



# Paediatric heads: What dose on which scanner – and then what?

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**CT Users Group**  
**Lincoln**

11<sup>th</sup> October 2018



Siemens Definition AS+



## The question:

Paediatric Heads routinely on Siemens Definition AS+

What are the doses?

Can activity move onto the Toshiba Aquillion One?

Toshiba Aquillion One



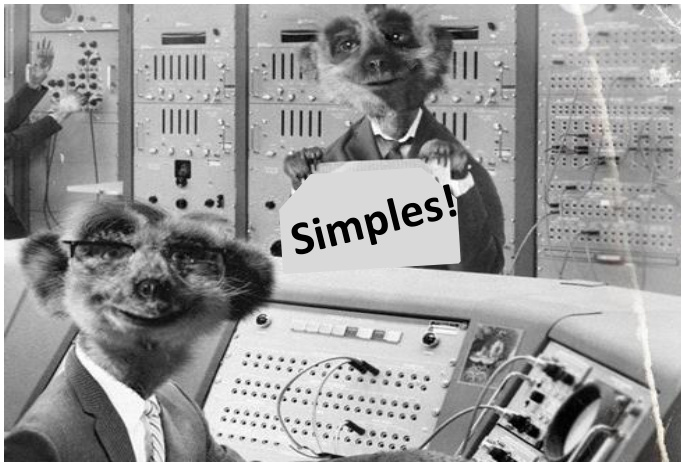
# Acquiring study & patient info – The hope



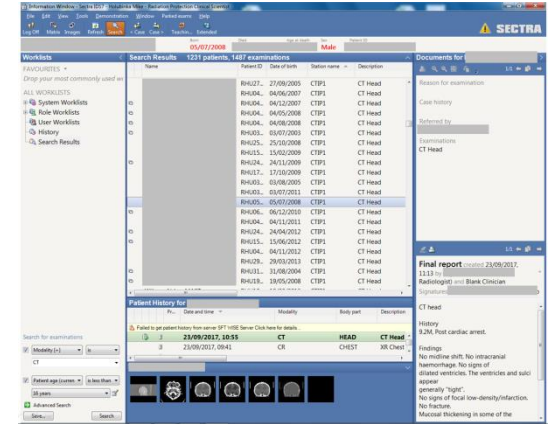
RSDR



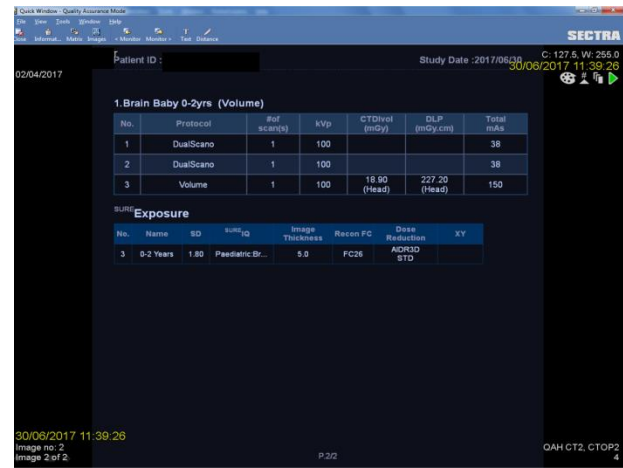
OpenREM



# Acquiring study & patient info – The reality



Simples!



# PACS search

**CT Heads**

**All patients**

**Both scanners**

**22 month period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016**

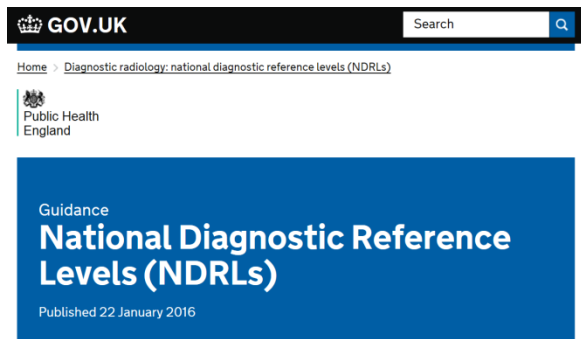
**DoB after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000**



**Siemens Definition – 152 studies**  
**Toshiba Aquillion One – 20 studies**

# Criteria for general acceptability:-

## 2.2 Paediatric CT examinations



Examination	Clinical indication	Scan region/ technique	CTDI <sub>vol</sub> per sequence (mGy)	DLP per complete examination (mGy cm)
Paediatric head: 0-1 y <sup>1</sup>	Trauma	All sequences	25	350
Paediatric head: >1-5 y <sup>1</sup>	Trauma	All sequences	40	650
Paediatric head: >5 y <sup>1</sup>	Trauma	All sequences	60	860

Values taken from [PHE-CRCE-013: Doses from computed tomography \(CT\) examinations in the UK \(2011 Review\)](#).

Table 10.2b. European DRLs for computed tomography. EDRLs for head CT refer to 16 cm phantom and EDRLs for thorax and abdomen for 32 cm phantom. DRLs refer to a complete routine CT examination (one scan series).



