

The Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Medical Imaging Practice: Perspectives of African Radiographers

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Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Medical Imaging; Radiography; Africa; Online Surveys

Abstract

Introduction: The current technological developments in medical imaging are centred largely on the increasing integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into all equipment modalities. This survey assessed the perspectives of African radiographers on the integration of AI in medical imaging in order to offer unique recommendations to support the training of the radiography workforce.

Methods: An exploratory cross-sectional online survey of radiographers working within Africa was conducted from March to August 2020. The survey obtained data about their demographics and perspectives on AI implementation and usage. Data obtained were analysed using both descriptive and inferential statistics.

Results: A total of 1020 valid responses were obtained. Majority of the respondents ($n=883,86.6\%$) were working in general X-ray departments. Of the respondents, 84.9% ($n=866$) indicated that AI technology would improve radiography practice and quality assurance for efficient diagnosis and improved clinical care. Fear of job losses following the implementation of AI was a key concern of most radiographers ($n=625,61.3\%$).

Conclusion: Generally, radiographers were delighted about the integration of AI into medical imaging, however; there were concerns about job security and lack of knowledge. There is an urgent need for stakeholders in medical imaging infrastructure development and practices in Africa to start empowering radiographers through training programmes, funding, motivational support, and create clear roadmaps to guide the adoption and integration of AI in medical imaging in Africa.

Implication for practice

The current study offers unique suggestions and recommendations to support the training of the African radiography workforce and others in similar resource-limited settings to provide quality care using AI-integrated imaging modalities.

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5 **Radiographers**
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4 **Introduction**
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8 Artificial intelligence (AI) broadly refers to the theory and development of computer systems
9 capable of performing tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech
10 recognition, decision-making, and language translation.^{1,2} These advanced computer-controlled systems
11 have the capacity to accomplish tasks commonly associated with human intelligence.² Machine and deep
12 learning algorithms are subsets of AI and their applications in medical imaging practice is gradually
13 becoming more common.³⁻⁷ AI is recognised to offer unique advantages in medical imaging practice such
14 as reduced rates of diagnostic errors, workplace-related stress and provide clinical decision support to
15 radiologists and radiographers.⁶⁻⁸ The joint statement from the International Society of Radiographers and
16 Radiological Technologists (ISRRT) and the European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS)⁹, argued
17 that AI systems could optimise imaging workflows and potentially aid dose reduction, increase research
18 efficiency and consistently deliver high quality planning processes. It is therefore generally accepted that
19 AI has come to stay as an integral tool for practice and medical imaging professionals have been vanguards
20 of this movement.¹⁰⁻¹²
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31 Although radiographers have acknowledged these technologies within the profession,³ there are
32 concerns about AI. Some radiographers have indicated that the emergence of AI and its application could
33 have a negative impact on their core skills.³ Issues of ethics and potential medico-legal concerns in relation
34 to image manipulation and cyber security were also highlighted.¹³ In the African context, the lack of
35 adequate workforce training and the technical expertise, data-right frameworks, public policies, cost of AI
36 equipment installation/management, fear of consequent job losses and internet connectivity challenges
37 have been previously reported.¹⁴ Nevertheless, there is an increasing advocacy for the integration of AI in
38 the core aspects of imaging especially in low-resource settings.^{4,12,15}
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45 For efficient use of AI, radiographers would need to adapt their practices to ensure that the new
46 technology is utilised in line with accredited standards for maximum patient benefit.⁹ With the emergence
47 of baseline guidance statements^{9,10} for future radiography practice and the inescapable market
48 progression resulting from the continuous application of cutting-edge medical imaging technologies¹⁶⁻¹⁸,
49 there is a demand for radiographers with requisite expertise and knowledge of AI. This warrants the
50 understanding of the current perspectives of radiographers in Africa on the integration of AI into medical
51 imaging practice. This study aimed to comprehensively assess the perspectives of radiographers in Africa
52 about AI in order to provide unique recommendations to support the training of this workforce in
53 readiness to provide quality patient care using this technology.
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4 **Methods**
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6 An exploratory cross-sectional survey of radiographers working within Africa was conducted. The
7 catchment of radiographers eligible and included were diagnostic radiographers working across the five
8 regions of Africa²⁰ during the study period. A previously validated research instrument¹⁹ was adapted for
9 the current study. A representative group of the research team reviewed the adopted questionnaire and
10 recommended areas for modification. These recommendations comprise the inclusion of variables such
11 as country of residence and knowledge on previous computer coding/programming experience. Briefly,
12 the adapted instrument broadly includes questions relating to demographics, general attitudes and
13 perspectives on job security, the future of medical Imaging including workforce development and ethics
14 in relation to the integration of AI (Appendix 1). The content validity of the final instrument was assessed
15 and approved by three faculty members in radiography with experience ranging between 5 to 15 years.
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17 The survey was piloted in three African countries (Ghana, Nigeria and Tanzania) to address reliability
18 concerns and to ensure there were no ambiguities. In order to gain an unbiased and representative insight
19 from across Africa, the research instrument was translated into French and Arabic by academic
20 radiographers in the research team with proficiency in both English and either of the two languages. A
21 test-retest analysis was used to approve the reliability of the French and Arabic versions of the research
22 instrument.
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24 The survey was hosted online using Google Forms (Google, Mountain View, CA). The link to the
25 survey was shared amongst the leadership of the professional radiography societies across Africa via email
26 and was advertised on social media platforms (WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn etc). Time frame
27 for the survey response was five months (March 25th to August 31st, 2020) with weekly reminders on
28 respective social media to maximise response. The Ethics and Protocols Review Committee of the School
29 of Biomedical and Allied Health Sciences of the University of Ghana approved the study prior to its
30 commencement (SBAHS/AA/RAD/29245/2019-2020) and all the respondents provided electronic
31 informed consent for participation. To ensure confidentiality, participants' responses were kept
32 anonymous and stored on a computer with an encrypted password.
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34 ***Statistical Analysis***
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36 Data from the survey were downloaded from Google Forms, analysed using the Statistical Package
37 for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23 (IBM Corp, NY, USA). The response to rating questions/items were
38 assigned scores (1-5) on the Likert scale, corresponding to responses (strongly agree=5, agree=4,
39 neutral=3, disagree=2, strongly disagree=1). Spearman's rank-order correlation was used to investigate
40 the relationship between some of the demographic variables and respondents' perspectives on the
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4 integration of AI in medical imaging. A two-tailed α level of 0.05 was used for testing statistical significance
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6 in all analyses. For easy presentation of the results, the “strongly agreed” and “agreed” responses were
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8 grouped together as an “agreement response” while the “strongly disagree” and “disagree” responses
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10 were also grouped together as a “disagreement response”.

