

## **Geriatric Radiography**

Geriatrics is that branch of medicine which deals with the problems of old age. For statistical purposes, 65 years and over is considered as the old age group.

Points for radiographers

- Clear instruction should be given
- Sufficient time must be given to undress
- They should always be told what is going to happen
- Privacy and modest treatment is necessary
- To keep them warm and covered
- Avoid “hurting” them because of the peripheral blood vessels are very fragile
- Communication problems may arise due to the loss of teeth / atrophy of the mandible
- The actions become slowed and laboured
- Degenerative changes cause slow and painful in movement
- They may be deaf
- Do not push the wheel chair suddenly, show yourself first

Exposure parameters

A number of problems arise because of the fact the skeleton becomes brittle due to the loss of bone substance.

The thoracic spine may become bowed, for example, which will cause positioning problems for the vertebral column generally, supine X-rays etc..

As calcium is lost from the bones, it tends to be laid down in alternatively places such as the costal cartilage, the wall of the aorta, the trachea, the bronchi and the thyroid gland.

Osteoporosis always seen in the radiographs.

Hence, there is a general need to reduce exposure factors.