

ORAL PRESENTATION

Open Access

Using structured reporting templates in staging pancreatic malignancies

Isaac R Francis*, Mahmoud M Al-Hawary, Ravi K Kaza

From International Cancer Imaging Society Meeting and 15th Annual Teaching Course (ICIS 2015) London, UK. 5-7 October 2015

Our clinical colleagues prefer structured or template reporting over conventional reports. The most commonly used type of conventional or free style reporting, tends to either “bury” the pertinent information needed for patient management in lengthy reports including unimportant incidental findings or fail to mention critical aspects of the findings that are crucial to the treatment and management of the current clinical problem. Structured or template reports on the other hand offer, the opportunity through the use of specific entry fields, to organize relevant information in an easily readable format and ensure completeness of the required information that is essential for patient management. For these reports to be practically helpful to the referring and treating physicians, they should be 1) concise, 2) use standardized terms and 3) easy to understand.

Several radiology societies and societies and organizations in other medical disciplines have started to provide examples of such templates to their members for use in clinical practice for ex. on their websites etc. (Radiological Society of North America, Society of Abdominal Radiology etc.). Usually the structured templates use standardized terms and avoid the use of ambiguous, vague and imprecise wording.

To take these reporting templates to the next level of being useful to the intended customer i.e. the referring medical specialist, it is essential that these reporting templates be developed in conjunction with physicians from the various disciplines that are involved in the care and management of the appropriate patient populations. This will ensure the use of mutually agreed upon terminology between the radiologist and the referring clinicians, eliminating any potential source of confusion.

For these reasons, we decided to formulate a working template for pancreatic adenocarcinoma, through a national effort. Working with the Society of Abdominal Radiology and the American Pancreatic Association, we put forth a consensus statement in 2014 which has been published simultaneously in two major journals: the American Journal of Gastroenterology and Radiology.

This workshop will illustrate the working template that we and others have developed with and are utilizing in patients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma using examples. We and others will be starting to work on developing a similar working reporting template with SAR as well gastroenterologists and surgeons for cystic pancreatic lesions later this year. Templates developed at other institutions will be shown and illustrated with examples.

Published: 2 October 2015

References

1. Kee D, Zalberg JR: Radiology reporting templates in oncology: a time for change. *J Med Imaging Radiat Oncol* 2009, **53**(6):511-513.
2. Plumb AA, Grieve FM, Khan SH: Survey of hospital clinicians' preferences regarding the format of radiology reports. *Clin Radiol* 2009, **64**(4):386-394.
3. European Society of Radiology (ESR): Good practice for radiological reporting. Guidelines from the European Society of Radiology (ESR). *Insights Imaging* 2011, **2**(2):93-96.
4. Bosmans JM, Peremans L, De Schepper AM, Duyck PO, Parizel PM: How do referring clinicians want radiologists to report? Suggestions from the COVER survey. *Insights Imaging* 2011, **2**(5):577-584.
5. Johnson AJ, Chen MYM, Zapadka ME, Lyders EM, Littenberg B: Radiology report clarity: a cohort study of structured reporting compared with conventional dictation. *J Am Coll Radiol* 2010, **7**(7):501-506.
6. Schwartz LH, Panicek DM, Berk AR, Li Y, Hricak H: Improving communication of diagnostic radiology findings through structured reporting. *Radiology* 2011, **260**(1):174-181.
7. Al-Hawary MM, Francis IR, Chari ST, Fishman EK, Hough DM, Lu DS, Macari M, Megibow AJ, Miller FH, Mortelet KJ, Merchant NB, Minter RM, Tamm EP, Sahani DV, Simeone DM: Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma radiology reporting template: consensus statement of the Society of Abdominal Radiology and the American Pancreatic Association. *Radiology* 2014, **270**(1):248-260.

* Correspondence: ifrancis@med.umich.edu
Department of Radiology, University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109, USA

doi:10.1186/1470-7330-15-S1-O7

Cite this article as: Francis *et al.*: Using structured reporting templates in staging pancreatic malignancies. *Cancer Imaging* 2015 15(Suppl 1):O7.

**Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:**

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

