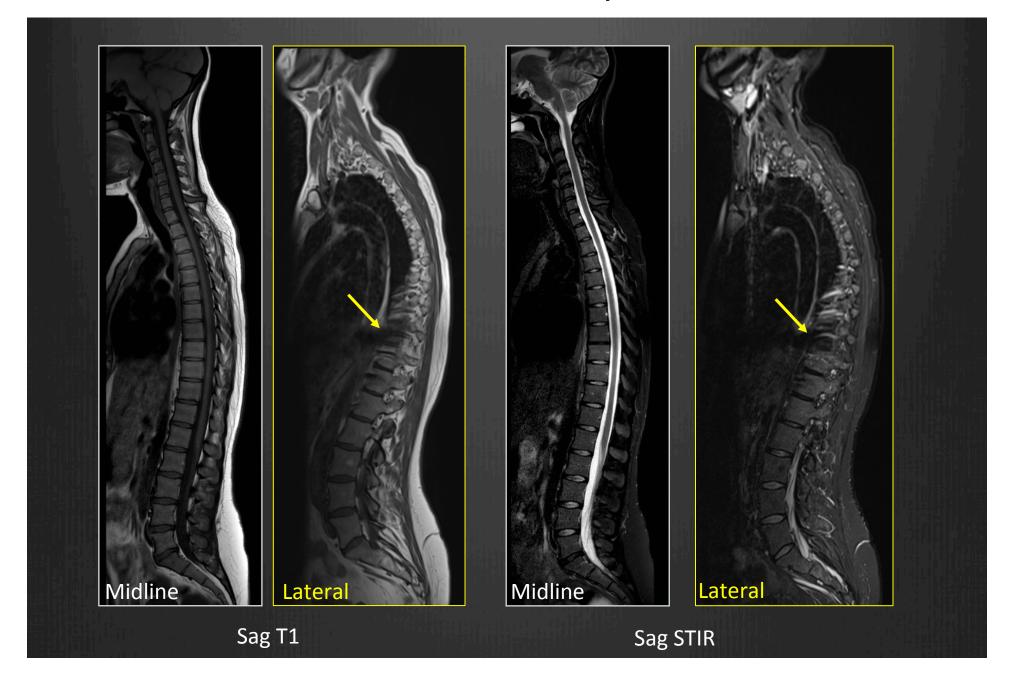
MRI scan

- Patient in supine position
- Spine coil
- Two plane localizer
 - Frontal
 - Sagittal
- Lumbar and thoracic spine are mandatory, preferably the whole spine should be examined

