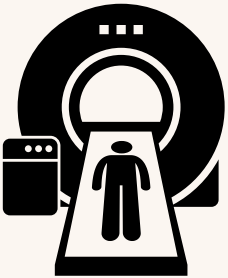


RADIATION SAFETY



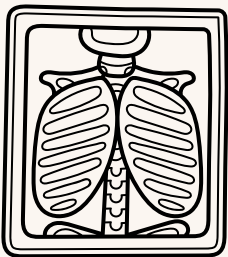
Understanding the Health Hazards of Radiation

Health hazards from radiation come from exposure. Frontline providers should be familiar with their agency policies for radiation safety if there are known exposure risks.



Common Imaging Procedures in Health Care

- Computed Tomography Scans (CT Scans)
- DEXA Scans (Bone Densitometry)
- Fluoroscopy
- Nuclear Medicine
- Radiography and Dental X-rays
- Mammography



Radiation Benefits

- Provides a better view of internal organs, blood vessels, tissues, and bones.
- Provides detailed information to aid in deciding if surgery is a good treatment option.
- Can be used to assist in medical procedures such as placing catheters, stents, or other devices inside the body.



Radiation Risks

- Humans are exposed to daily radiation that is not risky. However, added exposures such as from imaging slightly increase the risk of developing cancer in later life.
- Higher doses of radiation from some forms of imaging can cause skin reddening and hair loss.
- Some people can have allergic reactions to the dye used in some forms of imaging.

Imaging Procedures and Radiation

- Radiation produces digital images that are used to find the cause of medical problems.
- Higher doses of radiation can be harmful.
- Medical professionals are trained and certified to conduct imaging studies in the hospital, imaging centers, and clinics.
- Imaging procedures deliver radiation only at the lowest dose to the body parts that need imaging, protecting other body parts.
- Normally, the body can repair cells damaged by the low amounts of radiation used in imaging.



Sources

- [Radiation Safety | CDC](#)
- [Radiation in Healthcare- Imaging Procedures | CDC](#)
- [Facts About Imaging Procedures | CDC](#)
- [Radiation in Your Life | CDC](#)
- [Ionizing Radiation | OSHA](#)