

ONLINE SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Supplementary Table 1. Definitions extrapolated from the SLR, divided according to the anatomical site and the US feature evaluated.

<u>Structure</u>	<u>Shape</u>	<u>Echogenicity</u>	<u>Localization</u>	<u>Behavior at dynamic scanning</u>
<u>Fibrocartilage</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spots ("punctuate pattern") • rounded or amorphous-shaped areas • rounded foci • rounded deposits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hyperechoic/hyperechogenic • characterized by echogenicity similar to the bone cortex even at very low levels of gain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within the structure • also on the surface of meniscal fibrocartilage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remain fixed during movement and probe compression
<u>Hyaline Cartilage</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • images parallel to the surfaces, classified as punctiform or linear if longer than 1.5 mm • linear deposits • thin bands parallel to the surfaces of the hyaline cartilage • spots not generating a posterior acoustic shadow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hyperechoic/hyperechogenic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within the hyaline cartilage • on the superficial margin of the hyaline cartilage, resembling the double contour sign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remain fixed during movement and probe compression

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aggregates that could be linear or homogeneous 			
<u>Tendon</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • linear deposits, parallel to the tendon fibrillar structure, not in continuity with the bone profile. they could be single or multiple • spots - "punctate" pattern • linear and extensive deposits and may generate an acoustic shadow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hyperechoic/hyperechogenic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within the structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remain fixed during movement and probe compression
<u>Synovial Fluid</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spots without acoustic posterior shadowing • aggregates uniformly rounded in shape with a sharply defined outer profile • aggregates uniformly rounded in shape with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hyperechoic/hyperechogenic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within the synovial fluid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appear as mobile aggregates with joint movement and probe pressure

	sharply defined margins			
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Supplementary Table 2. Results of the Delphi exercise. The statements that achieved the consensus, are underlined and put in bold. N new proposition included in the Delphi; N.A. not applicable; CPP calcium pyrophosphate.

<u>Statement Round 1</u>	<u>Agreement</u> ‡ <u>%</u>	<u>Statement Round 2</u>	<u>Agreement</u> ‡ <u>%</u>	<u>Statement Round 3</u>	<u>Agreement</u> <u>%</u>
<u>Fibrocartilage CPP crystals shape</u>					
Areas	33%				
Aggregates	67%				
Spots	67%				
Foci	56%				
<u>Deposits</u>	<u>78%</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
<u>Amorphous</u>	<u>67%</u>	Amorphous	53%	<u>Variable shape</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
Rounded	50%	<u>Variable shape (N)</u>	<u>78%</u>		
Oval-shaped	56%				
Inhomogeneous	50%	* Consensus achieved at the 1 st Delphi round		* Consensus achieved at the previous Delphi rounds	
<u>Fibrocartilage CPP crystals echogenicity</u>					
Echogenicity similar to the bone cortex even at very low levels of gain	61%				
<u>Hyperchoic/Hyperechogenic</u>	<u>78%</u>	Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic	72%		
Not generating acoustic shadowing	53%	<u>Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic similar to the bone cortex echogenicity (N)</u>	<u>76%</u>	<u>Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic similar to the bone cortex echogenicity</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic as compared to the fibrocartilage echogenicity	72%	Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic as compared to the bone cortex echogenicity (N)	12%		
Usually not generating acoustic shadowing	67%				
Maintaining similar echogenicity even at very low levels of gain	33%				
<u>Fibrocartilage CPP crystals localization</u>					

<p><u>Are localized within the structure</u> 94%</p> <p>Could be localized also on the surface of meniscal fibrocartilage 50%</p> <p>Could be localized also on the fibrocartilage surface 50%</p> <p>Occasionally could be localized also on the fibrocartilage surface 61%</p> <p>In rare cases could be localized also on the surface of meniscal fibrocartilage 28%</p> <p>Surrounding the fibrocartilage surface 6%</p>	<p><u>Are localized within the structure</u> N.A.*</p> <p><i>* Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i></p>	<p><u>Are localized within the structure</u> N.A.*</p> <p><i>* Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i></p>
<u>Fibrocartilage CPP crystals behavior at dynamic scanning</u>		
<p>Remain fixed during movement and probe compression but not when are lying on the surface 17%</p> <p><u>Remain fixed during movement and probe compression</u> 67%</p> <p><u>Remain fixed and move together with the fibrocartilage during dynamic assessment (i.e. joint movement and probe compression)</u> 72%</p> <p>Remain fixed with regard to the fibrocartilage (but not for the surrounding structure) 44%</p> <p>Remain fixed during movement and probe compression but not when are lying on the surface 17%</p>	<p>Remain fixed during movement and probe compression 41%</p> <p><u>Remain fixed and move together with the fibrocartilage during dynamic assessment (i.e. joint movement and probe compression)</u> 89%</p> <p>59%</p> <p>Remain fixed to the fibrocartilage structure during dynamic movement (N)</p>	<p><u>Remain fixed and move together with the fibrocartilage during dynamic assessment (i.e. joint movement and probe compression)</u> N.A.*</p> <p><i>* Consensus achieved at the 2nd Delphi round</i></p>
<u>Hyaline Cartilage CPP crystals shape</u>		
<p>Aggregates 44%</p> <p>Foci 61%</p> <p>Bands 39%</p> <p>Areas 44%</p> <p>Spots 56%</p>		

