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**ANALYSIS OF RADIOLOGY MALPRACTICE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS  
2002-2007: THE MEASURE OF RISK DEPENDS ON THE RULER**

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**PURPOSE.** The purpose of this study was to assess communication of radiology malpractice risk using cumulative claims and indemnity data.

**METHODS:** Claims and indemnity data provided by Physicians Insurers Association of America (PIAA) was reviewed. All specialty claims from 2002-2007 and cumulative claims closed between 1985-2006 were ranked by paid claims, average and total indemnity. Claims specific to radiology from 2002-2007 by (a) misadventure and severity from 2002-2007, and (b) their status (closed claims, paid claims, average indemnity and total indemnity).

**RESULTS:** Radiology ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of the 41 specialties in both number of closed and paid claims. Radiology was 13<sup>th</sup> for total indemnity paid/claim. Radiology was near the lowest for average payment/number of claims.

**CONCLUSION:** The perception and reporting of malpractice risk is very dependent of the number of claims. Reviewers of data out of its context may lead to inaccurate and misleading conclusions.