Human-AI Collaboration in Radiology: The Case of Pulmonary Embolism*

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Abstract

We study how radiologists use AI to diagnose pulmonary embolism (PE), the third leading cause of cardiovascular death in the U.S. We track over 100,000 scans interpreted by nearly 400 radiologists during the staggered rollout of an FDA-approved diagnostic platform in a large hospital system. When AI flags PE, radiologists agree 84% of the time; when AI predicts no PE, they agree 97%. Disagreement evolves substantially: radiologists initially reject AI-positive PEs in 30% of cases, dropping to 12% by year two. Despite a 16% increase in scan volume, diagnostic speed remains stable while per-radiologist monthly volumes nearly double. We document substantial heterogeneity in AI collaboration: some radiologists reject AI-flagged PEs half the time while others accept nearly always; female radiologists are 6 percentage points less likely to override AI than male radiologists. Moderate AI engagement correlates with highest agreement, whereas both low and high engagement show more disagreement. Follow-up imaging reveals that when radiologists override AI to diagnose PE, 54% of subsequent scans show both agreeing on no PE within 30 days. Patient outcomes differ systematically by agreement category. When both AI and radiologist agree on PE presence, 30-day mortality increases 3.4 percentage points relative to concordant negatives. When only the radiologist diagnoses PE, mortality increases 5.5 percentage points. When only the AI detects PE but the radiologist does not, mortality increases 4.0 percentage points. Radiologist overrides to diagnose PE correlate with higher rates of right heart failure and respiratory failure than AI positives rejected by radiologists. These patterns may reflect radiologists identifying clinically significant cases that AI misses, radiologist diagnoses triggering more aggressive treatment, or diagnostic errors where radiologists see PE in sicker patients who lack it. The modest mortality differences across disagreement categories suggest patient severity matters more than who detects the PE.

JEL classification: C21, C88, D81, I10, J24, O33
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1 Introduction

Recent years have seen widespread adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in professional decision-making. Human resource managers now routinely consult AI systems for candidate screening (Dattner, Chamorro-Premuzic, Buchband and Schettler 2019), financial analysts use them to evaluate investment opportunities (Roy, Ghose, Singh et al. 2025), and judges employ them to assess recidivism risk in bail decisions (Angelova, Dobbie and Yang 2025). While studies have documented the remarkable accuracy and technical capabilities of these AI systems, the real-world dynamics of human-AI interaction and the resulting impact on professional decisions are not well understood. As AI collaboration becomes increasingly prevalent in professional work, more research is warranted on its influence on human decision-making.

In this paper, we attempt to make progress in this area by examining how radiologists collaborate with AI when diagnosing pulmonary embolism (PE). A PE is a blood clot that blocks arteries in the lungs (Tapson 2005). It is the third leading cause of cardiovascular death in the U.S., after heart attack and stroke (Duffett, Castellucci and Forgie 2020), killing an estimated 60-100,000 people in the U.S. per year (Freund, Cohen-Aubart and Bloom 2022). We study suspected PE as opposed to incidental PE, which is detected inadvertently on imaging ordered for other reasons. When PE is suspected, computed tomographic pulmonary angiography (CTPA) is the clinical standard of care (Schoepf, Goldhaber and Costello 2004; Weiss, Scatarige, Diette, Haponik, Merriman and Fishman 2006; Anderson, Kahn, Rodger, Kovacs, Morris, Hirsch, Lang, Stiell, Kovacs, Dreyer et al. 2007; Di Nisio, van Es and Büller 2016). Deep learning AI tools designed to analyze CTPA images have shown very high accuracy at detecting PEs (Soffer, Klang, Shimon, Barash, Cahan, Greenspana and Konen 2021; Weikert, Winkel, Bremerich, Stieltjes, Parmar, Sauter and Sommer 2020; Huhtanen, Nyman, Mohsen, Virkki, Karlsson and Hirvonen 2022), and they increasingly serve as decision aids to radiologists (Ebrahimian, Digumarthy, Homayounieh, Bizzo, Dreyer and Kalra 2022; Cheikh, Gorincour, Nivet, May, Seux, Calame, Thomson, Delabrousse and Crombé 2022; Rothenberg, Savage, Abou Elkassem, Singh, Abozeed, Hamki, Junck, Tridandapani, Li, Li et al. 2023).

We study the deployment of an FDA-approved AI assistance tool at a large academic health system. The system was rolled out in a staggered fashion across eight care sites between August 2019 and July 2022. We track 117,063 CTPA scans interpreted by 389 signing radiologists. We link these scans to AI predictions, radiologist diagnoses extracted from clinical reports, radiologist characteristics from national provider databases, and detailed engagement metrics showing how radiologists interacted with the AI system. This setting provides a unique opportunity to examine human-AI collaboration in

actual clinical practice rather than experimental settings.

We document six main findings. First, radiologists show asymmetric agreement with AI predictions. When the AI predicts no PE, radiologists agree in 97% of cases. When the AI flags PE, agreement drops to 84%. This 13 percentage point gap reveals that radiologists more readily accept AI-negative assessments than AI-positive findings.

Second, disagreement patterns evolve significantly after AI deployment. In the first year, radiologists reject AI-detected PEs in 30% of cases. This drops sharply to 12% by year two, then stabilizes. The reduction could reflect learning, as radiologists observe whether AI-flagged cases actually had PE, or automation bias, as radiologists gradually defer more to the system. Disagreement when AI predicts no PE remains consistently low at 2-3% throughout.

Third, despite a growing workload over this time period, diagnostic efficiency remains stable. The average time from order to diagnosis holds steady at 3.6 hours per scan even as total scan volume increased 16%. Per-radiologist monthly volumes nearly double from 5.3 to 10.4 scans. Meanwhile, 30-day, 90-day, and 1-year patient mortality rates are roughly unchanged after the AI rollout. The stable per-scan reading time alongside higher throughput suggests productivity gains operate through optimizing workflow—faster case triage, reduced cognitive load from AI serving as a concurrent second reader, or more efficient handling of negative cases—rather than degraded decision-making that compromises patient health. Reading time for PE-positive cases increases from 3.2 to 3.6 hours, consistent with longer review of AI-flagged findings rather than rushed diagnosis.

Fourth, large heterogeneity persists across radiologists even after five years of AI use. Some radiologists reject AI-flagged PEs in half of cases. Others accept them in nearly all cases. The cross-sectional distribution of disagreement rates shifts over time but substantial variation remains. Female radiologists are 6 percentage points less likely to override AI-detected PEs than male radiologists. Experience shows no clear relationship with agreement patterns. Engagement with the AI system reveals a non-monotonic pattern: radiologists with moderate engagement (hovering over 26% of AI alerts) show highest agreement at 91% when AI flags PE. Both low-engagement radiologists (8% hover rate) and high-engagement radiologists (45% hover rate) show similar lower agreement at 81%. This suggests two modes of disagreement: passive bypass at low engagement and active vetting at high engagement.

Fifth, follow-up imaging provides insight into disagreement resolution. Among 35,896 patients receiving initial CTPA scans with AI, 1,375 (3.8%) return for follow-up imaging within 30 days. When radiologists initially override the AI to diagnose PE, 54% of follow-up scans show both agreeing on no PE. When radiologists initially reject AI positive flags, none of the follow-up scans maintain that disagreement pattern. The findings demonstrate that radiologist overrides of AI negative predictions

are more persistent than their rejections of AI positive flags.

Sixth, patient outcomes differ by agreement category. When both AI and radiologist agree on no PE, 30-day mortality is 4.7%. When both agree on PE presence, mortality increases 3.4 percentage points to 8.1%. When only AI detects PE, mortality increases 4.0 percentage points to 8.7%. When only the radiologist detects PE, mortality increases 5.5 percentage points to 10.2%. Recurrent PE shows larger differences: when only the radiologist diagnoses PE, the rate is 48.5%, approaching the 55.3% rate when both agree on PE presence. When only AI detects PE, the rate is 14.1%. Cardiovascular complications also differ. Right heart failure increases 4.5 percentage points when only the radiologist diagnoses PE versus 0.9 percentage points when only AI detects PE. Respiratory failure increases 13.8 percentage points versus 5.3 percentage points. These patterns hold even when controlling for care site, scan timing, and year. These patterns may reflect radiologists identifying clinically significant cases that AI misses, radiologist diagnoses triggering more aggressive treatment, or diagnostic errors where radiologists see PE in sicker patients who lack it. The modest mortality differences across disagreement categories suggest patient severity matters more than who detects the PE.

These findings matter for three reasons. First, they reveal how professionals incorporate algorithmic recommendations in high-stakes decisions. The asymmetric agreement patterns, time evolution, and persistent heterogeneity document that human-AI collaboration involves active judgment rather than passive acceptance or rejection. Second, the findings provide evidence on the mechanisms through which AI affects professional work. The sharp initial reduction in disagreement followed by stabilization could reflect either beneficial learning or concerning automation bias. The non-monotonic relationship between engagement and agreement suggests that how professionals interact with AI systems shapes their collaboration patterns. The stable diagnostic speed alongside doubled per-radiologist volumes (without significantly higher patient mortality rates after the rollout) indicates AI may enhance productivity through workflow optimization instead of faster, jeopardized individual decisions. Furthermore, patient outcomes differ systematically by agreement category, with mortality and complications varying based on whether AI alone, radiologist alone, or both detect PE. Third, understanding these dynamics has implications for AI deployment in healthcare. The large heterogeneity across radiologists and the persistence of disagreement patterns even after years of use indicate that simply providing AI tools does not guarantee consistent utilization or collaboration patterns.

Overall, we find that radiologists and AI disagree in predictable but heterogeneous ways. Disagreement declines sharply after deployment but substantial variation persists across radiologists. Female radiologists show higher agreement with AI-detected PEs. Moderate engagement associates with highest concordance. Diagnostic efficiency remains stable despite increased workload. Follow-up imaging

reveals asymmetric evolutions in diagnoses. Our planned future work will exploit the staggered rollout and quasi-random assignment of patients to radiologists to estimate the causal effects of AI assistance on radiologist diagnostic skill, preferences for balancing false positives and false negatives, and patient health outcomes including mortality, complications, PE treatment, and healthcare utilization.

Related Literature. This paper connects to several research areas: AI in medical imaging, human-AI collaboration in professional work, and clinical decision support systems.

AI in Radiology and Medical Imaging. Deep learning has demonstrated high accuracy in detecting abnormalities across imaging modalities (Liu, Faes, Kale, Wagner, Fu, Bruynseels, Mahendiran, Moraes, Shamdas, Kern et al. 2019; Rajpurkar and Lungren 2023). For pulmonary embolism specifically, convolutional neural networks achieve a pooled sensitivity of 0.88 (the ability to correctly identify scans with PE) and a specificity of 0.86 (the ability to correctly identify scans without PE) on CTPA scans (Soffer et al. 2021). Studies document AI systems correctly identifying PE with balanced accuracy (Weikert et al. 2020; Grenier, Ayobi, Quenet, Tassy, Marx, Chow, Weinberg, Chang and Chaibi 2023). Despite technical success, evidence on real-world deployment effects remains limited. Schmuelling, Franzeck, Nickel, Mansella, Bingisser, Schmidt, Stieltjes, Bremerich, Sauter, Weikert and Sommer (2021) found no reduction in report communication times or patient turnaround nine months after AI implementation, highlighting the discrepancy between algorithmic performance and workflow benefits. We contribute by documenting how radiologists actually collaborate with AI systems in clinical practice over a five-year period, revealing patterns of agreement, disagreement, and evolution that algorithmic accuracy metrics alone cannot capture.

Human-AI Collaboration. Our work complements the experimental study by Agarwal, Moehring, Rajpurkar and Salz (2025), who conducted a lab-in-the-field experiment with 227 radiologists examining chest X-rays. While they find radiologists exhibit automation neglect and underweight AI signals in controlled settings, we examine human-AI collaboration in clinical deployment. Unlike their focus on probabilistic beliefs in experimental tasks, we investigate behavioral patterns in diagnoses affecting patient care. We document both the evolution of collaboration patterns over time and substantial heterogeneity across radiologists in how they incorporate AI recommendations.

Recent work emphasizes complementary skills between humans and AI (Patel, Rosenberg, Willcox, Baltaxe, Lyons, Irvin, Rajpurkar, Amrhein, Gupta, Halabi, Langlotz, Lo, Mammarappallil, Mariano, Riley, Seekins, Shen, Zucker and Lungren 2019; Shin, Han, Ryu and Kim 2023). Leibig, Brehmer, Bunk, Byng, Pinker and Umutlu (2022) show that combining radiologist and AI strengths in breast cancer screening improves diagnostic performance beyond either alone. Meta-analyses find AI assistance

reduces reading time by 27% while improving relative sensitivity by 12% (Chen, Wang, Wang, Shi, Wang, Ye, Xue and Qiao 2024). We extend this literature by examining actual collaboration patterns in deployed systems, documenting asymmetric agreement patterns and heterogeneity that experimental studies may not capture.

Economics of Professional AI Adoption. Economic research on AI in professional work examines whether AI substitutes for or complements human expertise (Brynjolfsson and Mitchell 2017; Acemoglu and Restrepo 2019). Harris and Yellen (2024) shows that predictive AI helps expert technicians avoid unnecessary repairs in trucking. Daugherty and Wilson (2024) argue AI enables new division of labor where machines handle data processing while humans provide judgment and context. Our findings on radiologist override patterns and the non-monotonic relationship between engagement and agreement provide micro-level evidence of this complementarity. The persistence of disagreement even after years of use suggests that professional judgment continues to play an important role alongside algorithmic recommendations.

Clinical Decision Support. Medical AI functions as decision support rather than autonomous diagnosis (World Health Organization 2021; Shortliffe and Cimino 2014). Studies document challenges in clinical integration including workflow disruption, an absence of trust, and interpretability concerns (Kelly, Karthikesalingam, Suleyman, Corrado and King 2019; Geis, Brady, Wu, Spencer, Ranschaert, Jaremko, Langer, Kitts, Birch, Shields et al. 2019). We contribute by measuring actual utilization patterns when radiologists have discretion to accept or override AI recommendations. Our findings help reveal how these integration challenges manifest in practice.

