

In Reply: We thank Dr. Ganatra for his comments regarding our 1-Minute Consult.¹ In particular, he has brought to our attention recent research concerning the use and utility of computed tomography (CT) in delirium and altered mental status.² His suggestion to individualize the differential diagnosis and use pretest probabilities to stratify risk is valid, and we fully agree with it. A crucial distinction, however, is that the study cited by Dr. Ganatra included both hospitalized patients and patients in the emergency department, whereas the study we cited and our patient case included only hospitalized patients. The diagnostic yield in emergency department patients may not be generalizable to already-hospitalized patients because these settings have different acuity levels. In fact, head imaging in the emergency department reveals an intracranial process in 14% to 39% of cases, which appears to differ significantly from the yield of CT in hospitalized patients.³

Gilad Muth, DO
Department of Internal Medicine,
Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY

Thomas A. Bayer, MD
Office of Academic Affiliations Advanced Research
Fellow, Center of Innovation in Long-Term Services
and Support, Providence Veterans Administration
Medical Center, Providence, RI; Assistant Professor
of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics and Palliative
Medicine, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown
University, Providence, RI

Richard Libman, MD
Department of Neurology, Donald and Barbara
Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell,
Great Neck, NY

■ REFERENCES

1. Muth G, Bayer TA, Libman R. Should my elderly hospitalized patient with acute onset of altered mental status undergo stat head CT? *Cleve Clin J Med* 2023; 90(5):283–285. doi:10.3949/ccjm.90a.22023
2. Akhtar H, Chaudhry SH, Bortolussi-Courval É, et al. Diagnostic yield of CT head in delirium and altered mental status—A systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2023; 71(3):946–958. doi:10.1111/jgs.18134
3. Theisen-Toupal J, Breu AC, Mattison ML, Arnaout R. Diagnostic yield of head computed tomography for the hospitalized medical patient with delirium. *J Hosp Med* 2014; 9(8):497–501. doi:10.1002/jhm.2198

doi:10.3949/ccjm.90c.08002