

EDITORIAL

Workplace Environment: Call from Radiologist

Medical imaging has become increasingly widespread and available. Radiology has a singular work environment not seen in other medical specialties. In addition to working long hours on a computer, many radiologists spend ample time performing ultrasound requiring constant use of a single upper limb resulting in Transducer user syndrome. Interventional radiologists working in angiography suites are also exposed to unique musculoskeletal problems. Besides physical issues, the constant mental strain due to the demanding turnaround times and constant work pressures takes its toll as well. These factors contribute to an increased incidence of repetitive musculoskeletal stress injuries, chronic eye strain, stress, depression, and lack of sleep.

Radiologists have higher burnout rates than most other specialists with workplace stress adding up as an additional contributing factor. They are often required to perform more as imaging examinations increase in volume and complexity, which is often not necessarily matched by proportionate increase in staffing and logistics.

Workplace environment for radiologist in Bangladesh has its own challenge. Constant

pressure upon radiologists by clinicians, patients and service providers for performing many procedure and completing a report within given suboptimal time results in early radiologist burnout.

Frequently radiologists in our country are provided with minimum or no clinical information. This ultimately reduces quality of reports. Moreover, radiologists in Bangladesh belong to one of the lowest paid specialists. Professional burnout can negatively impact professionalism, productivity, healthcare costs and importantly patient care.

Radiation as an occupational health hazard has received adequate attention with multiple national and international guidelines available. However, these non-radiation hazards have probably not yet received the attention they deserve. These can adversely impact the physical and mental health of the radiologist, decrease productivity, increase medical errors, and lead to early burnout. It is high time to rethink and rejuvenate the proper workplace environment.

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