

Preparation For Peak Skin Dose Estimation

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 Diagnostic Symposium April 9, 2018.

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Pre-presentation Remarks

- 1) Application of patient radiation dose monitoring and tracking (PRDMT) systems is a relatively new implementation of "patient care".
- 2) X-ray equipment must be compliant, at the minimum, with the DICOM*¹ Modality Performed Procedure Step (MPPS) *² to be compatible with most PRDMT systems.
*¹ DICOM: Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine.
*² MPPS DICOM Standard is being retired.
- 3) New equipment manufactured today must be compliant with the DICOM Patient Radiation Dose Structured Report (p-RDSR).
- 4) All PRDMT systems/programs take advantage of p-RDSR. In fact, the RDSR is a **prerequisite** for most commercially available software programs.



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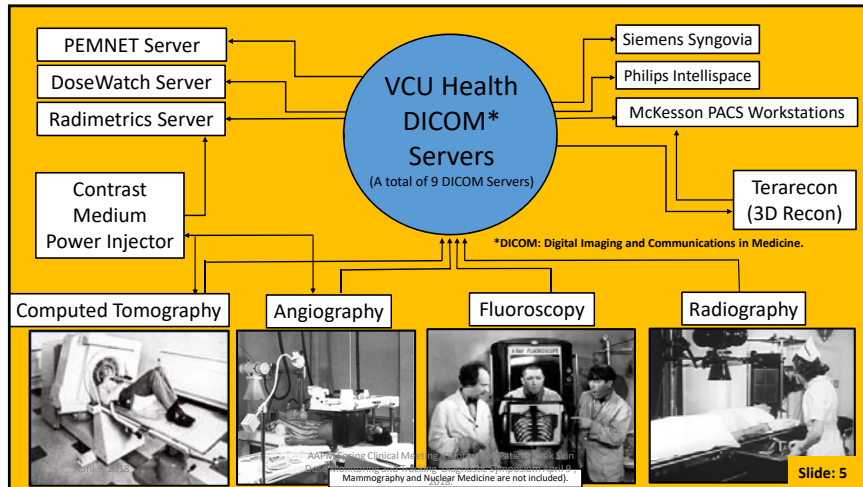
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- 5) There are approximately (more than) 14 PRDMT programs available on the commercial market according to *Imaging Technology News* [¹ITN, Sept. 2017, <https://www.itnonline.com/article/basics-radiation-dosemonitoring-medical-imaging/>]; such as, "Agfa HealthCare, Bayer Healthcare, GE Healthcare, Imalogix, Infinitt, Medic Vision Imaging, Novarad, PACSHealth, Sectra, Siemens Healthineers, Toshiba America, Volpara Solutions, Inc., etc. "
- 6) Most medical institutions have just one PRDMT system installed.
- 7) At Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center (VCUMC) three PRDMT systems are installed; namely *DoseWatch*, *Radimetrics* and *PEMNET*.
- 8) University of Virginia Medical Center is installed with *Radimetrics*.
- 9) Some of the PRDMT systems are initially designed specifically for the imaging equipment manufacturers and may not be compatible with the equipment you may have in your institution.
- 10) In this Diagnostic Symposium, we will have to limit ourselves to two specific vendor products for the reasons spelled out in items (6) ~ (9).



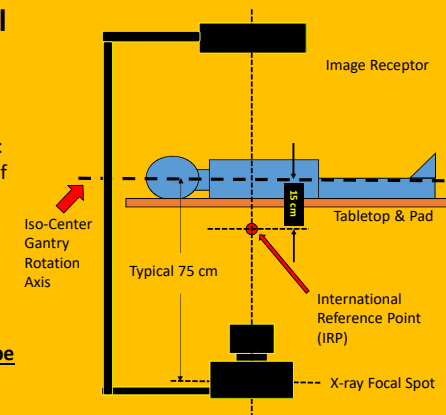
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Definition of International Reference Point (IRP); IEC Report 60601, 2010

Medical electrical equipment-part 2-43: particular requirements for the safety of X-ray equipment for interventional procedures: Patient entrance reference point. IEC 2010. The patient exposure reference point or Interventional Reference Point (IRP). **This reference point is commonly (but not always) defined at 15 cm towards the X-ray tube from the isocenter.**



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The **International Reference Point (IRP) air kerma value**, at this point in time, is reported by PRDMT systems.

