AbstractID: 1331 Title: Preliminary Results of the 2003 Nationwide Evaluation of X-Ray Trends (NEXT) Survey of Upper Gastro-Intestinal Exams

In 2003 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) cooperated to conduct a survey of radiographic/ fluoroscopic systems typically used to perform upper gastro-intestinal exams. This activity was carried out as part the FDA Nationwide Evaluation of X-Ray Trends (NEXT) program which has been ongoing for many years. Upper gastro-intestinal exams were last examined in 1996. The facilities surveyed were chosen randomly from a nationwide list and each state is given a list of facilities to survey using a standardized procedure.

Although patient dose rates from this radiological procedure were not anticipated to be high, the survey was considered important since a large number of these exams are performed annually and the overall radiation burden on the population is significant. Information was obtained about the units surveyed included the technique factors which the facility normally used for both fluoroscopic and radiographic procedures. The surveyors measured x-ray exposure and beam quality, and obtained data relating to image quality and film processing. In each facility, the unit surveyed was the one most frequently used to perform the procedure.

In addition to the measurements performed by the surveyors, the facilities were questioned in order to obtain information of a more general nature relating to their practice. Questions asked related to department staffing, the number and types of diagnostic imaging procedures performed on an annual basis and whether a medical physics survey was a part of their annual quality control activities.

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