

Preliminary Investigation on The Patient and Occupational Doses in Interventional Procedures in Indonesia

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Abstract. *The medical use of ionizing radiation is known to offer great benefit to patients, yet contribute significantly to radiation exposure of individuals and populations. According to UNSCEAR, the increase of medical examination procedures involving fluoroscopic and interventional radiology resulted in both modalities become the biggest contribution to the radiation doses received by population. This study attempts to investigate the patient and occupational doses in interventional procedures in Indonesia. Patient doses were estimated by using individually packed three TLD-100 chips attached in the x-ray tube, while occupational doses were measured also by using individually packed three chips of TLD-100 placed in over- and under-thyroid shield used by medical staff, over- and under-apron in waist position, inside a special 'eye-D' holder, and inside a ring holder. All TLDs were calibrated in the Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL) Jakarta. The results show that coiling procedure in interventional radiology produced the highest dose to patient compared with other procedures, while in interventional cardiology, the patient received the highest dose when undergoing catheterization followed by stenting procedure. In the case of occupational exposure, the medical staff received the highest dose when conducting the coiling procedure and catheter followed by stenting procedure in interventional radiology and interventional cardiology, respectively. The results of measurement were also in good agreement with some other published data.*

Keywords: Patient doses, occupational doses, fluoroscopy, interventional radiology, interventional cardiology

Introduction

The medical use of ionizing radiation is known to offer great benefit to patients, yet contribute significantly to radiation exposure of individuals and populations. According to UNSCEAR (2010), more than 80% of radiation dose received by world population from man-made radiation originated from medical application, particularly from fluoroscopic and interventional radiology. The main reason for this contribution was the increase of examination procedures involving both modalities. UNSCEAR estimated that the total radiological examination during 1991-1996 was 1,900 million, or around 330 examinations for every 1,000 population around the world, while during 1985-1990, the total number was 1,600 million or around 300 examinations per 1,000 population.

As for interventional radiology, this procedure provides many unwanted radiation doses to both medical staffs and patients. Many specialists who carry out catheterization are not aware that this procedure delivers radiation doses to patients with a higher level than is commonly received during chest X-rays. Mettler, et.al (2008) reported that coronary percutaneous transluminal angioplasty, stent placement or radiofrequency ablation examination would deliver effective dose to patient as much as 15 mSv, compared to only 0.02 mSv for PA chest.

The higher and noticeable radiation doses received by patient and medical staffs have also been confirmed by several studies conducted in different countries, e.g. by AlSuwaidi et.al (2015) in UAE, Cui et.al (2013) in China, Molyvda-Athanasopoulou et.al (2011) in Greece, Szumska et.al (2016) in Poland, and Ubeda et.al (2013)

in Chile. Some suggestions and recommendations on how to reduce both patient and medical occupational doses have been expressed by Leyton et.al (2014) and Vaz (2014).

The results of measurement of patient doses are eventually used for establishing diagnostic reference levels (DRLs) for interventional procedures. Some authors were already attempts to do so. Korir et.al (2014) has made an attempt to establish DRLs in Kenya, while local DRLs for paediatric interventional cardiology have been calculated by McFadden et.al (2013).

Moreover, the dose-response relationship for cataract, i.e. opacity of the lens of the eye, has also been studied extensively in recent years. These studies include those from Antic et.al (2013), Carinou et.al (2011), Geber et.al (2011), McVey et.al (2013) and Ubeda et.al (2013). The results, however, seem vary one to the other. While Geber et.al (2011) stated that the best position for eye lens dosimeter to be at the side of the head, for example, McVey et.al (2013) concluded that the forehead of the wearer provides the most robust position to site a dosimeter to estimate eye doses.

The present study is a preliminary investigation to evaluate doses received by both patient and medical staff during the course of fluoroscopy, interventional radiology and interventional cardiology in Indonesia. The occupational dose estimated include thyroid dose gonad/ovary dose, lens eye dose Hp(3), extremity dose Hp(0.07), and effective dose, E. Hp(3) is the personal dose equivalent in soft tissue below a depth of 3 mm of the eye, whereas Hp(0.07) is that below a depth of 0.07 mm of the skin. The overall study is planned to be conducted during the year of 2015-2019.