11 12 **Results**

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15 A total of 1020 valid responses [English: ($n=950$), Arabic: ($n=40$) and French ($n=30$)] were obtained,
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17 comprising of 69.6% male ($n=710$) and female ($n=310$, 30.4%) respondents. Demographic details of the
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19 respondents are presented in **Table 1**. Responses were received from 51.8% ($n=28/54$) of countries across
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21 Africa (**Figure 1**). Peak responses were received from Nigeria ($n=254$, 24.9%), Ghana ($n=157$, 15.3%) and
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23 Tanzania ($n=190$, 18.6%) (**Figure 1**). Eight hundred and sixty-six (84.9%) of the respondents indicated
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25 that AI technology would improve general radiography practice and quality assurance for efficient
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27 diagnosis and improved clinical care of patients (**Table 2**). Details of the respondents’ general attitudes
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29 about the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa are presented in **Table 2**.

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31 Of the respondents, 61.3% ($n=625$) indicated that AI tools could replace the job of most
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33 radiographers and negatively affect the radiography profession in Africa rather than being an assistive
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35 tool in easing workload (**Table 3**). Further details of the respondents’ perspectives on job security with
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37 the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa is presented in **Table 3**. The
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39 respondents’ perspectives on the future of AI in medical imaging in Africa are presented in **Table 4**.

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41 The score for respondents’ general attitudinal perspectives showed significant positive
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43 correlations with age ($r_s=0.83$, $p=0.008$) and years of practice ($r_s=0.108$, $p=0.001$). However, no significant
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45 positive correlation was noted with education levels ($r_s=0.60$, $p=0.345$). Respondents’ score for
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47 perspective on job security significantly correlated positively with age ($r_s=0.136$, $p=0.001$), years of
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49 practice ($r_s=0.154$, $p=0.01$) and educational levels ($r_s=0.209$, $p=0.001$).