European Guidelines on DRLs for Paediatric Imaging

Final complete draft

Computed tomography			
Exam	Age or weight group	EDRL	
		CTDI <sub>vol</sub> , mGy	DLP, mGy cm
Head	0-<3 months	24	300
	3 months-<1 y	28	385
	1-<6 y	40	505
	≥6 y	50	650
Thorax	<5 kg	1,4	35
	5-<15 kg	1,8	50
	15-<30 kg	2,7	70
	30-<50 kg	3,7	115
	50-<80 kg	5,4	200
Abdomen	<5 kg		45
	5-<15 kg	3,5	120
	15-<30 kg	5,4	150
	30-<50 kg	7,3	210
	50-<80 kg	13	480

**So I have;**

**Sufficient data (?) to analyse**

**Benchmark dose metrics from available DRLs**

**Age 'ranges' for groupings**

**Dose and age data from PACS**



**So far so good**

**...but still need to compare machines**

# Siemens Definition scan protocols

Topogram and Scan Protocol information		
	Siemens Definition AS+	
<b>Scanogram</b>		
Beam orientation	AP	AP
kVp	120	120
Head / Body mode topo	Head (S)	Body (L)
<b>Scan</b>		
<b>Protocol names</b>	Oto6yrs_Head_Spiral	1A_SPIRAL_BRAIN
Scan options	Spiral	Spiral
kV	100	100/120
Slice thickness mm	0.5	4
Pitch	0.8	0.55
FoV mm	500	500
Scan time msec	1000	500
Filter types	Flat	Flat
Convolution kernel	H41S	H42F
Acquisition type	Spiral	Spiral
Single collimation width	0.6	0.6
Total collimation width	38.4	12
Exposure modulation type	XYZ_EC	Z_EC



# Dose sheet – Siemens Definition AS+

Quick Window - Quality Assurance Mode

File View Tools Window Help

Close Informat... Matrix Images < Monitor Monitor > Text Distance

**SECTRA**

29/07/2008

C: 200.0, W: 50.0  
C=200.0, W=50.0 1/11  
10/04/2017 01:08:18

10-Apr-2017 01:01

Ward:  
Physician:  
Operator:

Total mAs 3249    Total DLP 647 mGycm

	Scan	KV	mAs / ref.	CTDIvol* mGy	DLP mGycm	TI s	cSL mm
Patient Position H-SP							
Topogram	1	120	35 mA	0.13 L	3	2.2	0.6
Head	2	120	263 / 410	45.90 S	644	0.5	0.6

10/04/2017 01:08:18  
Image no: 1

QA, CTIP1  
3

\*: L = 32cm, S = 16cm

# Toshiba Aquillion One scan protocols

	Topogram and Scan Protocol information			
	Aquillion One			
<b>Scanogram</b>				
Beam orientation	Dual AP & Lat	Dual AP & Lat	Dual AP & Lat	Dual AP & Lat
kVp	100	100	120	120
<b>Scan</b>				
<b>Protocol names</b>	Brain Baby 0-2yrs (Volume)	Brain Child 3-5yrs (Volume)	Brain Child 6 - 12yrs (Helical)	Brain Helical
Scan options	Volume	Volume	Helical	Brain Helical
kV	100	120	120	120
Slice thickness mm	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0
Pitch	-	-	0.656	0.656
FoV mm	240	240	240	240
Scan time msec	500	500	750	750
Filter types	Small	Small	Small	Small
Convolution kernel	FC26	FC30	FC30	FC30
Acquisition type	Sequenced	Sequenced	Spiral	Spiral
Single collimation width	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total collimation width	100	140	16	16
Exposure modulation type	AIDR3D - STD	AIDR3D - STD	2D	2D

# Dose sheet – Toshiba Aquillion One

Quick Window - Quality Assurance Mode

File View Tools Window Help

Close Informat... Matrix Images < Monitor Monitor > Text Distance

SECTRA

09/12/2015

Study Date :2016/04/04 C: 127.5, W: 255.0  
04/04/2016 15:18:20

1. Brain Child 6 - 12yrs (Helical)

No.	Protocol	#of scan(s)	kVp	CTDIvol (mGy)	DLP (mGy.cm)	Total mAs
1	DualScano	1	100			31
2	DualScano	1	100			31

2. Brain Child 6 - 12yrs (Helical)

No.	Protocol	#of scan(s)	kVp	CTDIvol (mGy)	DLP (mGy.cm)	Total mAs
1	DualScano	1	100			43
2	DualScano	1	100			43
3	Helical	1	120	23.20 (Head)	318.90 (Head)	828

04/04/2016 15:18:20

Image no: 2  
Image 2 of 2

P.2/2

QAH CT2, CTOP2  
4



**The analysis**

**Median spiral head 'doses' compared with EPiDRL Dose Reference Levels  
Siemens Definition AS+**

	CTDIvol mGy		DLP mGy.cm	
	Median of sample	EPiDRL	Median of sample	EPiDRL
<b>0 to &lt;3 months</b>				
	17.5	24	240	300
<b>3 months to &lt;1 year</b>				
	20.2	28	310	385
<b>1 year to &lt;6 years</b>				
	21.4	40	360	505
<b>&gt;6 years</b>				
	41.9	50	655	650

