

INPLASY PROTOCOL

To cite: Yekula et al.
Neurosurgery Residency
Match for International Medical
Graduates (IMGs) in the United
States (U.S.). Inplasy protocol
202320070. doi:
10.37766/inplasy2023.2.0070

Received: 16 February 2023

Published: 16 February 2023

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Support: None.

**Review Stage at time of this
submission:** Completed but
not published.

Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

Neurosurgery Residency Match for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) in the United States (U.S.)

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Review question / Objective: Training of international medical graduates (IMGs) offers opportunities for the United States (U.S.) neurosurgery community to engage the global talent pool and impact national and international healthcare. However, the path of an IMG toward securing training in neurosurgery remains one that is poorly defined and fraught with challenges. Here, we performed a systematic literature review identifying all the studies and articles pertaining to international medical graduates and neurosurgery residency training in the U.S. Our aim is to identify the pathways, challenges and potential solutions in the process of neurosurgery residency match for international medical graduates.

Condition being studied: Our goal is to study the available literature to define the pathways, and identify the challenges and potential solutions in the neurosurgery residency match for international medical graduates in the U.S.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 16 February 2023 and was last updated on 16 February 2023 (registration number INPLASY202320070).

INTRODUCTION

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METHODS

Search strategy: A comprehensive database search was conducted for studies focused on international medical graduates and Neurosurgery residency in the U.S. The following search strategy was used: “(International* OR Foreign*) Medical Graduate AND (Neurosurgery* OR Neurological Surgery*) Residency”. We followed Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) Criteria for the systematic review.

Participant or population: International medical graduates participating in neurosurgery residency match in the U.S.

Intervention: No intervention is studied.

Comparator: Not applicable.

Study designs to be included: Original articles.

Eligibility criteria: Inclusion: The studies should be focussed on International medical graduates participating in neurosurgery residency match in the U.S. Exclusion: Studies not focusing on international medical graduates or neurosurgery match in the U.S. are excluded. All the articles not in English language are excluded.

Information sources: PubMed, Google Scholar, and MEDLINE.

Main outcome(s): All the data pertaining to the pathways, challenges and potential solutions in the process of neurosurgery residency match for international medical graduates will be studied.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Not applicable.

Strategy of data synthesis: Data will be analyzed according to Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) Criteria and will be tabulated.

Subgroup analysis: Not applicable.

Sensitivity analysis: Not applicable.

Country(ies) involved: USA, India.

Keywords: Neurological Surgery Residency; International Medical Graduates (IMG); Foreign Medical Graduates (FMG); National Residency Match Program (NRMP).

Contributions of each author:

Author 1 - Anudeep Yekula - Author 1 conceptualized the idea, performed a systematic review, and data analysis, and drafted the manuscript.

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