OncoView™ Image Management and Storage Solution: An Oncology-Specific Approach to Image Management and Storage

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Introduction

The OncoView™ image management and storage solution is a long-term image management and storage solution that integrates image viewing, managing, storing, and archiving of oncology images and data. OncoView, Varian Medical Systems' interpretation of an oncology-specific PACS, provides a contextual relationship between patient and procedure at every phase of cancer treatment—from initial diagnosis to response, and on to survivorship supporting workflow specific to oncology.

OncoView is designed to operate in a heterogeneous PACS environment and augment existing infrastructure to improve multidisciplinary collaboration. Adherence to industry standard DICOM RT and HL7 communication protocols, combined with distributed storage will ensure seamless scalability. This total image management and storage solution will deliver to oncology clinics and departments, a cost-effective solution that provides a competitive advantage to users and measurable improvements in long-term care to patients.

The Varian Solution

Collaboration between all of the oncology professionals involved in the treatment of a given cancer patient is instrumental to improving care. More than simply maintaining an informal verbal communication link, it requires creating a complete patient chronology that will require all available digitized information and images to be shared, as if handing them across a table. The size and volume of information and images should not impact the exchange, and the transfer of data from one practitioner to the other should be transparent.

Varian answers the challenges that radiation oncologists currently face. Our image management and storage solution—OncoView—integrates image viewing, storage, and management, including all DICOM RT objects, to create an oncology- specific workflow that is organized and presented longitudinally. This provides a contextual relationship between all procedures and patient treatment to date, and enables clinicians to make more informed therapeutic decisions moving forward. Planned support of IHE-RO integration profiles will further the dynamic information-sharing ability of the Varian solution.

The initial implementation of OncoView provides enterprise-wide connectivity, existing heterogeneous PACS compatibility, scalable direct- and network-attached storage, and both thin and thick client access. Ongoing will be the introduction of industry-standard DICOM and HL7 connectivity to extend system scalability to distributed storage, and allow the addition of web-based thin clients. This dynamic sharing of information will significantly reduce the time and productivity constraints associated with manually retrieving archived data.

OncoView is nonproprietary and modular by design, which allows it to operate effectively within any environment, including heterogeneous or best-of-breed environments.

Image Management

The OncoView™ image management and storage solution provides a single, all-encompassing record of a patient undergoing cancer treatment.

Using standards-based search engine technology and industry-standard DICOM and HL7 connectivity, OncoView locates and accesses patient-specific images and information from distributed storage—HISs, RISs, EMRs, and heterogeneous PACS—within a hospital, as well as outside hospitals and clinics. Search, access, and retrieval of all desired data is accomplished in a matter of just a few minutes, and can be automated to gather the information overnight or at off-peak times on the network.