

HIGH PATIENT DOSES AS A RESULT OF PHYSICIAN'S NEGLIGENCE. HOW IT CAN BE PREVENTED?

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Interventional cardiology procedures are usually associated with high patient doses where even deterministic radiation effects may be observed. Digital flat panels were advertised to lower doses thus a definite benefit for patient would be reaped. However, dose studies in Athens General Hospital showed that physician's practice make most of the difference in lowering patients' doses. By assessing doses delivered to patients during 560 Coronary Angiographies (Cas) and 340 Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasties (PTCAs), the cardiologists who neglected basic radiation protection rules were spotted and proper advice was provided. Moreover, the doses delivered by various physicians for the same type of craniological procedure were compared for antagonism purposes. Six months later, the same study was repeated but –to our surprise- the situation remained unchanged with the same cardiologists delivering higher patient doses. The question that comes next is how this bad practice can be prevented / stopped since no dose constraints apply to Interventional procedures.

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