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Clinical Relevance

Scientific rationale for study: Radiographic assessments are common surrogate endpoints in experimental studies on bone healing. We herein explore the validity of radiographic assessments of bone healing in a rat calvaria osteotomy defect model widely used to evaluate devices,

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bone biomaterials, and biologic factors ultimately intended for clinical application. The radiographic assessment is compared with a histologic evaluation revealing actual bone formation.

Principal findings: It is shown that radiographic assessments of bone

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healing poorly reflect actual healing events.

Practical implications: The observations in this non-complex animal model suggest that radiographic assessments should not be considered a reliable endpoint in experimental studies screening candidate technologies for skeletal reconstruction.

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