

## 'Sorry, I meant the patient's left side': impact of distraction on left-right discrimination.

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McKinley J, Dempster M, Gormley GJ. 'Sorry, I meant the patient's left side': impact of distraction on left-right discrimination. Med Educ. 2015;49(4):427-35. doi:10.1111/medu.12658.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/sorry-i-meant-patients-left-side-impact-distraction-left-right-discrimination>

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[Wrong-side procedures](#) still occur at alarming rates, particularly [outside of the operating room](#). This study exposed medical students to various types of distractions and measured their ability to distinguish a person's left from right side from different perspectives. Cognitive distractions had a bigger negative impact than ambient ward noise on the students' performance.