

Radiation Safety and CT Scans

Adventist Medical Center and Gresham Imaging Center are committed to providing excellent image quality in order to ensure accurate diagnoses. At the same time, we are dedicated to adhering to best medical practice guidelines by minimizing the radiation dose to each and every patient. The concept known as ALARA (as low as reasonably achievable) is employed to guide the balance between image quality and dose.

Steps taken to ensure radiation safety include:

- Annual dose measurements are performed by a radiation physicist for specific CT (computed tomography) and X-ray exams to ensure they are within national and state limits.
- Random audits are done to ensure actual imaging is consistently performed within established safety guidelines.
- Examinations ordered are reviewed for medical appropriateness to avoid unnecessary exposure or tests. By reducing the number of inappropriate tests, radiation exposure is reduced to the general population as a whole.
- Automatic dose adjusting devices on all systems ensure that only the necessary amount of radiation is used for each individual patient.
- Technologists are trained to adjust techniques based on patient size to minimize dose and ensure uniform image quality.
- Shielding is used to block or limit the dose when it will not interfere with the area being imaged.
- Female CT patients are given breast shielding to reduce the breast dosage for those studies in which the breasts are within the field of imaging.
- Technologists review projected delivered dose prior to scanning to ensure it is appropriate for the patient size.

Take Charge of Your Health

- Ask your physician if there is an alternate diagnostic exam that does not use ionizing radiation.
- Notify your physician of CT exams ordered by another physician over the last year that he or she may not have on record

It is our desire to keep you well-informed about the care you are receiving. If you have questions about radiation safety and dosage received during CT scans, please call Adventist Medical Center's Radiology Department at 503-251-6132 to speak with a CT technologist.

Imaging Services

Scheduling

503-251-6137 phone
503-261-6058 fax

Adventist Medical Center

10123 SE Market Street
Portland, Oregon 97216

Gresham Imaging Center

831 NW Council Drive
Gresham, Oregon 97030

Visit the American
College of Radiology
website:

www.acr.com

for additional
information regarding
radiation safety.

Care you can have faith in.