

# Use of AI in radiology: Automatic fracture detection

Cruising into the future  
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*Radiology AZ Sint-Lucas - Brugge, BELGIUM*  
*Radiology AZ St-Jan - Brugge BELGIUM*



Missed fractures in the ED are not uncommon

Increasingly busy emergency departments

Increasing flood of radiographs

Faster accessibility of health care data / results

Readouts frequently during night

Trainees commonly involved in initial reading

2012 – 2017, Nijmegen, teaching hospital

25.957 fractures, 289 missed



49% of missed fractures between 4 – 7PM  
(occupational fatigue) and around 3AM



AI tool to improve fracture detection ?

AI tool to triage radiographs into those that need immediate attention ?

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Open Access



## Radiologic discrepancies in diagnosis of fractures in a Dutch teaching emergency department: a retrospective analysis

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### Abstract

**Background:** Missed fractures in the emergency department (ED) are common and may lead to patient morbidity.

**Aim:** To determine the rate and nature of radiographic discrepancies between ED treating physicians, radiologists and trauma/orthopaedic surgeons and the clinical consequences of delayed diagnosis. A secondary outcome measurement is the timeframe in which most fractures were missed.

**Methods:** A single-centre retrospective analysis of all missed fractures in a general teaching hospital from 2012 to 2017 was performed. Data regarding missed fractures were provided by the hospital's complication list and related database. Additional data were retrieved from the electronic medical records as required for the study.

**Results:** A total of 25,957 fractures were treated at our ED. Initially, 289 fractures were missed by ED treating physicians (1.1%). The most frequently missed fractures were the elbow (28.6%) and wrist (20.8%) in children, the foot (17.2%) in adults and the pelvis and hip (37.3%) in elderly patients. Patients required surgery in 9.3% of missed fractures, received immobilization by a cast or brace in 45.7%, had no treatment alterations during the first week in 38.1%. Follow-up data were lacking for 6.9% of cases. 49% of all missed fractures took place between 4 PM and 9 PM. There is a discrepancy in percentages of correctly diagnosed fractures and missed fractures between 5 PM and 3 AM.

**Conclusion:** Adequate training of ED treating physicians in radiographic interpretation is essential in order to increase diagnostic accuracy. A daily multidisciplinary radiology meeting is very effective in detecting missed fractures.

**Keywords:** Emergency department, Fracture, Radiographs, Radiologic discrepancies, Missed diagnosis, Diagnostic error

# Improving Radiographic Fracture Recognition Performance and Efficiency Using Artificial Intelligence

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Supported by Gleamer, which developed the AI and software and built the study sample and design.

Conflicts of interest are listed at the end of this article.

See also the editorial by Link and Pedoia in this issue.

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24 physicians varying background  
(non radiologists and trainees)

480 radiographs

AI improved sens / spec

Sensitivity from 64,8% to 75,2% = 10,4% higher  
Specificity from 90,6% tot 95,6% = 5% higher

Increase of 10,4% in sensitivity

**Background:** Missed fractures are a common cause of diagnostic discrepancy between initial radiographic interpretation and the final read by board-certified radiologists.

**Purpose:** To assess the effect of assistance by artificial intelligence (AI) on diagnostic performances of physicians for fractures on radiographs.

**Materials and Methods:** This retrospective diagnostic study used the multi-reader, multi-case methodology based on an external multicenter data set of 480 examinations with at least 60 examinations per body region (foot and ankle, knee and leg, hip and pelvis, hand and wrist, elbow and arm, shoulder and clavicle, rib cage, and thoracolumbar spine) between July 2020 and January 2021. Fracture prevalence was set at 50%. The ground truth was determined by two musculoskeletal radiologists, with discrepancies solved by a third. Twenty-four readers (radiologists, orthopedists, emergency physicians, physician assistants, rheumatologists, family physicians) were presented the whole validation data set ( $n = 480$ ), with and without AI assistance, with a 1-month minimum washout period. The primary analysis had to demonstrate superiority of sensitivity per patient and the noninferiority of specificity per patient at  $-3\%$  margin with AI aid. Stand-alone AI performance was also assessed using receiver operating characteristic curves.

