

## Neoplastic Incidentalomas in Emergency Department: The Unexpected Dark Side of Emergency Patients

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**Background and Aims:** Neoplastic incidentalomas unexpected oncologic lesions found during imaging for unrelated complaints represent a growing challenge in se emergency medicine. This study aimed to assess their prevalence, anatomical distribution, and potential diagnostic implications in low acuity emergency department (ED) presentations.

**Materials/Patients and Methods:** A retrospective observational study was conducted on all adult patients presenting to the ED of Marcianise Hospital (Italy) in 2023. Incidentalomas were identified through discharge summaries and categorized by imaging modality, anatomical site, and triage code. Descriptive and inferential statistics were applied.

**Results:** Among 35,081 ED visits, 53 neoplastic incidentalomas were identified (1.52 per 1,000). Most patients were female (69%) and aged >65 years (61%). Common presenting complaints included abdominal pain (38%) and anemia (15%). All patients were assigned low-priority triage (green or blue). CT was the primary diagnostic tool (51%), with gastrointestinal (31%) and pulmonary (23%) lesions being most frequent. Based on guideline review, up to 20% of findings may reflect overdiagnosis [1, 2].

**Discussion:** Neoplastic incidentalomas are not uncommon in the ED, even among low- severity cases. These findings highlight the need for structured reporting, follow-up planning, and clinical awareness to prevent diagnostic delays and avoid unnecessary interventions.

### References

1. O'Sullivan JW, Muntinga T, Grigg S, Ioannidis JPA (2018) Prevalence and outcomes of incidental imaging findings: umbrella review. *BMJ* 361: k2387.
2. Berland LL, Silverman SG, Gore RM, Richard M Gore, William W Mayo-Smith, et al. (2010) Managing incidental findings on abdominal CT: white paper of the ACR Incidental Findings Committee. *J Am Coll Radiol* 7: 754-773.

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