To continuously monitor the radiation "LIVE", the physical DAP-meter (Dose Area Product) is mounted on the faceplate of the collimator.

The **IRP** is defined due to this "mechanical" constraint, and as such it is not the same as the patient peak skin dose.

To achieve more accurate and realistic estimation of the **Peak Skin Dose (PSD)**, various corrections must be applied.

All PRDMT programs including PEMNET, Radimetrics and DoseWatch provide various parameters that need to be included for correction from **IRP to PSD**, and they are;

The diagram shows a cross-section of an X-ray gantry. The X-ray tube is on the left, and the Image Receptor is on the right. The patient is lying on a Tabletop & Pad. The Iso-Center Gantry Rotation Axis is indicated by a red arrow. The International Reference Point (IRP) is marked with a red dot, located 15 cm from the X-ray tube towards the patient. The distance from the X-ray tube to the IRP is labeled as "Typical 75 cm". The X-ray Focal Spot is also indicated. The slide is labeled "Slide: 7".



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1. The first order of correction; the air kerma values reported by the fluoroscopy equipment must be verified and/or calibrated. (AAPM TG 190 Report)
2. Attenuation due to The Examination Table and Patient Examination Pad/Mattress.
3. The Back Scatter
4. Geometrical Parameters:
 - a) The Tabletop Motion (Panning) X-Z plane.
 - b) The Source-to-Tabletop Distance Y-distance/rotation angles
 - c) The C-arm Gantry Angulation; primary and secondary.



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The physical or pseudo DAP-meter (Dose-Area Product Meter) is calibrated at "International Reference Point" (IRP). Therefore, the reported values ARE NOT patient skin dose (air kerma), and may differ from actual Patient's Skin LOCATIONS.

The IRP is physically fixed to the x-ray tube by definition. The "panning" of the examination table and the angulation of the C-arm gantry are not accounted for.

The DAP-meter accuracy depends on three factors.

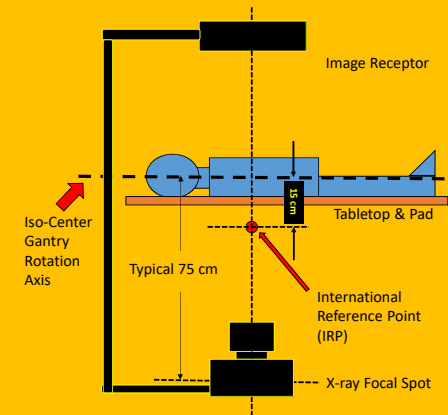
- a) Accuracy of the Dosimeter.
- b) Accuracy of Field Size Measurement, and
- c) The Geometry discrepancy between the Calibration Geometry and the Clinical Geometry. (AAPM Report TG 190) www.aapm.org



AAPM Report TG190

Accuracy and Calibration of Integrated Radiation Output Indicators In Diagnostic Radiology:

For PSD estimation, the "area" may be of secondary importance since the "PEAK SKIN DOSE" is what we are interested in.



With the background information provided, we are finally ready to discuss the process of estimating the Peak Skin Dose from the data made available by the patient radiation dose monitoring and tracking (PRDMT) systems.

Vendor: PEMNET Radimetrics DoseWatch	PRDMT (PMMS) RDSR Compatible	Dose Mapping Corrections					Collection and Analysis of Statistical Data Export Data
		Examination Table (Panning) Geometrical Correction			C-arm and L-arm Gantry Angles		
		Vertical	Longitudinal	Lateral	Primary	Secondary	



Table 1. Sample PEMNET Spreadsheet in Microsoft Office Excel Format																									
Target Region	ACQ Plane	Dose RP (mGy)	DAP (uGy-m ²)	Prime Angle (deg)	Secondary Angle (deg)	Event Type	KVP (kV)	MA (mA)	Exposure Time (ms)	Exposure (uAs)	Pulses	Pulse Width (ms)	Pulse Rate (p/s)	Source To Detect (mm)	Source To Isocenter (mm)	Table Long (mm)	Table Lat (mm)	Table Height (mm)	Focal Spot Size (mm)	Filter Min (mm)	Filter Max (mm)	Filter Type	Filter Material	Corrected Dose (mGy)	
Entire body	Plane A	1.3	20.6	0.1	-0.1	Fluoroscopy	71	58	587.6	34080	52	11.3	10	1071	750	-4.6	46	197.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	Strip Filter	Copper c	1.4	
Entire body	Plane B	0.7	12.4	-89.5	-0.2	Fluoroscopy	70	40	184	7360	23	8	10	1217	750	-6.6	104	197.5	0.3	0.2	0.2	Strip Filter	Copper c	0.8	
Entire body	Plane A	139.1	2151.4	0.1	11.5	Stationary Acquisition	83	285	2386.5	679913	37	64.5	4	1069	750	-5	120	171.4	0.6			No Filter		130.4	
Entire body	Plane B	78.3	933.5	-89.5	-0.2	Stationary Acquisition	85	136	2386.5	325041	37	64.5	4	1217	750	-7.1	141	171.3	0.3			No Filter		73.3	
Entire body	Plane A	50.2	1398.4	-98.5	-0.1	Rotational Acquisition	70	384	917.7	352763	133	6.9	30	1201	750	-2.1	131	187.8	0.6			No Filter		49.7	
Grand Tot		9347.6																						Grand Tot	9680.8

