



514/E1

**Radiation dose to occupationally exposed persons in nuclear medicine departments of two hospitals**

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A government and a private hospital performing nuclear medicine scans were studied to determine if the radiation protection measures taken for occupationally exposed personnel are satisfactory. Radiation dose from Tc-99m to the technician and medical staff (doctor/nurse) while preparing and administering the radiopharmaceutical was determined using an Aloka Pocket Dosimeter-112 worn on the hands. Both hospitals followed the same protocols with the procedures studied.

The dose received to the hands of both categories was higher in the private hospital. This is related to the higher activity eluted with each generator at the private hospital ranging from 2330 to 15,495 MBq than in the government hospital with a range of 473 to 9400 MBq. A larger number of patients, both adult and children undergo nuclear medicine scans in the private hospital whereas the government hospital studied was dedicated to pediatric patients requiring lower activity due to smaller body size and scans that do not require high activities. The dose received to the hands from use of Tc-99m of the categories of occupationally exposed personnel studied was higher in the private hospital (8.8 mSv y<sup>-1</sup> to the technician and 1.6 mSv y<sup>-1</sup> to medical staff) whereas it was 0.7 mSv y<sup>-1</sup> and 0.24 mSv y<sup>-1</sup> to the technician and to medical staff respectively at the Government hospital. The doses recorded in both hospitals were lower than the International Committee on Radiological Protection recommended value of 500 mSv y<sup>-1</sup>. This suggests that the radiation protection measures taken by the hospitals are satisfactory.

Keywords: Dose, protection, radiation, gamma-camera, generator