

EDITORIAL



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Images in Clinical Medicine

The rapid progress of medical science and the invention of various medicines have benefited mankind and the whole civilization. Modern science also has been doing wonders in the surgical field. But, the proper and correct diagnosis of diseases is the primary necessity before the treatment. The more sophisticated the bio-instruments are, better diagnosis will be possible. The medical images play an important role in clinical diagnosis, teaching and researching. Medical imaging is often thought of as a way to represent anatomical structures of the body with the help of X-ray, computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging. But often it is more useful for physiologic function rather than anatomy. With the growth of computer and image technology medical imaging has greatly influenced medical field. As the quality of medical imaging affects diagnosis the medical image processing has become a hotspot and the clinical applications wanting to store and retrieve images for future purpose needs some convenient process to store those images in details.

Your skill as a diagnostician is enhanced as your personal image bank grows and is committed to memory. Our image banks begin in medical school as we view pictures in lectures and textbooks, and they expand during our own clinical experiences. Studying and learning image patterns from any atlas - print or electronic - can enhance your expertise. Not all images, however, are retained and retrievable. Grotesque and disturbing images are retained because they are processed with strong emotional content. I contend that, in a similar way, images you photograph of patients who share their stories with you are likely to become memorable because of the highly personal context. These images will give you a wealth of material for self-instruction, teaching, and medical chart documentation.

If clinical photography is one of your interests, we encourage you to submit your best images and case descriptions for possible inclusion in this column. We are interested in clear, well-lit photographs accompanied by interesting stories that teach important practice principles. Whether or not you use photography in your own clinical work, we hope the detailed, informative cases in this SPCCV Journal column will become an important resource for you in building your image bank.

Do you have images of compelling clinical cases of interest to cardiac, thoracic or vascular surgeons? We would like to publish them along with a brief description of the clinical presentation and a diagnostic question for readers. The case should include information on the differential diagnosis and treatment, the latter applying an evidence-based approach supported by current references. Multiple images may be submitted, and interesting connections between these images may be highlighted. See you soon...

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