

The Best Moment of Cardiology Imaging

Each issue of the Argentine Journal of Cardiology is special; both for the Editor Committee and authors, but this one is particular because it is entirely dedicated to cardiology imaging.

Given the significance of images in the daily treatment of patients its importance is demonstrated in the fact that many journals are exclusively dedicated to this cardiology aspect.

Body imaging, according to an editorial of 2000 of the New England Journal of Medicine, (1) is considered as one of the greatest medical developments in the millennium and its importance is similar to the discovery of microbes and antibiotics, the cell and its substructures and the anaesthesia, the knowledge of the immune system, the clarification of heredity and genetics, the application of statistics in medicine and the development of molecular pharmacology. (2)

Thanks to the breakthrough in the field of digital technology, cardiology imaging has expanded its potential and if the results of Medicare since 2000 up to 2007 are compared, the increase in its use exceeds other modalities of cardiac studies and medical services. (3)

In this issue original works with almost all the current available imaging techniques and representative cases where the different modalities had an important role in the diagnostic, therapeutic and/or prognostic solution of the patient are presented.

Clearly, the clinical cardiology supports increasingly on these tools, but to consider the use and increase as sustainable, costs should be considered and overuse should be avoided.

Each technique has its strengths and weaknesses, so when deciding we should make a thorough analysis of the information additional value with the purpose of not repeating unnecessary studies.

Notable breakthroughs are made in order to improve spatial and temporal resolution of the images, reduce the time of studies and specially reduce the level of radiations exposure. We always should choose the safest, less invasive, most economical and "ecologically pure" technique.

There's no time for confrontations among techniques but the interaction among the different modalities and the combination of studies are an example.

We should take into account economic and biological costs (4) and respect the needs and possibilities of the patient.

In order to guarantee a rational breakthrough in cardiology imaging it is necessary not only to prepare the specialists in cardiology imaging but also guarantee that the level of information reaches the physician and we consider that the Argentine Journal of Cardiology, with this special issue, helps achieving this objective.

By the Editor Committee
Dr. Jorge Lowenstein^{MTSAC}
Dr. Osvaldo Masoli^{MTSAC}

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