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Audit Title: An Issue with Proximity: A Clinical Audit of Optic Lens Involvement in CT Head Imaging.

Problem: Computed tomography (CT) of the head is one of the most commonly used diagnostic tools. However, examination of the optic lens usually only plays a minuscule role in patient management and outcome. Unnecessary exposure of the lens to radiation can result in lens damage and cataract formation.

Standard: To minimize the involvement and resulting radiation of the optic lens during CT head studies by angling the gantry above the level of the orbits and having the patient hyper-flex their neck.

Data Collections: All CT head images were examined. Lens involvement meant partial or complete visualization of either lens or, in cases of cataract surgery; the area of the lens was in the field of examination. Images where the orbits were requested were excluded. 8h were required to complete the audit.

Audit Results: Assess the number of CT Head images performed where either lens has been included either partially or completely, or, in cases of cataract surgery; the area of the lens was in the field of examination.

Suggestions for Change: By angling the gantry above the level of the orbits and having patients tuck their chin, lens exposure to radiation can effectively be minimized. It is also suggested that technologists, to assess results of the audit moving forward, document clinical reasoning for desired lens involvement.