

Carotid Artery Calcifications in Patients 30-60: important indicator for radiologists to report?

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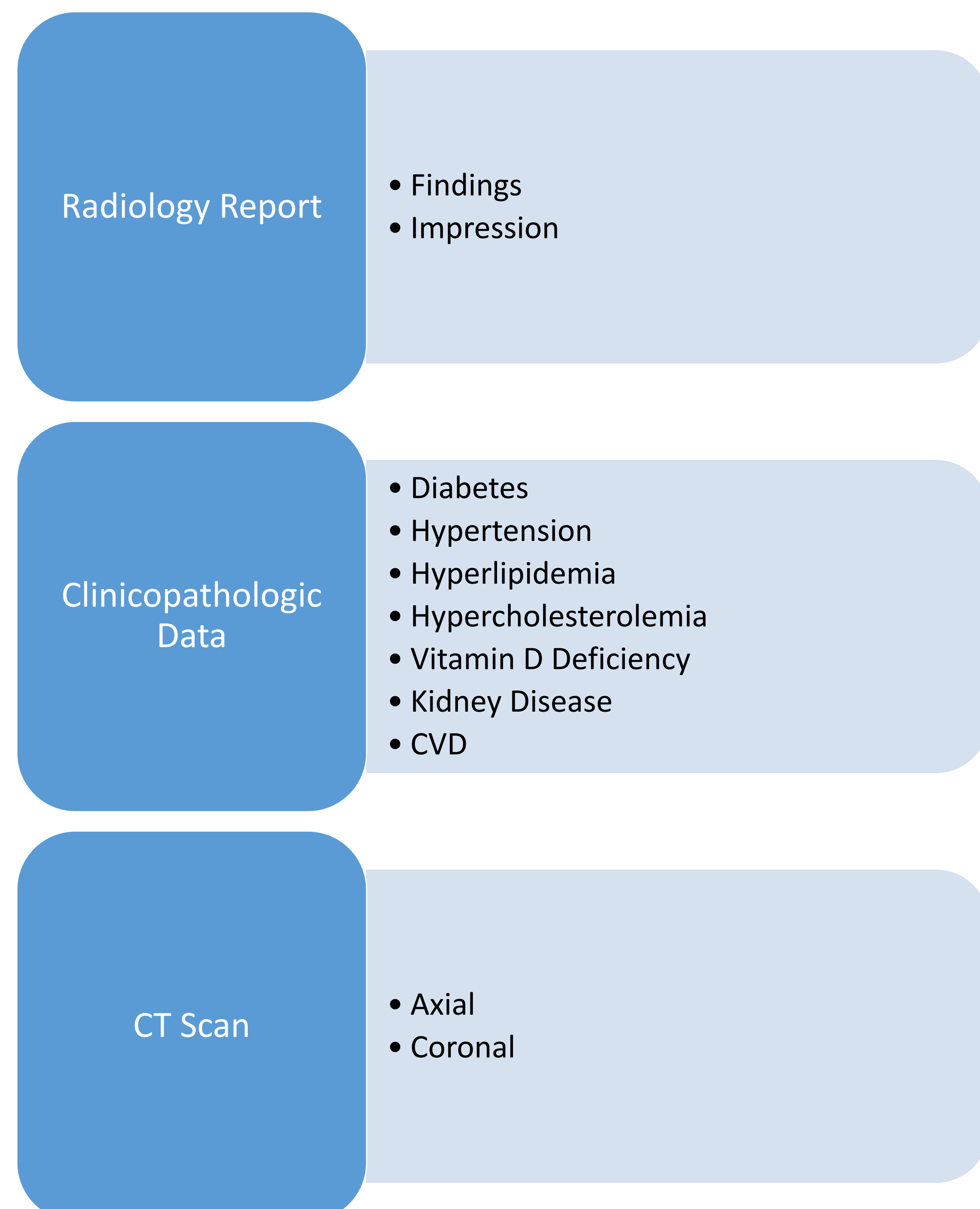
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INTRODUCTION

- Internal carotid artery calcification (ICAC) is part of the atherosclerotic process occurring in vessels throughout the body, putting individuals at greater risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD) and stroke.
- The ubiquitous nature of head CT scans, as well as their ability to image the intracranial internal carotid arteries, makes them ideal for screening for ICAC.