This is just a small fraction of data presented by the PRDMT (patient radiation dose monitoring and tracking program). For this specific study, there were some 230 exposure steps (event) made.



Corrections must also be applied according to the "kVp", "Spectral Shaping Filter" and whether it is acquired under "MOTION"; stepping mode or "Rotational" mode.

Table 1. Sample PEMNET Spreadsheet in Microsoft Office Excel Format

Target Region	ACQ Plane	Dose RP (mGy)	DAP (μGy-m ²)	Calculated FOV (cm) (Square)	Prime Angle (deg)	Secondary Angle (deg)	Event Type	KVP (kV)	MA (mA)	Exposure Time (ms)	Exposure (μAs)	Pulse Width (ms)	Pulse Rate (SP/s)	Source To Detekt (mm)	Source To Isocenter (mm)	Table Long (mm)	Table Lat (mm)	Table Height (mm)	Focal Spot Size (mm)	Filter Min (mm)	Filter Max (mm)	Filter Type	Filter Material	Corrected Dose (mGy)
Entire body	Plane A	1.3	20.6	12.59	0.1	-0.1	Fluoroscopy	71	58	587.6	34080	52	11	10	1071	750	-4.6	46	198	0.3	0.3	Strip Filter	Copper or Copper compound	1.3
Entire body	Plane B	0.7	12.4	12.94	-89.5	-0.2	Fluoroscopy	70	40	184	7360	23	8	10	1217	750	-6.6	104	198	0.3	0.2	Strip Filter	Copper or Copper compound	0.8
Entire body	Plane A	139.1	2151.4	12.44	0.1	11.5	Stationary Acquisition	83	285	2386.5	679913	37	65	4	1069	750	-5	120	171	0.6		No Filter		130.4
Entire body	Plane B	78.3	933.5	10.92	-89.5	-0.2	Stationary Acquisition	85	136	2386.5	325041	37	65	4	1217	750	-7.1	141	171	0.3		No Filter		73.3
Entire body	Plane A	50.2	1398.4	16.70	-98.5	-0.1	Rotational Acquisition	70	384	917.7	352763	133	6.9	30	1201	750	-2.1	131	188	0.6		No Filter		49.7
Primary Angle					Every 30° or finer increments? Continuous angle integration?		Stepping DSA																Peak Skin Dose	



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Table 1. Sample

Target Region	ACQ Plane	Dose RP (mGy)	DAP (μGy-m ²)	Calculated FOV (cm) (Square)	Prime Angle (deg)	Secondary Angle (deg)	Event Type
Entire body	Plane A	1.3	20.6	12.59	0.1	-0.1	Fluoroscopy
Entire body	Plane B	0.7	12.4	12.94	-89.5	-0.2	Fluoroscopy
Entire body	Plane A	139.1	2151.4	12.44	0.1	11.5	Stationary Acquisition
Entire body	Plane B	78.3	933.5	10.92	-89.5	-0.2	Stationary Acquisition
Entire body	Plane A	50.2	1398.4	16.70	-98.5	-0.1	Rotational Acquisition
Primary Angle					Every 30° or finer increments? Continuous angle integration?		Stepping DSA



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One might attempt to apply corrections of Field-of-View (FOV) to account for the field overlap which is also dependent on the "Primary Angle".

Typically, the radiation field is "nearly" a square. So a square FOV can be assumed for most cardiac cases and neuro radiology examinations.

Visceral angiography will cover a somewhat larger body areas ---- the Tabletop geometrical parameters need to be examined, i.e., **Stepping Mode**.

