

# **Nurses basic knowledge of radiation doses and the potential danger of the frequent imaging procedures with X-rays.**

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# Introduction

The new imaging technologies enhance the diagnostic process and enables to reveal the origin of diseases previously not possible. The indiscriminately and ever growing use of the x-ray imaging, expose the patients to the danger of ionizing irradiation including cancer. Healthcare personal should be aware to these aspects of medical practice

# Purpose

**The purpose of the study was to examine the basic knowledge of senior nursing staff members concerning the radiation doses and the potential damage of frequent imaging procedures with X-rays, in order to be a reliable source of information for their patients.**



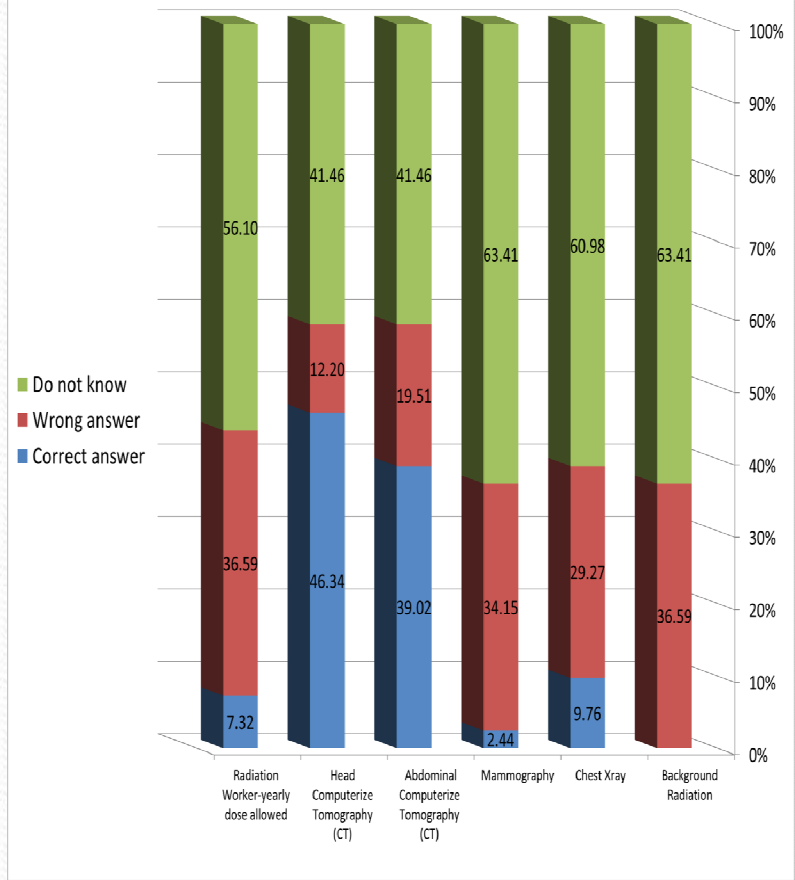
# Materials and methods

**A short questionnaire of thirteen questions was used. The questionnaire had three sections: nurse characteristics, source of knowledge and objective assessment of knowledge based upon five multiple choice, questions. On the multiple choice question there was an option “don’t know”. The study’s population was forty-one nurse students for Master degree in Nursing. Mean age-38 ,mean period of service-13 years. The majority-35 hospital based**

# Results

**All forty-one questionnaires distributed were returned completed .The knowledge was driven mainly from the lay and professional literature (63%).The correct knowledge was in possession of less than half of the participants. About sixty percent stated that they “didn’t know” (Figure No. I). Surprisingly nobody knew the correct background dose of radiation and only 7.3% the effective dose allowed in a year for radiology personal, a maximal yearly dose for patients as well.**

Chart No 1. Irradiation's dose knowledge of frequent imaging procedures (n=41)



# Conclusions

**There is a considerable lack of knowledge concerning the imaging by X-rays. Imaging by X-rays with all the aspects should be incorporated in any academic program for nurses as well as in continuous training on the job.**