

Medical Technology

*Mammography
Mammography Certification Exam*

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Question: 1

What controls the length of radiation exposure after the breast tissue has been sufficiently exposed to the radiation?

- A. The anode
- B. The AEC
- C. The x-ray filter
- D. The cathode

Answer: B

Explanation:

The AEC, or automatic exposure control, is a sensor found beneath the densest part of the breast and controls exposure length. Electrical energy flows from the anode to the cathode to produce the radiation. The x-ray filter removes excess photons that are not necessary to produce a clear image.

Question: 2

Which of the following is the distance from the source of the radiation to the image receptor?

- A. Object-image-receptor distance
- B. Source-object distance
- C. Source-image distance
- D. Focal-spot-image distance

Answer: C

Explanation:

The source-image distance is the distance from the source of the radiation to the image receptor. The object-image-receptor distance is the distance between the breast and the image receptor. The source—object distance is the distance between the source of the radiation and the breast tissue. The focal-spot-image distance is the distance between the focal spot and the image receptor.

Question: 3

What is the purpose of the grid?

- A. To convert x rays to light photons

- B. To improve contrast by decreasing radiation scatter
- C. To show the location of the focal spot
- D. For quality control purposes

Answer: B

Explanation:

The grid improves contrast by decreasing radiation scatter. Very thin strips of lead or other metal are placed at a rate of around 60 to 80 strips per centimeter. They absorb extra radiation, thereby reducing scatter. Option A refers to the intensifying screen. Choices C and D are incorrect.

Question: 4

The darkroom must be cleaned each day because

- A. The presence of any dirt or dust may produce artifacts on the film
- B. Of the risk of infection transmission
- C. It can damage the development equipment
- D. Of the potential for a reaction of the dirt with the developing chemicals

Answer: A

Explanation:

Dirt and dust particles can contaminate film and produce artifacts on the image. It is extremely important that the darkroom be cleaned each day before developing any film and that any unnecessary items are removed from the darkroom to minimize the risk of contamination.

Question: 5

When is it NOT necessary to process phantom images as a part of quality control measures?

- A. Weekly
- B. After the equipment is serviced
- C. After changing the type of film used
- D. Monthly

Answer: D

Explanation:

A phantom image should be developed and evaluated at least weekly, but also whenever service is performed on the machinery, when the type of film or screen is changed, or to troubleshoot problems.

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