

*American Board of Radiology  
Certified International Teleradiologist  
Practice Patterns and Characteristics*

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# *Financial Disclosures*

Three of the authors MA, AA, AK  
are employed as consultant radiologists  
at Teleradiology Solutions



# *Purpose*

A survey was conducted to review the practice patterns of ABR certified, international teleradiologists to compile a collective portrait and better understand this growing teleradiology community.

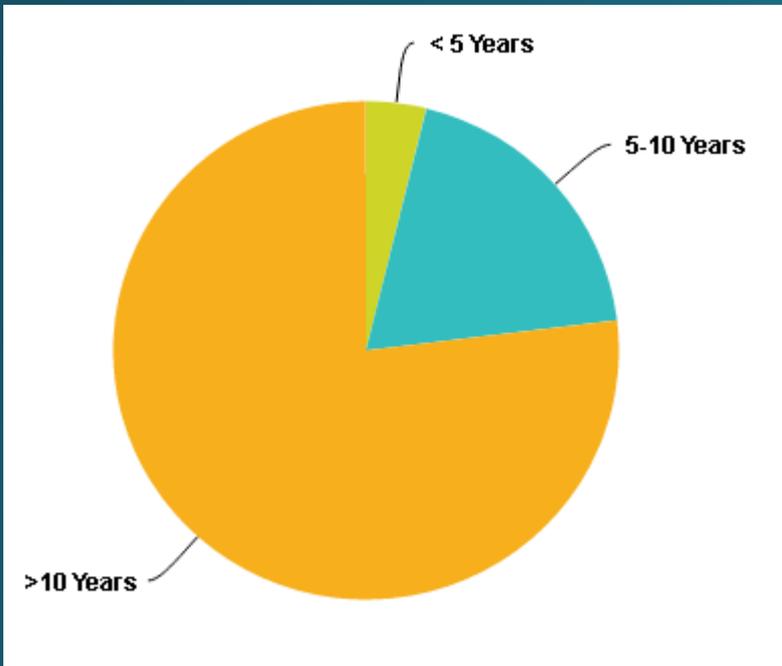


# *Methods & Materials*

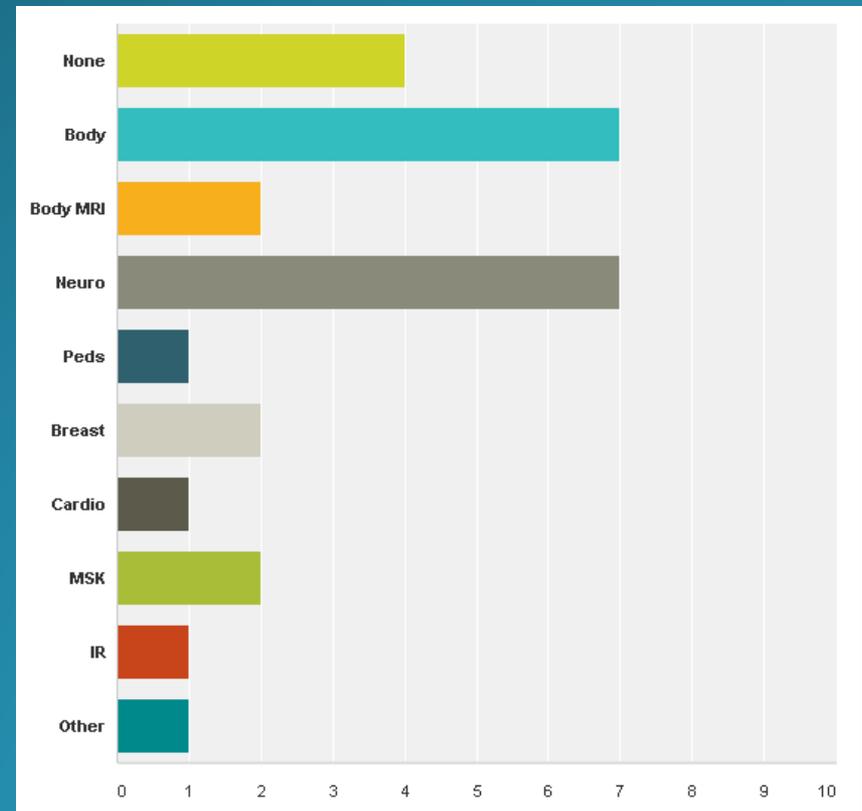
- A request to participate in a 25-item survey was emailed to a list of radiologists who had previously identified themselves as performing teleradiology or were referred by current teleradiologists (N=40).
- The survey was composed of single answer multiple choice questions and several questions which permitted either multiple responses or free text responses.

