Facet joint degeneration adversely affects ultrasound imaging of the lumbar spine.

**Supplemental fig 1.** Schematic picture depicting refractory shadowing.

**Supplemental fig 2.** The plane of the ultrasound beam passing between the interspinous process is depicted: a) lateral view; b) posterior view. Note that the facet joints are in the same plane as the interspinous space.

**Supplemental fig 3.** The plane of the ultrasound beam passing in the para sagittal oblique view (red dotted line). Note that the facet joints are not in the plane of the ultrasound beam.