

# **UNDERSTANDING RADIOGRAPHY**



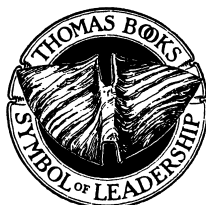
Fourth Edition

# UNDERSTANDING RADIOGRAPHY

*By*

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*To my wife Patricia  
and my daughters Kimberly and Laura*



## PREFACE TO FOURTH EDITION

Since the first image of human anatomy was made in the late 1800s, medical diagnostic imaging has contributed significantly to the advancement of healthcare in a most extraordinary and unique manner. Indeed, the developments of new imaging devices throughout the history of diagnostic imaging has made a profound contribution in helping to define how medicine is practiced today by a wide range of physicians. From the first fluoroscopic machine, to the development of nuclear medicine, ultrasound, and more recently CT, MRI, and PET scanners, we have significantly expanded our ability to “see” diseases and make diagnoses at their earliest stages. In many ways this capability has saved lives, and stimulated research among physicians, scientists, and pharmaceutical companies to develop treatments and medications to correct or bring a wide range of serious diseases under control that would have otherwise resulted in increased morbidity and mortality.

This truly unique contribution provides many of us who are intimately involved with radiology services with a strong sense of pride. These advances come from a lineage of gifted, inspired, and demanding physicians, technologists, and physicists who worked together to look beyond the present and sought what only they could imagine. It has been a continuous infusion of creativity, vision, and tough mindedness among these professionals that brought new diagnostic capabilities to everyday clinical use, and further revolutionized healthcare treatments to improve the lives of countless numbers of patients.

In the early 1970s, we experienced a rush of excitement as scientists, technologists, and physicians worked together to integrate computer technology with x-ray producing equipment, and built the first CT scanners. This marvel of mechanical and electrical engineering, medical science, and computer technology opened a new and exciting world of disease imaging capabilities that could not have been imagined only a few years before. Today, the startling images we see with MRI scanners, along with newly developed and complex interventional techniques have allowed radiology services to

actually take the place of routine exploratory and complex corrective surgery—and advanced PET scanning. Techniques are likely to expand our knowledge and understanding of complex brain functions, and will no doubt lead us to other effective treatments that are not currently available.

Today, we are seeing diagnostic imaging technology pass through another threshold that offers additional capabilities and potential. At a time when there is ample justification for excitement about faster and faster MRI and CT that can produce even more diagnostic information—and new images from PET, we are also seeing the implementation of PACS technology. PACS will revolutionize how general diagnostic images are produced, archived, and distributed throughout the healthcare community. Technologists who work with general radiographic equipment are now learning how to use computerized and direct digital technology, and they are seeing how PACS will impact patient care and their everyday professional lives.

The fourth edition of *Understanding Radiography* not only contains updated and refreshed material on familiar imaging technology, it also provides thorough explanations with many original illustrations of high speed CT imaging, PACS networks, and computerized radiography. Further, it contains new insights that will help prepare students as well as experienced technologists on how these technologies can be used to provide the highest level of imaging services possible.

I recently heard someone say that people tend to think of “technology” as something that had been discovered only during their more recent life experience. Indeed, technology seems to be perception rather than reality because we often discount or take for granted what has [always] been available before our time as common and fundamental. Someday, MRI and PET scanners, along with a host of other developments, may also seem to be common and fundamental. For today, [our] new medical imaging technology adds to an already vast arsenal of imaging equipment which places technologists in a unique and commanding position. Despite the excitement of a new piece of equipment, we should always keep in mind that these devices have little merit on their own. The merit in these devices is realized when they are placed in the hands of skilled technologists who have a strong sense of professionalism and an ability to exhibit compassion toward their patients’ best interests.

S. S. H.



## PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION

New information is presented to cover tabular drain film and high frequency generators. Updated and new information is also presented on the subject of radiation protection and x-ray tubes.

A new chapter has been prepared on computerized tomography. This new chapter contains basic information, yet it is sufficiently comprehensive to make it a very worthwhile addition to the text that will orient the student soundly to this very interesting imaging modality. The discussions covering the history, major components, its value to medical diagnostic services, as well as methods of image reconstruction are explained in a fashion that is informative and easy to understand.

Additional updated information is also presented in the chapter covering digital imaging that will keep the student current with essential information on this fast developing technology.

S. S. H.



## PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

The First Edition of this work provided a firm base of information of radiographic imaging.

Four new chapters have been added which expand considerably the scope of this text.

