

**INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF RADIOLOGY**

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**EMERGENCY
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**International Day of Radiology 2017
Interview on Emergency Radiology
Portugal/Dr. Élia Coimbra**

Dr. Élia Coimbra says radiologists face hectic days in Portugal's emergency departments, where there is an 'open door' for physician specialists, and all hospital staff members are essential team members

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

Élia Coimbra: The radiologist's role is to evaluate imaging requests by emergency physicians and surgeons, help decide on the best approach for diagnosis, and report the imaging examinations performed.

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

ÉC: A typical day is hectic! It is nonstop, running between CT, ultrasound and MRI units, with constant interruptions from emergency physicians and surgeons who wish to discuss cases. All of this happens while trying to perform and report all the examinations, often teaching residents simultaneously.

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

ÉC: The radiology department's door is open to colleagues from other specialties to enter and discuss cases. Inside the department, our team includes technicians, nurses and auxiliary staff, without whom we would not be able to function.

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

ÉC: I currently work in emergency interventional radiology (IR) only. However, a dedicated emergency diagnostic radiology team is essential in responding to the emergency department's needs while maintaining elective radiology work.

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

ÉC: Ultrasound and CT are the main modalities we use in the emergency department for a variety of indications. We rarely use MRI for body examinations, but use it frequently for neuroradiology.

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

ÉC: Some form of teleradiology is used in a few Portuguese hospitals, mostly during night shifts. Few hospitals have a radiologist available between midnight and 8:00.

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

ÉC: They only are active in other radiology department activities.

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

ÉC: Radiologists have minimal contact with patients, mainly for a brief history, informed consents and basic information.

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

ÉC: Emergency radiology is part of radiologists' training throughout residency. It also is part of almost every radiologist's schedule to spend 12 hours per week in emergency radiology. Emergency radiology is not a specialty or subspecialty in Portugal.

ESR: *Please feel free to add any information and thoughts on this topic you would like to share.*

ÉC: It is important to mention that interventional radiology also has an important role in Portugal's emergency departments, which requires dedicated, subspecialised IR teams. This is not yet a reality in all major hospitals.

Dr. Élia Coimbra is the head of the interventional radiology unit of the Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic and Transplant Centre in Hospital Curry Cabral, part of Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Central, one of the main academic hospitals in Lisbon, Portugal. She has been an interventional radiologist for 20 years, and she has had a major role in training many of the interventional radiologists who work in Portugal and the United States. She led the implementation of a Transjugular Interhepatic Portosystemic Shunts (TIPS) programme in Lisbon and maintains an interest in the minimally invasive management of portal hypertension. She was the president of the Local Host Committee of the annual meeting of the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe (CIRSE) 2015 in Lisbon. She currently serves on the board of the Portuguese Society of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine (SPRMN).