

Abstract

There has been an increasing number of invasive fluoroscopic procedures and a concomitant increase in the number of radiation injuries reported from these procedures. The primary risk to patients from prolonged fluoroscopic x-ray exposure is skin injury. Modifications to the work habits of some practitioners and to the fluoroscopic room environment are necessary to maintain an acceptable level of benefit/risk for patients. These modifications include improved patient management by physician training, dose monitoring, and equipment maintenance. Dose optimization can be achieved by: controlling dose rate at skin entrance, managing cumulated dose from multiple procedures, performing real-time dose monitoring and using quality control measures to avoid excessive radiation output by equipment. This presentation will focus on the implementation of each of these measures.