



Jan 24, 2026

Reproducible Search Strategy - CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDIES ON THE DIAGNOSIS OF MALINGERING

DOI

<https://dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ewov1kz4ogr2/v1>

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Protocol status: Working

We use this protocol and it's working



Created: January 24, 2026

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Protocol Integer ID: 240845

Keywords: diagnosis of malingering, clinical investigation of malingering, explanatory models of malingering, malingering, malingering in defendant, characteristics of military malingering, new forms of diagnosis, clinical investigation, military malingering, diagnosis, malingering mild traumatic brain injury, reported symptom, patient, clinical setting, psychologic evaluation, ovid medline, case report, patient characteristic, forensic psychiatry practice, psychiatry research, feigned psychiatric symptom, retrospective analysis of the national inpatient sample, national inpatient sample, goal of this systematic review, mental health diagnosis, characteristics of study, search strategy, initial search strategy, exp hospital emergency, guidance on the reporting, mental health diagnoses in people, statistical manual of mental disorder, reproducible search strategy, psychopathologist, comorbid psychopathology, hospitalized patient

Abstract

The initial search strategy can be found here: dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.e6nvwdwozlmk/v1

The goal of this systematic review was to evaluate the characteristics of studies on the diagnosis of malingering. The initial search was conducted in December 2023, yielding 5,024 articles. The search was repeated in June 2025, yielding an additional 275 articles.

Search strategy:

Ovid Medline 1285 results on 12/18/2023 61 results on 6/17/25 with date limit: limit 6 to dt=20231215-20250617
Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946 to December 15, 2023>

1 exp malingering/ or Malinger*.mp. or (feign* adj4 (psychopatholog* or symptom*)).mp. or feigned.mp. or conscious-simulation.mp. or pathomimia.mp.

2 exp Emergency Medical Services/ or exp hospital emergency service/ or exp forensic psychiatry/ or emergicenter*.ti,ab. or (emergency adj3 (department* or ward* or Nurs* or physician* or medicine or accidents)).ti,ab. or ((ED or ER) adj3 (care or service* or department* or unit* or ward* or room* or center* or centre* or system* or evaluation* or assess* or visit* or Nurs* or physician* or patient* or personnel)).ti,ab. or (Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient*).mp.

3 1 and 2

4 3 not (exp child/ not (exp child/ and exp adult/))

5 4 not (case reports or validation study).pt.

6 limit 5 to english language

Embase.com 2,052 results on 12/18/2023 135 results on 6/17/25 with date limit: #7 AND [17-12-2023]/sd NOT [18-06-2025]/sd

1 'malingering'/exp or Malinger*:ti,ab,kw,de or (feign* near/4 (psychopatholog* or symptom*)):ti,ab,kw,de or conscious-simulation:ti,ab,kw,de or pathomimia:ti,ab,kw,de

2 'emergency health service'/exp OR 'emergency ward'/exp OR 'forensic medicine'/exp or (Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient*):ti,ab,kw,de OR emergicenter*:ti,ab,kw,de OR ((trauma NEAR/1 (patient* OR center* OR centre* OR department* OR unit* OR room*)):ti,ab) OR (((emergency OR emergencies) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR medicine OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR clinician* OR personnel OR patient* OR accidents)):ti,ab,kw,de) OR (((ems OR ed OR er) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR patient* OR personnel)):ti,ab,kw,de) OR (((('a&e' OR 'a & e') NEAR/2 (department* OR admission* OR admitted)):ti,ab)

3 1 and 2

4 #3 NOT ('child'/exp NOT ('child'/exp AND 'adult'/exp))

6 #4 NOT ('case report'/exp OR 'validation study'/exp)

7 #5 AND [english]/lim

Web of Science 1,249 Results on 12/18/2023 70 results on 6/17/25 refined by: Publication Years: 2024 or 2025
Web of Science Core Collection:

Science Citation Index Expanded Social Sciences Citation Index Expanded Arts & Humanities Citation Index
Emerging Sources Citation Index

- 1 (TS=(Malingering* or conscious-simulation or pathomimia)) OR (TS=(feign* near/4 (psychopatholog* or symptom*)))
- 2 (TS= (Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient* OR emergicenter*)) OR (TS=((trauma NEAR/1 (patient* OR center* OR centre* OR department* OR unit* OR room*))) OR (TS=(((emergency OR emergencies) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR medicine OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR clinician* OR personnel OR patient* OR accidents)))) OR (TS=((ems OR ed OR er) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR patient* OR personnel)))
- 3 1 and 2
- 4 #3 NOT KP= ("child" NOT ("child" AND "adult"))
- 5 #4 NOT TS= ("case report" OR "validation study")
- 6 #5 AND [english]/lim

APA PsycInfo 403 Results on 12/18/2023 9 results on 6/17/25 with date limit 2024-2025

- 1 DE "Malingering" OR (AB=(Malingering* or conscious-simulation or pathomimia)) OR (TI=(Malingering* or conscious-simulation or pathomimia))
- 2 (DE "Emergency Medicine" OR DE "Emergency Services" OR DE "Hospital Admission" OR DE "Hospital Discharge" OR DE "Hospitals" OR DE "Hospitalization" OR DE "Hospitalized Patients") OR SU hospital* OR SU clinic* OR SU Inpatient OR SU veteran OR (AB= (Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient* OR emergicenter*)) OR (AB=((trauma NEAR/1 (patient* OR center* OR centre* OR department* OR unit* OR room*))) OR (AB=(((emergency OR emergencies) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR medicine OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR clinician* OR personnel OR patient* OR accidents)))) OR (AB=((ems OR ed OR er) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR patient* OR personnel))) OR (AB= (Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient* OR emergicenter*)) OR (AB=((trauma NEAR/1 (patient* OR center* OR centre* OR department* OR unit* OR room*))) OR (TI=(((emergency OR emergencies) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR medicine OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR clinician* OR personnel OR patient* OR accidents)))) OR (TI=((ems OR ed OR er) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR patient* OR personnel)))
- 3 1 AND 2
- 4 SU test-validity
- 5 3 NOT 4
- 6 5 AND Narrow by Language: - english

