

# Impact of iPad on radiology residents' daily clinical duties is limited, study suggests

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While the iPad is being used for intraoperative procedure guidance, percutaneous procedure planning, and mobile interpretation of some imaging examinations, the majority of radiology residents are using it primarily as an educational tool, according to a study published online in the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*.

"Some sectors of the [medical community](#) consider the iPad to be a revolutionary tool in [health care delivery](#), with many use scenarios focused on [medical imaging](#). The purpose of our study was to assess residents' use patterns and opinions of the iPad as a tool for radiology education and clinical practice at an academic medical center," said Justin W. Kung, M.D., co-author of the study.

A total of 38 radiology residents in the radiology program at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston were provided with iPad 2 tablets and subscriptions to e-Anatomy and STATdx. After six months of device use, residents were surveyed to assess their opinions regarding the technology as a tool for education and clinical practice.

A total of 36 residents completed the survey. Eighty-six percent reported daily iPad use. Radiology-specific applications, particularly e-Anatomy, were used weekly or daily by 88 percent of respondents. Most preferred to read journal articles on the iPad, but the number of respondents preferring to read textbooks on the iPad compared with the traditional bound form was evenly divided. Residents were also divided on the clinical utility of the iPad. Most had not used the iPad to view radiologic

examinations. Fewer than half used their iPads during readout. Finally, only 12 percent had used the iPad to sign dictated reports.

"The impact of the iPad on the daily clinical duties of radiology residents in our study was limited, but residents at our institution have adopted the iPad to view electronic journals and use radiology-specific applications. The full impact of this device on resident education will depend on the development of applications that harness the unique ability of this medium for training the next generation of radiologists," said Kung.

Provided by American College of Radiology

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