Evaluation of cancer risk of the patients undergoing coronary angiography in Yazd, Iran

F. Bouzarjomehri^{1*} and V. Tsapaki²

¹Department of Medical Physics, Shahid Sadooghi University of Medical Sciences, Yazd, Iran ²Department of Medical Physics, Konstantopoulio Hospital, Nea Ionia, Athens, Greece

Background: Coronary angiography is а commonly performed diagnostic procedure with life saving benefits for the patient. However, this procedure involves relatively high radiation dose. The purpose of this study was to determine the average effective dose of patients undergoing coronary angiography and to estimate the associated radiation risk in terms of fatal malignancy. Materials and Methods: Radiation doses received by 103 patients who underwent coronary angiography (CA) at one hospital of Yazd province in Iran were measured in terms of Kerma Area Product (KAP). KAP values were then used to determine the effective dose and the organ doses using the NRPB-S262 conversion factors and to estimate the radiation cancer risk based on the population averaged probability coefficients given in ICRP-60 and BEIR-VII report. Results: A mean KAP value was found to be 29.15 ± 16.97Gy.cm² and the estimated mean values of effective dose was 5.0 \pm 3.18mSv. The dose of lung, esophagus, bone marrow, skin, stomach and female breast were 24.99±14.93 mSv, 14.01±9.47 mSv, 3.72±2.61 mSv, 2.9±1.8 mSv, 2.17±1.62 mSv and 1.46±0.32 mSv, respectively. The estimated total annual collective dose and caput dose were 17.52 man-Sv and 0.018mSv respectively. The frequency of examinations per 1000 population in Yazd was 3.5 which is lower than UK and the health care level I countries. Taking into account the ICRP risk factors, radiation dose arising from CA examinations could lead to 239 fatal cancers per million cases. Conclusion: Although the mean values of effective dose found in this study was lower than most of the published results, however CA examinations should be justified. Iran. J. Radiat. Res., 2010; 8 (3): 161-167

Keywords: Coronary angiography, Kerma-area product, effective dose, radiation risk.

INTRODUCTION

The increasing frequency of angiography and interventional radiology procedures in the recent years in Yazd city in Iran raised the radiation exposure of the population. These examinations are characterized by extended fluoroscopy times

and they require many radiographic images to be taken from areas of interest in body. Consequently, the X-ray doses to patients are expected to be relatively high and stochastic effects have to be considered ⁽¹⁾. Effective dose is considered the most appropriate quantity for estimating the stochastic risk of exposure to ionizing radiation ⁽²⁾. The radiation dose depends on a number of factors, including patient size, equipment, technique and type of examination. Large dose has variation in patient been demonstrated in several studies (3). Some of the parameters affecting CA dose are: tube anode current, tube filtration, voltage. cineradiography frame rate, dose per frame, entrance dose rate, image intensifier field size and collimation, beam angulations, number of views, fluoroscopy time, image interventional resolution. cardiologists experience. lesion type and patient expansion ⁽⁴⁾. Some of these parameters have been discussed in our last report ⁽⁵⁾. In this study the effective doses of CA procedures was assessed for estimation of cancer risk-related and was continue of our recent studies that evaluated risk of general X-ray and CT examinations in Yazd province ^(6, 7). An estimation of the effective dose can be obtained from measurements of KAP ⁽²⁾. There are many publications for estimation of effective dose in interventional radiology procedures where KAP and exposure factor data are available ⁽⁷⁻⁹⁾. The Radiological Protection National Board (NRPB) has published conversion factors for both KAP and entrance surface dose (ESD)

*Corresponding author:

Dr. Fathollah Bouzarjomehri, Department of Medical Physics, Shahid Sadooghi University of Medical Sciences, Yazd, Iran. Fax: +98 351 7244078 E-mail: bouzarj_44@ssu.ac.ir measurements for 68 common radiographic projections and 9 complete X-ray examinations ⁽¹⁰⁾. KAP measurement is a valuable and convenient method for dose assessment, especially for dynamic procedures, such as CA and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), in which beam direction and exposure parameters continuously vary. In the present study, the information of radiation doses of 103 patients who underwent CA at one Yazd hospital were used for assessing the average effective dose, average doses of various organs and estimation of the associated radiation risk in terms of fatal malignancy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

