Imaging is an important diagnostic tool in the management of low back pain with traumatic or pathological causes. However, the majority of low back pain is due to biomechanical causes where imaging has been shown to have limited diagnostic value. Despite this a high proportion of patients' presenting with low back pain are referred for diagnostic imaging. This talk will discuss why patients' may be referred for imaging, the effectiveness of current strategies to reduce imaging for low back pain and patients' perceptions as to the importance of imaging for low back pain.