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*How can I ensure that my patient receives the most appropriate imaging examination?*

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**Providing all relevant clinical information in your referral will help the radiologist to decide the appropriate examination**

Several studies in Europe have shown that radiologists do not always receive the information necessary to carry out an effective examination. Imaging aims to answer the question posed by the referrer with the highest possible degree of technical precision. The clearer the clinical question and the related details are, the better targeted the examination can be.

***Talk to the radiologists about it!***

# Making a complete and precise referral ensures the best results!



## The benefits for the patients

- They obtain the right diagnosis with the right examination
- They can start the right treatment without delay
- The dose can be managed to fit with the clinical purpose



The appropriate use of imaging improves healthcare management for everyone: providing enhanced availability of equipment and control of costs

## What information is essential for the radiologists?

- Basic patient information: name, age, sex, weight
- Clinical background
- The clinical question to be answered by the imaging examinations
- Information on prior imaging examinations
- Explicit information regarding a patient's possible/confirmed pregnancy and other points of attention or contraindications
- Contact details ensuring that you can be easily reached

## What can be the consequences of imprecise and/or incomplete referrals for imaging?

An analysis of referrals for imaging examinations in Luxembourg showed that 39% of these were incomplete or imprecise<sup>1</sup>: missing the patient's clinical history or the question the examination was intended to answer, etc. Such referrals waste precious time for radiographers, radiologists and patients, particularly for outpatients. They could also lead to inappropriate examinations and potentially to a wrong diagnosis.

1. Source: National Audit in Luxembourg: <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/18/02/rpop-session1.pdf>

**Talk to the radiologists about it!**