

SNMMI V/Q AUC Outreach Working Group Minutes
March 15, 2017
3:00 - 4:00 PM ET

Attending: Alan Waxman, MD (Chair); Leonard M. Freeman, MD; Gabriel Soudry, MD; Sam Torbati, MD

Not Attending: Darlene Metter, MD

SNMMI Staff: Saima Hedrick, Linda Budzinski, Julie Kauffman

1. Introductions and Quorum

Quorum was established.

A. Waxman offered an introduction to the purpose of the group, which is to find ways to educate referring physicians, radiologists, and other relevant audiences regarding the newly developed V/Q Appropriate Use Criteria. The AUC has been approved by the SNMMI Board of Directors and is undergoing final copyedits. It is expected to be published on the SNMMI website within the next couple of weeks, at which time it becomes a public document.

2. Outreach to Referring Physician Groups

a) Target Groups/Potential Speakers

The Working Group agreed that an effective way to accomplish its purpose would be through presenting at relevant medical societal meetings and at medical grand rounds. Ideally, speakers would include both a peer/member of the respective society and a nuclear medicine physician.

Target groups and potential member-presenters identified are:

- American College of Emergency Physicians (Dr. Sam Torbati and Dr. Mike Brown)
- Society of Thoracic Surgeons
- American Society of Hematology (Dr. Greg Le Gal)
- American College of Physicians
- American Academy of Family Physicians
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American College of Radiology
- American College of Chest Physicians (Dr. Victor Tapson)

Staff will contact Drs. Brown, Le Gal and Tapson for inclusion on future calls.

b) Session Description/Learning Objectives

The group discussed the best approach for proposing presentations. V/Q has been around for a long time, so what would be the best angle for attracting the interest of the medical societies? Among the ideas discussed:

- Though V/Q has been around for a long time, the AUC is new and is a useful tool in identifying when the procedures should be used and what its strengths are with respect to 21 applications.
- The American College of Chest Physicians recently released a statement recommending a higher threshold of severity for treatment of pulmonary embolisms. V/Q offers an advantage in that it does not pick up smaller PEs.
- Dr. Torbati has developed an algorithm for when to use V/Q. This could be a shared in very practical session on how the algorithm works.
- Emergency room physicians often choose CT over V/Q because it is quicker. However, the busiest hospitals increasingly are finding that the “line” for the CT scanner is so long (because it is used for such a wide variety of indications), it would make sense to switch some of those cases to V/Q. This issue is particularly pronounced during the evening hours as many institutions do not offer nuclear imaging options 24/7 but rather shut those units down at night; sharing this perspective may help influence institutions to offer nuclear medicine options overnight.
- V/Q offers a number of advantages over CT, including: lower radiation level, less likelihood of “overdiagnosis”; an improved overall picture of a patient’s ventilation status.
- The concept of offering patients/physicians choices is becoming increasingly important, and the option of V/Q vs. CT and an institution’s ability to offer that as a choice is important both in the short- and long-term.
- Expertise in reading V/Q scans varies greatly from site to site; the need for training and the advantages of using V/Q with a well-trained staff should be discussed.

S. Torbati stated he would look into the process required for submitting a proposal for the American College of Emergency Physicians’s Annual Meeting and would develop a proposal for that event.

L. Freeman suggested that a good way to approach the identified societies would be to develop a cover letter discussing some of the points made above and stressing the multidisciplinary nature of the AUC development group and send the letter along with a copy of the AUC (once public) to the society’s education/meeting staff with a request for space on their national and/or regional programs. The same letter could be provided to nuclear medicine departments at institutions, which could serve as liaisons for proposing presentations at grand rounds. S. Hedrick will draft a letter for review by L. Freeman and G. Soudry and for final approval on the next call.

3. Online Module

The group discussed the possibility of developing an online learning module on the topics. Currently, SNMMI does offer a webinar titled, “Optimized Use of V/Q in the Modern Era: Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask,” a videotaped presentation by Alan Maurer, MD; Leonard Freeman, MD; and Alan Waxman, MD. VOICE credits are provided for this session; due to the fact that it was developed by a pharmaceutical company precludes it from other types of CE. The webinar can be found on the SNMMI Outreach Tools and Resources page at: <http://www.snmmi.org/AboutSNMMI/Outreach.aspx?ItemNumber=21456>. (Direct link to the webinar is [http://pulmonaryembolism.draximage.com/vq4pulmonaryembolism/.](http://pulmonaryembolism.draximage.com/vq4pulmonaryembolism/))

G. Soudry noted that it may be helpful to create a module offering multiple cases with readings by experts.

The group will review the webinar at the link above and this topic will be revisited on the next call.

4. Infographic

SNMMI would like to develop a one-page infographic on V/Q that could be posted to the website and pushed out through emails and social media. G. Soudry and L. Freeman agreed to assist with this project.

5. Video

The group discussed the possibility of developing a brief educational video for posting on the SNMMI channel and YouTube. This will be a topic for future consideration and discussion.

6. Adjournment

The group decided to hold its next call in four weeks. L. Budzinski will send out a Doodle poll for the week of April 10 to determine the best date and time for a call.

ACTION ITEMS

- Staff will contact Drs. Brown, Le Gal and Tapson for inclusion on future calls.
- S. Torbati will look into the process required for submitting a proposal for the American College of Emergency Physicians's Annual Meeting and will develop a proposal for that event.
- S. Hedrick will draft an introductory presentation proposal letter for review by L. Freeman and G. Soudry and for final approval on the next call.
- The group will review the existing V/Q webinar and will consider whether additional online resources are needed/desired.
- G. Soudry and L. Freeman will assist staff with developing a one-page infographic on V/Q.
- L. Budzinski will send out a Doodle poll for the week of April 10 to determine the best date and time for the next call.