4676 coronary angiography procedures were performed between 2008 -2009 at two Yazd hospitals. The population of Yazd province in year 2007 was 988440 people. KAP measurements were made on 103 coronary angiographies, (59 male and 44 female patients, about 70% patients age were from 40 to 60 years) performed at one Yazd hospital. In our previous study we found no significant difference between the mean KAPs due to CA examinations at the two Yazd hospitals ⁽⁵⁾. The examinations were performed using a Siemens system (AXIOM Artis model, Germany) with an over couch flat panel detector that was installed in 2008. One cine mode (25 frames/ s) and a fix field of view (25cm) were routinely used for all the patients. The potential for cineangiography was in the range of 65 to 102 kV. The total filtration varies automatically considerably depending on the imaging mode selected having values between 2 and 3.5 mmAl so with increase add filter the patient KAP was decreased. Patient radiation dose was measured by a calibrated KAP meter (PTW, Diamentor, Freiberg Germany) attached on the head of X-ray tube. Patient data collected were: weight and height. name. age. sex. Technical data collected were: potential, field size, total filter, cine frames, fluoro

time, beam direction and corresponding KAP for each projection. Required data for calculation of effective dose in each of two beam directions right anterior oblique (RAO) and left anterior oblique (LAO) automatically was recorded by angiography system. For using NRPB-S262 tables which converted KAP to effective dose we needed to upper data for each direction individually. The mean potential and mean total filter for each of two projections RAO and LAO were calculated. There are publications that enable hospitals to estimate effective dose (E) for interventional radiology procedures where KAP and exposure factor data are available. The National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB) has published conversion factors for both KAP and entrance surface dose (ESD) measurements for 68 common radiographic projections and 9 complete X⁻ ray examinations ⁽¹⁰⁾. The FDA also has published a handbook containing data from which absorbed dose in selected tissues can be estimated for fluoroscopic and cineangiographic examinations of the coronary arteries of adults ⁽¹¹⁾. Effective dose values, resulting from the two methods proposed by NRPB and FDA, are compared by Lobotessi et al. and found no statistical difference between two methods ⁽⁸⁾. In this study for each CA examination, patient effective dose and organ doses were estimated based on NRPB-R262 conversion coefficients (10). The appropriate conversion coefficient for each potential value and total filter was determined using interpolation. This study was restricted to patients in the weight range of 71 ± 12 kg so use of the NRPB-R262 conversion factors which are based on average body weight of 70 kg are suitable. Lung, skin, stomach, bone marrow and esophagus organs were selected for assessing organ dose. The breast organ was included only for female patients. The accuracy of the generator kVp was verified during installation procedure with the cooperation of Siemens engineers (<3% error). The potential risk of malignancy was determined by applying the nominal fatality probability coefficients

given by the current report international commission of radiation protection, ICRP-60 and BEIR VII to the effective dose determined by NRPB-R262 ^(11, 10).

RESULTS

The patient sample consisted of 103 patients with average weight 71±12, 57% of which were male and 43% were female patients. The average age of patients was 57±12 years. A statistical analysis of results in the coronary angiography examinations is given in table 1. This table presents fluoroscopy time, total tube filter, number frames, total KAP of cine and fluoroscopy modes, tube voltage and anode current resulting from the RAO and LAO projections. These projections contain various angels zero to 90 degrees in cranial and caudal angulations. Intermediately 40% of exposure direction was in RAO and 60% in LAO with various angels. All of these data automatically were recorded by the angiography system. Some of these data were used in calculation of effective dose by NRPB-R262. 4676 CA procedures were performed by two angiography units of the Yazd hospitals in (2007-2008). Based on the one year reception information of cardiac center about 25% of these patients were referred