**Results:** A total of 480 patients were included (mean age, 59 years  $\pm$  16 [standard deviation]; 327 women). The sensitivity per patient was 10.4% higher (95% CI: 6.3, 13.9;  $P < .001$  for superiority) with AI aid (4331 of 5760 readings, 75.2%) than without AI (3732 of 5760 readings, 64.8%). The specificity per patient with AI aid (5504 of 5760 readings, 95.6%) was noninferior to that without AI aid (5217 of 5760 readings, 90.6%), with a difference of  $+5.0\%$  (95% CI:  $+2.0, +8.0$ ;  $P = .001$  for noninferiority). AI shortened the average reading time by 6.3 seconds per examination (95% CI:  $-12.5, -0.1$ ;  $P = .046$ ). The sensitivity per patient gain was significant in all regions ( $+8.0\%$  to  $+16.2\%$ ;  $P < .05$ ) but shoulder and clavicle and spine ( $+4.2\%$  and  $+2.6\%$ ;  $P = .12$  and  $.52$ ).

“The interpretation of radiographs suffers from an ever-increasing workload in emergency and radiology departments while missed fractures represent up to 80% of diagnostic errors in the emergency department.”

600 patients  
Radiologists and emergency physicians

Improved sensitivity in fracture detection of 8,7%

# Assessment of an AI Aid in Detection of Adult Appendicular Skeletal Fractures by Emergency Physicians and Radiologists: A Multicenter Cross-sectional Diagnostic Study

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Conflicts of interest are listed at the end of this article.

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**Background:** The interpretation of radiographs suffers from an ever-increasing workload in emergency and radiology departments, while missed fractures represent up to 80% of diagnostic errors in the emergency department.

**Purpose:** To assess the performance of an artificial intelligence (AI) system designed to aid radiologists and emergency physicians in the detection and localization of appendicular skeletal fractures.

**Materials and Methods:** The AI system was previously trained on 60 170 radiographs obtained in patients with trauma. The radiographs were randomly split into 70% training, 10% validation, and 20% test sets. Between 2016 and 2018, 600 adult patients in whom multiview radiographs had been obtained after a recent trauma, with or without one or more fractures of shoulder, arm, hand, pelvis, leg, and foot, were retrospectively included from 17 French medical centers. Radiographs with quality precluding human interpretation or containing only obvious fractures were excluded. Six radiologists and six emergency physicians were asked to detect and localize fractures with ( $n = 300$ ) and fractures without ( $n = 300$ ) the aid of software highlighting boxes around AI-detected fractures. Aided and unaided sensitivity, specificity, and reading times were compared by means of paired Student  $t$  tests after averaging of performances of each reader.

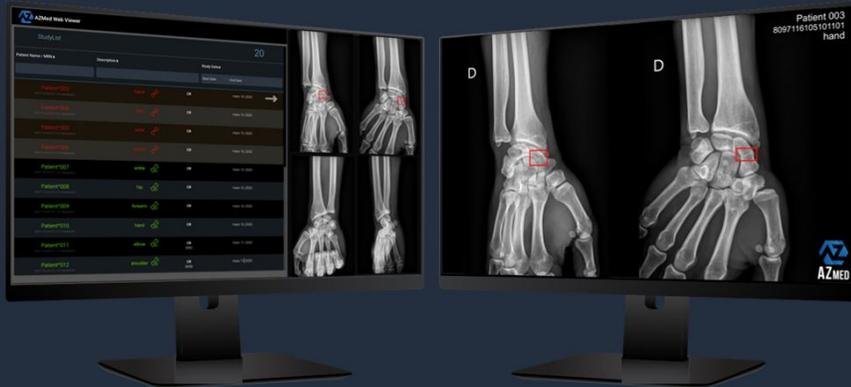
**Results:** A total of 600 patients (mean age  $\pm$  standard deviation, 57 years  $\pm$  22; 358 women) were included. The AI aid improved the sensitivity of physicians by 8.7% (95% CI: 3.1, 14.2;  $P = .003$  for superiority) and the specificity by 4.1% (95% CI: 0.5, 7.7;  $P < .001$  for noninferiority) and reduced the average number of false-positive fractures per patient by 41.9% (95% CI: 12.8, 61.3;  $P = .02$ ) in patients without fractures and the mean reading time by 15.0% (95% CI:  $-30.4$ , 3.8;  $P = .12$ ). Finally, stand-alone performance of a newer release of the AI system was greater than that of all unaided readers, including skeletal expert radiologists, with an area under the receiver operating characteristic curve of 0.94 (95% CI: 0.92, 0.96).