Contribution. We make four contributions. First, we provide detailed evidence on AI collaboration patterns in real clinical deployment rather than experimental settings. The large-scale data spanning five years of AI use, detailed engagement metrics, and follow-up imaging enable analysis of collaboration dynamics that controlled experiments cannot capture. Second, we document substantial heterogeneity in how radiologists incorporate AI recommendations. This heterogeneity persists even after years of use and relates to both observable characteristics like gender and behavioral patterns like system engagement. Third, we show that collaboration patterns evolve over time in ways consistent with either learning or automation bias. The sharp reduction in disagreement followed by stabilization provides evidence that professionals adapt their behavior as they gain experience with AI systems. Fourth, we show that disagreement patterns vary by direction. Radiologists accept AI-negative results more readily than AI-positive ones. Furthermore, their decisions to override a negative AI detection (and diagnose a PE) are more likely to persist in follow-up imaging than their decisions to reject an AI positive finding. These asymmetries suggest that human-AI collaboration involves more than simple acceptance or

rejection of algorithmic recommendations.

2 Setting and Data

2.1 Pulmonary Embolism

A pulmonary embolism (PE) is a blood clot that blocks arteries in the lungs. PE is the third leading cause of cardiovascular death in the United States, after heart attack and stroke (Duffett et al. 2020). The condition kills an estimated 60,000 to 100,000 Americans annually (Freund et al. 2022). PE commonly forms when blood clots travel from veins in the legs or pelvis to the lungs through the bloodstream. Once lodged in the pulmonary arteries, these clots obstruct blood flow and can lead to death via circulatory collapse due to right heart strain. Without treatment, PE mortality exceeds 30% (Tapson 2005). With appropriate treatment, mortality drops below 10% (Heit 2015).

Figure 1 illustrates how blood clots form in leg veins, travel through the circulatory system, and obstruct the pulmonary arteries. The inset shows the embolus blocking blood flow and causing tissue damage. Clinical presentation varies from no symptoms to sudden death. Common symptoms include shortness of breath, chest pain, rapid heart rate, and coughing blood (Torbicki, Perrier, Konstantinides, Agnelli, Galie', Pruszczyk, Bengel, Brady, Ferreira, Janssen, Klepetko, Mayer, Remy-Jardin and Bassand 2008). Risk factors include surgery, prolonged immobility, cancer, pregnancy, and inherited clotting disorders (Anderson and Spencer 2003).

When clinicians suspect PE based on presenting symptoms, risk factors, and their clinical assessment, they order computed tomographic pulmonary angiography (CTPA). CTPA is the diagnostic standard for suspected PE (Schoepf et al. 2004; Weiss et al. 2006; Anderson et al. 2007). The scan injects contrast dye that makes blood vessels appear bright white on images. For a single CTPA, radiologists examine hundreds of cross-sectional images looking for filling defects—dark areas inside bright vessels where clots block blood flow.

PE can also be detected incidentally on imaging ordered for other reasons, such as cancer staging, cardiac evaluation, or aortic imaging. Incidental PE accounts for approximately 1-3% of all chest CT scans and represents 15-30% of all PE diagnoses (Dentali, Ageno, Becattini, Galli, Gianni, Riva, Imberti, Squizzato, Venco and Agnelli 2010; Kearon 2003; Gladish, Choe, Marom, Sabloff, Broemeling and Munden 2006). Our analysis focuses exclusively on suspected PE cases where CTPA was ordered with PE as the primary diagnostic target. This restriction reflects data feasibility. Identifying all incidental PE would require examining every chest CT scan regardless of indication—a substantially larger and more heterogeneous sample. The distinction between suspected and incidental PE is clinically important:

patients with suspected PE typically present with acute symptoms and receive anticoagulation (blood thinning) treatment, whereas incidental PE patients are often asymptomatic and treatment decisions are more complex (O'Connell 2015). All our results should be interpreted as pertaining to AI-assisted diagnosis of suspected PE and may not generalize to incidental PE detection.

Figure 2 shows two anonymized CTPA images from patients with PE. Panel A shows the upper chest where the main pulmonary artery splits. The grey area inside the right pulmonary artery (left side of image) is a blood clot blocking flow. The vessel should appear uniformly white from the contrast dye. Panel B shows the heart chambers. The right ventricle measures 56.4 mm compared to 41.0 mm for the left ventricle. Normally the left ventricle is larger. The enlarged right ventricle indicates the heart is working harder to pump blood through the blocked vessels. Together, Panel A reveals a clot's location while Panel B reveals the resulting heart strain.

2.2 AI-Assisted Diagnosis

Deep learning models achieve high accuracy in detecting PE on CTPA scans. Meta-analyses report pooled sensitivity of 0.88 (the ability to correctly identify scans with PE) and specificity of 0.86 (the ability to correctly identify scans without PE) (Soffer et al. 2021). Several AI platforms have received FDA clearance for clinical use as decision support tools (Cheikh et al. 2022). These systems analyze CTPA images and flag suspected PE cases for radiologist review.

We study the deployment of an FDA-cleared AI platform at a large academic health system. The platform uses a convolutional neural network trained on over 15,000 CTPA scans with expert annotations. The algorithm processes each CTPA scan as it enters the radiology queue and generates a binary prediction: PE detected or no PE detected.

Radiologists work through a queue of scans that require interpretation. When the AI detects PE, it moves the scan to the top of this queue and displays a bright orange alert within the reading software. The interface shows a preview of the key image slice where the AI detected the finding, overlaid with a heat map highlighting the suspicious region. Radiologists can access the complete scan directly from the alert. When the AI does not detect PE, scans remain in their original queue position with a grey indicator and no prioritization. Throughout the sample period, the platform underwent interface improvements including deeper integration with the queue and image viewing systems, though the core functionality remained consistent.

2.3 Data Sources

We obtained data from three sources: the hospital system's electronic health records, the AI platform vendor, and national provider registries. The electronic health records provide comprehensive clinical data on all CTPA scans, patient characteristics, radiologist identities, and health outcomes. The AI vendor data contain predictions, engagement metrics, and workflow timestamps for all scans processed after system deployment. The national registries provide radiologist demographics information. Together, these sources enable us to link individual patients to their scans, radiologists, AI predictions, and subsequent health outcomes.

Electronic Health Records First, we extracted CTPA scan records, radiology reports, and patient outcomes from the health system's Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership (OMOP) Common Data Model. OMOP is a standardized healthcare data model that integrates electronic health records across institutions (Overhage, Ryan, Reich, Hartzema and Stang 2012). The OMOP database contains all CTPA scans performed at the health system from May 2012 to August 2024. For each scan, we observe the patient identifier, scan date and time, ordering provider, and care site location. We track the full clinical chain of custody, including preliminary interpreting radiologists (residents or fellows) and signing (attending) radiologists who perform final review and validation. We extracted radiology reports containing radiologist names from OMOP note tables using natural language processing to identify PE diagnoses.

We extracted patient outcomes from OMOP clinical data, including 16.7 million clinical events spanning 58 outcome types: mortality, emergency visits, hospital readmissions, anticoagulation (blood thinning medication) orders, bleeding events, and cardiovascular complications. For each outcome, we determined the time window from scan to event and constructed binary indicators for outcome occurrence. We also extracted patient control variables to test quasi-random assignment of patients to radiologists. We collected 60 control variables including demographics (age, sex, race, marital status, religion), vital signs (blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate, temperature, oxygen saturation), clinical presentation (chest pain, shortness of breath, hemoptysis, fever, syncope, tachycardia), laboratory values (D-dimer level, white blood cell count, arterial blood gas analysis), risk factors (current smoking, immobilization, recent surgery, pregnancy, prior PE or DVT, malignancy), healthcare utilization (prior year Emergency Department visits, inpatient admissions, outpatient visits), ordering provider characteristics (total orders placed), and radiological context (number of readers). We extracted 37 comorbidity categories using established clinical classification systems including heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, hypertension, malignancy, liver disease, renal failure, coagulopathy, obesity,

and substance use disorders. The comorbidity mapping uses ICD-10 diagnosis codes to create binary indicators for each condition.

We identify CTPA scans using Epic procedure codes from the hospital's order entry system. Epic is the electronic health record platform used by the hospital system. We include scans ordered with three CTPA codes that indicate suspected PE: IMG1266 (CT CHEST PULMONARY EMBOLISM W IV CONTRAST), IMG3551 (CTA CHEST (PE) ABDOMEN PELVIS W IV CONTRAST), and IMG3904 (CTA CHEST (PE) W IV CONTRAST). These codes identify scans where PE is the primary pathology targeted based on clinical suspicion. We exclude scans ordered for other chest imaging indications where PE detection would be incidental, such as general chest CT, cardiac imaging, or aortic evaluation.

AI Platform Developer Second, we obtained AI predictions and radiologist engagement metrics from the AI system developer. The vendor provided predictions for all scans processed after system deployment at each site. For each scan, we observe whether or not the AI flagged PE. We track radiologist interaction with the AI system through engagement metrics, including whether the radiologist accessed the AI alert, the type of interaction, engagement duration in minutes, and timestamps of initial engagement. We captured workflow timestamps including when the scan was opened, when the report draft was initiated, and when the final report was signed. The engagement data also contain radiologist names as recorded by the AI system.

National Provider Registries Third, we obtained radiologist characteristics from national provider databases. We matched radiologist names from the OMOP provider tables to the National Provider Identifier (NPI) registry using name matching via a large language model (LLM). The NPI registry is maintained by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and provides unique identifiers for all healthcare providers in the United States. We used the November 2025 NPPES Data Dissemination files (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services 2025). The matching algorithm accounted for name variations including maiden names, nicknames, middle name differences, and common data entry errors. We then linked NPI numbers to CMS physician databases containing medical school graduation year, gender, and practice characteristics.

Linking Radiologists Across Data Sources We linked radiologists across the four data sources—OMOP provider records, radiology report signatures, AI engagement data, and NPPES/CMS databases—to create a unified radiologist identification system. We used a multi-stage matching process combining exact matching on provider IDs and NPIs, fuzzy string matching with 85% similarity thresholds, and AI-assisted disambiguation using an LLM for complex cases. The matching process identified 889 unique

name-identifier combinations representing 843 distinct radiologists. We assigned each radiologist a master identifier to handle cases where the same individual appeared under multiple names. The final linked dataset enables tracking individual radiologists across all data sources.

2.4 Descriptive Statistics

Care Sites and Diagnosis Rates Table 1 presents summary statistics for the eight care sites in the sample, which are anonymized and sorted by scan volume. The sample includes 117,063 CTPA scans from 84,640 patients. The three largest sites (Sites 1–3) account for 75% of total scan volume and implemented the AI in August–September 2019. The remaining five sites implemented the system between July 2020 and July 2022. Site volumes range from 200 to 47,175 scans. A total of 388 signing radiologists interpreted scans across all sites that eventually adopted the AI system. The hospital system-wide PE positive diagnosis rate is 10.2%, with site-level rates ranging from 6.9% to 11.3%. Two sites with one scan each were excluded from the analysis, and neither implemented the AI.

Figs. 3 and 4 display monthly scan volume and PE positive diagnosis rates over the full sample period 2012–2024. The orange shaded region indicates the AI rollout period (August 2019–July 2022). Overall, there is a steady increase in the monthly volume over the sample. Monthly scan volume increases from 300 to 900 scans during 2013–2020, with a noticeable decline during early 2020 (COVID-19), then rises to 1,200–1,600 scans during late 2020–2022. PE positivity rates range from 7% to 14% with no discernible change before, during, or after the AI rollout period. The stable positivity rate during and after AI deployment suggests the system did not substantially increase detection of new PE cases or change radiologist diagnoses of existing cases, or that these effects offset each other.

Patient Characteristics Table 2 presents summary statistics for 84,640 patients in the sample who received CTPA scans. The sample is evenly split between the pre-AI period (42,612 patients) and AI period (42,028 patients). The patient population is predominantly female (60%), White (69%), and averages 60 years old. Most patients (78%) receive a single scan. Radiologists diagnose PE in 12% of patients. Mortality rates are 5% at 30 days, 7% at 90 days, and 12% at one year. Patient demographics remain stable across periods, with differences under 3 percentage points for all groups. The most substantial change is in scan utilization: patients in the AI period are 10 percentage points less likely to receive multiple scans. This reduction suggests that AI may have reduced diagnostic uncertainty, though the overall PE diagnosis rate shows no meaningful change.

Scan Characteristics Table 3 presents summary statistics for 117,065 CTPA scans across the pre-AI period (54,150 scans) and AI period (62,915 scans). Emergency department scans increase from 56% to 75%, an 18 percentage point rise. Repeat imaging within 7 days increases from 1.0% to 1.5%, and repeat imaging within 30 days increases from 3.6% to 5.3%. Radiologists diagnose PE in 10.11% of scans in the pre-AI period with virtually no change after the staggered AI rollout (10.25%, an imprecisely estimated difference). AI flags PE in 10.66% of scans during the AI period. Radiologists and AI agree in 96.7% of cases: 8.9% both positive and 87.8% both negative. AI detects PE without radiologist confirmation in 1.7% of cases, while radiologists diagnose PE despite negative AI predictions in 1.6% of cases. Workflow patterns remain stable, with day shift: 7am-3pm (15–16%), evening shift: 3pm-11pm (51–52%), and night shift 11pm-7am (33–34%) proportions of scans staying essentially unchanged across periods.

Radiologist Characteristics Table 4 presents summary statistics for 389 signing radiologists over the sample period, comparing the pre-AI (309 radiologists) and AI periods (187 radiologists). Panel A shows mean scans per radiologist per month increase from 5.3 to 10.4, while the median increases from 3.2 to 5.4. This near-doubling of monthly reading volume may reflect productivity gains from AI implementation, compositional changes in the radiologist workforce, or secular trends in scan volumes and staffing patterns. Radiologist workload shows large heterogeneity—the 95th percentile radiologist reads 30.3 scans per month compared to 1.0 at the 5th percentile. Panel B shows gender composition remains stable at 32.6% female in the pre-AI period and 30.4% in the AI period. Mean years since medical school (i.e., years of experience) increases from 13.3 to 15.8, while mean years active in sample remains similar at 1.7 years in both periods despite the pre-AI period spanning 7.4 years versus 2.2 to 5.2 years for the AI period based on the staggered rollout. Panel C shows the mean PE diagnosis rate at the radiologist level increases from 10.45% to 12.05%, with the median increasing from 8.74% to 10.13% and the interquartile range narrowing from [0.00%, 12.24%] to [7.14%, 12.97%].

