

changing characteristics of utilization and potential differences in US emergency department (ED) patients undergoing CT of the abdomen and pelvis (CTAP) for suspected urolithiasis. The study is published online in the [Journal of American College of Radiology \(JACR\)](#).

Dr. Balthazar and team used the Nationwide Emergency Department Sample, the largest publicly available all-payer ED database in the United States to study patients from 2006 to 2015 with a primary diagnosis of suspected urolithiasis. The annual numbers of ED visits for suspected urolithiasis and associated CTAP examinations per visit were determined along with patient demographics, payer status and hospital characteristics as potential independent predictors of utilization.

“Overall, CT utilization rates in the ED continue to increase over time despite government and medical specialty organization initiatives to restrain the growth of advanced imaging services,” stated first author Patricia Balthazar, MD, diagnostic radiology resident, Emory University. “Although the US population is growing, the number of ED visits for suspected urolithiasis has increased significantly over the past decade.” [J Am Coll Radiol. 2017;16\(1\):1-7.](#)

These findings provide important information to emergency department physicians and hospital administrators interested in optimizing the use of advanced medical imaging services.

To obtain a copy of the study or to arrange an interview, contact Nichole Gay at (703) 648-1665 or ngay@neimc.org.