**Conclusion:** The artificial intelligence aid provided a gain of sensitivity (8.7% increase) and specificity (4.1% increase) without loss of

# A.I. fracture detection

## Rayvolve by AZmed

The powerful computer-aided diagnosis tool that detects all types of fractures on X-rays



20 % errors avoided



36 % time saved



Used in az sint lucas since septembre 2021

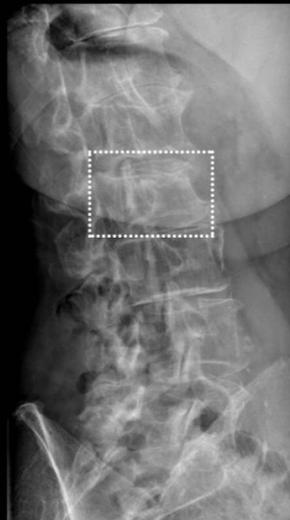
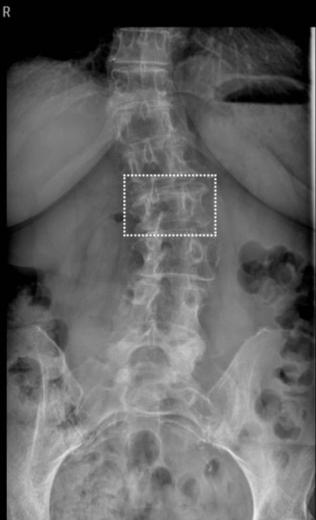
Fusion radiology departments st jan - st lucas in since 2021.

Large investment of both hospitals in a new overall ONE PACS system.

Go live st jan - st lucas in Q1 2024.

