

## **Normal cone-beam anatomy and cone-beam computed tomography study technique of distal extremities**

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## **Aims and objectives**

Despite the cone-beam computed tomography (CBCT) is a very prospective method of diagnostics in traumatology and orthopaedics, there were found a few publications concerning on application of it in clinical practice [1, 2, 3, 4]. There is no complete data about physicotekhnical conditions, scanning modes and normal CBCT-anatomy in the accessible sources. In the framework of our study it was elaborated for unification of CBCT-examinations.

## **Methods and materials**

CBCT was carried out to 18 persons with suspected pathological changes of bone structure (7 men and 11 women at the age from 19 to 45 years) on NewTom 5G (QR S.l.r., Italy). CBCT of wrist was conducted to 6 patients (33 %), of hand - to 4 patients (22 %), of foot - to 5 patients (28 %) and of ankle - to 3 patients (17 %). Moreover, the photos of zones of interest were taken with a digital camera.

## **Results**

The physicotekhnical conditions for scanning of distal extremities were worked up taking into consideration the minimization of an equivalent dose (Fig. 1).

	<i>Hand</i>	<i>Wrist</i>	<i>Foot</i>	<i>Ankle</i>
<i>Imaging mode</i>	Patient scan	Patient scan	Patient scan	Patient scan
<i>Scan type</i>	Regular scan	Regular scan Enhanced scan	Regular scan	Regular scan Enhanced scan
<i>Anode voltage</i>	110 kV	110 kV	110 kV	110 kV
<i>Anode current</i>	0,6 mA	0,6 – 0,8 mA	0,6 mA	0,6 – 0,8 mA
<i>FOV</i>	18 x 16 cm 15 x 12 cm	18 x 16 cm	18 x 16 cm 15 x 12 cm	18 x 16 cm
<i>Exposure time</i>	3,6 s	3,6 – 4,8 s	3,6 s	3,6 – 4,8 s
<i>Scan time</i>	18 s	18 – 24 s	18 s	18 – 24 s
<i>Axial thickness</i>	0,3 mm	0,3 mm	0,3 mm	0,3 mm

**Fig. 1:** CBCT-scan settings for distal segments of upper and lower extremities

**References:** - Moscow/RU

All the CBCT-examinations were completed with the preliminary selection of the most comfortable patient's extremity positioning with an application of special x-ray negative positioning trays.

The examinations of hand and wrist were made while a patient was in sitting position behind the gantry using the special positioning trays. The wrist was in the middle physiologic position. The forearm and the wrist were adjacent to the table by its dorsal surface. The decussation of laser beams for CBCT of the wrist is on the thirdmetacarpophalangeal articulation, for examination of the hand - in the centre of the wrist joint (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2:** Positioning of an upper extremity for CBCT-examinations of wrist and hand  
**References:** - Moscow/RU

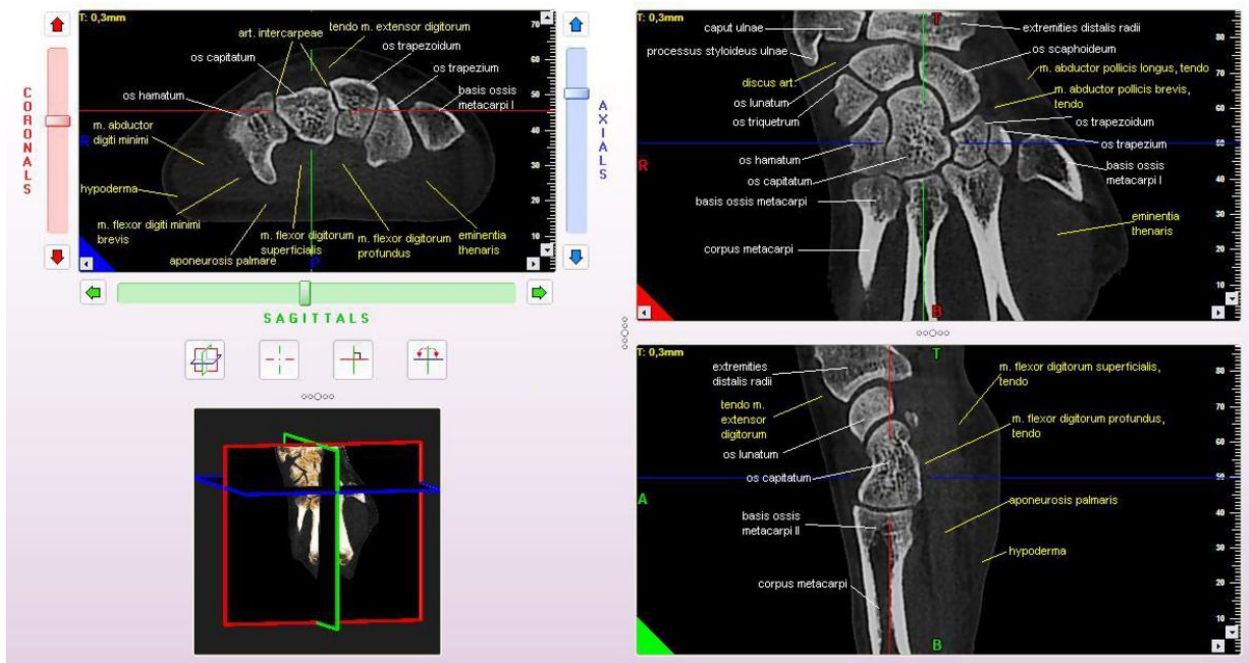
The examinations of the foot and the ankle were conducted when a patient's position is sitting on the table. For the foot scanning the extremity was standing on the plantar side on the positioning tray. The decussation of laser beams is on the basis of the third metatarsal bone. For the ankle examination a crus should be placed in parallel with the table. In this case the decussation of laser beams is 1 cm upper the medial ankle-bone (Fig. 3).