Scan Efficiency As shown in Table 5, diagnostic speed remains stable across periods: mean time from order to diagnosis increases from 3.57 to 3.72 hours (+0.15 hours, se=0.07), even as total scan volume increases 16% from 54,150 to 62,915 scans (Table 1). The stable per-scan reading time alongside higher per-radiologist monthly volumes suggests potential productivity gains operate through optimizing the workflow—such as faster case triage, reduced cognitive load from AI serving as a concurrent second reader, or more efficient handling of negative cases—rather than compressed decision-making time. Reading time for PE-positive cases increases from 3.23 to 3.61 hours (+0.39 hours), consistent with a longer review of AI-flagged findings rather than a rushed diagnosis.

Radiologist-AI (Dis)agreement Panel D of Table 4 reveals distinct differences in radiologist-AI (dis)agreement patterns: radiologists show high consensus when the AI diagnosis is negative (P(Rad − |AI−) = 97.2%), while agreement is lower when the AI flags a positive case (P(Rad + |AI+) = 84.1%). This asymmetry suggests radiologists more readily confirm AI-negative predictions than AI-positive predictions, consistent with varying thresholds for accepting AI-flagged findings. The disagreement patterns show that radiologists diagnose PE in 2.8% of cases where AI predicts no PE, while declining to diagnose PE in 15.9% of cases where AI predicts PE presence. Figure 5 visualizes this asymmetry in agreement patterns across radiologists, showing a tight, high-density peak near 1.0 for negative AI predictions and a wider, lower-centered distribution for positive AI predictions. This heterogeneity in AI-positive cases reflects varying radiologist thresholds for confirming AI-flagged findings compared to near-universal agreement on scans where AI detects no PE.

Radiologist Engagement with AI Table 6 presents radiologist-level engagement patterns with the AI system. The sample includes 148 radiologists who received AI notifications and signed the corresponding reports. Panel A shows radiologists receive a median of 239 AI notifications (IQR: 31 to 946), with mean of 702 (SD = 1,106), reflecting substantial heterogeneity in notification volume. They hover over AI predictions (the key image in the scan that triggered a positive flag) in 32% of notifications (median), with engagement rates ranging from 21% to 45% at the interquartile range. Hover duration is uniformly one minute across the sample. Panel B reveals AI alerts arrive after radiologists have already opened cases in 99.7% of instances (median), indicating AI functions as a concurrent check rather than advance triage. When AI does alert first, the median triage lead is 8.8 minutes. Radiologists respond to AI alerts within a median of 4.0 minutes. Panel C shows median time from opening to draft is zero minutes, indicating radiologists often begin dictation immediately upon viewing scans. Draft-to-finalization takes a median of 14.7 minutes (IQR: 7.9 to 22.2), accounting for most workflow duration. Total time-to-finalization shows a median of 9.1 minutes but extreme variance (mean = 53.9, SD = 224.2). Panel D reveals engagement effects on AI-positive cases: radiologists who hover finalize reports in 30.1 minutes on average compared to 52.1 minutes without hover, a mean time savings of 25.7 minutes (SD = 96.4), though the median savings is only 1.4 minutes with wide variation (IQR: -3.1 to 7.9 minutes).

3 Main Results

This section presents the paper's two main findings. First, we examine how radiologists collaborate with AI when diagnosing PE. We document how disagreement rates evolve over time following the system's deployment, how much heterogeneity exists across radiologists, what characteristics and behaviors associate with different collaboration patterns, and how disagreements resolve when patients return for follow-up imaging. Second, we examine patient health outcomes by radiologist-AI agreement category. We estimate how mortality, cardiovascular complications, and infections differ when radiologists and AI agree versus disagree about PE presence.

3.1 Radiologist Diagnoses with AI

This section examines how radiologists collaborate with AI when diagnosing pulmonary embolism. We focus on four key questions. First, how do disagreement patterns between radiologists and AI evolve over time following system deployment? Second, how much heterogeneity exists across radiologists in their willingness to accept or reject AI recommendations? Third, what radiologist characteristics and behaviors associate with different collaboration patterns? Fourth, how do disagreements resolve when patients return for follow-up imaging?

In brief, we document that disagreement rates decline sharply in the first two years after AI deployment, then stabilize. Large heterogeneity persists across radiologists even after five years of use. Female radiologists show higher agreement with AI-detected PEs than male radiologists. Engagement with the AI system exhibits a non-monotonic relationship with agreement: moderate engagement is correlated with the highest agreement with the AI while both low and high engagement show more frequent disagreement. Follow-up imaging reveals asymmetric resolution patterns depending on the direction of initial disagreement.

Disagreement Over Time Our initial analysis reveals interesting patterns in how disagreement evolves between the AI's predictions and radiologists' diagnoses following the system's implementation. Figs. 6 and 7 show the rate of disagreement over the five years since the system's initial rollout in 2019. The plotted rate of disagreement is conditional on the AI diagnosis, with the left panel showing cases where AI predicts no PE but radiologists diagnose PE, and the right panel showing the reverse—cases where AI detects PE but radiologists do not.

The results reveal two distinct patterns that emerge consistently across both the full sample (Fig. 6) and the Emergency Department (ED) subset (Fig. 7). Scans from the ED are more likely to be acute

cases and there may potentially be stronger evidence of quasi-random assignment of patients to reading radiologists, which is why we subset on it. First, the rate of disagremeent when the AI detects PE but radiologists do not (right panel), starts high at nearly 30% but drops dramatically by approximately 18 percentage points to around 13% by year two—a 60% reduction—then roughly stabilizes. Second, when the AI does not detect PE but radiologists do (left panel), disagreement remains consistently low at 2-3% throughout the period, with minimal variation over time.

The substantial reduction in radiologist disagreement with AI-positive cases could reflect several mechanisms. One possibility is *automation bias*—the tendency for radiologists to gradually over-rely on AI recommendations and reduce their independent critical evaluation over time (Parasuraman and Riley 1997). Alternatively, the convergence could represent beneficial learning, as radiologists observe patient outcomes for AI-positive cases and rationally calibrate their trust in the system's demonstrated accuracy. Institutional incentives that encourage alignment with AI recommendations to reduce missed diagnoses and potential liability may further contribute to this convergence, regardless of whether it represents appropriate trust or excessive reliance.

To understand whether these aggregate patterns mask important heterogeneity, we display in Fig. 8 how disagreement rates vary across different types of radiologists, focusing on radiologist-AI disagreement. The left panel shows disagreement rates when AI predicts PE, while the right panel shows disagreement rates when AI does not predict PE. The plots show how the cross-sectional distribution of disagreement evolves year by year, with radiologists able to move to different parts of the distribution over time. The different lines represent percentiles of the disagreement distribution in each year after rollout over all care sites.

The patterns reveal how the overall distribution of radiologist behavior shifts following AI implementation. In the left panel, the most "disagreeable" radiologists in any given year (95th percentile, dotted line) show sharp changes: starting with disagreement rates around 65% in year zero, dropping to 30% by year two, then rising back to about 50% by year five. The 75th and 90th percentiles show similar U-shaped patterns with declines followed by partial rebounds. The median radiologist (50th percentile, dashed line) shows a steady decline from around 20% to 0%, while the most agreeable radiologists (25th percentile) maintain stable disagreement rates of 0% throughout (not displayed).

The right panel shows that even when AI does not predict PE, the distribution of disagreement still evolves over time. The disagreement rates among the radiologists who disagree the least with the AI (25th percentile) remain flat at 0% (not displayed), while the 50th and 75th percentiles show steady and sharp declines. Only the highest quantiles (90th and 95th percentiles) exhibit U-shaped patterns, with initial declines followed by partial rebounds, perhaps indicating a rebalancing toward greater

willingness to disagree and diagnose PE even when AI suggests otherwise.

These distributional changes suggest that the overall population of radiologists experienced systematic behavioral shifts following AI implementation, with the greatest changes occurring among those most inclined to disagree with AI recommendations in any given period. The U-shaped pattern in the upper quantiles may indicate an initial period of excessive deference to AI followed by a shift toward more independent clinical judgment.

Disagreement by Scan Timing Table 7 presents radiologist-AI agreement patterns stratified by scan timing for 53,880 CTPA scans in the AI period. Panel A compares shifts defined by time of day: Day (7am-3pm), Evening (3pm-11pm), and Night (11pm-7am). Panel B compares weekday versus weekend scans. Statistics are at the scan level.

Conditional disagreement rates show modest variation across shifts. When AI predicts PE, radiologists disagree (diagnose no PE) in 18.5% of cases during day shifts, 16.3% during evening shifts, and 15.4% during night shifts. Day shifts show a 3.1 percentage point higher disagreement rate than night shifts, though a joint F-test does not detect statistically significant differences across shifts ($F = 2.10$, $p = 0.123$). When AI predicts no PE, radiologists disagree (diagnose PE) in 1.8% of cases during both day and evening shifts and 1.7% during night shifts, with no significant variation ($F = 0.66$, $p = 0.519$). Weekend versus weekday comparisons yield similar results. Radiologists disagree with positive AI predictions 17.0% of weekends versus 16.1% of weekdays ($t = 0.75$, $p = 0.455$), and disagree with negative AI predictions 1.8% of weekends versus 1.7% of weekdays ($t = 0.74$, $p = 0.459$).

Overall disagreement rates combine both types of disagreement weighted by AI prediction prevalence. These rates remain stable at 3.54% for day shift, 3.39% for evening shift, and 3.09% for night shift, with no statistically significant differences ($F = 2.28$, $p = 0.102$). Weekend scans show a disagreement rate of 3.44% compared to 3.27% for weekday scans ($t = 0.90$, $p = 0.369$). The modest numerical variation in overall disagreement rates reflects both the conditional disagreement probabilities and differences in AI prediction patterns across shifts, neither of which varies significantly.

Night shifts process the highest proportion of Emergency Department scans (83.2%), followed by weekend scans (78.3%). Day shifts have the lowest ER proportion (76.5%). ER and non-ER scans show significant differences in overall agreement patterns: overall disagreement rates are 3.04% for ER scans versus 4.10% for non-ER scans ($t = -5.62$, $p < 0.001$). However, this difference primarily reflects compositional effects rather than systematic differences in radiologist behavior. When AI predicts PE, radiologists disagree in 15.93% of ER cases versus 17.18% of non-ER cases ($t = -1.16$, $p = 0.245$). When AI predicts no PE, radiologists agree in 98.39% of ER cases versus 97.80% of non-ER cases ($t = 3.97$,

$p < 0.001$). Despite these modest differences in case mix and conditional rates, disagreement patterns remain broadly consistent across timing categories.

Disagreement by Radiologist Demographics Table 8 presents radiologist-AI agreement patterns by demographic characteristics for 169 radiologists in the AI period. Statistics are calculated at the radiologist level: each radiologist's conditional agreement rates are computed from their individual scans, then averaged across radiologists within demographic groups, treating each radiologist equally regardless of scan volume. Panel A compares male and female radiologists. Panel B stratifies by experience quartiles measured as years since medical school graduation. Panel C examines scan volume quartiles.

Female radiologists show higher agreement when AI predicts PE: they diagnose PE in 88.4% of AI-positive cases compared to 82.0% for male radiologists ($t = -2.11$, $p = 0.037$). Put another way, female radiologists are less likely to override positive AI predictions (11.6% of cases) compared to 18.0% for male radiologists. When AI predicts no PE, agreement rates are 96.0% for female radiologists versus 97.8% for male radiologists ($t = 0.81$, $p = 0.420$). Hence, the gender difference is concentrated in responses to positive AI flags.

Experience shows no precisely estimated differences across quartiles or in linear trends. When AI predicts PE, agreement rates range from 80.6% for the most experienced quartile (21+ years) to 87.2% for the second quartile (6-10 years), with no significant differences across groups ($F = 0.79$, $p = 0.502$) and no significant linear trend ($\beta = -0.18$ percentage points per year, $p = 0.242$). When AI predicts no PE, agreement rates range from 95.6% for the least experienced quartile to 98.6% for the third quartile, with no significant differences across groups ($F = 0.75$, $p = 0.526$) and no significant linear trend ($\beta = 0.09$ percentage points per year, $p = 0.244$). More experienced radiologists diagnose PE less frequently when AI predicts no PE: rates decline from 4.4% in the least experienced quartile to 1.4% in the third quartile, though the linear trend is not significant ($\beta = -0.09$ percentage points per year, $p = 0.244$).

Scan volume quartiles also show no precisely estimated differences in conditional agreement rates. When AI predicts PE, agreement ranges from 83.4% to 85.3% across volume quartiles with no significant differences ($F = 0.09$, $p = 0.966$). When AI predicts no PE, agreement ranges from 94.7% for low-volume radiologists to 98.5% for the third quartile, with no significant differences across groups ($F = 1.59$, $p = 0.194$). Low-volume radiologists diagnose PE in 5.3% of AI-negative cases compared to 1.6% for high-volume radiologists, but a linear relation is not precisely estimated ($\beta = -0.001$ percentage points per scan, $p = 0.177$). Volume quartiles show greater dispersion in scan counts (ranging from median 7 scans in Q1 to median 982 scans in Q4) than experience quartiles, but conditional agreement patterns

remain similar across both dimensions.

Disagreement by AI System Engagement Table 9 presents radiologist-AI (dis)agreement patterns by quartile of average engagement rate across 153 radiologists in the AI period. Engagement rate is calculated as the proportion of positive PE notifications that the radiologist hovered over before signing the report, averaged across all scans for each radiologist. Statistics are calculated at the radiologist level: each radiologist's conditional agreement rates are computed from their individual scans, then averaged across radiologists within engagement quartiles, treating each radiologist equally irrespective of scan volume.

In Figure 9, we plot the disagreement rates across quartiles of engagement for AI positive scans. When the AI predicts PE, agreement rates vary significantly across engagement quartiles ($F = 3.10$, $p = 0.029$). Quartile 3 radiologists (26.3% average engagement) show the highest agreement at 90.9%, while Quartile 1 (8.3% engagement) and Quartile 4 (44.5% engagement) both show 80.8–80.9% agreement. Quartile 2 radiologists (17.8% engagement) show intermediate agreement at 87.7%. The non-monotonic pattern yields no linear trend: the regression coefficient is effectively zero ($\beta = -0.03$ percentage points per percentage point increase in engagement, $p = 0.840$). Equivalently, disagreement rates when AI predicts PE range from 9.1% in Quartile 3 to 19.1–19.2% in Quartiles 1 and 4.

When AI predicts no PE, agreement rates show no differences across engagement quartiles, ranging from 96.0% to 98.6% ($F = 0.53$, $p = 0.661$). No linear trend is detected ($\beta = -0.02$ percentage points per percentage point increase in engagement, $p = 0.603$). Radiologists diagnose PE when AI predicts no PE in 1.4% to 4.0% of cases across quartiles, with no differences across groups ($F = 0.53$, $p = 0.661$) and no linear trend ($\beta = 0.02$, $p = 0.603$).

