Characterisation of scattered radiation field in interventional radiology theatres



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Introduction

The evaluation of the exposition of the workers is a major issue for radiation protection

 \Rightarrow Dose = energy absorbed by unit of mass



energy spectrum



Nowadays: Lower the dose to the patient's skin

=> Stronger filtration of the X-Ray tube = increase beam hardening

Impact on the exposition of the staff?

Impact on dosimetry ?

Impact on the radiation protection gear / shielding ?

Characterisation of the radiation fields by energy spectrum



Introduction

Energy spectrum with Hybrid Pixel Detector

- => Raw data
- = retrospective approach
- New tool to help to manage the occupational radiation risks

In this study:

- Characterisation of the detector
- Measurements in controlled conditions
- Measurements in clinical conditions

- Proof of concept
- What still has to be done before having a useful tool?





Hybrid Pixel Detector - HPD



Timepix3

Pixel size Pixel matrix Minimum time resolution

Data driven readout

Timepix3 specification55 μm x 55 μm256 x 256on1.56 nsDead time free for a maximum hits
rate of 40 Mhits.cm⁻².s⁻¹

Hybrid Pixel Detector - HPD



HPD = Readout chip and sensor

- processed in different substrates
- Connected to form the detection and imaging system

Ballabriga, R. The Design and Implementation in 0.13um CMOS of an Algorithm Permitting Spectroscopic Imaging with High Spatial Resolution for Hybrid Pixel Detectors. (Universitat Ramon Llull, 2009).



Timepix3

- Spatial information
- Temporal information
- Time over threshold





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Sources:

- Am-241

- Fe-55

X-ray fluoresence from metalic foils:

- Ag
- Ca
- Cu
- Mn
- Mo
- Sn
- Ti
- Zr



Jakubek, Jan. "Precise energy calibration of pixel detector working in time-over-threshold mode." Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors and Associated Equipment 633 (2011): S262-S266.



Measurement under controlled conditions





CERN – Irradiator facilities – bat 72

Measurement under controlled conditions

Timepix3 chip

Measurement in the primary beam:



Measurement in the scattered radiation field:



Toshiba installation; Tungsten anode (Institute of Radiation Physics – Lausanne – CH)

- 60 and 120 kVp
- From 10 mA to 160 mA





Measurement in interventional radiology theatre





Measurement setup









Measurement setup

Protocol:

- Pelvis/Iliac
 - 3 fps 74 kVp
 - 12.0 mA
- Normal dose protocol 0.4 mm Cu + 1 mm Al
- Standard patient (70 kg)



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Energy spectra for each medical staff at a given height









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Energy spectra for each height for a given person



Shift in energy from head to toes on position A = non homogenous exposure



Perspectives









Conclusion

- We validated the proof of concept:
 - The scattered radiation field has been characterised in an hospital theatre
 - This new approach allows to characterise and to compare the different energy spectra to which staff members are exposed
 - guide practitioners in choosing the appropriate radiation protection gear
 - This tool provides on the fly information on the homogeneity of the radiation field
- Next steps:
 - Compare result with gold standards
 - Metrological traceability
 - Convert the measured energy spectrum to a dose, then compare the dose obtained with the Timepix3 to a dose obtain with TLDs







Institut de radiophysique