

Cardiology PACS Integration & Challenges

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Question 1:

- What and how is cardiology PACS different from radiology?

Answer:

- Workflow
- Data from Echo, Ultrasound and cardiovascular

Question 2:

- What about waveforms (ECG's etc)

Answer:

- PACS should support vascular and cardiology diseases

Question 3:

- How can we share radiology and cardiology PACS?

Answer:

- PACS should have an enterprise perspective
- Cardiology needs to support workflow AND supplementary data: It's not about the images!
- Database should support clinical outcomes
- ACC database support is required: diagnostic, interventional and surgery
- Clinical outcomes are tracked

Question 4:

- Is there anything we can share with radiology?

Answer:

- Separation through the supplementary data
- Storage Area Network can be shared
- Managed 24/7 at data center: also facilitates HIPAA compliance

Question 5:

- What about performance requirements?

Answer:

- Dynamic data, cine loops and injections need to be retrieved and viewed
- High speed networks are needed for 250MB cine and 50MB echo studies

Question 6:

- What about Nuclear Medicine?

Answer:

- Nuclear is used frequently
- Often studies done in office

Question 7:

- What about other information, drawings etc.?

Answer:

- Complimentary database includes graphics
- Also reports
- Separate database (e.g. Oracle)
- In radiology as Secondary Capture (digitizing or capture as secondary data)

Question 8:

- What is the evolution in cardiology?

Answer:

- Market has matured in cardiology PACS especially regarding database
- Continue to grow robustness
- Rethink workflow: eliminate paper
- Need less personnel

Question 9:

- How do we handle EKG's?

Answer:

- Part of patient folder
- PACS captures with wireless cards and interface to EMR
- Presentation an area of discussion
- Availability anytime, any place is challenge
- EKG sometimes needs to be on Ultrasound

Question 10:

- What about cardiology reports?

Answer:

- Database supports reports
- Templates need to be built in
- Speech recognition is not prevalent (yet)

Question 11:

- Information exchange between radiology and cardiology?

Answer:

- Chest x-ray or CT from radiology
- No bi-directional data exchange
- New MR and CT's can do cardiology studies
- Barriers are re-imbursements

Question 12:

- What are the support and training requirements for Cardiology support?

Answer:

- PACS experts are hard to cross-over
- Specific person to support cardiology is advantage
- Two separate people are needed: radiology and cardiology

Question 13:

- What are potential candidates for cardiology PACS administrators?

Answer:

- Identify people within department
- Educate and raise skill set
- Require someone for monitoring cardiology

Question 14:

- More unscheduled patients in cardiology?

Answer:

- Re-engineering is critical
- Doing homework is important

Question 15:

- Are there accreditation requirements?

Answer:

- Select robust system to support workflow and volume growth
- Make sure database can support workflow: no manual entry
- Web based or not

Question 16:

- Top three recommendations?

Answer:

- Market has matured in cardiology PACS especially regarding database
- Continue to grow robustness
- Rethink workflow: eliminate paper
- Need less personnel