



Medical Milestones

Revealing Facts About The History Of The X-Ray

(NAPSA)—A closer look at X-ray technology may reveal some surprising facts.

The technology was discovered on Nov. 8, 1895 when Wilhelm Roentgen was experimenting with light phenomena. The first X-ray photograph was taken by Roentgen of his wife's hand. He named the invention X-radiation, the X standing for unknown.

When Roentgen won the first Nobel Prize in physics in 1901, Siemens (then known as Reiniger Gebbert & Schall) introduced the first industrially manufactured X-ray tubes for medical diagnostics.

In 1900, the American Roentgen Ray Society was formed to help move the profession forward at an unprecedented rate—by 1905, many hospitals had X-ray rooms with designated physicians or technicians on staff.

The practice of radiology was strengthened in the 1960s, with the invention of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). By the early 1980s, MRIs were used to visualize abnormalities in the brain and spine. The mid-80s saw Computer Tomography establish itself as an important diagnostic tool and the advent of the PET/CT scanner in the late 1990s gave radiologists a nearly unencumbered view of the body. The scanner integrated PET and CT technologies into a single device.

In 1999, the FDA approved the first digital flat-panel X-ray detector system, which married digital and X-ray technology. Besides ensuring visual sharpness, this system helps streamline workflow

The Social Impact of X-Rays

- When X-rays were first introduced people lined up for one-hour sittings at coin-operated machines to view the bones in their hands and feet.
- Affluent young women had X-rays taken of themselves holding hands with their beloved.
- In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the shoe-fitting X-ray unit was a common shoe store sales promotion device and nearly all stores had one. It was estimated that there were 10,000 of these devices in use. By 1970, these units were banned in 33 states and regulated in 17 others. 

in already overburdened radiology facilities.

This year, the FDA cleared a fully automated digital radiography system, which allows for thoracic and extremity scans, as well as emergency, trauma and pediatric applications.

The new product from Siemens Medical Systems called the AXIOM Aristos FX is equipped with organ specific programs. A high-efficiency, solid state detector provides high levels of image quality with reduced radiation noise. The system's design allows virtually all radiographic exams to be done in one room, again increasing efficiency in radiology centers.

The field of X-ray technology has made great strides in little more than a decade and the technology is expected to become even more ingrained in the everyday reality of modern medicine.