

## Inpatient imaging volumes down during COVID-19 pandemic

22 July 2020



imaging composition mix significantly shifted, compared to 2019 (P nuclear medicine (0.4 percent). While most imaging studies declined in the late post-COVID-19 period, a few Current Procedural Terminology-coded groups showed increased volumes, including CT angiography chest, radiography chest, and ultrasound venous duplex.

"These data may be useful to radiology practices in preparing for the possibility of a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic," the authors write.

Two authors disclosed financial ties to the medical technology industry.

More information: Abstract/Full Text

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(HealthDay)—During the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a decrease in inpatient imaging volumes, according to a study published online June 18 in the *Journal of the American College of Radiology*.

Jason J. Naidich, M.D., from Northwell Health in Manhasset, New York, and colleagues compared weekly inpatient imaging volumes (radiography, computed tomography [CT], <u>magnetic resonance</u> imaging [MRI], ultrasound, <u>interventional radiology</u>, nuclear medicine) in a large health care system in 2019 and 2020. Additionally, 2020 volumes were compared pre-COVID-19 (weeks one to nine) and post-COVID-19 (early: weeks 10 to 13; late: weeks 14 to 16).

The researchers found that compared with 2019, total inpatient imaging volume in the early post-COVID-19 period declined by 16.6 percent; volume declined by 9.6 percent in the late post-COVID-19 period. Inpatient imaging volume rebounded by week 16 and was only down 4.2 percent. The 2020



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