

## IS E-MAIL SURVEY OBSOLETE

**Atilla Soran, A.Veyssel Polat**

*University of Pittsburgh Medical School, Pittsburgh, PA, USA*

**D**istributing surveys and collecting data from online users via electronic mail (e-mail) has been widely being used for more than ten years. However, some have suggested that the use of e-mail is becoming obsolete. There are numerous potential influences on response rates in both postal and e-mail surveys, including survey length, respondent contacts, design issues, research affiliation and technical limitations of the Internet. Generally accepted response rate is between 10% and 50%. Busy daily chores of physicians and heavily email bombardments makes surveys less attractive in the medical community. On the other hand, e-mail survey is a good arena for people to speak freely and express their thoughts without interruption. Well established surveys can give the medical institution such as associations, foundations and task

forces a gage while taking action on the questions asked in the survey. The Turkish Federation of Breast Disease Associations meet every other year to update the guidelines for breast diseases, but these updates are influenced by Western countries recommendations; these recommendations are determined based on their well established clinic, their experience and the availability of technology. It would be very to think that these guidelines can be generalized to other countries. That is why we conducted an e-mail survey to get more information the use of MRI in breast cancer; the weakness of standardization while ordering MRI in breast cancer in Turkey (or similar socio-economical countries) can be determined with this survey and we are hoping that responsible institutions can act accordingly to conduct a better study on this matter.