

NEW STATE REGULATION FOR MAMMOGRAPHY

State of New York Department of Health announced a change in the Public Health Law regarding mammography, effective January 1, 2004. The new law requires providers

of mammography services to ascertain whether or not the patient has had a clinical breast exam (CBE) prior to the performance of a mammogram. The law also requires that information on

the status of the patient's most recent CBE to be included in the report of the mammography exam that is sent to the referring or primary care practitioner.

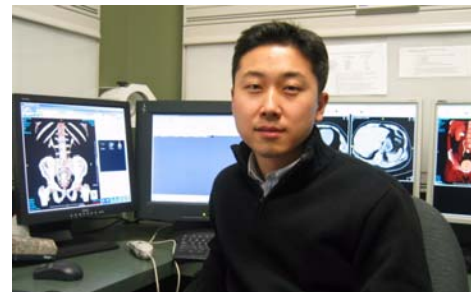
THOMAS YU JOINS MSR

At Main Street Radiology-Bayside, we rely on the performance of numerous integrated computer systems. Separate servers are necessary to run the imaging equipment, RIS (radiology information system), PACS (picture archiving & communications systems), voice-recognition report-generation system, 3D workstation, and billing. We need to integrate and interface the different servers, to create a coordinated functional system, which results in efficient service for our patients and referring physicians. We also need to transfer information to various sites, including referring physicians' offices.

Thomas Yu joined MSR-Bayside in January 2004 as an Information Technology (IT) specialist. He will work closely with all our software vendors to optimize our systems. He will also help our referring physicians best utilize our services. Exams and reports can be accessed by the referring physicians through the internet. Reports can also be e-mailed immediately. Patient's exams can also be "burned" onto a CD.

Tom is a graduate of SUNY-Buffalo and has worked extensively in the computer industry.

If you have any questions about how to best utilize your computer system, and to take advantage of the services provided by MSR-Bayside, please contact our office.



Thomas Yu

VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY AND CT CORONARY ANGIOGRAPHY REIMBURSEMENT

Virtual colonoscopy and CT coronary angiography are powerful new imaging procedures. Published literature shows potential for wide-spread utilization in the near future. However, Medicare and most insurance companies do not reimburse payment for these procedures.

Most facilities throughout the country that perform these procedures charge a high premium for self-pay patients. The rationale is that these procedures require

specialized equipment and software, and interpretation time is longer than a typical CT study.

At Main Street Radiology, we will provide these services to the community at Medicare rates. For CT coronary angiography, the patient will be charged for a CT angiogram of the chest (CPT 71275), 3D reconstruction (76375) and non-ionic contrast (A4646). For virtual colonoscopy, the patient will be charge

for a CT of the abdomen and pelvis (74150, 72192) and 3D reconstruction. As with any study, we will require a referral from a physician; patient self-referral will not be accepted.

We hope that our policy regarding virtual colonoscopy and CT coronary angiography will enable more patients in our community to take advantage of these new and promising procedures.

CASE OF THE MONTH

MULTIPLANAR NECK CT

History: 62 year male with goiter. Pre-operative evaluation.

Technique: Multiplanar CT of the neck was performed on a 16-detector spiral CT during the dynamic injection intravenous contrast. Images were obtained with 0.75 mm collimation (slices) with reconstruction of 2D and 3D images in multiple planes.

Findings: Conventional axial image (figure 1) shows a right lobe thyroid mass (M) and a small isthmus nodule (arrow). On the coronal image (figure 2), displacement of the trachea (T) and right carotid artery/jugular vein (red arrow) by the mass (M) is seen. 3D CT angiography/venography of the neck (figure 3) also shows the displacement of the right common carotid artery and internal jugular vein (arrow). Curved planar reformatted image in the frontal projection (figure 4) shows the entire thyroid gland (M = mass; L = left lobe; I = isthmus nodule).

