

Traditional CT dosimetry includes the CT dose index (weighted, or CTDI_w, and volume - for pitch adjustment, or CTDI_{vol}) based on a 10 cm CT pencil ion chamber in standard acrylic phantoms. With widening beam widths in multi-detector CT (MDCT), this method does not incorporate the scatter (tail) portion of the dose profile. We compared the traditional CTDI_{vol} from a 16-slice MDCT console with a new method of dose assessment using MOSFET technology. Helical MDCT examinations of an entire standard 16 cm acrylic (head) phantom was performed using a variety of pitches (0.5625 – 1.75) and collimations (10 mm and 20 mm) with MOSFET detectors placed in the five standard holes. MOSFET dose assessment was performed using a similar method as the standard formula for the weighted CTDI_w. Pitch-unfolded MOSFET measurements of dose (mGy) exceeded CTDI_w by an approximate constant of 8.0 mGy (16%) for 10 mm, and 7.1 mGy (18%) for 20 mm collimations, respectively. Conclusions: Use of MOSFETs has demonstrated a real-time advantage of measuring CT dose, offering a rapid and less cumbersome method for CT dosimetry. MOSFET technique also incorporates complex MDCT scatter contributions into the dose measurement not possible with traditional CTDI. A good correlation ($p < 0.0001$) was observed between the CTDI_{vol} and the measured dose using MOSFETs for each beam width. Underestimations of CTDI_{vol} may be attributable to the scatter tails. MOSFET technology may offer more accurate measures of CT dose for use in clinical and regulatory management of dose.