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Florida Society of Otolaryngologists / Head & Neck Surgery



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SINUS IMAGING

Evaluation of sinus disease by plain film remains of limited benefit because plain films often underestimate the presence and degree of paranasal sinus disease. In contrast, a CT Scan of the sinuses is the preferred diagnostic test when available because a CT scan provides a more accurate and comprehensive representation of the extent and severity of the disease. If a CT Scan is not readily available, then a plain film may be indicated.

The site rather than the extent of the sinus disease is of major importance. Minor disease in key areas may cause very significant symptoms (i.e., ostiomeatal complex disease), whereas substantial disease in non-critical areas (i.e., mucosal disease on the floor of the maxillary sinus secondary to a dental etiology) may be without symptoms.

The use of imaging, and preferably a CT Scan, is appropriate for evaluating sinus disease when the history and physical examination suggest the presence of nasal or paranasal sinus disease.