Technology complements human know-how and expertise in cancer treatment

Jyh-Der Leu, MD, Department of Radiation Oncology, Taipei City Hospital Renai Branch

Supporting dialogue and enhancing patient engagement

“Doctors want to clearly communicate with their patients at every step of cancer care – starting with the suspected diagnosis, through the tumour staging, the selection of the treatment and during the treatment itself. In addition to this, patients want to understand the detail: what is the tumour’s stage, which treatments are available, what are the advantages and disadvantages of each option and what is the scientific evidence?

Point-of-care reference solutions must be highly specialised and comprehensive to support at each stage of the patient journey. If effective, the information delivered by can not only inform decision-making of the clinician but also greatly facilitate communication between doctors and patients.”
Finding the best available treatment for patients

“ClinicalPath helps doctors analyse the advantages and disadvantages of available treatment options. This can be of real benefit for the doctor when communicating the detail of the treatment plan decision to patients.

For example, what is the cure rate for radiotherapy or surgery? What are the side effects? Based on this information the doctor can discuss the options with the patient. If the patient has a high cardiovascular risk and ClinicalPath shows that, based on scientific evidence, surgery is not recommended, then this can easily explained to the patient and the family.

Apart from the efficacy and toxicity of different treatment options, cost is also an important factor. If efficacy and toxicity are equal then we want to be able to select the most cost-effective treatment.

Before using ClinicalPath we mainly referred to guidelines to review different treatment options. Guidelines do not possess the level of detailed data relating to advantages and disadvantages unless you review all references. By using ClinicalPath you can easily find and demonstrate the evidence.”

A teaching aid for students

“ClinicalPath synthesize the most current medical evidence and expert knowledge available and therefore can act both as a teaching and learning aid. For the teacher it provides an opportunity simulate disease scenarios and provide information on treatment options. For young doctors, the value lies in helping to reduce variability in care delivery and encourage consistency of evidence-based practice. Personally, I check ClinicalPath for most new patients, to confirm the treatment plans with the exception of only the cancers I am most familiar with.”