Sharing CT images via smartphone video

H Sevenoaks, N Houghton, J Mehta

Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Hannah Sevenoaks, E: hsevenoaks@nhs.net

doi 10.1308/rcsann.2016.0078

BACKGROUND

Discussion of diagnostic imaging findings is commonplace in surgical teams. Senior colleagues may be off site or unable to access the hospital imaging systems and yet be required to offer initial management advice based on a junior colleague's verbal description of the radiography findings. The images themselves clearly offer a valuable adjunct to such a discussion. While plain radiographs can be shared easily via email or WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp, Mountain View, CA, US),¹ sharing computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans provides more of a challenge. The video camera function on smartphones offers an excellent solution to this.

TECHNIQUE

Load the scan as normal in your radiological image browser, taking care to remove patient identifiable information. With your smartphone held approximately 30cm from the screen, a video can be recorded on the phone as you scroll through the images. We provide an example video of coronal CT images of a right bimalleolar Weber C ankle fracture in an adolescent with an associated anterolateral tibial Tillaux fracture at <https://youtu.be/d7atlrX4Zqo>.

DISCUSSION

These videos are small files (~1MB) that can be emailed or shared via WhatsApp Messenger in accordance with your information governance policy. Our described technique can rapidly facilitate early team discussions and initial planning steps (eg requesting appropriate surgical kit or planning theatre lists). Formal review of imaging on high resolution screens remains a mandatory component of definitive management planning.

Reference

1. Johnston MJ, King D, Arora S *et al*. Smartphones let surgeons know WhatsApp: an analysis of communication in emergency surgical teams. *Am J Surg* 2015; **209**: 45–51.