

## **A national survey of the role of radiology in anatomy teaching in UK medical schools**

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Anatomy is the cornerstone of medical education and underpins all areas of clinical practice. Over the past few decades, there have been considerable changes in the way anatomy teaching is delivered in UK medical schools, with a greater emphasis on clinical relevance. In particular, radiology has played an increasingly important role in the medical curriculum, as recent technical advances have provided new ways by which diagnostic imaging can support anatomy learning. Radiological images allow greater appreciation of topographic anatomy in different planes, as well as emphasising functional anatomy in the living body. We aimed to investigate the current use of radiology in anatomy teaching across the UK, and to determine the level of interest expressed in expanding its role in medical education. A 22-question electronic survey was distributed to the anatomy teaching leads of all 35 UK medical schools. The questionnaire explored whether radiology was used in anatomy teaching within the curriculum, the different kinds of available resources, and attitudes towards integrating radiology into anatomy teaching. Responses were received from 83% (29/35) of medical schools. Among the respondents, radiological anatomy featured in all but one of the medical schools' curricula. Of those schools already using radiology to aid anatomy teaching, 20/28 expressed a wish for more radiology in the curriculum, in contrast to 3/28 who did not. Timetabling constraints constituted one of the main difficulties in further implementation. The one medical school who did not currently include radiology in its curriculum expressed a keen desire for its use. In addition, 22/28 medical schools had already fostered collaborative links with local radiology departments, with 18 of these expressing a wish for further cooperation. Of the remaining 6 schools without current collaboration, 4 would like to establish connections. Compared with data from previous studies on using radiology in anatomy teaching in the UK, this national survey shows a definite increase in radiological anatomy in medical school curricula and a stronger presence of radiologists in anatomy teaching. Despite this, most anatomy departments still express a desire to increase the radiological component in their courses.

Ethical approval was not required.