Does early magnetic resonance imaging influence management or improve outcome in patients referred to secondary care with low back pain? A pragmatic randomised controlled trial


Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To establish whether the early use of sophisticated imaging techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or computed tomography (CT) influences the clinical management and outcome of patients with low back pain (LBP) and whether it is cost-effective.

Authors' conclusions
The early use of sophisticated imaging does not appear to affect management overall but does result in a slight improvement in clinical outcome at an estimated cost of 870 GBP per QALY. Imaging was associated with an increase in clinicians' diagnostic confidence, particularly for non-specialists.

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