

Academic Mirage

An academic mirage refers to a scientific concept, technique, or innovation that:

Appears promising or revolutionary in theory or in early-stage publications, but lacks real-world applicability, robust validation, or clinical relevance.

□ Characteristics:

Overhyped potential in abstracts, reviews, or conference talks.

Based on preliminary data or technical feasibility, not patient outcomes.

Promoted through citation padding, buzzwords, and self-referential literature.

Frequently seen in fields like imaging, AI, or molecular diagnostics.

Rarely adopted in clinical practice due to cost, complexity, or lack of utility.

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