It has been endeavored to provide, in a very practical format, a devotion to detail as this relates to the day-to-day clinical experience of the technologist. In this expanded edition, each of the four new chapters at the back of the book provides coverage of full and sufficient depth so that accurate insight may be obtained by the reader.

There has now been included a comprehensive chapter on radiation protection, covering complete and necessary details.

There is a complete chapter on radiographic tubes, x-ray production, and the nature and characteristics of x-radiation.

A chapter on the x-ray circuit utilizes a very clear and practical approach to this potentially confusing subject.

It has seemed important to include, in simple and concise terms, a chapter on T.V. cameras, image intensification, and digital fluoro subtraction.

S. S. H.



## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

**D**uring the early planning stages of this text, a few important prerequisites were self-imposed in the firm belief that their absence would yield a publication so similar to those presently available that another text simply would not be justified. The information presented within the following pages is in some instances new ground for even the experienced technologist while, in other instances, old familiar concepts have been reassessed and aligned more closely with current data.

An important goal which had been set is that strict attention and ample time would be given to the many aspects of radiography which have, in the past, been treated perhaps too simplistically. Although complex physical formulae are not contained in this volume, an attempt has been made to not merely present these concepts of modern radiography for purposes of identification, but also to discuss and analyze each issue at hand from more than one perspective. Without this more rounded approach, much of the meaning is often lost, and as a result misconceptions and frustrations take the place of enlightenment.

It has been my intention from the outset that the information within these pages be presented in such a way that it can be readily understood, and that each concept discussed is covered thoroughly enough and with sufficient depth that an accurate insight can be gained to bridge the gap students often feel is present between classroom theory and its practical application.

In the end, it is often the concept of an idea that is most important to remember, because from it one can learn to answer many of his own questions.

The primary intention of this text is to provide those concepts and insights from which the technologist can grow into a competent professional.

S. S. H.



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There are moments in one's career when a single choice must be made

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The companion publication, *Lab Book & Study Guide*, has been reformatted and expanded to include: Chapter Learning Objectives, Experiments, and an Overview. These changes are the direct result of a collaboration with Mr. Gary Woogenrich, Program Director, North Hampton Community College. His extensive experience, insight, creativity, and council have resulted in a very useful study of the main text.

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## CONTENTS

|  | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| <i>Foreword to the Fourth Edition</i> . . . . .          | vii         |
| <i>Foreword to the Third Edition</i> . . . . .           | ix          |
| <i>Foreword to the Second Edition</i> . . . . .          | xi          |
| <i>Foreword to the First Edition</i> . . . . .           | xiii        |
| <i>Chapter</i>   |             |
| One  |             |
| CHARACTERISTICS OF THE<br>RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGE . . . . .   | 3           |
| Objectives . . . . .                                     | 3           |
| <i>Radiographic Balance</i> . . . . .                    | 4           |
| Radiographic Contrast . . . . .                          | 7           |
| Elements of Radiographic Contrast . . . . .              | 9           |
| Why Different Film Contrasts Are Used . . . . .          | 11          |
| Radiographic Density . . . . .                           | 12          |
| Elements of Radiographic Density . . . . .               | 14          |
| <i>Visibility versus Sharpness of Detail</i> . . . . .   | 16          |
| Sharpness of Detail . . . . .                            | 17          |
| Visibility of Detail . . . . .                           | 17          |
| <i>Sensitometry</i> . . . . .                            | 19          |
| The Location of The H & D Curve . . . . .                | 21          |
| The Shape of The H & D Curve . . . . .                   | 21          |
| Film Latitude . . . . .                                  | 25          |
| Film Contrast . . . . .                                  | 25          |
| Determining Film Contrast from The H & D Curve . . . . . | 26          |
| Base Plus Fog . . . . .                                  | 27          |
| Study Questions . . . . .                                | 28          |
| Two  |             |
| RADIOGRAPHIC IMAGING FILM . . . . .                      | 29          |
| Objectives . . . . .                                     | 29          |
| <i>A Historical Perspective</i> . . . . .                | 30          |

