

Medical Photography Archiving: Tips On How To Set-Up A Simple Archiving System

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INTRODUCTION:

Orthopaedic photographs are indispensable in communication, education, research and treatment reviewing. It is widely acceptable by patients¹ and thanks to the ubiquity of digital camera and smartphones it has become prevalent and common. Therefore, there is a need for systematic management of these photographs. We intend to share our experience in digital archiving of orthopaedics photographs.

MATERIALS & METHODS:

We used Adobe Lightroom 6.13 on a Mac mini (Apple Inc.) which operates on MacOS High Sierra. There are other archiving systems such as iCloud (Apple Inc.), Google Photos (Google Inc.) and Picasa (Google Inc.) but Adobe Lightroom provides the benefit standalone purchase without the need of subscription, original photo quality uploading and ease of use and access. The photographs taken with various devices were transferred to the computer via direct Universal Serial Bus (USB) drives, sent via e-mails or transferred through an online file hosting service (Dropbox Inc.).

RESULT:

Using Adobe Lightroom we were able to categorize photos by operation date, disease or surgical procedures, multiple folders and subfolders without duplication. Other than that, the system also has built-in photo editing tools that enables us to adjust the photograph's white balance and color tone thus improving picture quality. The software uses 'a catalog system' whereby the classifying, tagging and editing are done without changes to the original photo.



Figure 1: Adobe Lightroom interface.

Ileum	7	Neurinoma	56	SNAC	113
Fibula Graft	136	Neuroma	261	SSG	1036
Flap	658	Nonunion	59	Swan Neck Deformity	159
Advancement flap	30	ORF	1711	Syndactyly	1462
Cross Finger Flap	162	Osteochondroma	5	Tenodesis	185
FDMA	285	Osteomyelitis	15	Tenolysis	32
Goin Flap	375	Osteosarcoma	126	TFCC	47
PIA Flap	412	Osteotomy	453	Thoracic Outlet Syndr...	4
Radial Forearm Flap	167	Paediatrics	409	To Be Deleted	91
Sural Flap	81	Paronychia	23	Toe pulp to thumb tra...	16
Fracture	55	Phlebitis	6	Trapectomy	136
Distal phalanx fract...	20	Pincer	72	Trauma	1621
Intermediate phala...	54	plate removal	46	Trigger	87
Metacarpal fracture	61	Policization	1048	Tumor	236
Proximal phalanx fr...	118	Polydactyly	1370	Unknown	1935
FTSG	954	Post-op	88	Vaughan/Jackson	7

Figure 2: Example of tags that we have used.

DISCUSSIONS:

Good archiving provides easy access of photos of a particular topic promptly which we were able to perform with this system.

There are a few flaws that we have noticed were present with this system. We were unable to tag the photo with patient's name and anyone with access to the computer is able to manipulate the tagging and data.

CONCLUSION:

We suggest using Adobe Lightroom for photography archiving due to its aforementioned benefits.

REFERENCES:

1. Lau, C. K., Schumacher, H. H., & Irwin, M. S. (2010). Patients' perception of medical photography. *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery*, 63(6), e507-e511.