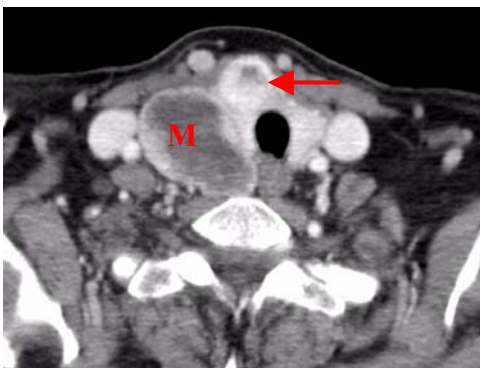


Figure 1

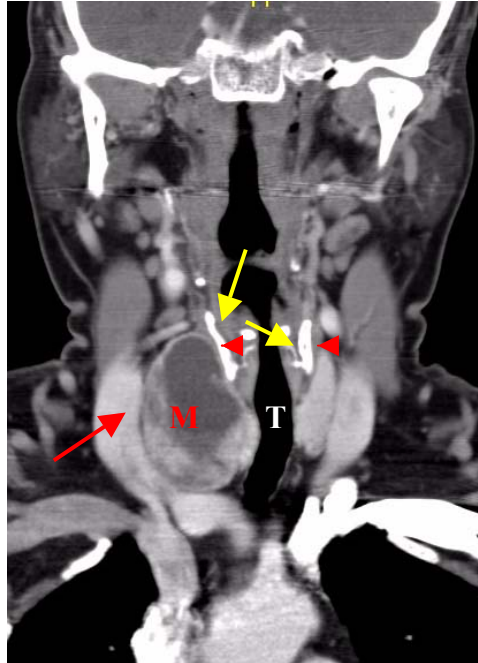


Figure 2

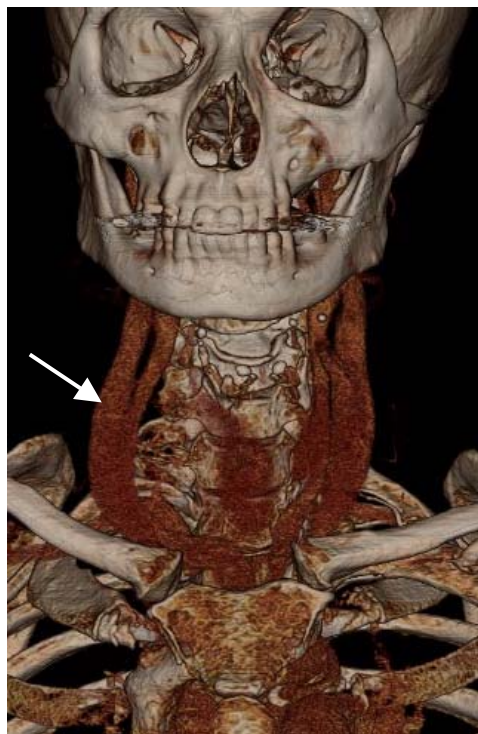


Figure 3

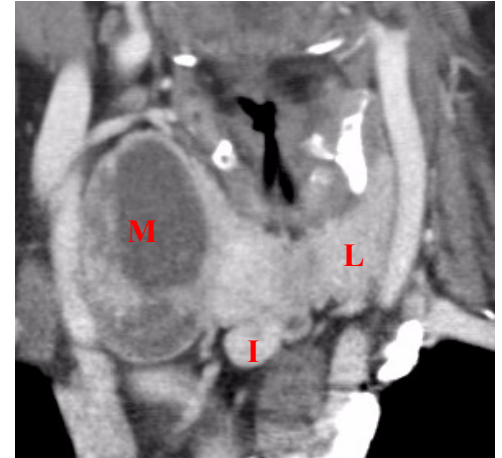


Figure 4

Discussion: Neck CT's at Main Street Radiology are performed with sub-millimeter slices, enabling multiplanar 2D and 3D reconstructions. Due to the thin slices, nearly "isotropic" volume acquisition is obtained, which enable high-resolution images to be generated in any plane. Multiplanar imaging can be helpful in defining anatomy, especially for surgical planning. This includes high-resolution imaging of the laryngeal cartilage (yellow arrows on Figure 2) which was previously not possible with routine CT exams.

At Main-Street Radiology, multiplanar CT imaging is routinely performed in the head and neck region, including the soft tissues of the neck, temporal bones, and sinuses. Multiplanar imaging is also utilized in many other areas, including the liver, kidneys, pancreas, and extremities.