# Results: Training

How many years post training ?



What fellowship training completed ?



Typically (77%) are > 10 years post training, and have fellowship training (85%), with Body and Neuro being the most common

## *Results: Demographics & Geographics*

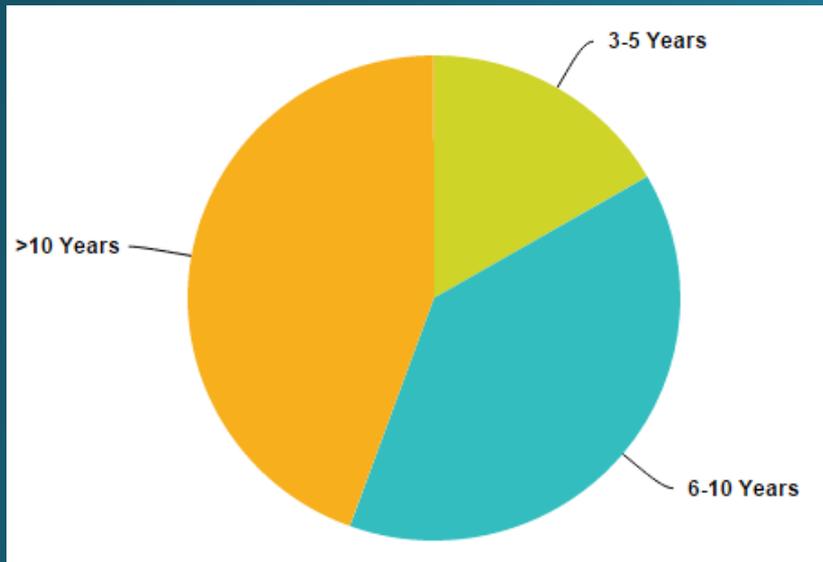
- Typically Male (81%) Aged 49 (avg)
- Majority live in Israel (69%), India (27%) and Turkey (4%)
- 42% travel for brief work on shore in the U.S. at least once a year
- Most (70%) practice alone from a dedicated home office, only 30% practice in a setting outside the home, usually in a group setting
- Most (80%) practice as part of a teleradiology group providing service to numerous US practices. Only 20% practice as an extension of single onshore U.S. practice, providing it remote teleradiology coverage exclusively
- About 65% are interested in or currently also work part-time in local (overseas) radiology practice settings as well

# Results: Schedule

- Teleradiologists typically work 5 days/shifts a week
- Average of 8 hours a day
- Typically start work between 6 - 7 am local time (overseas)
- Most (70%) spend over 75% of their work week practicing teleradiology for U.S. practices, 30% exclusively for private practices, and 70% for a mix of academic & private practices
- Almost all (96%) read exams for hospital ER's, with only 80% reading inpatient exams and 46% reading outpatient as well.