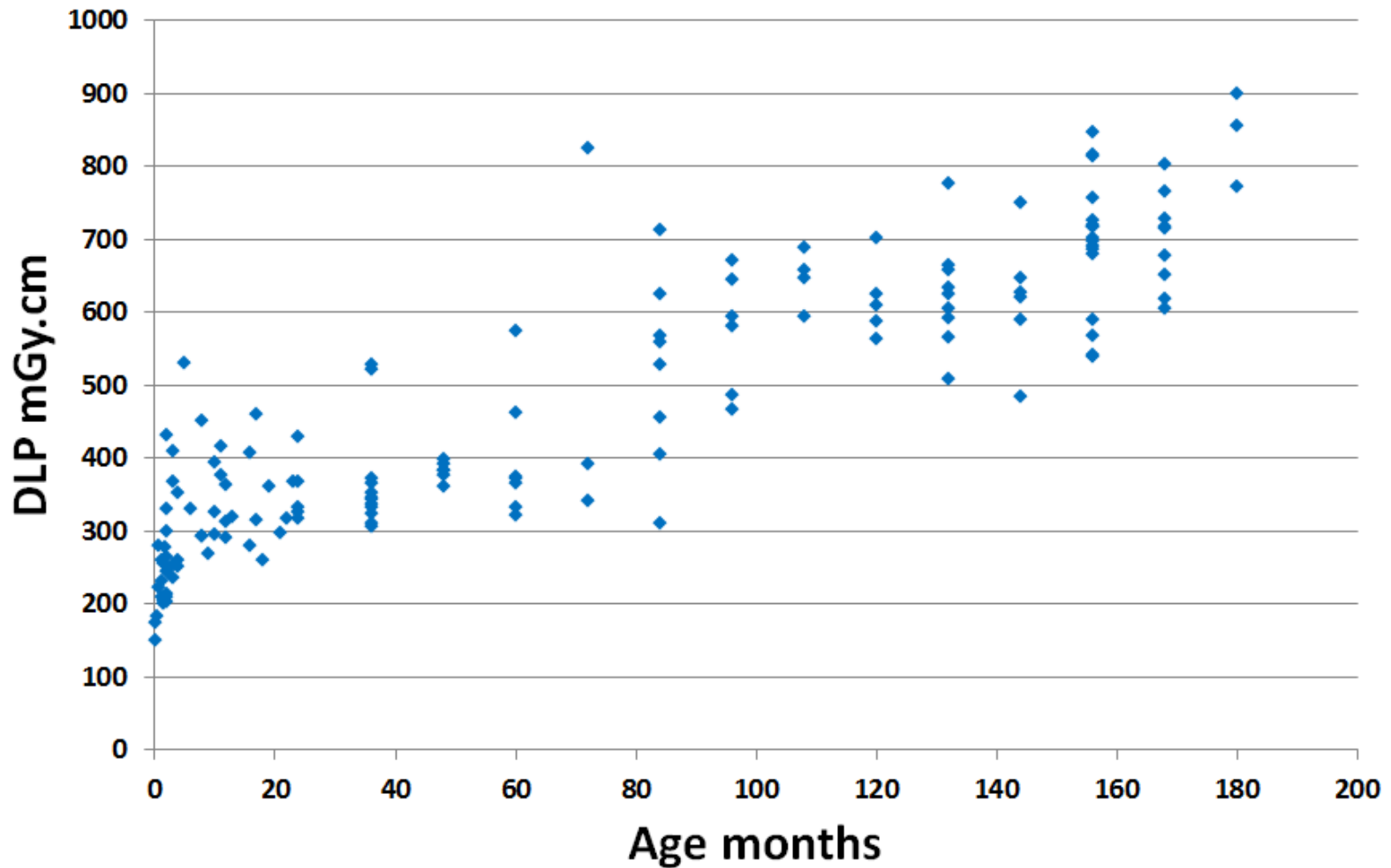
**Toshiba Aquillion One**  
**20 studies**  
**Four protocols**  
**Four age ranges**  
**.....Not enough data**