**Fig. 3:** Positioning of a lower extremity for CBCT-examinations of foot and ankle

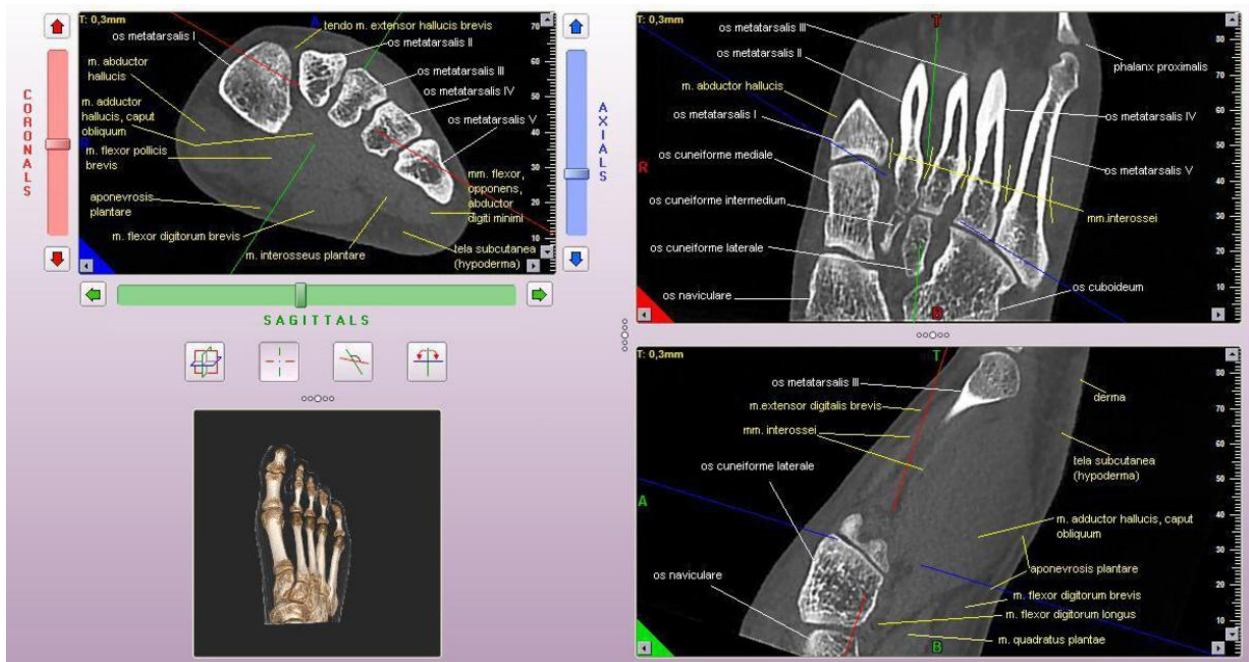
**References:** - Moscow/RU

Thereby, the developed extremities positionings allowed to scan in the most informative, physiologic and comfortable position. The CBCT permits certainly visualize the soft tissues structures: muscles, tendons, ligaments, aponeuroses, big vessels, subcutaneous fat and skin. Due to this fact the normal cone-beam anatomy of distal region extremities was elaborated (Fig. 4, 5).



**Fig. 4:** CBCT. MPR, 3D. Left wrist. Normal cone-beam anatomy. White inscriptions - the bones, yellow inscriptions - the soft tissues.

