



## Fake News, Fake Facts, Misinformation and Disinformation

A popular WhatsApp message that even doctors send to each other is regarding wearing a thyroid shield during mammography, because as per Dr. Oz there is radiation to the thyroid and increased risk of thyroid cancer.

### Question 1

Do you need to wear a thyroid shield during mammography?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Please see if you are able to get these answers correct or not. The answers are on the next page at the bottom. And if you still need more information, please get yourself a copy of the book **"Known Unknowns of Everyday Radiology Practice"** by Dr. Bhavin Jankharia and Dr. Akshay Baheti.

### Question 2

An 18-years old boy needs a CT scan for acute appendicitis after an equivocal ultrasound study. His helicopter parents and the well-meaning family physician and surgeon are concerned about radiation risk and are hesitating to get the study done. What is the boy's radiation risk?

- A. No risk
- B. 2% risk
- C. 5% risk
- D. 10% risk

In the same vein, patients who come for mammography often tell us that their referring doctors have told them to get USG or MRI done instead of mammography for fear of radiation.

### Question 3

Is this fear of mammography induced radiation risk valid?

- A. Yes
- B. No

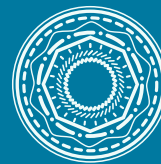
A similar issue arises with metal in the body and MRI. Cardiologists tell patients with stents not to get MRIs done for fear of stent displacement. The Association of Medical Consultants (AMC) recently circulated a message regarding Do's and Don'ts for MRI scanners after the Nair Hospital MRI incident that included a passage about pacemakers being absolute contraindications.

### Question 4

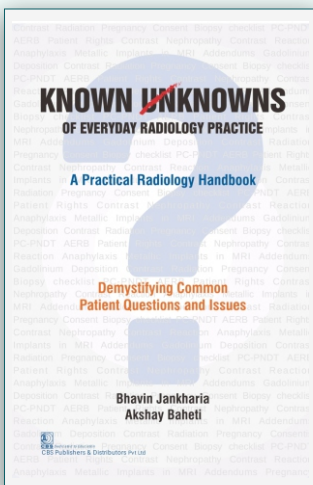
Which of these are absolute contraindications to MRI?

- A. Orthopedic hardware of any kind?
- B. Stents
- C. Pacemakers
- D. Cochlear implant
- E. Mobile bullet in the peritoneal cavity

It's the same with pregnancy and radiation. If a woman gets irradiated due to a radiograph or a CT scan around the time of conception or within 2-3 weeks thereafter, there is often a lot of confusion about what to do. Similarly, if a 30-weeks old pregnant patient needs a CT pulmonary angiogram, things unnecessarily go into a loop.



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### Question 5:

Which of these is an indication for abortion?

- A. CT abdomen at 2 weeks gestation
- B. CT pulmonary angiogram at 30 weeks
- C. MRI brain at 20 weeks
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

There are similar misconceptions with the administration of contrast media during CT scans and MRI, including the need to do serum creatinine in all patients who have to receive intravenous iodinated contrast, etc.

### Question 6:

Which of these is an absolute contraindication to intravenous contrast administration

- A. Prior allergy
- B. Estimated GFR > 30
- C. Estimated GFR < 30
- D. Prior reaction to gadolinium contrast
- E. All of the above
- F. None of the above

## ANSWERS

Q1: B | Q2: A | Q3: B | Q4: E | Q5: E | Q6: F

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