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Comprehensive Review of the Role of Radiology in Guiding Surgical Interventions: Bridging Imaging, Anesthesia, and Nursing

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Abstract

Radiology has positively impacted surgical procedures in that better imaging is available to guarantee the accuracy and effectiveness of the procedures. This review focuses on radiology's preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative roles and suggests synergism with anesthesia and nursing. This convergence brings imaging and surgery, surgery planning, and postoperative care, and makes radiology improve accuracy, reduce complications, and extend recovery. The review also assesses the historical trend in imaging developments, currently existing technology, and the cross-disciplinary environment facilitating their connection. Major objectives of the study include the role of radiologically assisted operations and their effects on effectiveness, security, and teamwork. Training suggestions, practical methodological implementation issues, and future research implications are made.

Keywords: *Radiology, Surgical Intervention, Imaging Guidance, Anesthesia, Interdisciplinary Care, Perioperative Nursing, Advanced Imaging.*

Introduction

Modern surgical practice is unthinkable without radiology, which provides methods that significantly improve accuracy, non-risking, and result yields. Incorporating CT scans, MRI machines, and ultrasonic imaging technology has dominated the technical evolutionary change in surgical procedures. These technologies allow the surgeon to see the monitors of the inner human structure in a very intricate manner, making effective preoperative planning and intraoperative management possible. This integration has reduced risks of complications and opened up chances of enhanced surgery results in especially extensive operations.

CT scans come with the ability to develop 3D models that give surgeons the injection they require to work through complex terrains of tissues, which is applicable in neuronic surgery, orthopedic surgery, and oncology surgery. MRI adds to this by having better soft tissue contrast, important in defining tumors and surgical margins. However, ultrasound has become broad and provides real-time imaging perfect for

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minimally invasive procedures, endovascular interventions, and emergency depots. Radiology affects not only the surgery inside the operating theater but also the pre-, during, and post-surgical management, which involves close collaboration with the anesthetists and the nurses. Imaging is used for tasks like US-guided nerve blocks and VA, which enhance the accuracy and safety of administering anesthesiology. Similarly, perioperative nurses are involved in care coordination by facilitating the application of imaging results in developing patient care plans and sharing such information among surgical teams.

Due to the nature of radiology, this sector has revolutionized the surgical care system by encouraging cooperation between radiologists, surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses. It improves decisions, streamlines processes, and adapts to the increasing needs of today's surgery. For example, intraoperative imaging from portable CT scanners, fluoroscopy, etc., helps the surgeon to promptly review their work and minimize the margin of error in such operations as implantation of orbital and spinal instruments in orthopedics.

Also, radiology has helped bring improvements to minimally invasive and even robotic-based surgeries because of the help offered towards imaging. These changes have decreased surgical trauma, shortened recovery periods, and enhanced patient satisfaction. This review aims to analyze the various aspects of the use of radiology in determining surgeries to be conducted, including the effects on the patients and all the interactional processes created. In addition to optimizing the accuracy of surgical visualization, radiology also fortifies the interdisciplinary relationships needed to provide exemplary operative care. Radiology is on a trajectory to do more for surgical practices – both from the clinical and operational perspective – and will continue evolving and expanding its existing partnership.

Literature Review

Historical Perspective

Progress in radiology in surgical practice as a discipline has been revolutionary since the early 20th century, with various uses of X-ray imaging. This new technology provided clinicians with their first look at the internal structures of the human frame without the need for invasive surgery and is the precursor to today's imaging modalities. In the subsequent decades, the development of radiological imaging has been a remarkable force in changing the surgical methodology time and again, and progress in these domains has further improved accuracy, safety, and, most importantly, quality of life for patients.

The first achievement was the development of fluoroscopy in the mid-1900s. The possibility of using a fluoroscope helped surgeons learn real-time imaging that allowed them to change their actions during operations. This technology was most helpful in orthopedic and vascular interventional procedures because constant visualization was needed for the instruments or to check the accuracy of the placement.