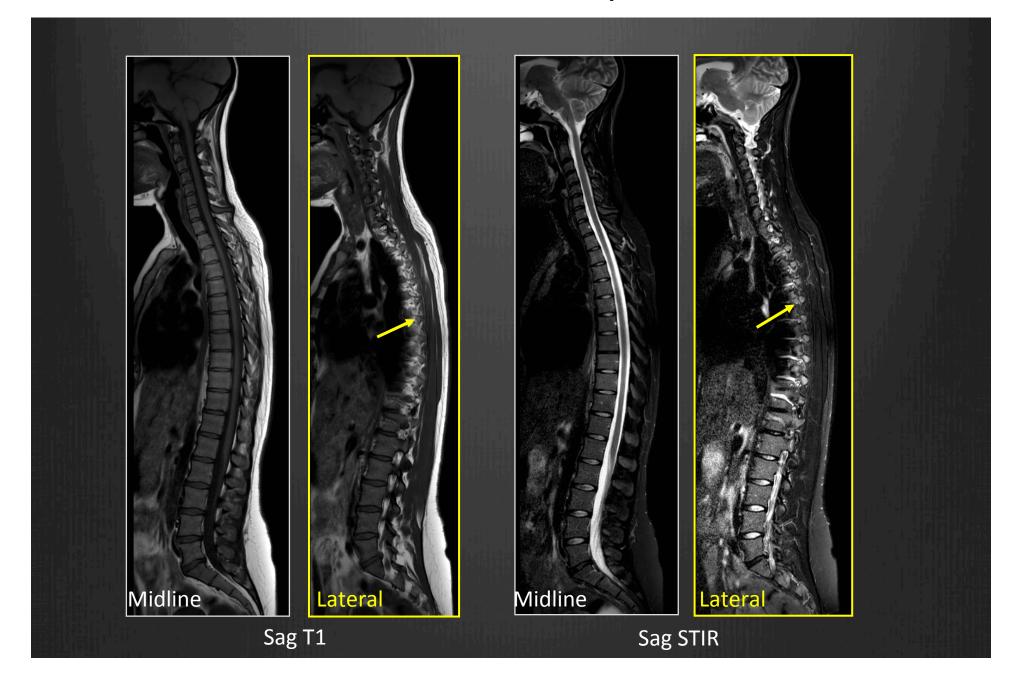
Localizer



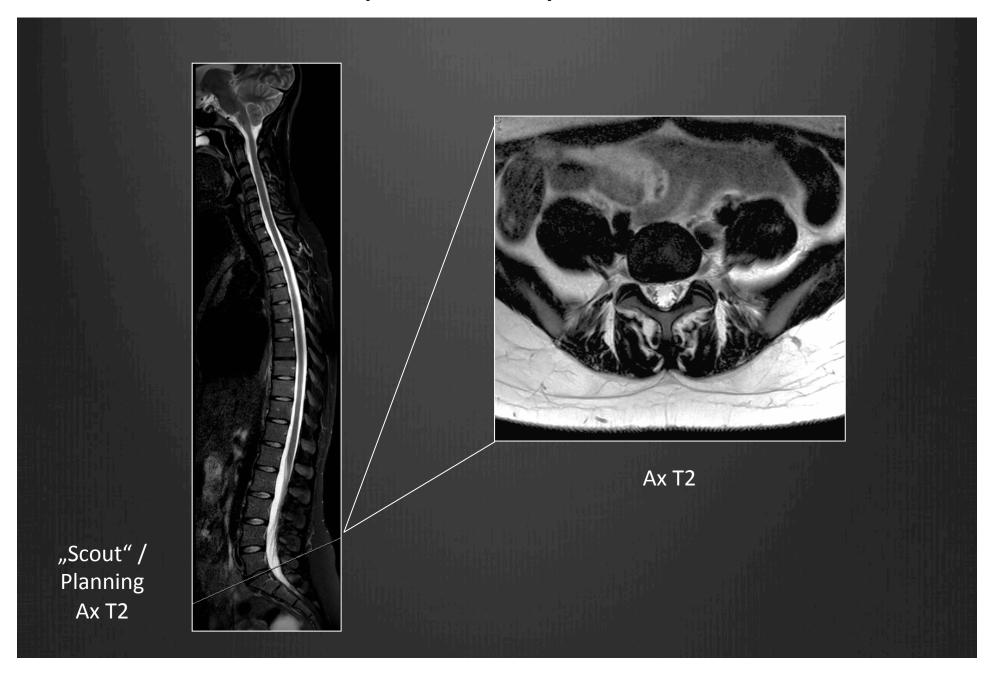
Recommended sequences



Recommended sequences



Optional sequence



MRI Protocol

Adjusted for the spine, optimizing the examined area			
Mandatory sagittal images: For the whole spine 2 or 3 spinal blocks with overlap to be fused, depending on the scanner			
Optional axial T2: FOV adjusted to the area of interest, 20-32 cm			
3 mm preferable (maximal 4 mm)			
10%			

MRI Protocol

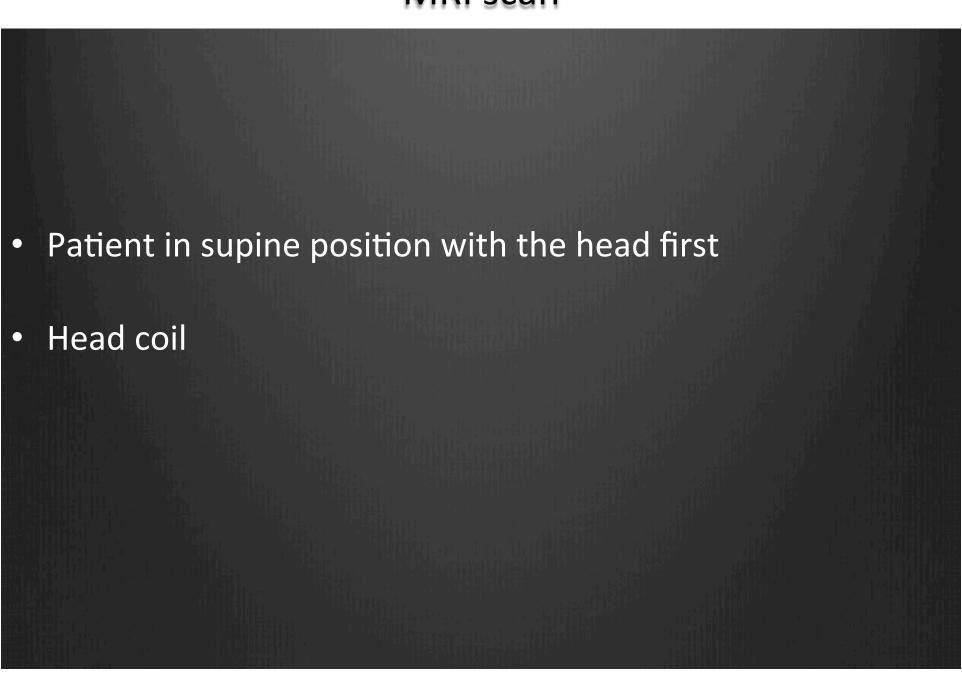
Recommended sequences	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	TI (ms)	Matrix
Sag T1	510-550	8-20		424 x 300
Sag STIR	2500-6000	70-100	150 (1.5T) 180-220 (3T)	424 x 300
Ax T2 (optional)	2200-5000	90-120		320 x 166

