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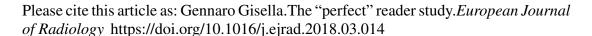
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The "perfect" reader study

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Highlights

Clinical benefits from technological advances in radiology are mostly proven by

reader studies

Reader studies are challenging to design and require significant resources and time

to be accomplished

Appropriate study design with minimized sources of bias is the ideal condition to

obtain correct results with good chances of generalizability and publication

Abstract

A reader study, i.e. a diagnostic accuracy study aiming to assess clinical performance of one

technology versus another, on the basis of image interpretation by a group of human

readers, requires an accurate design, with the precise definition of each element concurring

to the study itself. In this paper, the main issues to take into consideration when designing

reader studies are described, and the characteristics of a number of indices of diagnostic

accuracy are summarized. Special care is given to the description of the multiple sources of

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