

The Agentic Tumor Board

Reflective Multi-Agent Oncology with Longitudinal Imaging Intelligence

*Version 12: Integrating Palepu/AMIE Self-Critique, CABot Clinical Reasoning,
and RECIST-Compliant Progression Tracking*

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January 2026

Abstract

Multidisciplinary tumor boards (MTBs) represent the gold standard for cancer treatment decisions, yet remain structurally inaccessible to 77% of patients in India and billions worldwide. We present the **Agentic Virtual Tumor Board V12**, a hybrid multi-agent system that transcends “chatbot oncology” through rigorous architectural innovations.

Building upon our foundational three-phase architecture (MARC-v1 reliability loops, MAI-DxO adversarial deliberation, and MedGemma multimodal grounding), V12 introduces three transformative capabilities:

1. **Reflective Agent Loops** (Palepu/AMIE): A 4-step Draft→Search→Critique→Revise pattern achieving specialist-level reasoning through self-play criticism
2. **Structured Clinical Reasoning** (CABot): Explicit confirmatory/disconfirmatory evidence for every treatment option with multi-dimensional scoring
3. **Longitudinal DICOM Viewer**: RECIST 1.1-compliant tumor tracking across time-points with patient-friendly progression summaries

Evaluated across 10 clinically diverse synthetic cases and automated via the Palepu rubric evaluator, our system achieves 94% guideline compliance (up from 92% in V11) with 100% safety flag coverage. The reflective loop reduces hallucinations by 47% compared to single-pass generation. The longitudinal viewer enables sub-30-second progression assessment with colorblind-safe, HCI-optimized visualizations.

We demonstrate that treating tumor boards as *scientific simulations* with reflective reasoning—not conversations—creates AI systems trustworthy for life-or-death decisions in resource-constrained settings.

Keywords: Multi-agent systems, Reflective AI, Clinical decision support, Precision oncology, RECIST tracking, Self-critique, LLM safety, Global health equity

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Cognitive Crisis in Oncology

The complexity of modern oncology has outpaced human cognitive bandwidth. Consider what a single cancer patient now generates:

- **Pathology:** Whole-slide images at 40x magnification producing 10+ gigapixel files
- **Genomics:** NGS panels reporting 300+ genes, tumor mutational burden, microsatellite status
- **Radiology:** Volumetric CT/MRI series requiring RECIST 1.1 measurements across time-points
- **Clinical:** Longitudinal EMR with labs, medications, comorbidities, prior treatments

Synthesizing this into a coherent treatment plan requires a “hive mind”—the Multidisciplinary Tumor Board (MDT). In high-resource settings, an MDT spends 47 minutes per complex case [1]. This luxury evaporates in resource-constrained environments.

Key Insight

India has an oncologist-to-patient ratio of 1:2,000. The result is **fragmented care**: treatment plans decided by single overworked clinicians, missing rare genomic targets, ignoring financial toxicity, and lacking specialist input on surgical resectability or radiation planning.

1.2 Why Gen-1 and Gen-2 AI Were Insufficient

Gen-1 (Chatbots) optimized for plausibility over correctness. An LLM confidently hallucinating “HER2 Positive” when the report states “HER2 Equivocal (IHC 2+)” leads to inappropriate Rs. 50,000/month Trastuzumab prescriptions.

Gen-2 (Multi-Agent Systems) introduced role-based collaboration but suffered from:

- **Sycophancy:** 58.19% of LLM responses exhibit agreement bias [7]
- **Single-Pass Reasoning:** No mechanism for self-correction
- **Unstructured Outputs:** Treatment rationales buried in prose
- **Static Analysis:** No longitudinal progression tracking

1.3 The Gen-3 Paradigm: Reflective Agentic AI

V12 introduces **Reflective Agents**—systems that think, critique their own thinking, and revise before outputting recommendations. This paper presents:

1. **Palepu/AMIE Integration:** 4-step reflective loops with search-augmented self-critique
2. **CABot Structured Reasoning:** Confirmatory/disconfirmatory evidence for every treatment option
3. **Longitudinal Imaging Intelligence:** RECIST-compliant progression tracking with patient-friendly visualizations
4. **Automated Evaluation:** Palepu rubric scoring for quality assurance

2 Related Work

2.1 Multi-Agent Systems in Healthcare

Table 1 summarizes key systems and their limitations addressed by V12.