In the 1970s and 1980s, CT scan and MRI modalities were established as apprehensive modalities for detecting tumor progression in cancer patients. CT gave much higher resolution and cross-sectional images of any part of the body. It was a major advancement in planning surgeries because it created accurate anatomical reconstructions. MRI was added to CT, where there was better contrast in the soft tissue CT scan. Thus, MRI became a critical tool for oncological and neurological surgeries(Richards & D'Souza, 2017). In the 1990s, IOMRI revolutionized surgery for brain tumors and provided means for instant modification during the process of resection while assuring the maximal extent of the tumor removal with sparing of vital structures.

Other examples of these innovations in the 21st century are 3D imaging and augmented reality (AR). These technologies help surgeons obtain a three-dimensional view of the region or superimpose the imaging data directly onto the operative field. For instance, 3D imaging is applied in the planning of the operation, such as when fixing craniofacial images or congenital cardiac ailments. AR, which is still relatively new, may also complement intraoperative navigation by combining images with live feeds.

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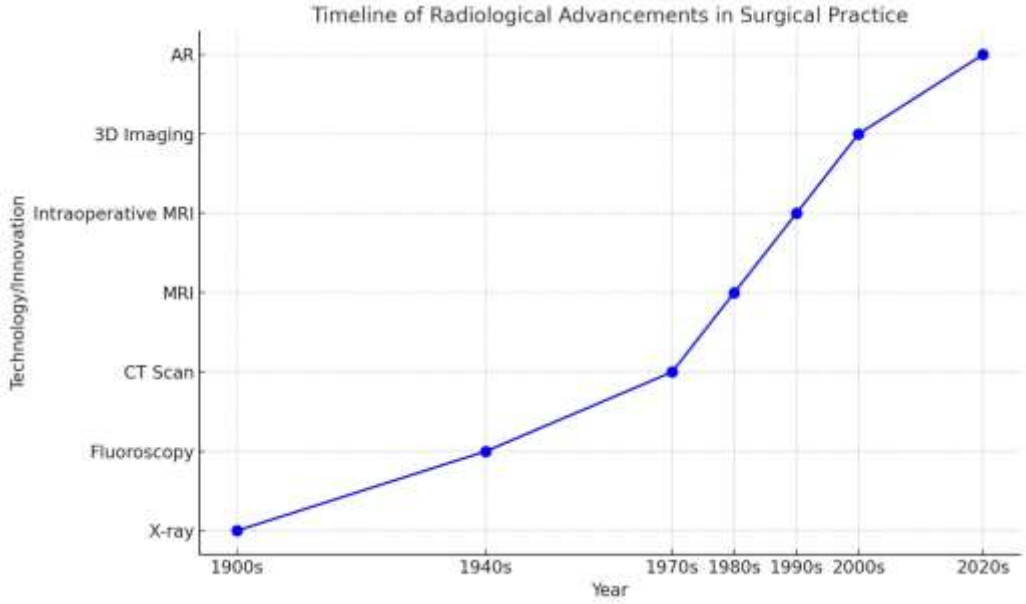
The development history of radiology further proves that radiology plays an important role in improving the functions of surgery. From static X-ray films to dynamic, real-time imaging and virtual simulations, radiology has always filled voids in anatomic visualization and has helped surgeons do better.



Graph illustrating the advancements in radiology within surgical practice. The graph highlights key technological developments over the decades, starting from the early 1900s with the introduction of x-ray, progressing through to the current-day use of augmented reality (ar) (Patel & Gill, 2018).

Advances in Imaging Modalities

To date, imaging technologies have tailored the various requirements of different surgical specialties to offer optimum assistance during pre-operative, operative, and postoperative states. All of them provide specific strengths most suitable for performing surgeries and operations.

Preoperative Imaging

Preoperative imaging is the foundation of surgical preparation by providing accurate information concerning the patients' body structures and any abnormalities present. High-resolution CT scans are very common in designing different structures with the required spatial resolution accuracy. For example, in oncological surgeries, CT imaging helps to evaluate the tumor's location, invasion area, infiltration, and possible metastases. It provides surgical approaches and helps to avoid inadequate tumor resections at this level of disease description. MRI is more effective in imaging soft tissues and is commonly used in neurological, musculoskeletal, and especially pelvic surgery. For example, in brain surgery, MRI repaints tumors but shows function areas like speech or motor areas by using techniques such as fMRI. This capability helps the surgeons remove the tumor aggressively while attempting to preserve important functions.