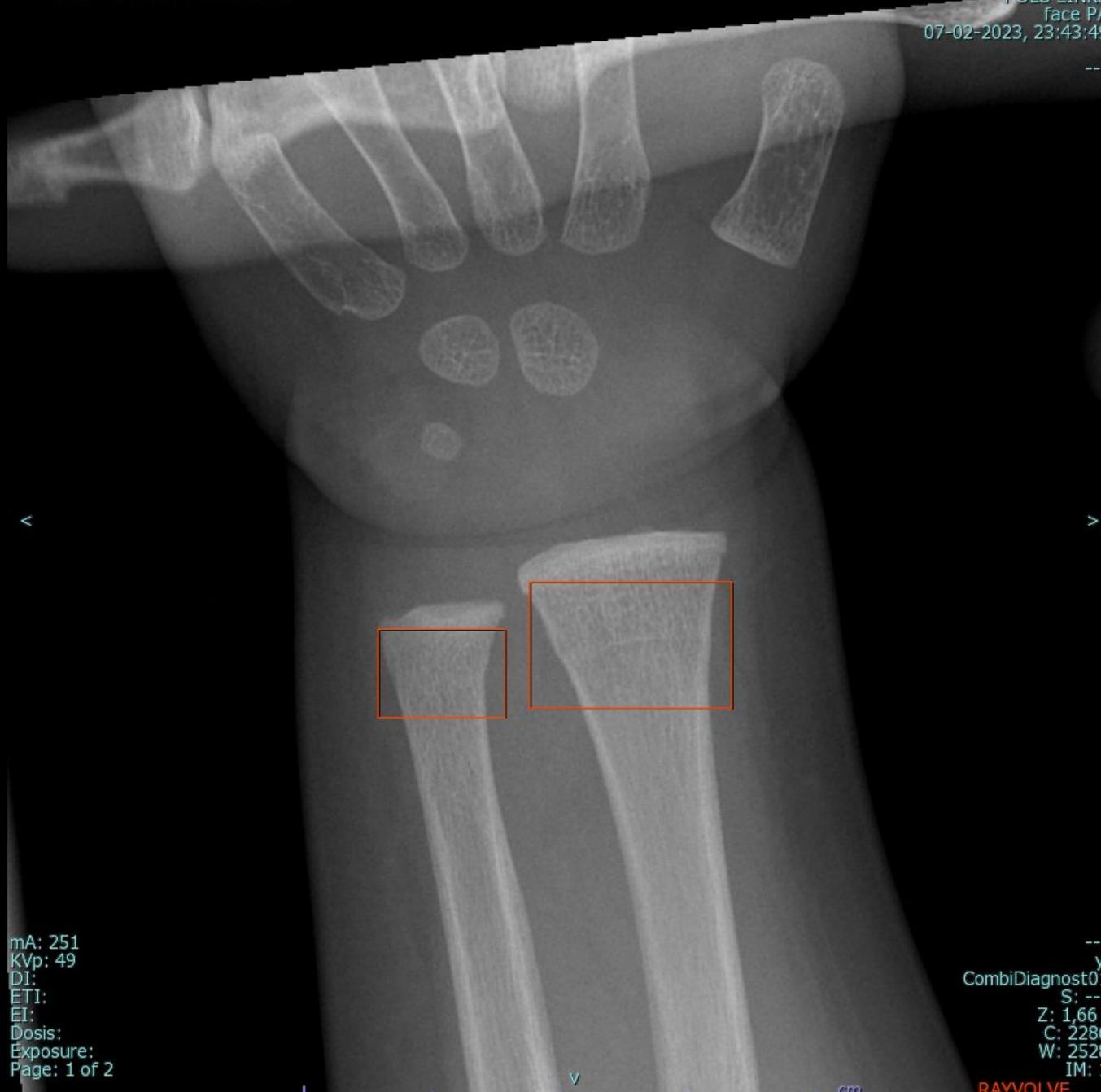


LOW SUSPICION



SUSPICION OF FRACTURES

A.Z. Sint Lucas VZW  
POLS LINKS  
face PA  
07-02-2023, 23:43:49



mA: 251  
KVp: 49  
DI:  
ETI:  
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Dosis:  
Exposure:  
Page: 1 of 2

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yl  
CombiDiagnost01  
S: ---  
Z: 1,66  
C: 2286  
W: 2528  
IM: 1

