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# Clinical Audit: MRI Synoptic Reporting for Rectal Cancer Staging

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# Disclosure

No conflict of interest

No financial considerations



# Introduction

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.

There is an ever-increasing demand on radiology to not only provide clinically appropriate reports, but to do so in a timely and efficient manner.



# The Trigger

1. Radiology Reports
  - inconsistent information provided
2. Limited Educational Value
  - anatomy, clinical, pathology
3. National Guidelines
  - limited and/or not utilized



# Aim

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



# Methodology

N= 35

Location: 3 Hospitals in Saskatoon (RUH, SPH, SCH)

Inclusion: Primary Rectal Cancer Staging (MRI)

Time Period: July 2013 - September 2014

Next Cycle: September 2014 – September 2015

Hours involved in audit: 30-40

This document was developed by Drs Eisar Al-Sukhni, Laurent Milot, Mark Fruitman, Gina Brown, Selina Schmocker and Erin Kennedy for the Cancer Services Innovation Partnership – a joint initiative of Cancer Care Ontario and the Canadian Cancer Society

**1. MRI PROTOCOL**

Overall image quality:  Adequate  Suboptimal  Non-diagnostic

**2. TUMOUR LOCATION**

Tumour location (from anal verge):  Low (0-5.0 cm)  
 Mid (5.1-10.0 cm)  
 High (10.1-15.0 cm)

Distance of the lowest extent of tumour from anal verge: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Distance of lowest extent of tumour from top of the anal sphincter: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Relationship to anterior peritoneal reflection:  Above  At or straddles  Below  Not able to assess

**3. TUMOUR CHARACTERISTICS**

Circumferential extent/location (clock face): \_\_\_\_\_

Craniocaudal extent: \_\_\_\_\_ cm

Mucinous:  No  Yes

**4. T-CATEGORY**

i) T-category:

- T1 or T2  
 T2/early T3 (includes spiculation of the perirectal fat)  
 T3  
 T3/possible T4\*  
 T4\*

\*Please indicate structures with possible invasion: \_\_\_\_\_ (see list below)

GU	PELVIC SIDE WALL	BONE/VASCULAR	OTHER
bladder left ureter; right ureter prostate uterus vagina	Obturator internus Piriformis  <b>LEVATOR ANI</b> Pubococcygeus Ileococcygeus Coccygeus	sacrum (specify level) left internal iliac vessels; right internal iliac vessels left external iliac vessels; right external iliac vessels	Anterior peritoneal reflection

ii. *For low rectal tumours (0 - 5 cm) only:*

Is the lower extent of the tumour at or below the top border of the puborectalis?  No  Yes\*

\*If yes, please complete the following section for the most penetrating component of the tumour below the top border of puborectalis:

- Possible confinement to the submucosa; no definite involvement of internal sphincter (suspected T1)  
 Confined to the internal sphincter; no involvement of intersphincteric fat or external sphincter (early T2)  
 Through the internal sphincter and intersphincteric fat; possible or definite involvement of the external sphincter (advanced T2)  
 Through the external sphincter and into surrounding soft tissue; no organ involvement (T3)  
 Through external sphincter and possible involvement of the adjacent organs (i.e., prostate, vagina) (T3/T4)  
 Through external sphincter and definite involvement of adjacent organs (i.e., prostate, vagina) (T4)

**5. DISTANCE TO THE MRF AND EXTRAMURAL DEPTH OF INVASION (EMD)**

i) Shortest distance of the definitive tumour border to the MRF = \_\_\_\_\_ mm  
(*or*  unable to estimate *or*  not applicable (involving the peritonealized portion of the rectum or T4a))

ii) Extramural depth of invasion (EMD) at this level = \_\_\_\_\_ mm  
(Record 0 mm for T1 and T2 tumours)

iii) Are there any tumour spiculations closer to the MRF?  No  Yes\*

\*If yes, please specify distance = \_\_\_\_\_ mm and location \_\_\_\_\_ (on clock face)

iv) Is there any other component of the tumour (any T1-3) closer to the MRF?  No  Yes\*

\*If yes, please specify distance = \_\_\_\_\_ mm and location \_\_\_\_\_ (on clock face)

**6. EXTRAMURAL VASCULAR INVASION (EMVI)**

EMVI:  Absent  Equivocal  Present

**7. MESORECTAL LYMPH NODES AND TUMOUR DEPOSITS**

Any suspicious mesorectal lymph nodes and/or tumour deposits?  No  Yes\*  
(suspicious = irregular border, mixed signal intensity and/or  $\geq 8$  mm)

\*If yes: (please complete a and b)

(a) Shortest distance of any suspicious mesorectal lymph node/tumour deposit to MRF = \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Please indicate location of the lymph node/deposit closest to the MRF:

- At level of tumour; at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock  
 Above tumour; at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock  
 Below tumour; at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock

**8. EXTRAMESORECTAL LYMPH NODES**

Any extramesorectal lymph node(s) with suspicious morphology or signal?  No  Yes\*  
(suspicious = irregular border, mixed signal intensity and/or  $\geq 1$  cm)

