Corrigendum: Paediatric doctors’ error rate in detection of paediatric elbow injuries in Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital

In the version of this article initially published, Susan Lucas’s last name was misspelled as ‘Lucus’. The error has been corrected in the PDF version of the article.
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Introduction: Elbow fractures are common paediatric injuries that are often misdiagnosed. Quality imaging and accurate interpretation are essential to avoid complications which can result in growth disturbance.

Aim: This study aimed to determine error rates of elbow injuries by medical doctors in the paediatric department in Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital.

Method: A total of 28 doctors participated in the study. Twenty preselected radiographs (10 normal and 10 abnormal) were projected in a PowerPoint slide show, and the doctors completed a tick sheet to assess whether the X-ray was normal or not. This was followed by a 20-minute tutorial on the approach to paediatric elbow X-rays. Then the same images were projected in a different sequence and with a more detailed tick sheet for the readers to evaluate.

Results: The detection rate of elbow fractures by paediatric doctors is poor. Although there was an improvement in the detection of fractures before (50.7%) and after (53.9%) the tutorial, the difference was not statistically significant (paired t-test; p = 0.16).

Conclusion: The paediatric elbow is a common site where pathology is missed on X-rays. The study showed that the detection rate of elbow fractures by the paediatric doctors is poor, even after a tutorial on the radiological features. We recommend ongoing in-service training of clinicians to maximise the detection of fractures.