Impact of Geographical Connections on Integrated Interventional Radiology Residency Interview Offers

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Purpose

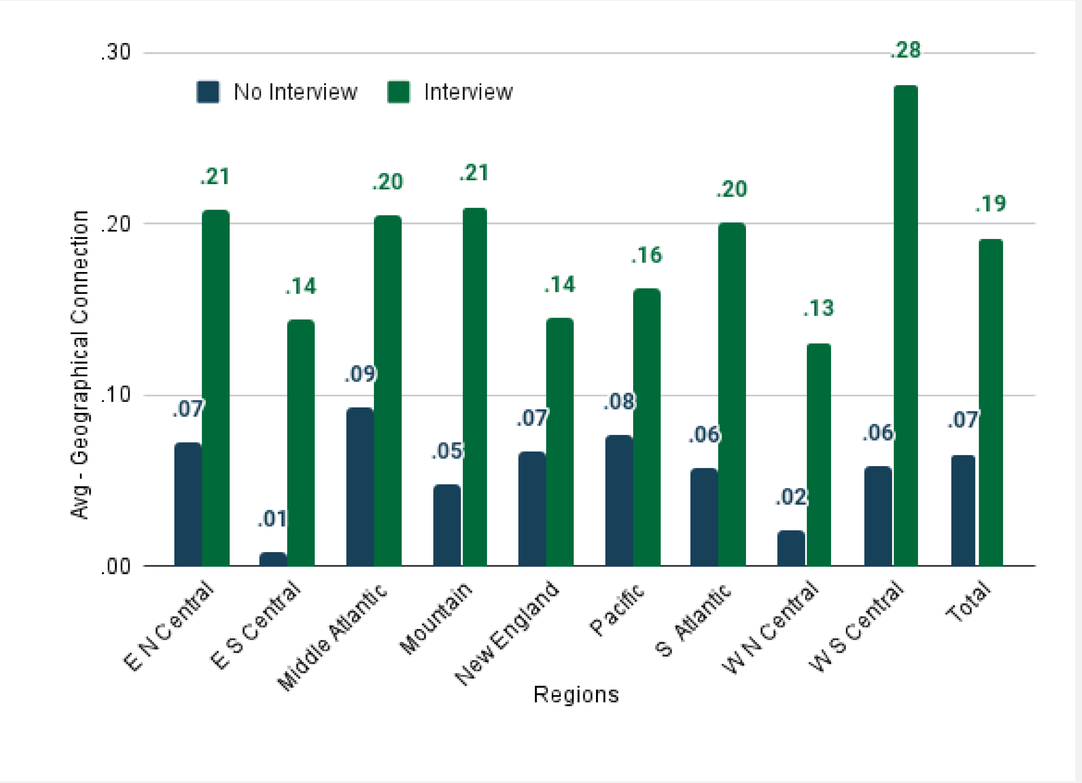
- The new inclusion of the Supplemental Application has made the Integrated Interventional Radiology (IR) match process more complex.
- Geographical preference signals can be noted by applicants.
- The aim of this study is to assess the relationship between signaling a geographic area and interviews received from that region.

Materials & Methods

- Geographic preference, program names, and interview status data of applications (n=9776) were gathered from the Texas STAR database.
- Each program was identified as one of nine regions outlined in the ERAS Supplemental Application.
- Only applications for a geographic preference listed were included.
- Applications were stratified according to regions with a connection, and interview rates were compared between nine regions.
- Since geographic signaling is novel to IR, an applicant's self-reported "regional connection" was used as a proxy for geographic signaling.
- ANOVA was used to compare interview rates.

Results

- All nine regions granted more interviews to applicants with a regional connection to their program/state (19%) than those without a connection (7%).
- The West South Central Region (WSC; includes AR, LA, OK, TX) had the highest interview rate for applicants with a regional connection (28%, p<.01).
- The Mountain Region (MR) had the second highest (21%, p<.01).



Conclusions

- Listing geographic connection is correlated with an increase in interview offers for all regions of the US.
- Regions such as the WSC and MR may be more receptive to geographic preferences when considering applicants for interviews.
- Limitations arise due the optionality of program participation in the database and the self-reported nature of the data.
- It is unclear how nothing a geographic preference impacts interview chances for programs in other regions.