Meeting the interventional radiology needs of patients and hospitals in small and rural communities: current status.
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• Disclosures

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Background

Core Purpose of the ACR

• To serve patients and society by empowering members to advance the practice, science and profession of radiological care.

Emerging Challenge

• Private practice groups, particularly small and rural practices, are having increasing difficulty recruiting interventional radiologists to meet catchment area and hospital demands.
Purpose

• Evaluate the hypothesis that radiology groups are having difficulty recruiting and retaining interventional radiologists

• Explore contributing factors to this potential deficiency

• Garner pilot data to support a larger investigation and/or intervention.
Methods

• An intercommision ACR workgroup was established by the GSER Commission Network Committee consisting of members from:

  • Commission on General, Small, Emergency, and/or Rural Practice
  • Commission on Interventional and Cardiovascular Imaging

• A 15-question survey was generated, and circulated to practicing Interventional Radiologists

• Interventional Radiologists were recruited via SIRConnect social media forum
Methods

• Contingency tables were constructed and bivariate analyses performed to analyze:
  
  • Overall responses
  • The distribution of responses among specific groups of respondents.

• Depending on the variable and observed events, $\chi^2$ test or Fisher's exact test (specifically when cells in the contingency table are below 5) were used to assess significant relationships among responses to survey questions.
Respondents

01
170 independent responses were collected

02
Largely symmetric distribution with regard to group size and geographic location

03
Most respondents from groups serving population >250,000 (72%)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Significant Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Respondents who reported difficulty recruiting Interventional Radiologists</td>
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<td>Respondents who agree that Hospital Administration values in-house Interventional Radiology Services</td>
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<td>Respondents who reported having an exclusivity clause in their group radiology contract</td>
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<td>Respondents who agree that their contract is stabilized by Interventional Radiology</td>
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Perceived Reasons for Difficulty Recruiting IRs

- IRs don’t want to do diagnostic work (54.5%)
- Inability to pay enough (31.1%)
Most interventional radiologists have had a problem recruiting IRs to their practice.

The most commonly perceived reasons amongst interventional radiologists for this difficulty are, 1) that IRs don’t want to do diagnostic work, and 2) that groups cannot pay enough.

Most interventional radiologists have an exclusive contract, believe that hospital administration values in-house IR services, and believe that IR services contribute to contract stabilization.