



The Royal Australian and New Zealand
College of Radiologists®

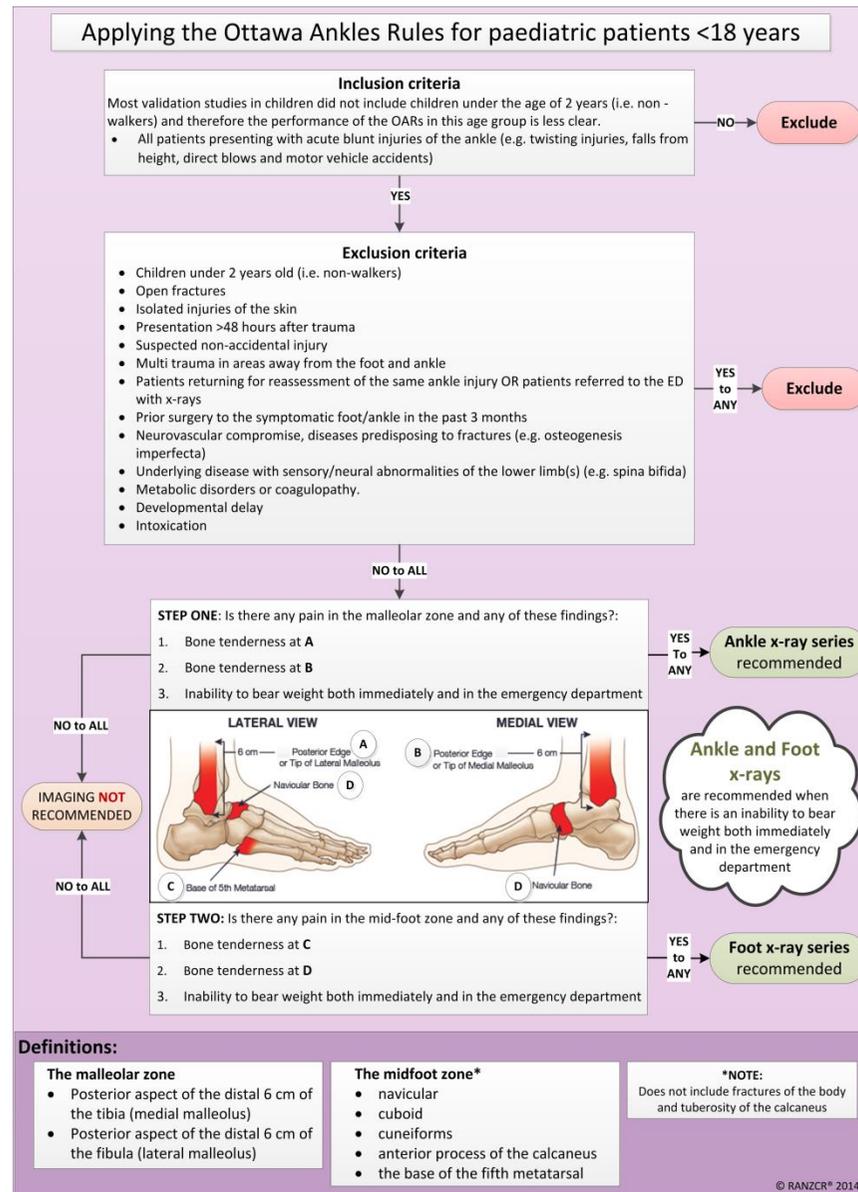
For Information Only

This document has been archived, much of the original content remains relevant; however, practice in this area develops continually, therefore the content of this document must be used for information only and is only valid as per the original approval date.



Ottawa Ankle Rules (Paediatric)

Algorithm:



Summary Statement:

The Ottawa Ankle Rules (OARs) aim to determine if a patient presenting with acute ankle or foot trauma-related pain requires plain radiographs of the foot or ankle to exclude a fracture. The OARs were not developed to exclude ligamentous or tendon injuries in the foot and ankle.

The derivation study for the OARs used an adult population as its subjects but validation studies have shown that the OARs can be safely applied to both the adult and paediatric populations. Correct use of the OARs can result in reduction of 30-40% in the need for plain radiographs in people with acute blunt trauma to the ankle and foot.

Myers et al (2005) reviewed paediatric validation studies of the OARs and concluded that:

“Based on the mean 21.4% prevalence of fractures among the included studies, and the pooled negative LR of 0.11, the posterior probability of fracture given a negative OAR assessment is approximately 2.9%”.

Reference:

Stiell IG, Greenberg GH, McKnight RD, Nair RC, McDowell I, Worthington JR. A study to develop clinical decision rules for the use of radiography in acute ankle injuries. *Ann Emerg Med.* 1992; 21(4): 384-90.