AN UPDATE:

Google Trends Identifies Low Interest in Diagnostic Radiology Residency Consistent With NRMP Match Results of United States Residents

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INTRODUCTION

• Online queries for “radiology residency” and “radiology salary” had decreased significantly from 2004-2012.
• These trends proceeded dramatic drop of US graduates entering radiology from 2010 through 2012.
• A previous study hypothesized that online search tools may be predictive of unfilled radiology residency positions and eventual shortage of community radiologists coming from US medical schools.

INTRODUCTION

• The purpose of this study was to re-evaluate NRMP match results of United States medical students entering radiology residency programs and Google trends 3 years later.
The query “radiology residency” revealed a decreasing trend over time from 2004 – 2016.
“Radiology salary” continues to be a more popular search term than “radiology residency” itself.
NRMP RESULTS FOR DIAGNOSTIC RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

- The percentage of radiology residency positions (PGY-1 and PGY-2) filled by US graduates continued to decrease from 2013-2015, with a slight increase in the most recent 2016 match.
- The most recent percentage of United States 4th year medical students matched only 66.5% of all radiology positions.
NRMP RESULTS FOR DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY PROGRAMS

- The total number of diagnostic radiology positions (both PGY-1 and PGY-2) has increased over time, but growth has plateaued in recent years.
NRMP RESULTS FOR DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY PROGRAMS

- The number of active US medical school graduates entering the match has increased over time.
CONCLUSIONS

• There was a **notable change** in interest in radiology residency positions located in the United States in 2010. This change remains low through 2016.

• The number of 4th year medical school graduates that are matching into available radiology positions is **approached 50% in 2015, with a slight increase in 2016**.

• The number of 4th year medical school graduates matching into diagnostic radiology positions continues to be low **in spite of an increasing number of spots offered in diagnostic radiology and an increasing number of active US medical school graduates**.

• Compared to data published by our group 3 years ago, this new data indicates interest in radiology, as predicted by online search tools, **is similar if not worse** than previous years.
REFERENCES