RAYVOLVE





AZ

Anon

FRACTURE

Num

Analysis carried out by an AI-powered aid

### Rayvolve Feedback

EN

I am a health professional at Lukas

First and last names

Reason

- Good prediction
- False positive
- False negative
- Other

Remarks

# RAYVOLVE

TRAUMA v.3.0.1

NO

NO

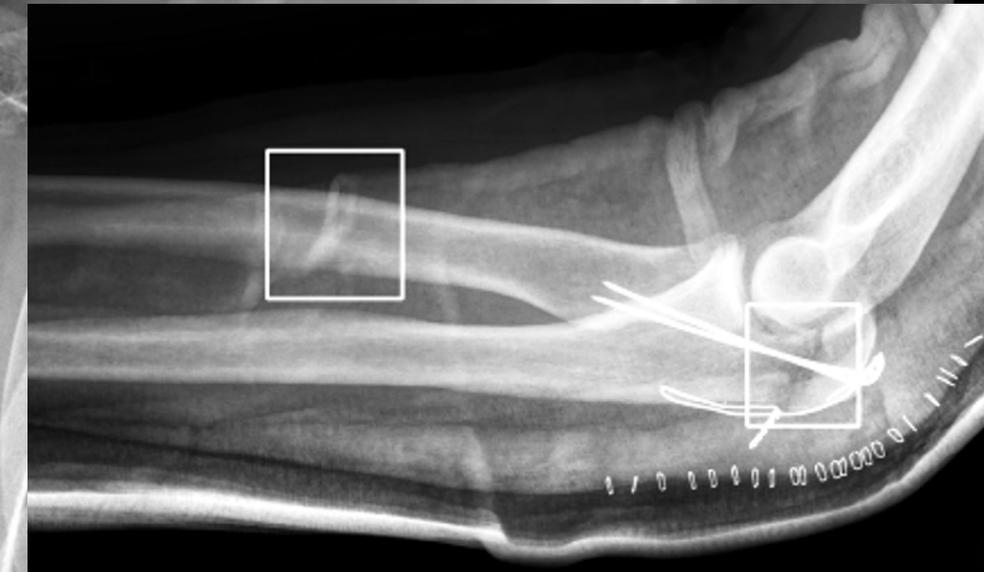
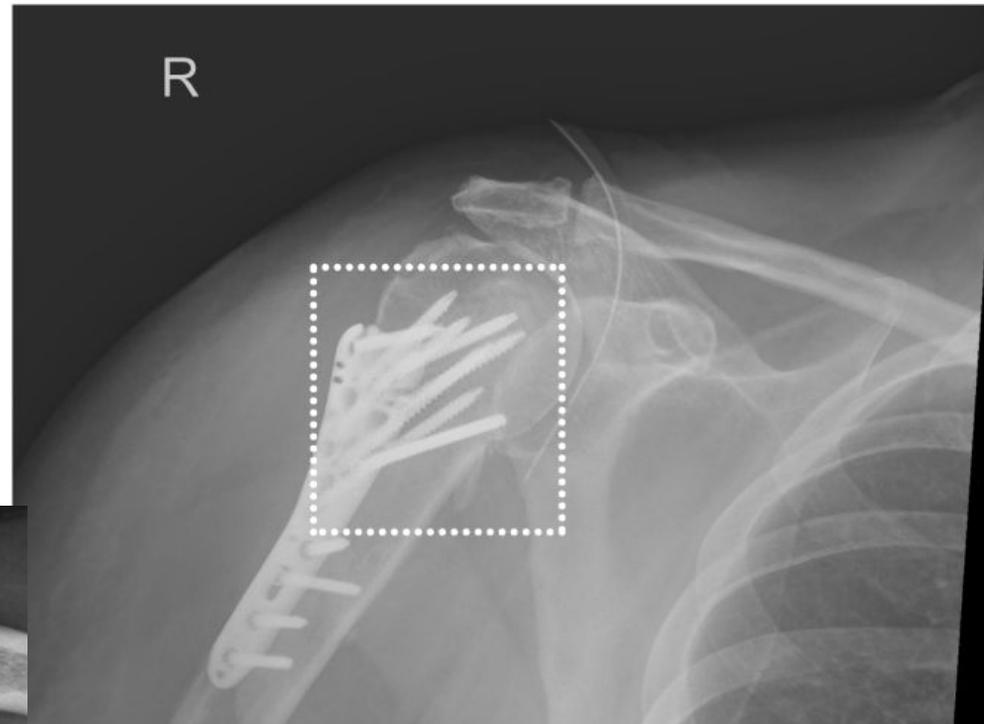
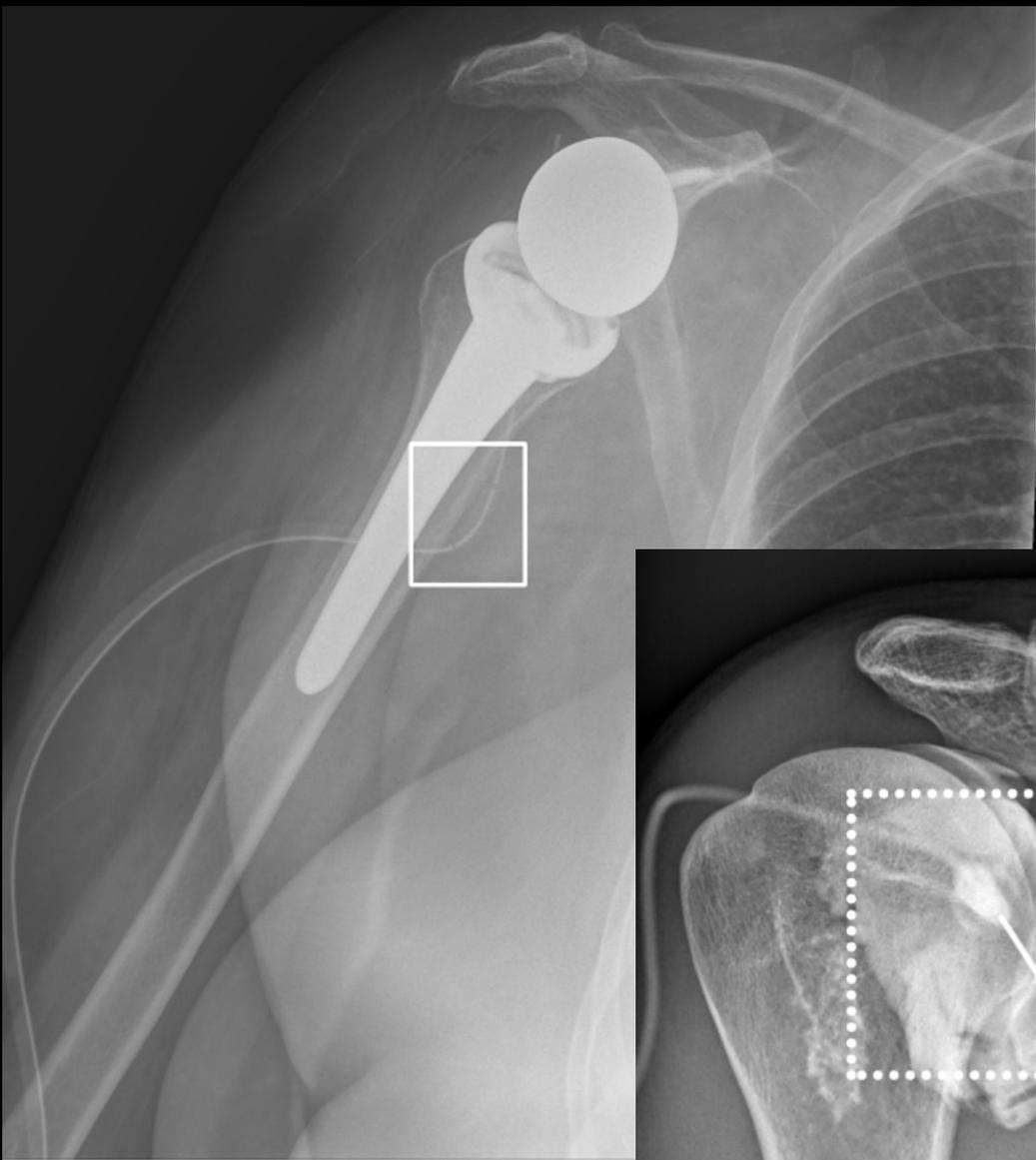
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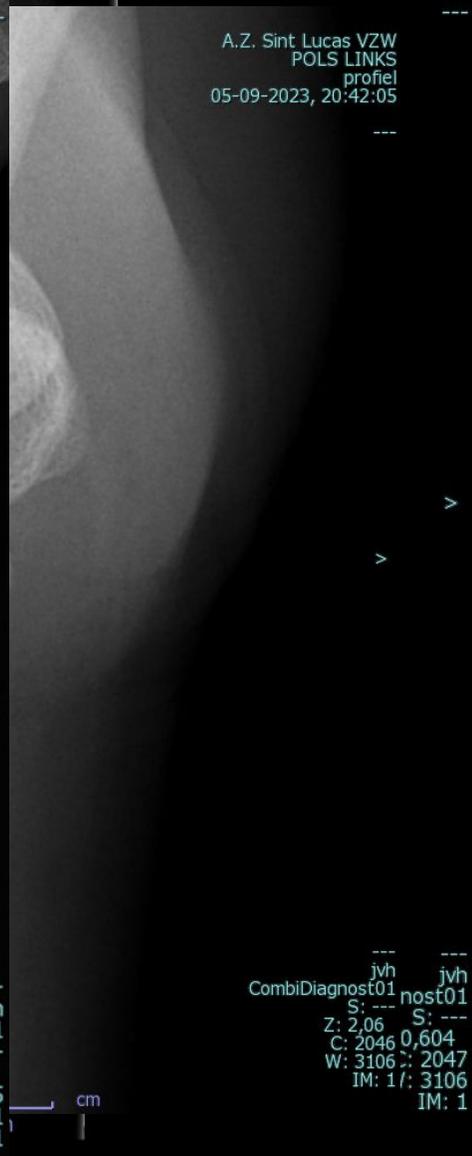


