MRAD 302 Specialized Imaging 2 Reflection #2 – forms part of quiz #2 (5%)

Reflection: Mammography: Screening and Diagnostic

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: Mammography: Screening and Diagnostic

1. What is screening mammography? Provide examples of the projections performed in a screening mammo procedure.

2. What is diagnostic mammography? Provide examples of the projections performed in a diagnostic mammo procedure.

Screening mammography is performed on patients who do not have signs or symptoms of breast disease. It is used to detect breast cancer at an early stage before a lump or other changes can be noticed. A routine screening mammogram requires two projections of each breast: the craniocaudal, showing the breast from superior to inferior, and the mediolateral oblique, which includes more posterior breast tissue and should demonstrate the pectoralis muscle. Diagnostic mammography is performed when a patient has a specific breast concern like a lump, nipple discharge, skin changes, or an abnormal finding from a screening mammogram. It focuses more closely on the area of concern, and standard CC and MLO projections may be required to view the area of concern. Examples are spot compression, true lateral, magnification, exaggerated CC depending on location and type of abnormality. Understanding the difference between screening and diagnostic mammography is important because the examination effects how the images ar obtained. In diagnostic imaging, I may need to adapt positioning to demonstrate a specific area while still maintaining patient comfort. Mammography ccan also cause anxiety, so explaining the procedure clearly and communicating with the patient can help make examintation more comfortable while obtaining diagnostic quality images.

Word count: 200-250 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