SUPPORTED BY:

American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM)
https://www.aapm.org/

American Board of Radiology (ABR)
https://www.theabr.org/

American College of Radiology (ACR)
https://www.acr.org/

American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT)
https://www.asrt.org/

Image Gently ®
https://www.imagegently.org/

Society for Pediatric Radiology (SPR)
https://www.pedrad.org/

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine:
Communicating Advances in Radiation Education for Shielding (CARES)
https://www.aapm.org/CARES/

British Institute of Radiology
https://www.bir.org.uk/

If you have any questions or concerns about your imaging exam, please talk to your radiologic technologist or doctor.

Information about NCRP Statement No. 13: *NCRP Recommendations for Ending Routine Gonadal Shielding During Pelvic and Abdominal Radiography*

https://ncrponline.org/publications/statements/

WHERE'S THE LEAD APRON?

WHY REPRODUCTIVE ORGAN SHIELDING IS NO LONGER RECOMMENDED

You may notice that we no longer shield patients' reproductive organs during imaging exams.

Based on over 70 years of research, medical experts now know that the best way to keep patients safe during imaging exams is to not use shields. This is true at any age, including for those who plan to have children in the future. We know this is different from how things have been done for a long time. This pamphlet talks about why this change was made.

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements

https://ncrponline.org/

BACKGROUND

In the 1950s, medical experts had less knowledge about how the x-ray radiation used in medical imaging affected our bodies.

One concern was that the radiation might damage cells that could be passed along to future generations. Because of this concern, lead shields were often placed over patients' reproductive organs during medical imaging exams.

We now know that the best way to safely image you is to not use shields.

Pelvic x ray

The amount of radiation used in medical imaging has decreased over 95% since the 1950s. Better technology means that today's medical imaging equipment can make high quality images using only very small amounts of radiation.

Scientists found that the gonads are much less sensitive to radiation than previously thought. This is true for everyone, including children and adults who plan to have children in the future.

Shields can cover up parts of the body that your doctor needs to see. If this happens, then the exam may need to be repeated.

Shields can interfere with other dose-saving features. X-ray equipment includes technology that makes sure just the right amount of radiation is used for the exam. Sometimes a shield can interfere with this technology, which can actually increase the amount of radiation from the exam.