

Image quality and dose analysis for a PA chest X-ray: comparison between AEC mode acquisition and manual mode using the 10 kVp rule

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Outline

- Introduction
 - Motivation
 - Research question & Objectives
- Methods
- Results & Discussion
- Conclusion



Introduction

- PA chest X-ray: an important radiograph (30-40% of all radiographs)
- The best compromise
 - Image quality
 - Patient dose (ALARP)

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1. International commission on radiological protection (2004) Managing patient dose in digital radiology. ICRP publication 93 Annals of the ICRP, Elsevier, p 21;
2. Schaefer-Prokop C, Neitzel U, Venema HW, Uffmann M, Prokop M. Digital chest radiography: an update on modern technology, dose containment and control of image quality. European radiology [Internet] 2008 [cited 2013 Aug 19];18(9):1818–1830. Available from: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2516181&tool=pmcentrez&rendertype=abstract>
3. Veldkamp WJH, Kroft LJM, Geleijns J. Dose and perceived image quality in chest radiography. European journal of radiology [Internet] 2009 [cited 2013 Aug 19];72(2):209–217. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19577393>



Motivation

- Analogue to digital systems
 - Adjustment of the technique
 - Parameters
 - Exposure index (Amount of exposure received by the image receptor; IgM for AGFA (1.96))
 - New guidelines (for technical aspects)
- Advantages of digital systems
 - Wider dynamic range
 - Postprocessing
- Clinical problems
 - Overexposure

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4. Ng CKC, Sun Z. Development of an online automatic computed radiography dose data mining program: a preliminary study. Computer methods and programs in biomedicine [Internet] 2010 [cited 2013 Aug 20];97(1):48–52. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19640604>
6. Stewart BK, Kanal KM, Perdue JR, Mann FA. Computed radiography dose data mining and surveillance as an ongoing quality assurance improvement process. AJR American journal of roentgenology [Internet] 2007 [cited 2013 Aug 20];189(1):7–11. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17579143>



Objectives

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- Compare the image quality and dose of a PA chest X-ray using AEC mode and the 10 kVp rule
- Verify if there is a difference between the exposure index



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METHODS

Image Acquisition

Introduction

- Motivation
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445 images

SID (160-200)

Focus (F & B)

10 kVp rule (80-110)

AEC sensors

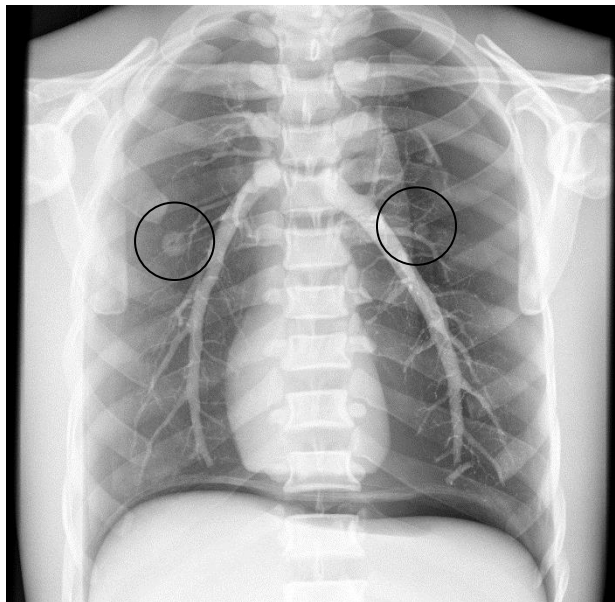
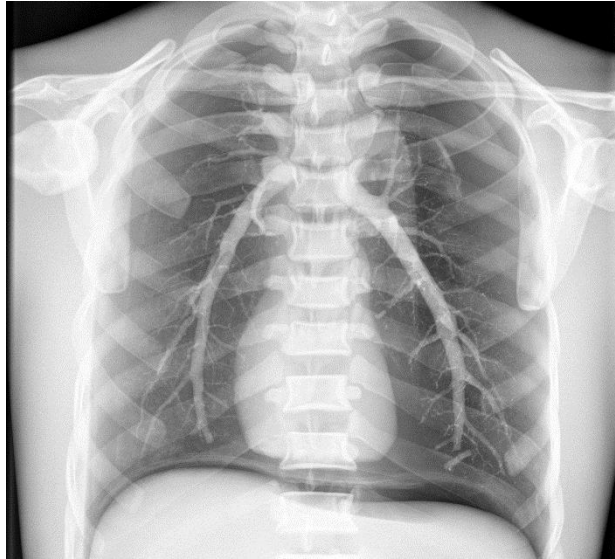
Lesions