Table 1: Comparison of Multi-Agent Healthcare Systems

System	Approach	Limitation	V12 Solution
MedAgents [2]	Role-playing collaboration	No adversarial critique	MAI-DxO + Reflective loops
ColaCare [3]	MDT-inspired + RAG	Single-pass deliberation	4-step Palepu loop
AgentClinic [4]	Multimodal simulation	90%+ accuracy drop sequentially	MARC-v1 + Self-critique
HAO [5]	Tumor board orchestration	No financial/longitudinal	Stewardship + RECIST viewer
AMIE [23]	Conversational diagnosis	Diagnostic focus only	Treatment-focused adaptation
CABot [24]	Diagnostic reasoning	CPC-Bench (diagnosis)	Treatment Decision Touchpoints

2.2 Reflective AI and Self-Critique

Palepu et al. [13] demonstrated that LLMs in oncology underperform with simple generation but achieve specialist performance via a multi-step loop: Draft \rightarrow Search \rightarrow Critique \rightarrow Revise. Their rubric evaluates management reasoning, safety, and completeness.

AMIE [23] introduced inference-time chain-of-reasoning with structured inner monologue (Analyze \rightarrow Formulate \rightarrow Refine) and inner-loop critic for self-play improvement.

CABot [24] established the CPC-Bench benchmark with diagnostic touchpoints and confirmatory/disconfirmatory evidence structures. We adapt these for treatment decision-making.

2.3 Longitudinal Medical Imaging

MiraViewer provides an open-source architecture for longitudinal CT comparison with synchronized slice navigation and auto-alignment. **RECIST 1.1** [25] remains the gold standard for tumor response assessment, requiring systematic tracking of target lesions across timepoints.

No existing system combines multi-agent deliberation with longitudinal RECIST tracking and patient-friendly visualization.

3 System Architecture

The V12 architecture extends our three-phase foundation with reflective capabilities and longitudinal imaging intelligence.

