

NUCLEAR MEDICINE

BONE DENSITOMETRY

THYROID ULTRASOUND

ENDOCRINOLOGY

chatswood nuclear medicine
& endocrinology

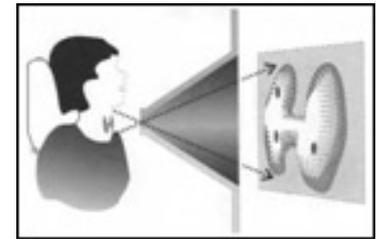


Summer 2012

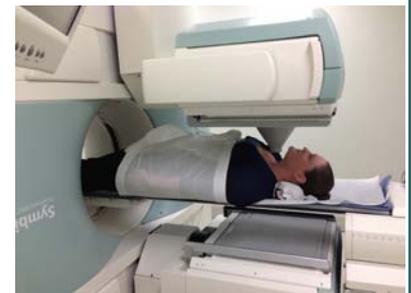
Nuclear Medicine Tips and Secrets: Pinhole Collimators

In the last newsletter we discussed how the resolution of nuclear medicine SPECT scans can be improved by 300% using Flash 3D, a feature we use in our standard practice to improve the accuracy of our nuclear medicine scans. Another method we routinely apply for imaging small organs is the use of pinhole collimators, which is able to achieve physical magnification of 300% (see Fig 1). This allows real-time image magnification (rather than digital magnification), and is of critical importance in the imaging of thyroid and parathyroid lesions.

To ensure that you always have the best diagnostic tools available for your patients, **make sure that your patients have their thyroid and parathyroid scans performed using pinhole collimators.**



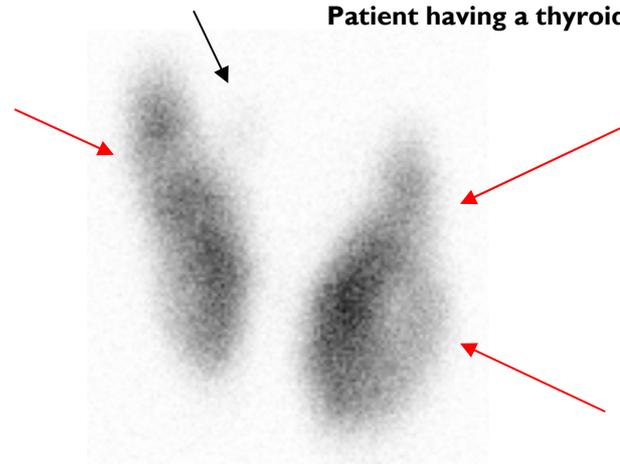
Pinhole Collimator



Patient having a thyroid scan



Thyroid nodules: Standard image



Thyroid nodules: Pinhole image. 3 nodules are now visualised (red arrows), as well as the pyramidal lobe (black arrow)

Chatswood Nuclear Medicine and Endocrinology routinely performs all thyroid and parathyroid scans using pinhole as well as standard collimators

Do you regularly see patients < 70 years old who may benefit from a bone density scan?

chatswood nuclear medicine
& endocrinology



We are pleased to extend the FRAX DXA Study to all patients undergoing bone density scans

Suite 105, 443 Victoria Ave
Chatswood 2067

Phone: 02 9419 6556

Fax: 02 9419 6557

Reason for the Study

Currently Medicare funding for DXA scans is restricted to patients 70 years old and above, or in younger patients with specific co-morbidities. In our experience however, we commonly encounter osteopaenia and osteoporosis in younger patients who do not meet the Medicare eligibility criteria. We suspect there may be significant variation in the incidence of osteoporosis and risk of fractures between ethnic groups.

What is the FRAX calculator?

The Fracture Risk Assessment (FRAX) calculator has been developed by the WHO to evaluate the fracture risk of patients. It is based on individual clinical risk factors as well as bone mineral density at the femoral neck. Unlike other calculators, FRAX models are available from major countries worldwide which allows for more accurate risk prediction of patients in a multicultural city like Sydney.

Is there a fee for the service?

There will be no charge to the patient. Medicare eligible patients may be bulk billed for the scan, while all others will simply have the scan performed as a complimentary service.

The study is designed as an epidemiological audit, and no additional patient enrolment or consent is required. The patient will undergo the same scan and receive the same DXA report. The study is planned to run for a number of years and will be reviewed on a regular basis.