

# X-rays for diagnosis of craniosynostosis

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Dear Editor:

We read with great interest the recent paper by Schweitzer et al. recently published in *Child's Nervous System* [1]. The authors review their experience with routine skull X-rays in the evaluation of craniosynostosis (CS). They describe 127 cases, of which most were single-suture CS (such as sagittal, metopic, and coronal), and describe the typical X-ray findings. The authors stress the advantage of X-rays over CT scans in regard to radiation exposure.

Despite the recommendations by the authors, we think that clinical diagnosis is the main diagnostic tool needed to make a definite diagnosis of single-suture CS. In our opinion, there is no place for any imaging (including X-rays) for such cases.

The role of X-rays for demonstrating “blood vessels” within the bone has limited clinical impact and adds to unnecessary radiation exposure of babies.

In our view, imaging should be spared for non-typical cases, such as those with anterior plagiocephaly that do not fit “classical” coronal synostosis. We recently published our experience with frontosphenoid synostosis and highlighted the importance of 3D-CT for this pathology [2].

For all typical CS, including diagnosis of benign positional plagiocephaly (BPP), we think that any imaging poses unnecessary cost burden on the medical system and exposes babies to unnecessary radiation.

#### Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors have no conflict of interest.

#### References

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2. Bot G, Leshem D, Shiran SI, Ben-Shachar S, Constantini S, Roth J (2015) Frontosphenoid synostosis: an unusual cause of anterior plagiocephaly. *The Journal of Craniofacial surgery* 26:174–175

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