



Robert J. Stille
President
Heart Care Imaging, INC.

THE HCI SPOTLIGHT

Dear Colleague—

As I read through the articles presented in this month's newsletter I am reminded of the ever increasing involvement of governmental agencies among medical imaging. As expectations rise, governmental agencies continue to task us with delivering more with less cost. Specifically, because of our wide use of diagnostic images in diagnosis and treatment, medical images are now becoming part of the "meaningful use" objectives. At the January 10, 2011 conference sponsored by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT and the NIH biomedical imaging office, ONC's chief science officer said, "medical images should be considered another kind of data that could be integrated with words, numbers and sounds to form a multimedia electronic health record (EHR)."

The number of healthcare professionals that access and use imaging has been on the rise and will continue to climb as more and more individuals realize just how important images are for patient outcomes. As governmental agencies such as HITECH continue to evolve the "meaningful use" criteria we may find that this will dictate how physicians use systems and could encourage image sharing.

Keeping on top of what is happening in Washington will continue to be of the utmost importance. HCI will continue to be a strong advocate for our industry (and the patients we care for) by monitoring and participating in the dialogue. We promise to keep you informed of what is happening and what you can do to have your voice heard.

I would also like to remind you that pre-registration ends August 19th for the 2011 ASNC September 8th-11th in Denver, CO. Registration is available at http://asnc.org/asnc2011/section_400.cfm.

Answer to July's quiz question:

Test your knowledge. In closing we have an Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) quiz question. Is radionuclide imaging APPROPRIATE in this case?

- 64 year old man
- Shortness of breath on exertion
- Severe pulmonary fibrosis
- FEV1: 1 L/sec
- Nondiagnostic echocardiography
- Underwent triple CABG 20 years ago

Yes, the patient has known coronary artery disease and equivocal results from previous noninvasive testing (indication #29 in the AUC: Equivocal, borderline, or discordant testing where obstructive CAD remains a concern) warrants MPI.

Best regards,



Doc Fix In 'Gang of Six' Budget Plan Nixes SGR Formula

As Congress and the White House continue to debate how to reduce federal debt and raise the government's debt ceiling before a doomsday deadline of August 2, organized medicine wonders whether the outcome will include the "doc fix" to the Medicare reimbursement crisis for which it has pled. The Gang of Six plan calls for Congress to offset the \$298 million cost of an SGR solution with savings in federal healthcare programs.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/746907?src=emailthis>

Senators to President: Stop Imaging Cuts

Medicare reimbursements for medical imaging have been cut seven separate times since 2006, the senators wrote, and not only will the proposed cuts make access to care difficult, they will also jeopardize middle-class American jobs.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=imc&pag=dis&itemID=95946&wfv=1236>

Senate drops medical imaging cuts as trade deals pay-for

The Senate Finance Committee has dropped cuts to Medicare payments for medical imaging as a pay-for for trade legislation. Instead, the revised chairman's mark would divert penalties from physicians who fail to adopt electronic healthcare records by 2015, as called for under the 2009 HITECH Act.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicare/169311-senate-drops-medical-imaging-cuts-as-trade-deal-pay-for>

Nuclear Cardiology Report Falls Short

Nuclear cardiology laboratories that participate in the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Nuclear Medicine Laboratories (ICANL) accreditation process have greater compliance with reporting standards, according to a study published June 19 in the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology. 57% of nuclear cardiology facilities are in noncompliance with more than one of the required reporting standards.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=imc&pag=dis&itemID=95731&wfv=1236>

Nuclear cardiology reports frequently omit key information

Test result reports sent from nuclear cardiology labs to requesting physicians frequently omit important information, including basics like the report date or clear quantification of the myocardial defect. The most common mistake, made by 26.4% of labs, was not listing the date of the report. Almost 20% of the labs did not always include the myocardial defect size, severity, type, and location in the report using standardized terminology.

<http://www.theheart.org/article/1254591.do>

CVD Prevention a Savvy Investment as Treatment Costs Soars

Public policies for primordial and primary prevention of CVD events are effective and worth the cost, according to an AHA policy statement published online in July 25, 2011 Circulation.

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/747070?src=emailthis>

Improved Cardiovascular Workflow is a Matter of iNtuition

Image data can be sent to the iNtuition CLOUD by a local iNtuition server system or by an individual using the iNtuition UPLOADER desktop application software. During this month's recently concluded Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography (SCCT) meeting in Denver, TeraRecon, Inc., demonstrated its Cloud-powered iNtuition solution, which is designed to improve clinical workflow.

http://www.imagingeconomics.com/techedge/2011-07-27_09.asp

FDA halts CardioGen-82 use, Bracco starts recall

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is notifying healthcare professionals today not to use CardioGen-82 (rubidium-82 chloride injection), prompting its manufacturer, Bracco Diagnostics, to voluntarily recall the cardiac PET imaging agent. The agency had received two reports in which patients injected with CardioGen-82 had received increased radiation exposure during the PET scans.

<http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=mol&pag=dis&itemID=95978&wfv=1236>

Fraud conviction for McLean in latest unnecessary-stenting case

A federal jury convicted McLean, 59, on six charges of healthcare fraud relating to insurance claims he'd filed for stents deemed to have been placed unnecessarily, as well as for ordering unnecessary tests and making false entries in patient medical records. The evidence shows that Dr McLean egregiously violated the trust of his patients and made false entries in their medical records to justify implanting unneeded cardiac stents and billing for the surgery and follow-up care.

<http://www.theheart.org/article/1257637.do>

For Third Year *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine* is Best Imaging Journal in the World

For the third year in a row, The Journal of Nuclear Medicine (JNM) is tops in the world. The flagship publication of the Society of Nuclear Medicine (SNM) was named the top medical imaging journal worldwide by Thomson Reuters.

http://www.imagingeconomics.com/techedge/2011-07-27_03.asp

Older Optimists May Have Reduced Stroke Risk

An optimistic attitude may protect older adults from stroke, according to an observational study of a representative group of more than 6000 Americans older than 50 years. On a 16-point scale, each point increase in optimism correlated with a 9% reduction in stroke risk, the study team reports.

<http://www.theheart.org/article/1257911.do>

Heart attacks: Risks more likely to be inherited than for strokes

In a study published Tuesday in the journal *Circulation: Cardiovascular Genetics*, scientists at the University of Oxford in England showed that people are more likely to inherit the risk of having a heart attack than the risk of having a stroke.

<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-heart-attack-stroke-inherit-family-20110726,0,5449603.story>

Aspirin wards off heart attacks - just don't stop taking it, study warns

In a new study, patients with a history of heart disease who had recently stopped low-dose aspirin were more likely to have a heart attack. For people who've suffered a heart attack or are at risk for one, low doses of aspirin are a commonly prescribed apple-a-day to ward off future heart attacks.

<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-aspirin-heart-attack-20110721,0,615153.story>

Liver, belly fat may identify high risks of heart disease in obese people

Obese people with high levels of abdominal fat and liver fat may face increased risks for heart disease and other serious health problems, according to research published in *Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology: Journal of the American Heart Association*. Obese people at the highest risk have increased secretion of liver lipids, more abdominal fat and impaired removal of triglycerides from the blood stream. As such, doctors should routinely check obese patients for intra-abdominal obesity and indications of liver fat, researchers said.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-07/aha-lbf071811.php

HCI is now part of the social media click, please friend us on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Heart-Care-Imaging-Inc/169962476399001>

To remove your name from our mailing list or if you have questions or comments email us at info@heartcareimaging.com or call 561-746-6125