

A web tool for Standardization in Echocardiography

AIM

To develop a system for quality control in **echocardiography** applying the model of the **External Quality Assessment** (EQA) Schemes, used for Laboratory Medicine, for the standardization of echo images interpretation.

STATE OF THE ART

Diagnosis and management of heart conditions, besides clinical signs, are based on circulating biomarkers and imaging techniques, foremost echocardiography. Although the technique is widely available, non-invasive and low cost, it is limited by operator's experience.

External Quality Assessment

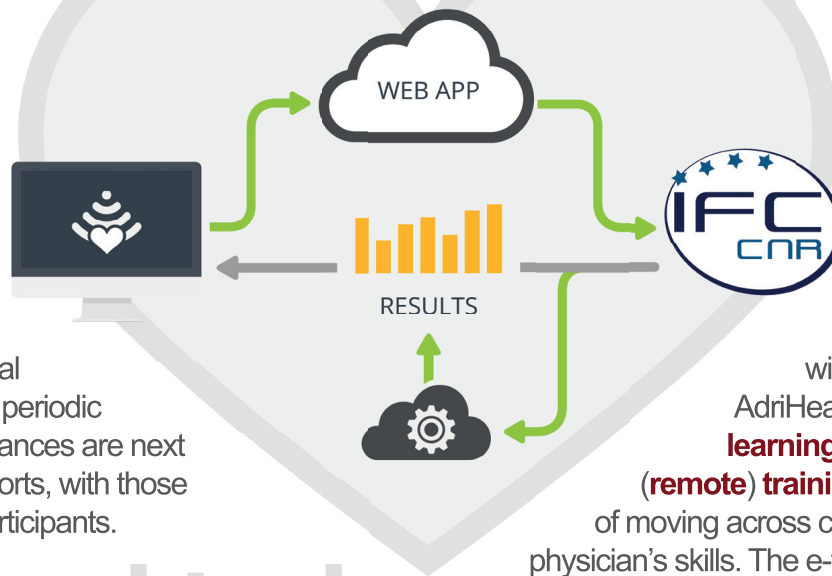
echocardiography

METHODS

A **web-based tool**, for **e-training**, was developed in order to improve participants' skills in interpreting the echocardiographic images, performing the evaluation (measures and interpretations) of real clinical cases, by on-line periodic exercises. Their performances are next compared, in on-line reports, with those obtained by the other participants.

RESULTS

This software was developed for the DAHFNE* project: 22 echocardiographic centres with national relevance are currently involved in testing the platform. The tool will be also introduced, together with an e-learning tool, in the AdriHealthMob** Project. **Remote learning**, followed by a continuous **(remote) training**, could reduce the need of moving across countries, for increasing the physician's skills. The e-training may reduce misinterpretations in echocardiographic technique improving the quality of patient care.



web based tool

e-training

*The DAHFNE project, "standardization of Diagnostic Approach in Heart Failure with Normal Ejection fraction", carried on by QualiMedLab s.r.l. and CNR - Institute of Clinical Physiology, is co-funded by the Tuscany Region with the program POR CREO FESR 2007-2013.

**The AdriHealthMob project, "Adriatic model of sustainable mobility in health & care sector", foresees the participation of 15 partners from the eight countries that constitute the macro-adriatic region and is co-funded by the European Union, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.



Authors: Conte Raffaele*, Sansone Francesco*, Raciti Mauro*, Grande Andrea**, Gargani Luna*, Renieri Andrea**, Landi Patrizia*, Sicari Rosa*

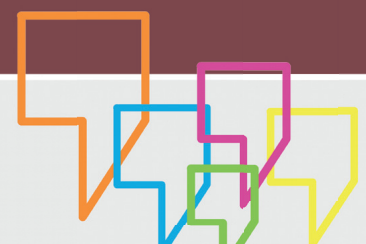
Affiliation: National Research Council of Italy - Institute of Clinical Physiology ~ Pisa ~ Italy, ** QualiMedLab s.r.l. ~ Pisa ~ Italy

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