

Radiation Dose and Image-Quality Assessment in Computed Tomography

Preface	1
Glossary	3
Abstract	9
1. Introduction	11
1.1 CT Manufacturers and Model Names	12
2. Basics of Computed-Tomography Technology	13
2.1 CT-Scanner Design	13
2.2 Scan-Acquisition Modes	15
2.2.1 Axial CT Scanning	15
2.2.2 Helical (Spiral) Scan Mode	16
2.2.3 Repeated Scanning at the Same Table Position	17
2.2.4 Dual-Energy CT	18
2.2.5 Cardiac CT	19
2.3 Scan-Acquisition Parameters and Their Effects on Image Quality	19
2.4 Dose-Reduction Techniques	20
2.4.1 Fixed Tube Current (Technique Charts) and Patient Size	20
2.4.2 Automatic Exposure Control	21
2.4.3 Angular and Longitudinal X-Ray-Tube-Current Modulation	21
2.4.4 Adjusting X-Ray-Tube Potential Based on Patient Size	21
2.4.5 Beam-Shaping Filters	22
2.4.6 Image-Reconstruction and Noise-Reduction Algorithms	22
2.5 Summary	23
3. Computed Tomography in Clinical Use	25
3.1 Introduction	25
3.2 CT in Neuroradiology	25
3.3 CT in Thoracic Radiology	28
3.4 CT in Abdominal Imaging	29
3.5 CT in Pediatric Radiology	31
3.6 CT in Clinical Use: Summary	33
4. Overview of Existing CT-Dosimetry Methods	35
4.1 Goals of CT Dosimetry	35
4.2 CTDI-Based Metrics	36
4.2.1 Basic Tools	36
4.2.2 CTDI_∞	38

4.2.3	$CTDI_{FDA}$	38	8.1	Introduction	89
4.2.4	The nT Term	39	8.2	Absorbed Dose <i>versus</i> Patient Size	90
4.2.5	$CTDI_{100}$	40	8.3	Size Metrics	91
4.2.6	Weighted $CTDI$, $CTDI_w$	41	8.4	Size-Specific Dose Estimates	95
4.2.7	Volume $CTDI$, $CTDI_{vol}$	41	8.5	Summary	97
4.2.8	Limitations of $CTDI_{vol}$	41	9.	Automatic Exposure Control in CT	99
4.3	Dose–Length Product	42	9.1	Introduction	99
4.3.1	Limitations of $CTDI$ Methods	42	9.2	Automatic Exposure Control	99
4.4	Estimation of Effective Dose	43	9.3	Angular Tube-Current Modulation	100
5.	CT X-Ray-Spectrum Characterization	47	9.4	Patient Dose Assessment with TCM	101
5.1	Introduction	47	9.5	Examples of Slice-by-Slice CT Dose Calculation	101
5.2	Methods for HVL Measurement	48	9.6	Organ-Dose Estimation	104
5.2.1	Conventional HVL Assessment in CT	48	9.7	Summary	105
5.2.2	Aluminum-Cylinder Method	48	10.	Spatial Resolution in CT	107
5.2.3	Real-Time Probes	48	10.1	Introduction	107
5.2.4	Aluminum Cage with Real-Time Probe Method	50	10.2	Basic Spatial-Resolution Metrics	107
5.3	Spectrum Assessment Using the Tube Potential and the HVL	50	10.3	Assessment of Axial-Plane Resolution in CT	108
5.3.1	Off-Angle HVL Assessment	52	10.3.1	Limitations and Concerns in Axial- MTF Assessment	112
5.4	Typical HVL Values in CT	52	10.4	Resolution Along the z Axis	115
6.	CT Output Characteristics Measured in Air	55	10.5	Modern Resolution Metrics in CT	117
6.1	Introduction	55	10.5.1	Axial-Plane Resolution	117
6.2	Theoretical Methods for Predicting $f_{air}(z)$	55	10.5.2	z -Axis Resolution	118
6.3	Measurement of $f_{air}(z)$	56	10.6	Summary	118
6.3.1	Optically Stimulated Luminescence Systems	56	11.	Noise Assessment in CT	121
6.3.2	TLD Measurements	57	11.1	Introduction	121
6.3.3	Film	57	11.2	Basic Noise Metrics	121
6.3.4	Computed-Radiography Detectors	57	11.3	The Noise-Power Spectrum, $NPS(f)$	122
6.3.5	Real-Time Radiation Detectors	57	11.4	Demonstration of NPS Utility	127
6.3.6	Summary of $f_{air}(z)$ Measurements	58	11.5	Noise-Equivalent Quanta, NEQ	130
6.4	Measurement of $f_L(x)$ or $f_A(\theta)$	60	11.6	Dose-Normalized $NPS(f)$	133
6.4.1	Measurement of $f_L(x)$	60	11.7	Summary	134
6.4.2	Measurement of $f_A(\theta)$	62	12.	Summary of Recommendations	135
6.5	Planar Measurements of the CT Beam Profile	64	12.1	Radiation-Dose Assessment in CT	135
6.6	Summary	64	12.1.1	Existing CT-Dosimetry Methods	135
7.	CT Dosimetry in Phantoms	67	12.1.2	CT X-Ray-Spectrum Characterization	135
7.1	Axial Dose Profiles in Phantoms	67	12.1.3	CT Output-Related Parameters Measured in Air	136
7.2	Cumulative Absorbed-Dose Distributions for Helical Scans	72	12.1.4	CT Dosimetry in Phantoms	136
7.3	Equilibrium Dose, D_{eq}	73	12.1.5	Patient $SSDE$	137
7.3.1	Dose Profile for a Single Axial Rotation	74	12.1.6	Automatic Exposure Control in CT	138
7.3.2	Cumulative Absorbed-Dose Distribution, $D_L(z)$, for Multiple Rotations Covering a Scan Length L	74	12.2	Other Considerations in Patient Dosimetry in CT	138
7.4	Phantom Design and Usage	76	12.3	Image-Quality Metrics	139
7.5	AAPM Report 111 Recommendations for Assessment of $H(L)$	78	12.3.1	Spatial Resolution in CT	139
7.6	The Role of the Real-Time Radiation Meter in Measuring $H(L)$	80	12.3.2	Noise Assessment in CT	139
7.7	Measurement of $h(L)$ in the Clinical Environment	81	12.4	Future Directions	140
7.8	Rise to Equilibrium in 160 mm and 320 mm PMMA phantoms	84	12.4.1	Real-Time Probe	140
7.9	The Radial Dose Profile	85	12.4.2	Rise-to-Equilibrium Curve, $H(L)$	140
7.10	Summary	86	12.4.3	Incorporation of Scan-Length Corrections to the $SSDE$	140
8.	Patient Size-Specific Dose Estimation	89	References	143	