Gonadal and Fetal Shielding

During Radiographic Procedures of the Abdomen and Pelvis

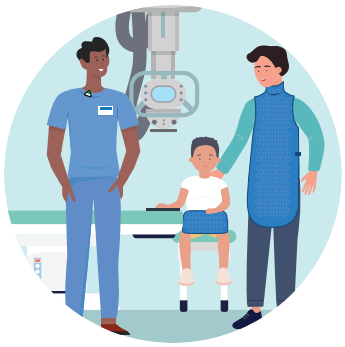
The ASRT supports the elimination of gonadal and fetal shielding during radiographic procedures of the abdomen and pelvis when performed by a registered radiologic technologist.

Why?

Shielding the pelvis and abdomen can obscure anatomy.

Most procedures require a low amount of radiation.

ASRT supports gonadal and fetal shielding when shielding:



- is safe and appropriate.
- reduces excess radiation exposure.
- increases patient comfort and confidence.

And the NCRP Agrees

The NCRP recommends ending routine gonadal shielding during abdominal and pelvic radiography because:

- The risks of genetic effects are lower than previously estimated.
- Improvements in technology have reduced absorbed dose to pelvic organs.
- Shielding can interfere with automatic exposure control (AEC).
- Gonadal shielding may obscure important findings.
- It is difficult to accurately shield the gonads in certain exams.
- A significant portion of dose to the ovaries is delivered by internally scattered x-rays that can't be blocked by shielding.

This change does not affect shielding for occupational exposure. You should continue using shielding to protect yourself and other staff.

For More Information

asrt.org/shielding

shielding@asrt.org

Get Complete Details.

asrt Patient Shielding Task Force

Radiologic Technologists Have you covered!