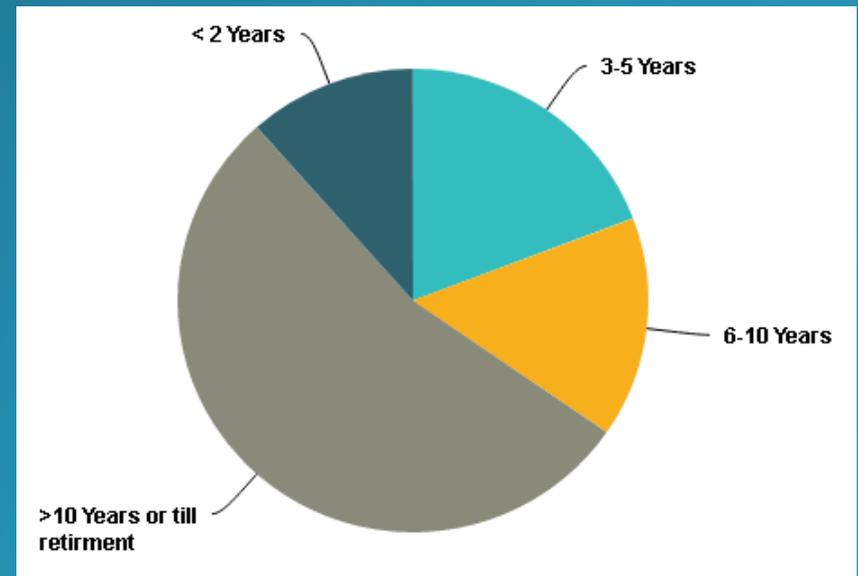
# Results: Stability

*How many years have you been practicing teleradiology ?*



85% practicing teleradiology  
 $\geq 6$  years

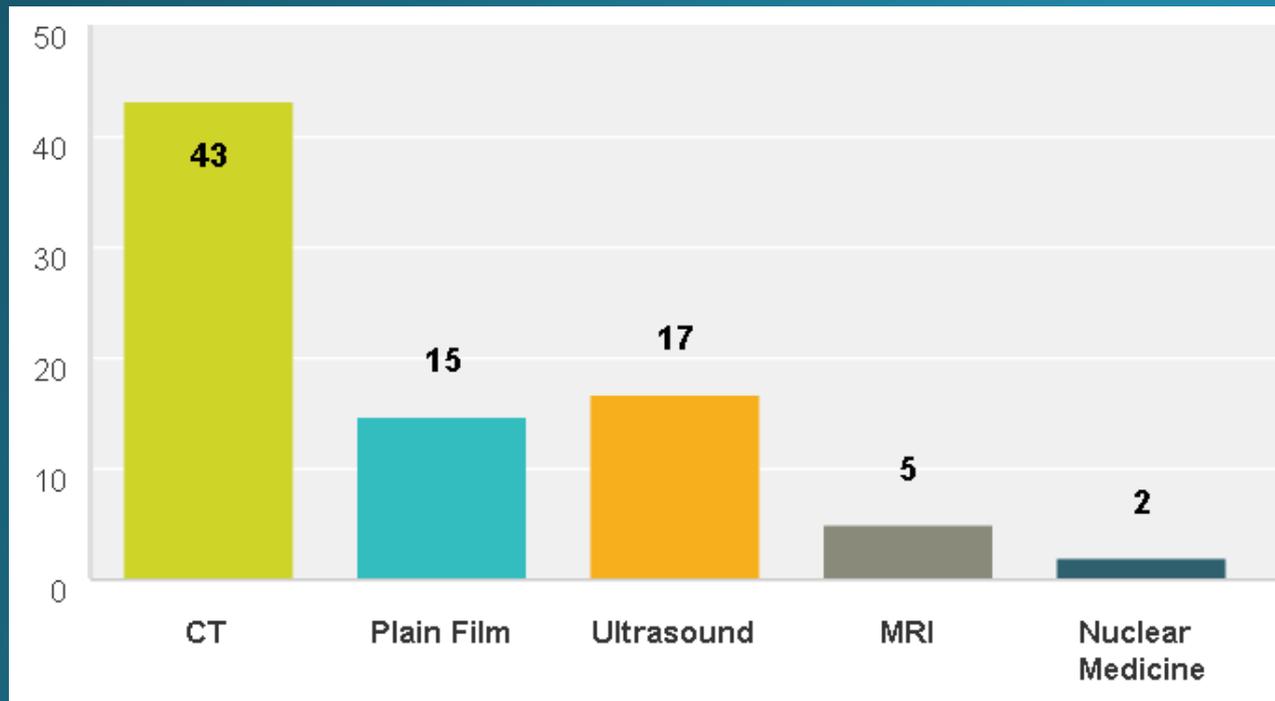
*How many more years do you see yourself practicing teleradiology ?*