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in Medistra Hospital, National Center for Brain Hospital, and HasanSadikin Hospital in the cities of Jakarta and Bandung that provide fluoroscopy, interventional radiology and interventional cardiology services. A total of 32 patients—consisting of 19 fluoroscopic and interventional radiology patients and 13 interventional cardiology patients, and 60 medical staffs—consisting of 31 fluoroscopic and interventional radiology workers and 29 interventional cardiology workers, participated in this study.

Patient doses were estimated by using individually packed three TLD-100 chips manufactured by Thermo Scientific Harshaw. As the position of patient against the X-ray beam was moved intermittently, the TLDs then were attached in the X-rays tube. Patient doses were calculated by considering the distance between the focus of X-rays and the surface of patient's couch.

Measurements of occupational doses were made also using individually packed three chips of TLD-100 from Thermo Scientific Harshaw. The chips were placed in over-and under-thyroid shield used by medical staff, over- and under-apron in waist position, inside a special 'eye-D' holder, and inside a ring holder. Figure 1 shows the arrangement of placing TLD in the body of medical staff.

The readout of TLD chip under each position has the following function:

- a. those placed under-thyroid shield was used to estimate thyroid dose;
- b. those placed under-apron in waist was used to estimate gonad/ovary dose;
- c. those placed in temple inside a special 'eye-D' holder was used to estimate lens eye dose, Hp(3);



Figure 1. The 'eye-D' holder used to measure eye lens dose (left) and the ring holder to measure extremity dose (right).

- d. those placed in finger inside a ring holder was used to estimate extremity dose, Hp(0.07); and
- e. those placed over-thyroid shield and under-apron waist was used to estimate effective dose, E, which was calculated by using the following equation suggested by Niklason et.al. (1994):

$$E = 0.02 (H_{25} - H_{15}) + H_{15}$$

Where H_{05} is the over-thyroid shield dose and H_{15} is the under-apron waist dose.

All TLDs were calibrated in the Secondary Standard Dosimetry Laboratory (SSDL) Jakarta. The standard deviation of the TLD batch was of the order of 5%, with the overall uncertainty was $\leq 20\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 and Table 2 show the patient doses received during fluoroscopy and interventional radiology, and interventional cardiology procedures, respectively. The values of DAP (dose-area product) shown were those that are provided by the x-ray system.

As can be seen in Table 1, the patient received a quite higher dose when undergoing coiling procedure, with a mean dose of 235.15 mGy. In interventional radiography, coiling is a rather complex procedure in which a catheter is passed through the groin up into the artery containing the aneurysm. The goal of the treatment is to safely seal off the aneurysm and stop further blood from entering into the aneurysm and increasing the risk of rupture or possibly rebleeding. Complexity of the procedure reflected in the duration of fluoro time of 17-18 min each, which is longer than that of other treatment of mostly less than 3 min.

DSA cerebral was the most practiced procedure observed during the course of this study. With fluoro time ranging from 7-17 min, this particular procedure give radiation dose to patient around 97.48-286.53 mGy. This result was relatively higher than that reported by Manninen et.al (2012) of 2.71 mSv. However, the latter was obtained from irradiation of an anthropomorphic phantom, which can be different in terms of some parameters (e.g. tube voltage, mAs, fluoro time and projection) as used in this study.

In interventional cardiology, as can be seen in Table 2, catheterization followed by stenting procedure produced the highest dose to patient of 3488 mGy with a long fluoro time of achieving 45 min. The catheter procedure itself, however, can be carried out in short time and gave smaller dose to patient as also shown in the Table 2. This brings the notion that it is stenting procedure that produce high doses to patient. As can be seen in the table, the dose of 1125.50 mGy received by patient undergoing stenting procedure can be regarded as a prove that this procedure delivers a high dose to patient.

Table 3 and Table 4 respectively show the occupational doses received by medical staff, i.e. medical doctor, nurse and radiographer, during fluoroscopy and interventional radiology, and interventional cardiology procedures. Not all procedures were conducted fully by medical doctor, nurse and radiographer, sometimes only medical doctor that performed the procedure. This is reflected in the data presented in those tables.

Table 1. Patient doses received during fluoroscopy and interventional radiology.