50 51 **Discussion**

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53 Radiographers are experiencing a massive technological change in their field that will significantly
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55 impact the profession.^{12,21,22} To facilitate the successful adoption of AI in medical imaging practice,
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57 considering the overriding positive implications of AI implementation, this survey sought to broadly
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59 evaluate the perspective of African radiographers on the integration of AI in medical imaging. To the best
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4 of our knowledge this is the first study that have assessed the perspective of radiographers in Africa
5 about the integration of AI in medical imaging practice.
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8 A total of 1020 responses were obtained with 710 male respondents, highlighting male
9 dominance of the sample. Currently, no data exist on the total number of radiographers to suggest male
10 dominance of the radiography workforce in Africa. However, the general observed trend in some previous
11 studies^{23,24} indicates a male dominance radiography workforce in some African countries, contrary to the
12 finding of female dominance reported in the United Kingdom and mainland Europe.²⁵ Responses were
13 received from all the five geographical regions of Africa²⁰, specifically, from 28 out of the 54 countries of
14 the continent. Irrespective of respondent's expertise (**Figure 1B**), they held the view that AI would
15 advance general radiography practice, particularly, in the context of image quality improvement for
16 diagnostic precision to enhance patient care (**Table 2**). This perspective was supported by their
17 indication of awareness of AI trends in medical imaging (78.3) and excitement about the global use of
18 AI in medical imaging (80.2%). The position share by these respondents could be because of their
19 knowledge that AI systems have the capacity to accomplish tasks commonly associated with human
20 intelligence.²
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31 The majority of respondents (76.0%) had a positive opinion about AI as an assistive technology in
32 optimising radiation dose levels. It was very re-assuring that the majority (80.2%) felt that AI would ensure
33 the production of quality images with greater benefits than harm to patients as reported previously.^{26,27}
34 These perspectives are very encouraging as the concepts mentioned are very important in radiographic
35 practice.⁹ Similar evidence suggests that Ghanaian radiographers thought of AI as the future of medical
36 imaging¹⁰.
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41 Prespane et al²⁸ reported several potential clinical applications of AI in diagnostic imaging such
42 as image acquisition, image processing and reporting, data storage among others. The majority (86.1%)
43 of respondents in the current study, believe that, AI tools that support image reporting (through the
44 flagging) of common conditions like tuberculosis would be very important, particularly in Africa. This is
45 because infectious diseases like tuberculosis are common in Africa, as such, AI would augment the
46 relatively small radiology workforce and the expertise required for diagnostic image reporting and
47 interpretation in Africa. Evidence suggest that radiographers approved of the implementation of AI
48 technologies because of several other advantages beyond image acquisition.³
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56 AI technology would require some knowledge in coding and programming for effective
57 implementation in practice. It was therefore encouraging that more than half (61.9%) of the respondents,
58 had basic knowledge of coding or programming (see **Table 1**). Notwithstanding, some respondents' views
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4 were found to reflect negatively on job security regardless of their age and educational level.
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6 Particularly, 67.3% of respondents thought that AI could replace radiographers and adversely affect
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8 their profession. Similarly, a previous study²⁸ reported some doubts among radiologists about their
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10 looming job security moving forward with the emerging trends in AI technologies. Although, there exist
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12 general anxiety that AI may substitute human employment²⁹, there is no evidence to suggest that this
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14 would be the case.⁴ This finding may be due to lack of knowledge in line with a recent report.³⁰
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16 Interdepartmental communication and clear guidelines can facilitate the understanding of the role of
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18 AI in medical imaging. Consistently, technological changes and development have unswervingly,
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20 impacted on the radiography profession with the practice developing and acclimating in response to
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22 the operation of new technologies and cutting-edge imaging prospects presented by their
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24 implementation.^{3,11} Therefore, the assertion on job insecurity and salary reduction is difficult to accept
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26 as AI has not demonstrated how it could for example, replace the human face of patient positioning by
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28 radiographers for various imaging investigations and the necessary instructions that they have to
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30 provide patients referred to the imaging department.