68 % are planning  $\geq 10$  years  
or until retirement

# Results: Case mix

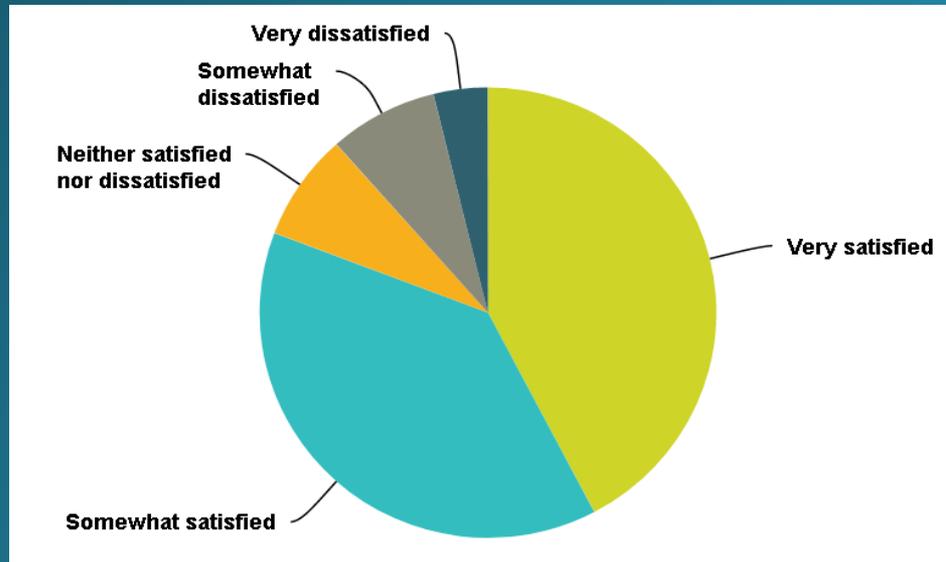
*On a typical day working as a teleradiologist how many cases do you read of each of the following modalities?*



**The respondents reported reading on average 82 cases a day, mostly CT (43), followed by ultrasound (17), plain film (15), MRI (5), and NM (2)**

# Results: Satisfaction

Overall, how *satisfied* or *dissatisfied* are you with practicing teleradiology ?



## 80% are very or somewhat satisfied as telradiologist

- While only 4% thought that they are at less risk of experiencing professional burnout compared to a conventional radiologist, 38% thought their risk was the same and **54% felt their risk was greater.**
- However in a subset of respondents (N=8) to single item burnout measures, 38% reported high levels of emotional exhaustion and/or depersonalization, lower than 49% reported in literature for radiology.

# Results: Challenges

## What do you find most challenging about work as a teleradiologist ?

- ❖ Limited clinical interactions
- ❖ Living overseas
- ❖ Unstable U.S. market
- ❖ Working alone without face to face human interaction
- ❖ Lack of interdepartmental conferences at hospital
- ❖ Customizing reports for numerous hospitals with different standards.
- ❖ Professional isolation
- ❖ Limited interaction with colleagues
- ❖ Uncertainty & Miss invasive procedures
- ❖ Working alone without colleagues and patient interaction
- ❖ Lack of patient contact
- ❖ Lack of peer contact
- ❖ Lack of collaboration with co-workers and consultants
- ❖ Lack of opportunity for growth and development
- ❖ Isolation; lack of other radiologist colleague consultation
- ❖ Lack of control of study quality/performance
- ❖ Inconsistent work volume/compensation
- ❖ Working alone!
- ❖ Usually don't get follow up on my cases
- ❖ Professional development while in a relatively isolated environment outside of a hospital
- ❖ Lack of clinical context when reading films (poor clinical history, no MD to discuss with)

**Isolation (in various forms) is by far the most common challenge reported**

## *Conclusion & Future Directions*

- Statistically significant characteristic practice patterns of ABR certified, international teleradiologists emerged.
- Better understanding the ABR certified international teleradiology communities practice patterns can help attract others to join as well as increase the satisfaction of those already in the practice.
- We believe this unique pool of skilled ABR certified radiologist living overseas can provide useful coverage solutions for U.S. based practices as well as contribute significantly to local practices overseas.

# Questions ?



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