

TEMPLATE: MRI SYNOPTIC REPORTING OF PRIMARY RECTAL CANCER

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BACKGROUND: The staging of rectal cancer via MRI plays a significant role in clinical management, especially in regards to whether a patient will receive preoperative radiotherapy or chemoradiation therapy.

AIM: To determine whether the implementation of a MRI synoptic report for primary rectal cancer has assisted in clinical management decisions.

METHODOLOGY: All MRI for primary rectal cancer staging performed from various hospitals should be audited. A comparison of the final radiology report can then be compared with a synoptic reporting template cited in literature. A qualitative survey can be sent to the referring physicians including surgeons and oncologists. Pre and post synoptic reports can be compared and analyzed looking at the different components of the synoptic template.

ACTION PLAN:

1. Perform a pre-audit data collection to determine the current quality of reports in comparison to the synoptic template cited in literature.
2. If determined to be below the standard, then the utilization of a MRI synoptic report can become the standard for reporting such cases. A department policy to adhere to such reporting may assist in adherence and consistency.
3. Perform an audit, with the intention of a re-audit in 1 year time to re-assess radiology-pathology correlation, adherence to synoptic reporting, and clinician satisfaction.