

Letter to the Editor/ Carta ao Editor

Further Cementing our Role as Leaders Thanks to The Role of the Radiologist with On Site Presence in the Night Shift in a Central Hospital

Consolidando Ainda Mais a Nossa Posição de Liderança Graças ao Papel do Radiologista com Presença Física no Turno da Noite Num Hospital Central

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Abstract

Cementing our role as leaders in Radiology. Further cementing our role as leaders thanks to The Role of the Radiologist with On Site Presence in the Night Shift in a Central Hospital.

Keywords

Radiology, Leadership, Counseling

Resumo

Consolidando o nosso papel como líderes em Radiologia. Consolidando ainda mais o nosso papel como líderes graças ao Papel do Radiologista com Presença no Local no Turno da Noite num Hospital Central.

Palavras-chave

Radiologia, Liderança, Aconselhamento

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Received: 02/02/2026

Accepted: 03/02/2026

Published: 25/03/2026



Dear Editor,

After having read the article titled The Role of the Radiologist with On-Site Presence in the Night Shift in a Central Hospital, we felt compelled to commend the authors for their findings and to encourage radiologists around the world, regardless of their region, to act as leaders.

Their article aimed to reduce the quantity of unnecessary computed tomography studies by keeping the on-shift radiologist proactively within the emergency department.¹

It is not explicitly stated by the authors what their underlying motivations are, but we would like to infer that part of it comes from the desire of radiologists to be seen as leaders.

As radiologists, we must act as direct facilitators of patient-centered care as much as possible. Teleradiology has added much comfort to the radiologist's life, but it has also separated us from the patient's reach. As patients say, it often feels too impersonal.²

At the same time, the use of computed tomography in the emergency room has unofficially become the norm for many clinical scenarios; it has become overused and over-relied upon.³ This excessive dependence on computed tomography has reached such a level that it has even been comically referred to as "The donut of truth."⁴

Those are the reasons why original articles like the one published by Sara Gama, Nuno Campos, and Paulo Donato matter so much. These publications help us retake ground within the decision-making of our patients; they are a counteroffensive to the self-inflicted confinement we have put ourselves in. This should be an invitation to go into the emergency room and be part of the clinical conversation.

Finally, one piece of advice we would give the authors is that the hospital guidelines used to determine whether an examination was justified should have been included. Although they mention that these were based on their hospital and other descriptions in the literature, for the sake of replicability, it would be useful to know the exact criteria they used to consider each study justified or not.

Conclusion

Radiologists must be seen as more than an auxiliary branch of medicine. We must proactively act as leaders by joining the clinical discussion and redirecting the clinician's perspective when possible. As it is colloquially said, "We have to call the shots." By being part of the clinical conversation, we reduce unnecessary radiologic exposure to our patients and preserve their care as our focus.

Ethical Disclosures / Divulgações Éticas

Conflicts of interest: All authors have disclosed any financial, personal, or professional relationships that could be interpreted as a conflict of interest in relation to this work.

Conflitos de interesse: Todos os autores divulgaram quaisquer relações financeiras, pessoais ou profissionais que possam ser interpretadas como conflito de interesses em relação a esta obra.

Funding: All authors state that there is no funding or financial relationship to disclose.

Financiamento: Todos os autores afirmam que não existe financiamento ou relação financeira a divulgar.

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