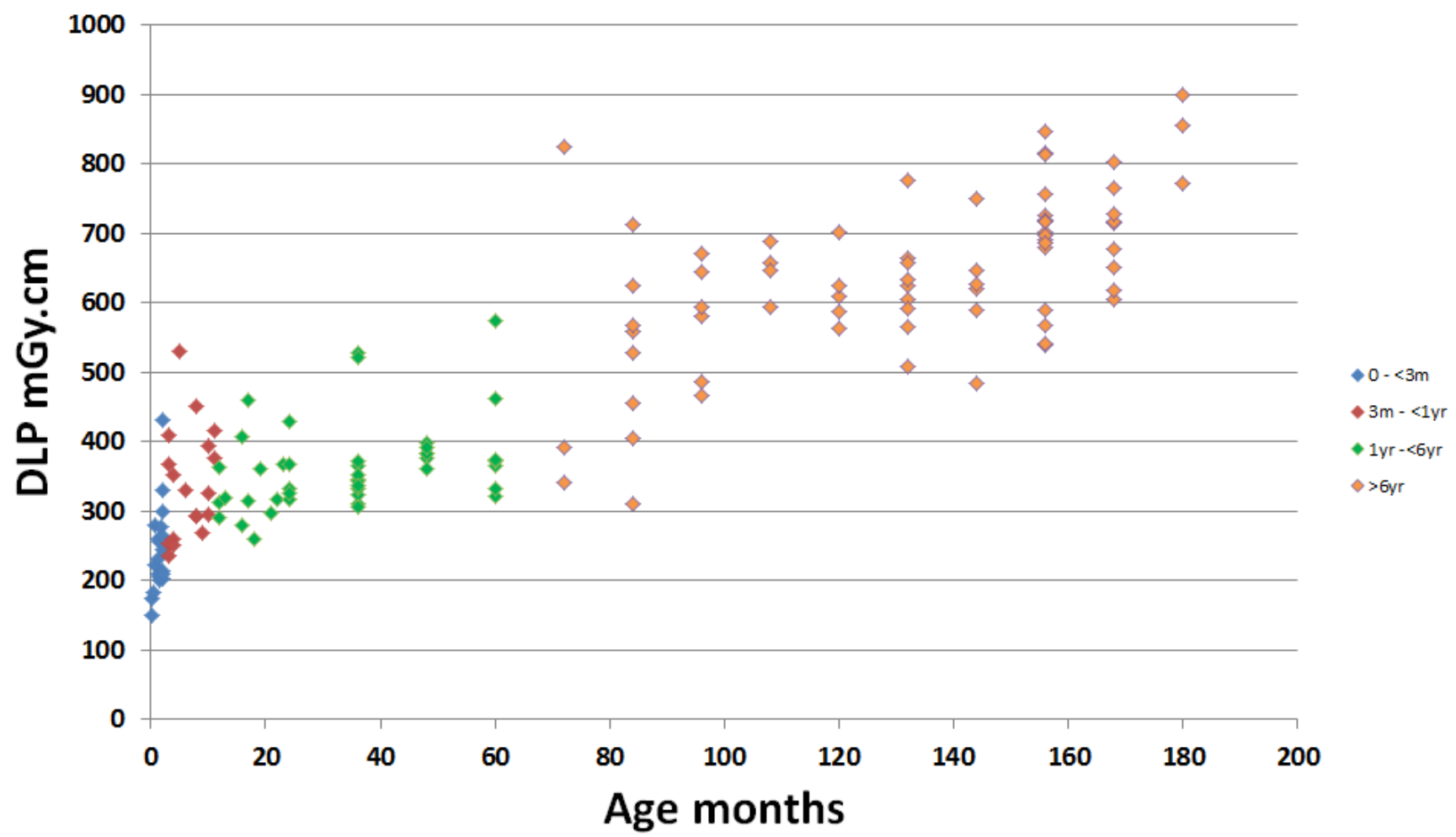
**But ..how do the machines compare?**



Siemens Definition AS+ CT Heads - DLP vs Age in months  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)

