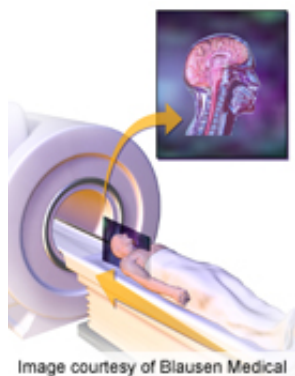


# Overinterpretation common in diagnostic accuracy studies

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(HealthDay)—Roughly three in 10 diagnostic accuracy studies published in journals with impact factors of four or higher have overinterpretation, according to a review published in the May issue of *Radiology*.

Eleanor A. Ochodo, M.B.Ch.B., from University of Amsterdam, and colleagues conducted a literature review to identify diagnostic accuracy studies published between January and June 2010 in journals with an [impact factor](#) of four or higher. Primary studies of the accuracy of one or more tests compared with a clinical reference standard were included.

The researchers found that 39 of 126 studies (31 percent) contained a form of actual overinterpretation, including 29 (23 percent) with an overly optimistic abstract, 10 (8 percent) with a [discrepancy](#) between the study aim and conclusion, and eight with conclusions based on selected subgroups. Authors of 89, 88, and 57 percent of the studies, respectively, did not include a sample size calculation, did not state a test

hypothesis, and did not report confidence intervals of accuracy measurements, all demonstrating potential overinterpretation. Analyzing a subgroup of imaging studies found that 16 (30 percent) and 53 (100 percent) contained forms of actual and potential overinterpretation, respectively.

"Overinterpretation and misreporting of results in [diagnostic accuracy](#) studies is frequent in journals with high impact factors," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)

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