Ideally, the angular variable may be applied in a contiguous angle changes and account for the overlapped areas.

We initially applied a 30-degree increment and this correction is enhanced as the "SKIN DOSE MAPPING" becomes available.

Table 1. Sample

Target Region	ACQ Plane	Dose RP (mGy)	DAP (μGy-m ²)	Calculated FOV (cm) (Square)	Prime Angle (deg)	Secondary Angle (deg)	Event Type
Entire body	Plane A	1.3	20.6	12.59	0.1	-0.1	Fluoroscopy
Entire body	Plane B	0.7	12.4	12.94	-89.5	-0.2	Fluoroscopy
Entire body	Plane A	139.1	2151.4	12.44	0.1	11.5	Stationary Acquisition
Entire body	Plane B	78.3	933.5	10.92	-89.5	-0.2	Stationary Acquisition
Entire body	Plane A	50.2	1398.4	16.70	-98.5	-0.1	Rotational Acquisition
Primary Angle					Every 30° or finer increments? Continuous angle integration?		Stepping DSA



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The Event Type correction is more related to Table Attenuation, Spectral Shaping Filter correction.

Typically, "Fluoroscopy" mode is operated with spectral shaping filters (SSF) that are (1) dynamically changed or (2) static/forced once the "procedure" is selected. [See AAPM TG 125 Report.]

Depending on the system programing, the "Stationary Acquisition" mode may have no SSF or functions similar to fluoroscopy mode under dynamic SSF operation.

Rotational Angiography Acquisition ---- the correction factor may be suggested by **AAPM TG 272 (in progress)** in conjunction with **AAPM TG 246** (in final review).

Stepping Digital Acquisition (DA/DSA) ---- currently only one Reference Point Dose is given. But, clearly the anatomical locations differ and corrections may be recommended if a high PSD is observed/reported.

DICOM Definition & Interpretation		Attenuation due to the Tabletop and TablePad					Corrected Dose (mGy)	
Table Long (mm)	Table Lat (mm)	Table Height (mm)	Focal Spot Size (mm)	Filter Min (mm)	Filter Max (mm)	Filter Type	Filter Material	
-4.6	46	198	0.3	0.3	0.3	Strip Filter	Copper or Copper compound	1.3
-6.6	104	198	0.3	0.2	0.2	Strip Filter	Copper or Copper compound	0.8
-5	120	171	0.6			No Filter		130.4
-7.1	141	171	0.3			No Filter		73.3
-2.1	131	188	0.6			No Filter		49.7
								Peak Skin Dose



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DICOM Definition and Conventional Understanding of "Longitudinal" and "Lateral".



Figure C.8.19.6-3. Table Position Vectors

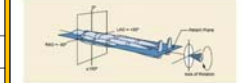


Figure C.8-11. Positioner Primary Angle

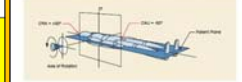


Figure C.8-12. Positioner Secondary Angle

The question here is Whether the definition is ;

Patient Centric, or Operator Centric!

The Software takes the DICOM RDSR Tags and Implement the definition in accordance to the "Conventional Understanding"

While DICOM definition is "Operator" Centric, we "THINK" in "Patient" Centric orientation.

DICOM Definition & Interpretation			Attenuation due to the Tabletop and TablePad					Corrected Dose (mGy)
Table Long (mm)	Table Lat (mm)	Table Height (mm)	Focal Spot Size (mm)	Filter Min (mm)	Filter Max (mm)	Filter Type	Filter Material	
-4.6	46	198	0.3	0.3	0.3	Strip Filter	Copper or Copper compound	1.3
-6.6	104	198	0.3	0.2	0.2	Strip Filter	Copper or Copper compound	0.8
-5	120	171	0.6			No Filter		130.4
-7.1	141	171	0.3			No Filter		73.3
-2.1	131	188	0.6			No Filter		49.7

The spectral shaping filters employed are typically, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.6, and 0.9 mmCu. Other filters of varying materials and thicknesses are also employed in conjunction with the fluoroscopy "trajectories" or "curves".

The primary radiation beam may be attenuated by the examination tabletop and the patient pad (mattress). The radiation dose received by the patient will be lower for the PA-projections and any angled projection that is intercepted by the tabletop.

The most important parameter in estimating the PSD is the Tabletop Location; **the Table Height** in the case of PA-projection. On the other hand, the **Table Lateral Location** is definitely more important for the Lateral-projection.

