VOLUME 15, 2002

NUMBER 3

Introduction to paper by Spencer B. Gay, MD et al, “Processes Involved in Reading Imaging Studies: Workflow Analysis and Implications for Workstation Development”

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THE GOAL OF THIS WORKFLOW analysis was to present a method for comparing computed tomography (CT) laser-printed film reading with CT soft-copy display reading. An operational description of the workflow for the two display reading protocols was acquired. It showed the flow of data for each step of the job and the average time required to perform each step, as well as the resources used by each step. The resources required for each job step were identified for each protocol. Workflow analysis using the method of

Resource Allocation Table enables identification of bottlenecks in the throughput rate. It also enables estimation of the jobs completed during the operational period. This method of analysis determined that the throughput was higher for CT softcopy display reading than for CT laser-printed film reading. The Resource Allocation Table Model enables throughput analysis of alternative workflows and their assessment of effects on Workstation Development and PACS.

The full paper is DOI: 10.1007/s10278-002-6000-2.

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Online publication 21 January 2003

doi:10.1007/s10278-002-0032-5