

Errata frequently seen in medical literature

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(HealthDay)—Errata, including those that may materially change the interpretation of data, are frequent in medical publications, according to a study published in the August issue of *The American Journal of Medicine*.

Paul J. Hauptman, M.D., from St. Louis University School of Medicine, and colleagues conducted a retrospective evaluation of errata reports for articles published in 20 English-language general [medicine](#) and cardiovascular journals (mean [impact factor](#), 12.23) over an 18-month period. Each erratum was characterized by location in the article and qualitative categories of severity.

The researchers found that there were errata reports in association with 557 articles (overall errata report occurrence, 4.2 per 100 published original and review articles), yielding a mean of 2.4 errors per errata report. In 24.2 percent of articles with errata, at least one major error

that materially altered data interpretation was present. Impact factor and errata occurrence rate were strongly associated (P

"Increased vigilance by authors to prevent errata and consensus by journal editors on the format of reporting are warranted," conclude the authors.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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