

Economizing on Polaroid Films

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The use of three slides, each capable of masking two of the three lenses leaving the third to make an exposure on a tri-lens Polaroid camera of a scintillation camera, is described. Successive use of the three slides during three consecutive exposures results in the recording of three projections of a study on a single print.

Scintillation cameras are usually supplied with either single or tri-lens Polaroid cameras. The three lenses of the tri-lens camera system have neutral density filters of various density gradings to control the intensity of the transmitted light through them. This results in the production of three images with a wide range of density differential to aid in the reading of the scintigraphs. The fact that some technologists do use the single-lens system and the contention that the range of density provided by the tri-lens system is probably more than adequate prompted the development of a technique (1)

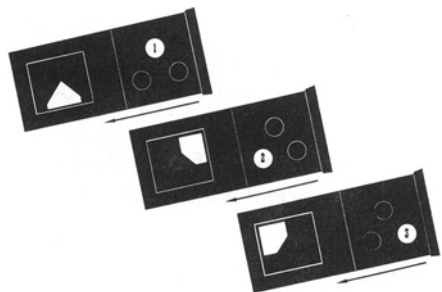


FIG. 1. Slides with openings in different locations for successive use with Polaroid camera.

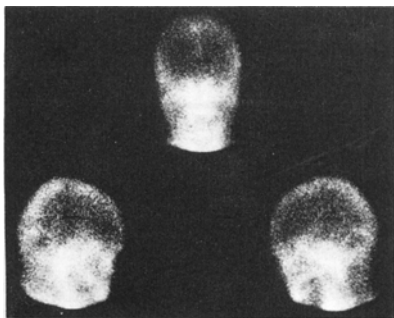


FIG. 2. Three projections of brain scan obtained using slides.

involving modification to the camera and taking two views of a study on a single print. The method described here accommodates three different projections of a study on a single print.

Technique

The technique involves the use of a slide to mask two of the three lenses at a time, leaving the third open. Figure 1 shows the three slides, each with an opening that permits only one of the three lenses to record an exposure. The successive use of these three slides during three consecutive exposures results in the recording of three different projections of a study on the same print. The difference in density between the three pictures is easily compensated by adjusting the intensity settings between each exposure. On our camera, for example, an increase in intensity setting of 50 divisions between exposures results in images of uniform density grading on all three lenses. The scintiphoto (Fig. 2) shows the clarity of the views with no loss of information.

Summary

The operating expense of a scintillation camera is largely due to the use of Polaroid films. Although multi-imager systems and less expensive standard photographic techniques such as 35- and 70-mm films are available, the advantage of instant scintigraphs hardly needs any mention. The economics in terms of savings in dollars, technician time in mounting pictures, and filing space is appreciable with the adoption of this simple procedure.

Reference

1. Leach KG: Reducing the cost of scintigraphy. *J Nucl Med Tech* 1:12-13, Dec. 1973

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