

Analysis of Chest Computed Angiotomography exams to confirm pulmonary embolism performed at the emergency room in a private oncologic hospital in São Paulo.

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BACKGROUND: Deep venous thrombosis (DVT) is six to seven times more frequent in oncology patients than in general population. It may be explained by a hipercoagulable state, an indirect complication of their underlying malignant condition. Further, this may lead to an undesirable outcome: Pulmonary embolism (PE), an important cause of morbidity and malignancy in this patient group. On this background, chest angiotomography with PE protocol is the modality of choice to confirm this diagnosis, and is widely used in the emergency room of oncologic hospitals. This study intends to evaluate the indications and results of chest computed angiotomography exams to confirm pulmonary embolism (PE), performed in the emergency room of a private oncologic hospital in São Paulo. **HYPOTHESIS:** Chest angiotomography with PE protocol is frequently used in the emergency room of an oncologic hospital. However, just a small percentage of the patients has confirmed diagnosis. **METHODS:** Retrospective single center study, conducted by reviewing medical records and imaging reports. 343 chest angiotomography scans, performed in the emergency room, from January to April 2014, were evaluated. **RESULTS:** Of 343 scans studied, 118 (34.4 %) were computed angiotomography, with PE protocol, of which only one was not performed by not having proper venous access. Patients' mean age was 61,9 years, range 19 to 91 years, being 69,2% female. Most patients had a known primary tumour (98,3%), being most common lung (23,9%) and breast (15,4%). Of 117 scans, only 11,1% confirmed PE, 35% showed others significant results (17,9% neoplastic; 7,7% inflammatory/infeccious; 9,4% others) and 53,8% were negative. In conclusion, chest angiotomography with PE protocol is frequently used in the emergency room of an oncologic hospital. However, just a small percentage of the patients had confirmed diagnosis. Pre-test probability scores may help in the evaluation, contributing for a better indication of these exams.