Proquest Dissertations and Theses Global 35 results on 12/18/23 0 results on 6/17/2025 with date limit 2023-current

noft(malinger*) AND noft(hospital* OR emergency OR discharge* OR drug-seeking)

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Guidelines

5 3 NOT 4

6 5 AND Narrow by Language: - english

Proquest Dissertations and Theses Global35 results on 12/18/230 results on 6/17/2025 with date limit 2023-current

noft(malinger*) AND noft(hospital* OR emergency OR discharge* OR drug-seeking)

Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL 1946 to December 15, 2023

- 1 exp malingering/ or Malinger*.mp. or (feign* adj4 (psychopatholog* or symptom*)).mp. or feigned.mp. or conscious-simulation.mp. or pathomimia.mp.
exp Emergency Medical Services/ or exp hospital emergency service/ or exp forensic psychiatry/ or emergicenter*.ti,ab. or (emergency adj3 (department* or ward* or Nurs* or physician* or medicine or accidents)).ti,ab. or ((ED or ER) adj3 (care or service* or department* or unit* or ward* or room* or center* or centre* or system* or evaluation* or assess* or visit* or Nurs* or physician* or patient* or personnel)).ti,ab. or (Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient*).mp.
1 and 2
not (exp child/ not (exp child/ and exp adult/))
not (case reports or validation study).pt.
limit 5 to english language

Embase.com

- 2 malingering/exp or Malinger*.ti,ab,kw,de or (feign* near/4 (psychopatholog* or symptom*)).ti,ab,kw,de or conscious-simulation.ti,ab,kw,de or pathomimia.ti,ab,kw,de
emergency health service*/exp OR emergency ward*/exp OR forensic medicine*/exp OR (Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient*).ti,ab,kw,de OR
emergicenter*.ti,ab,kw,de OR ((trauma NEAR/1 (patient* OR center* OR centre* OR department* OR unit* OR room*)).ti,ab) OR (((emergency OR emergencies) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR clinician* OR personnel OR patient* OR accidents)).ti,ab,kw,de) OR (((ems OR ed OR er) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR patient* OR personnel)).ti,ab,kw,de) OR (((a* OR 'a') NEAR/2 (department* OR admission* OR admitted)).ti,ab)
1 and 2
#3 NOT ('child'/exp NOT ('child'/exp AND 'adult'/exp))
#4 NOT ('case report'/exp OR 'validation study'/exp)
#5 AND [english]/lim

Web of Science

- 3 limit 5 to english language

Science Citation Index Expanded

- 4 (TS=(Malinge* or conscious-simulation or pathomimia)) OR (TS=(feign* near/4 (psychopatholog* or symptom*)))
(TS=(Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient* OR emergicenter*)) OR
(TS=((trauma NEAR/1 (patient* OR center* OR centre* OR department* OR unit* OR room*)))) OR (TS=(((emergency OR emergencies) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR medicine OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR clinician* OR personnel OR patient* OR accidents))))
OR (TS=((ems OR ed OR er) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR patient* OR personnel)))
1 and 2
#3 NOT ("child" NOT ("child" AND "adult"))
#4 NOT TS=("case report" OR "validation study")
#5 AND [english]/lim

APA PsycInfo

- 5 DE "Malingering" OR (AB=(Malinge* or conscious-simulation or pathomimia)) OR (TI=(Malinge* or conscious-simulation or pathomimia))
(DE="Emergency Medicine" OR DE="Emergency Services" OR DE="Hospital Admission" OR DE="Hospital Discharge" OR DE="Hospitals" OR DE="Hospitalization" OR DE="Hospitalized Patients") OR SU hospital* OR SU clinic* OR SU inpatient OR SU veteran OR (AB=(Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient* OR emergicenter*)) OR (AB=((trauma NEAR/1 (patient* OR center* OR centre* OR department* OR unit* OR room*)))) OR (AB=(((emergency OR emergencies) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR medicine OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR clinician* OR personnel OR patient* OR accidents)))) OR (AB=((ems OR ed OR er) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR patient* OR personnel))) OR (AB= (Clinic* or veteran* or hospital* or outpatient* or inpatient* OR emergicenter*)) OR (AB=((trauma NEAR/1 (patient* OR center* OR centre* OR department* OR unit* OR room*)))) OR (TI=(((emergency OR emergencies) NEAR/3 (care OR service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR clinician* OR personnel OR patient* OR accidents)))) OR (TI=((ems OR ed OR er) NEAR/3 (care OR



service* OR dispatch* OR department* OR unit* OR ward* OR room* OR center* OR
centre* OR system* OR stay* OR admit* OR admission* OR evaluation* OR assess* OR
visit* OR nurs* OR physician* OR patient* OR personnel)))
1 AND 2
SU test-validity

Proquest Dissertations and Theses Global

6 noft(malinger*) AND noft(hospital* OR emergency OR discharge* OR drug-seeking)
3 NOT 4
5 AND Narrow by Language: - english