

Re: Radiation Exposure from Medical Imaging A Wake-up Call for Oman!

رد على: التعرض للإشعاع
من التصوير الطبي
جرس إنذار عُمان!

Sir,

I would like to congratulate you on your a timely editorial in the February issue of SQU MJ¹ which has strangely coincided with a clinical review by *Davies et al.* recently published in the British Medical Journal.² According to *Davies et al.*, an estimated 30% of imaging may be unnecessary. Some of the most relevant issues have been brought by Prof. Lamki including the massive increase in the number of procedures performed, and the need to educate both physicians and patients.

The arguments in favour of imaging are growing as it is non-invasive compared to surgical procedures and thus increases patient satisfaction, etc. Medical imaging and nuclear medicine is also the most sought after speciality in Oman, India and even Western countries for postgraduate studies. This development is at the expense of bedside clinical examination which is becoming a forgotten art at the expense of technology and high radiation exposure. We do not hear any more of McBurney and Murphy in morning meetings, but only that (computed tomography) CT abdomen ruled out appendicitis and so on.

This wake-up call is necessary not only for Oman, but also for the rest of the world, as the risks of radiation exposure are underestimated by both patients and physicians.

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References

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2. Davies HE, Wathen CG, Gleeson FV. The risks of radiation exposure related to diagnostic imaging and how to minimise them BMJ 2011; 342:d947 doi: 10.1136/bmj.d947 Cite this as: BMJ 2011; 342:d947.