

# Nonvascular thoracic MRI improves clinical decision making

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(HealthDay)—Assessment with nonvascular thoracic magnetic

resonance (MR) imaging improves clinical decision making, according to a study published in the August issue of *Radiology*.

Jeanne B. Ackman, M.D., from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and colleagues examined the impact of nonvascular thoracic MR imaging on the clinical [decision making](#) and diagnostic certainty of thoracic surgeons. Seven thoracic surgeons participated in this two-year survey study after completing a one-time demographic survey. Each time a surgeon ordered a nonvascular thoracic MR imaging study they were sent a link to the pre-test survey, which assessed the clinical rationale for imaging and pre-test diagnostic certainty. The surgeon was then sent a link to a post-test [survey](#) upon completion of the MR imaging report. Data were included from 99 pre- and post-test surveys.

The researchers found that 65 percent of MR imaging studies were requested due to indeterminate findings on computed tomography. MR imaging correlated with a significant reduction in the number of planned surgical interventions (P

"In appropriate cases, assessment with nonvascular thoracic MR imaging substantially affects the [clinical decision](#) making and diagnostic certainty of [thoracic surgeons](#)," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the medical device industry.

**More information:** [Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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