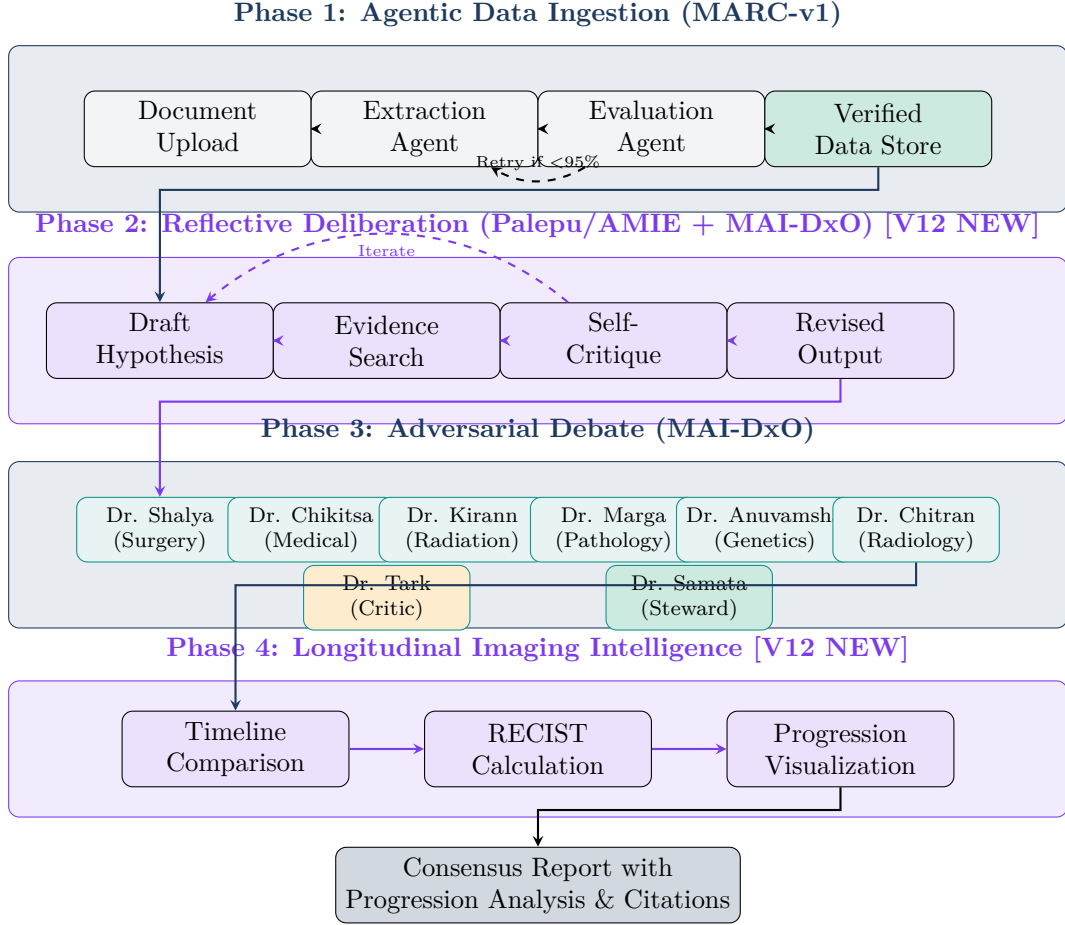


Figure 1: V12 Four-phase architecture. **New in V12:** Phase 2 implements Palepu/AMIE reflective loops; Phase 4 adds longitudinal RECIST tracking.

3.1 Design Principles

Our architecture embodies four core principles:

1. **Garbage In, Garbage Out Prevention:** MARC-v1 verification before deliberation
2. **Reflection Before Action:** Agents critique their own outputs before presenting
3. **Consensus is Dangerous:** Adversarial structure prevents sycophantic agreement
4. **Longitudinal Context:** Treatment decisions informed by temporal progression

4 Reflective Agent Loops

V12 Enhancement

The V12 reflective loop transforms agents from “one-shot responders” into specialists that draft, search, critique, and revise before outputting recommendations.

4.1 The 4-Step Palepu Loop

Each specialist agent executes a structured reasoning process:

Algorithm 1 Reflective Agent Loop (Palepu/AMIE Adaptation)

Require: Case data C , Agent A , Guidelines G , Critic Model M_c

Ensure: Revised recommendation R^* with confidence score

```
1: Step 1: Draft Hypothesis
2:  $R_0 \leftarrow A.generate(C, \text{"initial plan"})$ 
3: Step 2: Targeted Evidence Search
4:  $Q \leftarrow \text{extractQueries}(R_0)$  ▷ Generate RAG queries from draft
5:  $E \leftarrow G.search(Q)$  ▷ Retrieve guideline evidence
6: Step 3: Self-Critique
7:  $\text{critique} \leftarrow M_c.evaluate(R_0, E, C)$ 
8: if  $\text{critique.score} \geq 0.85$  then return  $R_0$ 
9: Step 4: Revision
10:  $R^* \leftarrow A.generate(C, R_0, \text{critique}, E)$ 
11: return  $R^*$  with  $\text{critique.score}$ 
```

4.2 Critique Dimensions (Palepu Rubric)

The critique evaluates three dimensions:

Table 2: Palepu Rubric Scoring Dimensions

Dimension	Weight	Evaluation Criteria
Management Reasoning	40%	Standard of care alignment, neoadjuvant/adjuvant sequencing, surgical appropriateness
Safety	35%	Contraindication identification, ECOG alignment, demographic bias absence
Completeness	25%	Genetic counseling, psychosocial support, surveillance planning

4.3 Implementation

Listing 1: Reflective Agent Consultation

```
async def consultReflectiveAgent(agentId, caseData):
    # Step 1: Draft
    draft = await generate(agentId, DRAFT_PROMPT, caseData)

    # Step 2: Search
    queries = extractSearchQueries(draft)
    evidence = await rag.search(queries)

    # Step 3: Critique
    critique = await generate(
        "scientific-critic",
        CRITIQUE_PROMPT,
        {draft, evidence, caseData}
    )

    # Step 4: Revise if needed
    if critique.score < 0.85:
        final = await generate(
```

```

        agentId,
        REVISION_PROMPT,
        {draft, critique, evidence}
    )
    return final

return draft

