I. Pilkington, C. Roslee, S.E. Clark

University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust



Large arm apertures (shown above) result in inadequate protection to breast tissue

> Radiation protection accessories are affordable and widely available



Contact Isobel.pilkington @nhs.net for more information

Reducing breast cancer in female surgeons

Female orthopaedic surgeons have a **three** times higher incidence of breast cancer than the average woman¹.

Lack of protection

- Exposure to ionizing radiation is the leading cause of breast cancer.
- The upper outer quadrant of the breast is the most likely area for breast cancer to develop.
- This vulnerable area, the upper outer quadrant, is not protected with standard issue radiation protection².

Adequate radiation protection exists, it should be available to all female orthopaedic surgeons.



Women should not have to accept higher doses of radiation at work than their male colleagues.

Health services must invest now in the safety of women.

Full text article



Solutions available

Dedicated breast protection

The bolero style radiation protection accessory shown opposite reduces the amount of harmful ionising radiation delivered to the breast by $99\%^2$.

Legal duty

Employers are legally mandated to ensure their employees receive as little radiation as possible³.

Recommendations

All female orthopaedic surgeons, both in training and those at a senior level, should be immediately provided with dedicated breast covering PPE to reduce their risk of developing occupational breast cancer.

References

 Increased Prevalence of Breast and All-cause Cancer in Female Orthopaedic Surgeons, JAAOS: Global Research and Reviews: May 2022

2. Methods for Reducing Intraoperative Breast Radiation Exposure of

Orthopaedic Surgeons. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2021

3. Operator shielding: how and why. Tech Vasc Interv Radiol.