

Report by Mr K Katassou October 2018.

Introduction

The Tenth Francophone African Congress of Imaging and Radiotherapy (CAFIMRA) in Dakar - SENEGAL in 2018 has been a rich experience of my life as medical imaging staff and is a source of irreversible motivation for my career.

In Dakar, beyond the friendship and fraternity that has developed between the medical imaging and radiotherapy professionals gathered, we learned a lot of new things in terms of "Quality Assurance and Risk Management in Medical Imaging and in radiotherapy".

Our welcome in Dakar

The organizing committee has done everything possible for our welcome and installation in Dakar despite the distance that separates the new airport from the city centre. The organisation of trips from our housing site to the convention venue was perfect.

Opening ceremony

This congress took place from September 28 to 29, 2018 at the City Business Hall Baobab. The opening ceremony was rich in colour with a series of speeches delivered followed by presentations from various delegations present (Belgium, Benin, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo-Kinshasa, Congo-Brazzaville, France, Gabon, Senegal, Mali and Togo).

2-Activities carried out (presentations and workshops)

It was the most beneficial moment of this congress for us in terms of direct gain of knowledge for our professional career. The communications were rich and varied. Their plurality resulted in particular in the diversity of their origin. Several topics have been developed (five sessions and workshops) on quality assurance, CT / MRI and radiation protection by different speakers.

Of all these communications, three have held more of my attention and the practice will significantly improve my service delivery.

☐ Procedure for verification and validation of CT examinations (quality management and medical imaging):

It makes it possible to verify the conformity of the examination in relation to the indication on the one hand and, on the other hand, it makes it possible to authorize the examination and to give directives on the acquisition. It constitutes a guarantee of success of the examination and the radioprotection of the patient.

☐ Ultrasound, reconstruction MPR: why and how?

MPR reconstruction improves the quality of images and allows small unnoticed calculations to be detected on the usual cuts.

☒ Internal quality control by the manipulator (mammography workshop):

The regular control set up in each department or mammography centre makes it possible to monitor the quality of the image on a daily basis. It causes immediate corrective actions and optimizes the image chain.

Our communication

I presented a paper in Session 4 (Radiation Protection) entitled: Diagnostic Reference Levels of Tomodensitometric Examinations in Togo.

"This is a cross-sectional study carried out from 6 March to 30 July 2016 in 5 health structures with a CT unit.

Of the 1416 examinations selected, of which 1259 were adult examinations (89.9%) and 157 paediatric examinations (11.1%), the cranio-encephalic and abdomino-pelvic examinations were respectively 39% and 12.4% of the total. The mean age was 47.64 years [J1-99 years], 31.8% of patients were 55 years older. The sex ratio was 1.20. The devices were 6 and 16 bars, and 60% were installed in 2010.

The 75th percentile PDL (NRD) by acquisition was 1199.14mGy.cm (nontraumatic cerebral), 1596.45mGy.cm (cerebral-traumatic), 635.63mGy.cm (cervical),

401.98mGy.cm (thorax), 594.42mGy.cm (abdomino-pelvic), 675.73mGy.cm (thoraco-abdomino-pelvic), 681.35mGy.cm (lumbar) and 86mGy.cm (pelvic scanner) .

The NRD of paediatric cerebral was 626.03mGy.cm (less than one year), 898.53mGy.cm (1-4years), 933mGy.cm (5-9years) and 999mGy.cm (10-14years). The dispersion of PDLs by acquisition and for a complete inter and intra health structure examination was significant. The average effective doses associated with the different types of examinations ranged from 2-3mSv for head and neck exposure (single-acquisition examination) and 24mSv for abdomino-pelvic CT (2-5 acquisitions). " .

Our communication caught the attention of the delegates. Many of them asked: what is a diagnostic reference level for? Resuming the same study in a short time (one year) by making available data for the country's nuclear safety and radiation protection agency will thus enable national values to be regularly updated.

The participant wished and invited each country to determine its diagnostic reference levels and finally to harmonize our practices.

End ceremony

It was rich in colours and extraordinary twists. A total of nine awards were distributed and three French participants were decorated. As for the awards, we received a special ISRR award for this Tenth Congress.

Closing remarks were made by Mr. Boniface Kouamé YAO, the regional president of the ISRRT Africa zone, who pleasantly surprised by inviting Cameroon to host the 11th CAFIMRA in 2020 in Yaoundé.

Conclusion

This 10th Congress of French-speaking Africa of Medical Imaging and Radiotherapy has been a great experience in continuing education. This 10th CAFIMRA was an opportunity for us to build a lot of relationships for sharing and professional exchanges. Contacts were made and addresses were exchanged with colleagues from other countries.

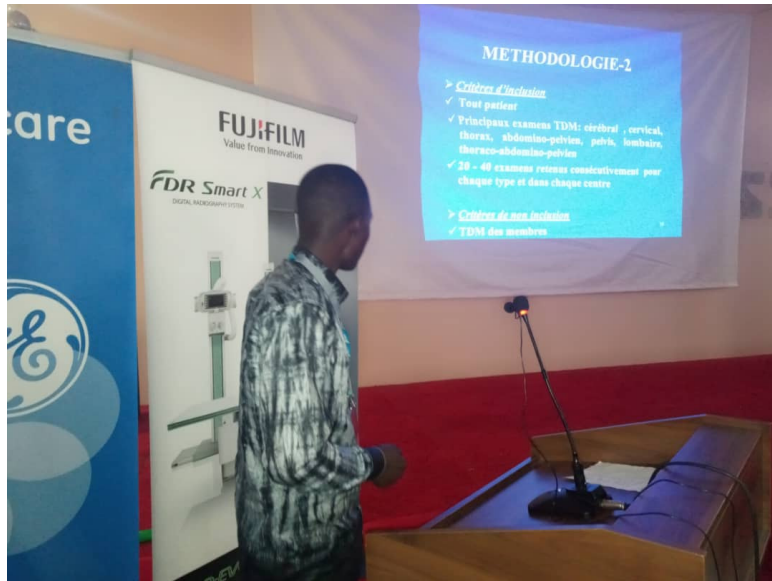
I hope to experience other experiences similar to this one in the future.

Our thanks to WRETF, Miss. S. Marchant and all the Trustees, without their support, which will not have been possible for us. WRETF is a credible faithful partner. I ask the technical staff of medical imaging to apply to the various WRETF bursary awards.

The restitution of this congress to the colleagues of the Regional Hospital Centre of Atakpamé-Togo will take place on November 22nd and 29th, 2018 and to the colleagues on the national level it will take place from May 18th to 19th, 2019 during the national meeting of the technicians of Togo.



Photo of delegates at Congress



Picture of Mr Katassou presenting



Pictured Dominique Zerroug WRETF Ambassador with Mr Katassou



Picture Boniface Yao WRETF ambassador, Dominique Zerroug and Mr Katassou