

Society of abdominal radiology disease-focused panel (DFP) on rectal and anal cancer: annual short report

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The overall mission of the rectal and anal cancer DFP is to define the role and incremental value of various imaging tests (including MRI, endorectal ultrasound and PET-CT) in detection and staging of rectal and anal cancer and enhance treatment in patients with primary rectal and anal cancer, through education, imaging technique optimization, report standardization and multidisciplinary research collaboration.

Listing of all Active DFP Members

Marc J. Gollub, MD, FACR - Chair
Mukesh Harisinghani MD, FACR - Co-Chair
Supreeta Arya, MD, DNB, DMRD
David D.B. Bates, MD
Courtney Coursey Moreno, MD
Greg DePrisco
Kenneth Friedman, MD
Randy D. Ernst, MD
Dhakshina Ganeshan, MD
Jennifer S. Golia Pernicka, MD
Kartik S. Jhaveri, MD, FRCPC
Thomas A. Hope, MD
Nataly Horvat, MD
Zahra Kassam, MD, FRCPC
Harmeet Kaur, MD
David H. Kim, MD
Elena Korngold, MD
Chandana Lall, MD
Neeraj Lalwani, MD
Stephanie Nougaret, MD
Viktoriya Paroder MD, PhD
Raj Mohan Paspulati, MD, FSAR
Iva Petkovska, MD
Perry J. Pickhardt, MD
Gaiane (Maia) Margishvili Rauch, MD, PhD
Michael H Rosenthal, MD, PhD
Hiram Shaish, MD
Shannon P. Sheedy, MD
Regina Beets-Tan, MD PhD

Sunil Krishna, MD
David Patrick Ryan, MD
Martin Weiser, MD
Kenneth Friedman, MD
Larry Schwartz, MD

Most significant science/advances in the field in last year

The key factors in the successful implementation of MR imaging within the multidisciplinary framework are proper image acquisition parameters, accurate image interpretation and the use of a standardized reporting template. The rectal and anal disease-focused panel realizing this embarked on a mission to develop guidelines based on an expert panel derived unified approach to the technical performance, interpretation, and reporting of MRI for baseline and post-treatment staging of rectal carcinoma. This was successfully performed using a consensus-based questionnaire and published last year for the abdominal imaging community [1]. Furthering the education goals, the DFP members have successfully completed hands on workshops at RSNA and SAR annual meetings. These workshops have been very well received as there is an increasing need to get hands on training of live case material in understanding the intricacies of using MR for staging rectal and anal cancer patients. One of the key areas that need work on is the building of and getting a proper understanding of image acquisition parameters to maximize diagnostic accuracy by generating best possible images on diverse MR systems. To this effect, the DFP has solicited help of a MR physicist and included Jinfei Ma from MD Anderson Cancer Center as a consulting member. In addition, selected members of the DFP acting as liaison for American College of Radiology (ACR) have also secured a seat at the initial formative stage of NAPRC (National Accreditation Program for Rectal Cancer) which is a collaborative effort between The OSTRiCh Consortium

(Optimizing the Surgical Treatment of Rectal Cancer) and the Commission on Cancer (CoC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons. The NAPRC's goal is to ensure patients with rectal cancer receive appropriate care using a multidisciplinary approach.

DFP priorities/projects in the coming year

One of the highlights for the DFP in the coming year is the focused abdominal radiology issue on rectal and anal cancer. This issue will comprise a compilation of review and scientific papers authored by members of the DFP, which will provide a broad multidisciplinary overview of role MR in staging, managing and follow-up of patients with rectal and anal cancer.

Moving forward this year, members of the DFP have successfully overcome institutional regulatory hurdles to initiate multi-institutional studies that will be performed in the ensuing year and will likely culminate in high profile academic publications benefiting the subspecialty.

Based on the feedback obtained from the multiple hands on workshops conducted by members of the DFP, constructive changes have been made that will enhance the educational content. Members are also working on a basic module for training residents via WebEx based platform. In addition, using resources from ACR, the DFP has developed a self-testing module for rectal and anal cancer that when universally deployed will not only serve as an education tool but can also be used as a pre requisite for site and reader accreditation when institutions are considered for NAPRC accreditation.

Reference

1. Gollub MJ, Arya S, Beets-Tan RG, et al. Use of magnetic resonance imaging in rectal cancer patients: Society of Abdominal Radiology (SAR) rectal cancer disease-focused panel (DFP) recommendations 2017. *Abdom Radiol (NY)* 2018; 43:2893-2902

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