8. Warren-Forward H, Arthur L, Hobson L, et al. An assessment of exposure indices in computed radiography for the posterior-anterior chest and the lateral lumbar spine. The British journal of radiology [Internet] 2007 [cited 2013 Aug 20];80(949):26–31. Available from:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16916804>

9. http://www.rsdphantoms.com/rd_lung.htm

Image Acquisition



68 images

40 AEC

20 Manual

8 Lesions

Methods



Image Acquisition

# of images	Parameters				
	SID	Focus	AEC/ manual values based on	lesions	kVp range
8 AEC, 4 manual	160	Fine	R	No	80-110
8 AEC, 4 manual	180	Fine	R	No	80-110
8 AEC, 4 manual	200	Fine	R	No	80-110
8 AEC, 4 manual	180	Fine	RML	No	80-110
8 AEC, 4 manual	180	Fine	RL	No	80-110
4 AEC, 4 manual	180	Fine	R	L=S R=L	80-110

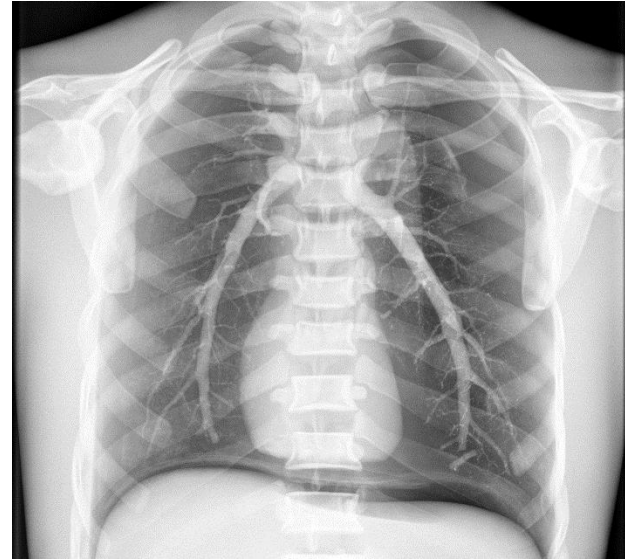
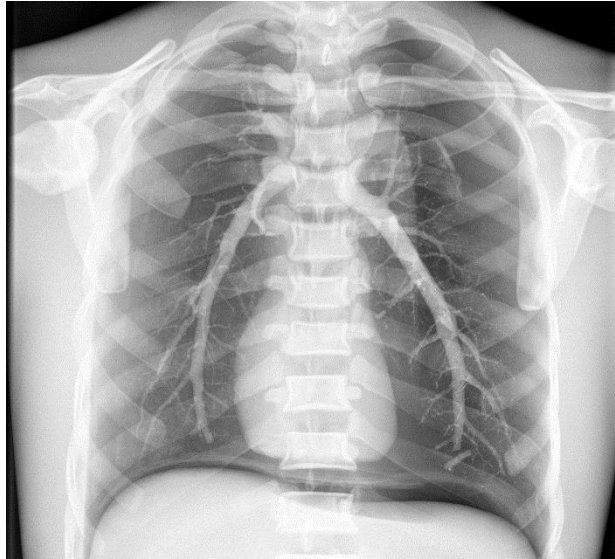
Methods



Effective Dose

- PCXMC software (Monte Carlo Simulation)
 - Effective dose based on ICRP 103
 - Most updated (new tissue factors)
 - Collected data
 - Dose Area Product (DAP)
 - kVp
 - Source Image Distance (SID)
 - Beam collimation
 - Patient size (phantom = average adult)