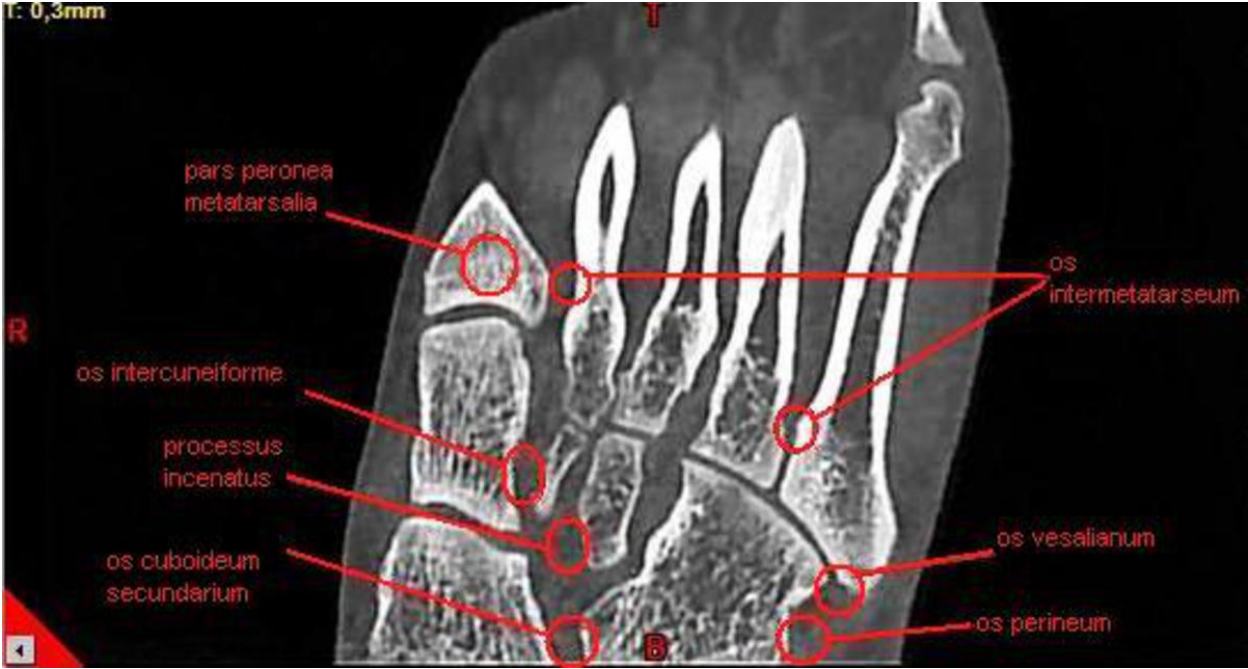
**References:** - Moscow/RU



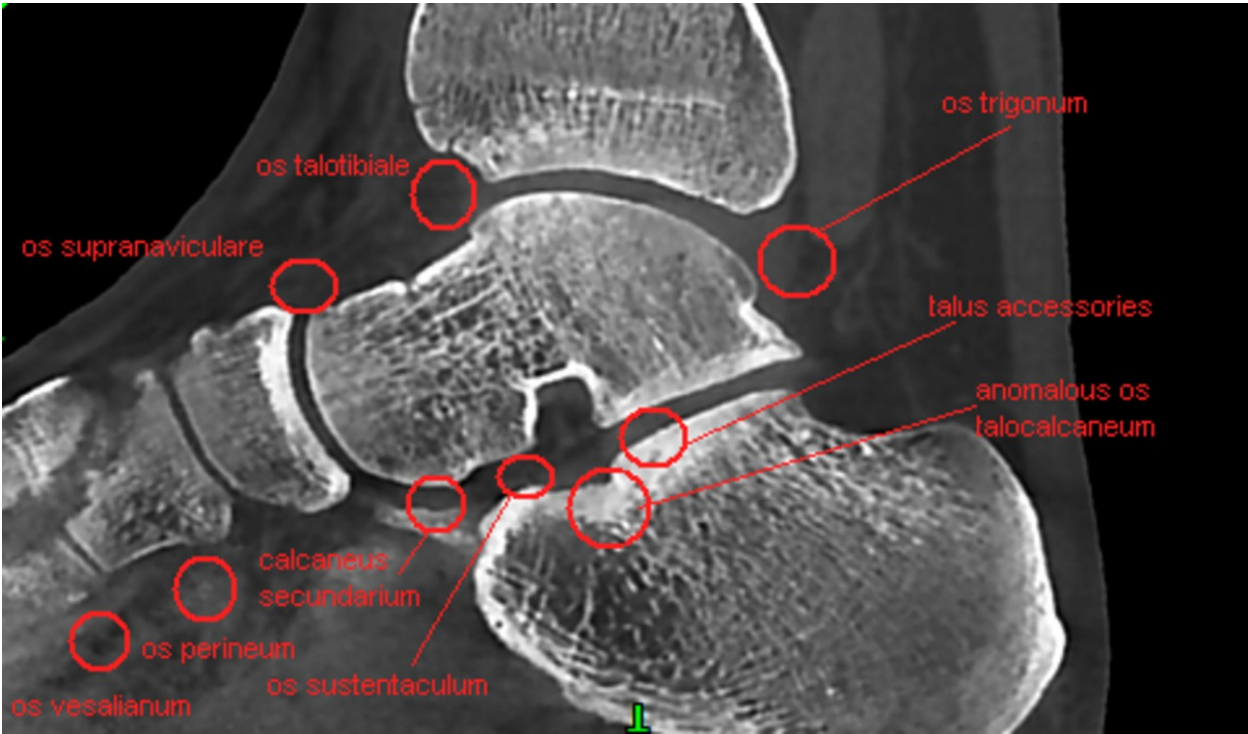
**Fig. 5:** CBCT. MPR, 3D. Right foot. Normal cone-beam anatomy. White inscriptions - the bones, yellow inscriptions - the soft tissues.

