Need for Radiologists to Solidify Position in Cancer Teams

A new article titled "A New Look at Toxicity in the Era of Precision Oncology: Imaging Findings, Their Relationship With Tumor Response, and Effect on Metastasectomy" states that the increasing use of cancer imaging will require radiologists to solidify their position as central members of the cancer team. The article is published in the American Journal of Roentgenology.

Despite the fact that oncologists commonly use a combination of cytotoxic agents, molecular targeted therapies and immune checkpoint inhibitors, very little has been written about improving radiologists’ approach with respect to imaging-evident toxicity. This article aims to broaden the radiologists’ understanding in this regard.

See also: The Eurosafe Imaging Initiative

"This article attempts to expand the radiologist's view of the effect of imaging-evident toxicity by delineating how oncologists grade toxicity, highlighting the potential relationship between toxicity and drug efficacy, discussing how toxicity affects patients who may ultimately undergo metastasectomy, and exploring the effect of combining multiple drug classes on severity of adverse events," said Stephanie A. Holler Howard of the Department of Radiology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

It is important for radiologists to understand the language and multifaceted nuances of toxicity so that they are able to deliver optimised care to cancer patients and can also continue to play an important role as part of an oncologic team. While the use of combination therapy is on the rise, often a combination of drugs can amplify toxicity. Thus, toxicity can be fairly unpredictable and that is why it is imperative that radiologists' improve their approach to managing this aspect of cancer-care.

Source: American Journal of Roentgenology
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