

Scientific Sessions

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Evaluation of burnout syndrome in radiographers

V.R. Luiz, L.P.V. Ribeiro, A.F. Abrantes, K.B. Azevedo, R.P. Almeida, S. Rodrigues, N.F. Pinto; Faro/PT (lribeiro@ualg.pt)

Purpose: Evidence demonstrates that health care professionals are more prone to burnout than other professionals due to the emotionally taxing interactions they have with their patients on a daily basis. The aim of this study was to measure occupational burnout levels among radiographers.

Methods and Materials: This research used a sample characterisation survey in addition to the *Maslach Burnout Inventory* (MBI), translated and validated to the professional's native language. The evaluated dimensions were emotional exhaustion (EE), depersonalisation (D) and reduced personal accomplishment (RPA). The MBI survey is composed by 22 questions where the professional should mark the answer in a 0 (never) to 6 (daily) Likert scale. A total of 119 radiographers from 9 different healthcare facilities agreed to participate.

Results: In this study, 99.2% of radiographers worked in a facility with emergency department. The EE, D and RPA dimensions revealed moderate levels of burnout. Statistically significant differences were found between dimension D and the hospital and between dimension RPA and the work in rotational shifts ($p<0.05$). The variable job satisfaction interferes significantly with the three dimensions of the MBI.

Conclusion: This research allow us to conclude that the burnout may reach disturbing levels, since professionals often do not recognise this phenomenon and do not seek for help, thus becoming a chronic problem. Therefore, it is vital to develop further research in this area to strengthen the demonstration that healthcare may be endangered by health professionals in burnout.

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A survey on the attitude towards research among radiographers

I. Conceição, A.F. Abrantes, L.P. Ribeiro, S.I. Rodrigues, R.P. Almeida; Faro/PT (inesconceicao.ic@gmail.com)

Purpose: Research is a key component of evidence-based medical imaging and good knowledge and attitude towards research is important in implementing the paradigm shift from traditional model of practice to evidence-based practice. Therefore, the aim of this study was to assess the radiographers attitudes towards scientific research.

Methods and Materials: A cross-sectional, non-experimental research design was adopted, using a self-applied questionnaire and assigned to 115 radiographers from public and private imaging departments in order to verify important barriers and attitudes regarding research in clinical practice. The questionnaire includes 5 main sections with a total of 43 items. Data were interpreted and statistically analysed through descriptive statistics. Chi-square, Spearman and Mann-Whitney tests were also performed.

Results: Currently, most radiographers (78,3%) are not involved in research activities, but 80% presented interest in this field. It were observed statistically significant correlations between the radiographer involvement in research activities and the academic degree ($p=0.027$) as well with the participation in research training programs ($p=0.046$). Also, it were observed statistically significant differences between the radiographers involved and not involved in research activities, namely in the items: "Radiographer role includes the promotion of research activities" ($p=0.019$), "Radiographer uses the research findings in clinical practice" ($p=0.016$), "The need for research training programs" ($p=0.001$) and all the items related to research competences ($p<0.05$).

Conclusion: The data suggest positive attitudes among radiographers. However, some barriers to participation were identified and institutional support and provision of research related courses are needed to increase radiographers involvement in research activities.

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A comparative study about motivations, expectations and professional development in four European radiography programmes

C.S. Reis¹, J. Pires Jorge², S. Mæhle³, H. York⁴, L. Flacton², S. Johansen³; ¹Perth/AU, ²Lausanne/CH, ³Oslo/NO, ⁴Herts/UK (Jose.JORGE@hesav.ch)

Purpose: To compare motivations, expectations and work plans of recent graduated students and teaching-staff from different European radiography programmes.

Methods and Materials: A survey was performed to collect data about motivations, expectations, challenges, potentials of radiography education and plans for further professional development addressing students and teaching-staff. The questions were closed ended and answers were dichotomous, multiple choice, five- or nine-point Likert Scale. To explore further perspectives, open questions were introduced into the questionnaires. Content analysis was performed to analyse the data.

