

Emerging Trends in Diagnostic Care

Day & Date: Friday, 6th May 2016
Time: 4:15 pm to 5:15 pm
Venue: Convention Hall, Symbiosis International University, Lavale campus,
Pune
Speaker: Dr. Arvind Lal
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This session was conducted by Dr. Arvind Lal on emerging trends in diagnostic centre. He started the master class (two) with the definition of pathology and evidence based medicine. Laboratory results are responsible for 70% of all clinical decisions. Lal Path lab believes in total quality provided when comes in treating the community at affordable rates.

The whole paradigm of healthcare is shifting, and will continue to shift—from technological advances like electronic health records. This will change the historic doctor/patient relationship marking the onset of an era of patient empowerment in which the patient shall become more responsible for maintaining good health.

Health Care industry

The growth drivers are: Demographic shifts, Growing per capita incomes/ literacy levels, Healthcare awareness – demand for quality / reliable services, Medical Tourism.

The wellness health model (TREND#1) - The power of diagnostics lies in changing health management from treating sickness to promoting wellness. Lab test results are used for screening and early detection of sub-clinical diseases. Not only do they diagnose acute and chronic syndromes but also are helpful for risk stratification and monitoring of disease leading to an improved patient care.

The focus is now shifting to preventive healthcare. This helps the patient to make lifestyle changes if he or she knows the predisposition to a certain disease. The patient no longer wants to wait to hear that he or she is diagnosed with a terminal illness. Patients should be very proactive and go for preventive diagnostic tests so that they are able to pick up the disease at an early stage even before the physical symptoms appear.

Rise of the Corporation (TREND#2) - With the rising awareness for healthcare, demand for good quality diagnostics has grown as well. Large medical conglomerates are here and are likely to only get bigger. Skeptics voice concern about a corporate healthcare mentality that values profit over outcome. Optimists point to the potential for savings through economies of scale and improved interoperability, particularly in electronic health records. Having access on a large, national scale to medical information would completely alter the way in which we can practice medicine.

The other major change has come through advances in technology and automation of equipment, resulting in reducing the turnaround time for reports and providing quicker diagnosis. The focus is on convenience to customers, be it through all varieties of tests processed, home health services, using technology for result communication or providing a network of collection centers for easier access. All these changes have contributed to the consolidation of the lab industry.

Diagnostic tests are the critical links for the motto healthcare for all. He also spoke about the model that they implement that is Hub & Spoke Model. This lab was the first one to franchise. A bi-directional connectivity is being followed in this center to connect all the centers. The first transportation box was used by them to assure quality of samples. This box helps to maintain the temperature between 2-8 degrees Celsius for a period of 48 hours.

Need for accreditation (TREND#3) - Increases the confidence in testing labs and also facilitates the acceptance of test results. Laboratory error costs in Time, personnel effort and patient outcomes and the efforts to reverse these were discussed. Quality Management should be done.

Consumer Centric Healthcare (TREND#4) - Timely, accurate diagnosis can mean the difference between life and death for a patient. The driving notion behind point-of-care

testing is to bring the test conveniently and immediately to the patient. Now most clinicians acknowledge that point-of-care testing is a prerequisite for early recognition of life-threatening conditions as they require that laboratory results be made available in real-time and, if possible, at the critically ill patient's point-of-care. Point-of-care testing has come a long way from a handful of simple waived tests to what is today a multibillion dollar global market that holds great promise for the future.

Growing Digitization (TREND#5) - Routine use of the smartphone for gathering patient data and making laboratory and imaging data available on the smartphone from the point of care. Example is of handheld point-of-care ultrasound (in a smartphone or tablet) will likely replace the stethoscope and other routine aspects of the physical examination of patients. Emerging 3D and 4D ultrasound technology will become a cornerstone of medical education and a requisite aspect in the care of patients.

Companion Diagnostics (TREND#6) - The one thing that all emerging trends in diagnostics have in common is innovative and exciting science and design. The opportunity to make patients' lives better by use of biomarkers in early-stage clinical development to devices and platforms that are already on the market and improving outcomes for patients. Diagnostics influence patient outcomes through provision of simple and low-cost tests to high-tech genomics screening in cancer.

He concluded the session with the statement - The fear of the illness will induce the society to indulge in preventive care.

The last ten minutes was used for Q&A so that the delegates could get a better perspective of the emerging trends in this sector.