



Radiographer reporting of cross-sectional imaging: results of a survey of NHS consultant and trainee radiologists in Scotland – February 2016

Background

The Standing Scottish Committee (SSC) of the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) undertook a survey of consultant and trainee radiologists to gauge opinion on whether they are in favour or against the reporting of cross-sectional imaging by radiographers. Given that a Scottish university is contemplating running a CT brain reporting course, the SSC felt the views of radiologists should be sought to help assess the level of support or otherwise for such a development. These opinions are important given the issues of governance, risk, clinical responsibility, implications for on-call, teaching, training, finances, mentoring and 24 hour, 7 day a week service delivery.

Method

Online survey with the following questions:

- 1) Do you support radiographer reporting of CT images?
- 2) Do you support radiographer reporting of MRI images?
- 3) Would you be willing to support a course designed to teach radiographers CT or MRI reporting
- 4) Would you be willing to teach and mentor radiographers who report CT or MRI images?

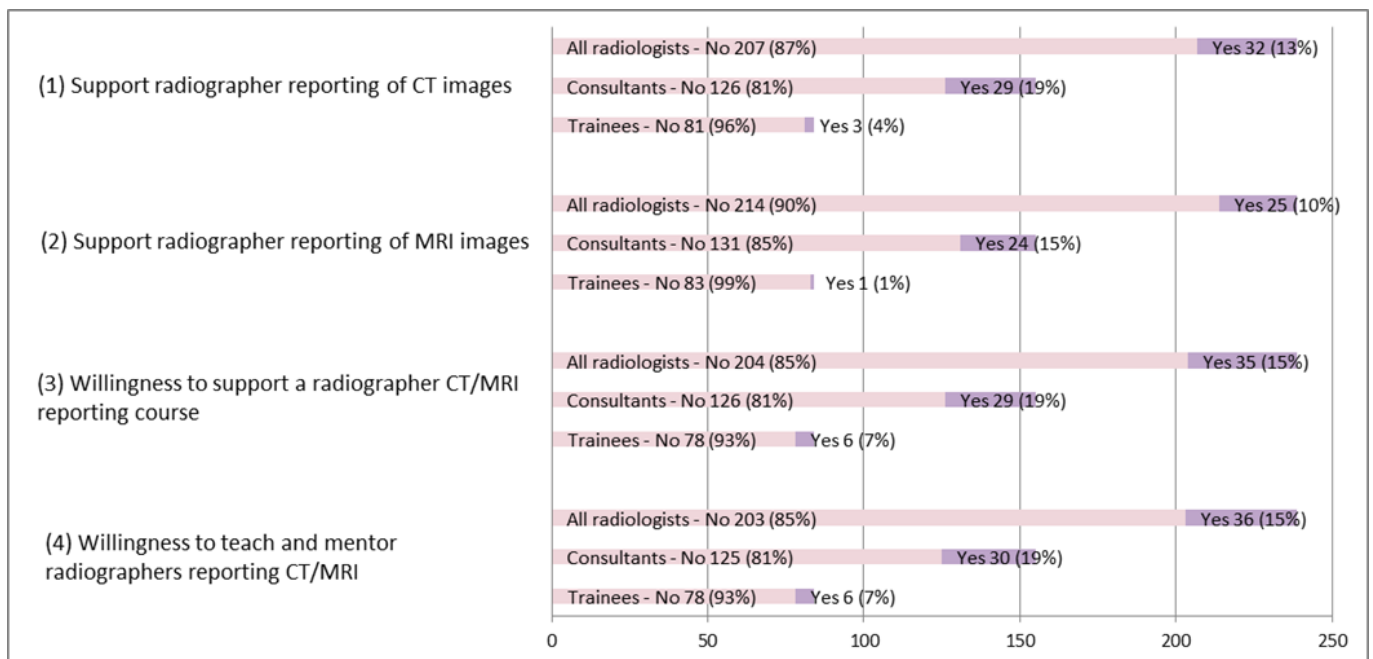
The questions were closed-ended with pre-determined answer options of 'yes' and 'no'. Radiologists were invited by email to respond using the Snap Surveys online software.

Response rate

The survey was based upon 253 NHS consultant radiologists, all with a valid email address identified through RCR membership records. The survey was also sent to all trainee radiologists using contact details held by Training Programme Directors. Those responding numbered 155 consultants (61%) and 84 trainees (80%). In total, 239 radiologists responded.

Results

Number (and percentage) of radiologists responding 'No' or 'Yes' to the survey questions



Main findings

Nine in ten NHS radiologists in Scotland did not support the move towards radiographer reporting of CT and MRI studies. A similar number of radiologists were also unwilling to support an educational course designed for, or teach and mentor, radiographers reporting CT or MRI images. Opposition to this development was almost complete amongst Scottish trainees (98%).