Introduction:
Medicine of nowadays allows the clinician to use a large number of complementary examinations to facilitate and improve the management of the patient’s health, but unjustified prescriptions are frequently observed, leading to unnecessary effort for caregivers, laboratory and radiology technicians, not to mention the time lost for parents, the cost generated, the pain inflicted and the risks of error inherent in any investigation.

Methods:
This is a prospective descriptive and analytical mono-centric study carried out in the Emergency Department of the Farhat Hached University Hospital of Sousse, Tunisia. All patients were randomly recruited from during a three-month period from September 2016 to December 2016. Patients were selected for two hours randomly chosen during the day with exclusion criteria: Patients under 15 years of age consulting for non-traumatic pathology victims of cardio-respiratory arrest or early death (before the establishment of the examination), outgoing patients against medical advice, patients escaped, patients referred with a pre-established diagnosis.

Results:
179 patients including 42.4% men and 57.6% women were included in our study, additional examinations were performed in 144 patients (80.4% of the population), it means 728 exams in total. 494 examinations were of biological nature (67.85%), 105 radiological examinations (14.42%) and 129 other types (17.73%). 68.7% of these examinations were prescribed by interns, 29.6% by residents and only 1.7% by seniors who were only informed in 48% of cases. Patients stayed on average 178 minutes (approximately 3 hours) with extremes of 10 minutes to 1540 minutes (25 hours and 35 minutes).

Conclusion:
One of the main causes of delayed recovery of complementary examinations is the lack of coordination and management of different health personnel, doctors, nurses and stretcher-bearers.