\* If yes, please specific location (free text):

**9. FREE TEXT/ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**



# Methodology

Evidence Based National Guidelines:

- utilized literature review, meta-analysis, and expert opinion
- becoming standard of care

**Cancer Care Ontario**  
**Action Cancer Ontario**



Canadian Cancer Society  
Société canadienne du cancer

**User's Guide for the Synoptic MRI Report for Rectal Cancer**

Medline Search:

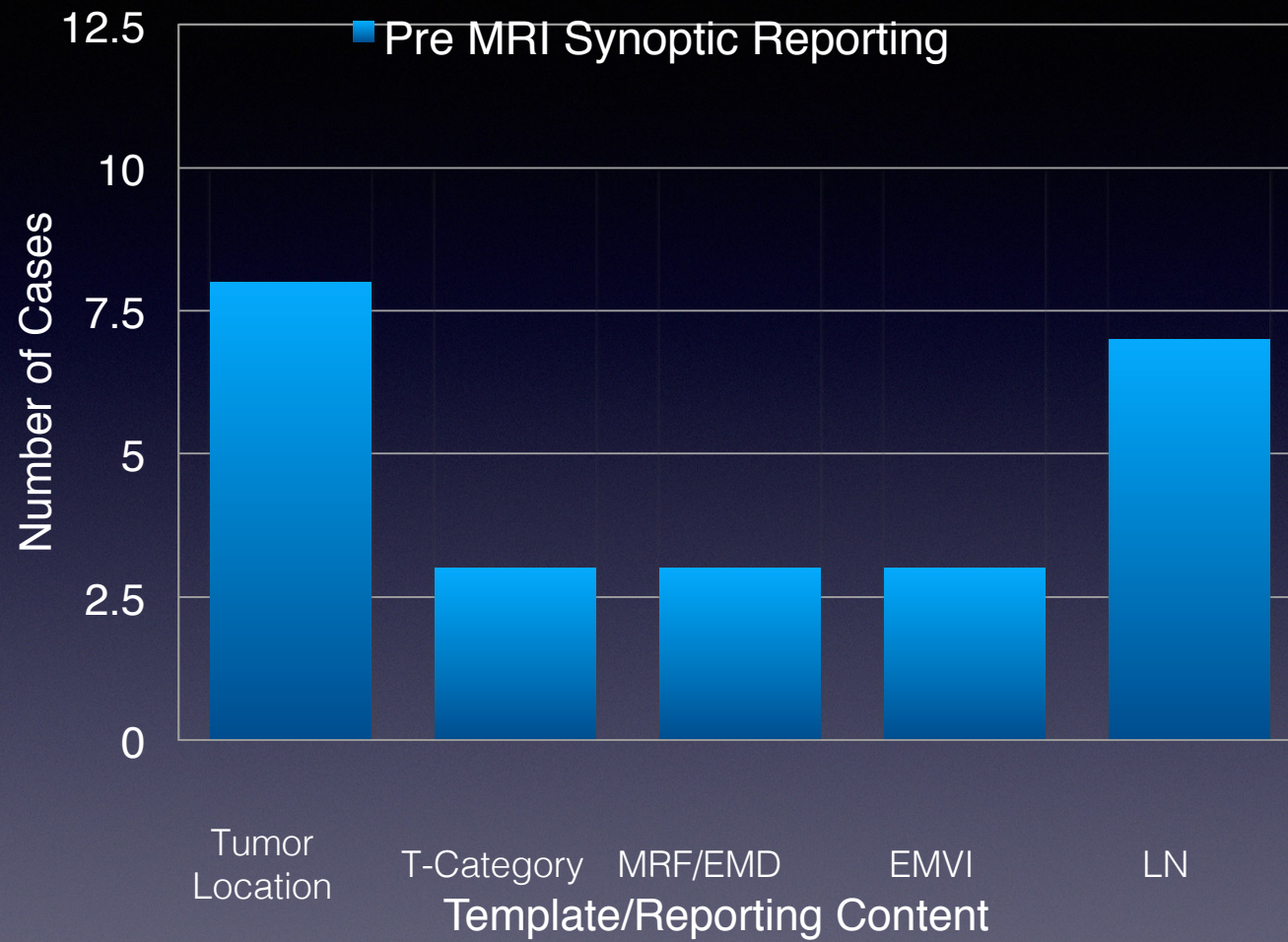
- Limited articles related to synoptic reporting and rectal cancer staging via MRI



