

SCRAP THE LEAD

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HISTORY OF LEAD SHIELDING

The use of lead aprons and shielding of reproductive organs during x-ray exams has been expected and the norm from the 1950's to present day. The reasoning behind this practice was that radiation was believed to cause harm to reproductive organs.

Many people were taught from a young age about the dangers of radiation and the need to request shielding during x-ray exams.



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70 years of research has lead scientists, physicists, and physicians to adopt and promote a drastically new approach regarding the use of lead shielding during imaging exams and standard lead shielding is no longer recommended.

REASONS FOR THE CHANGE

- New high tech diagnostic imaging machines and digital advances have made it possible to use 95% less radiation - while still producing quality images.
- Scientific research has revealed that reproductive organs are much less sensitive to radiation than previously thought.
- When lead shields are used they may inadvertently cover up an area that the doctors need to see and this can lead to the necessity for repeat images .
- Modern day imaging machines use technology that can cause the machine to overcompensate when shielding is used –this can lead to radiation overexposure.



*Please Note Radiologic Technologists receive greater amounts of radiation during employment due to greater and more frequent exposures which requires them to continue to utilize lead protection.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE IN IMAGING PROTECTION

Radiologic Technologists will often be the only personnel a patient encounters during their imaging exams. Therefore, questions and concerns about shielding and radiation safety are likely to be directed to the Radiologic Technologist. Radiologic Technologists are expected to stay aware of the latest developments and protocols within the field of Imaging and patients depend upon their technologist to educate and inform them of crucial changes and educate them on the reasoning behind these changes and the safety of doing so. The Radiologic Technologist can guide the patient and assure them that their exam will be performed in the best and safest manner using the lowest possible radiation dose while still achieving quality images.

REFERENCES AND QUESTIONS

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REFERENCES QR CODE:



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