

IMAGING IN COVID 19 PATIENTS: INDIAN GUIDELINES

RECOMMENDATIONS OF IRIA ICRI CHEST SUBSPECIALTY GROUP

Dear Members,

Our current recommendations for imaging strategy for patients of COVID-19 in India is focussed on portable radiographs and portable USG. Portable radiograph/USG frequency will be based on patient's clinical status.

Daily CXRs are not required.

Although, several CT patterns have been described as characteristic of COVID-19 infection. We do not advocate the use of CT scan for diagnosis or screening. This is because it is very difficult to sterilize the CT machine (Vs portable Xray and portable USG units)

Most of our hospitals will not be able to dedicate a CT scanner exclusively for these patients, hence running the risk of spread to other patients, besides unnecessary transportation of patients.

Hence, use of CT scan will be limited to severe respiratory complications unexplained by CXR and POCUS combined.

The combination of CXR and POCUS will allow not only diagnosis but also follow up, in cases with ARDS.

This equipment is to be placed in the isolation wards/ ICUs and sanitized after every use.

All members are requested to meanwhile update themselves on POCUS diagnosis, staging and follow up of ARDS; as in several hospitals, radiologists maybe called upon to perform these.

Stay safe and stay positive!

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