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32 Radiographers, however, should be assured that AI is a potential support to the practice of their
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34 profession.³ Respondents believed that AI would eventually change radiographers' role leading to
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36 extended practices. However, previous studies⁸⁻¹¹, suggest that it would advance the practice and create
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38 other opportunities but will not change the core roles of radiographers entirely. There is a global
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40 interest in radiography role extension due to increased radiology investigations and career
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42 development.^{11,31,32} It is therefore recommended that radiographers prepare themselves through
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44 education (e.g., CPD activities, post graduate studies, seminars etc.) for the job opportunities that AI
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46 would present to medical imaging professionals.

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48 Legal implications as a result of AI integration in medical imaging is anticipated. Currently, no
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50 clear laws or policy frameworks are available to guide the use of AI in medical imaging and healthcare
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52 in general.³³ It was therefore not surprising that the majority (45.5%) of respondents in the current
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54 study felt that the future applications of AI in Africa might encompass errors in clinical radiography
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56 practice and unethical utilisation of patient data. This suggests the critical need for governance policies
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58 in relation to AI before its full implementation in Africa.

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60 Respondents' general attitudinal perspective scores strongly correlated positively with age and
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62 years of practice but not with the level of education. This trend is explained by the lack of core AI
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64 components in the current curriculum of radiography education in Africa and most other training
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4 institutions globally.³⁰ Notably, there are efforts for curriculum revisions to address this in the near
5 future.^{3,4,9,11}
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8 The findings of this study are potentially reflective of other low-resource settings, considering the
9 similar healthcare resource challenges within these communities. However, the survey did not fully
10 address this particular subject; therefore, future studies may be needed using in-depth qualitative
11 approaches to explore the impact of work settings on the perceptions of AI amongst radiographers.
12 Moreover, the study is likely limited by the use of an online exploratory approach for data collection, thus,
13 the sampling used for this research is not proportionate, resulting in countries with large populations and
14 large number of radiographers having small responses, and vice versa.
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22 **Conclusion**

23 The findings indicate that radiographers working in Africa have positive perspectives about the
24 integration of AI in medical imaging. However, concerns about job security regarding the integration of AI
25 in medical imaging were eminent. Just like other transformative and revolutionary technologies, there are
26 potential challenges that would be integral to the implementation of AI in medical imaging in Africa. Lack
27 of knowledge, funds, regulatory policies and support systems were identified as key barriers to the
28 effective implementation of AI which should be given attention by stakeholders. The current study offers
29 unique suggestions and recommendations in order to support the training of the African radiography
30 workforce and others in similar resource-limited settings to provide quality care using AI-integrated
31 imaging modalities.
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41 **Conflicts of Interest**

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45 **Funding**

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14 **Figure Legend**

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17 **Figure 1:** Geographical distribution of respondents across Africa (A) and Professional categories and specialties of
18 respondents (B), Africa map showing distribution of respondents (C). *Note: CA: Central Africa, EA: East Africa: NA: North*
19 *Africa: SA: Southern Africa, WA: West Africa. In B, respondents selected more than one option, so the sum of the*
20 *percentages are more than 100%.*
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26 **Table Legend**

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31 **Table 2:** Attitudinal perspectives on the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa
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Acknowledgments

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Table 1: Demographic distribution of respondents.

Demographic	<i>n</i> (%)
Gender	
Male	710 (69.6)
Female	310 (30.4)
Age range (years)	
≤ 20 - 29	386 (37.8)
30 - 39	388 (38.0)
40 - 49	167 (16.4)
50 - 59	60 (5.9)
60 and above	19 (1.9)
Workplace setting	
Private	364 (35.7)
Public	581 (57.0)
Quasi-government	64 (6.3)
Others	11 (1.1)
Years of practice (years)	
≤ 5	463 (45.4)
6 - 10	238 (23.3)
11 - 15	131 (12.8)
16 - 20	91 (8.9)
21 and above	97 (9.5)
Highest educational level	
Certificate	12 (1.2)
Diploma	301 (29.5)
BSc/BTech	482 (47.3)
Masters	186 (18.2)
PGCert/DP	7 (0.7)
PhD	27 (2.6)
Others	5 (0.5)
Knowledge on coding/programming	
Competent	64 (6.3)
Basic concepts	631 (61.9)
Not at all	325 (31.9)

BSc/BTech: Bachelor of Science/Technology, PGCert/DP: Postgraduate certificate/diploma, PhD: Doctor of Philosophy.

