SHOULDER IMAGING:
General Guidelines

WESTERN AUSTRALIA GUIDELINES

Plain radiography is the initial diagnostic modality for the evaluation of traumatic shoulder pain.

If impingement syndrome is suspected due to rotator cuff insufficiency, ultrasound is recommended in addition to plain radiography.

CT of the shoulder may be useful in complex fracture-dislocation injuries of the shoulder, as a pre-surgical tool.

MRI is useful as an alternative in suspected rotator cuff insufficiency, when ultrasound is not available or in complex cases.

QUEBEC DECISION RULE

The Quebec Decision Rule is a guide for decision making for pre- and post reduction films. It compares patients with a clinically important fracture-dislocation with those who had an uncomplicated dislocation. A total of 222 patients were included, 40(18.0%) had clinically important fracture-dislocation.

Three discrete combinations of factors identified all 40 clinically significant fracture dislocations.

Sn = 1.00  Sp = 0.34