

HSRAC Risk Statements for Diagnostic Imaging

These risk statements were developed with reference to:

[AAPM Position Statement on Radiation Risks from Medical Imaging Procedures](#) and
[BEIR VII.](#)

First, use page 2 of the [HSRAC Application](#) to determine the total dose outside of standard of care:

Compare the dose outside of standard of care with the [HSRAC Approved Risk Language](#) for the informed consent document.

Total dose outside of Standard of Care (mSv)

7

Then use the three risk categories to determine which language to use. The statement “Some of the tests...” can be replaced with the specific procedures that expose the participant to radiation, if you wish. For risk categories two and three, list the procedures and doses in a bulleted list.

1. Undetectable Risk (less than background radiation): Up to 3 mSv per year

Some of the tests that you will have in this research study will expose you to radiation. Everyone receives a small amount of radiation every day called “background radiation”. This radiation is natural and comes from space, air, water, soil, rocks, and the food you eat. The tests in this study will give you a radiation dose that is less than the annual background radiation you receive normally. The risk to your health from this level of radiation exposure is too low to be detectable and may be nonexistent.

2. Undetectable Risk (more than background radiation): 3-50 mSv per year

Some of the tests that you will have in this research study will expose you to radiation. Everyone receives a small amount of radiation every day called “background radiation”. This radiation is natural and comes from space, air, water, soil, and the food you eat. Each year you are exposed to about 3 milliSieverts (mSv) of this background radiation. A milliSievert is a unit of radiation dose. For comparison, the estimated radiation dose from each of these tests is listed below. The risk to your health from this level of radiation exposure is too low to be detectable and may be nonexistent.

- EXAMPLE: Head CT: 2 mSv
- EXAMPLE: Chest CT: 7 mSv

3. Minimal risk: Over 50 mSv per year

Some of the tests that you will have in this research study will expose you to radiation. Everyone receives a small amount of radiation every day called “background radiation”. This radiation is natural and comes from space, air, water, soil, and the food you eat. Each year you are exposed to about 3 milliSieverts (mSv) of this background radiation. A milliSievert is a unit of radiation dose. There is minimal risk to your health from the amount of radiation you will receive in this study. The usual lifetime risk of getting cancer is 42%. For every 10 mSv you receive, your risk may increase 0.1%. If you have more procedures that expose you to radiation, your risk will go up. For comparison, the estimated radiation dose from each of these tests is listed below:

- EXAMPLE: Head CT: 2 mSv
- EXAMPLE: Chest CT: 7 mSv