

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 539  
(A-06)

Introduced by: American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Subject: Development of Standards for MRI Equipment and Interpretation to Improve  
Patient Safety

Referred to: Reference Committee E  
(Mary G. Armstrong, MD, Chair)

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- 1 Whereas, There are an increasing number of MRI units, especially in free standing outpatient  
2 facilities; and  
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4 Whereas, Each MRI manufacturer has its own sequence of displaying images and methods for  
5 manipulation of the data; and  
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7 Whereas, Best medical practice suggests that physicians review the actual MRI images rather  
8 than solely relying on the radiologist's report; and  
9  
10 Whereas, Patients' MRI data in CD format are not all compatible with physicians' computers;  
11 and  
12  
13 Whereas, The MRI CD data is usually without a master key, legends or localizing images so  
14 that the consultant cannot determine the image sequence or the level of interest, creating  
15 significant patient safety issues; and  
16  
17 Whereas, Different MRI software arranges images in opposite planes of view, left to right,  
18 superior to inferior, and vice versa; and  
19  
20 Whereas, Errors can and do occur, potentially harming a patient, when there is confusion as to  
21 the localization of pathology; and  
22  
23 Whereas, Physicians must have the most reliable and standardized data for best possible  
24 patient safety and outcomes; therefore be it  
25  
26 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association convene a meeting(s) with representatives  
27 from MRI manufacturers, radiology and other interested medical specialties, and imaging  
28 facilities, with the goals of: (1) agreeing to standards in electronic imaging formats (e.g., left to  
29 right, axial, coronal, sagittal); (2) developing standards of data manipulation and localization  
30 consistent throughout all units for best interpretation of the data; and (3) ensuring that each  
31 electronic format is equipped with the capability of loading and launching its contained images  
32 on the physician's computer (Directive to Take Action), and be it further  
33  
34 RESOLVED, That a report of the meeting(s) be issued to the House of Delegates at the 2006  
35 Interim Meeting. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Estimated cost of \$29,494 includes convening a two-day meeting and developing a  
CSAPH report.

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