



The rule of two in radiology: An update

Abdulwahab Alahmari

Radiology Specialist, Radiology Department, Al-Namas General Hospital, Ministry of Health, Al-Namas City, Saudi Arabia

***Corresponding Author:** Abdulwahab Alahmari, Radiology Specialist, Radiology Department, Al-Namas General Hospital, Ministry of Health, Al-Namas City, Saudi Arabia, Tel: +966562428716; Email: afaa99@hotmail.co.uk

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-9959-830X

Received Date: Sep 28, 2021 / **Accepted Date:** Oct 06, 2021 / **Published Date:** Oct 07, 2021

Cite this article as: Abdulwahab Alahmari, et al. 2021. The rule of two in radiology: An update. O J Radio Med Img. 4: 55-56.

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There are 10 rules used in medicine/radiology that taught to students so they can remember certain points that they have to do to have an accurate diagnosis. These rules are:-

- 1- Two views: One view is too few;
- 2- Two joints: Above and below the injured bone;
- 3- Two sides: Compare with the other normal side;
- 4- Two abnormalities: Find a second abnormality;
- 5- Two occasions: Compare the current x-ray with a previous one (especially in CXR);
- 6- Two visits: Repeat after an interval or a procedure;
- 7- Two opinions: Ask for a second opinion or use the red dot system;
- 8- Two records: Write down the radiographic and clinical findings;
- 9- Two specialists: Get a radiology report;
- 10- Two examinations: Ask for CT, MRI, US, NM, etc.

But, these rules are more focused for emergency physicians and it's limited for x-ray. Therefore, these rules need to be extended to

address certain radiological important points to be remembered.

- 11- Two axis: On a CT scan, make a reconstitution of sagittal and coronal plans and check them during interpretation;
- 12- Two organs: Do not limit the brain MRI scan to the brain, but include the upper part of the spinal cord;
- 13- Two regions: When you do a CT chest take the upper part of the abdomen to the tip of the liver and when you do a CT abdomen take the whole pelvis in the scan;
- 14- Two windows: During interpretation use two windows (i.e. on a chest CT use lung window and mediastinal window or on a brain CT check the brain window and bone window);
- 15- Two contrasts: Use IV and oral or IV and rectal contrast -when needed- is better in trauma cases than a single contrast.
- 16- Two patients: In the same category for example in determining the bone age, we need to compare a pediatric patient with other pediatric patients (at least two patients) in the same age and gender;
- 17- Two measurements: Take the measurements twice and take the average;



- 18- Two scans; A plain and with contrast scans;
- 19- Two images: A negative (x-ray) and positive (fluoroscopy) images;
- 20- Two levels: The creatinine and GFR level before IV contrast media study.

Reference

1. Chan O. 2012. ABC of emergency radiology. John Wiley & Sons.