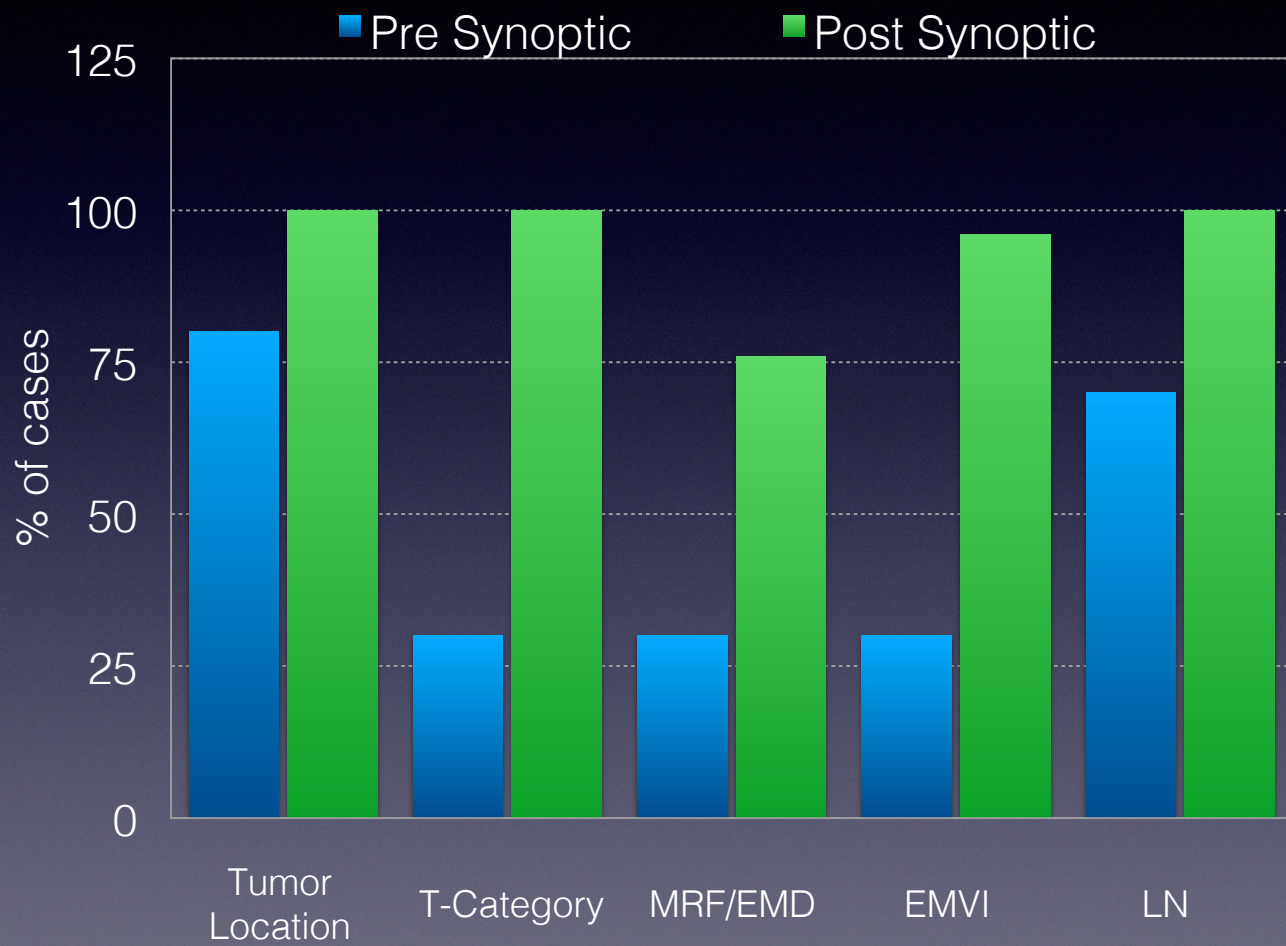
# Results

1. A total of 35 studies were performed from July 2013 until September 2014, with 10 studies performed pre synoptic reporting implementation and 25 post implementation.
2. More complete and relevant information is provided to the clinicians, particularly relating to tumor characteristics, T-category, neurovascular invasion, lymph nodes and distance to mesorectal fascia.
3. As a result, clinician satisfaction has improved significantly.











# Recommendations

## Implementation:

1. All primary rectal staging now preferentially performed at RUH
2. Performed by dedicated abdominal imagers
3. \*in conjunction with Gen Sx & Oncology\*



## Barriers:

1. Work flow/logistics
2. Adherence to synoptic reporting
3. Pathology Correlation Rounds



# Conclusion

1. Post implementation of MRI synoptic reporting for primary rectal cancer staging has demonstrated significant improvement in quality of reports, clinician satisfaction, and resident education
2. Future goals include adherence to synoptic reporting and pathology concordance
3. Opens many doors toward synoptic reporting in other aspects of radiology as a potential tool



# References

1. Al-Sukhni E, Milot L, Fruitman M, Brown G, Schmocker S, Kennedy E. User's Guide for the Synoptic MRI Report for Rectal Cancer. Cancer Care Ontario.
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3. Spiegle G, Leon-Carlyle M, Schmocker S, Fruitman M, Milot L, Gagliardi A, Smith A, McLeod RS, Kennedy R. Development of a synoptic MRI report for primary rectal cancer. Implementation Science 2009;4:79.
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Thank you!

Comments/Questions?