**References:** - Moscow/RU

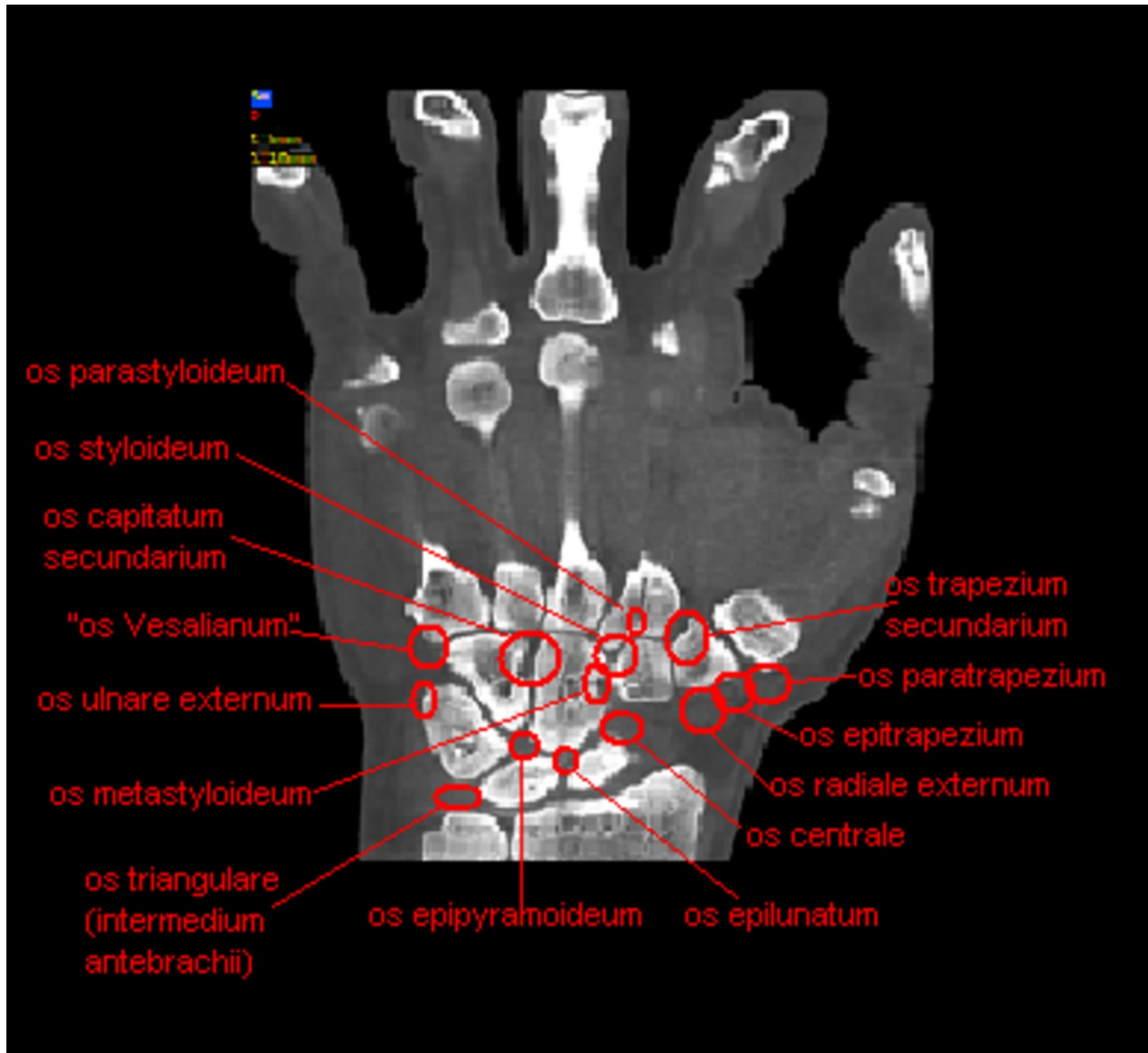
3D-visualization allows to determine the accessory bones avoiding the diagnostic faults that are possible using the two-dimensional radiography. There are the locations of its possible disposition (Fig. 6, 7, 8, 9).



