

## **Ultrasound against childhood bone tumors: New non-invasive therapy of the osteoid osteoma is presented and discussed for the first time by pediatric radiologists**

European Pediatric Radiology Conference attracts with the highest international scientific prominence to Berlin: 650 medical specialists discuss current findings and their practical suitability

**Berlin.** The fact that the European Society of Pediatric Radiology (ESPR) is expecting world-renowned experts from Stanford and San Francisco at its 54th conference from June 20 to 22 in Berlin makes the conference an absolute highlight for Pediatric radiologists, radiologists and neuroradiologists: Lane Donnelly and James Barkovich have long since established themselves as the authors of the most important standard works in pediatric radiology and pediatric neuroradiology. The fact that these two American luminaries also enrich the European congress with lectures on brain malformations or pathological changes in newborns (Barkovich) as well as a new classification of tumors in children (Donnelly) honors the conference as well as its president Prof. Dr. med. Franz Wolfgang Hirsch, Medical Director of the Department of Pediatric Radiology at the University Medical Center Leipzig. 650 physicians are expected at the Hilton in Berlin to spend three days exchanging current research results and discussing their practical suitability. A two-day training course will also be held from June 18 to 19, aimed at radiologists who are at the end of their specialized education, as well as young children's radiologists at the beginning of their professional careers.

For the first time in 14 years, the ESPR – the European Society of Paediatric Radiology meets again in Germany, thus offering local medical specialists the opportunity to present in the international context what valuable research work is being done here, says Professor Hirsch.

Example PET-MRI: The development of low-radiation imaging with combination devices from positron emission and nuclear spin tomographs under radiation protection aspects was also largely driven by German pediatric radiologists. Example MRT: Even with the lung, which until now was considered to be MRI-unsuitable, children today can do without the highly radiation-intensive computed tomography (CT) - a fact that parents should know and demand, emphasizes Hirsch. Because CT scans significantly increase the risk of cancer, especially for children and adolescents: Out of about 1,000 pediatric CT examinations, 1 tumor develops.

For patients, who have their whole life ahead of them, every effort is worthwhile to completely forego radiation or to reduce it as far as possible when looking inside the body.

Radiation protection, new hybrid imaging techniques or fetal MRI diagnostics in pregnant women are among the main topics of the ESPR congress this year, as well as state-of-the-art ultrasound techniques. Ultrasound elastography as a new diagnostic modality will have its own session.

Ultrasound also begins to target non-invasive treatments of certain tumors in children. HIFU Therapy (High Intensity Focused Ultrasound) has been used in women with uterine fibroids – it heats the myoma externally until it literally melts. Alessandro Napoli (Rome) and Karun Sharma (Washington DC) have adopted this method for the treatment of so-called osteoid osteomas, small and painful but benign bone tumors, as they occur only in children and adolescents, and thus already gain experience in other tumor species. For the first time, the two leading researchers in this field will present their approach to pediatric radiologists and put it up for discussion.

With a total of 250 lectures and a further 200 scientific posters, the ESPR 2018 offers its participants a varied update, an exciting mix of specialist knowledge and practical aspects for their daily work. The conference addresses Pediatric radiologists - who are currently too few in Germany, Hirsch regretful adds (only 80 certified experts are available at a few major centers for a total of 12 million children nationwide) as well as pediatricians, neuroradiologists or radiologists who are interested in the specific challenges, which makes pediatric radiology so special: the combination of holistic

approaches in pediatric medicine with highly specialized high-tech diagnostics. "For junior medical students, a subject is attractive if it is scientifically innovative," Professor Hirsch notes, "This should - and will - the conference prove."

You will find all information as well as the program on the homepage [www.espr2018.org](http://www.espr2018.org). Journalists are cordially invited to report on the congress and its topics. If you need an accreditation or a contact person or if we can assist you in another way, please do not hesitate to contact the press office.

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