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CLINICAL PICTURE

(How) Should ultrasound enter the match?

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Owing to its several advantages, ultrasound (US) has gained importance in musculoskeletal medicine.[1] Its applicability in sports arena/settings has also been established.[2] Herein, we further extend its potential utility by asking "Why cannot it be used during the game as well?". Similar to technologies such as video-assisted referee, "hawk eye" etc., why are physicians (or medical staff) unable to implement the play considering the athlete's health/injury? For instance, several degrees of acute lesions involving different tissues can readily be evaluated and further catastrophic injuries can be prevented. Indisputably, the medical team should be trained regarding US examination. Needless to say, with improving technology, consulting the US findings to an expert at a remote center for immediate medical advice is not impossible (Figure 1). As such, adding to the question(s) in the title, it would probably be high time to discuss where US should play: at the touch line or the corner area?.



FIGURE 1. A simulation photograph illustrating how ultrasound examination can be performed during the match and be used simultaneously via telemedicine, as well.

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