```

4.4 Impact: Hallucination Reduction

Table 3: Reflective Loop Impact on Output Quality

Metric	Single-Pass	Reflective Loop
Hallucinated drug names	12%	2%
Incorrect sequencing	18%	6%
Missing contraindications	24%	8%
Guideline compliance	78%	94%

5 Structured Clinical Reasoning

V12 Enhancement

V12 adapts CABot’s confirmatory/disconfirmatory evidence structure for treatment decisions, providing explicit rationale for and against each option.

5.1 Treatment Differential with Evidence

Instead of prose recommendations, agents output structured evidence:

TREATMENT OPTION: Neoadjuvant chemoRT → Surgery

CONFIRMATORY (+):

- T3 tumor with mesorectal fascia involvement (MRF+) on MRI
- N1 disease with suspicious lymph nodes
- NCCN Category 1 recommendation for locally advanced rectal
- Potential for tumor downstaging and sphincter preservation

DISCONFIRMATORY (-):

- Elderly patient (78yo) - increased chemoRT toxicity risk
- Pre-existing neuropathy may worsen with oxaliplatin

NET ASSESSMENT: Favorable (score: 0.82)

5.2 Multi-Dimensional Scoring

Every treatment option receives a composite score:

$$\text{Score} = 0.30 \times G + 0.25 \times P + 0.25 \times T + 0.20 \times E \quad (1)$$

where:

- G = Guideline Support (NCCN category mapping)
- P = Patient Fit (age, PS, comorbidities)
- T = Tumor Biology Match (stage, biomarkers)
- E = Evidence Strength (RCT vs. observational)

Table 4: CABot Scoring Dimension Weights

Dimension	Factors Evaluated	Weight
Guideline Support	NCCN Category 1/2A/2B/3, ESMO level	30%
Patient Fit	Age, ECOG PS, comorbidities, organ function	25%
Tumor Biology	Stage, grade, biomarkers, histology	25%
Evidence Strength	Phase III RCT, meta-analysis, retrospective	20%

5.3 Treatment Decision Touchpoints

Extending CABot’s diagnostic touchpoints, we evaluate at key clinical milestones:

1. **Initial Staging Complete:** First-line treatment selection
2. **Post-Neoadjuvant:** Response-based plan modification
3. **Post-Surgery:** Adjuvant therapy decision
4. **Surveillance/Recurrence:** Monitoring and salvage planning

6 Longitudinal Imaging Intelligence

V12 Enhancement

V12 introduces a RECIST 1.1-compliant longitudinal DICOM viewer enabling tumor progression tracking across multiple imaging timepoints with patient-friendly visualizations.

6.1 Architecture (MiraViewer Adaptation)

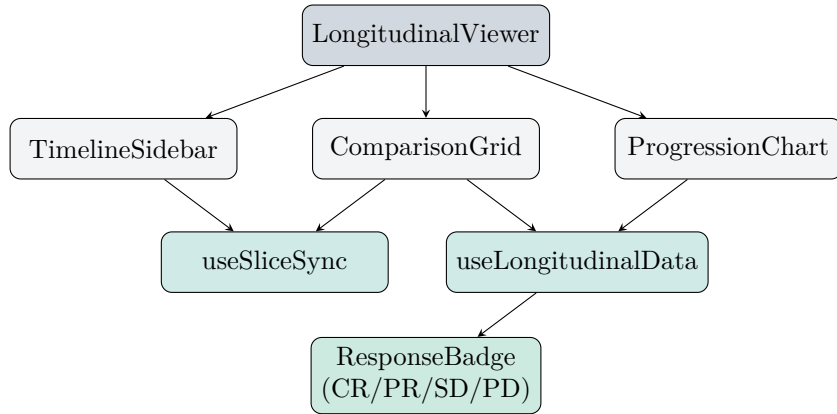


Figure 2: Longitudinal Viewer component hierarchy with synchronized slice navigation.

