



I'll just send you for a scan!

- In a recent study, the same patient was sent to 10 different hospitals for the same MRI scan. None of the scan reports were identical, and only 1 in 3 findings were present on all of the reports. This highlights the variability of scan reporting.
- From a randomized trial MRI reports standalone without the appropriate clinical reporting have been found to have a detrimental effect on the patient and the expectations from a consultation.
- Findings described in MRI reports are very common in people with NO PAIN, such as disc degeneration (91%), disc bulges (64%), disc protrusion (32%), annular tear (38%)¹. These findings increase with age and can be signs of a naturally maturing spine.



- Nine out of ten people with NO neck pain have disc bulges on MRI and most people in their 20s have bulging discs².
- There is good evidence to suggest that unwarranted MRI scans are detrimental to patient wellbeing and lead to poorer outcomes³.

References:

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2. Nakashima H, Yukawa Y, Suda K, Yamagata M, Ueta T, Kato F. Abnormal findings on magnetic resonance images of the cervical spines in 1211 asymptomatic subjects. *Spine (Phila Pa 1976)*. 2015 Mar 15;40(6):392-8.
3. Sajid IM, Parkunan A, Frost K. Unintended consequences: quantifying the benefits, iatrogenic harms and downstream cascade costs of musculoskeletal MRI in UK primary care *BMJ Open Quality* 2021;10:e001287.