Procedure	No. of patient	DAP (mGy cm ²)	Range of fluoro time (min.)	Mean dose (mGy)
Fistulography	2	-	1.30-7.26	101.58 (30.94-172.22)
Urethrocytography	2	-	2.22-2.26	47.21 (42.83-51.59)
Cystography	1	-	1.65	5.88
Upper gastrointestinal	1	-	1.8	5.07
Cholangography	1	-	1.36	23.78
OMD Oesophagus	1	-	3.98	62.65
Prostal colostomy	1	-	2.00	35.42
Colostomy proximal	1	-	8.30	114.47
DSA cerebral	7	-	7.10-17.49	97.48-286.53
Coiling	2	50723	17.56-18.14	235.15 (189.22-281.09)

Table 2. Patient doses received during interventional cardiology procedures.

Procedure	No. of patient	DAP (mGy m ²)	Range of fluoro time (min.)	Mean dose (mGy)
Stenting	3	52384	9.41-12.15	1125.50 (439.42 – 1871.58)
LAA/heart appendix	1	1645	5.55	81.81
Catheter+stenting	2	53588	2.14-45.41	3488.86
Catheter+stenting 3 positions	1	56345	49.19	-
Angiofibroma embolization	1	25646	14.35	1381.01
Coronary angiography	2	42071-53625	3.55-4.30	168.56 (153.29-183.83)
Catheterization	2	15725-20416	4.03-5.04	77.76 (69.82-85.70)
TAE embolization	1		11.58	1502.21

Table 3. Occupational doses during fluoroscopy and interventional radiology procedures.

Procedure	Type of staff	Number of staff	Mean effective dose, E (mSv)	Mean eye lens dose, Hp(3) (mSv)	Mean extremity dose, Hp(0.07) (mSv)	Mean thyroid dose (mGy)	Mean gonad/ ovary dose (mGy)
Fistulography	Med. doctor	2	0.044 (0.042- 0.046)	0.684 (0.098- 1.271)	0.554 (0.047- 1.062)	0.091 (0.043- 0.140)	0.025 (0.015- 0.036)
Urethrocytography	Med. doctor	3	0.089 (0.036- 0.113)	0.228 (0.108- 0.457)	0.067 (0.058- 0.094)	0.076 (0.012- 0.119)	0.085 (0.033- 0.112)
Cystography	Med. doctor	2	0.046 (0.030- 0.062)	0.250 (0.204- 0.296)	0.247 (0.202- 0.292)	0.035 (0.011- 0.059)	0.042 (0.023- 0.062)
Upper gastrointestinal	Med. doctor	2	0.021 (0.010- 0.032)	0.083 (0.022- 0.144)	0.174 (0.144- 0.204)	0.016 (0.004- 0.012)	0.021 (0.010- 0.032)
Cholangography	Med. doctor	1	0.026	0.011	0.315	0.046	0.025
OMD Oesophagus	Med. doctor	1	0.020	0.048	0.028	0.012	0.018
Prostal colostomy	Med. doctor	2	0.020 (0.012- 0.028)	0.038 (0.010- 0.066)	0.150 (0.108- 0.192)	0.020 (0.012- 0.029)	0.019 (0.011- 0.028)

Colostomy proximal	Med. doctor	3	0.029 (0.029- 0.030)	0.364 (0.216- 0.581)	0.065 (0.041- 0.812)	0.029 (0.011- 0.039)	0.021 (0.018- 0.029)
DSA cerebral	Med. doctor	2	0.096 (0.033- 0.160)	1.466 (0.015- 2.918)	1.661 (0.090- 3.231)	0.078 (0.024- 0.133)	0.096 (0.033- 0.159)
	Nurse	5	0.003 (0.001- 0.009)	0.089 (0.009- 0.973)	0.198 (0.142- 0.375)	0.097 (0.006- 0.172)	0.076 (0.002- 0.144)
	Radiographer	1	0.056	-	1.369	0.051	0.045
Coiling	Med. doctor	4	0.065 (0.016- 0.114)	0.179 (0.116- 0.312)	0.076 (0.014- 0.153)	0.112 (0.018- 0.206)	0.089 (0.015- 0.111)
	Nurse	2	0.110 (0.084- 0.136)	0.181 (0.128- 0.234)	0.228 (0.157- 0.299)	0.152 (0.132- 0.172)	0.109 (0.082- 0.136)
	Radiographer	1	0.014	-	0.106	0.019	0.014

Table 4. Occupational doses during interventional cardiology procedures.