METHOD



Head CT scans can be better utilized to identify internal carotid artery calcification in patients aged 30-59 in order to facilitate clinician follow-up

RESULTS

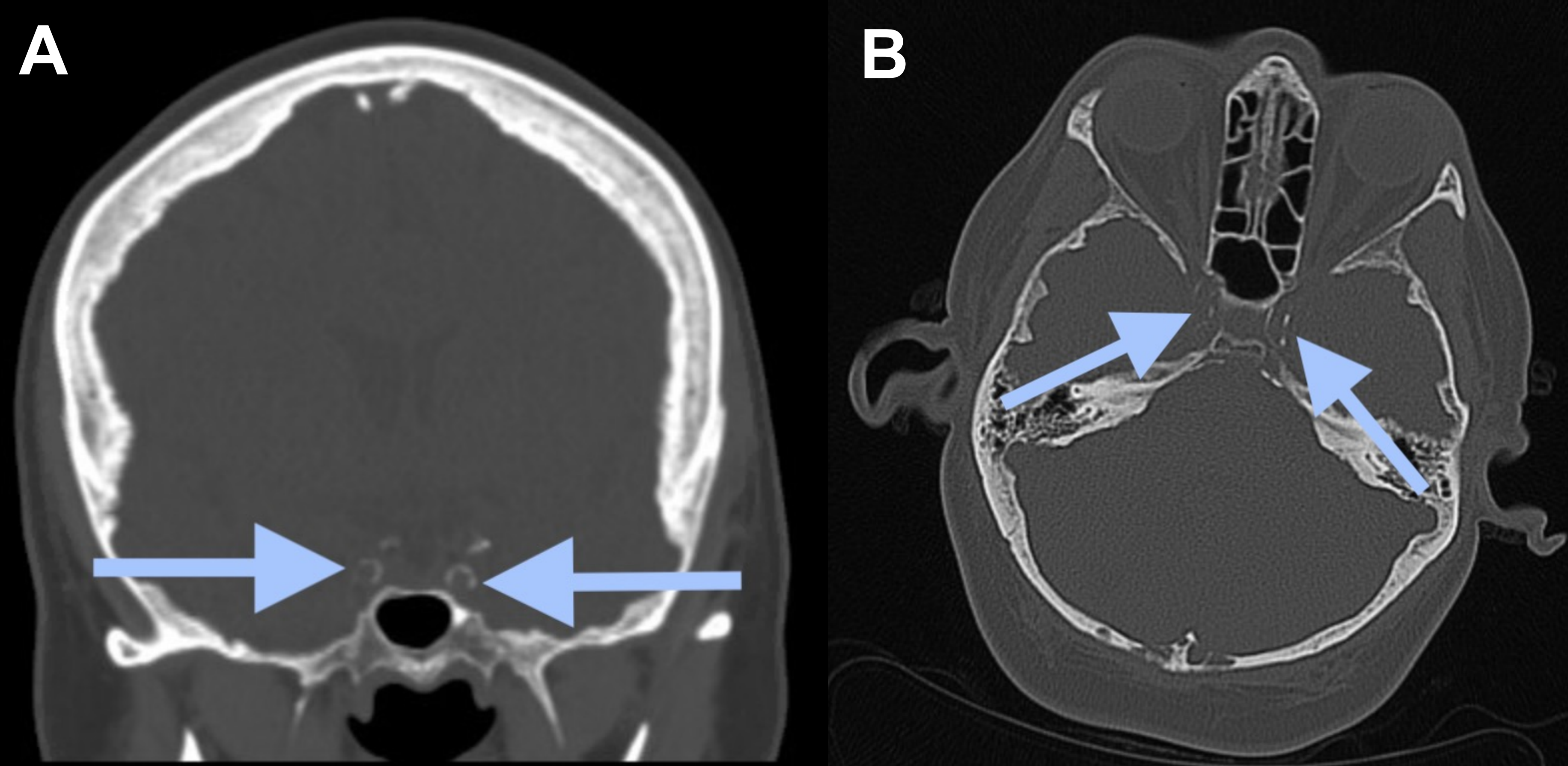
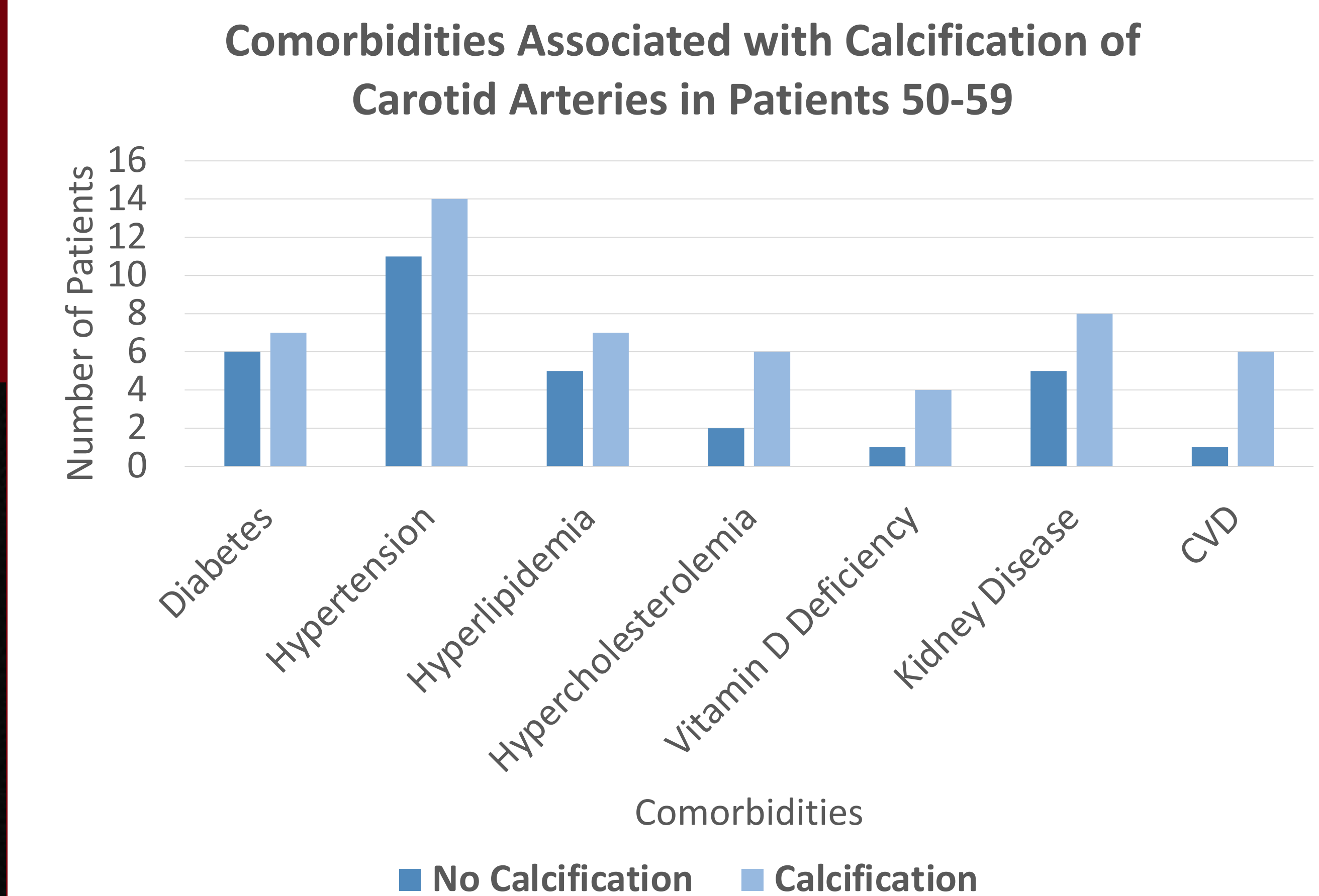
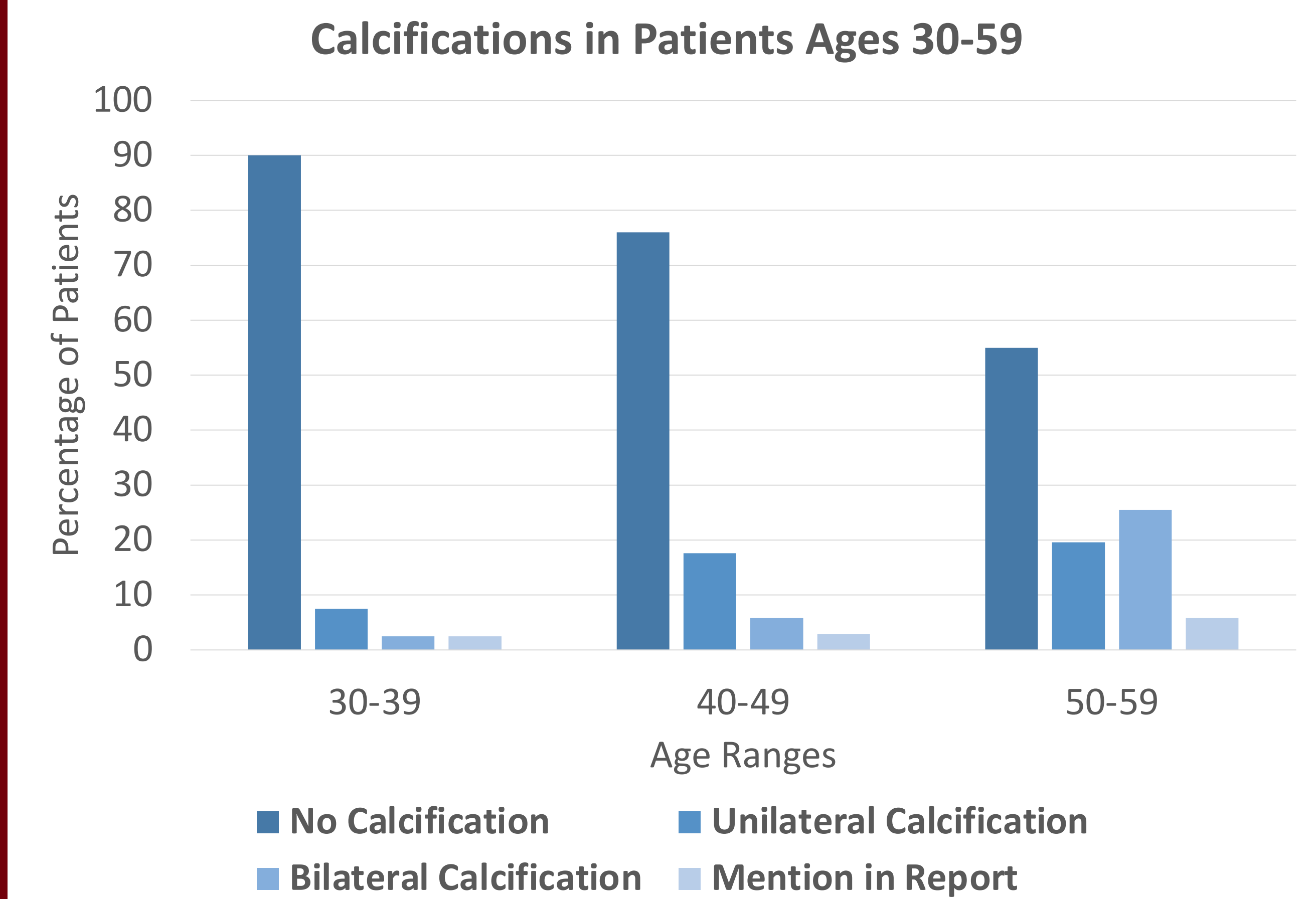


Figure 1: CT scan for 58-year-old female showing bilateral calcifications of the intracranial internal carotid arteries (see arrows). (A) Coronal head CT image. (B) Axial head CT image.

DISCUSSION

Due to the connection between ICAC and CVD and stroke, and the apparent worsening of calcification with age, it would be prudent for radiologists to comment on the status of ICAC in head CT scans in patients aged 30-59 and appropriately document in the impressions section of the report to facilitate clinician follow-up.



Scan for Abstract