

Scientific Committee 72 (SC-72) of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) prepared a report entitled "Mammography -- A User's Guide" which was issued in 1986 as NCRP Report No. 85. Since then there have been numerous significant developments related to breast imaging: improvements in x-ray imaging equipment, in screen-film and other image receptors, in education and training of radiologists, technologists, and medical physicists with regard to the acquisition, display, and interpretation of breast images, and in the specification of quality assurance programs recommended by accrediting bodies such as the American College of Radiology and required by the federal government through the Mammography Quality Standards Act. Furthermore, new data and methods to evaluate the data for radiation dose and radiation risk to the breast, and of the benefits from mammography breast screening programs have also been published. NCRP SC-72 is preparing a new document on breast imaging to incorporate this new information and to provide recommendations for those involved in mammography. An overview of the current draft version of the SC-72 report will be presented. There will be brief reviews of sections on proper clinical imaging techniques, optimum choice of equipment, factors which affect image quality, radiation dose evaluation, quality assurance programs, and non-mammographic breast imaging techniques. The presentation will conclude with a detailed discussion of benefits and risks of mammography and a review of the Committee's draft recommendations.

Educational Objectives

1. Describe the members and activities of NCRP Scientific Committee 72.
2. Review the various sections of the current draft of the NCRP SC-72 report on mammography and breast imaging.
3. Provide detailed information on the benefits and risks of mammography.
4. Discuss the draft recommendations of NCRP SC-72 with regard to mammography.