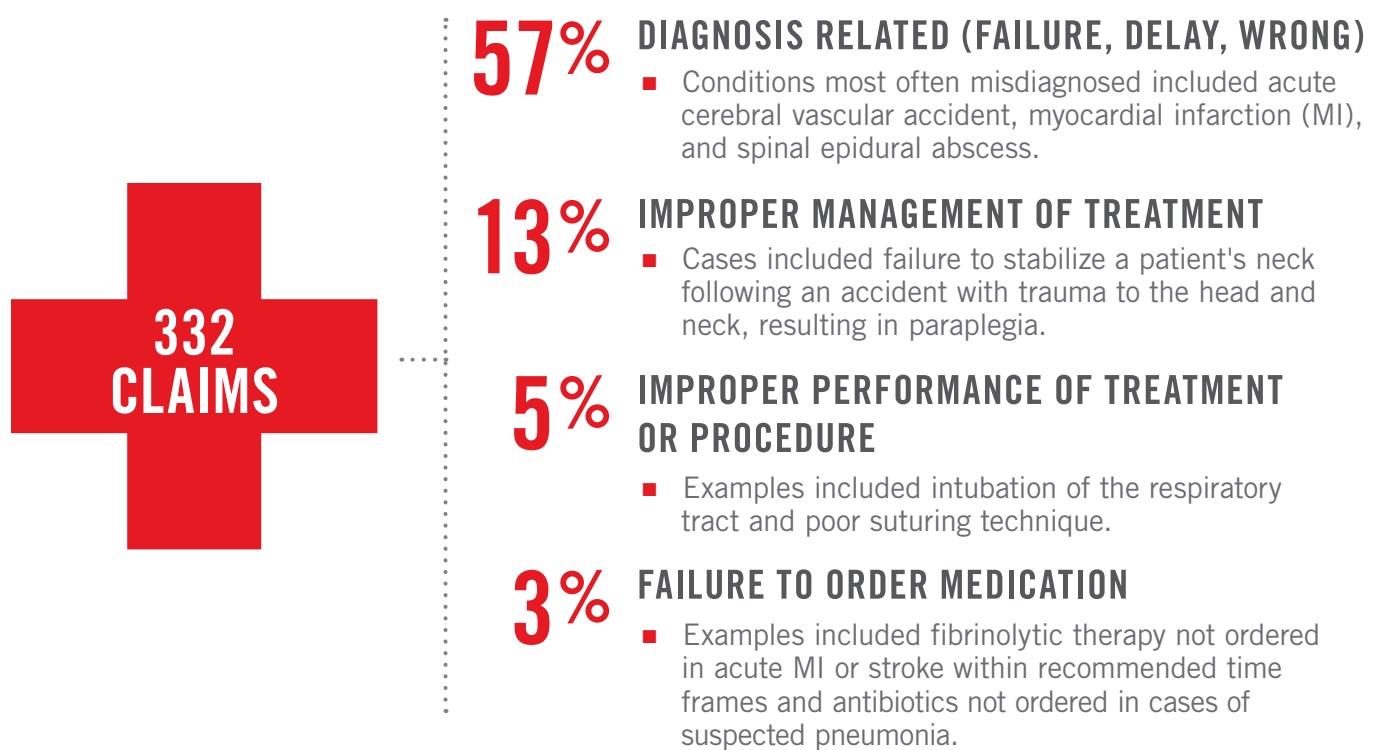


# WHY DO EMERGENCY MEDICINE DOCTORS GET SUED?

## MALPRACTICE CLAIM TRENDS IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

An analysis of 332 emergency medicine malpractice claims that closed from 2007–2013 revealed underlying vulnerabilities that expose doctors to liability and place patients at risk.

### TOP 4 PATIENT ALLEGATIONS IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE CLAIMS



### TOP 6 FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PATIENT INJURY IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Expert physician reviewers analyzed the claims to identify the specific factors that contributed to patient injury.\*



\* More than one factor can contribute to patient injury.

### TIPS TO HELP AVOID DIAGNOSTIC ERRORS

- Avoid first-impression or intuition-based diagnoses.
- Complete a thorough differential diagnosis for each patient.
- Use diagnostic prompts when completing your differential diagnosis. Because emergency medicine doctors face such a broad range of patients and potential diagnoses, these prompts can help ensure all diagnoses are considered.
- Document your differential diagnosis. This step is especially important to reduce potential liability risks.
- Make sure that all specialists who are called to evaluate emergency department patients receive a comprehensive summary of the clinical picture, including history, physical findings, and diagnostic studies. During the handoff discussion, it should be clear who has responsibility for review and follow-up of all test results and diagnostic studies.
- Practice effective handoffs. Make sure there is interactive communication between physicians when the care of a patient is being handed off so they can determine each physician's responsibilities. Staff must have a clear understanding of which physician is in charge of the patient's care.



READ THE FULL STUDY AT  
[WWW.THEDOCTORS.COM/EMERGENCYMEDICINESTUDY](http://WWW.THEDOCTORS.COM/EMERGENCYMEDICINESTUDY)