

AbstractID: 6715 Title: Monitor and Reducing Patient Radiation Exposure from Fluoroscopically-Guided Procedures in a Teaching Hospital

Purpose: Radiation dosimetry information from fluoro-guided procedures was monitored timely for patient safety and for training of residents.

Methods: Fluoro-guided procedures were regularly conducted in our hospital-based radiology core area (R/F rooms for GI, BE and other procedures), operating rooms, radiology special procedure suites, cardiac catheterization labs, and out-patient clinics (ambulatory surgery, orthopedics, pain management, urodynamics, etc). Quality control and patient dosimetry programs were managed by medical physicists.

Results: Records on fluoro times/techniques for all procedures were reviewed on daily basis, and results discussed with respective attendings/residents who performed the procedure. Analysis of accrued data showed that all residents, after a learning period, were able to complete a general procedure in less than 5 minutes fluoro time. Interventional procedures were found to have some patient exposures at high radiation doses.

Conclusions: Vigilant monitoring and closely interacting with practicing physicians and technologists were essential in helping to improve a physician's technique toward reducing fluoro times necessary. Additional attention was warranted to patient exposure in interventional procedures since some high doses were found.