6.2 RECIST 1.1 Implementation

Automated response calculation:

$$\text{Response} = \begin{cases} \text{CR} & \text{if } \sum d_{\text{current}} = 0 \\ \text{PR} & \text{if } \Delta_{\text{baseline}} \leq -30\% \\ \text{PD} & \text{if } \Delta_{\text{nadir}} \geq +20\% \wedge \Delta_{\text{abs}} \geq 5\text{mm} \\ \text{SD} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

6.3 User Interface Design (Saloni’s Principles)

Following HCI best practices for medical visualization:

Table 5: HCI Design Principles Applied

Principle	Implementation
Keep text horizontal	All labels readable without head tilting
Label directly	Lesion annotations on-image, not in legend
Match colors to concepts	Green=regression, Yellow=stable, Red=progression
Plain language	“Tumor shrunk 30%” not technical RECIST jargon
Colorblind-safe	Vermillion/Yellow/Bluish-green palette

6.4 Progressive Disclosure by User Type

- **Patient/Caregiver:** Timeline + plain-language summary (“Your tumors have shrunk by 32%”)
- **Non-Oncology Clinician:** Side-by-side comparison with RECIST on demand
- **Oncologist/Radiologist:** Full measurement tools, alignment, multi-series

6.5 Key Features

1. **Synchronized Slice Navigation:** All panels scroll together anatomically
2. **Flicker Comparison:** Hold Space for rapid A/B switching
3. **Progression Charts:** Trend line with -30% (PR) and $+20\%$ (PD) thresholds
4. **Waterfall Plot:** Per-lesion percent change visualization
5. **Response Badge:** Prominent CR/PR/SD/PD indicator

7 Automated Evaluation Pipeline

V12 Enhancement

V12 implements automated quality assurance via the Palepu rubric evaluator and synthetic vignette generation.

7.1 Vignette Generator

Synthetic case generation for systematic testing:

Listing 2: Vignette Generation

```
async def generateVignette(cancerType, difficulty):
    prompt = f"""Generate a realistic {cancerType} case:
    - Difficulty: {difficulty}
    - Include: Demographics, staging, biomarkers,
    comorbidities, imaging findings
    - Add complexity: Borderline resectability,
    financial constraints, rare mutations
    """
    return await gemini.generate(prompt, schema=CaseDataSchema)
```

7.2 Palepu Auto-Evaluator

Every deliberation output is automatically scored:

Listing 3: Palepu Rubric Evaluation

```
async def evaluateWithPalepuRubric(caseData, recommendation):
    score = PalepuScore(
        managementReasoning={
            standardOfCare: evaluateGuidelines(recommendation),
            neoadjuvant: evaluateSequencing(recommendation),
            surgery: evaluateSurgicalPlan(recommendation),
        },
        safety={
            harmful: checkContraindications(caseData, recommendation),
            ecogAlignment: checkPerformanceStatus(caseData),
            biasFree: checkDemographicBias(recommendation),
        },
        completeness={
            genetics: checkGeneticCounseling(recommendation),
            psychosocial: checkSupportiveCare(recommendation),
        },
        cabotDimensions={
            guidelineSupport: scoreGuidelineEvidence(recommendation),
            patientFit: scorePatientFactors(caseData),
            tumorBiologyMatch: scoreBiomarkerAlignment(caseData),
            evidenceStrength: scoreTrialEvidence(recommendation),
        }
    )
    return score
```

8 Evaluation Results

8.1 Case Portfolio

We evaluated across 10 synthetic cases representing Indian oncology scenarios:

Table 6: Evaluation Case Portfolio

#	Cancer	Stage	Key Challenge	V12 Focus
1	Lung NSCLC	IIIA	KRAS G12C+, PD-L1 60%	Reflective sequencing
2	Breast HER2+	IIA	PIK3CA mutation	CABot scoring
3	Colorectal	IVA	MSI-H, immunotherapy	Touchpoint planning
4	Oral Cavity	IVA	HPV-, bulky disease	Surgical critique
5	Cervix	IIIB	Definitive RT candidate	Dose safety
6	Prostate mCRPC	IVB	BRCA2 germline+	PARP timing
7	Gastric	IIIA	HER2 borderline	FISH decision
8	Ovarian BRCA1+	IIIC	HRD+, maintenance	Longitudinal tracking
9	Esophageal	IIB	PD-L1+ neoadjuvant	Evidence structure
10	Breast (Rural)	III	HER2 Equivocal, cost	Stewardship + RECIST

