

# Decision support can help family doctors cut radiation exposure

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(HealthDay)—Point-of-care decision support can help family physicians select imaging that lowers pediatric radiation exposure and is in accordance with current guidelines, according to a study published in the May-June issue of the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*.

Christopher W. Bunt, M.D., from the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Md., and colleagues conducted a double-blind, randomized simulation involving family physicians in the Military Health System. Initially, participants reviewed a pediatric hematuria scenario and chose imaging without [decision support](#). They were then randomized to receive imaging-appropriateness guidelines followed by estimated radiation exposure [information](#), or vice versa. After each step, imaging selections

were required.

The researchers found that after viewing the guidelines, the first arm increased computed tomography (CT) ordering ( $P = 0.008$ ), but they decreased CT ordering after reviewing radiation exposure information ( $P = 0.007$ ). Radiation information decreased CT and plain film use in the second arm ( $P =$  not significant), with an increase in ultrasound and CT use after guideline presentation ( $P = 0.05$ ).

"Decision support during a simulated pediatric scenario helped [family physicians](#) select imaging that lowered [radiation exposure](#) and was aligned with current guidelines, especially when presented with radiation information after guideline review," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
[Full Text](#)

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