Results: Response rate varied between 16% to 93%. The motivations referred by students to pursue radiography education were the opportunity to work in a health-care organisation helping those that need help, performing different tasks and combining different areas of knowledge such as physics, patient

care, physiology and anatomy. 75% of students did not reach all of their own expectations for radiography, mainly due to the content and poor specialisation. An enlargement of radiographers' role was expected for the future by the teaching-staff. As further professional developments, the participants identified also the extension of studies (postgraduations, masters), more research and international collaborations.

Conclusion: In general, the participants have similar motivations, expectations and plans for the future even having different curricula. There is a need for improvements in education due to the permanent technological developments, changes and demands observed in the workplace/job markets. Further studies need to be perform to identify an approach that considers, at the same time, the specificities of each country and proving strategies to harmonise radiography in Europe.

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Where is the radiography profession heading? Plausible scenarios for the profession in Sweden in 2025

B. Björkman¹, K. Fridell², P. Tavakol Olofsson³, ¹Jönköping/SE, ²Huddinge/SE, ³Stockholm/SE (berit.bjorkman@ju.se)

Purpose: The aim of the study was to analyse and describe plausible scenarios for the radiography profession in 2025.

Methods and Materials: The study has a qualitative design with an inductive approach. Data collection is based on eleven focus group interviews, with 48 registered radiographers, working in eleven different diagnostic radiology departments throughout Sweden. The study builds on the scenario-planning method, which has the potential to predict four plausible scenarios for the radiography profession in the future.

Results: Two trends were considered as the most uncertain scenarios for the future, hence having the greatest impact on the radiography profession if they should occur. These trends were labelled: "Access to career advancement" and "A sufficient number of radiographers". Following four plausible scenarios unfolded: "The happy radiographer", "The specialist radiographer", "The dying profession" and "The assembly line".

Conclusion: The direction of the radiography profession within the Swedish context can probably be changed in a positive way. Hence, future opportunities and threats should be identified and incorporated into the strategic planning. Following, appropriate actions should be taken. It is suggested, that "The dying profession" scenario could be turned in the opposite direction by facilitating career development opportunities for radiographers. This direction would probably lead to a profession composed of "happy radiographers", who are specialists and competent to carry out advanced tasks. Heading towards this scenario, may as well lead to a more visible profession and consequently, radiographers being proud of their profession.

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Radiographers and non-accidental injury in children

A.F. Abrantes¹, D.M. Sobral², L.P.V. Ribeiro¹, K.B. Azevedo¹, R.P. Almeida¹, O. Lesyuk¹; ¹Faro/PT, ²Cercal do Alentejo/PT (lribeiro@ualg.pt)

Purpose: The purpose of this research was to evaluate the capabilities and competences of radiographers with regard to situations of non-accidental injury in children.

Methods and Materials: On the medical environment, particularly in two public radiology departments from two hospitals, a self-applied questionnaire was applied to a total of 42 radiographers in order to study their capabilities and competences within the non-accidental injury in children.

Results: The internal reliability of the questionnaire was good (Cronbach's alpha = 0.84). Most of the radiographers (78.6%) referred to have had formal formation in paediatrics, during the academic training. The remaining have had post-graduated formation. Despite this fact, there was no statistical significance correlation ($p>0.05$). 42.5% of the radiographers declared to have an acceptable level of competence to recognise the radiological signs of non-accidental trauma in children, although 47.6% referred to not know exactly the national guidelines on this matter. Most of the radiographers said to have excellent capacity to do these examinations, but most of them do not feel comfortable to give testimony in the court.

Conclusion: This research allowed to conclude that during the procedure of imaging examinations in cases of non-accidental injury in children, radiographers attribute a more significant valuation to clinical practice and direct contact with this type of situation, compared to specific training, as a means of attain the skills to engage in this area. Further education and training for radiographers dealing with children and non-accidental trauma is recommended.