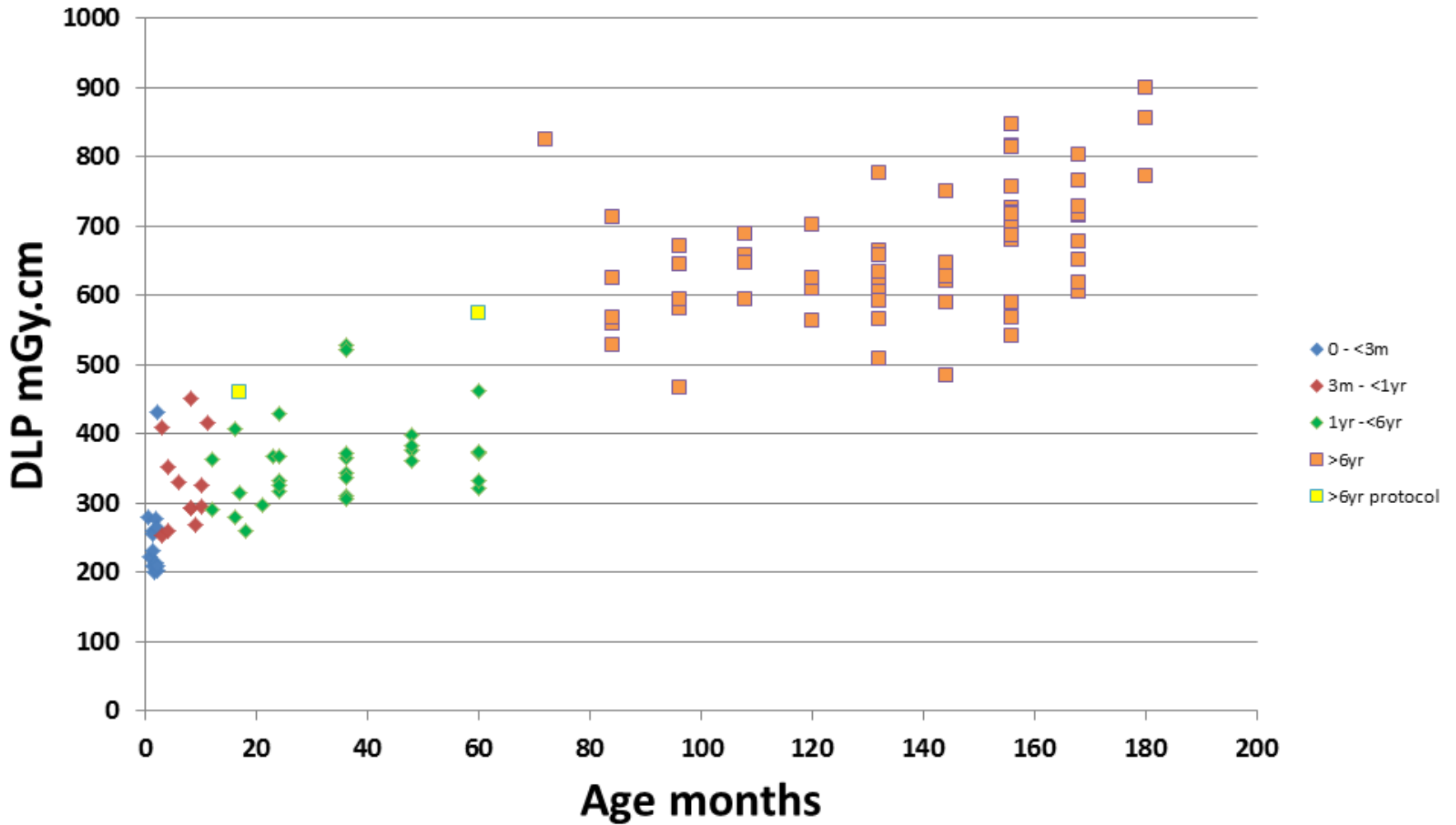


Siemens Definition AS+ CT Heads - DLP vs Age in months  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)

