

IMPACT of COVID-19 Pandemic on RADIOLOGY

FINANCIAL FALLOUT

The economic impact of the pandemic reaches every sector, affecting radiology professionals and patients alike.

- Hiring freezes, salary cuts and reduction in force across practice settings
 - Cuts to grant programs, professional development
 - Potential loss of experienced staff
- New protocols may reduce capacity for imaging appointments
- Patients lose jobs, insurance
- Delayed purchase of needed research/imaging equipment



DISRUPTION OF NORMAL OPERATIONS

Personal interactions were severely limited for months. Most research projects were shelved and many trainees and staff transitioned to remote work.



- Shutdown of 3-4 months causes 1-2 years lost productivity
 - Lost data
 - Research protocol deviations
 - Prioritization of COVID-19 research
- Staff redeployed to clinical care
- Delayed ABR Core Exam, tenure, degree completion
- Limited interactions for trainees with faculty/patients

SAFETY CONCERNS

The extended period of shelter in place and social distancing rules make patients hesitant, and physical limitations complicate efforts to return to research activities.

- Hospitals and imaging centers must clearly communicate safety protocols
 - Patients may be slow to reschedule appointments
 - Patients may skip annual screenings
 - Long-term effect could be missed diagnoses and delayed treatment
- Researchers may struggle to recruit human trial participants
- Tight labs make social distancing difficult



POSITIVE CHANGE

Through adversity, a change in mindset and priorities can lead to long-term improvements for radiology.



- More collaboration with referring physicians
- Better team communications
- Increased focus on wellness
- More efficient workflows
- Renewed interest in shared data
- Influx of remote learning
- Increased telehealth use