Procedure	Type of staff	Number of staff	Mean effective dose, E (mSv)	Mean eye lens dose, Hp(3) (mSv)	Mean extremity dose, Hp(0.07) (mSv)	Mean thyroid dose (mGy)	Mean gonad/ovary dose (mGy)
Stenting	Med. doctor	4	0.034 (0.019- 0.070)	0.113 (0.026- 0.141)	0.043 (0.027- 0.128)	0.035 (0.005- 0.058)	0.044 (0.019- 0.069)
	Nurse	5	0.024 (0.015- 0.077)	0.183 (0.003- 0.198)	0.098 (0.062- 0.168)	0.048 (0.012- 0.089)	0.021 (0.015- 0.031)
LAA/heart appendix	Med. doctor	3	0.005 (0.001- 0.009)	0.135 (0.080- 0.217)	0.033 (0.001- 0.084)	0.013 (0.011- 0.022)	0.004 (0.006- 0.009)
	Nurse	1	0.007	0.059	0.127	0.008	0.006
Catheter + stenting	Med. doctor	2	0.130 (0.017- 0.243)	0.030 (0.010- 0.050)	0.237 (0.046- 0.429)	0.040 (0.006- 0.074)	0.131 (0.016- 0.245)
	Nurse	1	0.038	0.001	0.074	0.033	0.038
Catheter + stenting 3 positions	Med. doctor	2	0.088 (0.049- 0.128)	0.562 (0.408- 0.717)	0.656 (0.655- 0.657)	0.338 (0.095- 0.582)	0.077 (0.048- 0.107)
	Nurse	1	0.023	0.123	0.061	0.073	0.021
Angiofibroma embolization	Med. doctor	3	0.045 (0.040- 0.053)	0.211 (0.084- 0.394)	0.342 (0.155- 0.524)	0.054 (0.008- 0.081)	0.048 (0.039- 0.054)
Coronary angiography	Med. doctor	1	0.043	0.064	0.041	0.051	0.043
Catheterization	Med. doctor	3	0.025 (0.014- 0.042)	0.176 (0.012- 0.394)	0.236 (0.016- 0.524)	0.028 (0.011- 0.035)	0.021 (0.014- 0.031)
	Nurse	1	0.012	0.034	0.213	0.012	0.012
TAE embolization	Med. doctor	2	0.046 (0.024- 0.068)	0.015 (0.005- 0.026)	0.071 (0.015- 0.128)	0.013 (0.011- 0.015)	0.046 (0.024- 0.069)

Table 5. Estimates of the threshold doses in tissues and organs in adults exposed to acute, fractionated or protracted, and chronic irradiation (ICRP, 2012).

Effect	Organ/tissue	Acute exposure (Gy)	Highly fractionated (2-Gy fractions) or equivalent protracted exposures (Gy)	Annual (chronic) dose rate of many years (Gy/year)
Temporary sterility	Testes	~0.1	NA	0.4
Permanent sterility	Testes	~6	<6	2.0
Permanent sterility	Ovaries	~3	6.0	>0.2
Cataract	Eye	~0.5	~0.5	~0.5 divided by years duration
Endocrine dysfunction	Thyroid	NA	>18	NA

The effective dose, eye lens dose, extremity dose, thyroid dose and gonad/ovary dose received by medical staff in fluoroscopy and interventional radiology in Indonesia was in general highest when performing coiling and DSA cerebral procedures. This is no wonder since both are quite complex procedures that require relatively longer fluoro time than that required by other procedures.

In the case of interventional cardiology, it was detected that the procedure of catheterization followed by stenting in three positions gave the highest dose to medical staff for every type of dose measured (i.e. effective dose, eye lens dose, extremity dose, thyroid and gonad/ovary dose) in this study. From Table 2 it can be seen that this catheterization and stenting in three positions required the longest fluoro time compared with that required by any other procedures.

