

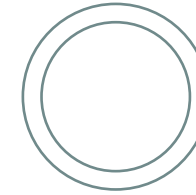
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# Overdiagnosis in Radiology

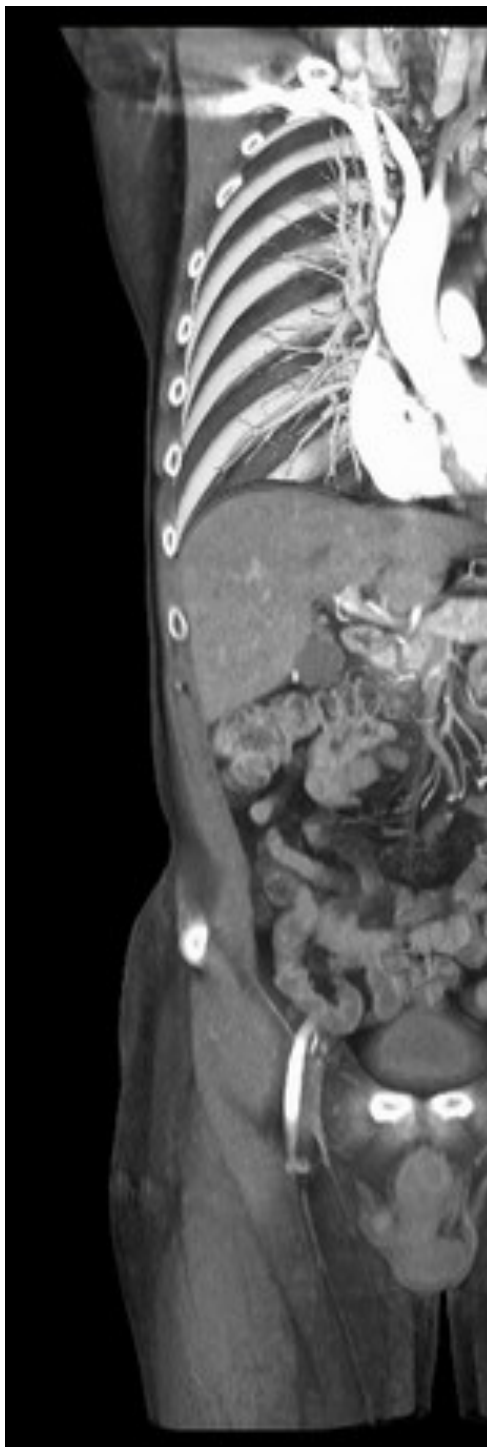
## S31

WSRT/WAERT



## Overimaging

Overimaging happens when ionizing radiation is done more than necessary and the principle of ALARA is not followed. The principle ALARA means to imagine as low as reasonably achievable. Some key factors that influence overimaging are self referral, defensive imaging and reimaging. A way to prevent extra imaging studies being done and lessening overimaging is get good complete patient histories of imaging studies they have already completed. Self referrals happen when a physician is referring imaging for their own person gain and not the patients. Another way over imaging is done is when inappropriate imaging exams are ordered, such as a hand, wrist, forearm, and elbow although the exams could be combined for less radiation exposure to the patient.



## Why overdiagnosis is a problem

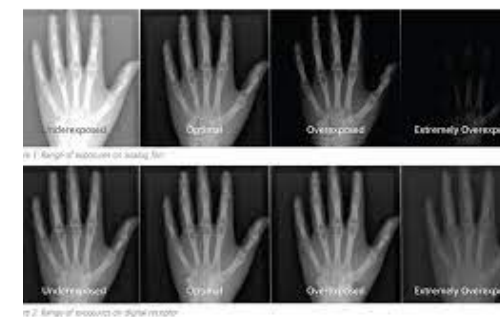
Any diagnosis that is not the correct prognosis is a problem. Specifically in radiology overdiagnosis and over imaging is a problem that can be prevented. Overdiagnosis is when a diagnosis is given that wouldn't have actually caused a problem. When this happens, extra financial and psychological stress is caused. Also unnecessary treatments are given.

## OVERDIAGNOSIS

As imaging continue to progress more and more, there is more discoveries of abnormalities at early stages. According to the American journal of Roentgenology, overdiagnosis and overtreatment may occur when imaging detects asymptomatic disease that would not have become clinically apparent over an individual's lifetime or when imaging-based detection results in treatment of disease that would not have shortened an individual's life expectancy. Some of the treatments can dimmish quality of life more than the actual disease itself would have, especially benign tumors. Its reported that overdiagnosis and overtreatment may be among the most significant potential harms associated with imaging-based screening

## HOW OVERDIAGNOSIS AND OVERIMAGING ARE RELATED

According to Italian Society of Medical Radiology, defensive ordering of diagnostic examinations may additionally lead to overdiagnosis, which is the detection of new findings not associated with a significant impact on health which in turn may determine further unnecessary actions. This happens when tests are overdone to try to help the patient when there isn't more to be done to help. This is a reason we take patients signatures for informed consent so that way the patient is always allowed to reject the treatment plan if they feel it unnecessary.



*Over Exposed Hand*