In sum, the moderate engagement group (Quartile 3) shows higher agreement with positive AI predictions than both low and high engagement groups. Low engagement radiologists (Quartile 1) and high engagement radiologists (Quartile 4) exhibit similar agreement rates when AI predicts PE, despite a fivefold difference in engagement rates (8.3% versus 44.5%). Agreement when AI predicts no PE remains high and stable across all engagement levels.

These findings suggest a nuanced relationship between AI engagement and diagnostic alignment between the radiologist and the AI. Two modes of disagreement may exist. Low engagement in the first quartile may represent a "passive bypass." These radiologists likely rely on their own judgment and skip alerts. High disagreement in the fourth quartile suggests an "active vetting" behavior. By looking at AI evidence more often, these radiologists may find reasons to reject AI errors or artifacts. Radiologists with moderate engagement (Quartile 3) show the highest agreement with the system. This level of interaction

may represent a "sweet spot" where radiologists use the tool for confirmation without over-scrutinizing every flag. High engagement, by contrast, may lead to a more skeptical view of the system.

Diagnostic Transitions between Sequential Scans When radiologists and AI disagree, what happens next? Do disagreements persist or resolve? When both agree, does subsequent imaging confirm the assessment?

To study these questions, we examine 35,896 patients who receive an initial CTPA scan with AI assistance. Of these, 34,521 patients (96.2%) do not receive a second scan within 30 days. The remaining 1,375 patients (3.8%) receive follow-up imaging. We use a 30-day window to capture short-term diagnostic evolution while excluding routine surveillance scans that typically occur at longer intervals. Figure 10 displays transition probabilities from diagnostic states at the first scan (rows) to states at the second scan (columns). Each cell shows the percentage of patients moving between categories. The four diagnostic states are: *Rad Only (+)* where only the radiologist diagnosed PE, *Agree (+)* where both the AI and radiologist detected PE, *AI Only (+)* where only AI flagged PE, and *Agree (-)* where both found no PE.

We test whether transition patterns differ from chance. Let O_{ij} denote observed transitions from state i to state j. Let E_{ij} denote expected transitions under independence. The standardized residual is:

$$t_{ij} = \frac{O_{ij} - E_{ij}}{\sqrt{E_{ij}(1 - r_i)(1 - c_j)}} \tag{1}$$

where r_i is the proportion in starting state i and c_j is the proportion in ending state j. Values exceeding $|t_{ij}| > 1.96$ indicate transitions that occur more or less often than expected. For comparing two proportions p_1 and p_2, the test statistic is:

$$t = \frac{p_1 - p_2}{\sqrt{\hat{p}(1 - \hat{p})(1/N_1 + 1/N_2)}} \tag{2}$$

where $\hat{p}$ is the pooled proportion.

Figure 10A shows unconditional probabilities for all 35,896 patients with a first scan, including those who exit the sample. Exit rates range from 90.6% for *Rad Only (+)* to 96.5% for *Agree (-)*. The highest exit rate occurs when both AI and radiologist agree on no PE, likely reflecting clinical confidence that no further imaging is needed. The lowest exit rate occurs when only the radiologist diagnoses PE. This 5.9 percentage point difference suggests that when radiologists override AI to diagnose PE, more follow-up scans are ordered ($t = 2.78$).

Among the small fraction with follow-up scans, non-Exit transitions appear modest: 0.1% to 5.1%. Some states show strong persistence. *Rad Only (+)* to *Rad Only (+)* has $t = 16.76$. *Agree (+)* to *Agree (+)* has $t = 14.34$. Among all non-exit transitions, 75.3% maintain the same state versus 24.7% that

change (t = 26.51). Concordant diagnoses exit 96.3% of the time. Discordant cases exit 92.8% (t = 5.69). Agreement appears to reduce follow-up imaging while disagreement introduces uncertainty or signals more complex cases that require follow-up imaging. Initial disagreement appears to also create friction: discordant cases remain discordant 20.3% of the time versus 6.6% for concordant cases becoming discordant (t = 4.38).

Figure 10B shows conditional probabilities among the 1,375 patients who return for follow-up imaging, excluding the Exit state. This reveals diagnostic transitions masked by high exit rates. In the unconditional view, non-Exit transitions appear small (0.1% to 5.1%). In the conditional view, these same transitions represent 1.7% to 87.1% of follow-up cases.

Three patterns emerge. First, persistence varies by diagnostic state. Among patients with follow-up scans, 75.4% remain in the same state (t = 26.71). *Agree (-)* shows the highest persistence at 87.1%. *Rad Only (+)* persists at 31.2%. *Agree (+)* persists at 36.1%. *AI Only (+)* shows zero persistence. Interestingly, when radiologists initially reject AI flags, no follow-up scan shows the radiologist changing to agree with the AI that maintains the positive diagnosis. Concordant negatives are more stable than concordant positives: 87.1% of *Agree (-)* cases persist versus 36.1% of *Agree (+)* cases (t = −16.76).

Second, when radiologists override AI to diagnose PE, most follow-up scans show resolution. Among *Rad Only (+)* cases, 68.8% transition to other states. The largest transition is to *Agree (-)* at 54.2%. Here, the radiologist initially diagnosed PE despite negative AI, but follow-up imaging shows both agreeing on no PE. In contrast, when radiologists initially reject AI flags (*AI Only (+)*), 100% of follow-up cases transition to other states: 65.4% to *Agree (-)* and 30.8% to *Agree (+)*. When disagreements at scan 1 resolve to positive diagnoses at scan 2, the rates are similar: 30.8% of *AI Only (+)* cases transition to *Agree (+)* versus 14.6% of *Rad Only (+)* cases (t = 1.65).

Third, radiologist overrides show different persistence patterns. Among *Rad Only (+)* cases with follow-up, 31.2% remain *Rad Only (+)*—the radiologist maintains the PE diagnosis across both scans despite AI disagreement. Zero *AI Only (+)* cases remain *AI Only (+)*—when radiologists initially reject AI flags, no follow-up scan shows the pattern persisting (t = −3.19). When measuring whether each "system" changes its own diagnosis from positive to negative or vice versa between scans, the rates are similar: radiologists change 20.2% of the time, AI changes 18.6% (t = 1.06). The difference lies in which disagreements persist, not overall diagnostic instability.

These patterns reveal how radiologists incorporate AI signals. When radiologists initially reject AI flags, all follow-up scans show state changes—predominantly to *Agree (-)* (65.4%) rather than *Agree (+)* (30.8%). When radiologists override negative AI detections to diagnose PE positive, 68.8% of follow-up scans show state changes, with 54.2% transitioning to *Agree (-)*. Only 30.8% of initially rejected AI flags

later show concordant positive diagnoses. But 31.2% of radiologist overrides persist across scans. The 54.2% transition from *Rad Only (+)* to *Agree (-)* suggests diagnostic uncertainty in some overrides, yet 31.2% persist. This indicates radiologists incorporate AI signals when revising diagnoses but maintain independent judgment in sustained overrides.

3.2 Patient Health Outcomes

The preceding analysis documents substantial variation in how radiologists collaborate with AI. We now examine whether these agreement patterns associate with different patient clinical trajectories. We focus on outcomes where PE diagnosis and management directly influence health outcomes: mortality, cardiovascular and bleeding complications, and infections.

We estimate the relationship between agreement categories and patient outcomes using the following OLS specification:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Agree (+)}_i + \beta_2 \text{AI Only (+)}_i + \beta_3 \text{Rad Only (+)}_i + \gamma_s + \delta_{hd} + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_i, \tag{3}$$

where Y_i is the outcome for patient i's first CTPA scan. We restrict to first scans to avoid complications from repeat imaging, which may be influenced by initial diagnoses and a patient's subsequent clinical path. The three indicator variables capture agreement categories relative to the omitted category Agree (-). The terms γ_s are care site fixed effects, δ_{hd} are hour-of-day × day-of-week fixed effects, and λ_t are year fixed effects. Standard errors are heteroskedasticity-robust. The sample includes 35,851 first scans from the AI period with complete agreement data.

Table 10 presents the results. Outcome definitions and their associated time windows appear in Table A.1. Outcomes are measured over clinically relevant windows following each patient's first CTPA: mortality at 30, 90, and 365 days; recurrent PE from 8-30 days after initial treatment; cardiovascular complications within 0-30 days; infections within 0-30 days. The Baseline column shows the fixed effects-adjusted predicted outcome rate for the Agree (-) reference group. The remaining columns show regression coefficients measuring differences relative to this baseline. For binary outcomes, coefficients represent percentage point differences. The Diff Test column reports t-statistics testing equality between AI Only (+) and Rad Only (+) coefficients.

Panel A examines the primary clinical outcomes. The baseline 30-day mortality rate is 4.7% when both AI and radiologist agree on no PE. When both agree on PE presence, mortality increases 3.4 percentage points to 8.1%. When only AI detects PE, mortality increases 4.0 percentage points to 8.7%. When only the radiologist detects PE, mortality increases 5.5 percentage points to 10.2%. The difference between AI Only and Rad Only is not precisely estimated. Similar patterns emerge for 90-day and

1-year mortality. Baseline rates are 7.2% and 11.3% respectively. Concordant positive diagnoses show 4.2 and 4.8 percentage point increases. Discordant diagnoses show larger increases: 5.9 and 7.1 percentage points for AI Only, 7.8 and 9.2 percentage points for Rad Only.

Recurrent PE shows different patterns. The baseline rate is 1.8%. When both agree on PE, recurrent PE increases 53.5 percentage points to 55.3%. This large increase reflects that patients diagnosed with PE receive anticoagulation and subsequent imaging to monitor treatment. When only AI detects PE, recurrent PE increases 12.3 percentage points to 14.1%. When only the radiologist detects PE, recurrent PE increases 46.7 percentage points to 48.5%. The 34.4 percentage point difference between AI Only and Rad Only is precisely estimated (t = -12.71). Radiologist overrides to diagnose PE lead to anticoagulation treatment and follow-up imaging at rates approaching concordant positive cases. AI overrides rejected by radiologists do not.

Panel B examines complications. We focus on cardiovascular events where PE directly affects clinical course. Cardiac arrest shows a baseline rate of 0.8%. Concordant positive diagnoses increase cardiac arrest 0.3 percentage points. Discordant diagnoses show similar increases: 0.4 percentage points for both AI Only and Rad Only. Shock shows a baseline rate of 4.6%. Concordant positive diagnoses increase shock 2.2 percentage points. AI Only increases shock 3.4 percentage points. Rad Only increases shock 4.4 percentage points.

Right heart failure shows a baseline rate of 0.2%. Concordant positive diagnoses increase right heart failure 9.5 percentage points. AI Only increases right heart failure 0.9 percentage points. Rad Only increases right heart failure 4.5 percentage points. The 3.6 percentage point difference is precisely estimated (t = -3.32). Radiologist overrides to diagnose PE associate with higher rates of documented cardiac complications than AI overrides rejected by radiologists.

Respiratory failure shows a baseline rate of 19.7%. Concordant positive diagnoses increase respiratory failure 4.7 percentage points. AI Only increases respiratory failure 5.3 percentage points. Rad Only increases respiratory failure 13.8 percentage points. The 8.5 percentage point difference is precisely estimated (t = -3.00).

Bleeding complications show different patterns. Major bleeding has a baseline rate of 1.0%. Concordant positive diagnoses increase major bleeding 2.0 percentage points. AI Only increases major bleeding 1.6 percentage points. Rad Only increases major bleeding 0.7 percentage points. Intracranial hemorrhage has a baseline rate of 1.1%. Concordant positive diagnoses increase intracranial hemorrhage 1.7 percentage points. AI Only increases intracranial hemorrhage 0.8 percentage points. Rad Only increases intracranial hemorrhage 1.8 percentage points.

Panel C examines infections. Hospital-acquired infections represent complications of PE treatment

including prolonged hospitalization and invasive procedures. Sepsis shows a baseline rate of 7.4%. Concordant positive diagnoses increase sepsis 0.1 percentage points. AI Only increases sepsis 1.7 percentage points. Rad Only increases sepsis 3.3 percentage points. Pneumonia shows a baseline rate of 13.1%. Concordant positive diagnoses decrease pneumonia 3.6 percentage points. AI Only increases pneumonia 2.9 percentage points. Rad Only increases pneumonia 0.6 percentage points. Urinary tract infection and catheter-associated infection show small differences across agreement categories with baseline rates of 0.4% and 0.3% respectively.

Overall, four patterns stand out. First, concordant positive diagnoses consistently show higher outcome rates relative to concordant negatives across mortality and complications. Cases where both AI and radiologist detect PE likely represent more severe clinical presentations. Second, discordant diagnoses show intermediate outcome rates between concordant positives and concordant negatives, suggesting heterogeneity in PE severity within these cases.

Third, radiologist overrides to diagnose PE (Rad Only +) show larger increases than AI positives rejected by radiologists (AI Only +) for several complications including right heart failure and respiratory failure. This pattern may reflect radiologists identifying clinically significant PEs that AI misses, or radiologist diagnoses leading to more aggressive treatment. The mortality differences across disagreement categories are modest, indicating similar near-term survival despite the reading radiologist overriding the AI. This similarity indicates that patient mortality rates depend primarily on the case severity rather than radiologist-AI disagreement patterns.

Fourth, all coefficients are precisely estimated, including those in the AI Only (+) column. If radiologists correctly rejected false positive AI flags in these cases, one might expect no difference from the Agree (-) baseline where both agree no PE exists. The observed increases suggest either that some rejected AI flags represent missed PEs or that patients flagged by AI are systematically more severe even when radiologists diagnose no PE.

4 Conclusion

This paper examines how radiologists collaborate with AI when diagnosing pulmonary embolism. We track 117,063 CTPA scans interpreted by 389 radiologists over twelve years at a large hospital system. The staggered AI rollout between 2019 and 2022 provides variation in exposure timing. We link scans to AI predictions, radiologist diagnoses, engagement metrics, and follow-up imaging.

