

EUROPEAN DIPLOMA IN RADIOLOGY (EDiR): PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AND GUIDANCE

Nadir Khan

Department of Radiology, Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi, Pakistan.

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Introduction

The European Society of Radiology (ESR) was founded in 2005 in Vienna, Austria dedicated to promote all radiology activities in European countries. In 2010, the ESR announced the launch of the European Diploma in Radiology (EDiR). This is one of the major steps of ESR to harmonize the radiological standards throughout Europe. The exam is based on the established ESR European Training Curriculum.

Purpose

The purpose of this article is to provide another source of information for those who are interested in this examination and give an insight to the exam. Despite having information here it is essential that one should go through the ESR website (www.myesr.org/diploma) as it contains all essential information needed to give the EDiR exam. That was the only information I was able to obtain but felt that it had enough detail and sufficient information to make myself feel comfortable about the exam. Most importantly there website will have up-to-date information, schedules and exam content.

The first examination took place at the European Congress of Radiology (ECR) Conference 2011 on Monday, March 7, in Vienna, Austria. It subsequently was held at the French Congress of Radiology (JFR) in 2011, then in ECR 2012 and the last in Spanish Society of Medical Radiology (SERAM) annual meeting in May 2012 in Granada, Spain. It is now scheduled October 19, 2012 in Paris at JFR.

Why I gave the exam?

I felt that the ESR being the largest radiology society

in Europe and from an organizational perspective are doing excellent work in the field of radiology and its promotion. Along with the ECR they have tried to standardize radiology training in Europe. The standard and training set out in there curriculum are obviously very extensive and they seem to be serious about providing an examination of high quality. The exam is currently in one sitting meaning the theory and oral viva can be given on one day. One never knows, may be in the future it will be separate like the fellowship examination by Royal college of Radiology (FRCR). There are no well known radiology board exams besides this in Europe and there is a high chance this may become the optimal standard. It may even help getting job opportunity in Europe. It's also another certificate that proves one persons knowledge in radiology, allows a person to achieve radiology standard in another country and gain foreign experience.

Preparing for the exam:

As I was fresh from studying for other board exams including FRCR and was not able to find any specific books for this exam I continued revising the FRCR books for 2A and 2B. I also practiced rapid reporting and imaging cases on Auntminnie and American College of Radiology (ACR). The books that I feel were most helpful were Final FRCR 2B Viva: A Survival Guide by Kiat Tsong Tan, Rapid Review of Radiology by Shahid Hussain, Aids to Radiological Differential Diagnosis by Stephen Chapman, Accident and Emergency Radiology by Nigel Raby. Before the exam I went through the Diploma Example Test in the ESR Self assessment modules which was very similar to the exam. It probably is the closest thing to the exam you can find anywhere.

Correspondence : Dr. Nadir Khan
Department of Radiology
Dow University of Health Sciences
Karachi, Pakistan
Tel: 0300-8289272
Email: khannadir@msn.com

What to expect:

I was in the morning shift and it was a bit difficult getting there on time early however I was also done by noon so at the end it was done very quickly. I would recommend you visit the site of exam center a day early to estimate the time it would take to get there. The organizers were very friendly, well prepared and were able to answer all questions. It may vary from year to year but during our session we were divided into two groups. I was in the one which had the written first. There were two sessions 90 minutes each. The first included short cases and the second was MCQs. I would say the test material was similar to other radiology exam like FRCR. There are a few cases like the rapid reporting in FRCR 2B where I had to identify if the exam was abnormal or normal. There were many questions which were based on several pages like the ones in Case in Point at ACR website where you had to choose a set of answers or mark the abnormality on a radiological image and move to the next page. If you realized later that you had marked the incorrect one you could go back but not be able to change your answers. After a 10 minute break I was directed to the Oral examination. My examiners were two fine gentlemen who took turns 20 minutes each. They were friendly, courteous and respectful. They repeated when I did not understand anything. All the cases were on PACS and it was very easy to scroll through images. Before the exam they explained what they were looking for in a candidate and how I should proceed with each case. Like other exams they were interested in differentials, management and wanted me to prove that I was a safe radiologist.

Eligibility for exam:

The ESR website gives a great detail on eligibility. ESR expects you to become at least corresponding member. In general they want five years of radiology training for the exam however recently they are now also allowing those who are in their fifth year of radiology training. At the time of application a certificate or letter of proof of training needs to be submitted. Additionally proof of active membership of the relevant national radiological society and proof of profession by the current employing hospital/institution. To be able to get the EDiR diploma certificate an up-to-date proof of license to practice in radiology from the official national registration body and a Certificate of Completion of Training signed by the official national registration body or the training institution indicating

a minimum of five years of radiology training needs to be submitted. Further details of these should be read at the ESR website for up to date information as rules and regulations may change. Another important issue is visa! So prior to applying make sure that you have plenty of time to submit the application and get the visa on time.

Conclusion

Personally it was a great experience to go and give this exam. It helped me study more and gain knowledge and experience. It has also given me an additional certificate of radiology which may help me in my career. As I am currently working in an academic environment I can guide residents and trainees in preparing for foreign exams and be able to train them better as now I understand what are important elements that residents should know to be successful in postgraduate exams. I feel that given the opportunity everyone should give this exam. Good luck.