**Fig. 6:** CBCT. MPR, frontal view. The possible disposition of accessory bones of foot.  
**References:** - Moscow/RU

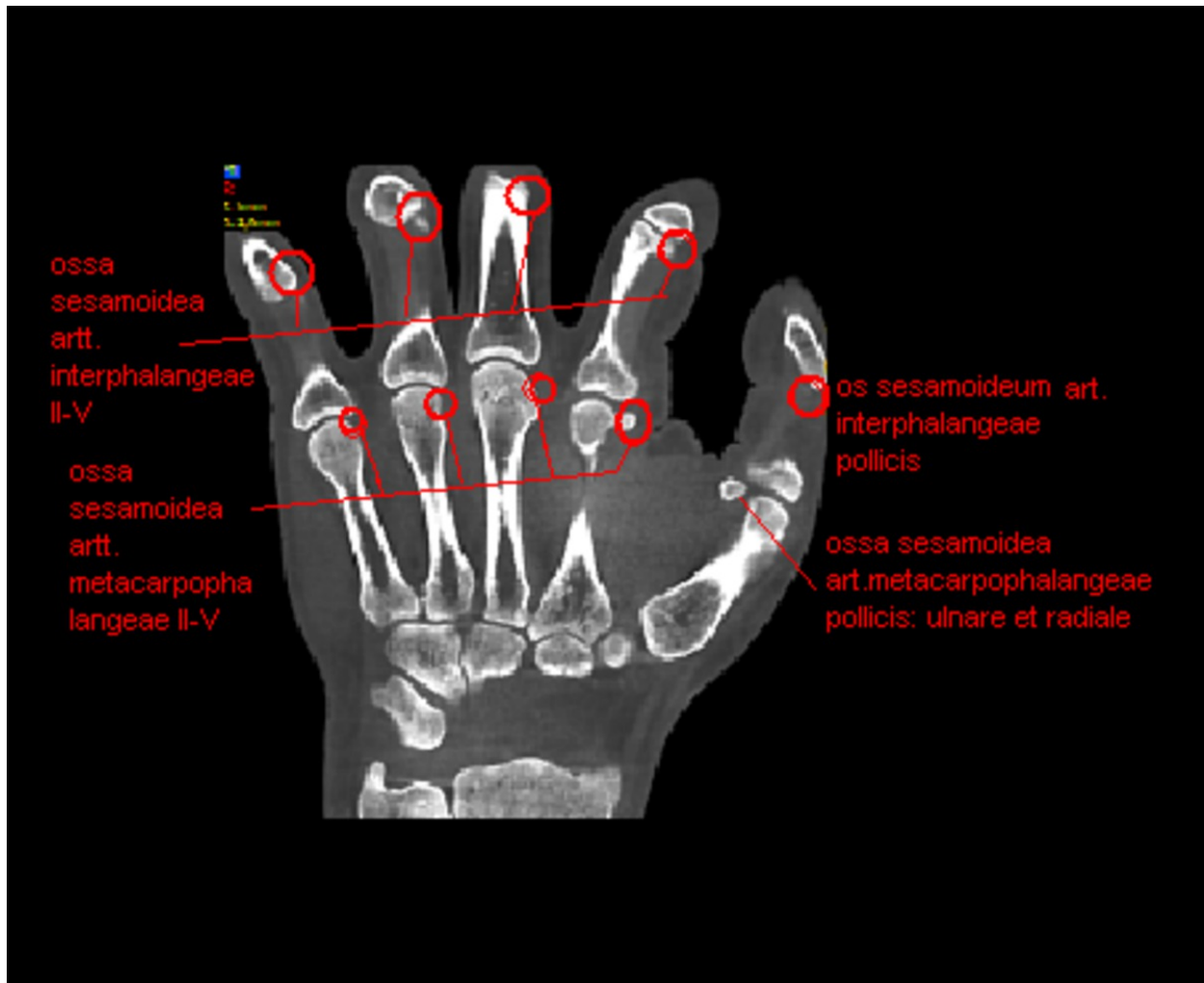


**Fig. 7:** CBCT. MPR, sagittal view. The possible disposition of accessory bones of foot.  
**References:** - Moscow/RU



**Fig. 8:** CBCT. MPR, frontal view. The possible disposition of accessory bones of wrist.  
**References:** - Moscow/RU





**Fig. 9:** CBCT. MPR, frontal view. The possible disposition of accessory bones of wrist.  
