

What is musculoskeletal ultrasound (MSKUS) excellent for?

Evaluation of:

- Synovitis and other Synovial Pathology
- Tendinitis (Achilles/Quadriceps) and Tendinosis
- Gout and other Crystalline Arthropathies
- Carpal, Cubital and Tarsal Tunnel Syndrome (Nerve Entrapment)
- Tenosynovitis (including Trigger Finger)
- Enthesitis
- Erosions (when in field of view, unlike MRI, u/s does not provide 360 degree views of a joint, but it does provide a much better field of view than x-rays)
- Rotator Cuff Disease
- Medial/Lateral Epicondylitis

MSKUS can:

- Differentiate between inflammatory and non-inflammatory causes of joint pain.
- Sometimes, but not always, specifically diagnose RA if there are erosions in certain locations.
- Diagnose spondyloarthropathies; however, we cannot yet distinguish between AS and PSA sonographically.
- Quantitatively assess RA disease activity and destructive burden.

What is MSKUS just OK for?

- Degenerative Diseases including Chondrocalcinosis

What is MSKUS not good for?

- Fractures
- Primary Bone Diseases
- Muscle Pathology
- Soft Tissue Masses