Linear	67%				
<u>Deposits</u>	<u>83%</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>NA*</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>NA*</u>
<u>Varying in size and shape</u>	<u>89%</u>	<u>Varying in size and shape</u>	<u>NA*</u>	<u>Varying in size and shape</u>	<u>NA*</u>
Rounded	44%				
Oval	44%	<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>	
Punctiform	56%				
Homogeneous	19%				
Amorphous	61%				
Could converge and appear as linear bands, parallel to the hyaline surface	72%				
<u>Hyaline Cartilage CPP crystals echogenicity</u>					
<u>Hyperechoic/ hyperechogenic</u>	<u>78%</u>	Hyperechoic/ hyperechogenic	71%		
Hyperchoic as compared to the cartilage echogenicity	61%	Hyperchoic/hyperechogenic as compared to the bone cortex echogenicity (N)	13%		
<u>Not creating posterior shadowing</u>	<u>89%</u>	<u>Not creating posterior shadowing</u>	<u>82%</u>	<u>Not creating posterior shadowing</u>	<u>NA*</u>
Echogenicity similar to the bone cortex even at very lows levels of gain	61%	Usually not creating posterior shadowing (N)	72%	<u>Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic similar to the bone cortex echogenicity</u>	<u>NA*</u>
		<u>Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic similar to the bone cortex echogenicity (N)</u>	<u>78%</u>	<i>* Consensus achieved at the 2nd Delphi round</i>	
<u>Hyaline Cartilage CPP crystals localization</u>					
In rare cases could be found on the superficial margin of the hyaline cartilage, resembling the double contour sign	44%				
Could be localized on the superficial margin of the hyaline cartilage, resembling the double contour sign	44%				
<u>Localized within the hyaline cartilage</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>Localized within the hyaline cartilage</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>	<u>Localized within the hyaline cartilage</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
Sometimes could be found also on the superficial margin of the hyaline cartilage	39%	<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>	
May also be found on the superficial margin of the hyaline cartilage	50%				
<u>Hyaline Cartilage CPP crystals behavior at dynamic scanning</u>					

Remain fixed during movement and probe compression	50%			
Remain fixed during movement and probe compression but not when are lying on the surface	17%			
<u>Remain fixed and move together with the hyaline cartilage during dynamic assessment (i.e. joint movement and probe compression)</u>	<u>78%</u>	<u>Remain fixed and move together with the hyaline cartilage during dynamic assessment (i.e. joint movement and probe compression)</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>	<u>Remain fixed and move together with the hyaline cartilage during dynamic assessment (i.e. joint movement and probe compression)</u>
Remain fixed with regard to hyaline cartilage (but not the surrounding structures)	56%	<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>
Remain fixed during movement	28%			
<u>Tendons CPP crystals shape</u>				
Single	44%			
<u>Multiple</u>	<u>78%</u>	<u>Multiple</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>	<u>Multiple</u>
<u>Deposits</u>	<u>78%</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>	<u>Deposits</u>
<u>Linear, parallel to the tendon fibrillar structure, not in continuity with the bone profile</u>	<u>83%</u>	<u>Linear, parallel to the tendon fibrillar structure, not in continuity with the bone profile</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>	<u>Linear, parallel to the tendon fibrillar structure, not in continuity with the bone profile</u>
Spots - 'punctate' pattern	56%	<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>
Linear	61%			
Linear and estensive	28%			
Linear and/or extensive	44%			
Linear in the longitudinal scan and rounded in the transverse scan	71%			
Aggregates	50%			
Heterogeneous	56%			
Irregular round shaped	22%			
Round	17%			
<u>Tendons CPP crystals echogenicity</u>				
<u>Defined as hyperechoic/ hyperechogenic</u>	<u>78%</u>	Defined as hyperechoic/ hyperechogenic	59%	

