

Letter to Editor JPUMHS

Establishment of Multi Disciplinary Tumor Board (MDT) at PUMHSW Nawabshah.

Syed Muhammad Sibtain Shah

Multi disciplinary team tumor board (MDT) is an innovative & interactive academic activity to address exploration of emerging issues, analysis and handling of the conflicts and inquisition in practices on prevention, diagnosis and management of cancer.

Multidisciplinary tumor boards are an opportunity for radiologists to demonstrate value to referring clinicians, the hospital, and patients. Multidisciplinary tumor boards are commonly utilized in academic institutions, but may not be readily available in community practice. We discuss strategies academic radiologists may employ to assist in the implementation of a multidisciplinary tumor board in the community practice setting. Summary: Strategies to assist in the implementation of a multidisciplinary tumor board in the community practice setting are described.¹

MDT is strategy based on right balance between the old and new; between tradition and innovation. MDT gives us the best possible preconditions for future growth and makes it possible to fully unleash our entrepreneurial potential. Multi disciplinary collaboration is the only way to reach integrated diagnostic and treatment decision that consider all data and findings from every specialist involved. A few single institution studies have reported changes in diagnosis and treatment plans in 20% to 50% cases discussed at MDT, particularly cases of breast cancer.² A- 2015 study by Foster and colleagues further illustrated how tumor boards influence clinical recommendations. In the study 19 tumor boards discussed 76 patients with breast disease (43 malignant and 33 benign diagnoses) across six sites in the Canada.³ The results revealed changes in the management plan of 31 patients (41%),

including avoidance of immediate surgery, change in type of surgery, non invasive investigation to invasive/surgical intervention, and detection of a new suspicious lesion. MDT can improve diagnostic accuracy, adherence to clinical practice guidelines and patients clinical outcomes.⁴

A multidisciplinary approach to the care of cancer patients is commonly incorporated in academic institutions and is often achieved through multidisciplinary tumor board (MTB) conferences. MTBs are formal, regularly-scheduled meetings in which networks of specialists devoted to the care of cancer patients meet to review individual cancer patients in a prospective manner to discuss the diagnosis and formulate management plans using an evidence-based approach. These meetings typically involve core groups of medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons, radiologists, and pathologists, as well as other ancillary members of the healthcare team and other allied healthcare professionals. The patients discussed at these meetings may be patients newly-diagnosed with cancer, or may even involve patients at high risk for cancer or patients with complex management questions.⁵ Evidence has shown that MTBs can improve diagnostic accuracy, adherence to clinical practice guidelines, and some clinical outcomes.⁶

I anticipate that establishment of multi disciplinary tumor board at our institute will help us for the full potential for developing clinical protocols, techniques required to adopt into every day clinical practice.

Correspondence: Muhammad Sibtain Shah, Assistant Professor Oncology Medical Unit I PUMHSW Nawabshah
Email: drmsibtain@hotmail.com

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