Image Quality



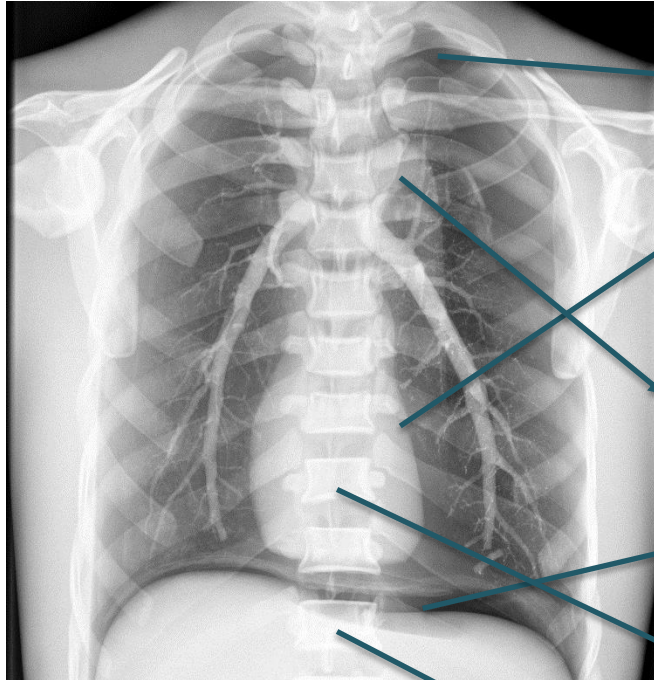
Methods

- 2 Alternative Forced Choice (2AFC)
- 5 blinded radiographers
- Likert point scale

10. Burgess A, Jacobson F, Judy P. Mass discrimination in mammography. *Academic Radiology* [Internet] 2003 [cited 2013 Aug 20];10(11):1247–1256. Available from: <http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1076633203003830>

11. Leong DL, Rainford L, Haygood TM, et al. Trend of Contrast Detection Threshold with and without Localization. *Journal of digital imaging* [Internet] 2013 [cited 2013 Aug 20]; Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23503988>

Image Quality

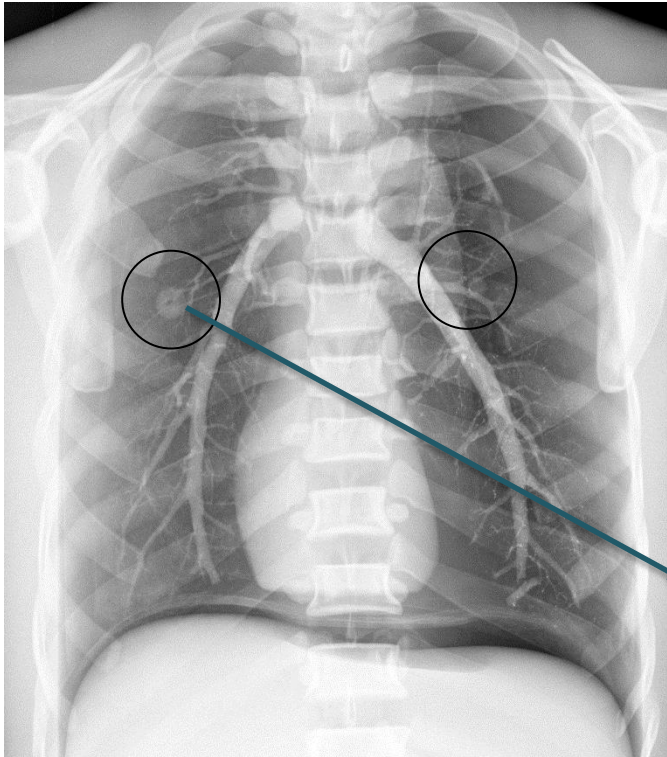


Criteria for images without lesions

- **Demonstration of vascular pattern in whole lung, particularly the peripheral vessels.**
- **Visually sharp demonstration of the borders of the heart.**
- **Visually sharp demonstration of the borders of the aorta.**
- **Visually sharp demonstration of the diaphragm.**
- **Visualisation of the retrocardiac lung and the mediastinum.**
- **Visualisation of the spine through the heart shadow.**

Methods

Image Quality



Criteria for images with lesions

- Demonstration of vascular pattern in whole lung, particularly the peripheral vessels.**
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- Visually sharp demonstration of the diaphragm.**
- Visualisation of the retrocardiac lung and the mediastinum.**
- Visualisation of the spine through the heart shadow.**
- Contrast of nodule, against background.**
- Brightness of nodule, against background.**
- Sharpness of nodule edge.**