from the neighbor Yazd provinces, so only $4676 \times 0.75 = 3507$ of these patients were from Yazd city. The collective dose of this population was $3507 \times 5.0 = 17.53$ person-Sv (average effective dose result of CA is 5.0) mSv) and caput dose of Yazd province with population 988440 person was 0.018 mSv. This data and number of CA examinations per year and per person were compared with the other studies (table 2). Table 3 shows the average radiation doses ± 1 SD of the various organs moreover effective dose due to the CA procedures. The results suggest lungs and esophagus doses are more than the breast, skin, stomach and bone marrow doses. Lungs and esophagus are organs which absorbed the most equivalent dose 25±15 mSv and 14±9.5 mSv respectively, so based on current ICRP-60 report, their fatal cancer risk are 156 and 35 per million cases respectively (table 3).

The frequency distribution of patient effective dose was in the range of 1mSv to 15 mSv and is shown in figure 1. Total patient samples were 103 and maximum frequency was in the range of 4-5 mSv effective doses. In table 4, the sample size, total KAP, fluoroscopy time, frame cine number and effective dose of this survey were compared with the literature. The mean effective dose due to CA examinations

 Table1. Radiation exposure parameters of two projections RAO and LAO in coronary angiography examinations, these two

 projections contain various angels zero to 90 degrees in cranial and caudal angulations. Values are presented as Mean ±1SD.

projection	% Share in image	Tube voltage (cine) (kV)	Cine frames	Anode current (cine) (mA)	Fluoro time (min)	Filtration (mmAl)	Total KAP (Gy.cm ²)
RAO	40	73.7±5.8	226±119	2588±1176	1.08±0.95	2.7±0.5	12.01±10.7
LAO	60	78±7.7	235±135	2903±1345	1.62 ± 1.4	2.4±0.4	17.1±11.2

 Table 2. Comparison of effective dose, number of examination per year and per people, collective dose, and caput dose due to CA procedures of Yazd province with other studies in the literature is presented. Values are presented as Mean ±1SD.

Studies	Effective dose (mSv)	Exams per year (×1000)	Population ¹ (×1000)	Collective effective dose (man-Sv)	Caput dose (mSv)	Exams per 1000 people
This study	5.0±3.18	3.507	988	17.52	0.018	3.5
Broadhead <i>et al.</i> ⁽¹⁴⁾	7.44	4.628	2927	34.4	0.01	1.58
Hart and Wall ⁽²³⁾	6.6	159	59000	1050	0.018	2.7
Borretzen et al. ⁽²¹⁾	8.9	58	4550	516	0.11	13.1
Brugmans et al. ⁽²²⁾	4.8	84.5	15648	405	0.026	5.4

in this study is lower than the all results except of Leung results p<0.00 (1, 3, 8, 13, 14).

DISCUSSION

Use of ionization radiation for medical examinations is the largest manmade source of exposure $^{(24)}$. Interventional procedures are only 2% of all radiological procedures, but contribute to about 20% of the total collective dose per head per year in Germany $^{(25)}$. On average, a coronary

angiography corresponds to a radiation exposure for the patient of about 300 chests X-rays ⁽²⁶⁾.

Invasive cardiology procedures increased in the recent years but it has been accompanied by concern for the safety of the staff. Interventional cardiologists have an exposure per-head per year very higher than that of radiologists ⁽¹¹⁻²⁷⁾. A reduction of occupational doses can be achieved by intensive training program. The awareness of radiation effects may be suboptimal in the

 Table 3. Mean organ doses (mSv) and mean effective dose (mSv) of the 103 CA examinations and also cancer risk of some organs. Values presented as mean ±1SD.