Temporomandibular Joint

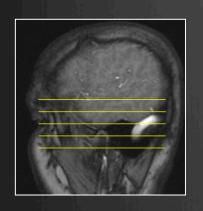
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MRI scan

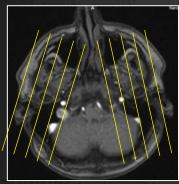


Localizer: Inflammatory disease

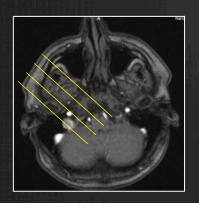


Axial plane: refer to the sagittal plane, orient the scan parallel to the hard palate and cover the entire TMJ from the corpus callosum up to the angle of the jaw.

If the head is tilted, the angulation has to be adjusted on the coronal plane.

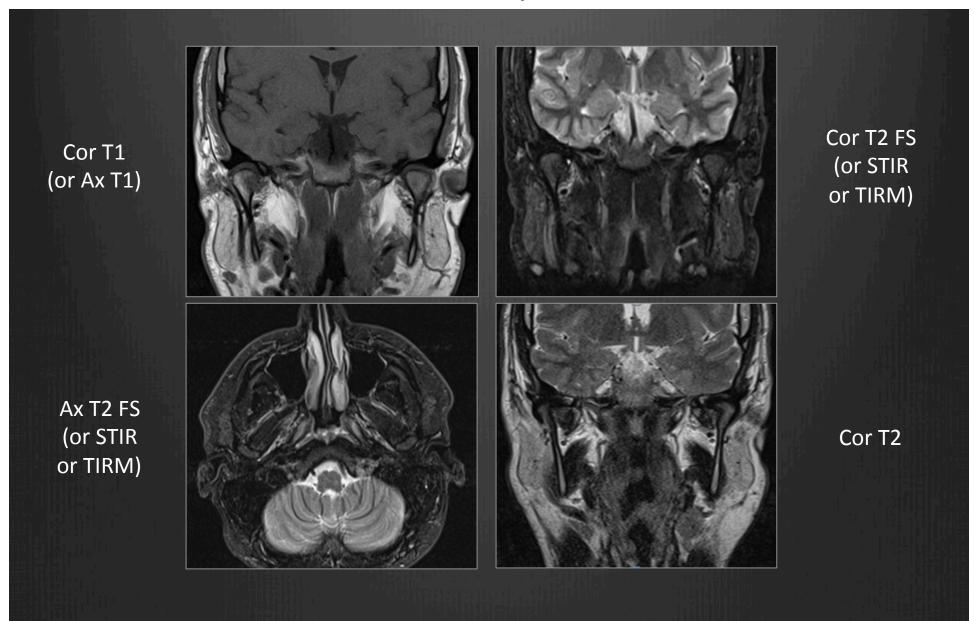


Sagittal plane: refer to the axial plane, orient the scan perpendicular to the condyle of the mandible (i.e., of the same side that has to be examined). Check the correct positioning on the other two planes. If the head is tilted, the angulation has to be adjusted on the coronal plane.

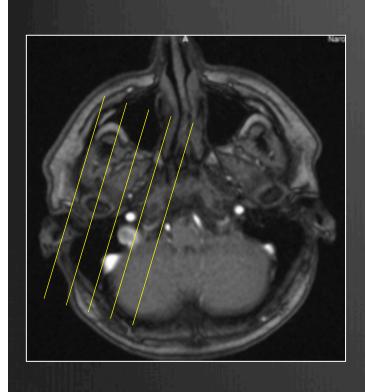


Coronal plane: refer to the axial plane, orient the scan parallel to the condyle of the mandible (i.e., of the same side that has to be examined). Check the correct positioning on the sagittal plane.

