Session 8: Radiation protection of patients and staff where procedures are performed outside radiology departments

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Various areas concerned (1)

- Vascular surgery
- Gastroenterology
- Urology
- Gynaecology
- Orthopaedics
- Neurology
- Cardiology

➡️ Operating room

C-Arm

O-Arm

Digital detectors
Various areas concerned (2)

- Bedside radiology
  - Intensive Care Unit
  - Neonatology

- Dental radiology
  - Intraoral
  - Panoramic
  - Conebeam CT
Various areas concerned (3)

- A lot of different actors
  - Surgeons
  - Cardiologists
  - Anaesthetists
  - Dental surgeons
  - Nurses
  - Radiographers...

- Various exposure levels
  - Patients
  - Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Effective dose mSv</th>
<th>Doses to extremities mSv</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 1 Nurse of operating theatre</td>
<td>21/quarter</td>
<td>523/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 2 Digestive radiologist</td>
<td>27/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 3 Orthopaedic surgeon</td>
<td>3.5/year</td>
<td>571 right hand/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 4 Digestive radiologist</td>
<td></td>
<td>875 left hand/year</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. 5 Radiologist (intra-articular injections)</td>
<td></td>
<td>525/four months</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>677/four months</td>
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</tbody>
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C. Rousse et al., 2012
Very little data available

- Frequency of procedures
- Patient doses
- Staff doses

according to EMAN Project conclusions (2012)
www.eman-network.eu

- Few countries established DRL for these procedures
Important issues (1)

- Radiation protection education and training of staff
  - Very heterogeneous (sometimes none...)
  - Basis for a good radiation protection of patients and staff...
    - Patient-detector distance
    - No protective screen

- Medical physicist rarely involved
Important issues (2)

Equipment characteristics

- Adapted to the complexity of the procedures
  - Frame and pulse rates
  - Additional filtration
  - Field collimation...
  - Patient dose optimization

- Allowing KAP measurement
  - Patient dose monitoring
  - Alert system

- Adequate shielding for staff protection

*Overexposure of a patient, after aneurysms embolization: long and complex intervention performed with an old equipment, without any add. filtration, nor KAP meter.*
Important issues (3)

Staff dose monitoring improvement

- Personal dosimeters are not regularly worn in operating room,
- Some procedures require additional dose monitoring (fingers, eyes)
- Staff monitoring is not harmonized at international level,
  - Upon and/or above the apron
  - Passive and/or active dosimetry

- No protective screen
- No protective glasses
- Fingers in the x-ray field
Important issues (4)

Repeated procedures on children

Sensitive population with a long life span

Neonatology
- Repeated chest and abdominal radiographies during the first weeks of life
- Children who might have a medical follow-up for years, including x-ray procedures

Dental radiology
- Intra-oral / Panoramic / Cone-beam CT
- In France: 50% of diagnostic procedures performed on children (5 to 15 years old) are dental examinations (2010)
Conclusion (1)

Radiation protection of patients and staff has improved in the medical field within the past decade, through:

- International recommendations (ICRP 85, AIEA TecDoc 1641...),
- IAEA training material and website,
- National regulations and inspections,
- Actions led by Professional Bodies,
- Daily work of radiation protection actors.

But “operating rooms” remain places where RP is not integrated in the routine practice.
Conclusion (2)

Work has still to be done, in the future, to improve RP “outside the radiology departments”

- E & T of staff
  - In France, training in RP is mandatory (every 10 years) for all professional using ionizing radiations for medical purpose
  - An “irradiating” license ??

- Equipments
  - Commissioning / maintenance / QC / optimized protocols

- Medical physicists involvement

- Staff dose monitoring
  - Eyes protection ?
  - Hands monitoring ?
  - Harmonization (type and number of dosimeters / estimation of E)
Thank you!