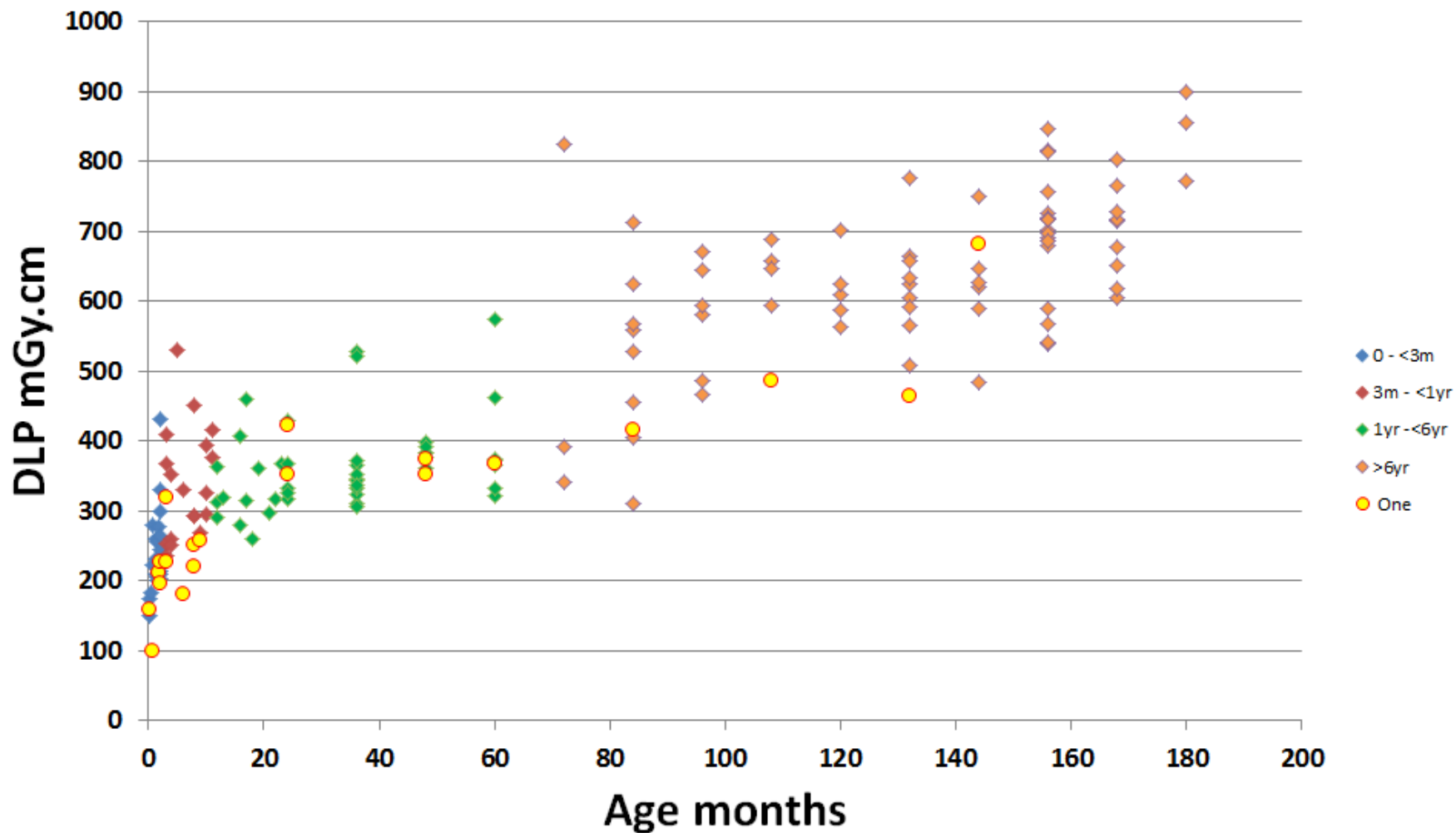




Siemens Definition AS+ CT Heads - DLP vs Age in months - Two protocols  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)



Siemens Definition AS+ & Aquillion One CT Heads - DLP vs Age in months  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)

