

Dry processing film system has become popular particularly in a network environment. This is mainly due to its ability to produce high quality images without wet chemistry processing. This paper describes a monthly monitoring program on five Model 8700 DryView Laser Imagers in our institution. A SMPTE pattern is generated via DryView Laser Imager software. The 100% patch is used for checking the base-plus-fog of the Imager. The 40% patch is used as Speed Index. Optical density difference between patches 10% and 70% is used as Contrast Index. These numbers are plotted for testing system consistency. In addition, the SMPTE pattern is examined to verify the sharpness of the bar patterns and the visibility of subtle contrasts - 95% inset in the 100% patch and 5% inset in the 0% patch. The clinical films are checked for processor artifacts, such as residuals from the drum. Stability of the dry processor has also been studied using three strips per day obtained at three different times of the day over a period of two weeks. The variations of the dry film processors ranged from 14% to 26% of the average values. The monthly monitoring program has been carried out in our institution since January 1997. The problems found by this monthly monitoring program assess the necessity of routine QC for DryView Laser Imagers. The instability of the post-processing dry silver films, and consequently, the film handling requirements will also be discussed.