

## **Radiology Technology History**

It was not until 1895 that Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen discovered x-rays. Early use of x-ray was very crude. Unskilled personal used a “hit and miss” system to view anatomy. The machines used at this time were very unsafe. The public was fascinated by this new technology. Machines were often used in shoe stores to view how well your new shoes fit. The dangers of x-rays were unknown at this time. There were no safety devises used to limit the amount of radiation a person received. As people stood to view the fit of their shoes they were receiving great amounts of radiation to the gonad area. Many of the first machines were used to entertain the public’s curiosity to view their body parts. By 1990 the use of x-ray for medical purposes to diagnose and treat diseases became popular. Many physicians, Chemist, and engineers bought machines to use in their offices.

The time it took for the production of the image, it processing and the upkeep of the equipment had its toll on these professional men. They soon realized that they could hire others to perform these duties and this would afford them more time with patient care.

Those hired to first operate this equipment were often secretaries and receptionist, mostly women. The first x-ray operators were often used as subjects to perfect imaging, as well as operate and repair equipment. Most had no knowledge of human anatomy or illness. Later many professionals used nurses to operate the equipment due to their knowledge of anatomy.

Those early operators were unaware of the dangers of radiation. It was only later that the early deaths of these operators after 20 years that made users aware of the dangers. It was at this time that precautions such as lead shields and monitoring devices came into use.

Early technicians had to develop their own techniques by trial and error. Since that time many changes have taken place in radiology and are continuing to change daily within our profession.