Reducing patient risk with preliminary image evaluation

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Video Byte

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Abstract

Requests for medical imaging and radiologist reports are on the rise in hospital emergency departments. The increase in demand has raised concerns regarding x-ray image interpretation, resulting in longer turnaround times. To maintain a high standard of patient care, researchers suggest that radiographers provide an initial opinion of images using a clear system to quickly communicate these findings with the medical team. Radiographer Preliminary Image Evaluation, or PIE, is an Australian system that complements the radiologist's report. A PIE can assist an emergency referrer in their diagnosis more quickly when the radiologist's report is delayed reducing the likelihood of a missed abnormality on medical images. The study concluded that radiographers operate at a relatively high accuracy with PIE in place potentially improving emergency care service for patients. Further research may quantify how many interpretive errors are avoided using the new evaluation system and investigate the discrepancies that exist between radiographers, radiologists and emergency referrers