## Morbidity and Mortality Conferences in Interventional Radiology: Current Patterns and Experiences

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**Introduction:** The world's first total-body PET scanner, EXPLORER, is operating at UC Davis Health (UCDH). It is utilized for research purposes and routine clinical PET/CT scanning. Given EXPLORER's long axial field-of-view (194 cm) and ultrahigh physical sensitivity, allowing for simultaneous imaging of the entire body, the discovery of incidental findings (IFs) related to clinical problems in research volunteers is likely, potentially requiring follow-up procedures exposing research participants to additional risks.

**Methods:** A 10-question online survey of practices and experiences with M&M conferencing was administered to members of the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR).

**Results:** 604 individual responses were received, with 40% being from university-based practitioners and 60% being from non-university practices. 43% of respondents reported practicing 100% IR, with 28.5% practicing 75-99%, and 11% practicing IR less than 50% of the time. The use of M&M conferencing was significantly greater in university practices (90.7%) than non-university practices (37.1%) and among practitioners performing at least 75% IR (71.2%) than among those practicing less than 75% (28.8%). Conferences were held at least monthly (66.6%), and 56% of events were scored using the SIR severity score. The most common reasons for not using M&M were lack of time and logistical challenges. Among those participating in M&M conferences, the quality assurance (QA) goals of the conference were met at high rates.

**Conclusion:** Approximately 1/3 of IR practices do not use M&M conferencing, especially those who practice less than 100% IR which tend to favor Radpeer as a QA tool. While Radpeer serves as an effective quality control measure for diagnostic radiology, it is inappropriate for IR procedures which may involve complications, technical errors, or outside factors. Despite the challenges associated with implementation, those who do utilize M&M report multiple benefits and high rates of meeting QA goals.

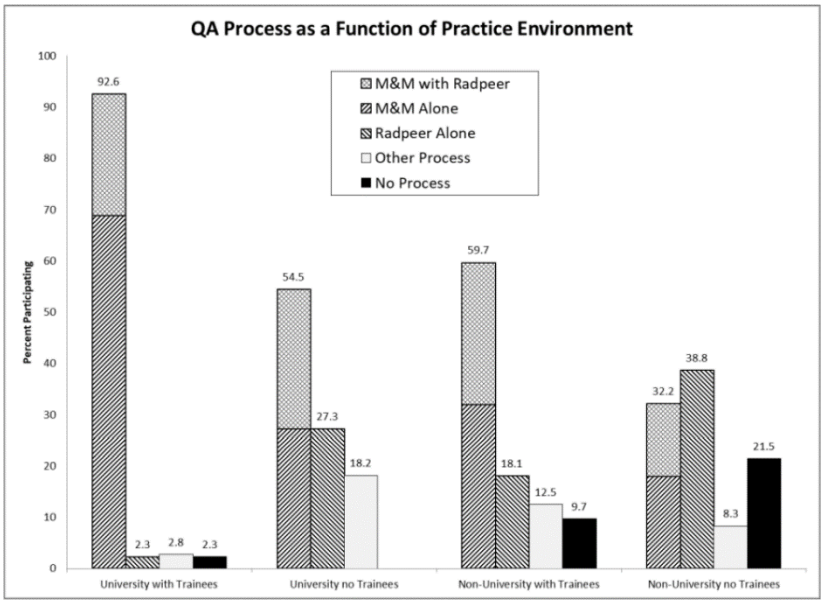


Figure 1. QA process by practice environment; 13 respondents not matched to one of these four practice categories are not included.