

International Conference on **Medical Physics** August 03-05, 2015 Birmingham, UK

Knowledges and attitudes of Togolese radiographers on medical Irradiation of pregnant Women

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Purpose: Evaluate the knowledge and the attitudes of the Togolese radiographers on the medical irradiation of pregnant women.

Materials and Methods: Cross-sectional study performed in April, 2012 about 72 radiographers of the public and private hospitals in Togo.

Results: The quarter of the radiographers thought that the MRI is an irradiant examination and 44.5 % of them did not know that the scintigraphy uses ionizing radiations. There were 77.7 % to consider that the pregnancy is not an absolute contraindication for any irradiant medical imaging modality. They thought in 88.8 % of the cases that radiography must be realized only in the first ten days of the menstrual cycle of women old enough to procreate. The majority of the radiographers (72.3%) did not ask the last date of menstruations of the women before undergoing the examination. None recorded the exposure parameters used for the irradiation of the pelvic in young women. The vast majority (86.1 %) of the radiographers did not wear lead aprons for the pregnant women during the examinations and 83.3 % of them have already refused to realize an unjustified radiography to the pregnant women. Globally, the erroneous knowledge on the biological effects of ionizing radiations and on radiation protection rules of the pregnant Woman, were more counted with radiographers having more than 10 years old of work experience.

Conclusion: It is concluded the Togolese should take special attention to standard for women exposed to ionizing radiation. The sanitary authorities of Togo should encourage the in-service training in radiation protection of the patients.

Keywords: Medical irradiation, Pregnancy, Ionizing Radiations, Radiographers, Radiation protection

Biography

Kokou ADAMBOUNOU was graduated as Medical Doctor in 2007 from University of Lomé (Togo) and had his certification in Diagnostic Radiology from University of Abidjan (Ivory Coast). He has completed his Ph.D at the age of 33 years from Francois Rabelais University of Tours (France). He was the winner of Young Researcher Prize of SFR (French Society of Radiology) in 2010. He is associate Professor of Biophysics and Medical Imaging in Faculty of Health Science of University of Lomé, and the head of the Telemedicine and Radiation protection Unity of CHU Campus-Lomé. He has published more than 30 papers in reputed journals.

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