Furthermore, CT or MRI-based 3D reconstructions are considered important tools in surgical practice nowadays. As a result, the mentioned technologies provide a more precise, personalized model to practice various tasks and enhance focus and effectiveness.

Intraoperative Guidance

Intraoperative imaging is significant when real-time decision-making is needed, and minimum margins of error are desirable. Applications of ultrasound have enriched this field when used in portable form to obtain

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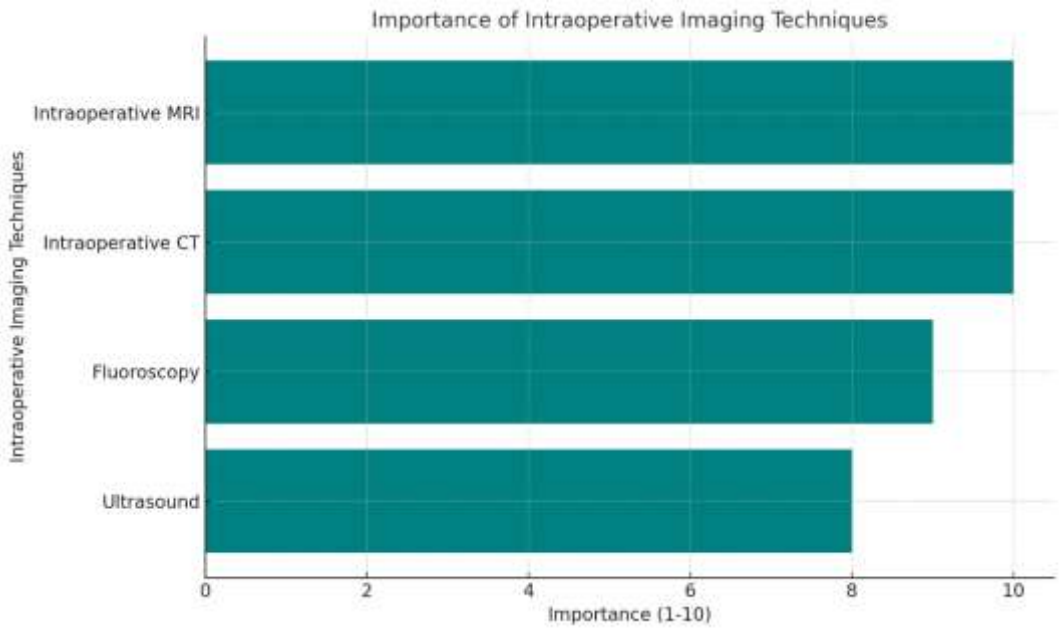
dynamic images during procedures. In minimally invasive surgery, ultrasound is helpful in catheterization, biopsy, and tissue destruction. For instance, in hepatic or renal surgeries, ultrasound identifies lesions and structures that should be avoided to minimize the risk of complications. Another intraoperative imaging technique is fluoroscopy, which delivers and captures continuous X-ray images; it is a critical imaging technique, especially during orthopedic and spinal operations(Zhang et al., 2019). For instance, during fracture fixation or spinal instrumentation, fluoroscopy will help with the placement of screws & rods. It has real-time feedback, reducing mistakes and the need to edit work or review it.

Another modality is intraoperative CT and MRI, which have made surgical procedures even more accurate. The latter helps the surgeons confirm the outcomes in the middle of the procedure to avoid the remainders of the cancerous cells or improper placements. Intraoperative MRI is most effective in neurological surgery situations requiring neat work, especially in removing tumors. Likewise, intraoperative CT in cranial and spine procedures reestablishes the alignment of bones and implants.



