

PATIENT DOSES IN PAEDIATRIC RADIOLOGY

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It is well known that medical irradiation makes the greatest contribution to the genetically significant dose arising from man-made sources of radiation. Little information has appeared in the literature in recent years regarding the contribution made by paediatric radiology.

A survey is currently in progress to assess the doses received by children undergoing diagnostic radiology in a modern , well equipped paediatric xray department in which rare- earth intensifying screens are used. The survey was designed in two parts, the first dealing with direct radiography only and the second with examinations involving indirect radiography and fluoroscopy.

In the first part, lithium fluoride powder dosimeters were used to measure the incident dose at the centre of each xray field on each of approximately 1000 patients. Details of the child's weight and height, the depth of the body cross-section being examined and the separation of the gonads from the field centres were recorded, together with the xray factors and the field sizes used.

Preliminary results from the survey of direct radiography are presented giving details of the skin doses received and their variation with examination type , age and size.

Acknowledgement.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the patience of the radiographers at the Hospital for Sick Children who were largely responsible for the recording of the data .

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