Methods



RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Results &
Discussion

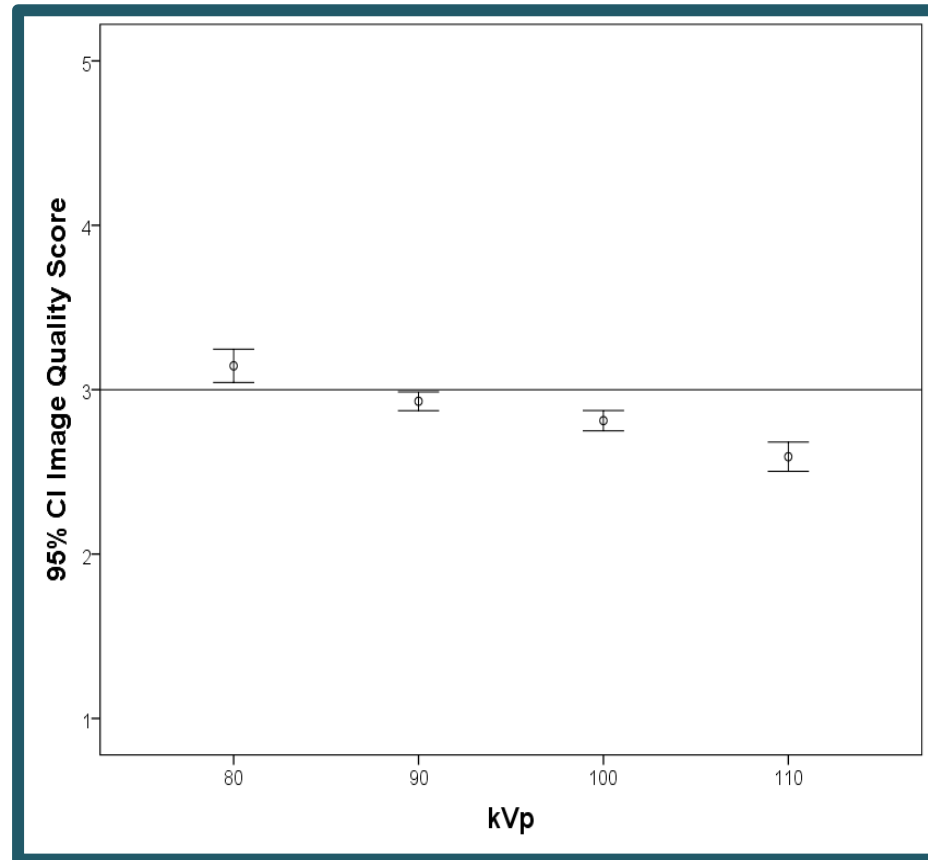
AEC vs MANUAL

10 kVp Rule				
kVp	mAs		s	
	Mean	(%)	Mean	(%)
80	6.89		0.028	
90	4	42%	0.021	24%
100	2.63	34%	0.013	37%
110	1.97	25%	0.011	18%

AEC Mode				
kVp	mAs		s	
	Mean	(%)	Mean	(%)
80	8.08		0.044	
90	5.41	36 %	0.029	50 %
100	4.01	26 %	0.021	35 %
110	3.09	23 %	0.017	28 %