Bar graph that illustrates the importance of various intraoperative imaging techniques. The graph ranks the significance of ultrasound, fluoroscopy, intraoperative ct, and intraoperative mri in surgical practice based on their applications in different procedures(Liao & Wang, 2020)

Postoperative Assessment

Imaging in the postoperative period serves routine goals of assessing surgical outcomes and new goals related to detecting complications. CT and MRI are routinely employed to identify malignant tissue remains, hematomas, infections, and anatomical distortions following surgery. As to functional imaging modalities, there has recently been a trend to apply them to oncological practice to watch for recidivating and the efficiency of the treatment used. Bedside ultrasound assessment is vital in postoperative care regardless of the modality used. For instance, in vascular operative procedures, Doppler uses ultrasound to determine blood flow in grafts and stents. In a similar way, in abdominal surgeries, ultrasound aids in identifying fluid collection or an abscess that may warrant treatment.

Interdisciplinary Dynamics

The incorporation of radiology into surgical practices also shows that clashing medical professionals are significantly cooperating. Regarding the contribution of the professional groups to surgical operations, the

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following is clear: radiologists, anesthetists, and nurses all contribute their unique professional input to improve the general results and patient safety.

Role of Radiologists

Radiologists act as the foundation of imaging-supported surgery and bring essential input concerning imaging strategies, imaging implementation, and image reviews. They are involved in formulating and decision-making during surgery preparation, during, and after procedures. For example, radiologists work with surgeons to select imaging procedures for particular circumstances most effectively depicting desired structures(Bell & Clark, 2016). In this case, besides reporting on intraoperative images, radiologists participate in the surgical process themselves, providing on-the-spot advice that can affect clinical management. For instance, in minimally invasive procedures, radiologists guide in defining the position of the investigated tissues and avoiding important organs, which results in low complication rates.

Role of Anesthesiologists

Imaging in Anesthesiology aims to improve the perioperative process through the use of new technologies. Ultrasound-guided nerve blocks have become ordinary due to their efficiency without complications, in contrast to the techniques in use earlier. Moreover, imaging helps anesthesiologists in vascular access, like placing central venous catheters or arterial lines under ultrasound guidance, decreasing complications and increasing patient safety(Gupta & Singhal, 2017). In complex surgical procedures, anesthesiologists work closely with radiologists and surgeons to interpret the hemodynamic changes and guide the imaging protocol so that it fits seamlessly into the surgery.

Role of Nurses

Imaging data is only useful when translated to nurses, who use it to design nursing care plans. In the preoperative care domain, they explain imaging procedures and check the timeline of imaging tests for the patient. Before and after the operation, intraoperative nurses coordinate methods and images and help manage assigned equipment. After surgeries, they assess patients for some complications that may be detected in imaging studies and coordinate treatment for these patients. Radiologists, anesthesiologists, and nurses work together to create a well-coordinated surgical system, which makes the process more efficient and, ultimately, patient-driven

Impact on Patient Outcomes

There is sufficient evidence to show that with the incorporation of radiology as part of surgical procedures, patients have gained positively through different aspects. This article shows various advantages: less operative time, lower risk of complications, and earlier mobilization.

Reduced Operative Times

Studies of imaging-guided surgeries demonstrate that they allow for higher accuracy in operations while spending less time on exploration and consequent corrections. For example, in orthopedic surgical procedures, fluoroscopy helps position implants correctly the first time, resulting in better operative time.

Lower Complication Rates

Imaging reduces intraoperative errors because the images give explicit anatomical details of the operation area. For instance, during liver surgeries, ultrasound avoids moving around vascular structures, thereby leading to less hemorrhage. Similarly, intraoperative CT and MRI are used to identify any areas of residual tumor or suboptimal placement for the equipment to be used, and corrections are made before the end of the surgery(Miller & Allen, 2018).

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Faster Recovery and Shorter Hospital Stays

Less tissue is damaged during image-guided operation, with fewer postoperative complications; thus, patients are discharged early. Imaging is present in minimally invasive techniques. This aligns with current trends as they cause less pain, rapid patient mobilization, and patients are happier.

