

File Sharing for Faster Diagnosis

Physicians, clinicians view ultrasound images online

The technology that forced the shutdown of Napster, an online music search and sharing service, is allowing obstetricians, radiologists, and consulting physicians to collaborate on patient ultrasound images for faster diagnoses.

Mangosoft Inc. of Westborough, MA, a developer of Internet-enabling software solutions, created MangomindSM Internet File Sharing Service as a way for physicians and clinicians to collaborate on diagnoses. The technology provides remote file access, secure real-time file sharing, secure online file storage, and offline access to documents.

PCs configured with Mangomind and a video capture system can directly transfer an ultrasound image to the PC at each obstetrician's site. Once the ultrasound images are captured, they are saved on a shared drive where radiologists can quickly access and review them, and then contact an obstetrician with their interpretation or

post a written report. If a second opinion is required, physicians can access the shared drive to review the files online and speed their evaluation and comments.

Mangomind can also be used to post MPEG videos of ultrasounds, providing nearly real-time evaluation from remote interpreting radiologists. The video enables rapid feedback to the scanning technologist requesting additional views, as well as improved diagnostic capabilities when characterizing abnormalities. This system can also prevent the need for patients to return for additional imaging.

CLINICAL USES

Sound Choices LLC, of Houston, TX, a regional provider of ultrasound services, is among the first facilities to use the technology. By facilitating collaboration between doctors, Sound Choices has reduced the time it takes obstetricians to deliver diagnoses to patients from days to hours.

Using Mangomind, the duration of the multi-stage process — which consists of ultrasound imaging, transporting images to a central printer, transporting films to radiologists, dictating, reviewing and signing reports, and transmitting reports to referring physicians — can be decreased from five days to as little as 90 minutes, according to Randall A. Stenoien, MD, medical director of Sound Choices.

ENSURING PRIVACY

The transmission and storage of confidential patient information is secured with 128-bit file encryption. Mangomind also provides user authentication plus Windows NT-type permissions and access restrictions on files and folders. Additionally,



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— Randall A. Stenoien, MD

software firewalls prevent unauthorized access via the web.

"We believe there is great potential for the Mangomind service to be used by physicians in remote locations around the globe to share medical data," says Stenoien. "Mangomind's PC-to-server encryption and security meet our medical requirements for patient confidentiality."

Sound Choices technicians and participating radiologists and physicians also use Mangomind to post reports and to centralize a complete record trail for each patient. For archival purposes, all supporting patient records and images are temporarily saved centrally in a secure folder on the shared drive, simplifying retrieval and patient record audits. Mangomind also provides backup and retrieval services, to ensure records are never lost.

For more information, visit www.mangosoft.com.

— Source: Mangosoft Inc.

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