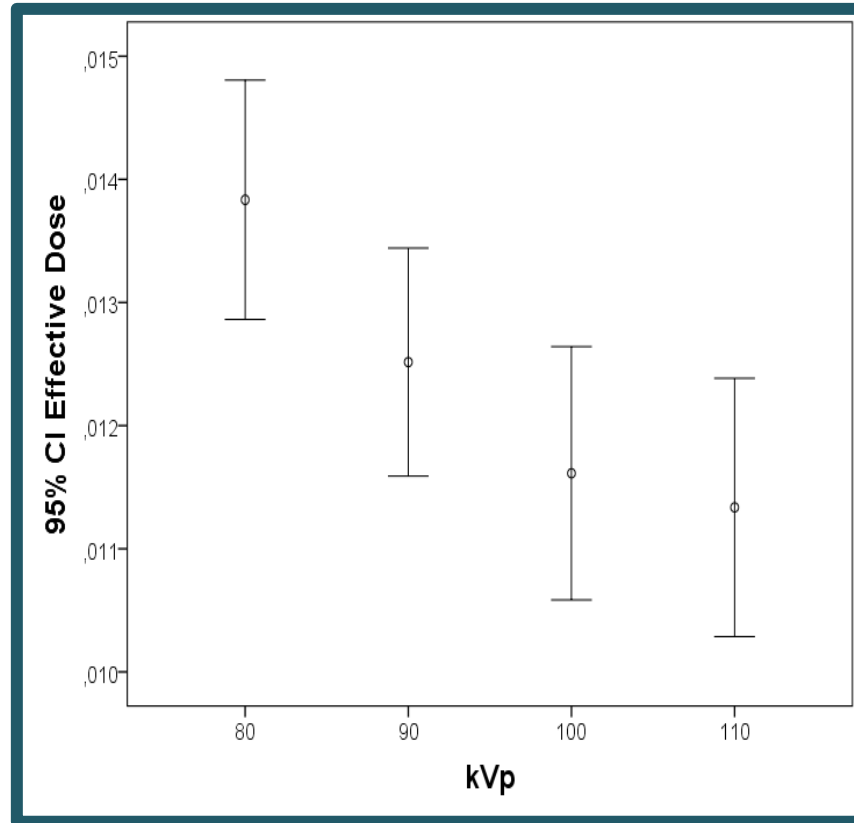
- Higher reduction in mAs using manual mode
- Higher reduction in time (s) using AEC mode

Image Quality (global)



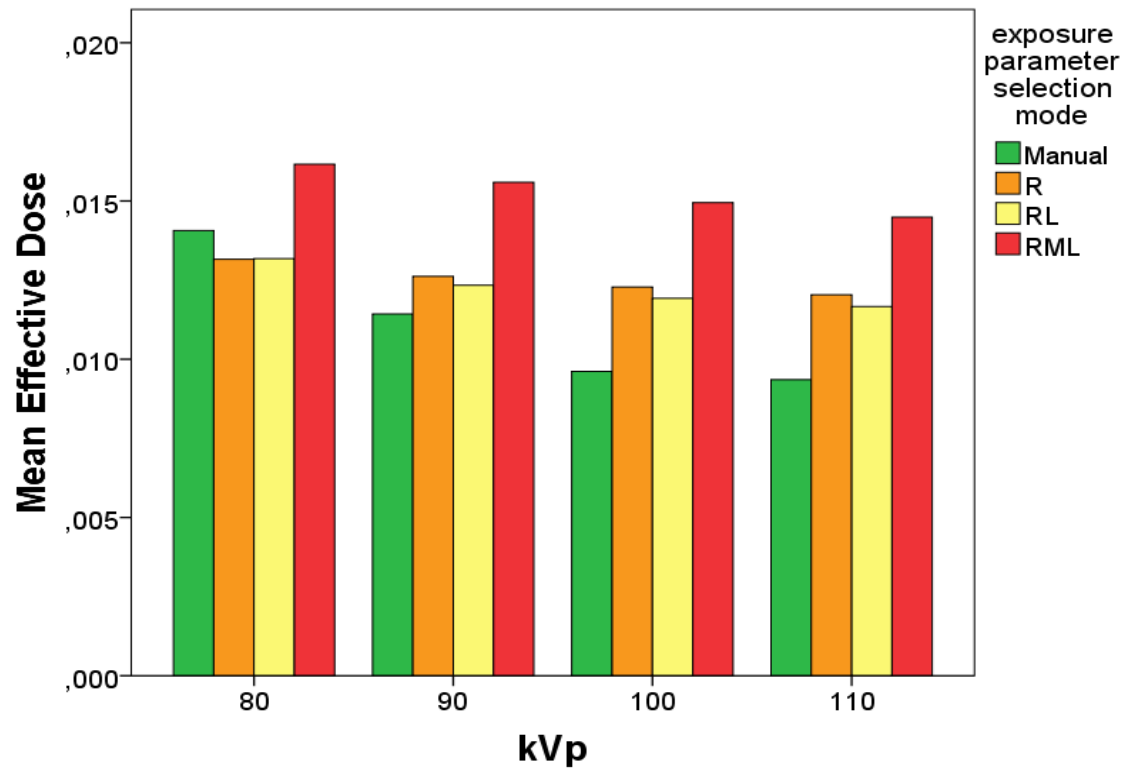
13. Doyle P, Martin CJ, Gentle D (2006) Application of contrast-to-noise ratio in optimizing beam quality for digital chest radiography: comparison of experimental measurements and theoretical simulations. *Physics in medicine and biology* 51:2953–70. doi: 10.1088/0031-9155/51/11/018
14. Tsai HY, Yang CH, Huang KM, et al. (2010) Analyses of patient dose and image quality for chest digital radiography. *Radiation Measurements* 45:722–725. doi: 10.1016/j.radmeas.2010.01.029

