“Physician Performance and Preference for Clinical Data in Structured and Unstructured Formats”

Abstract:
This presentation will discuss the positive and negative features of structured and unstructured documentation in electronic medical records and will discuss a study that examined the effects of structured documentation on efficiency and accuracy of diagnosis. In the study, clinicians had to analyze 8 challenging clinical cases and formulate a diagnosis for cases presented in two different formats. Time to diagnosis and accuracy of diagnosis were compared between cases presented in a structured and unstructured format. Clinician preferences for the different case formats were also examined. Results showed a preference for structured case presentation, although the two formats were similar in terms of accuracy and efficiency. The implications for clinical documentation in electronic health records will be discussed.