# How is Artificial Intelligence (AI) Transforming Radiography Reporting Workflow : An analysis of it's effectiveness and practical Benefits?


**Saraaz Khalil**
**Diagnostic Radiographer**
**Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**


## Background

As of early 2024, NHS(2023) Digital Data has reported a backlog of approximately 1.5 million individuals waiting for diagnostic tests, with 745,290 patients waiting over four weeks for imaging results(NHS , 2023). The current shortage of staff and increasing workloads are straining radiography practices, necessitating a shift towards a more multifaceted approach. A multifaceted approach involves adapting standard operating procedures and workflows to manage the growing demand. The Lord Darzi Report 2024 emphasizes the development and integration of AI tools to enhance the speed and accuracy of image interpretation, allowing staff to focus more on clinical support. Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs) and object detection models are increasingly being adopted to handle complex workloads. While these AI systems have shown improvements in diagnostic accuracy and workflow efficiency, challenges remain, including concerns about accuracy, integration, training, and regulatory compliance. This study aims to evaluate the impact of AI on workflow efficiency and explore its future potential in radiography.

State of AI in Radiography
1.Clinical Applications: AI assists in detecting conditions like fractures, lung pathologies, cancers, and neurological abnormalities.

2. Adoption: Solutions like Aidoc, Zebra Medical, and Qure.ai are gaining FDA approval for real-world deployment in hospitals.

3. Global Significance: AI democratizes healthcare by enabling access to high-quality diagnostics in under-resourced regions through teleradiology platforms.

## Methods

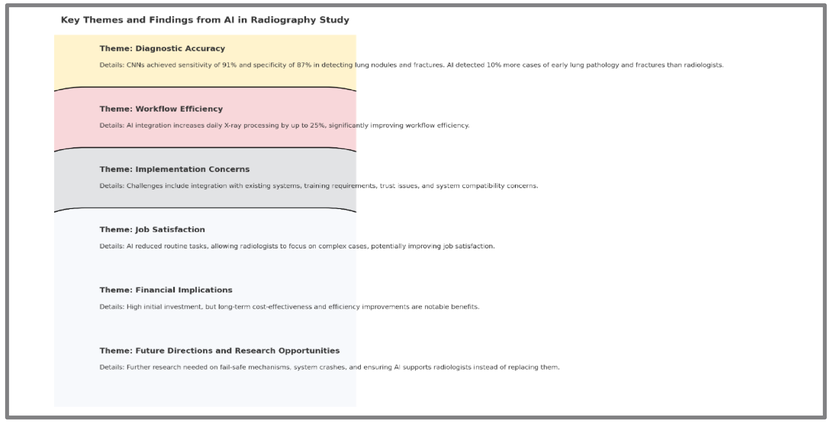
Radguide collaborated with advanced practice reporting professionals from Bradford Teaching Hospitals and learner communities to conduct audits and case studies on the use of Convolutional Neural Networks and object Cost-effectiveness and resource optimization. detection models in interpreting chest and appendicular X-rays. The findings from these audits and case studies were compared with existing data and industry benchmarks for human reporting effectiveness and workflow. This comparative analysis provided a comprehensive view of the current use of AI models and their potential impact on image interpretation.

<u>Evaluation Criteria</u>

1. Performance Metrics: Sensitivity and specificity of AI systems.

2. Operational Metrics: Turnaround time for reporting and prioritization accuracy.

3. Economic Metrics:




## Limitations

1. Sample Size: The study's sample, while representative, did not encompass the implementation of AI technology across multiple trusts and manufacturers. This limited scope may affect the generalizability of the findings.

2. Implementation Variability: The effectiveness of AI tools can vary based on development, departmental workflows, and training infrastructure. These variations may influence how well the findings apply to different healthcare settings.

3. System Integration and Training: The study acknowledges that implementation challenges and training requirements may impact the overall effectiveness and acceptance of AI tools in radiography.

4. Technological Evolution: Rapid advancements in AI technology mean that the findings may be influenced by developments occurring after the study period. Future research should consider these evolving technologies and their impact.

## Results

The results and findings were organized into three key themes:

1. Diagnostic Accuracy: CNNs achieved an average sensitivity of 91% and specificity of 87% in detecting lung nodules and fractures. Object detection models helped identify subtle abnormalities, with AI correctly detecting over 10% more cases of early lung pathology and fractures compared to radiologists.

2. Workflow Efficiency: AI integration has the potential to increase the daily processing of X-rays by up to 25%, significantly enhancing workflow efficiency.

3. Implementation Concerns: Challenges include difficulties in integrating AI tools with existing systems, training requirements, and issues with trust and system compatibility. Addressing these concerns is crucial to optimize the benefits of AI.

4. Job Satisfaction: The study explored the impact of AI on radiologist workload and job satisfaction, noting potential improvements in job satisfaction due to reduced routine tasks and increased focus on complex cases.

5. Financial Implications: While the initial investment in AI technology is high, it has the potential to improve efficiency and offer cost-effective long-term benefits.

6. Future Directions and Research Opportunities: The study identified areas for further research, including the need to address system crashes, fail-safe mechanisms, and ensuring AI supports rather than replaces radiologists.

## Conclusion

Convolutional Neural Networks and object detection models have shown considerable promise in enhancing radiography reporting practices. Key benefits include improved workflow efficiency, increased reporting capacity, and enhanced diagnostic accuracy. However, the implementation of AI models presents challenges, such as the need for adaptation in reporting pathways, ongoing support, and system integration issues. Despite the significant initial investment, AI technology offers potential for long-term efficiency improvements and cost-effectiveness in reporting.