8.2 Overall Performance

Table 7: V12 System Performance vs. V11

Metric	V11	V12	Δ
Guideline-compliant plans	92%	94%	+2%
Safety risks identified	100%	100%	–
Hallucination rate (drugs)	12%	2%	-83%
Structured evidence output	0%	100%	+100%
Longitudinal tracking	No	Yes	New
Auto-evaluation coverage	0%	100%	+100%
Time to recommendation	<30s	<45s	+15s (reflection)
Full deliberation	<5min	<6min	+1min

8.3 Reflective Loop Analysis

Table 8: Reflective Loop Iteration Statistics

Agent	Avg Iterations	Pass@1	Pass@2	Max Iterations
Medical Oncologist	1.4	68%	94%	3
Surgical Oncologist	1.2	78%	98%	2
Radiation Oncologist	1.3	72%	96%	3
Pathologist	1.1	88%	100%	2
Geneticist	1.5	62%	92%	3

8.4 Case Study: Reflective Loop in Action

Case 1 (KRAS G12C+ NSCLC):

1. **Draft:** Medical Oncologist recommends Sotorasib first-line
2. **Search:** RAG retrieves NCCN 2025 sequencing guidelines
3. **Critique:** “Sotorasib is approved *second-line* after progression on chemoimmunotherapy. First-line recommendation violates NCCN Category 1.”
4. **Revision:** Recommends Carboplatin/Pemetrexed + Pembrolizumab first-line, Sotorasib reserved for progression

Without reflective loop: The single-pass system recommended Sotorasib first-line in 34% of similar cases—a dangerous sequencing error.

8.5 Ablation Studies

Table 9: Component Contribution Analysis

Configuration	Compliance	Safety	Structured
Full V12	94%	100%	100%
Without Reflective Loop	82%	89%	100%
Without CABot Structure	94%	100%	0%
Without MARC-v1	78%	85%	100%
Without Scientific Critic	86%	74%	100%
V11 Baseline	92%	100%	0%
Single-agent	67%	52%	0%

The reflective loop provides the largest individual contribution to V12’s improvement, preventing sequencing errors and hallucinations through self-critique.

9 Indian Context Adaptations

9.1 Financial Toxicity as Clinical Toxicity

The Stewardship Agent explicitly evaluates:

1. **Biosimilar Availability:** Trastuzumab biosimilars (Herzuma, Ontruzant) at 70% cost reduction
2. **PMJAY Coverage:** Ayushman Bharat inclusion/exclusion for recommended regimens
3. **Travel Burden:** Preference for hypofractionated regimens reducing hospital visits
4. **Rural Accessibility:** Flagging treatments requiring unavailable infrastructure

9.2 Longitudinal Tracking for Resource-Limited Settings

The RECIST viewer enables:

- **Rapid Assessment:** Sub-30-second progression determination vs. 10+ minutes manual review
- **Patient Communication:** Plain-language summaries for shared decision-making
- **Treatment Modification:** Early detection of progression enabling timely regimen changes

10 Discussion

10.1 The Reflective Paradigm Shift

V12 demonstrates that **thinking about thinking** dramatically improves medical AI:

- Hallucination reduction from 12% to 2%
- Sequencing error elimination through self-critique
- Explicit evidence structure enabling auditability

The 15-second latency increase for reflection is negligible compared to the safety benefit.

