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Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology
14:S530 (2003)
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SUPPLEMENT

Tobacco Cessation Guidelines

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In 1964, the U.S. Surgeon General issued the first reports on the dangers of cigarette smoking, providing clear and convincing evidence that smoking is dangerous, and warning the public officially of these dangers. New studies continually add to this body of evidence.

Tobacco cessation should be an important part of patient management for all interventional radiologists (IR). The care and management of patients that IRs treat are often complicated by ongoing cigarette consumption. One of the most valuable services that physicians can provide to their patients is to help them stop smoking.

Instruction in how to counsel patients, the biochemistry of nicotine addiction, drug therapies for patients who need to quit smoking, and methods physicians can use to help facilitate the process should be an integral part of IR practice. Understanding the biochemistry of tobacco addiction is important information needed to counsel patients about smoking cessation and available drug therapies that can help them stop smoking.

The Society of Interventional Radiology endorses the Tobacco Cessation Guidelines from the U.S. Public Health Service, Office of the Surgeon General.

These guidelines are available at www.surgeongeneral.gov/tobacco/default.htm
or www.ahrq.gov.

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