MRAD 281 Computed Tomography Theory 2 Reflection #2 – forms part of assignment #2 (15%)

Reflection: Reflection on CT Scanning of the Neck and Chest

Reflections are designed to encourage you to think critically about your experiences, apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, and develop your professional identity as a medical imaging technologist.

Topic: Reflecting on CT Scanning of the Neck and Chest

As you learn about CT scanning of the neck and chest, reflect on your understanding of these important diagnostic procedures. Consider the following questions:

1. When you first learned about CT scanning of the neck and chest, what surprised you the most from what you expected, and why did this stand out to you?

   During Computes tomography 2, I was surprised how the images are processed. I learned how the anatomy can be differentiated through different gray scales bases on the tissue density. What stood out to me the most was the different scans, soft neck tissue scan and angiography neck scan. Learning the indications for a CT neck scan such as thyroid disease can be seen in the scan, salivary gland pathologies, detection of lesions and more. What stood out is how detailed imaging is used to visualize the throat, lymph nodes, blood vessels, and structures in the neck. Cross sectional imaging reveals vital structures like esophagus and the major blood vessels and how they are compressed in a tight space. The contrast media enhances the vessels allowing the doctor and technologist see what may causes pathologies. Learning how the there is a delay for the contrast, how it will affect how the image will turn out. Knowing the delay time and when it is appropriate to start scanning the neck will help ensure you are capturing the scan when the contrast media has reached the correct area of interest. It allows time for the contrast media to saturate the surrounding veins and abnormal tissues.

2. Reflect on the use of contrast media in neck and chest CT scans. When is contrast typically used and why?

   Iodinated contrast is ideal for CT neck and chest scans. The contrast media highlights blood vessels and different inflamed tissues that will detect if there is any tumors or pathology. Contrast is typically used when the patient needs their vessels to be highlighted and help the doctor see a clear image of the vessels, soft tissues, infections in the neck or chest, and tumors. The contrast highlights the pathology that causes the patient issues that a typical Xray or physical examination that wont show or feel the issue the patient is going through. The iodinated contrast helps differentiate structures and tissues on an image with different gray scales.

Word count: 350-450 words

Reflective Writing Rubric

Criteria	1 Point	2 Points	3 Points
Critical Reflection	Basic understanding of topic	Some reflection, with basic analysis	Deep reflection with thoughtful analysis
Application to Practice	Limited connection to medical imaging practice	Clear connections to medical imaging practice	Insightful application to medical imaging practice
Writing Quality	Basic writing with some clarity issues	Clear writing with minor errors	Well-written, clear, and concise