Organ	Lungs	Esophagus	Bone marrow	Skin	Stomach	Breast	Effective dose
Dose (mSv)	25±15	14±9.5	3.7±2.6	2.9±1.8	2.1±1.6	1.4±.3	5.0±3.18
fatal cancer risk per million case (current ICRP 60) ⁽²⁹⁾	156	35	1.2	0.6	9.8	2	239
Risk of fatal cancer per mil- lion case (BEIR VII) ⁽²⁹⁾	304	18	1.2	0.6	16.7	4.6	237

Author	Sample size	KAP ¹ cine + fluoro (Gy.cm ²)	Fluoroscopy Time (min)	Cine frame number	Effective dose (mSv)
This study	103	29.14±16.9	2.71±2.3	462±197	5.0±3.18
Lobotessi ⁽⁸⁾	18	58.3	8.9	1597	12.9
Leung ⁽¹³⁾	90	14	3.1	639	3.1
Broadhead ⁽¹⁴⁾	2174	57.8	5.7	689	7.44
Bahreyni ⁽¹⁾	116	32.47	3.4		6.75±0.85
Padovani ⁽³⁾	672	45	6.5	700	8

Table 4. Comparison of dosimetric data (mean values) in CA exams in this study and the some references.

¹Values presented as Mean ±1SD



Figure 1. Frequency distribution of the patient's effective dose due to CA examinations (total patients was 103).

164 Iran. J. Radiat. Res., Vol. 8 No. 3, December 2010

medical community. It is recommended by professional guidelines that the responsibility of all physicians is to minimize the radiation injury hazard to their patients, to their professional staff and to themselves ⁽²⁶⁾. In Yazd province 3507 coronary angiography was achieved by two angiography systems in one year (2007-2008) which corresponds to 1.1% of the all conventional radiology and CT examinations (327170) per year (2005-2006), but the collective effective dose of CA examinations was 17.52 man-Sv which is 27.5% of the collective effective dose due to conventional radiology and CT examinations (63.64)man-Sv) (6,7). On average, a coronary angiography corresponds to a radiation exposure for the patient of about 110 chests X-rays (7). Fluoroscopy time, frame number, anode current, tube voltage in cine mode and total KAP present a wide range of values due to the variety of examination protocols, complexity of patient case and the cardiologist's experience. The imaging system (Siemens, flat panel detector), used in this study has been set up to maintain about 75 kVp to optimize the iodine contrast. The automatic kV_p and added filter control for both cine and fluoro mode produce qualify image together low patient dose. The average fluoroscopy time per case was also low; this reflects the emphasis placed on minimizing screening time.

Relation of KAP to lung and esophagus dose in LAO and RAO projections of CA base on NRPB-R262 conversion coefficients is high value of 0.8. Therefore these two organs are target organs in right and left anterior oblique directions of exposure during CA examinations and absorbed maximum radiation.

The mean effective dose of this study $(5\pm3.18\text{mSv})$ is lower than the results of Broadhead *et al.* ⁽¹⁴⁾, Hart and Wall ⁽²³⁾, Borretzen *et al.* ⁽²¹⁾, Lobotessi *et al.* ⁽⁸⁾, Padovni *et al.* ⁽³⁾, Bahreyni *et al.* ⁽¹⁾ (P<0.00) and hasn't significantly different from the results of Brugmans *et al.* ⁽²²⁾, and Leung and Martin ⁽¹³⁾. Comparison SENTINEL

RLs³ of effective dose (8 mSv), Fluoro-time (6.5min) and number of cine image (700) in CA examinations with analogue parameters of this study results which are 5 mSv, 2.7 min and 461 number respectively, our data is significantly lower than SENTINEL RLs (p<0.00) ⁽³⁾. So optimization in CA examinations conditions for ALARA regard is suitable ^(1, 3, 8, 13,14).

