

**INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF RADIOLOGY**

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**EMERGENCY  
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**International Day of Radiology 2017  
Interview on Emergency Radiology  
Argentina/Dr. Adriana Rosa Martinez**

**At her hospital in Argentina, Dr. Adriana Rosa Martinez treats vascular disease emergencies on a daily basis, and she works hard to raise her department's awareness of teamwork.**

***European Society of Radiology:** Could you please describe the role of the radiologist in a typical emergency department in your country?*

**Adriana Rosa Martinez:** Our role is to establish a diagnosis approach in life-threatening pathologies and to advise other medical specialities about the imaging algorithm for every pathology.

***ESR:** What does a typical day in the emergency department look like for a radiologist?*

**ARM:** In our hospital, as in the vast majority of medical institutions in Argentina, the imaging area is outside the emergency department. Therefore, staff radiologists attend inpatients, outpatients and emergency patients. When an emergency case appears, the patient has to be transported from the emergency room to our department.

Ours is a general hospital, but mainly dedicated to vascular diseases. Therefore, the most frequent pathologies we encounter are acute aorta, stroke, pulmonary embolism, abdominal pain and infections.

***ESR:** Teamwork is crucial in an emergency department. How is this accomplished in your department and who is involved?*

**ARM:** Communication between teamwork members is key. My department is composed mainly of administrative staff, orderlies, nurses and physicians. We work every day to raise people's awareness of teamwork.

***ESR:** How satisfied are you with the workflow and your role in your department? How do you think it could be improved?*

**ARM:** We need a nurse in our specific area, and we need to improve our communication with the emergency medical staff before performing studies to make the most of imaging examinations.

***ESR:** Which modalities are used for different emergencies? Could you please give an overview sorted by modalities?*

**ARM:** We use x-ray for trauma and thoracic pathology, and ultrasound as a first modality for abdominal pain. CT is the modality we use the most, especially in vascular pathology. We scarcely use MRI, mainly for stroke cases.

***ESR:** Is teleradiology an issue in emergency radiology? If yes, how so, and how often is it used?*

**ARM:** We only use teleradiology for second opinions, so not very often.

***ESR:** Are emergency radiologists active anywhere other than emergency departments? Do they have other non-emergency roles or other emergency roles in other departments?*

**ARM:** We have roles in all kinds of emergency and nonemergency tasks because there is no radiology-dedicated staff working only in the emergency department.

**ESR:** *Do you have direct contact with patients and if yes, what does it entail?*

**ARM:** We don't have much contact with patients, except for ultrasound examinations. In Argentina, radiologists, not technicians, perform ultrasound examinations. For all the other studies, we ask patients basic questions.

**ESR:** *How are radiologists in your country trained in emergency radiology? Is emergency radiology a recognised specialty in your country?*

**ARM:** Our radiologists are trained during the four-year residency programme, which includes night shifts. Emergency radiology is recognised neither as a specialty nor as a fellowship.

**ESR:** *Many cases you are faced with in the emergency setting are challenging, but can you remember what was your most impacting experience? What knowledge did you gain from that experience?*

**ARM:** One of the most shocking experiences we had was a patient suffering a cardiorespiratory attack due to hypovolemic shock, secondary to an aortic rupture. This episode taught us the importance of teamwork.

**Prof. Adriana Rosa Martinez** has been head of the radiology department of the Favaloro Foundation University Hospital in Buenos Aires, Argentina, since 1992. She also is the director of the diagnostic-radiology residency programme. Her training focused on cardiovascular imaging and neuroradiology. Prof. Martinez has co-authored four books and reviewed more than 30 publications. She currently serves as a consultant for the thoracic section of the Sociedad Argentina de Radiología (SAR).