Six findings emerge. First, radiologists show asymmetric agreement with AI. They agree in 97% of AI-negative cases but only 84% of AI-positive cases. This 13 percentage point gap reveals that radiologists

more readily accept AI-negative assessments than AI-positive findings. Second, disagreement patterns evolve substantially after deployment. Radiologists reject AI-detected PEs in 30% of cases in the first year. This drops to 12% by year two, then stabilizes. The reduction could reflect learning or automation bias. Third, diagnostic efficiency remains stable despite increased workload. Mean time per scan holds at 3.6 hours even as scan volume increases 16% and per-radiologist monthly volumes double from 5.3 to 10.4 scans. Meanwhile, patient mortality remains roughly the same. The stable per-scan time alongside higher throughput suggests the AI system improves the radiological workflow rather than compromising decision-making.

Fourth, large heterogeneity persists across radiologists. Female radiologists are 6 percentage points less likely to override AI-detected PEs than male radiologists. Engagement shows a non-monotonic relationship with agreement: moderate engagement correlates with highest agreement with the AI while both low and high engagement show more disagreement. Fifth, follow-up imaging reveals asymmetric resolution. When radiologists override AI to diagnose PE, 54% of subsequent scans show both agreeing on no PE. When radiologists reject AI flags, none maintain that pattern. Sixth, patient outcomes differ by agreement category. Baseline 30-day mortality is 4.7% when both agree on no PE. Mortality increases 3.4 percentage points when both agree on PE, 4.0 percentage points when only AI detects PE, and 5.5 percentage points when only the radiologist detects PE. Recurrent PE rates are 48.5% for radiologist-only diagnoses versus 14.1% for AI-only detections. Right heart failure increases 4.5 percentage points for radiologist-only versus 0.9 percentage points for AI-only diagnoses. These patterns may reflect radiologists identifying clinically significant cases that AI misses, or radiologist diagnoses leading to more aggressive treatment.

Overall, radiologists and AI collaborate in predictable but heterogeneous ways. Disagreement declines sharply after deployment but substantial variation persists. Diagnostic speed remains stable despite doubled workload per radiologist. Patient outcomes differ by agreement category, with mortality and complications varying based on whether AI alone, radiologist alone, or both detect PE. These patterns reveal how professionals incorporate algorithmic recommendations in high-stakes decisions. The asymmetric agreement, time evolution, and persistent heterogeneity suggest that collaboration involves active judgment rather than passive acceptance or rejection.

Our ongoing work exploits the staggered rollout and quasi-random assignment of patients to radiologists to estimate the causal effects of the AI assistance. We will examine the causal effects of AI on radiologist skill at diagnosing suspected pulmonary embolisms, radiologist preferences for balancing true positive versus false positive rates, and patient health outcomes including mortality, complications, PE treatment, and hospital utilization like length of stay. The observed associations between agreement

patterns and patient outcomes suggest these causal estimates will reveal how AI assistance affects both radiologists' diagnostic accuracy and patients' clinical journeys. Understanding these relationships will inform optimal human-AI collaboration in high-stakes medical decisions.

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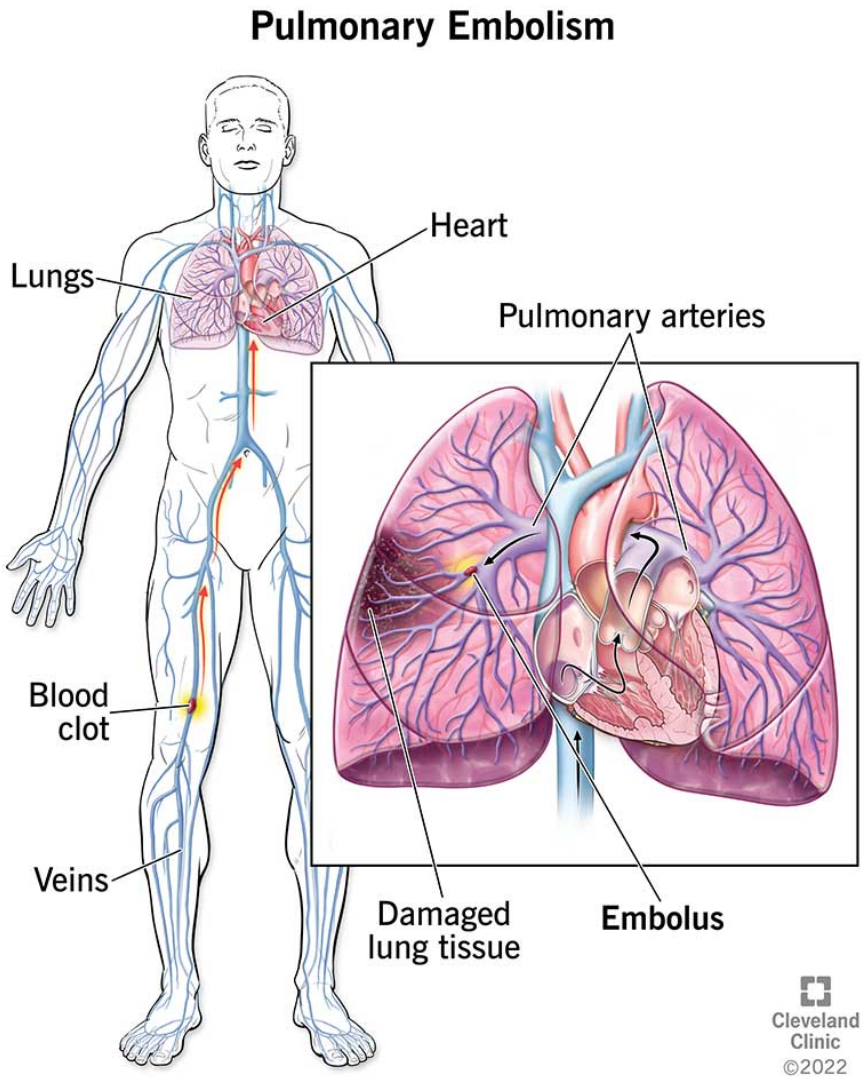
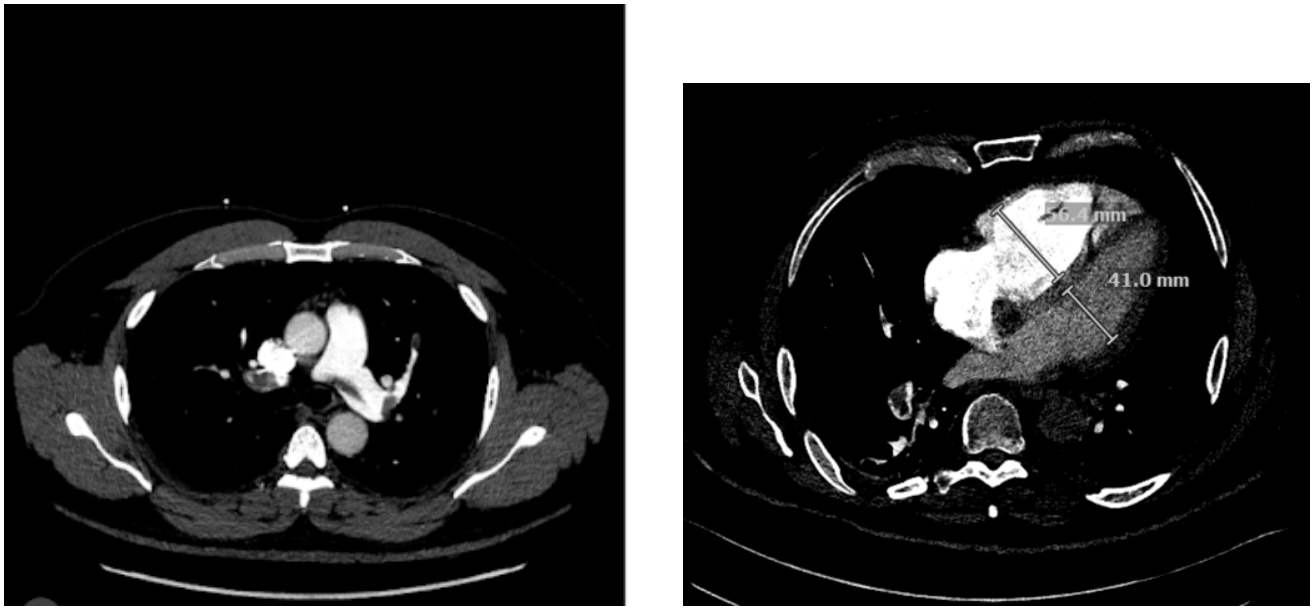


FIGURE 1
PULMONARY EMBOLISM ANATOMY

The figure illustrates pulmonary embolism pathophysiology. Oftentimes, blood clots form in leg or pelvic veins, travel through the circulatory system, and lodge in pulmonary arteries. The inset shows the embolus blocking blood flow in the lung, causing tissue damage. Image courtesy of Cleveland Clinic.



(A) Direct Sign: Pulmonary Artery Filling Defect **(B) Indirect Sign: Right Heart Strain**

FIGURE 2
COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHIC PULMONARY ANGIOGRAPHY (CTPA) OF PULMONARY EMBOLISM

The figure shows two CTPA images from patients with PE. Each image shows a horizontal slice through the chest, as if looking upward from the feet. Panel A shows the upper chest where the main pulmonary artery splits into left and right branches. A grey area appears inside the pulmonary artery where the vessel should be uniformly bright white from contrast dye. This grey area is the blood clot blocking blood flow. Panel B shows a lower slice through the heart chambers. The right ventricle measures 56.4 mm compared to 41.0 mm for the left ventricle, producing an RV/LV ratio of 1.37. Normally the left ventricle is larger (RV/LV < 1). The enlarged right ventricle indicates the heart is straining to pump blood through the blocked lung vessels. Together, the images illustrate both the direct evidence of PE (the clot itself in Panel A) and its cardiac consequence (right heart strain in Panel B). De-identified CT images courtesy of the hospital system studied.

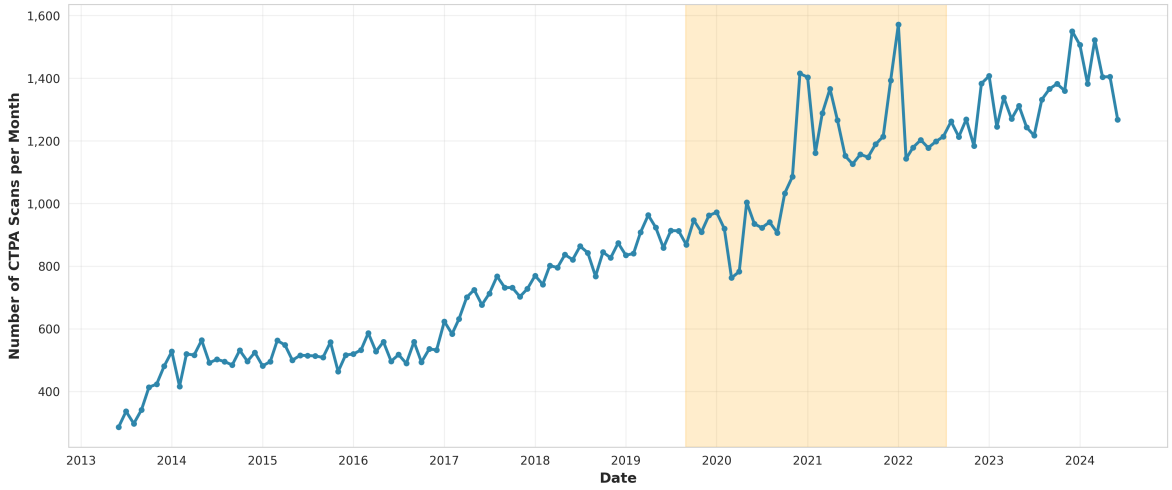


FIGURE 3
MONTHLY CTPA SCAN VOLUME

The figure shows the monthly volume of CTPA scans across all eight care sites that received the AI system. The blue line represents the number of scans performed each month. The orange shaded region indicates the AI rollout period from 08/29/2019 to 07/12/2022, during which the AI system was progressively deployed across sites.

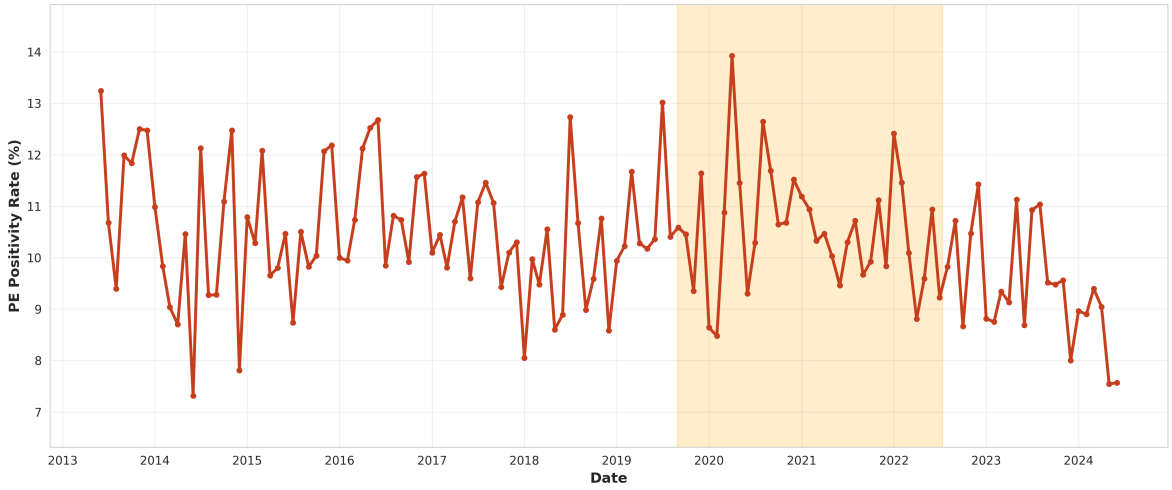


FIGURE 4
MONTHLY PE POSITIVITY RATE

The figure shows the monthly PE positive diagnosis rate across all eight care sites that received the AI system. The red line represents the percentage of CTPA scans with a positive PE diagnosis by the signing radiologist each month. The orange shaded region indicates the AI rollout period from 08/29/2019 to 07/12/2022, during which the AI system was progressively deployed across sites.