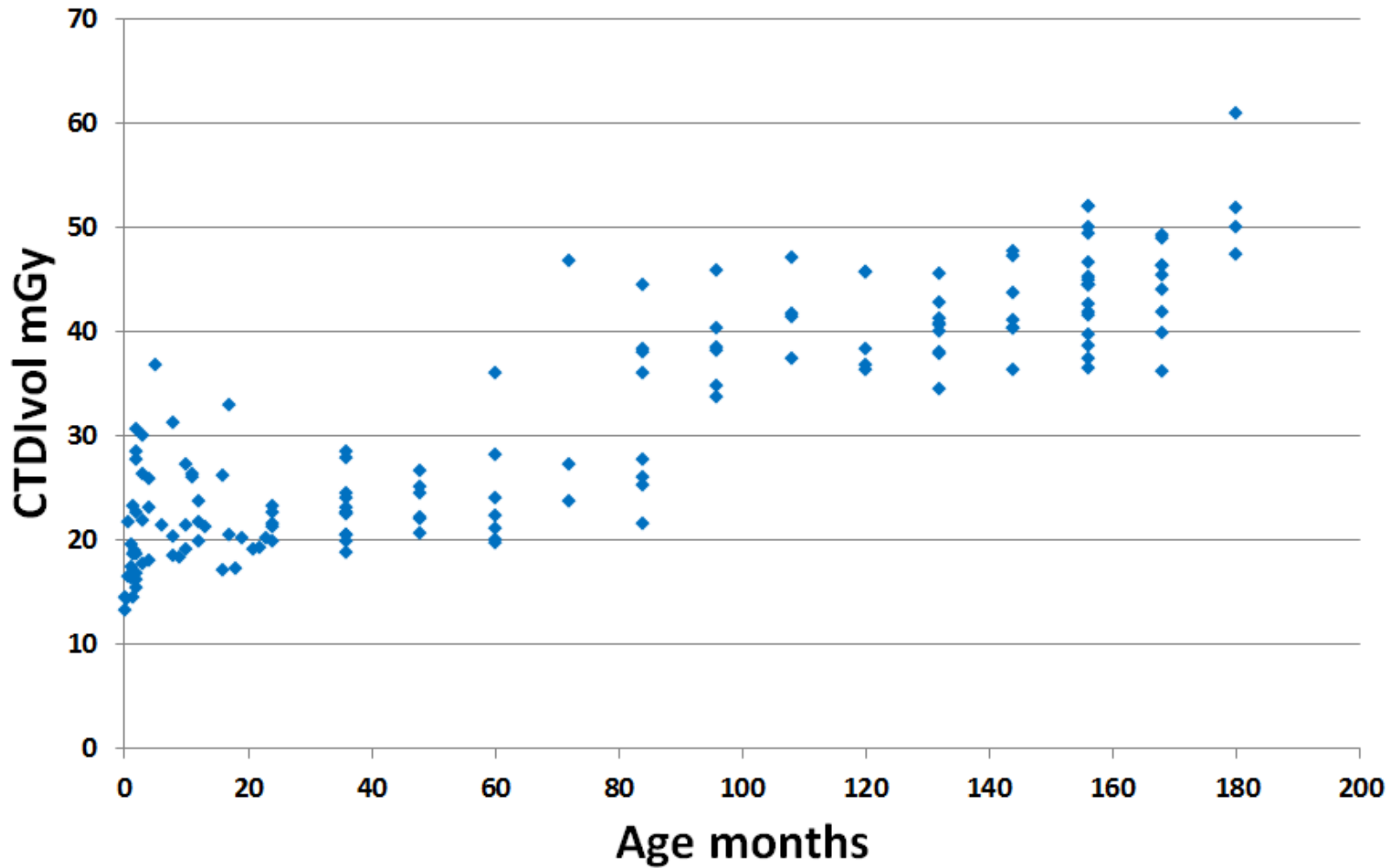




**...and CTDIvol?**

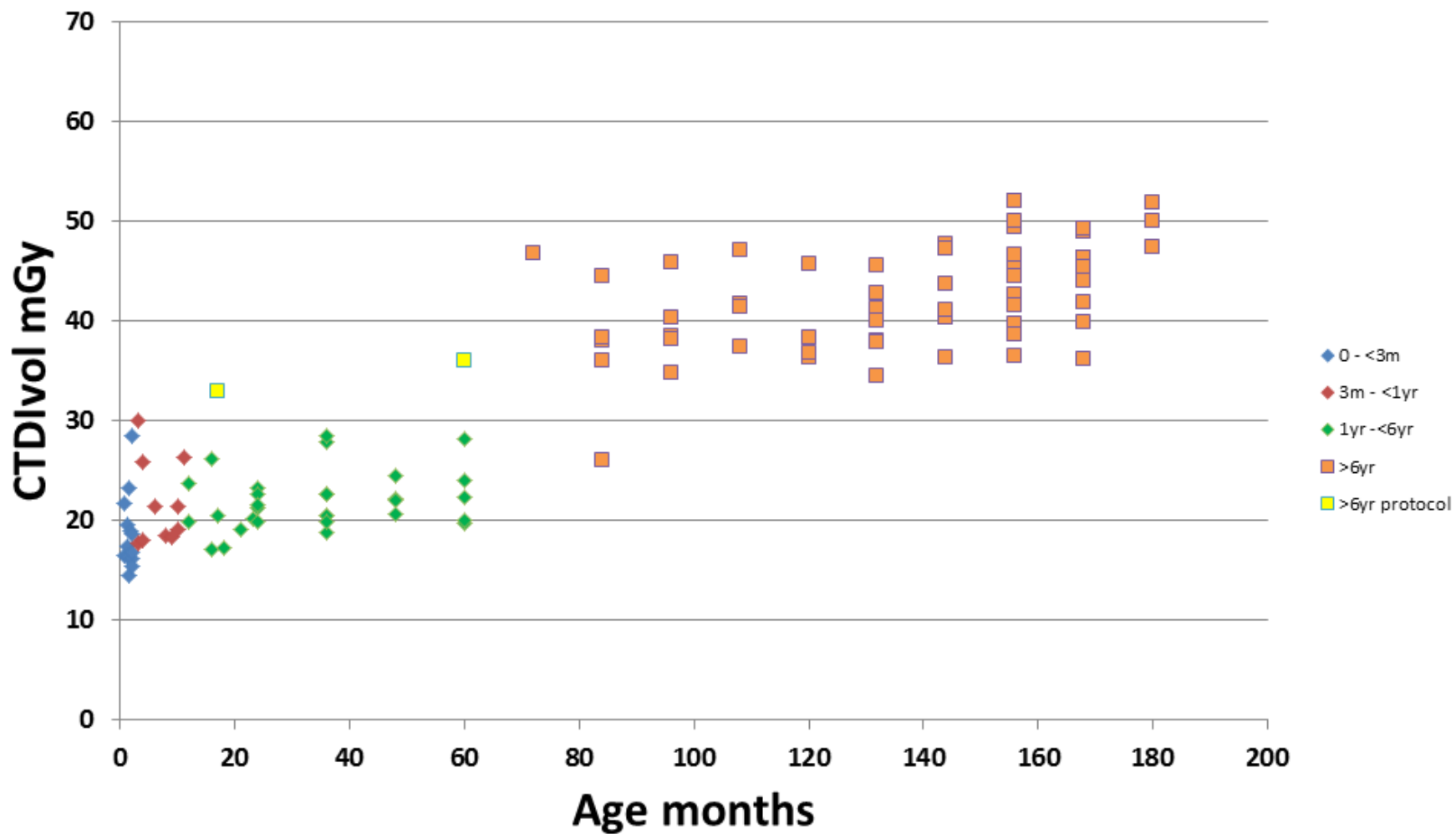


Siemens Definition AS+ CT Heads - CTDIvol vs Age in months  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)