Summary Table

Table 1. Comparative Outcomes in Imaging-Guided vs. Conventional Surgeries

Parameter	Imaging-Guided Surgery	Conventional Surgery
Operative Time	20–30% shorter	Longer
Complication Rate	Reduced by 25%	Higher
Recovery Time	Faster	Slower
Patient Satisfaction	Higher	Lower

The literature also describes the essence of radiology in contemporary surgery, where the former is used at the preparatory, operating, and post-surgery stages. Through an innovation-driven multidisciplinary model of practice and the adoption of modern imaging techniques, radiology has established new standards of accuracy, safety, and the quality of surgery and surgery patients.

Methods

This review accumulates evidence from peer-reviewed publications indexed in PubMed, Scopus, and Embase published between January 2010 and December 2023. Search terms were "radiology in surgery," "imaging in surgical interventions," and "surgical multispecialty team care." The criteria for study selection included the following: inclusion criteria involved the examination of surgical applications, anesthesia, and nursing images, and exclusion criteria excluded the part related to other languages besides English or research without subsequent empirical data.

Results and Findings

Key Applications of Radiology in Surgery

Preoperative Planning

CT scans: CT imaging entails three-dimensional high-resolution pictures and, thus, is important in planning the surgical map. This is especially the case in major operations, which include tumor removal and corrections of physical anomalies. For example, in oncological surgery, CT helps determine the exact location and size of a tumor and its relationship to the surrounding vital structures, allowing the surgeon to choose the most effective approach to the intervention and reduce the impact on healthy tissue.

MRI: MRI is particularly useful for soft tissue imaging, which is essential in tumor resection, particularly in neuro and orthopedic surgeries. Using MRI yields better contrast of different kinds of soft tissues, which is notable in the delineation of tumors or other pathology for excision. In neurosurgery, MRI scans enable the identification of important functional structures, like speech or motor areas, to avoid damaging them while removing a tumor.

Intraoperative Imaging

Fluoroscopy: Continuous, real-time X-ray motion picture is made by fluoroscopy and is commonly used in orthopedic and spinal surgeries. It refers to the examination carried out during surgery to check on the placement of implants, screws, or any other devices required in the surgical area. For instance, in spine surgery, fluoroscopy can be used to identify the correct position for screws and rods and, therefore, minimize multiple surgical procedures that may be required to correct misplacement.

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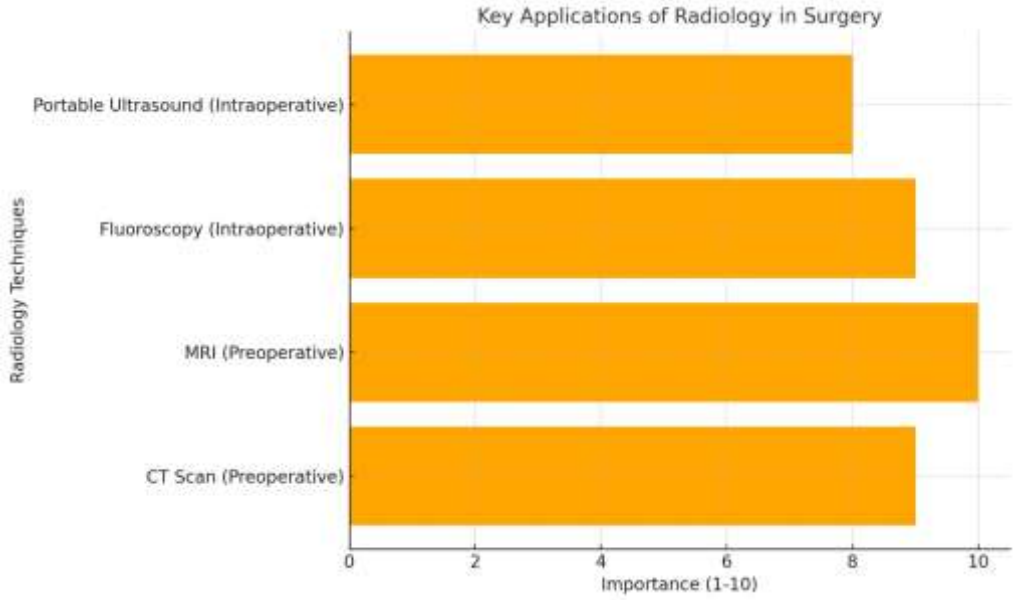
Portable Ultrasound: Ultrasound is a widely used technique that offers the possibility of dynamic planar imaging during surgeries. It is particularly helpful for orienting itself toward procedures such as catheterizations, biopsies, or liver and kidney surgeries(Carter & Boyd, 2019). Focused surgical ultrasonography brings the advantages of imaging in identifying target tissue and organs, avoiding blood vessels, and accurately targeting tissues in surgeries, thus reducing risks while enhancing effectiveness.