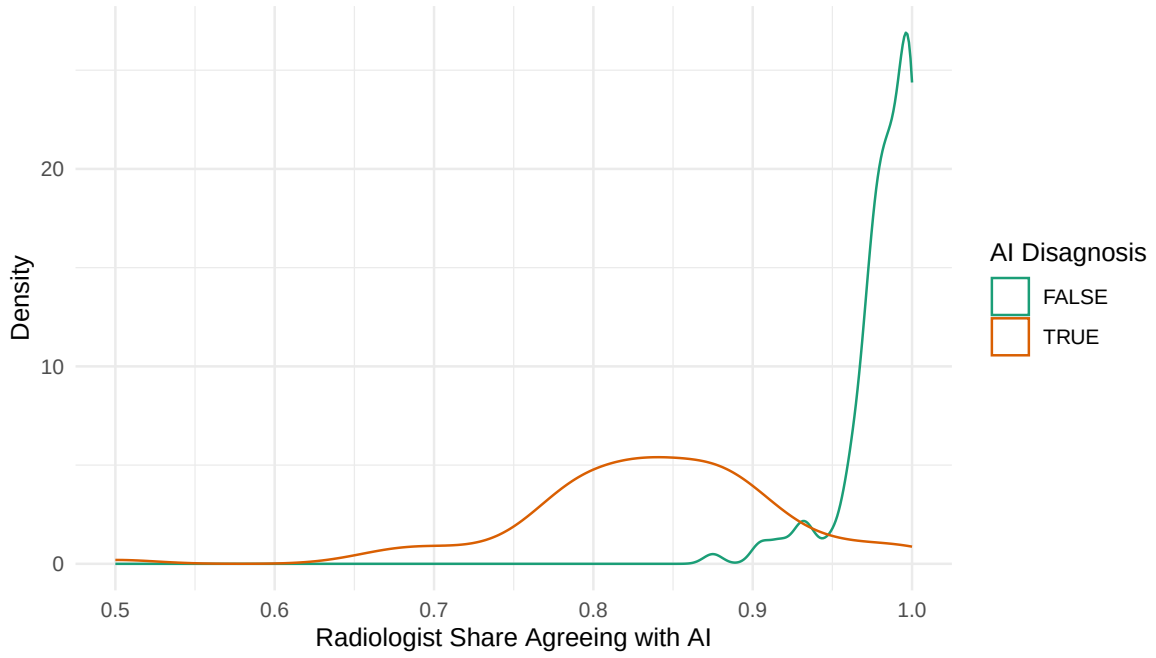


FIGURE 5
RADIOLOGIST AGREEMENT RATES WITH AI BY AI DIAGNOSIS

The figure displays the density distribution of the share of radiologists agreeing with the AI prediction, stratified by the AI's diagnosis. The green line (FALSE) represents cases where the AI did not detect PE. The orange line (TRUE) represents cases where the AI flagged a positive PE.

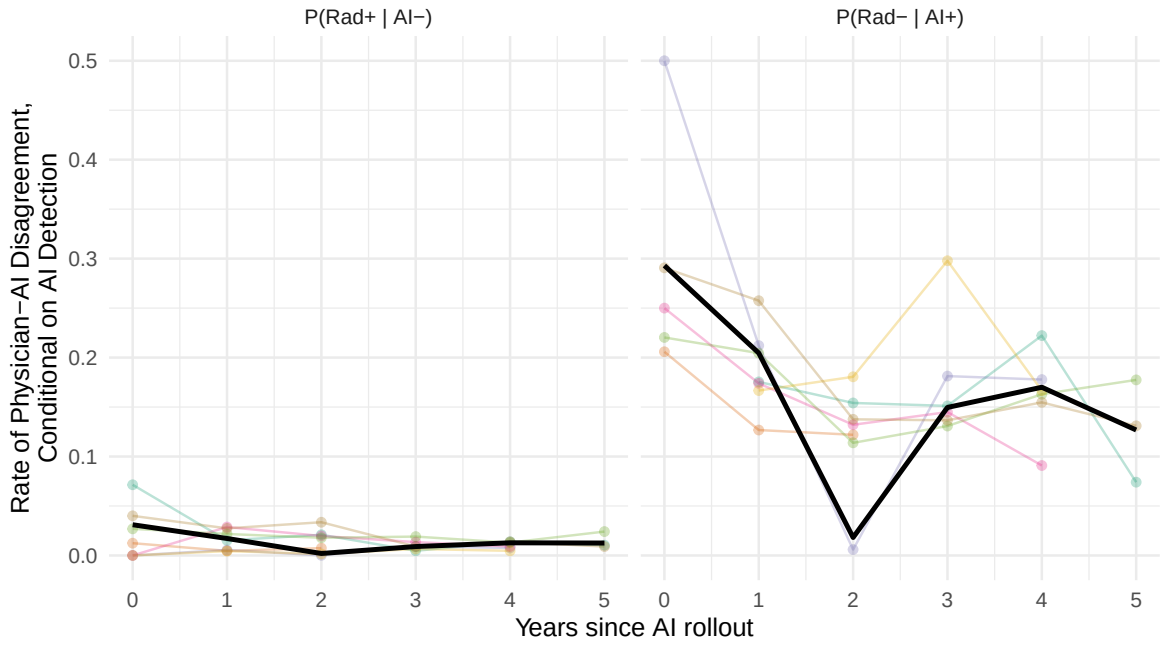


FIGURE 6
DISAGREEMENT RATES BETWEEN AI AND RADIOLOGISTS OVER TIME

This figure shows the rate of disagreement between AI predictions and radiologist diagnoses based on all CTPA scans in the sample. The left panel shows disagreement when the AI detects no PE but radiologists observe one. The right panel shows disagreement when the AI detects PE and the radiologist does not. The colored lines are disagreement patterns by care site per the staggered rollout of the AI system. The solid black lines are simple average per period. Time is measured in years since the initial AI rollout in 2019 per Table 1. Care site 8 is excluded due to its limited scan volume.

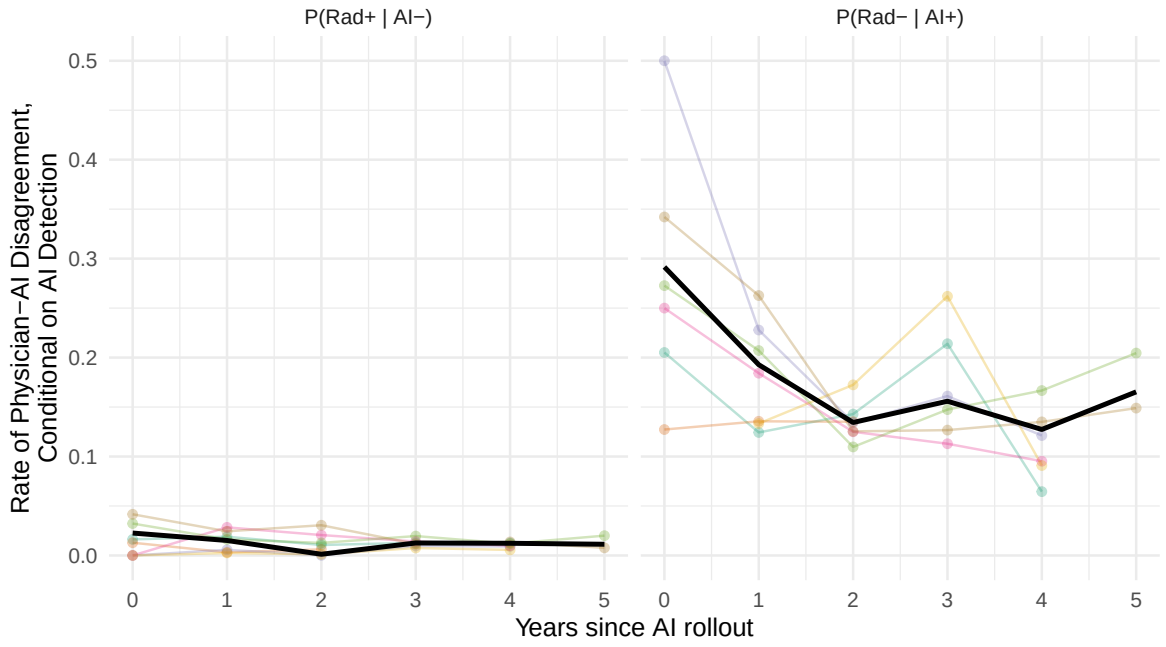


FIGURE 7
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DISAGREEMENT RATES BETWEEN AI AND RADIOLOGISTS OVER TIME

This figure shows the rate of disagreement between AI predictions and radiologist diagnoses based on only Emergency Department CTPA scans in the sample. The left panel shows disagreement when the AI detects no PE but radiologists observe one. The right panel shows disagreement when the AI detects PE and the radiologist does not. The colored lines are disagreement patterns by care site per the staggered rollout of the AI system. The solid black lines are simple average per period. Time is measured in years since the initial AI rollout in 2019 per Table 1. Care site 8 is excluded due to its limited scan volume.

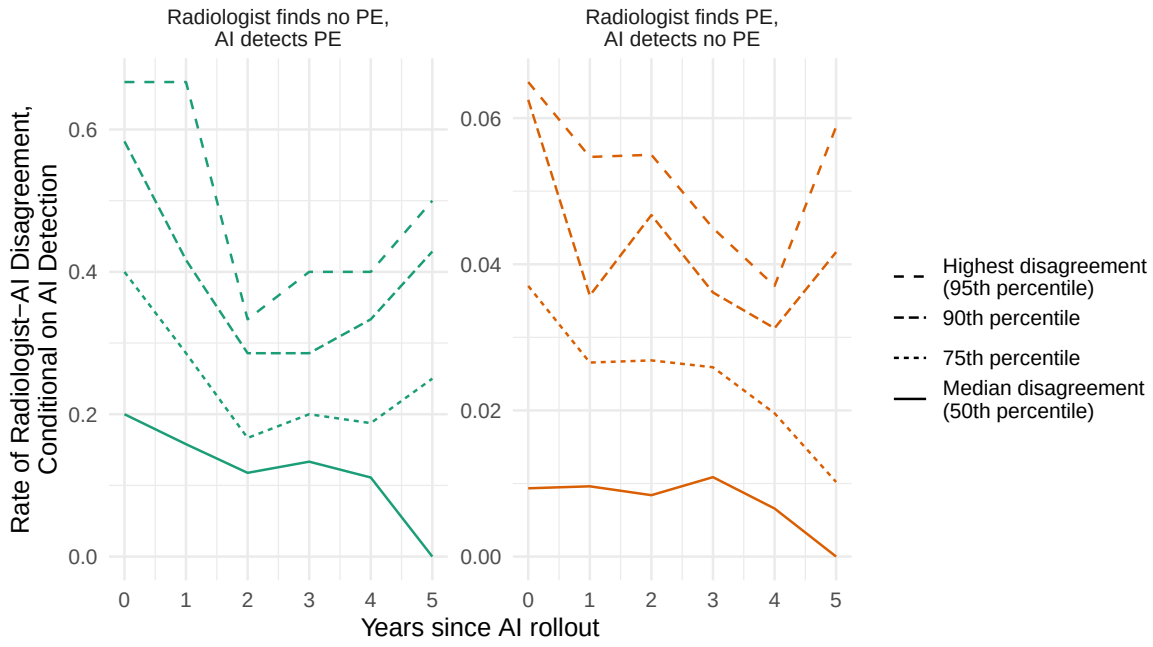


FIGURE 8
CROSS-SECTIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RADIOLOGIST-AI DISAGREEMENT RATES OVER TIME

This figure displays the evolution of the cross-sectional distribution of radiologist-AI disagreement rates over five years following the AI deployment. The left panel shows disagreement rates when AI predicts PE, while the right panel shows rates when AI does not predict PE. Lines represent percentiles of the disagreement distribution (50th, 75th, 90th, and 95th) in each year after rollout across all care sites.

