**Title: Lowry A, Mackay S, Out with the old, in with the new? Are radiographers still applying radiopaque markers – A clinical audit Poster Presentation, UK Imaging and Oncology Conference, June 1-3rd 2020, Liverpool, UK**

**Aim:** The aim of this project was to audit the application of anatomical side markers in an accident and emergency department in a local NHS Trust. The ‘good practice’ audit standard was 100% compliance

**Background** Anatomical side markers (ASM’s) are annotations used to mark the “Left” and “Right” side of a medical image (Barry et al, 2016). Since the rise in digital imaging, there has been a substantial decrease in pre-exposure markers (Attard et al,2017), as well as an increase in incorrect or missing ASM’s placed on images (Platt & Strudwick, 2009).

**Method:** 720 examinations were retrospectively audited from a 6-month time frame. 2 focus groups were conducted with band 5 & 7 radiographers. Content and thematic analysis were performed on transcripts to identify key themes.

**Results:** A chi square test demonstrated statistical significance between the type of marker applied and the time the image was acquired (*p= 0.02*)*.* 647 examinations displayed a digital marker (90%), leaving 73 with a radiopaque marker (10%). No images were identified without a marker. 3 key themes from the thematic analysis were: training and the environment, factors affecting ASM application and reasons why radiographers use ASM’s.

**Conclusion:** Digital markers are being used more than radiopaque markers and good practice is not being followed. Radiographers believe that availability and cost are the main barriers to applying a radiopaque marker.