st's report is considered for medication.

A.I. Learning by feed back

LOW SUSPICION<sup>^</sup> OF FRACTURE



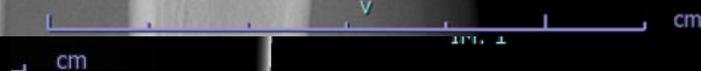


mA: 267  
KVp: 54  
DI:  
ETI:  
EI:  
Dosis:  
Exposure:  
Page: 1 of 1

mA: 301  
KVp: 54  
DI:  
ETI:  
EI:  
Dosis:  
Exposure:  
Page: 2 of 4

CombiDiagnost01  
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C: 2015  
W: 3421  
IM: 1

CombiDiagnost01  
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Z: 2,06  
C: 2046  
W: 3106  
IM: 1



R



R



Attention required



R



False negative A.I





## In Conclusion:

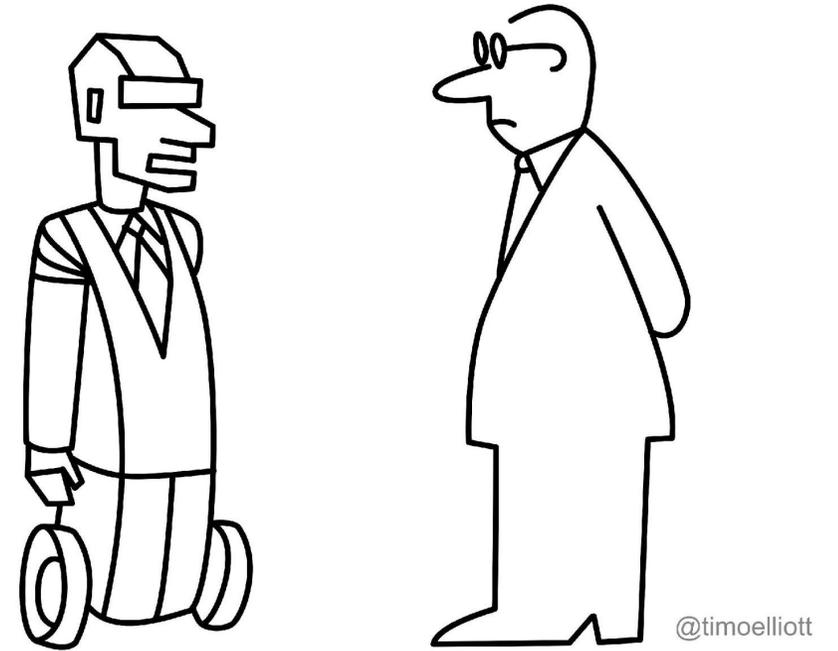
### AI addresses multiple pertinent issues:

- 1/ Increasing workload
- 2/ Occupational fatigue
- 3/ Helping trainees and ED physicians better detect fractures
- 4/ Triage of radiographs that need immediate attention
- 5/ Faster readouts