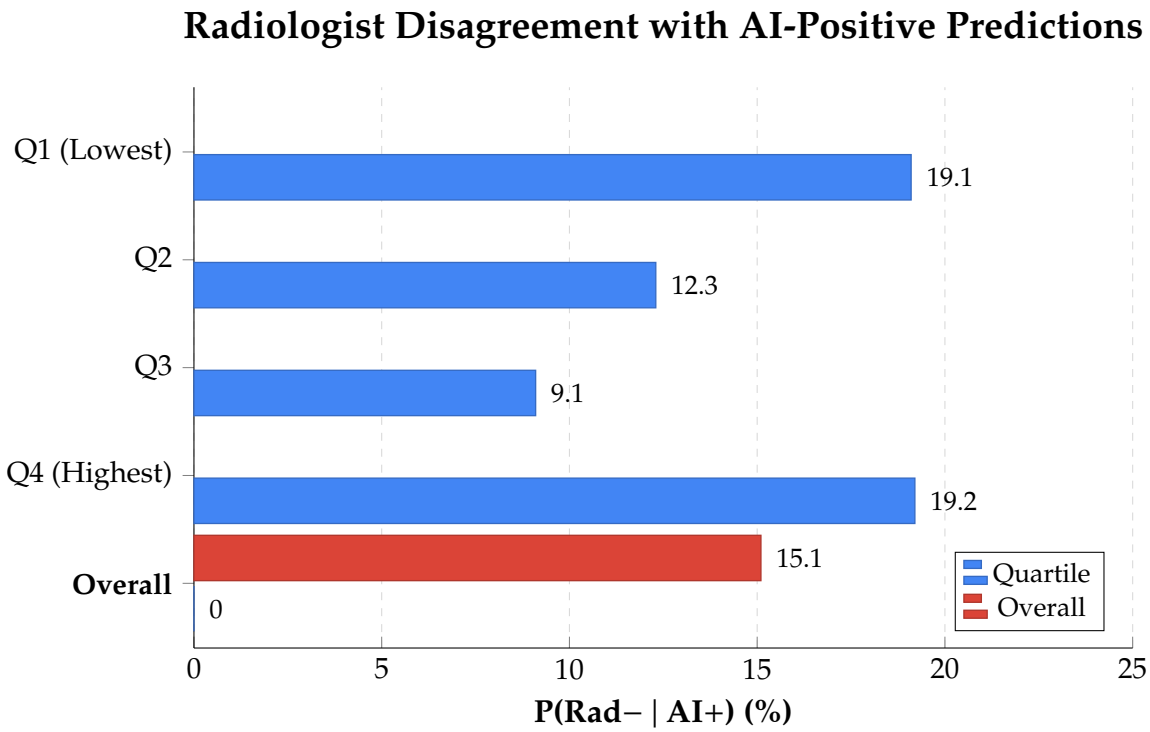
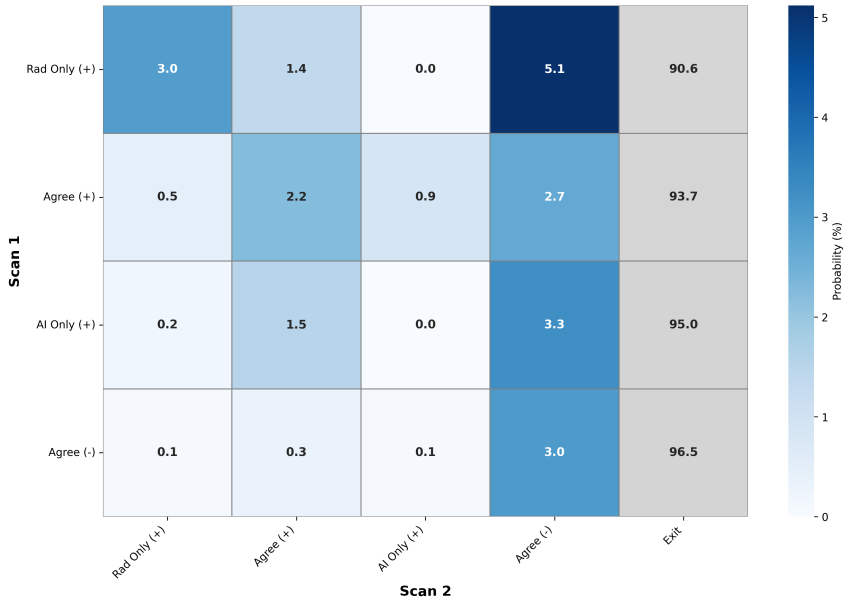
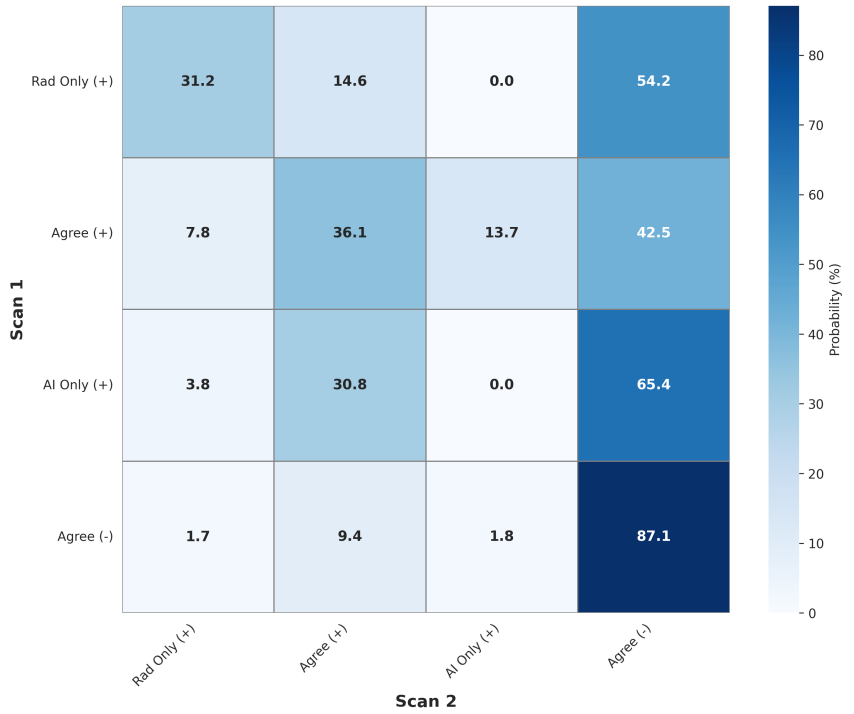


FIGURE 9
RADIOLOGIST-AI (DIS)AGREEMENT BY AI SYSTEM ENGAGEMENT

The figure displays the conditional disagreement rate, *P(Rad− | AI+)*, by quartile of radiologists' AI system engagement based on Table 9. *P(Rad− | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted PE.



(A) Unconditional Transition Probabilities (Including Exit)



(B) Conditional Transition Probabilities (Excluding Exit)

FIGURE 10
DIAGNOSTIC STATE TRANSITION PROBABILITIES BETWEEN SEQUENTIAL CTPA SCANS

The heatmaps show transition probabilities from diagnostic states at the first CTPA scan (Scan 1, rows) to states at the second scan within 30 days (Scan 2, columns). Each cell displays the percentage of patients transitioning from one state to another, with blue shading indicating higher probabilities. Diagnostic states are: Rad Only (+) where only the signing radiologist diagnosed PE; Agree (+) where both the AI and radiologist diagnosed PE; AI Only (+) where only the AI detected PE; and Agree (-) where both found no PE. Figure 10A presents unconditional transition probabilities for all patients with a first scan (N = 84,640), including the Exit column (gray shading) representing patients without a second scan within 30 days. Figure 10B shows conditional transition probabilities among only those patients who returned for a second scan within 30 days (N = 4,095), excluding the Exit state.

TABLE 1
CARE SITE SUMMARY STATISTICS

Care Site ID	AI Rollout Date	N CTPAs	N Patients	N Radiologists	PE Positivity Rate (%)
1	08/29/2019	47,175	35,158	252	11.3
2	09/10/2019	20,556	15,768	159	9.6
3	08/29/2019	19,849	15,269	195	11.0
4	11/19/2020	11,725	9,326	20	8.3
5	07/12/2022	10,305	8,535	19	8.5
6	11/23/2020	4,628	3,644	21	6.9
7	07/15/2020	2,625	2,357	85	9.6
8	07/14/2021	200	187	26	8.5
Total	—	**117,063**	**84,640**	**388**	**10.2**

The table presents summary statistics for the eight hospital care sites that received the AI system deployment during the sample. Two additional sites within the hospital system were excluded from the sample due to low volume (one scan each during the study period); neither site implemented the AI system. Sites are anonymized and sorted by number of CTPA scans (descending). *AI Rollout Date* indicates when the AI clinical decision support system was first deployed at each site. *N CTPAs* is the total number of CT pulmonary angiogram scans performed at the site during the study period. *N Patients* is the number of unique patients who received CTPAs at the site. *N Radiologists* is the number of unique signing radiologists who interpreted scans at the site. *PE Positivity Rate* is the percentage of scans with a positive pulmonary embolism diagnosis by the signing radiologist across the full sample period. The Total row reports aggregate statistics across all eight AI-receiving sites. *N Patients* and *N Radiologists* in the Total row reflect unique individuals across all sites (not the sum of site-level counts) to avoid double-counting patients and radiologists who receive care or work at multiple sites.

TABLE 2
PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS

	Full Sample $\hat{\mu}_1$ $\hat{\sigma}_1$	Pre-AI Period $\hat{\mu}_2$ $\hat{\sigma}_2$	AI Period $\hat{\mu}_3$ $\hat{\sigma}_3$	Diff $\hat{\mu}_3 - \hat{\mu}_2$ (se)
Panel A: Demographics				
N patients	84,640	42,612	42,028	-584
Age	59.84 18.67	59.49 18.46	60.20 18.88	0.72 (0.13)
% Female	59.72 49.05	61.06 48.76	58.37 49.29	-2.69 (0.34)
Race/Ethnicity (%)				
White	68.62 46.41	69.41 46.08	67.82 46.72	-1.59 (0.32)
Black	17.63 38.11	17.48 37.98	17.79 38.25	0.31 (0.26)
Asian	1.47 12.01	1.23 11.04	1.70 12.92	0.46 (0.08)
Hispanic	13.65 34.34	12.83 33.45	14.49 35.20	1.65 (0.24)
Panel B: Scan Utilization				
Number of scans	1.38 1.03	1.51 1.26	1.26 0.71	-0.25 (0.01)
% Multiple scans	22.36 41.66	27.13 44.46	17.52 38.02	-9.60 (0.28)
% Scans within 7 days	1.64 12.70	1.52 12.24	1.76 13.14	0.24 (0.09)
% Scans within 30 days	5.13 22.06	4.98 21.76	5.28 22.36	0.30 (0.15)
Panel C: PE Diagnosis				
% No Rad diagnosed PE on any scan	88.08 32.40	87.96 32.54	88.20 32.26	0.24 (0.22)
% Rad diagnosed PE on ≥1 scan	11.92 32.40	12.04 32.54	11.80 32.26	-0.24 (0.22)
% Rad diagnosed PE on all scans	7.19 25.83	6.35 24.38	8.04 27.19	1.69 (0.18)
Panel D: Mortality				
30-day mortality rate	4.73 21.23	4.34 20.37	5.13 22.06	0.79 (0.15)
90-day mortality rate	7.39 26.16	7.05 25.61	7.73 26.70	0.67 (0.18)
1-year mortality rate	11.77 32.23	11.71 32.15	11.84 32.31	0.14 (0.22)

The table presents summary statistics for patients who received CTPA scans during the sample period. The Pre-AI period is defined as scans before the AI rollout at each care site; The AI period is defined as scans after the AI rollout at each care site. For each variable, the first row shows sample means ($\hat{\mu}_1$, $\hat{\mu}_2$, and $\hat{\mu}_3$) and their difference ($\hat{\mu}_3 - \hat{\mu}_2$). The second row shows sample standard deviations ($\hat{\sigma}_1$, $\hat{\sigma}_2$, and $\hat{\sigma}_3$) and the heteroskedasticity-robust standard error (se) of the difference between the Pre-AI and AI period. *N patients* shows the number of observations in each sample. All percentages are calculated as shares of total patients in each period. Mortality outcomes are measured from a patient's first CTPA scan date.

TABLE 3
CTPA SCAN CHARACTERISTICS

	Full Sample $\hat{\mu}_1$ $\hat{\sigma}_1$	Pre-AI Period $\hat{\mu}_2$ $\hat{\sigma}_2$	AI Period $\hat{\mu}_3$ $\hat{\sigma}_3$	Diff $\hat{\mu}_3 - \hat{\mu}_2$ (se)
Panel A: Scan Context				
N scans	117,065	54,150	62,915	8,765
% Repeat scan within 7 days	1.25 3.25	0.96 4.19	1.51 4.85	0.54 (0.06)
% Repeat scan within 30 days	4.49 6.06	3.59 8.00	5.27 8.91	1.68 (0.12)
% Emergency Department	66.00 13.85	56.10 21.33	74.52 17.37	18.43 (0.28)
Panel B: Diagnostic Outcomes				
% Radiologist PE (+)	10.19 8.84	10.11 12.96	10.25 12.09	0.14 (0.18)
% AI PE (+)	– –	– –	10.66 13.29	– –
Panel C: Radiologist-AI (Dis)agreement				
% AI Only (+)	– –	– –	1.74 5.63	– –
% Rad Only (+)	– –	– –	1.57 5.36	– –
% Agree (+)	– –	– –	8.92 12.28	– –
% Agree (-)	– –	– –	87.77 14.12	– –
Panel D: Workflow				
% Day shift (7am-3pm)	15.46 10.57	15.23 15.44	15.66 14.49	0.43 (0.21)
% Evening shift (3pm-11pm)	51.02 14.61	51.56 21.48	50.55 19.93	-1.01 (0.29)
% Night shift (11pm-7am)	33.52 13.80	33.21 20.24	33.79 18.86	0.58 (0.28)

The table presents summary statistics for CTPA scans during the sample period. The Pre-AI period is defined as scans before the AI rollout at each care site; The AI period is defined as scans after the AI rollout at each care site. For each variable, the first row shows sample means ($\hat{\mu}_1$, $\hat{\mu}_2$, and $\hat{\mu}_3$) and their difference ($\hat{\mu}_3 - \hat{\mu}_2$). The second row shows sample standard deviations ($\hat{\sigma}_1$, $\hat{\sigma}_2$, and $\hat{\sigma}_3$) and the heteroskedasticity-robust standard error (se) of the difference. *N scans* shows the number of observations in each sample. *% AI PE (+)* (Panel B) and all *Diagnostic Discordance* metrics (Panel C) are calculated only on scans with AI predictions available (n=53,880, representing 85.6% of AI period scans). *AI Only (+)* indicates cases where AI detected PE but radiologist did not; *Rad Only (+)* indicates cases where radiologist detected PE but AI did not; *Agree (+)* and *Agree (-)* indicate agreement on PE presence and absence, respectively.

Table 4
Radiologist Characteristics

	Full Sample	Pre-AI Period	AI Period
Panel A: Reading Volume			
N signing radiologists	389	309	187
Scans read per radiologist per month:			
Mean	6.8	5.3	10.4
Median	3.6	3.2	5.4
5th percentile	1.0	1.0	1.0
25th percentile	1.8	1.5	3.0
75th percentile	7.9	6.8	17.7
95th percentile	24.2	15.8	30.3
Panel B: Demographics			
% Female	32.11	32.62	30.38
Years since medical school	12.8	13.3	15.8
Years active in sample	2.2	1.7	1.7
Panel C: PE Diagnosis Rate			
Mean	11.26	10.45	12.05
Median	9.15	8.74	10.13
25th percentile	4.35	0.00	7.14
75th percentile	12.50	12.24	12.97
Panel D: AI-Radiologist Interaction			
Conditional agreement rates:			
P(Rad+ | AI+) (%)	—	—	84.1
P(Rad− | AI−) (%)	—	—	97.2
Conditional disagreement rates:			
P(Rad− | AI+) (%)	—	—	15.9
P(Rad+ | AI−) (%)	—	—	2.8

The table presents summary statistics across individual signing radiologists over the sample period. The sample includes only the eight care sites that received AI system deployment. The Pre-AI period includes radiologists active before the AI rollout at their respective care sites; the AI period includes radiologists active after the AI rollout. Some radiologists appear in both periods. *Scans read per radiologist per month* is calculated as total scans divided by the number of unique year-month combinations in which each radiologist read CTPA scans. *Mean years active in sample* is calculated as the number of unique year-month combinations in which each radiologist read CTPA scans, divided by 12 to convert to years. *Mean years since medical school* is calculated for each radiologist as the average across all their scans of (scan year - medical school graduation year), providing a measure of average experience level during the period. *Conditional agreement rates* show the average percentage of scans where radiologists agreed with the AI, calculated separately for AI-positive and AI-negative predictions. *P(Rad+ | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses PE given the AI predicted PE; *P(Rad- | AI-)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted no PE; *P(Rad- | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted PE; *P(Rad+ | AI-)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses PE given the AI predicted no PE. Demographic information is obtained from CMS National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) data matched to signing radiologist identifiers.