With increase twofold in CA examinations frequency each 5 years base on reports of Broadhead et al. (14), Hart and Wall (23), and Borretzen et al. (21), CA frequency was about 10 exam per 1000 person in 2007 year in European countries so number of CA examinations in Yazd province is lower than these countries therefore performing these exams may be justified. Fatal malignancy risk due to CA examinations were estimated 237 and 239 per million cases respectively base on current ICRP-60 and BEIR VII estimation (29). Base on Iranian annual of national cancer registration report of 2006 year ⁽³⁰⁾, cancer new case in Yazd province with 988440 populations was 1180. Base on BEIR VII report, new fatal cancer case due to the collective dose of CA examinations that were achieved in one year in Yazd was 0.84 person ⁽²⁹⁾, whereas this risk factor due to convetional radiology and CT examinations was 1.55 and 1.62 person respectively ^(6, 7). Therefore approximately 4 new fatal cancer cases per year were due to performance of these three kind examinations in Yazd province.

The organ with the highest malignancy risk due to CA examinations is lung because of the high radiation dose received by this radio-sensitive tissue. The average lung dose from CA procedure was 25 ± 15 mSv in this study whereas the average lung dose from Harrison report and the Finnish study were 14.8 mSv and 58.7 mSv respectively, so lung dose of our results is higher than the Harrison report and lower than the Finnish study (P<0.00) (27). Our results showed fatal lung cancer base on current ICRP-60 and BEIR VII estimation were 156 and 304 per million cases ⁽²⁹⁾.

F. Bouzarjomehri and V. Tsapaki

CONCLUSION

Low value of patient effective dose due to CA examinations at Yazd hospitals was showed these examinations were performed in optimum conditions. Low value of caput dose due to CA examinations showed justification was regarded too, if indication malady was regarded, so performance of these examinations were in acceptable conditions at Yazd hospitals.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study was financed by the Shahid Sadoghi Medical Sciences University with the project number 1000. The authors wish to thank the cardiologists, nurses and radiographers of Afshar and Seidoshohada hospitals of Yazd especially Hossein Karblaeian, Manochehr Shareghzadeh for their valuable assistance in collection of data and KAP measurements.

REFERENCES

- Bahreyni Toossi MT, Zare H, Bayani S, Esmaili S (2008) Organ and effective doses of patients arising from coronary angiography and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty at two hospitals in mashhad-Iran. *Radiation Protection Dosimetry*, **128**: 363–366.
- Smans K, Struelens L, Hoornaert MT, Bleeser F, Buls N, Bosmans H (2008) A study of the correlation between dose area product and effective dose in vascular radiology. Radiation Protection Dosimetry, **130**: 300–308.
- Padovani R, Vano E, Trianni A, Bokou C, Bosmans H, Bor D, Faulkner K (2008) Reference levels at European level for cardiac interventional procedures. *Radiation Protection Dosimetry*, **129**: 104–107.
- Clark AL, Brennan AG, Robertson LJ, McArthur JD (2000) Factors affecting patient radiation exposure during routine coronary angiography in a tertiary referral centre. *Br. J. Radiol*, **73**: 184–189.
- Bouzarjomehri F and Tsapaki V (2009) Patient dose values during interventional cardiology examinations in Yaz Iran. *Iran J Radiat Res*, 6: 167-172.
- 6. Bouzarjomehri F, Zare MH, Shahbazi D (2007) Patient dose resulting from CT examinations in Yazd Iran. *Iran J Radiat Res, 4*: 73-78.
- Bouzarjomehri F, Dashti MH, Zare MH (2007) Radiation exposure of the Yazd population from medical conventional X-ray examinations. *Iran J Radiat Res*, 4:195-200.
- Lobotessi H, Karoussou A, Neofotistou V, Louisi A, Tsapaki V (2001) Effective dose to a patient undergoing coronary Angiography. *Radiation Protection Dosimetry*, 94: 173–176.