For coronary angiography, Table 4 shows that the highest eye lens dose was received by doctor with a value of 0.064 mSv, or 64 µSv. This result was in a fair good agreement with the result reported by Szumska et.al (2016) of 73 µSv. As mentioned by Szumska et.al (2016), considerable variation exists among studies on eye lens dose due to some factors as type and complexity of the procedure undertaken, the skill and experience of the operators, the shielding equipment used, the angiographic equipment and the exposure settings.

Savitri and Susanto (2014) previously reported a study on occupational exposure in interventional radiology facilities in 7 hospitals in Indonesia. The mean over-thyroid shield, under-apron waist, and over-apron waist doses were found to be 0.06 mSv, 0.024 mSv and 0.103 mSv, respectively. In the case of over-thyroid shield dose, by comparing with the results of this study of mean thyroid dose as shown in Table 4, it can be seen that most of the results of this study are lower than that of Savitri and Susanto (2012). Both

results can be regarded as the same as this study performed the measurement in under-thyroid shield.

The mean under-apron waist dose obtained by Savitri and Susanto (2012) also in the same range as the mean gonad/ovary dose measured in this study.

The dose limit applied in Indonesia for occupational dose to limit the probability of the occurrence of stochastic effect is effective dose of 20 mSv per year. As can be seen in Table 3 and Table 4, each procedure produces a certain value of effective dose. Based on the data presented we cannot, however, make a conclusion that the dose received by a certain medical staff has exceeded the dose limit, nor we can restrict the medical staff to conducting one particular procedure in a year with a fear that the dose he/she received will exceed the dose limit. These data of radiation dose received by each medical staff presented in the tables can only be used as a guidance on how many times each of them can perform a certain procedure. He/she should be able to consider by him/herself which procedure that can be performed in a year and how many times in maximum he/she can be involved in performing that procedure.

As tissue, eye lens, thyroid and gonad/ovary can suffer a damage if they receive radiation doses that exceeding their dose limits. Table 5 shows estimation of some threshold doses in tissues and organs in adults exposed to acute, fractionated or protracted, and chronic irradiation (ICRP, 2012). Testes are tissues contained in gonad, while ovaries are those contained in ovary.

From the data in Table 4, it can be seen that most radiation doses received by medical staff are less than threshold doses. However, medical doctor performing catheter followed by stenting in three positions received radiation dose that is about the same as threshold dose for the occurrence of cataract from acute exposure. This condition needs to be examined

thoroughly with a view to find the way to reduce the radiation dose received by this particular medical staff.

The data presented in this paper are preliminary, as the study will be continued until 2019. However, the big picture is not expected to change much. The medical procedure in hospitals in Indonesia usually are conducted in the same manner, nurses and radiographers mostly underwent the same education and training, and most of the x-ray machine used are manufactured by only a few companies.

Conclusion

The results show that coiling procedure in interventional radiology produced the highest dose to patient compared with other procedures. In interventional cardiology, the patient received the highest dose when undergoing catheterization followed by stenting procedure. The occupational exposure also follow this pattern, i.e. medical staff received the highest dose when conducting the coiling procedure and catheter followed by stenting procedure in interventional radiology and interventional cardiology, respectively. The results of measurement were also in good agreement with some other published data.

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Discussion

Q : Dwi Ramadhani

Based on your opinion, it is possible that the medical staff in interventional radiology and cardiology receive the stochastic effect because of occupational radiation exposure.

A : Eri Hiswara

Talking about stochastic effect is actually talking about probability; and from this point of view, it is possible that they may receive the effect. The issue is that how much the nominal risk (in %) for the effect particularly for medical staff.

Q : Dwi Ramadhani

It is possible to assess the biological effects in medical staff, to ensure that there was no a significant negative effect induced by occupational radiation exposure?

A : Eri Hiswara

The biological effect can be assessed through cytogenetic study for these staffs.

Q : Setiawan Soetopo

According to the research, what is your suggestion for doctor who are doing interventional radiology or cardiology and suggestion for stakeholders in the concept of radiation protection.

A : Eri Hiswara

We can suggest them to apply the radiation protection rule strictly and participate in a training course on radiation protection specially designed for them. From time to time it is also suggested that they participate in a refresher course on radiation protection to keep them up the latest development in radiation protection area.