

Session 3

Quality and Safety: Improving medical practice

Introductory remarks

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Quality and safety challenges associated with diagnostic and interventional radiology

Outline

1. Challenge of improving integration of radiation protection into the clinical setting
2. Challenge of outdated imaging equipment
3. Challenge of BSS Directive implementation
4. ESR's EuroSafe Imaging alliance & campaign
5. How & where the EC can help



1. Challenge of improving integration of radiation protection into the clinical setting

- Medical aspects are driven by regulatory measures/competent authorities
- Disconnected from health authorities and education authorities
- Limited involvement of radiologists
- Focus on medical physics and technical aspects
- Change the paradigm: move from a regulatory approach to clinical science with a better integration of radiation protection into the medical training and into medical practices

Radiation protection is a clinical science

- Benefit - Risk = clinically driven, particularly in interventional procedures and in paediatric imaging
- Justification step is crucial and is in essence clinically based
- The clinical indication drives the protocol
- Dose reporting in the report is a clinical duty
- Modern tools for dose recording provide insights into the daily clinical practice
- Need to develop team approach and to increase availability of medical physicists in radiology departments



2. Challenge of outdated imaging equipment

- Optimisation is mostly based on quality of equipment
- However, policy for equipment performance and quality of equipment is missing in Europe
- Need to develop safety management tools
- Need to develop a European plan in association with imaging industry
- Buy-in of healthcare funders is needed

3. Challenge of implementing the European BSS Directive

- European BSS Directive brought about new requirements for medical radiation protection → important to raise awareness among health professionals and support to achieve regulatory compliance to improve patient and occupational safety
- Need for specific policies for the adoption of justification tools
 - e.g. Clinical Decision Support (CDS) tools
- Automatic dose recording should become a mandatory default feature of any new equipment

4. ESR's EuroSafe Imaging campaign & alliance

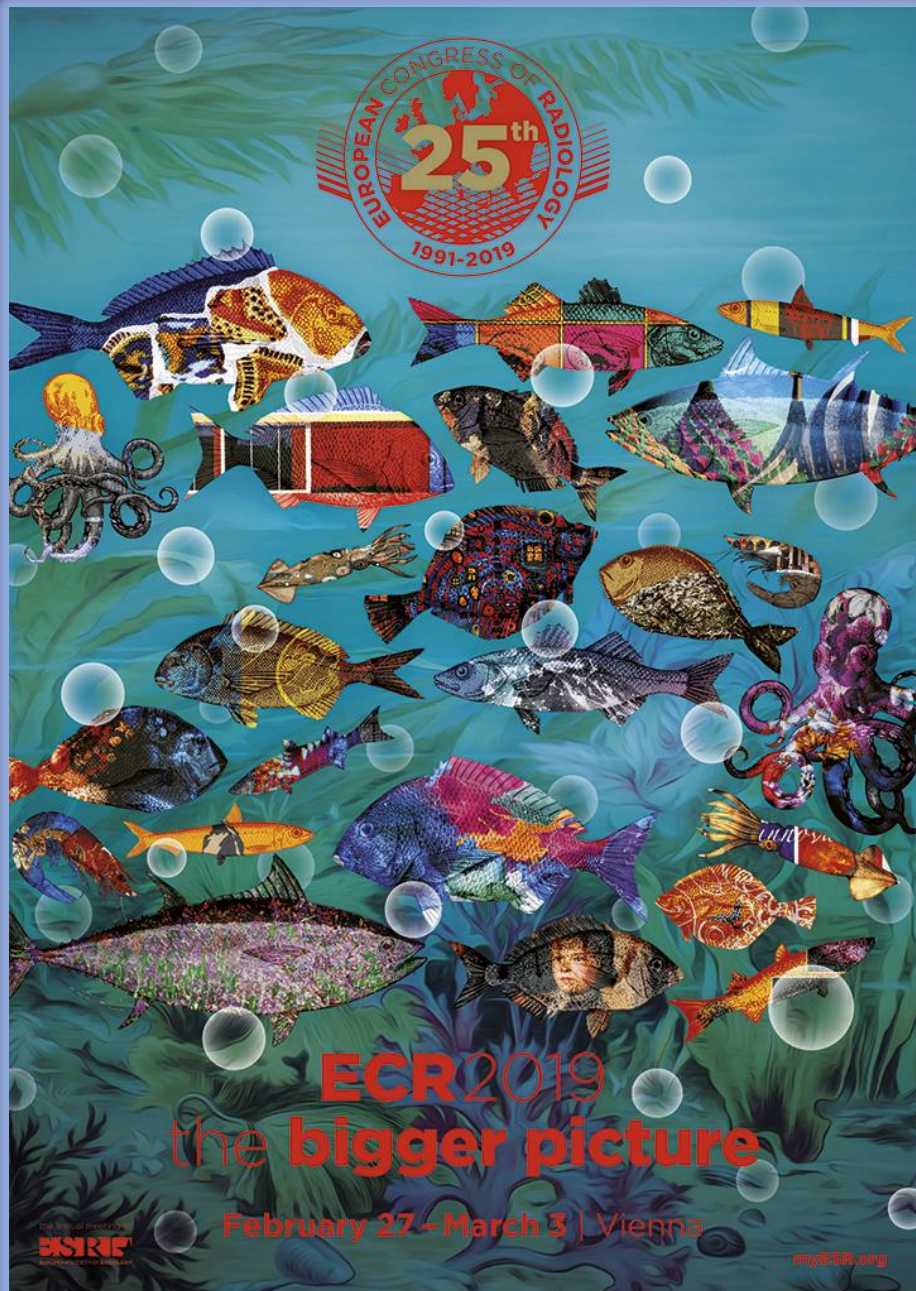
- ESR's quality and safety campaign for medical imaging, following an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach
 - Radiologists – Radiographers - Medical physicists - ...
 - Close interaction with: EC, HERCA, IAEA, WHO, ICRP, industry
- Increases health professionals' awareness of radiation protection
- Provides tools to support its members in implementing regulatory requirements (BSS)
 - ESR iGuide – ESR Imaging Referral Guidelines
 - Clinical audit
 - Clinical DRLs
 - CT dose repository



5. How & where the EC can help

- Support a holistic, multi-stakeholder approach towards medical quality and safety
- Integrate medical radiation protection into a broader concept of good practice in healthcare
- Close the gap between regulators and health policy makers
- Make the concept of quality and safety and related cost an integral part of national healthcare plans
- Bring the justification and optimisation process closer to the healthcare providers
- Develop a European policy for equipment update/quality
- Launch a focused campaign for radiation protection of paediatric patients (currently lacking in Europe)





THANK YOU