|       |   |    |
|-------|---|----|
|       | Film Manufacturing . . . . .                              | 31 |
|       | Composition of Medical Imaging Film . . . . .             | 32 |
|       | Film Base and Its Characteristics . . . . .               | 34 |
|       | Base Plus Fog . . . . .                                   | 36 |
|       | Silver Bromide Grains . . . . .                           | 37 |
|       | Film Contrast and Latitude . . . . .                      | 39 |
|       | Anatomy of an Image . . . . .                             | 40 |
|       | Gelatin . . . . .   | 42 |
|       | Film Speed . . . . .                                      | 43 |
|       | Tabular Silver Bromide Grains . . . . .                   | 44 |
|       | Anti-Cross-Over Layer . . . . .                           | 45 |
|       | Film Mottle . . . . .                                     | 46 |
|       | Today's Highly Engineered Film . . . . .                  | 47 |
|       | Processing Film Emulsions . . . . .                       | 47 |
|       | User Expectations of Medical Imaging Film . . . . .       | 48 |
|       | Latent Image Formation . . . . .                          | 50 |
|       | The Crystal Lattice . . . . .                             | 51 |
|       | <i>Developer and Fixer Solutions</i> . . . . .            | 55 |
|       | Chemical Fog . . . . .                                    | 57 |
|       | Study Questions . . . . .                                 | 59 |
| Three | AUTOMATIC PROCESSING . . . . .                            | 61 |
|       | Objectives . . . . .                                      | 61 |
|       | <i>Introduction</i> . . . . .                             | 61 |
|       | Centralized Versus Dispersal Processing . . . . .         | 63 |
|       | Early Automatic Processors . . . . .                      | 63 |
|       | <i>Safe Light Filters</i> . . . . .                       | 66 |
|       | <i>Major Systems in Automatic Processors</i> . . . . .    | 68 |
|       | The Transport System . . . . .                            | 68 |
|       | The Margin of Error . . . . .                             | 69 |
|       | The Crossover Assembly . . . . .                          | 69 |
|       | Artifacts Commonly Linked to Transport Problems . . . . . | 70 |
|       | The Replenishment System . . . . .                        | 71 |
|       | Overreplenishment . . . . .                               | 72 |
|       | Underreplenishment . . . . .                              | 74 |
|       | Setting Replenishment Rates . . . . .                     | 77 |
|       | The Drying System . . . . .                               | 79 |
|       | Drying Problems . . . . .                                 | 80 |
|       | The Recirculating System . . . . .                        | 82 |
|       | <i>Troubleshooting Processor Problems</i> . . . . .       | 85 |

|      |  |     |
|------|--|-----|
|      | Explanation . . . . .                                      | 86  |
|      | Dark Films . . . . .                                       | 86  |
|      | Light Films, Poor Contrast . . . . .                       | 86  |
|      | Films Have a Brownish Appearance . . . . .                 | 87  |
|      | Films Have a Milky Appearance . . . . .                    | 87  |
|      | Films Have a Greasy Appearance . . . . .                   | 88  |
|      | Jamming . . . . .  | 88  |
|      | Scratches . . . . .  | 88  |
|      | Black, Flaky Marks . . . . .                               | 89  |
|      | Increased Fog . . . . .                                    | 89  |
|      | <i>Routine Maintenance</i> . . . . .                       | 90  |
|      | Sensitometric Strips . . . . .                             | 90  |
|      | <i>Environmental Conditions</i> . . . . .                  | 90  |
|      | Silver Recovery . . . . .                                  | 92  |
|      | Study Questions . . . . .                                  | 93  |
| Four | INTENSIFYING SCREENS . . . . .                             | 94  |
|      | Objectives . . . . .                                       | 94  |
|      | <i>A Historical Perspective</i> . . . . .                  | 95  |
|      | Composition of Intensifying Screens . . . . .              | 96  |
|      | The Radiographic Effect of Using Intensifying Screens. . . | 98  |
|      | Image Resolution . . . . .                                 | 98  |
|      | Radiographic Density . . . . .                             | 99  |
|      | Modulation Transfer Function . . . . .                     | 102 |
|      | Quantum Mottle . . . . .                                   | 106 |
|      | Radiographic Contrast and Intensifying Screens . . . . .   | 109 |
|      | The Phosphor Light Emission Process . . . . .              | 110 |
|      | Screen Artifacts . . . . .                                 | 112 |
|      | Rare Earth Screens . . . . .                               | 117 |
|      | Screen Maintenance . . . . .                               | 118 |
|      | Study Questions . . . . .                                  | 119 |
| Five | MILLIAMPERAGE . . . . .                                    | 120 |
|      | Objectives . . . . .                                       | 120 |
|      | <i>Definition and Function</i> . . . . .                   | 121 |
|      | The X-ray Tube Filament . . . . .                          | 122 |
|      | Ma, Heat, Focal Spot Size, and Radiographic Sharpness .    | 124 |
|      | Reciprocity Law . . . . .                                  | 126 |
|      | <i>Milliamperage Calibration</i> . . . . .                 | 128 |
|      | <i>Patient Dose and Milliamperage</i> . . . . .            | 130 |