ACTA RADIOLÓGICA PORTUGUESA
May-August 2023 | Vol 35 nº2 | 3
https://doi.org/10.25748/arp.32923

EDITORIAL
The Power of Collaboration in Radiology: Exploring the Benefits of Multidisciplinarity



Luís Curvo Semedo

In any field, collaboration is a powerful force that unites different perspectives to solve complex problems. In radiology, collaborative imaging is becoming increasingly important as technology advances and medicine becomes more integrative. Collaborative imaging is more than just sharing medical images. It is an approach that involves the cooperation of different experts to interpret, analyze and use medical images more effectively. This collaborative process helps improve diagnostic accuracy, optimize treatment, and improve patient outcome.

In radiology, collaborative imaging can involve a variety of techniques and technologies, including radiography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound, and other imaging modalities. A multidisciplinary approach is essential to maximise the benefits to the patient. Because radiology is not an isolated discipline, but interpenetrates into almost every area of medicine, it is critical that radiologists collaborate with other healthcare professionals to ensure that medical imaging is used in the most effective way possible.

Therefore, it will be possible to improve the accuracy of the diagnosis, and to adjust the therapy according to the current paradigm of 'precision medicine', a concept that is based on the idea that each patient is unique and therefore requires a unique treatment. The multidisciplinary approach is also beneficial for radiologists themselves. It allows them to learn from other experts, develop new capabilities and stay up-to-date on the latest research and innovations in their area of differentiation. Collaboration can also improve efficiency: by sharing images and information, radiologists can minimize duplication of effort and save time.

Despite its benefits, the multidisciplinary approach also poses some challenges. One of the biggest problems is communication: with so many different experts involved, it can be difficult to ensure that everyone speaks the same language. It is essential to establish clear and effective communication channels to ensure that everyone works towards the same goal.

Another challenge is technology: while it has made collaboration easier, it can also be complicated and difficult to use. It is important to invest in user-friendly technological resources and to promote appropriate training to ensure that everyone can use technology effectively. In addition, data privacy and security are also a concern. It is vital to ensure that all images and medical information are kept safe and secure, while complying with all legal requirements.

The implementation of a multidisciplinary approach, whose most visible face are multidisciplinary decision team meetings, is a team effort that requires the support of everyone, from radiologists to administrators. As technology advances, the trend is for collaborative imaging to become increasingly important in radiology. The emergence of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, which are revolutionizing the way we interpret and use medical images, promises to make collaborative imaging even more relevant.

In short, multidisciplinarity in medicine is a reality that can bring enormous benefits to patients. Radiology undoubtedly has a central role due to its transversal character, which is why the XIII Jornadas Temáticas of the SPRMN will be dedicated to this theme. We hope to meet you in November, in Coimbra!

CC BY NC