

Do you think you can dance... sing... ..race?

Reality TV has become a prime time expectation in households today. (There is even a Japanese version of a game show with surprised American contestants!) We choose to accept the hilarity of celebrity judges and impose our own opinions by sometimes retaliating. We take action and vote by text or phone.

The wonderful benefit of medical x-rays is a reality. Since its discovery in the 1890's, risks became evident within a few decades, as assistants skin reddened and blistered from radiation exposure. Radiation protection and safety was little known and not enforced. Today, radiation protection and safety are mandated for educational programs in the imaging sciences. Throughout the twentieth century there has been a quick advent of many more imaging technologies – including CT, etc. This brings several questions to think about. Have these advanced technologies kept those they image in mind when documented research about radiation or magnetic safety is not published until years later? Is the equipment safe? Are manufacturer's adequately testing equipment for radiation levels prior to use on actual patients? Are radiology and therapy department directors holding application specialists accountable for training technologists ethically? Are technologist's questions when told collimation is not necessary? Why are children receiving the same radiation dose as an adult? You, the public need to ask, "Am I receiving more radiation than I should?"

Four groups decided to take a stand to lower radiation dose in imaging of children beginning with CT. One of the four groups, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, ASRT, is educating technologists and physicians about how to keep the dose down. Parents can visit the Image Gently website @ www.imagegently.org. You choose to dance, sing or race! Take a stand.

The WV Medical Imaging & Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners supports the Image Gently campaign.