Table Height Correction Is Most Important.

Peak Skin Dose



List of Correction Factors									
Physical Parameters					Correction				
Backscatter					1.3				
Tissue-to-Air Ratio					1.06				
No Spectral Shaping Filter (SSF)					0.5~0.65				
All Other SSF [GE and Siemens]					0.7				
Rotational Angiography					0.25?				

mmCu	X-ray Tube Potential (kVp)										average
	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	
0.0	0.59	0.61	0.63	0.64	0.65	0.66	0.67	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.71
0.1	0.64	0.66	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.74	0.75	0.76
0.2	0.65	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.74	0.75	0.76	0.77
0.3	0.66	0.68	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.74	0.75	0.76	0.77	0.78
0.6	0.68	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.74	0.75	0.76	0.77	0.78	0.79
0.9	0.69	0.71	0.73	0.74	0.75	0.76	0.77	0.78	0.79	0.80	0.81
average	0.65	0.67	0.69	0.69	0.70	0.71	0.72	0.73	0.74	0.75	0.76

The attenuation is corrected with the transmission factor. It must be determined **individually specific** to the angiography equipment.

kVp	60 kVp		70 kVp		80 kVp		90 kVp		100 kVp		110 kVp		120 kVp	
	Table & Pad	In Air	Table & Pad	In Air	Table & Pad	In Air	Table & Pad	In Air	Table & Pad	In Air	Table & Pad	In Air	Table & Pad	In Air
1	0.0	293.2	2.49	479.8	2.24	423.7	2.96	674.5	2.66	564.3	3.47	882.3	3.09	720.4
2	0.0	293.2	2.49	479.8	2.24	423.7	2.96	674.5	2.66	564.3	3.47	882.3	3.09	720.4
3	0.0	293.2	2.49	479.8	2.24	423.7	2.96	674.5	2.66	564.3	3.47	882.3	3.09	720.4
4	0.0	293.2	2.49	479.8	2.24	423.7	2.96	674.5	2.66	564.3	3.47	882.3	3.09	720.4
5	0.1	139.6	3.42	211.8	3.20	225.3	4.11	333.7	3.89	323.6	4.76	473.6	4.56	438.0
6	0.2	81.8	4.05	121.0	3.89	144.2	4.81	209.8	4.68	221.8	5.59	318.3	5.40	315.2
7	0.3	51.4	4.50	75.1	4.39	98.5	5.41	141.3	5.27	109.9	6.21	227.7	6.09	238.2
8	0.6	18.0	5.41	25.7	5.36	42.7	6.48	60.1	6.39	79.8	7.44	111.2	7.36	130.2
9	0.9	7.7	6.0	10.9	6.0	22.3	7.2	30.7	7.1	46.7	8.1	84.6	8.1	83.0
10														
11														
12	0.0	0.81	1.11	0.63	1.11	0.64	1.12	0.65	1.12	0.66	1.11	0.67	1.10	0.68
13	0.1	0.66	1.07	0.68	1.06	0.68	1.04	0.69	1.04	0.70	1.05	0.70	1.04	0.71
14	0.2	0.68	1.04	0.69	1.03	0.70	1.04	0.70	1.03	0.71	1.03	0.71	1.02	0.72
15	0.3	0.68	1.03	0.70	1.03	0.71	1.02	0.71	1.02	0.72	1.02	0.72	1.02	0.73
16	0.6	0.70	1.01	0.71	1.01	0.72	1.01	0.72	1.01	0.73	1.01	0.73	1.00	0.74
17	0.9	0.71	1.00	0.73	1.01	0.72	1.00	0.73	1.00	0.73	1.00	0.74	1.00	0.74