### AI as stand alone?

We are still far from a “general” AI

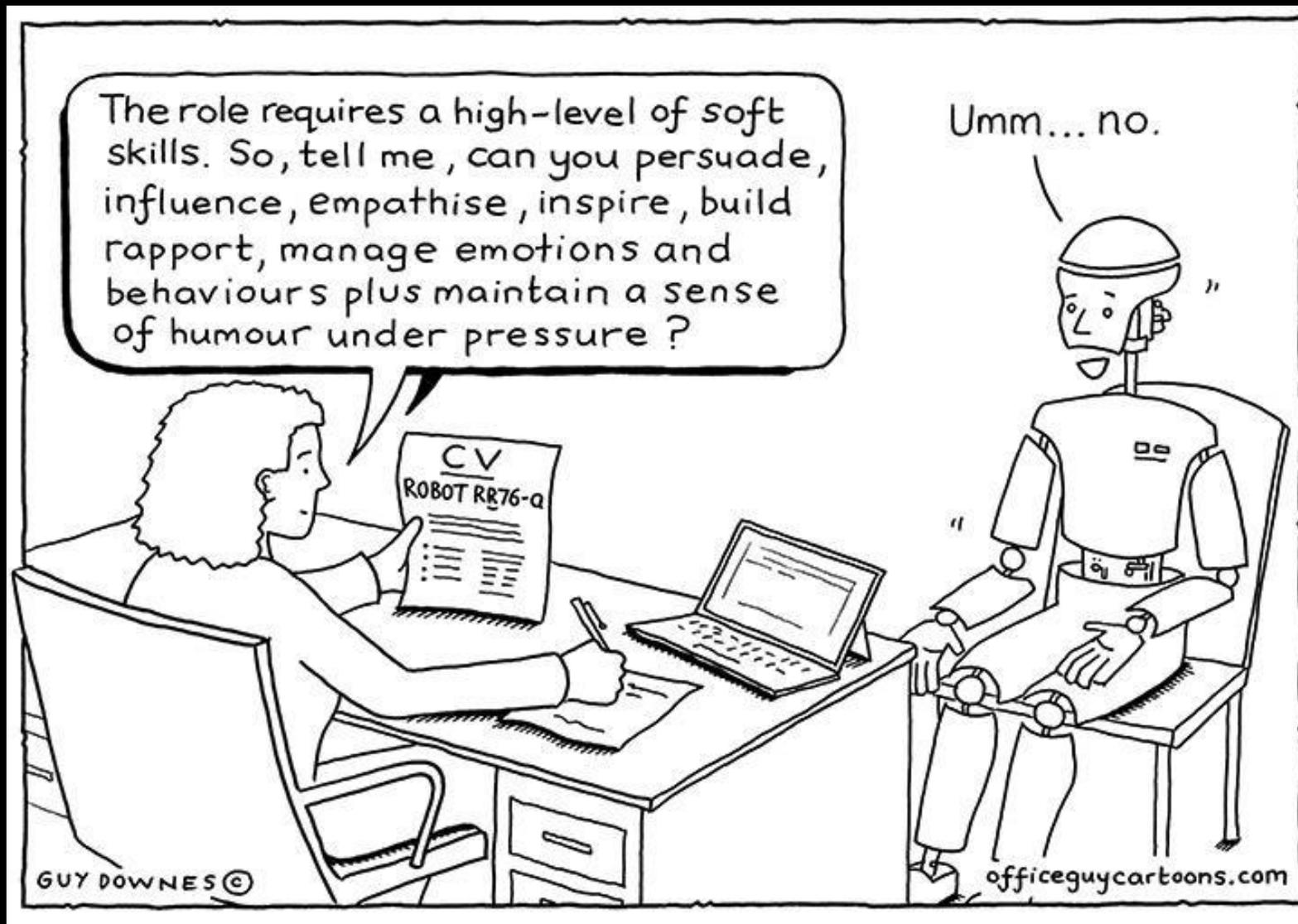
- 1/ At this time numerous “one task only AI’s (fractures, bone-age, brain, breast).
- 2/ No diagnosis of other pertinent abnormalities (tumours, infectious, inflammatory).
- 3/ AI does not have a estimate of uncertainty (‘I do not know’) which can provide a false sense of certainty.



*“The good news is I have discovered inefficiencies.  
The bad news is that you’re one of them.”*

## A.I. in our department

- Bone age (BoneXpert)
- Fracture detection (Rayvolve)
- Brain stroke (Aspects/perfusion/angio) (RAPID)
- Breast (ICAD)
- Deep learning reconstruction on (DLR) techniques MR/CT



Thank you