

Literature Discussion- Ganglion Cysts – General (MS-7.1)

The most appropriate initial imaging test for ganglion is an x-ray. Some conditions need additional imaging tests for diagnosis or to plan for treatment, when x-rays are normal or equivocal.¹ When there is a cystic mass for which surgery is being considered, Ultrasound or MRI can be considered. Ultrasound is often sufficient for evaluating typical cysts and MRI is useful for preoperative purposes, for cysts with atypical features or when neurologic symptoms are present.³ High resolution MRI was also found to be diagnostic for occult dorsal wrist ganglion.⁴

References:

1. Rubin DA, Roberts CC, Bencardino JT, et. al. Expert Panel on Musculoskeletal Imaging ACR Appropriateness CriteriaR Chronic wrist pain. *Am Coll Radiol (ACR)*; Revised: 2017.
3. Freire V, Guerini H, Campagna R, et al. Imaging of hand and wrist cysts: a clinical approach. (*AJR*) *Am J R Roentgenol*. 2012;199(5):W618-W628. doi:10.2214/AJR.11.8087
4. Vo P, Wright T, Hayden F, Dell P, et al. Evaluating dorsal wrist pain: MRI diagnosis of occult dorsal wrist ganglion. *J Hand Surg Am* 1995;20(4):667-670. doi:10.1016/S0363-5023(05)80288-6.