Radiation Dose to Adults From Common Imaging Examinations

Procedure		Approximate effective radiation dose	Comparable to natural background radiation for
 ABDOMINAL REGION	Computed Tomography (CT) — Abdomen and Pelvis	10 mSv	3 years
	Computed Tomography (CT) — Abdomen and Pelvis, repeated with and without contrast material	20 mSv	7 years
	Computed Tomography (CT) — Colonography	6 mSv	2 years
	Intravenous Pyelogram (IVP)	3 mSv	1 year
	Radiography (X-ray) — Lower GI Tract	8 mSv	3 years
	Radiography (X-ray) — Upper GI Tract	6 mSv	2 years
 BONE	Radiography (X-ray) — Spine	1.5 mSv	6 months
	Radiography (X-ray) — Extremity	0.001 mSv	3 hours
 CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM	Computed Tomography (CT) — Head	2 mSv	8 months
	Computed Tomography (CT) — Head, repeated with and without contrast material	4 mSv	16 months
	Computed Tomography (CT) — Spine	6 mSv	2 years
 CHEST	Computed Tomography (CT) — Chest	7 mSv	2 years
	Computed Tomography (CT) — Lung Cancer Screening	1.5 mSv	6 months
	Radiography — Chest	0.1 mSv	10 days
 DENTAL	Intraoral X-ray	0.005 mSv	1 day
 HEART	Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA)	12 mSv	4 years
	Cardiac CT for Calcium Scoring	3 mSv	1 year
 MEN'S IMAGING	Bone Densitometry (DEXA)	0.001 mSv	3 hours
 NUCLEAR MEDICINE	Positron Emission Tomography — Computed Tomography (PET/CT)	25 mSv	8 years
 WOMEN'S IMAGING	Bone Densitometry (DEXA)	0.001 mSv	3 hours
	Mammography	0.4 mSv	7 weeks

Note: This chart simplifies a highly complex topic for patients' informational use. The effective doses are typical values for an average-sized adult. The actual dose can vary substantially, depending on a person's size as well as on differences in imaging practices. It is also important to note that doses given to pediatric patients will vary significantly from those given to adults, since children vary in size. Patients with radiation dose questions should consult with their radiation physicists and/or radiologists as part of a larger discussion on the benefits and risks of radiologic care.

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07.16