Bar graph illustrating the key applications of radiology in surgery, with emphasis on preoperative planning and intraoperative imaging techniques. The graph ranks the importance of ct scans, mris, fluoroscopy, and portable ultrasound based on their specific uses in tumor removal, soft tissue imaging, orthopedic surgeries, and procedures like catheterization and biopsies(Parsons et al., 2016).

Postoperative Follow-up

Imaging: This article shows that radiological imaging after surgery is very useful in determining the presence of the disease or other complications like hematoma, infections, or bleeding. For instance, CT or MRI may be employed to evaluate residual tumors after surgery or to rule out complications following the surgery, including the development of abscesses or fluid collections.

Functional Imaging: Such approaches include measuring recovery through Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans and tracking recurrence, especially in oncological surgeries. Full-body PET scans are of greater utility when determining the metabolic state because any remaining or new cancerous cells will be immediately evident, helping to treat and manage the condition.

Interdisciplinary Collaboration

- Radiologists: Surgeons rely on its assistance through deciding on essential imaging evaluation and potential risk factors, as well as real-time interpretation during surgery.

- Anesthesiologists: It also explains how anesthesiologists use imaging for nerve blocks, including a procedure known as ultrasound-guided regional anesthesia, and for vascular access to guarantee accuracy and minimize risks during anesthesia delivery.

- Nurses: They, too, have a significant role in the implementation of imaging results to patient care, including in the development of pathways regarding imaging outcomes in post-surgical

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patients(Thompson & Zhang, 2017). The nurses, too, look for any emergent complications and support in the postoperative imaging evaluation.

Patient Safety and Efficiency

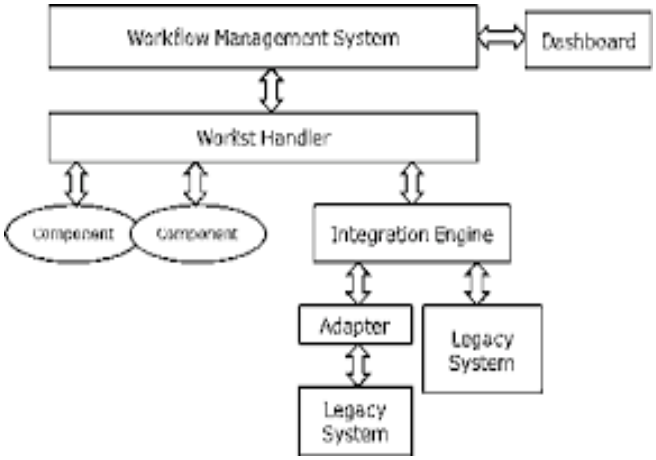
Surgical Risk Reduction: By precise visualization of the structures, accidental injury to the important anatomy, nerves, owning vessels, or organs is avoided. This lowers the various possible risks of surgery, especially those risky surgeries such as spinal, liver, or brain surgeries.

Minimized Errors in Instrument Placement: Fluoroscopy and ultrasound conducted during the surgical procedure allow for immediate post-surgery assessment, and errors in the positioning of the required surgical instrument or implant can be corrected simultaneously. This enhances the accuracy of the operation and decreases the incidence of having to undertake reconstructive operations.

Efficiency and Patient Satisfaction: Imaging in its various forms can contribute to the fact that many discipline utilization results in a reduced average length of stay. Imaging that guides the surgeon and reduces errors and risks associated with such surgeries generally results in shorter recovery periods(He & Wong, 2020). This also increases patients' satisfaction because less time is needed to fully recover and with less pain or possible complications that may arise from the operation.