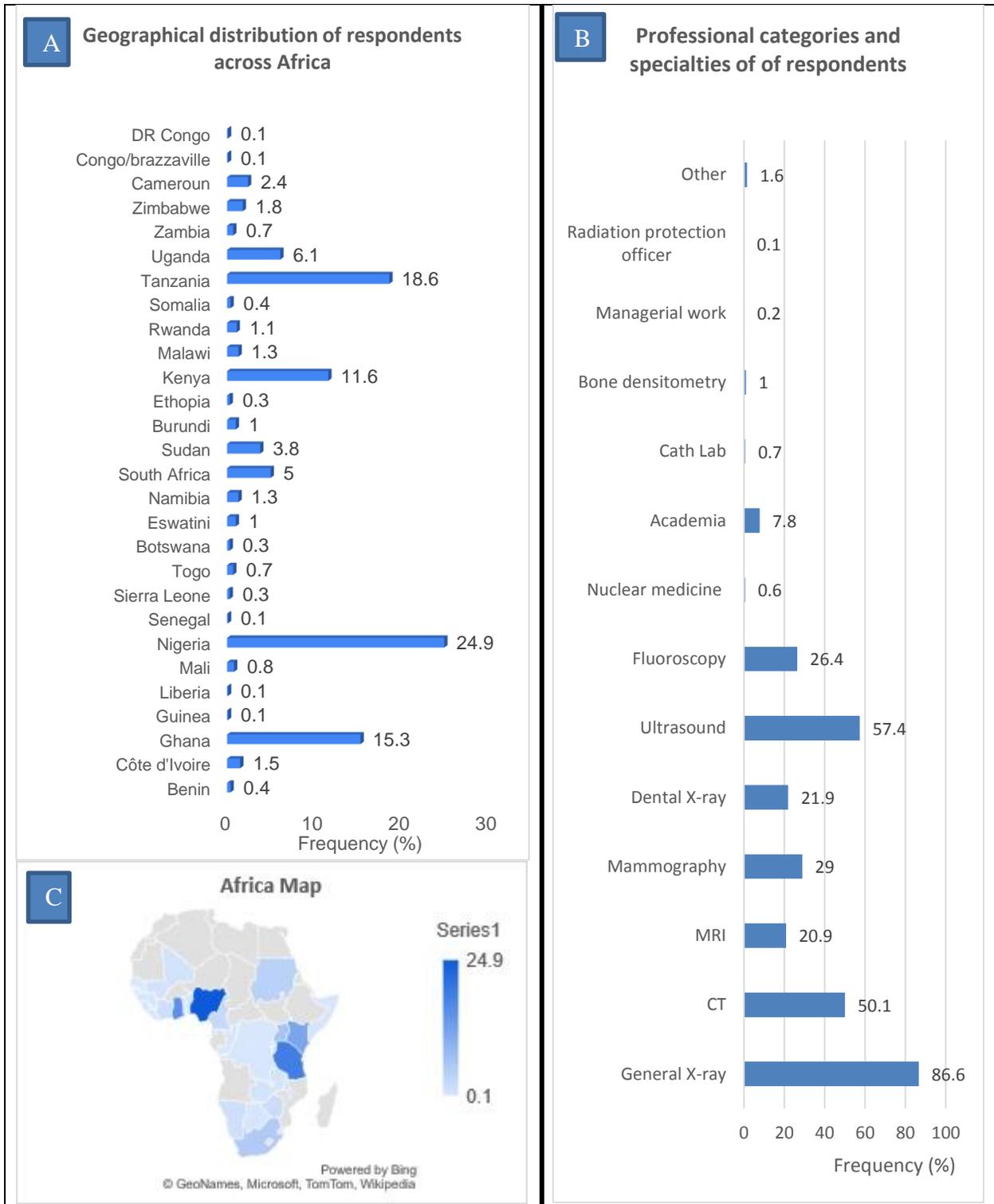


Figure 1: Geographical distribution of respondents across Africa (A) and professional categories and specialties of respondents (B), Africa map showing distribution of respondents (C). In B, respondents selected more than one option, so the sum of the percentages are more than 100%.

