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How Proactive Is Medical Literature In Pubmed About Apps In Imaging, An Observational Study

KEYWORDS: Apps, Imaging, Smartphone

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ABSTRACT *In this fast growing era of Medical Apps in Imaging, there is very limited published literature in Pubmed on Apps AND various Imaging modalities. Highest publication number is six in APPs & Radiology. This reveals the serious & prudent necessity of conduct & publication of research in this domain to facilitate appropriate use of Apps with benefits & without causing harm.*

Introduction
Medical Technology is advancing very fast. In this advancement there is increasing development of Medical Apps for Smartphones. Apps are encompassing all modalities of Radiology. (1,2,3). It is the time now for thinking, planning , doing evaluation & recommending about the possible utilities of these apps in Radiology & their limitations. It will be also relevant to evaluate their accuracy. Therefore, there is felt need to evaluate that how much research has gone to address to various domains of Medical apps in Imaging. This observational study is designed to answer the research question that how much research is published in Pubmed on Apps in Imaging.

Aim
To find out published literature in Pubmed on Medical apps in Imaging.

Material & Method
Pubmed was searched with key words of Apps AND Radiology, Apps AND Ultrasonography, Apps AND CT Scan, Apps AND MRI & Apps AND MRS (MR Spectroscopy). The data so collected was collated & analysed.

Observation
The data of Publications in Pubmed on Apps in various imaging was tabulated. (Table 1)

Discussion
It is revealed by the study that still in the field of Apps & imaging there are very limited publications, highest being 6 in Apps & Radiology while none in Apps & MRS & total publications being 11. Therefore, whatever is the hype about the Apps in imaging, due to large number of Apps in the domain which are ever increasing, remains unevaluated by the scientific published research. It is high time that some basic observational & later trials are required for appropriate timely gauzing of exact utility of these apps & preventing the likely maleficence it might do by unchecked proliferation & unmonitored utilisation of these apps.

Conclusions
This observational study has highlighted vacuum in published literature in Pubmed on the subject of Apps in Imaging. Therefore, to bring in checks & balances & to promote beneficence and avoid maleficence by use of Apps on Smartphones in Imaging, it is recommended & considered prudent that more research be conducted & published on the subject in near future.

Table 1: Apps AND Imaging & No. of Publications in Pubmed

	No. of Publications
Apps AND Radiology	6
Apps AND Ultrasonography	3
Apps AND CT Scan	1
Apps AND MRI	1
Apps AND MRS	0

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