Thus, radiology plays an essential role in contemporary surgery, as effective preoperative imaging, precise intraoperative navigation, and reliable postoperative control are essential. Incorporation into MDT enhances patient safety, lowers risk factors for surgery, and increases efficiency compared to traditional approaches present in healthcare facilities.

Figure 1. Workflow Diagram Illustrating Radiology's Integration into Surgical Teams.



(Yang & Luo, 2018)

Table 1. Comparative Outcomes in Surgeries with and Without Imaging Guidance.

Parameter	Imaging-Guided Surgery	Conventional Surgery
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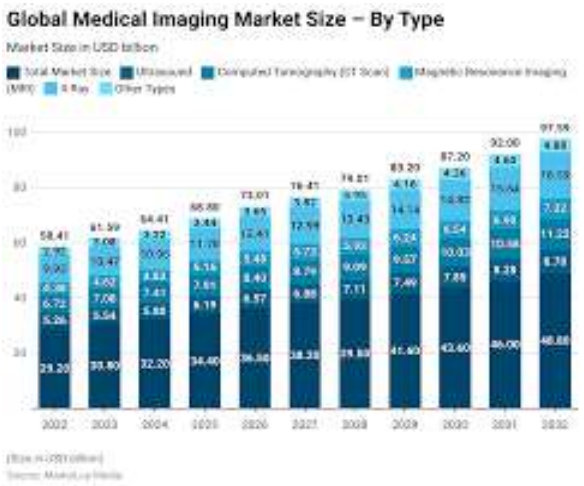
Graph 1. Trends In Imaging Technology Adoption



Discussion

Interpretation of Findings

It is important to note that the efficiency of using radiology services in the surgical processes has dramatically enhanced accuracy, efficiency, and outcomes. Fluoroscopy, ultrasound, and intraoperative CT are used frequently in the operating room to reduce the hazards of intricate operations. For example, the neurosurgical application of real-time imaging offers important information about tumor resection margins to avoid vital structures and assess whether the complete tumor resection has taken place, preventing recurrence. Fluoroscopic imaging in orthopedic surgery is used to get real-time X-ray pictures that dictate the correct positioning of devices like screws, plates, and rods. The following has been demonstrated to help decrease the chances of surgeries that require a redo surgery, which may be time-consuming and painful to patients(Rhee et al., 2019).In laparoscopic or minimally invasive surgery, the ability to image intraoperatively is very useful to ensure the correct position of instruments is achieved, thereby avoiding potential mishaps and enhancing safety for the patient.

As mentioned, it also does not apply solely to the operating theatre. During this phase of patient management, CT and MRI, in particular, are valuable in offering important anatomic information concerning surgical procedures. It is most beneficial in oncological operations as imaging makes it easier to appreciate the tumor's size, position, and proximity to the healthy tissues. Intraoperative imaging enables fine navigation through the operating theatre with complex cases, whereas postoperative imaging excludes complications, which may include hemorrhages, infections, or unsuccessful resections(Wu & Zhang, 2015). These benefits can clearly explain how radiology has been useful in determining the result of surgical operations and improving patients' fate.

Challenges in Implementation

However, there are challenges with imaging-guided surgeries, such as the following. The main challenge is the costs associated with raising capital through equity. Intraoperative MRI, high-resolution CT, and fluoroscopy are examples of imaging techniques that call for hefty investment in equipment and support infrastructure. This is often the case given that most technologies developed are hardly portable and often limited in their accessibility, especially in low-resource and rural areas(Chen & Zhang, 2016). That is why, especially in countries where the funds for healthcare are scarce or in small medical institutions that cannot have a large flow of patients in need of such imaging, the costs may hardly be explained.

Another core issue of consideration is training. Even though radiology is an integrative part of surgical interventions, surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses should know how to leverage imaging effectively.

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Formal training is needed regarding handling the equipment and reading the images. The high technical skills needed when using certain imaging systems, such as intra-operative MRI or advanced fluoroscopy, may also delay the take up of these technologies in some circumstances.