**References:** - Moscow/RU

**Images for this section:**

	<i>Hand</i>	<i>Wrist</i>	<i>Foot</i>	<i>Ankle</i>
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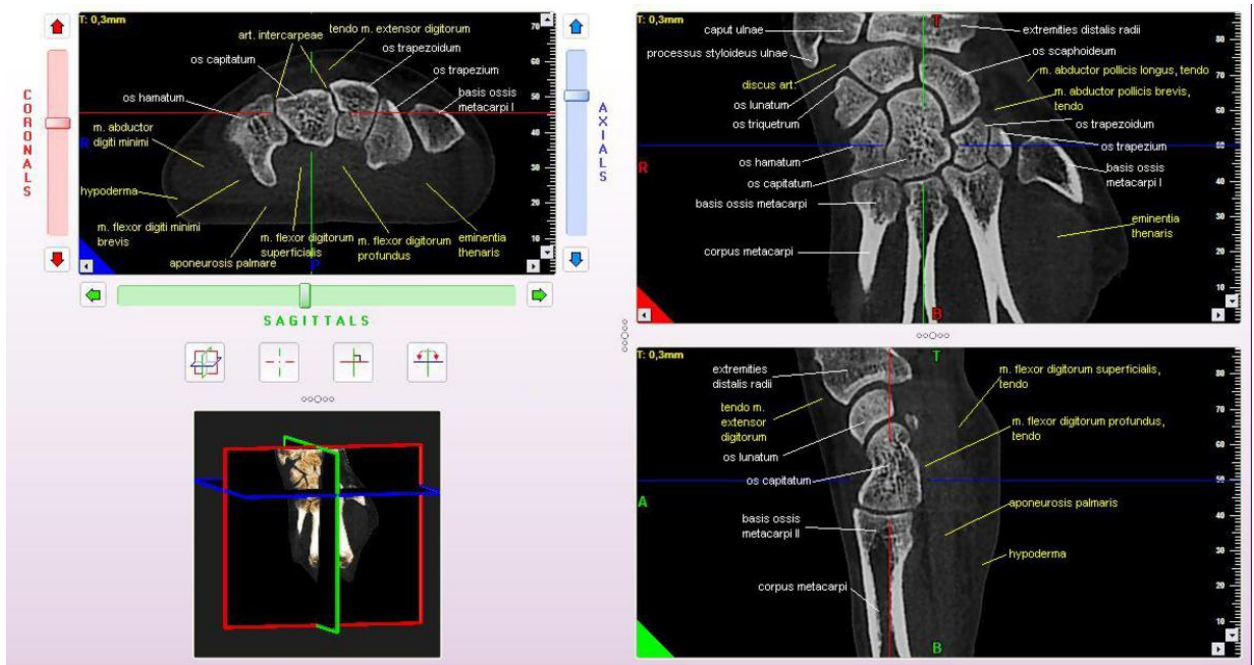
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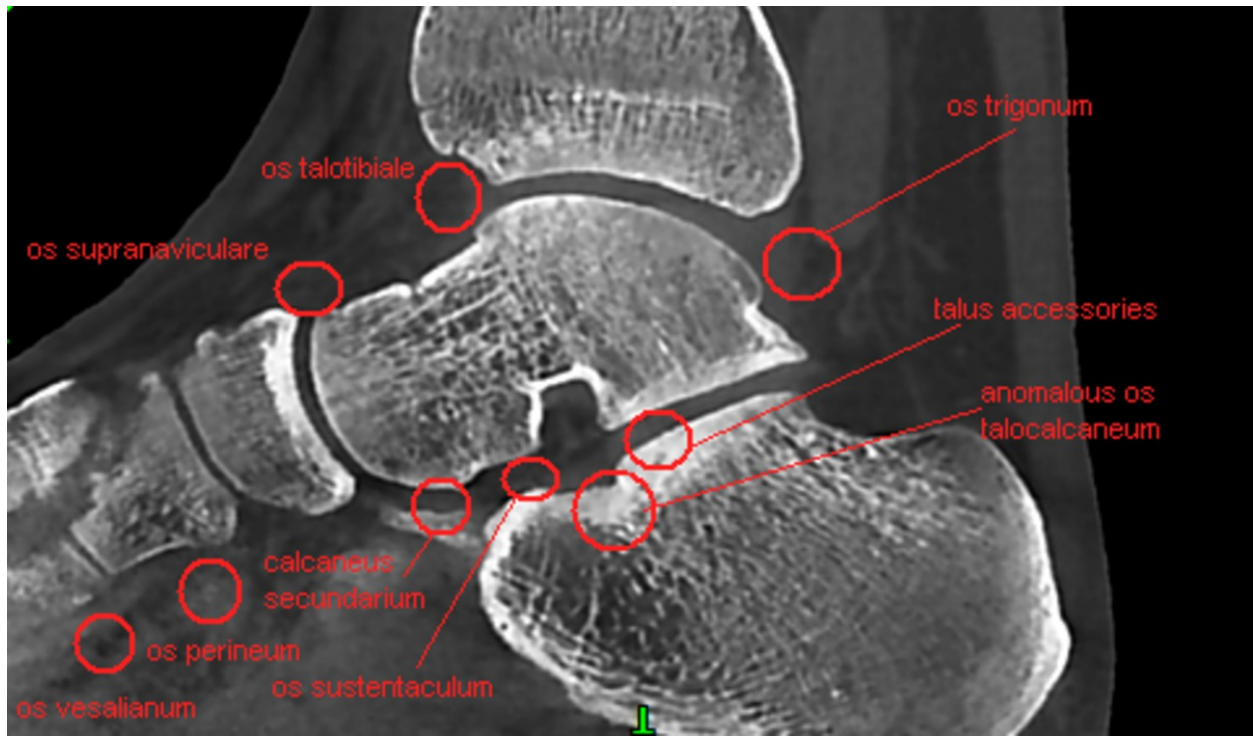
**Fig. 2:** Positioning of an upper extremity for CBCT-examinations of wrist and hand