- 9. Le Heron JC (1992) Estimation of effective dose to the patient during medical X-ray examinations from measurements of the dose-area product. *Phys Med Biol*, **37**: 2117-2126.
- Hart D, Jones DG, Wall BF (1994) Estimation of effective dose in diagnostic radiology from entrance dose and dose area product measurements. *NRPB Report R-*262 (London: HMSO).
- 11. Neofistou V, Vano E, Padovani R (2003) Preliminary reference levels in interventional cardiology. *Eur Radiol,* **13**: 2259–2263.
- Food and Drug Administration (1995) Handbook of selected tissue doses for fluoroscopic and cineangiographic examination of the coronary arteries. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. HHS Publication FDA 95-828.
- Leung KC and Martin CJ (1996) Effective doses for coronary angiography. Br J Radiol, 69: 426–431.
- Broadhead DA, Chapple CL, Faulkner K, Davies ML, McCallum H (1997) The impact of cardiology on the collective effective dose in the north of England. Br J Radiol, 70: 492–497.
- Faulkner K, Love HG, Sweeney BA, Bardsley RA (1986) Radiation doses and somatic risk to patients during cardiac radiological procedures. Br J Radiol, 59: 359– 363.
- Pattee PL, Johns PC, Chambers R (1993) Radiation risk to patients from percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty. J Am Coll Cardiol, 22: 1044–1051.
- 17. Karppinen J, Parvianen T, Servoma A, Komppa T (1995) Radiation risk and exposure of radiologists and patients during coronary angiography and percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty. *Radiat Prot Dosim*, **57:** 481 -485.
- Padovani R, Bernardi G, Malisan MR, Vano E, Morocutti G, Fioretti PM (2001) Patient dose related to the complexity of interventional cardiology procedures. *Radiat Prot Dosim*, 94: 189–192.
- Betsou S, Efstathopoulos EP, Katritsis D, Faulkner K, Panayiotakis G (1998) Patient radiation doses during cardiac catheterization procedures. Br J Radiol, 71: 634 –639.
- Katritsis D, Efstathopoulos E, Betsou S, Korovesis S, Faulkner K, Webb-Peploe MM (2000) Radiation exposure of patients and coronary arteries in the stent area. *Cathet Cardiovasc Interven*, **51**: 259–264.
- Borretzen I, Lysdahl KB, Olerud HM (2007) Diagnostic radiology in Norway-trends in examination frequency and collective effective dose. *Radiation protection dosimetry*, **124**: 339-347.
- Brugmans MJP, Buijs WCAM, Geleijns J, Lembrechts J (2002) Population exposure to diagnostic use of ionizing radiation in the Netherlands. *Health physics*, 82: 500-509.
- Hart D and Wall BF (2002) Radiation exposure of the UK population from medical and dental X-ray examinations. NRPB-W4, Chilton: National Radiological Protection Board.
- 24. United Nations. Sources and effects of ionizing radiation. United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (1996) Report to the General Assembly with Scientific annexes. United Nations sales publication E.96.IX.3 United Nations, New York

166 Iran. J. Radiat. Res., Vol. 8 No. 3, December 2010

- 25. Regulla DF and Eder H (2005) Patient exposure in medical X-ray imaging in Europe. *Radiat Prot Dosim*, **114**: 11 –25.
- 26. Picano E, Santoro G, Vano E (2007) Sustainability in the cardiac cath lab. *Int J Cardiovasc Imaging*, **23**: 143–147.
- 27. Tsapaki V, Kottou S, Vano E (2005) Correlation of patient and staff doses in interventional cardiology. *Radiat Prot Dosim,* **117:** 26–29.
- 28. Harrison D, Ricciardello M, Collins L (1998) Evaluation of radiation dose and risk to patient from coronary an-

giography. Aust NZ J Med, 28: 597-604.

- 29. Cox R, Hendry J, Kellerer A, Land C, Muirhead C, Preston D, Preston J, Ron E, Ullrich R (2006) ICRP Task Group Report: C1 Foundation Document (Annex A of Main Recommendations) BEIR: A Summary of Judgements for the Purposes of Radiological Protection of Humans
- 30. Iranian Annual of National Cancer Registration report (2006) Islamic republic of Iran ministry of health and medical education health deputy, Center for disease control no communicable deputy cancer control office.

[Downloaded from ijrr.com on 2025-07-08]