



Diagnostic Imaging in COVID-19

Chest X-ray and CT

How to use chest CT for early COVID-19 diagnosis and prediction of disease progression

Chest CT is more sensitive for early COVID-19 diagnosis than chest X-ray

Why?

- › Chest X-ray may remain normal for 4-5 days after start of symptoms
- › CT scan shows typical pattern of ground glass opacity and consolidation

Therefore:

- › CT scan should be performed unless patient cannot be moved
- › Patient in ICU: chest X-ray is preferred unless complications are suspected

Chest CT may show abnormalities typical for COVID-19, even if PCR is still negative

So:

- › Trust the CT scan and assume patient is COVID-19 positive
- › Repeat PCR

Extent of lesions on CT predicts progression towards mechanical ventilation and resuscitation

So:

- › Repeat CT at day 7-8 and day 14-15
- › Consider additional CT depending on clinical evolution or to exclude potential complications