

Teleradiology: A chance to make better evaluation of COVID-19 Pneumonia imaging

Teleradiology: Covid 19 Pneumonia

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To the editor:

The request for diagnostic and image analysis in radiology is growing rapidly all over the world. This is especially due to the lack of enough number of staff and the lack of specialty expertise. Many hospitals have CT scanners but qualified and competent radiologists are few and far between. These problems can be overcome by transferring images to the distantly located radiologists who have specialty expertise. All these work, in which radiologic images are sent to distant locations for comments and diagnosis, is termed teleradiology. Telecommunication systems are used to send the radiological images from one location to another. Interpretation of all noninvasive imaging studies, such as digitized x-rays, CT, MRI, ultrasound, and nuclear medicine studies, can be carried out in such a manner. This paper recommends teleradiology for a new and additional indication: the radiological diagnosis of a new disease, which is COVID-19 pneumonia, because many radiologists do not have enough experience to make a certain diagnosis.

Currently, we have introduced the new experiences in which the importance of teleradiology is understood, apart from the sufficient number of radiologists and sufficient knowledge and experience: Flexible working and working from home due to pandemic of COVID-19. And also, during this COVID-19 pandemic, the tomographic images should be interpreted and reported by their specialists quickly in order to identify the people who need to be hospitalized and to identify people who have been in contact with this infected patient [1]. In this position, rural-urban or generalists-to-specialists transfer availability with teleradiology have great importance [2].

In addition, in COVID-19 pneumonia, which we have recently encountered and whose imaging findings may differ from other types of pneumonia, multiple specialist radiologists on pulmonary and emergent radiology can see and discuss the images with teleradiology. And this provides experience to radiologists and also provides the right patient approach in hospitals with radiologists who do not have enough experience [3].

You can record images in teleradiology, so you can collect and make an archive of the imaging findings that COVID-19 virus pandemic, which we have just lived and learned recently. And you can make the healthcare team dealing with COVID-19 have access to this archive from any place all over the world.

In the past, barriers connected to the non-presence of sufficient bandwidth no longer exist in most countries of the world due to the rapid development of telecommunication provider companies. With the use of multiple Web-based programs that let real-time screening of images can make communication across the globe [4].

In conclusion, until this pandemic process, teleradiology has been used to close the deficit of sufficient and experienced specialists. This COVID-19 pandemic in which we have lived has made us learn these points mentioned below:

1. Teleradiology is important in such periods when it is recommended to work from home as much as possible.
2. Teleradiology is needed to deliver and discuss new imaging findings that belong to this unknown COVID-19 pandemic process to make the correct diagnosis.
3. Teleradiology is needed in such periods to make a rapid diagnosis, to identify the people who need to be hospitalized, and to identify people who have been in contact with this infected patient, for example, as in this pandemic.

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