

*THE TRUTH*  
*ABOUT*  
**RADIATION**  
&  
**BODY SCANS**



Recent erroneous news stories have appeared suggesting a link between full body CT screening and an increased risk of cancer. Here are the facts:

- A millisievert is the standard measure of radiation exposure. The effective radiation dose for one full body scan on Accuscan's GE Lightspeed Plus CT is approximately 5.2 millisieverts, which is less than half of what one would receive on many other CT scanners.
- Most women receive a higher radiation dose during a routine mammogram. Yet there has been no news linking mammograms and radiation-induced cancer, even though women are encouraged to get breast screenings far more often than body scans.
- For a different perspective, the radiation received from a body scan is comparable to the amount of radiation exposure received on a roundtrip flight between New York and Los Angeles. Also, Americans get about 3.6 millisieverts per year from natural sources.
- It is considered safe for cardiologists to be exposed to up to 50 millisieverts per year as part of their job.
- The type of radiation emitted by CT scanners is not the same type of radiation emitted by atomic bombs. This incorrect comparison was the premise used in many of the recent news stories.
- The benefits of preventive screening far outweigh the potential risks of radiation exposure. For example, even if you believe the erroneous reports, the risk of developing cancer from radiation exposure is 1 in many thousands, while the undisputed risk of developing heart disease is approximately 1 in 2.

With more than 25,000 CT scanners in the world performing more than 100 million exams each year, the absolute safety of the CT scan has been established. Furthermore, there has never been a case where an individual developed cancer as a result of CT scanning.

**When it comes to something as important as your health and longevity, it pays to learn the facts for yourself.**



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