How to provide a relevant support for the guideline-based flexible management of complex patients

GUEST SPEAKER:
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Following Evidence-Based Medicine principles, clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) are elaborated to provide recommended therapeutic management for different clinical situations encountered in given pathologies. They are thus intended to improve the quality of clinical care, reduce inappropriate variations, produce optimal patient outcomes, and promote cost-effective practices.

We have developed a document-based paradigm where the knowledge base is built from CPGs as a formal decision tree. But the knowledge base is not automatically run from patient data, although this operation is possible. On the contrary, the knowledge base is interactively browsed by the user, a process that allows users to re-introduce some flexibility in the navigation to optimize the appropriateness of the formal characterization of the patient to manage and then the appropriateness of the recommendations finally provided. This approach has been applied with success with OncoDoc, a guideline-based CDSS applied to the management of breast cancer (a demonstration of the system will be performed). Another way to provide flexibility in the implementation of CPGs is to use ontological reasoning. This approach has been developed on a prototype system GO-DSS applied to the management of cardiovascular risk factors, i.e. patients with multiple pathologies, hypertension and diabetes (a demonstration of the system will be performed).

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