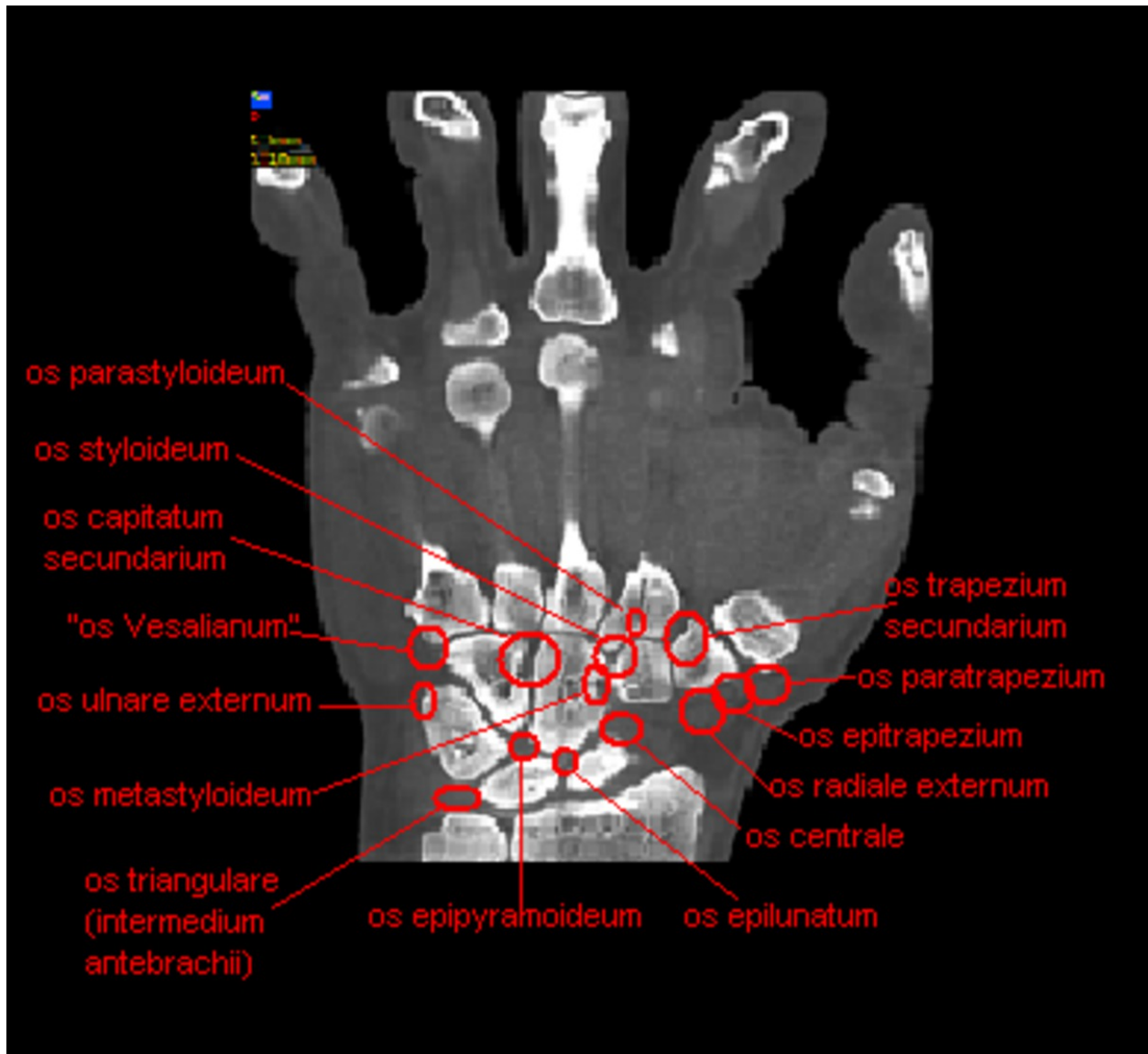
**Fig. 3:** Positioning of a lower extremity for CBCT-examinations of foot and ankle



