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**TITLE**

INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE, AND EXPERIENCE OF REFERRED PATIENTS IN RIZAL MEDICAL CENTER: A TERTIARY HOSPITAL IN THE PHILIPPINES

**BACKGROUND**

Interventional Radiology (IR) is a developing specialty that involves minimally-invasive techniques, that in effect, lessens post-operative complications, shortens hospital stay, and lowers the hospitalization cost. Its potential advantages are hindered by financial challenges and inadequate dissemination of information, hence, uncertainty on the awareness and knowledge of patients with regard to this specialty arises. Their post-procedure experience also contributes to learning how the patients perceive this specialty. Having more patients amenable to undergo minimally-invasive image-guided procedures may provide demonstrable improvement to patient outcomes. General Objective: To describe the extent of awareness and knowledge, and, narrate experience of referred patients with regard to IR. Specific Objectives: 1. To determine the demographic profile of the participants and correlate with the extent of their awareness and knowledge of IR. 2. To determine level of patient satisfaction and preference for future IR procedures. 3. To develop recommendations on how to boost public awareness of IR.

**METHODS**

A descriptive study design that involved distribution of paper surveys among patients referred to Interventional Radiology in Rizal Medical Center (a Tertiary Hospital in the Philippines) from June 2020 to August 2020. The first part of the survey was given prior to patient's procedure and consists of the following categories: demographic profile of subjects and awareness and knowledge of IR. The second part involved post-procedural experience. The study was terminated after 87 completed surveys.

**RESULT**

This study demonstrates that patients referred for an IR procedure hardly know anything about the field. After the procedure, they developed a better understanding of Interventional Radiology and expressed satisfaction in the experience.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Raising public awareness and knowledge is crucial to help patients understand the specialty.

**AUTHOR**

Alexis Joyce Sanchez

**CO-AUTHOR**