

Prevalence of harmful diagnostic errors in hospitalised adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

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Gunderson CG, Bilan VP, Holleck JL, et al. Prevalence of harmful diagnostic errors in hospitalised adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ Qual Saf.* 2020;29(12):1008-1018. doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2019-010822.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/prevalence-harmful-diagnostic-errors-hospitalised-adults-systematic-review-and-meta-analysis>

In this systematic review, the authors pooled over 80,000 patients and 760 harmful [diagnostic errors](#) from 22 studies and estimated the prevalence of harmful diagnostic errors among hospitalized patients to be 0.7% (95% CI, 0.5-1.1%). Fourteen common diagnoses account for more than half of all missed or delayed diagnoses, with the most frequent being cancer (11%) and pulmonary embolism (9.6%). Extrapolated to the United States, these estimates correspond to approximately 249,900 harmful diagnostic errors each year.