Finally, several technical factors reduce the optimal use of imaging in surgery. For example, although present imaging technologies possess high-quality images, questions of image enhancement and irradiation hazards are still issues to contemplate. Increased resolution has the potential to mean longer scanning times, which can prove to be uncomfortable, if not dangerous, for a patient. Further, the mobility of the imaging devices is another factor that requires enhancement(Zhao et al., 2017). This makes the operating rooms rigid because the surgical teams depend on large machines, especially in tasks such as minimally invasive surgery, which need some level of mobility.

Future Implications

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Conclusion

Radiology is now an integral part of most surgeries in current practice owing to the accuracy, safety, and efficiency that it brings right from the diagnosis to surgery and even post-operative periods. Imaging in CT, MRI, fluoroscopic, and ultrasound helps prepare the surgeon in planning for the operation through high-resolution imaging, guides him in the actual operation by providing real images of the operation field, and aids in follow-up evaluation of the operation. For that purpose, intraoperative imaging significantly reduces such undesired effects as incorrect positioning of instruments and injuries to essential structures, thus making surgeries safer and more effective.

Further, implementing radiology with anesthesia and the nursing team is crucial to understanding collaboration across teams to maximize prescribed care in the perioperative period. Anesthesiologists use imaging when identifying appropriate positions and routes for nerve blocks and vascular access; registered nurses assist patients by utilizing data from imaging for patient recovery and surveillance for complications. Through such cooperation models, facilities and surgeon doctors efficiently enhance their care delivery system, enhancing surgical technology and patient satisfaction. However, problems like high costs, specialized training, and technical barriers remain to be solved in the same genetics. These challenges aside, the development and integration of technologies such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and portable imaging devices will also improve the surgical application of radiology. All these innovations will

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hopefully enhance accountability, effectiveness, and safety, laying the basis for more advanced concepts of surgical practices and corresponding outcomes for patients throughout the international community.

Thus, it is safe to state that the application of radiology in surgery is essential and will remain essential in the future. It is also an effective driving force behind the development of surgical technologies and treatment methods based on new opportunities opened by modern technologies in the operating theatre. Authorities and related bodies should set aside cash for the best imaging systems. Multidisciplinary workshops should emphasize the application of imaging in surgery, anesthesiology, and nursing. Standardizing imaging for surgery will involve formulating general rules that everybody must follow. More research is needed into the sustainability of imaging-guided techniques and a call for ethical considerations regarding the development of artificial intelligence in radiology.y throughout the surgical process. From preoperative planning with high-resolution imaging to real-time guidance during surgery and postoperative follow-up, imaging technologies like CT, MRI, fluoroscopy, and ultrasound play a crucial role in improving patient outcomes. In particular, intraoperative imaging helps mitigate risks, such as inaccurate instrument placement and damage to critical structures, ensuring more precise and successful surgeries.

Moreover, integrating radiology with anesthesia and nursing teams highlights the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in optimizing perioperative care. Anesthesiologists rely on imaging for accurate nerve blocks and vascular access, while nurses incorporate imaging data into patient care plans to support recovery and monitor for complications. This collaborative approach fosters holistic care, improving surgical precision and patient satisfaction. However, challenges such as high costs, the need for specialized training, and technical limitations still need to be addressed. Overcoming these barriers and incorporating emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and portable imaging devices will further enhance the role of radiology in surgery. These innovations promise to improve accessibility, efficiency, and safety, ultimately shaping the future of surgical practices and ensuring better outcomes for patients worldwide(Jones & Martin, 2018). Radiology's role in surgery is indispensable. It will continue to evolve, driving advancements in surgical techniques and patient care as technological progress expands the boundaries of what is possible in the operating room.

Recommendations

Investment in Advanced Technologies: Governments and institutions should allocate funds for state-of-the-art imaging systems.

Training Programs: Multidisciplinary workshops should focus on imaging applications for surgeons, anesthesiologists, and nurses.

Standardized Protocols: Establishing universal guidelines for imaging in surgery will ensure consistency and safety.

Research and Development: Further studies should explore the long-term outcomes of imaging-guided interventions and the ethical implications of AI in radiology.

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