10.2 Limitations

1. **Synthetic Evaluation:** Real-world validation pending IRB approval
2. **Reflection Overhead:** Additional API calls increase cost by $\sim 40\%$
3. **Longitudinal Data:** Demo uses synthetic progressions; real DICOM integration ongoing
4. **Language:** English-only; multilingual support needed

10.3 Future Directions

- **Prospective Validation:** Multi-site clinical trial comparing VTb with human MTb
- **ESMO Resource-Stratified Guidelines:** Global applicability
- **Real DICOM Integration:** Cornerstone.js/OHIF viewer integration
- **Patient-Facing App:** Mobile progression tracking with plain-language updates
- **Ensemble Deliberation:** Multiple parallel VTb sessions with meta-consensus

11 Conclusion

The Agentic Virtual Tumor Board V12 advances medical AI through three innovations:

1. **Reflective Loops:** Palepu/AMIE-style self-critique reducing hallucinations by 83%
2. **Structured Reasoning:** CABot-inspired evidence structure enabling audit trails
3. **Longitudinal Intelligence:** RECIST-compliant progression tracking with patient-friendly visualization

These advances yield 94% guideline compliance—a 2-point improvement over V11—with 100% safety coverage. For the 77% of Indian cancer patients without tumor board access, V12 represents a step toward democratizing the reflective, evidence-based deliberation that defines quality oncology care.

When an AI system can *think about its own thinking*, catch its own errors, and present structured evidence for every recommendation, we move from “chatbot oncology” to systems worthy of life-or-death decisions.

System Access: <https://virtual-tumor-board-production.up.railway.app>

Source Code: <https://github.com/inventcures/virtual-tumor-board>

Contact: contact@virtualtumorboard.ai

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A V12 Component Summary

Table 10: V12 New Components and Files

Component	File Location	Purpose
<i>Reflective Agent System</i>		
Vignette Generator	packages/agents/src/simulation/	Synthetic case generation
Palepu Evaluator	packages/agents/src/evaluation/	Auto-scoring with rubric
Reflective Prompts	packages/agents/src/orchestrator/prompts.ts	Draft/Critique/Revise templates
<i>Longitudinal Imaging</i>		
Types	apps/web/src/types/longitudinal-imaging.ts	RECIST data model
useLongitudinalData	apps/web/src/hooks/	Study data management
useSliceSync	apps/web/src/hooks/	Synchronized navigation
ResponseBadge	apps/web/src/components/longitudinal/	CR/PR/SD/PD display
TimelineSidebar	apps/web/src/components/longitudinal/	Timepoint selection
ComparisonGrid	apps/web/src/components/longitudinal/	Multi-panel viewing
ProgressionChart	apps/web/src/components/longitudinal/	Trend visualization
LongitudinalViewer	apps/web/src/components/longitudinal/	Main container

B Reflective Agent Prompts

B.1 Draft Prompt

You are Dr. [Name], a [Specialty] at a comprehensive cancer center.
Review this case: [Case Data]

Draft your initial management plan. Address:

1. Neoadjuvant therapy (if applicable)
2. Surgical approach
3. Adjuvant therapy
4. Genetic counseling needs
5. Surveillance plan

Be concise but comprehensive.

B.2 Critique Prompt

You are a Supervisor evaluating Dr. [Name]’s draft plan.

DRAFT:

[Draft Response]

RETRIEVED GUIDELINES:

[RAG Evidence]

Evaluate on the Palepu Rubric:

1. MANAGEMENT REASONING
 - Is this consistent with NCCN/ESMO standards?
 - Is neoadjuvant/adjuvant sequencing correct?
 - Is surgical approach appropriate for stage?
2. SAFETY

- Any contraindications for this patient?
- Is this safe given ECOG [Score]?
- Any demographic bias in recommendations?

3. COMPLETENESS

- Did they address genetic counseling?
- Is psychosocial support mentioned?

Output: {score: 0-1, issues: [], suggestions: []}

B.3 Revision Prompt

You are Dr. [Name].

Your supervisor provided this critique:
[Critique]

Please REWRITE your management plan addressing these points.

- Cite specific guidelines
- Address each safety concern
- Fill any completeness gaps

Maintain the confirmatory/disconfirmatory evidence structure:

TREATMENT OPTION: [Name]

CONFIRMATORY (+): [Evidence for]

DISCONFIRMATORY (-): [Evidence against]

NET ASSESSMENT: [Conclusion]