<p><u>Hyperchoic in relation to the tendon echogenicity</u> 82%</p> <p><u>Generally does not create posterior shadowing</u> 94%</p> <p><u>Maintains their high degree of echogenicity even at very low levels of gain</u> 89%</p> <p><u>Not affected by anisotropy as the surrounding tendon</u> 78%</p> <p>Not affected by anisotropy 56%</p>	<p><u>Hyperchoic in relation to the tendon echogenicity</u> 94%</p> <p><u>Generally does not create posterior shadowing</u> 94%</p> <p><u>Maintains their high degree of echogenicity even at very low levels of gain</u> N.A.*</p> <p><u>Not affected by anisotropy as the surrounding tendon</u> N.A.*</p> <p>May or not create posterior acoustic shadowing (N) 65%</p> <p>Hyperchoic/hyperechogenic as compared to the bone cortex echogenicity (N) 18%</p> <p>Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic similar to the bone cortex echogenicity (N) 71%</p> <p><i>* Statements not re-submitted in the 2nd round</i></p>	<p><u>Hyperchoic in relation to the tendon echogenicity</u> N.A.*</p> <p><u>Generally does not create posterior shadowing</u> N.A.*</p> <p><u>Maintains their high degree of echogenicity even at very low levels of gain</u> N.A.*</p> <p><u>Not affected by anisotropy as the surrounding tendon</u> N.A.*</p> <p><i>*Consensus achieved</i></p>
<u>Tendons CPP crystals localization</u>		
<p>Surrounding the tendon, especially those with synovial sheath 28%</p> <p><u>Localized within the structure</u> 94%</p> <p>Not in continuity with the bone profile 83%</p> <p>On the margin of the tendon 22%</p>	<p><u>Localized within the structure</u> N.A.*</p> <p><i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i></p>	<p><u>Localized within the structure</u> N.A.*</p> <p><i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i></p>
<u>Tendons CPP crystals behavior at dynamic scanning</u>		

Remain fixed during movement and probe compression	44%		
<u>Remain fixed and move together with the tendon during tendon movement and probe compression</u>	<u>89%</u>	<u>Remain fixed and move together with the tendon during tendon movement and probe compression</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>	<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>
<u>Synovial Fluid CPP crystals shape</u>			
Aggregates	61%		
Deposits	44%		
Spots	72%		
<u>Variable size (from punctuate to large deposits)</u>	<u>82%</u>	<u>Variable size (from punctuate to large deposits)</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
Uniformly rounded in shape with a sharply defined outer profile	29%	<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>	<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>
Uniformly rounded in shape with sharply defined margins	50%		
Irregular	39%		
Amorphous-shaped	59%		
Rounded	38%		
<u>Synovial Fluid CPP crystals echogenicity</u>			
<u>Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic</u>	<u>83%</u>	Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic	69%
<u>Hyperchoic/hyperechogenic as compared to the synovial fluid</u>	<u>78%</u>	<u>Hyperchoic/hyperechogenic as compared to the synovial fluid</u>	<u>56%</u>
Could create posterior shadow when they reach large dimensions	33%	<u>Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic similar to the bone cortex echogenicity (N)</u>	<u>71%</u>
Not generating acoustic shadow	61%	<u>Generally not creating posterior shadowing (N)</u>	<u>94%</u>
		Hyperchoic/hyperechogenic as compared to the bone cortex echogenicity (N)	27%
			47%
		<u>Hyperechoic/hyperechogenic similar to the bone cortex echogenicity (N)</u>	<u>88%</u>
		<u>Generally not creating posterior shadowing</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
			<i>*Consensus achieved at the 2nd Delphi round</i>

Synovial Fluid CPP crystals localization

<u>Are localized within the synovial fluid</u>	94%	<u>Are localized within the synovial fluid</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>	<u>Are localized within the synovial fluid</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>	

Synovial Fluid CPP crystals behavior at dynamic scanning

<u>Are mobile according to joint movement and probe pressure</u>	94%	<u>Are mobile according to joint movement and probe pressure</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>	<u>Are mobile according to joint movement and probe pressure</u>	<u>N.A.*</u>
		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>		<i>*Consensus achieved at the 1st Delphi round</i>	