

IPACS for gynecological sonography, 3) an on-line search system for pathology reports, 4) an on-line search system for laboratory information, and 5) IPACS for digitalized X-ray examinations (CT, MRI, and DSA). One can browse and retrieve almost any medical information of patients including text and images through this Clinical Infostation in any working place of our hospital and from anywhere in the world where the Internet is available (Fig. 3-5). Furthermore, retrieved images can be stored as any kind of image file for further analysis by the software of any image processor.

CONCLUSIONS

IPACS represents a new-generation PACS that utilizes a host of new technologies. If deployed appropriately, IPACS can be a powerful, yet cost-effective, scalable, easy-to-use, and Internet-accessible system for medical information (including text and images) management and review. This opens new possibilities of medical collaboration with field experts in other hospitals both domestically and internationally. Furthermore, the IPACS gives us a chance to establish a giant multimedia data bank of patients with various diseases. This data bank contains sequential clinical data and images of the same patient and variant clinical appearances of the same disease. It will be a large, rich clinical data bank in Taiwan which can be utilized in medical education and research in the near future.

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