



## LETTER TO EDITOR

# Is Medical Application Software a New Strategy for Oncologists?

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## Dear Editor

Electronic medical applications on cell phones or tablets in the field of oncology have resolved the need of today's oncologists. We consider new strategies for the management of chemotherapy and infections or other problems in oncology wards using online publications and drugs, patient imaging and lab data through their integration on electronic devices. Traditionally, oncologists have lost time searching for publications and were unable to benefit from online evidence-based bedside management.<sup>1</sup>

We began using high-technology cell phone application as smart phone format and personal computer tablets that offered us all the tools we needed as we did our clinical rounds in Amir Oncology Hospital. These tools were designed specifically for oncologists and oncology nurses. Some benefits of these applications were as follows:<sup>1-3</sup>

1. Better clinical assessment
2. Medication information availability
3. Order forms of management (adverse reactions, dose adjustment)
4. Access to information of different diseases
5. Consultation and interaction with physicians by Viber, What'sapp or other information interchange utilities
6. Chemotherapy protocol availability and true drug administration
7. Online Up-to-Date publications access and evidence-based treatment planning

Moreover, the top 11 oncology applications were as follows:<sup>4</sup>

1. **Cancer Rx:** It is used to search the latest drug and genetic information of four major types of cancer: breast, lung, melanoma, and colorectal cancer.
2. **Browzine:** Facilitates finding, reading, and monitoring thousands of scholarly journals available from university or college libraries, or through Open Access publishers from all disciplines.
3. **Draw MD Pediatrics:** It allows you to easily annotate any condition on pertinent medical illustration and you can easily upload your images.
4. **Micromedex:** Used for retrieving drug information
5. **QXMD CALCULATE:** Used in clinical practice to impact diagnosis, treatment, or determining prognosis.
6. **Jhon Hopkins ABX guide:** It features up-to-date, authoritative, evidenced-based information about treatment of infectious diseases to help you make clinical decisions. The guide breaks down details of diagnosis, drug indications, dosing, pharmacokinetics, side effects and interactions, pathogens, management, and vaccines.
7. **Pubmed on Tap:** Searches PubMed and PubMed Central publications.
8. **NCCN guidelines:** Prepares the Virtual Library of NCCN Guidelines® Formatted for iPad.
9. **Medscape:** Used by physicians, medical students, nurses.
10. **Inpractice oncology:** It is an iPad application, in the

field of oncology and hematology as a complete textbook for treating cancers. The content is broadly includes breast, lung, and hematological cancers, sarcomas, supportive care, and general oncology topics. Links to PubMed abstracts for cited literature are given within the text. Users can bookmark individual pages within the application, and can also email links to specific pages of the textbook.

11. **OHMD:** It is a secure-messaging platform between doctors and patients that integrates with electronic medical records on the provider's side.

Also, the *American Society of Clinical Oncology* (ASCO) has introduced the top 10 applications for mobiles that help access information such as iPlanner, ASCO iMeeting, ASCO Journals, and Cancer Net.

Finally, we believe that electronic medical devices facilitate physician access to necessary online information for evidence base patient management.

**Conflict of Interest:** None declared.

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