Table 2: Attitudinal perspectives on the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa

Statements	Responses <i>n</i> (%)		
	Agreement	Neutral	Disagreement
I am aware of AI as an emerging trend in medical imaging in Africa.	799(78.3)	202(19.8)	19(1.9)
I believe most of my patients would be excited about the use of AI technologies in their standard care.	704(69.0)	271(26.5)	45(4.4)
AI could help reduce radiation dose levels while maintaining optimal image quality in medical imaging.	834(82.8)	159(15.6)	27(2.6)
AI technology would improve general radiography practice and quality assurance for its efficient diagnosis and improved clinical care of my patients.	866(84.9)	124(12.2)	30(2.9)
The introduction of AI technologies in medical imaging could provide an avenue for more research to improve practice and patient care.	924(90.6)	78(7.6)	18(1.8)
I am excited about the integration of AI tools into medical imaging practice worldwide.	836(82.0%)	146(14.3)	38(3.7)
I am very concerned about the integration of AI into medical imaging practice worldwide.	689(67.5)	226(22.2)	105(10.3)
The integration of AI into medical imaging practice in Africa would introduce more benefits than harm.	775(76.0)	205(20.1)	40(3.9)

Table 3: Perspectives on job security with the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa

Statements	Responses <i>n</i> (%)		
	Agreement	Neutral	Disagreement
AI tools could replace most radiographers' jobs and negatively affect the radiography profession in Africa rather than being an assistive tool in easing my workload.	625(61.3)	154(15.1)	241(23.6)
AI tools could replace the job of most radiologists/reporting radiographers and negatively affect the radiology profession in Africa especially in the role of image interpretation.	686(67.3)	149(14.6)	185(18.1)
I have a concern that the role of AI as an assistive tool can potentially cause a reduction in my basic salary and eventually displace me from my job in the future.	590(57.8)	176(17.3)	254(24.9)
AI would change the role of radiographers leading on to extended practices.	779(76.4)	136(13.3)	105(10.3)

Table 4: Perspectives on the future of the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa

Statements	Responses <i>n</i> (%)		
	Agreement	Neutral	Disagreement
I require further education and/or training to be able to embrace these emerging AI trends in medical imaging?	943(92.5)	48(4.7)	29(2.8)
It is important for radiography departments in Africa to start planning for AI and machine learning tools?	900(88.2)	97(9.5)	23(2.3)
The use of AI tools could lead to unethical utilisation of patient data for unwarranted commercial purposes.	463(45.4)	352(34.5)	205(20.1)
There is a possibility of errors associated with AI technologies integrated into my clinical radiography practice.	653(64.0)	263(25.8)	104(10.2)

Questions	Options	Response <i>n</i> (%)
What do you see as the single greatest barrier to yourself or others in learning about AI?	Lack of dedicated courses and learning materials	219(21.5)
	Lack of mentorship, guidance and support from "experts"	136(13.3)
	Lack of evidence-based material and proof of improved clinical outcomes	117(11.5)
	Lack of time to learn new technologies	33(3.2)
	Lack of funding/ investment for new technologies	360(35.3)
	Lack of motivation for change and interest to learn	66(6.5)
	Fear of the unknown	89(8.7)
What sort of AI tools would you prioritise for medical imaging practice in Africa?	Tools that support image reporting by detecting or flagging common conditions like tuberculosis.	879(86.1)
	Tools that improve scanning efficiency	126(2.4)
	Tools that help identify poor patient positioning prior to imaging studies	10(1)
	Tools that improve the efficiency of workflow for booking scans and radiology appointments	5(0.5)

Appendix 1 QUESTIONNAIRE

The Integration of Artificial Intelligence in Medical Imaging Practice: Perspectives of African Radiographers

Section A: Participant Demographics

We will not collect any information that is will lead to personal identification, however it would be very helpful to know your country of residence, where you work and general demographics.

1. **What is your gender?**
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Prefer not to say *we should consider trans gender....*
2. **What is your age?**
 - a. 20 - 29 years old
 - b. 30 - 39 years old
 - c. 40 - 49 years old
 - d. 50 - 59 years old
 - e. 60 years or above
3. **Where do you work (which country)?**
4. **Which setting best describes your workplace?**
 - a. Community clinic setting
 - b. Rural/ District setting
 - c. Urban setting
 - d. University/ Academic setting
 - e. Other
5. **Which best describes the organisational set-up or structure of your facility?**
 - a. Government Facility
 - b. Quasi-government Facility
 - c. Military Facility
 - d. Private Facility
 - e. Other
6. **How long have you been working as a radiographer?**
 - a. <5 years
 - b. 6-10 years
 - c. 11 - 15 years
 - d. 16 - 20 years
 - e. 21 - 25 years
 - f. >26 years
7. **What is your highest level of education (academic qualification attained)?**
 - a. Certificate
 - b. Diploma
 - c. Bachelor's degree
 - d. Master's degree

