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Scientific Document Committee grapples with need for CV imaging evidence-base

By Thor Edvardsen, chair of the EACVI Scientific Documents Committee

Over the past two years the EACVI Scientific Documents Committee has been extremely industrious producing 12 recommendations, position and expert consensus papers for publication in an effort to define the most appropriate use of different cardiovascular (CV) imaging technologies. The Scientific Documents Committee shares a common goal with the EACVI to ensure the best use of CV imaging diagnostic resources for a given individual and prevent both over and under use of the different modalities.

Highlights of our publications include expert consensus documents for multi-modality imaging of CV complications of radiotherapy, and the multi-modality imaging of cancer patients during and after cancer therapy, and a position paper on multimodality imaging in pericardial disease. We have also produced recommendations for the echocardiographic assessment of native valvular regurgitation, and use of transthoracic echocardiography (TTE).

Our Committee, which has 11 members representing all the different imaging modalities, first scopes the need for different papers. Then once the requirement for a publication has been identified we appoint a chair and co-chair who put forward suggestions for a writing committee which can have between five and 20 members depending on the complexity of the subject. The papers, which take around one year to write, are then subject to a lengthy review process by independent assessors.



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many cases imaging results have no significant bearing on whether drugs are prescribed or whether individuals make life style changes. Another issue is that the assessment can be subjective, with different clinicians making different judgments.

In order to assist decision making regarding the choice of imaging modalities in different clinical scenarios we have established a task force, chaired by Patrizio Lancellotti, in which Madalina Garbi will be in charge of coordinating the process for developing 'appropriateness criteria'. In a recent position paper we explored the concept where after reviewing ESC guidelines, position papers, recommendations and best practice, panel members would vote anonymously on the use of imaging tests in different clinical scenarios, with the median score determining the appropriateness score (*European Heart Journal-Cardiovascular Imaging* 2014, 15:477-87) The wide spread

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Printing: the heart moves to the third dimension

Using cutting edge technology 3-D models of the heart are already being printed to advance knowledge of heart anatomy. On page 2 we explore how models are now used for teaching, to plan complex congenital surgery and for testing medical devices. The ultimate