

The Reply



Chandran overlooks the stated intent and the conclusions of our article.¹ We set out to collect vignettes to identify the “diverse types and characteristics of errors that can be made relating to the physical examination.” Chandran’s criticisms are a restatement of our penultimate paragraph in which we point out the limitations of our qualitative study. We believe this qualitative investigation is a first step in a field where there are no previous comparable studies (and Chandran cites none). The recent Institute of Medicine report, “Improving Diagnosis in Health Care,”² highlights the importance of the bedside examination in diagnosis and cites our previous work in this field. The study and collection of vignettes are now extended to and ongoing in the United Kingdom and Europe.

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