How Do Non-invasive Imaging Facilities Perceive the Accreditation Process? Results of an Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Survey

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Abstract:
Background: The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) accredits vascular, echocardiography, nuclear medicine, PET, CT and MR imaging facilities. How those involved in the accreditation process view accreditation is unknown. We sought to examine the perception of accreditation from those who underwent the process successfully.

Methods: An electronic survey was sent to all IAC accredited facilities. Demographic information, as well as opinions on the value of accreditation as it relates to various quality metrics were acquired.

Results: Responses were obtained from 2782 (7%) facilities including 1004 (36%) echocardiography, 832 (30%) vascular, 641 (23%) nuclear/PET, 164 (6%) CT and 141 (5%) MR facilities of which 42% were hospital-based and 58% office-based. Of the 15 quality metrics examined, the process was perceived as leading to improvements by a majority of respondents for 10 metrics (Table) including: report standardization, adherence to guidelines, test standardization, report completeness, identification of deficiencies, improved staff knowledge, report timeliness, correction of deficiencies, facility distinction and image quality. Overall, the perceived improvement was greater for hospital-based facilities (global 65% vs. 59%; p<0.001).

Conclusion: Results of the IAC survey indicate that the accreditation process has a positive perceived impact on the majority of examined metrics. These findings suggest that those undergoing the process find value in accreditation.

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