

Misdiagnosis and failure to diagnose in emergency care: causes and empathy as a solution.

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Pelaccia T, Messman AM, Kline JA. Misdiagnosis and failure to diagnose in emergency care: causes and empathy as a solution. Patient Edu Couns. 2020;103(8):1650-1656. doi:10.1016/j.pec.2020.02.039.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/misdiagnosis-and-failure-diagnose-emergency-care-causes-and-empathy-solution>

The [hectic and complex](#) environment of emergency care can reduce diagnostic safety. This article discusses clinical reasoning and [decision-making](#) strategies used by emergency medicine physicians, contributing factors to diagnostic errors occurring in emergency medicine (e.g., overconfidence, cognitive stress, anchoring bias), and [strategies](#) to reduce the risk of error. A previous [WebM&M commentary](#) discussed an incident involving diagnostic delay in the emergency department.