Recommended Sequences: Inflammatory disease



Localizer: Joint derangement



Sagittal oblique:

- refer to the axial plane
- orient the scan perpendicular to the condyle of the mandible (i.e., of the same side)
- check the correct positioning on the other two planes
- the number of slices has to cover the joint from side to side

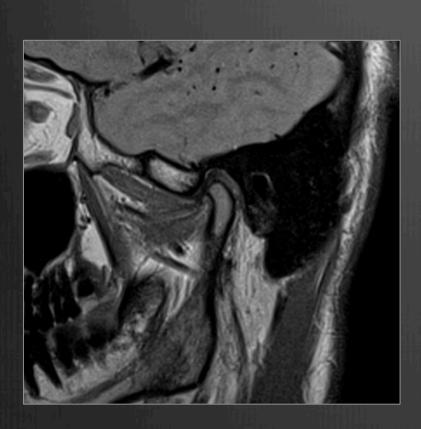
The MR scan has to be performed:

- with the mouth opened and closed
- on the right and on the left TMJ

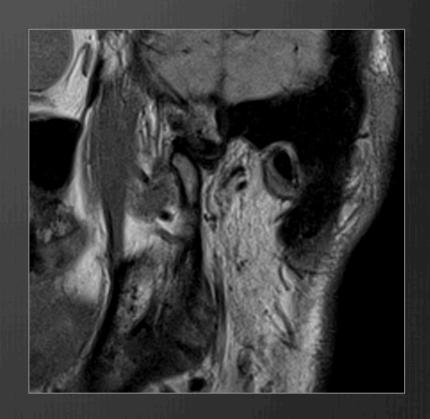
Recommended Sequences: Joint derangement



Recommended Sequences: Joint derangement



Sag oblique PD mouth closed



Sag oblique PD mouth opened

MRI protocols

	Recommended Sequences	FOV (mm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix	
Inflammatory disease	Cor T1	230	3	420-620	10	256x256	
	Ax T2	230	5	2500-5500	90	256x256	
	Cor T2 FS	230	3	2500-5000	100	256x256	
	Cor T2	230	3	2200-3200	100	256x256	
Joint derangement	CE T1 FS (for synovitis and/or osteitis)	140	2.5	420-620	10	256x256	
	PD FS oblique mouth closed & opened	140	2.5	2200-3200	24	256x256	
	PD oblique mouth closed & opened	140	2.5	2200-3200	24	256x256	

Whole Body MRI for Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis

MRI Protocols of the ESSR Arthritis Subcommittee



MRI scan

- Patient in supine position with the head first
- Hands either under the pelvis (preferred for immobilisation) or over the abdomen
- Elbows often outside the field of view
- Multiple coils to ensure coverage
- Coil coverage: Head to feet
- 3-5 stations depending on age and height of the patient

Recommended sequences



MRI protocol

Recommended Sequences	FOV (mm)	Slice thickness (mm)	TR (ms)	TE (ms)	Matrix
T1	550	3	300-600	8	640x640
STIR	550	3	3000-4000	70	512x512
TIRM	550	2	4000-6120	60	512 x 512

Acronyms

```
Ax= axial
CE= contrast enhanced
Cor= coronal
CRMO= Chronic Recurrent Multifocal Osteomyelitis
FOV= field of view
FS= fat suppressed
Obl= Oblique
PD= proton density
Sag= sagittal
STIR= short tau inversion recovery
TE= echo time (ms)
TIRM= turbo inversion recovery magnitude
TMJ= Temporomandibular joint
TR= repetition time (ms)
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Contributors

- Andrew Grainger, United Kingdom
- Amanda Isaac, United Kingdom
- Andrea Klauser, Austria
- Anna Zejden, Denmark
- Anne Grethe Jurik, Denmark
- Claudia Weidekamm, Austria
- Danoob Dalili, United Kingdom
- Edwin Oei, The Netherlands
- Giuseppe Guglielmi, Italy
- Iris Eshed, Israel
- Iwona Sudoł-Szopińska, Poland
- James Teh, United Kingdom
- Kay G Herman, Germany
- Jans Lennart, Belgium

Contributors

- Mario Maas, The Netherlands
- Marius Wick, Sweden
- Mikkel Østergaard, Denmark
- Mitja Rupreht, Slovenia
- Monique Reijnierse, The Netherlands
- Niels Egund, Denmark
- Paolo Simoni, Belgium
- Patrick Omoumi, Switzerland
- Philip O' Connor, United Kingdom
- Robert Hemke, Amsterdam
- Vasco Mascarenhas, Portugal
- Vittorio Pansini, Italy
- Winston Rennie, United Kingdom

Project Coordinators