Effective Dose (global)



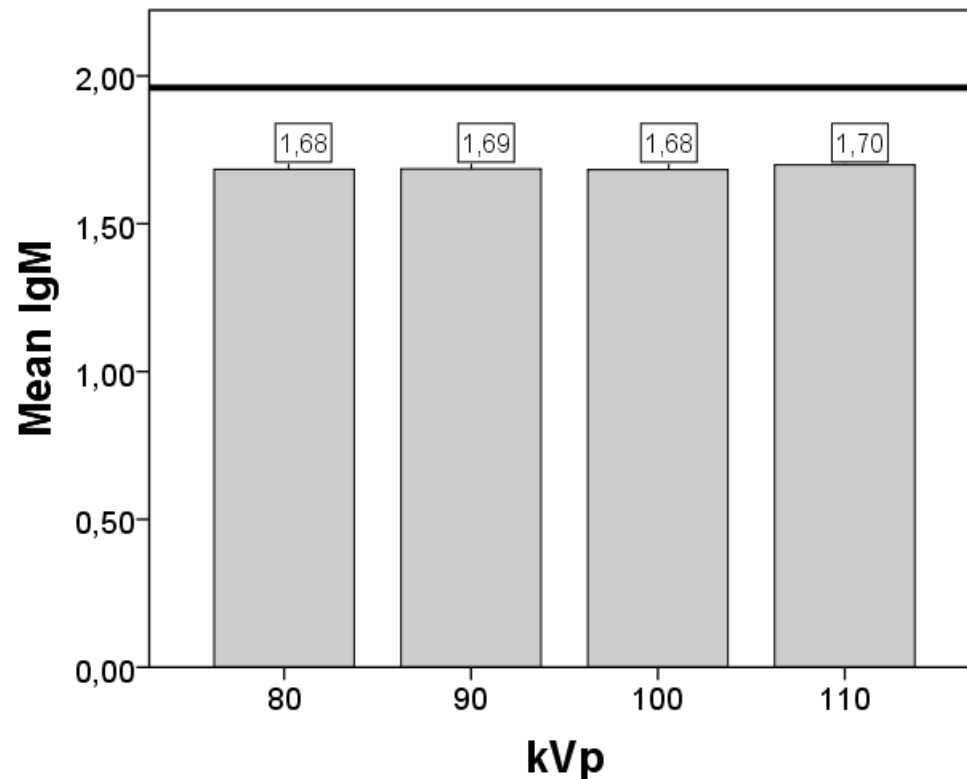
13. (25. Doyle P, Martin CJ, Gentle D (2006) Application of contrast-to-noise ratio in optimizing beam quality for digital chest radiography: comparison of experimental measurements and theoretical simulations. *Physics in medicine and biology* 51:2953–70. doi: 10.1088/0031-9155/51/11/018
14. Tsai HY, Yang CH, Huang KM, et al. (2010) Analyses of patient dose and image quality for chest digital radiography. *Radiation Measurements* 45:722–725. doi: 10.1016/j.radmeas.2010.01.029

Effective Dose (global)



- Manual mode (better ED);
- AEC – R or RL – depending on AEC calibration and users' preferences.

IgM (Exposure index – AGFA)



- SID did not influence the IgM variation ($p=0.931$)
- IgM < reference - 1.96

15. (2013) AGFA HealthCare. <http://www.agfahealthcare.com/usa/en/main/>.

16. Lança L (2011) Radiological imaging in digital systems: the effect of exposure parameters in diagnostic quality and patient dose. 1–229.



CONCLUSIONS



Conclusions

- AEC vs Manual
 - No significant differences between image quality and IgM
 - Using the 10 kVp on manual mode shows a lower effective dose



Further work

- More observers
 - Also clinical radiographers
- More images for lesion analysis
 - Only 8 images
 - Use of conspicuity software
- Perform this study using different types of equipment to confirm results



Thank you for your attention