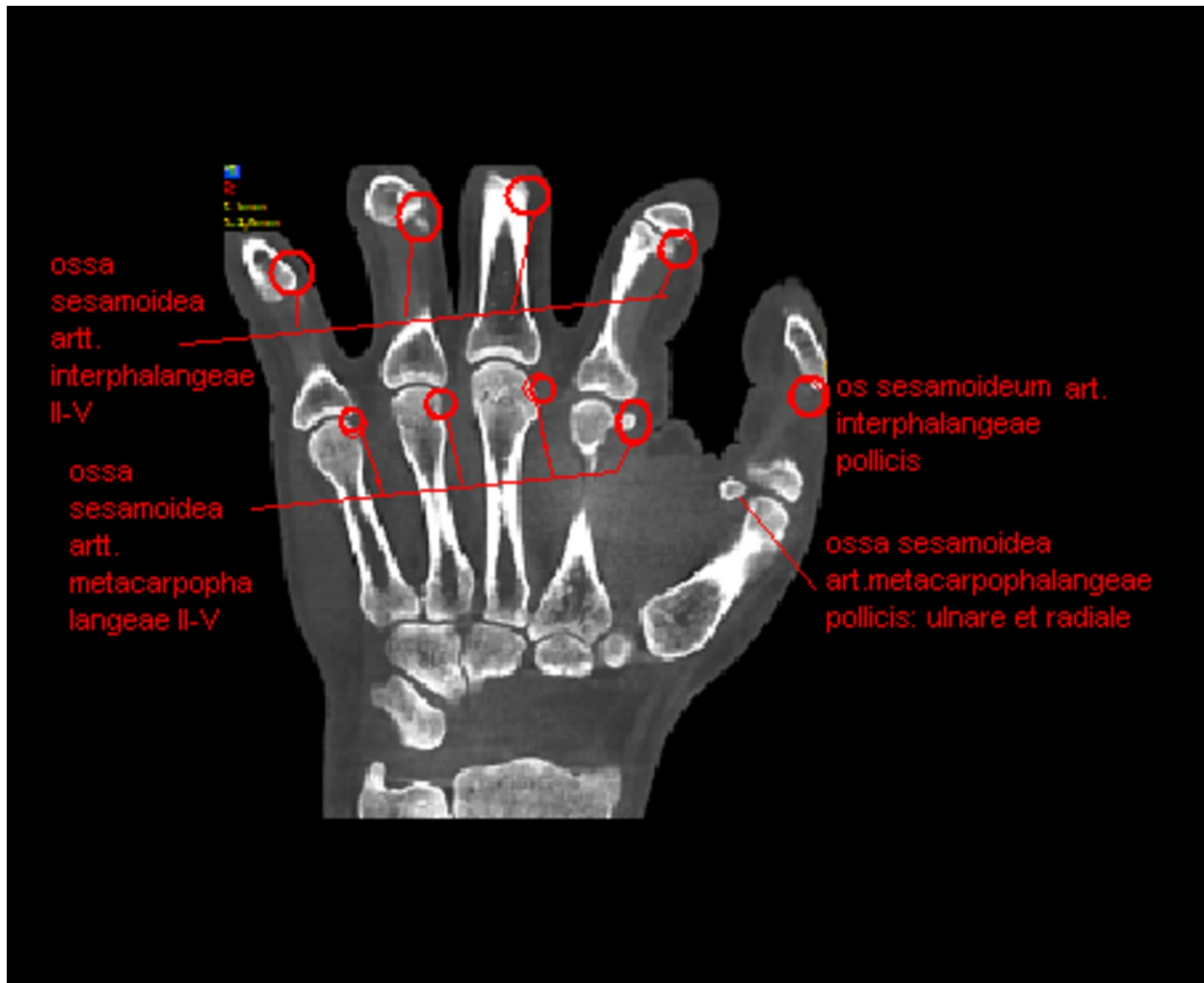




**Fig. 7:** CBCT. MPR, sagittal view. The possible disposition of accessory bones of foot.



**Fig. 8:** CBCT. MPR, frontal view. The possible disposition of accessory bones of wrist.



**Fig. 9:** CBCT. MPR, frontal view. The possible disposition of accessory bones of wrist.



## Conclusion

The physico-technical conditions and positionings for scanning of distal extremities allow to receive the images of high quality. CBCT permits a detailed study of distal extremities normal anatomy, to define the structure of bones and soft tissues, to determine the direction of the bone beams, to estimate the spaces between them, to observe the cortical plates and the medullary canals of the segments with so difficult anatomical structure: wrist, hand, ankle, foot.

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