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Table 1. Sample PEMNET Spreadsheet in Microsoft Office Excel Format																								
Target Region	ACQ Plane	Dose RP (mGy)	DAP (uGy-m^2)	Prime Angle (deg)	Secondary Angle (deg)	Event Type	KVP (kV)	MA (mA)	Exposure Time (ms)	Exposure (uAs)	Pulses	Pulse Width (ms)	Pulse Rate (p/s)	Source To Isocenter (mm)	Table Long (mm)	Table Lat (mm)	Table Height (mm)	Focal Spot Size (mm)	Filter Min (mm)	Filter Max (mm)	Filter Type	Filter Material	Corrected Dose (mGy)	
Entire body	Plane A	1.3	20.6	0.1	-0.1	Fluoroscopy	71	58	587.6	34080	52	11.3	10	1071	750	-4.6	46	197.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	Strip Filter	Copper c	1.4
Entire body	Plane B	0.7	12.4	-89.5															0.2			Strip Filter	Copper c	0.8
Entire body	Plane A	139.1	2151.4	0.1																		No Filter		130.4
Entire body	Plane B	78.3	933.5	-89.5																		No Filter		73.3
Entire body	Plane A	50.2	1398.4	-98.5	-0.1	Rotational Acquisition	70	384	917.7	352763	133	6.9	30	1201	750	-2.1	131	187.8	0.6			No Filter		49.7
Grand Total		9347.6																						9680.8

Details of calculation formula will be discussed in the second talk of this Symposium, presented by Frank Corwin.

Other aspect and features of a PRDMT program is discussed in the third talk of this Symposium, presented by Allen Goode.

This is the same slide as "Slide 12". Line 238 shows what the Displayed Dose is, as opposed to, the Corrected Dose is.



So, when the peak skin dose for this patient was "estimated" at almost 10000 mGy (10 Gy). The real question is then what are we going to do about it; i.e., **The Caring of Patient**. It is essential that;

- (1) A systemic structure must be arranged to coordinate the data received and implement the process. At VCU Health, the **Clinical Radiation Safety Office** is assigned to oversee this patient care process/procedure.
- (2) The technical and physics support is provided by the Division of Radiation Physics and Biology, Department of Radiology, VCU.
- (3) Need to establish "levels" of PSD and what actions are necessary.
- (4) An enterprise wide "uniform" patient care policy must be established.

Investigation Level	Evaluation Level		Reporting Level		TJC Sentinel Event	
(2,000 mGy-5,000 mGy)	(>5,000-10,000 mGy)		(>10,000-15,000 mGy)		(>15,000 mGy)	
	To A Single Anatomical Area		To A Single Anatomical Area		To A Single Anatomical Area	
Single Dose	Single Dose	Cumulative Dose	Single Dose	Cumulative Dose	Single Dose	Cumulative Dose



So, when the peak skin dose for this patient was “estimated” at almost 10000 mGy (10 Gy).
The real question is then what is the best way to estimate the Caring of Patient.

It is essential that;

- (1) A systemic structure must be established to receive and implement the patient care process. At VCU Health, the Department of Radiation Physics is assigned to oversee this process.
- (2) The technical and physical aspects of the patient care process are managed by the Department of Radiation Physics and the Department of Radiation Biology, Department of Radiation Oncology.
- (3) Need to establish “level” of care for patient care.
- (4) An enterprise wide “uniform” standard must be established.

Details of Organizational Structure and Administrative Operation of Institutional Infrastructure for Fluoroscopy Exposure Monitoring and Tracking; i.e., The Caring of Patient will be discussed in the last talk of this Symposium, presented by Jan Clark.

Investigation Level	Evaluation Level		Reporting Level		TJC Sentinel Event	
(2,000 mGy-5,000 mGy)	>5,000-10,000 mGy		>10,000-15,000 mGy		>15,000 mGy	
	To A Single Anatomical Area		To A Single Anatomical Area		To A Single Anatomical Area	
Single Dose	Single Dose	Cumulative Dose	Single Dose	Cumulative Dose	Single Dose	Cumulative Dose



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Finally, it should be pointed out that the preparatory steps in attaining better accuracy of Peak Skin Dose is an evolving process. In other words;

- i. There are still many more unsolved “parameters” that need to be considered for a more “exact” PSD estimation. Therefore, the slides and calculations discussed herein is still being improved.
- ii. Most patient radiation dose monitoring and tracking (PRDMT) programs that are available on the commercial market do not provided PSD calculation.
- iii. Those programs that do provide PSD calculation may not necessarily including all correction factors discussed in this presentation. Only vendor specific proprietary software may have most of the correction factors necessary to achieve the “close-to-real” patient PSD.
- iv. The PSD obtained is NOT including the size and shape of the patient. It is therefore, reasonable to say, the PSD is estimated at the distance the radiation field is being projected on a cylindrical shape patient.
- v. And, the registration of patient (anatomical) location is not specified. (IEC is working on this matter.)

Direct your questions to my E-mail Address at <pei-jan.lin@vcuhealth.org>



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Summary of Reports/References

IEC Report 60601

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