

Pediatric radiology in Pakistan: Its time to promote sub-speciality practice in radiology

Millennium Development Goal (MGD) 4, of united nation have target to reduce morbidity and mortality in children by year 2015. To achieve this goal in Pakistan significant enhancement of health care system would be required and almost all specialties of medicine related to this target are in process of up gradation in Pakistan. Today's evidence based medicine is very much dependent on imaging and fruit full results of national efforts cannot be achieved by ignoring radiology. According to United Nations declaration children should be treated as different entity because they have different physiology, anatomy, pathology, symptomlogy and disease pattern etc. Furthermore children of varying ages have different diseases.

Pediatric radiology is certainly different from adult radiology and radiology department catering pediatric patients should have adequately trained staff, appropriate equipment, modified ambience and validated imaging protocols and imaging algorithms. Generally all radiology departments in Pakistan having lack of adequate pediatric imaging facilities and children are usually deal as adult patients. No pediatric fellowship training opportunity available for radiologists and radiographers in Pakistan. Radiology specialization exams in Pakistan give some Weightage to pediatric imaging but no dedicated module or training rotation is mandatory for certification. Research output in radiology related to children is very limited from Pakistan, therefore no reference or guidelines are available for local population. There is an urgent need of promoting and establishing pediatric radiology in Pakistan which is almost at its infancy level.

Radiological society of Pakistan (RSP) at its 2011 annual conference at Lahore did some efforts at grass root level to enhance sub-speciality practice in Pakistan by organizing and stimulating interested practicing radiologists under the guidance of international experts and seniors. This type of activities may produce fruit full results in future and it should be a regular agenda of annual radiology conference of RSP.

College of physicians and surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) can recognize pediatric radiology fellowship as separate entity as it has other subspecialty fellowships in pediatrics medicine or surgery. CPSP can also introduce pediatric rotation or module in diagnostic radiology fellowship curriculum. Pakistan medical and dental council (PMDC) and Pakistan nuclear ragulatory authority (PNRA) could make some guidelines and legislative work to promote pediatric radiology and discourage mishandling of children in radiology departments.

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