- e. PhD
 - f. Others
- 8. Which medical imaging modality (s) do you use for your daily work or are you competent at using for your assigned roles? (Please select those that apply)**
- a. General X-ray
 - b. Computed Tomography
 - c. Magnetic Resonance Imaging
 - d. Fluoroscopy
 - e. Mammography
 - f. Ultrasound
 - g. Dental X-ray
 - h. Others
- 9. Do you consider yourself to have any previous computer coding/ programming experience?**
- a. None at all
 - b. I am familiar with basic commands and concepts
 - c. I am able to perform some computer coding/programming
 - d. I am competent at computer coding/programming
 - e. I am very experienced in computer coding/programming

Section B: General Attitudes and Perspectives

Please let us know about any general attitudes you have about the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa.

- 10. I am aware of AI as an emerging trend in medical imaging in Africa.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
- 11. I believe most of my patients would be excited about the use of AI technologies in their standard care.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
- 12. AI could help reduce radiation dose levels while maintaining optimal image quality in medical imaging.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
- 13. AI technology would improve general radiography practice and quality assurance for its efficient diagnosis and improved clinical care of my patients.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree

- c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
- 14. The introduction of AI technologies in medical imaging could provide an avenue for more research to improve practice and patient care.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
- 15. I am excited about the integration of AI tools into medical imaging practice worldwide.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
- 16. I am very concerned about the integration of AI into medical imaging practice worldwide.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
- 18. The integration of AI into medical imaging practice in Africa would introduce more benefits than harm.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

Section C: Perspectives on Job Security

Please let us know about your perspective on job security with the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa.

- 17. AI tools could replace most radiographers' jobs and negatively affect the radiography profession in Africa rather than being an assistive tool in easing my workload.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree
- 18. AI tools could replace the job of most radiologists/reporting radiographers and negatively affect the radiology profession in Africa especially in the role of image interpretation.**
- a. Strongly Agree
 - b. Agree
 - c. Not Sure
 - d. Disagree
 - e. Strongly Disagree

19. I have a concern that the role of AI as an assistive tool can potentially cause a reduction in my basic salary and eventually displace me from my job in the future.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Not Sure
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

20. AI would change the role of radiographers leading on to extended practices.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Not Sure
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

Section D: The Future of AI in medical Imaging: Workforce development & Ethics

Please let us know about your perspective on the future of the emerging integration and use of AI in medical imaging in Africa.

21. Would you require further education and/or training to be able to embrace this emerging AI trends in medical imaging?

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Not Sure
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

22. What do you see as the single greatest barrier to yourself or others in learning about AI?

(Select those that apply)

- a. Lack of dedicated courses and learning materials
- b. Lack of mentorship, guidance and support from "experts"
- c. Lack of evidence based material and proof of improved clinical outcomes
- d. Lack of time to learn new technologies
- e. Lack of funding/ investment for new technologies
- f. Lack of motivation for change and interest to learn
- g. Fear of the unknown

23. It is important for radiography departments in Africa to start planning for AI and machine learning tools?

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Not Sure
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

24. The use of AI tools could lead to unethical utilisation of patient data for unwarranted commercial purposes.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Not Sure
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

25. There is a possibility of errors associated with AI technologies integrated into my clinical radiography practice.

- a. Strongly Agree
- b. Agree
- c. Not Sure
- d. Disagree
- e. Strongly Disagree

26. What sort of AI tools would you prioritise for medical imaging practice in Africa? (Please pick top three options)

- a. Tools that support image reporting by detecting or flagging common conditions like tuberculosis.
- b. Tools that help to prioritise abnormal studies for reporting
- c. Tools that improve scanning efficiency (e.g. reduce time for MRI sequences/ radiation dose on CT/conventional x-ray etc)
- d. Tools that help identify poor patient positioning prior to imaging studies
- e. Tools that identify life threatening injuries/pathologies for triage purposes
- f. Tools that improve the efficiency of workflow for booking scans and radiology appointments