

Reply to Letter to the Editor regarding Anudjo et al. 'Considerations for environmental sustainability in clinical radiology and radiotherapy practice: A systematic literature review and recommendations for a greener practice'

We appreciate the interest in our recent article that provides the first synthesis of the available literature on sustainability considerations in the specialist area of Clinical Radiology and Radiotherapy (CRR).¹ We wish to thank Soares and colleagues for the interest and their letter which we have read with great interest.² We do acknowledge the concern about omitting some 'relevant articles' by which the reply sought to suggest is a failure to answer the second part of our research question: "to provide a comprehensive guide for greener clinical practice, education, and research".¹

In our study, we deliberately employed a narrower focus to allow us to explore the specific and key sustainability issues within CRR departments rather than the wider healthcare sector as done by Soares and colleagues.³ Accordingly, a stricter article inclusion criteria that focused on only primary studies on CRR was used. As evidence is now accumulating from sustainability and circular economy research in healthcare, we are aware of the varied opinions (sometimes motivated by a personal experience, belief, or politics), mostly, without scientific evidence, and thus, commentaries/editorials and opinion pieces were excluded from our review as we aim to provide evidence-based synthesis of the literature on sustainability within the specialist area of CRR. Considering the above reasons, some suggested articles and their findings were excluded from our data. Reference to broader themes including building design and manufacturing, water management, green procurement and supplies including food which are typically managed through other departments and divisions outside of CRR such as estates, catering, procurement and other routes, featured less prominently in our study.

Finally, it is worth noting that the second part of our study question is related to clinical practice, education, and research, primarily within CRR. Of note, we appreciate that some of our findings and recommendations are applicable to the broader healthcare sector.

In summary, we believe that our findings are evidence-based and support the aims of our study which align to our strict research design and search criteria, rather than an omission. It is, however, worth to recognize the other themes highlighted by Soares and colleagues³ which apply, broadly to healthcare.

References

1. Anudjo MNK., Vitale C., Elshami W., Hancock A., Adeleke S., Franklin JM., et al. Considerations for environmental sustainability in clinical radiology and radiotherapy practice: A systematic literature review and recommendations for a greener practice. *Radiography* 2023;**29**(6):1077–92. Doi: 10.1016/j.radi.2023.09.006.
2. Ref “letter to editor”
3. Soares AL., Buttigieg SC., Bak B., McFadden S., Hughes C., McClure P., et al. A Review of the Applicability of Current Green Practices in Healthcare Facilities. *Int J Health Policy Manag* 2023;**12**:6947. Doi: 10.34172/ijhpm.2023.6947.

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