TABLE 5
DIAGNOSTIC EFFICIENCY

	Full Sample $\hat{\mu}_1$ $\hat{\sigma}_1$	Pre-AI Period $\hat{\mu}_2$ $\hat{\sigma}_2$	AI Period $\hat{\mu}_3$ $\hat{\sigma}_3$	Diff $\hat{\mu}_3 - \hat{\mu}_2$ (se)
N scans	117,065	54,150	62,915	8,765
Hours from Order to Diagnosis	3.65 12.00	3.57 12.55	3.72 11.51	0.15 (0.07)
Hours from Order to Diagnosis: Rad PE (+)	3.43 10.10	3.23 9.95	3.61 10.22	0.39 (0.19)
Hours from Order to Diagnosis: Rad PE (-)	3.67 12.17	3.61 12.80	3.72 11.60	0.11 (0.08)
Hours from Order to Diagnosis: AI Only (+)	– –	– –	3.99 10.65	– –
Hours from Order to Diagnosis: Rad Only (+)	– –	– –	3.78 10.35	– –
Hours from Order to Diagnosis: Agree (+)	– –	– –	3.61 10.17	– –
Hours from Order to Diagnosis: Agree (-)	– –	– –	3.74 11.59	– –

The table presents efficiency metrics for CTPA scans during the sample period. The Pre-AI period is defined as scans before the AI rollout at each care site; The AI period is defined as scans after the AI rollout at each care site. *Hours from Order to Diagnosis* excludes scans with negative duration or that exceed 7 days. These observations are set to missing but retained in the sample for *N scans*. For each variable, the first row shows sample means ($\hat{\mu}_1$, $\hat{\mu}_2$, and $\hat{\mu}_3$) and their difference ($\hat{\mu}_3 - \hat{\mu}_2$). The second row shows sample standard deviations ($\hat{\sigma}_1$, $\hat{\sigma}_2$, and $\hat{\sigma}_3$) and the heteroskedasticity-robust standard error (se) of the difference. *Rad PE (+)* and *Rad PE (-)* indicate radiologist diagnosis of PE presence or absence, respectively. The four discordance categories are calculated only on scans with AI predictions available (n=53,880, representing 85.6% of AI period scans). *AI Only (+)* indicates cases where AI detected PE but radiologist did not; *Rad Only (+)* indicates cases where radiologist detected PE but AI did not; *Agree (+)* and *Agree (-)* indicate agreement on PE presence and absence, respectively.

TABLE 6
RADIOLOGIST ENGAGEMENT WITH AI: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

	Mean (SD)	Median [IQR]
N radiologists	148	
Panel A: Volume & Engagement		
Total AI notifications	702 (1106)	239 [31, 946]
AI hover interactions	247 (475)	71 [9, 267]
Engagement rate (%)	33.9 (19.9)	32.4 [20.7, 45.2]
Hover duration (minutes)	1.00 (0.00)	1.00 [1.00, 1.00]
Panel B: AI Triage Efficiency		
AI triage lead (minutes)	20.0 (45.5)	8.8 [6.4, 13.6]
Reaction time (minutes)	5.3 (6.0)	4.0 [2.3, 5.5]
% Cases opened pre-AI alert	98.2 (2.6)	99.7 [97.4, 100.0]
Panel C: Reading Efficiency		
Open-to-draft time (minutes)	2.2 (5.9)	0.0 [0.0, 0.2]
Draft-to-final time (minutes)	18.0 (15.9)	14.7 [7.9, 22.2]
Total time-to-final (minutes)	53.9 (224.2)	9.1 [6.6, 12.2]
Panel D: Engagement & Efficiency: AI+ Cases		
Time-to-final: AI+ with hover	30.1 (85.8)	17.0 [12.1, 22.8]
Time-to-final: AI+ no hover	52.1 (106.2)	18.2 [10.9, 28.9]
Engagement time savings	25.7 (96.4)	1.4 [-3.1, 7.9]

The table presents radiologist-level descriptive statistics for AI system engagement during the AI period. The sample is restricted to notifications where the receiving physician signed the final report (using both the report_signer boolean flag and physician-signer name matching), ensuring analysis focuses on cases where the notified radiologist had primary diagnostic responsibility. Statistics are calculated across 148 radiologists who received and signed AI notifications. For each metric, we report both the mean (with standard deviation) and median (with interquartile range) to characterize central tendency and dispersion in the face of potential outliers. *Panel A* describes overall system usage: total notifications received, hover interactions (where radiologists actively viewed AI predictions), engagement rate (% of notifications with hover), and typical hover duration. *Panel B* measures AI's triage function: the time AI alerted radiologists before they would have independently opened cases (triage lead), radiologists' response time after receiving alerts (reaction time), and how often radiologists had already opened cases before AI alerts arrived (preemptive opens). *Panel C* captures reading efficiency through the workflow stages: time from opening a case to starting the draft, time from draft to final sign-off, and total time from alert to finalization. *Panel D* examines whether AI engagement affects workflow for AI-positive cases by comparing time-to-finalization when radiologists did versus did not hover over AI predictions; the engagement time savings represents the within-radiologist difference (no-hover minus hover time).

TABLE 7
RADIOLOGIST-AI (DIS)AGREEMENT BY SCAN TIMING

			(Dis)agreement Pattern (%)			
			Conditional Rates			
Shift	N Scans	% ER	P(Rad+|AI+)	P(Rad−|AI−)	P(Rad−|AI+)	P(Rad+|AI−)
Panel A: By Time of Day						
Day	8,395	76.5	81.5	98.2	18.5	1.8
Evening	27,193	67.6	83.7	98.2	16.3	1.8
Night	18,292	83.2	84.6	98.3	15.4	1.7
Panel B: By Day of Week						
Weekday	40,577	72.9	83.9	98.3	16.1	1.7
Weekend	13,303	78.3	83.0	98.2	17.0	1.8
Overall	53,880	74.3	83.7	98.2	16.3	1.8

The table presents scan-level radiologist-AI agreement patterns by scan timing (shift) for 53,880 CTPA scans in the AI period with both AI and radiologist diagnoses available. Shifts are defined as Day (7am-3pm), Evening (3pm-11pm), and Night (11pm-7am). Weekend includes Saturday and Sunday. *P(Rad+ | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses PE given the AI predicted PE; *P(Rad− | AI−)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted no PE; *P(Rad− | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted PE; *P(Rad+ | AI−)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses PE given the AI predicted no PE. *% ER* shows the percentage of scans from the Emergency Department.

TABLE 8
RADIOLOGIST-AI (DIS)AGREEMENT BY DEMOGRAPHICS

			(Dis)agreement Pattern (%)			
			Conditional Rates			
Group	N Rads	N Scans	P(Rad+|AI+)	P(Rad−|AI−)	P(Rad−|AI+)	P(Rad+|AI−)
Panel A: By Gender						
Male	101	35,621	82.0	97.8	18.0	2.2
Female	45	14,268	88.4	96.0	11.6	4.0
Panel B: By Experience (Years Since Medical School)						
Q1 (0-5y)	39	2,069	83.4	95.6	16.6	4.4
Q2 (6-10y)	37	14,654	87.2	96.8	12.8	3.2
Q3 (11-20y)	33	17,662	85.1	98.6	14.9	1.4
Q4 (21+y)	37	15,504	80.6	98.1	19.4	1.9
Panel C: By Scan Volume						
Q1 (Low)	44	300	84.1	94.7	15.9	5.3
Q2	41	1,620	85.3	97.6	14.7	2.4
Q3	42	10,719	83.4	98.4	16.6	1.6
Q4 (High)	42	41,241	83.7	98.2	16.3	1.8
Overall	169	53,880	84.1	97.2	15.9	2.8

The table presents radiologist-AI agreement patterns by demographic characteristics across 169 individual signing radiologists in the AI period. Statistics are calculated at the radiologist level: for each radiologist, conditional agreement rates are calculated based on their individual scans, then averaged across radiologists within each demographic group, treating each radiologist equally regardless of their scan volume. Gender information is obtained from CMS National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) data. Experience is measured as years since medical school graduation at the time of each scan. *P(Rad+ | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses PE given the AI predicted PE; *P(Rad− | AI−)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted no PE; *P(Rad− | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted PE; *P(Rad+ | AI−)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses PE given the AI predicted no PE.

TABLE 9
RADIOLOGIST-AI (DIS)AGREEMENT BY AI SYSTEM ENGAGEMENT

			(Dis)agreement Pattern (%)			
			Conditional Rates			
Quartile	N Rads	Avg. Engagement Rate (%)	P(Rad+|AI+)	P(Rad−|AI−)	P(Rad−|AI+)	P(Rad+|AI−)
Q1 (Lowest)	39	8.3	80.9	97.2	19.1	2.8
Q2	38	17.8	87.7	96.0	12.3	4.0
Q3	38	26.3	90.9	98.6	9.1	1.4
Q4 (Highest)	38	44.5	80.8	96.5	19.2	3.5
Overall	153	24.1	84.9	97.1	15.1	2.9

The table presents radiologist-AI (dis)agreement patterns by quartile of average engagement rate across 153 individual signing radiologists in the AI period. Engagement rate is calculated as the proportion of positive PE notifications from the AI that the radiologist hovered over before signing the report, averaged across all scans for each radiologist. Statistics are calculated at the radiologist level: for each radiologist, conditional agreement rates are calculated based on their individual scans, then averaged across radiologists within each engagement quartile, treating each radiologist equally regardless of their scan volume. *P(Rad+ | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses PE given the AI predicted PE; *P(Rad− | AI−)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted no PE; *P(Rad− | AI+)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses no PE given the AI predicted PE; *P(Rad+ | AI−)* is the probability the radiologist diagnoses PE given the AI predicted no PE.

Table 10
Patient Health Outcomes by AI-Radiologist Agreement

Outcome	N	R^2	Agreement Category				Diff Test (t-stat)
			Agree (-) Baseline	Agree (+) Coef	AI Only (+) Coef	Rad Only (+) Coef	
Panel A: Primary Clinical Outcomes							
30-Day Mortality	35,851	0.011	4.7	3.4	4.0	5.5	-0.80
				(0.005)	(0.013)	(0.014)	
90-Day Mortality	35,851	0.013	7.2	4.2	5.9	7.8	-0.85
				(0.006)	(0.015)	(0.016)	
1-Year Mortality	35,851	0.016	11.3	4.8	7.1	9.2	-0.82
				(0.007)	(0.018)	(0.018)	
Recurrent Pulmonary Embolism	35,851	0.387	1.8	53.5	12.3	46.7	-12.71
				(0.008)	(0.016)	(0.022)	
Panel B: Complications							
Cardiac Arrest	35,851	0.007	0.8	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.14
				(0.002)	(0.005)	(0.005)	
Shock	35,851	0.012	4.6	2.2	3.4	4.4	-0.56
				(0.004)	(0.012)	(0.013)	
Right Heart Failure	35,851	0.073	0.2	9.5	0.9	4.5	-3.32
				(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.009)	
Respiratory Failure	35,851	0.025	19.7	4.7	5.3	13.8	-3.00
				(0.008)	(0.019)	(0.021)	
Major Bleeding	35,851	0.010	1.0	2.0	1.6	0.7	0.87
				(0.003)	(0.007)	(0.006)	
Intracranial Hemorrhage	35,851	0.015	1.1	1.7	0.8	1.8	-0.95
				(0.003)	(0.006)	(0.008)	
Panel C: Infections							
Sepsis	35,851	0.009	7.4	0.1	1.7	3.3	-0.83
				(0.005)	(0.013)	(0.014)	
Pneumonia	35,851	0.013	13.1	-3.6	2.9	0.6	1.02
				(0.005)	(0.017)	(0.015)	
Urinary Tract Infection	35,851	0.005	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.77
				(0.001)	(0.004)	(0.003)	
Catheter-Associated Infection	35,851	0.006	0.3	0.0	0.2	-0.3	1.57
				(0.001)	(0.003)	(0.000)	

The table presents OLS estimates of patient health outcomes by AI-radiologist agreement category. The sample includes only patients' first scans from the AI period with complete agreement data. The omitted reference category is Agree (-), where both AI and radiologist predict no PE. The *Baseline* column shows the FE-adjusted predicted outcome for the Agree (-) group. Other columns show regression coefficients relative to this baseline. For binary outcomes, values are in percentage points (pp). Agree (+) indicates both AI and radiologist predict PE. AI Only (+) indicates AI predicts PE but radiologist does not. Rad Only (+) indicates radiologist predicts PE but AI does not. All regressions include care site fixed effects, hour-of-day × day-of-week fixed effects, and year fixed effects. Standard errors (in parentheses) are heteroskedasticity-robust. *Diff Test* reports the t-statistic for the test of coefficient equality between AI Only (+) and Rad Only (+) columns. *N* shows the regression sample size.

For Online Publication: Appendix

Table A.1
Outcome Variable Definitions

Outcome Variable	Days After First CTPA	Description
30-Day Mortality	0-30	Death occurring within 30 days
90-Day Mortality	0-90	Death occurring within 90 days
1-Year Mortality	0-365	Death occurring within 1 year
Recurrent Pulmonary Embolism	8-30	New pulmonary embolism occurring 8-30 days after initial diagnosis
Cardiac Arrest	0-1	Sudden cessation of cardiac activity requiring CPR or defibrillation, often due to severe PE blocking blood flow
Shock	0-30	Circulatory collapse with inadequate blood pressure to maintain organ function, caused by PE obstructing blood return from lungs
Right Heart Failure	0-30	Right-sided heart strain when the heart cannot pump blood through PE-blocked lung arteries
Respiratory Failure	0-30	Inadequate oxygen delivery to body tissues due to PE-blocked lung blood flow
Major Bleeding	0-30	Life-threatening blood loss, often resulting from blood-thinning drug therapy used to treat PE
Intracranial Hemorrhage	0-30	Bleeding within the skull, a serious complication of blood-thinning drugs given to prevent PE progression
Sepsis	0-30	Systemic infection with organ dysfunction, occurring as a complication during PE hospitalization
Pneumonia	0-30	Lung infection developing during PE hospitalization, potentially due to immobility or mechanical ventilation
Urinary Tract Infection	0-30	Urinary tract infection acquired during PE hospitalization, often related to catheter use
Catheter-Associated Infection	0-30	Bloodstream infection from intravenous lines used to deliver PE medications

The table provides detailed definitions for all 14 outcome variables analyzed in Table 10. Outcomes are extracted from the OMOP Common Data Model using standardized concept identifiers and vocabulary mappings. All outcomes are binary indicators of whether the event occurred within the specified time window relative to the patient's first CTPA scan in our sample. Time windows are chosen based on the clinical course of pulmonary embolism. For patients with multiple events of the same type, only the first event within the specified window is counted.