

Image as a Universal Language of Medicine

Birendra Raj Joshi

Each picture tells a story. A thousand words can be used to describe a picture. Radiology encompasses images from various modalities. Images are used for diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making. The importance of images and their accurate interpretation is vital for managing a patient's condition. Radiology consists of studies from head to toe. Radiology applies to almost every specialty of medicine. The extent varies from one specialty to another. Images play a profound role in every aspect of patient care.

Radiology one case a day [RADOC], a Viber group has been initiated in 2023. Many residents are members of this group. The purpose of this group is to strengthen the visual and interpretative skills of residents in small daily efforts so that they may excel in professional examinations and later in chosen medical professions. One or a series of images is uploaded daily in the Viber group. The answers are sent to the Admin, who will disclose the answer the next day. The resident can self-assess his/her performance and improve weak areas in a gradual manner.

Another way to build the interpretative skill of residents is by radiology quiz. Pre-selected images are flashed on the wide screen. RADQUEST is such a platform in which several teams of three residents compete for the final victory. The first competition was organized among fourteen medical colleges in November 2024 on the occasion of the International Day of Radiology. This forms the foundation for further events in the future. Today's residents are the future of radiology in Nepal. We should train them well from the beginning and set the trend of competition and development of competency.

Future direction may be to include residents of other specialties in this competition since radiological investigations and interventions are playing a major role in comprehensive patient care. This competency development will further improve their patient management skills.

However, it is worth saying that RADOC not only increases learners' behavior, commitment, and motivation but also improves their knowledge and skill acquisition. Success in RADQUEST results in achieving more scores, rewards, winning the game, and finally achieving educational goals.

In conclusion, images are indeed the universal language of medicine, and every measure should be taken to enhance this interpretative skill.