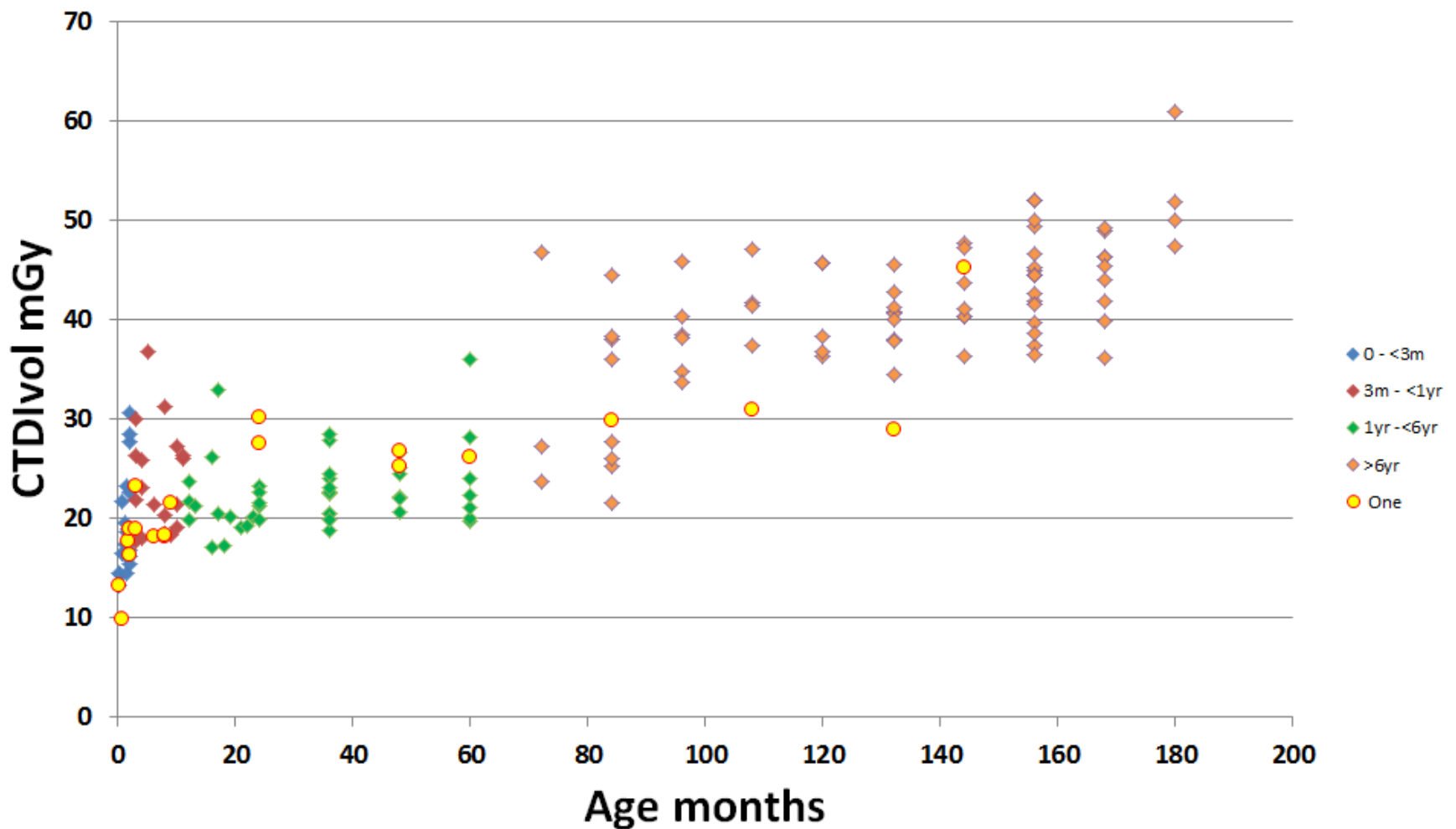




Siemens Definition AS+ CT Heads - CTDIvol vs Age in months - Two protocols  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)



Siemens Definition AS+ & Aquillion One CT Heads - CTDIvol vs Age in months  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)





Something  
else going on?



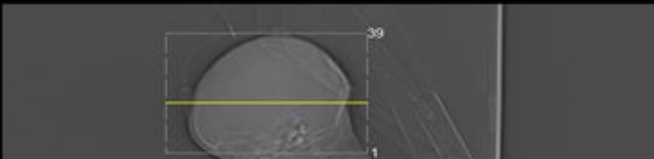


Date	Mod.	Body part	Description
08/03/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest and
07/03/2017	CR	ABDOME	XR Abdomen
06/03/2017	CR	ABDOME	XR Abdomen
06/03/2017	US		US Neonatal
05/03/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
02/03/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
28/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
26/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
22/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
19/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
18/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest and
13/02/2017	CR	ABDOME	XR Abdomen
13/02/2017	CR	ABDOME	XR Abdomen
09/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest

2016

16/11/2016 CT HEAD CT Head

Age at examination: 46 days  
 Gantry: 0°  
 Time: 1821 ms  
 Couch: -283.5  
 Pos: HFS  
 FoV: 512 mm



C: 50.0, W: 500.0  
 WINDOW1 1/12  
**16/11/2016 07:25:32**

16/11/2016 CT HEAD CT Head < ✓ ×

1 ✓  
Topogram 0  
07:25  
CT Scout

39 ✓  
Head 3.0 Ax  
07:26  
CT Head Ax...

118 ✓  
Head 1.0 Bo  
07:26  
CT Head Ax...

1 ✓  
Patient Protc  
07:41  
CT Dose Re...

196 ✓  
Head 0.6 Ax  
07:26

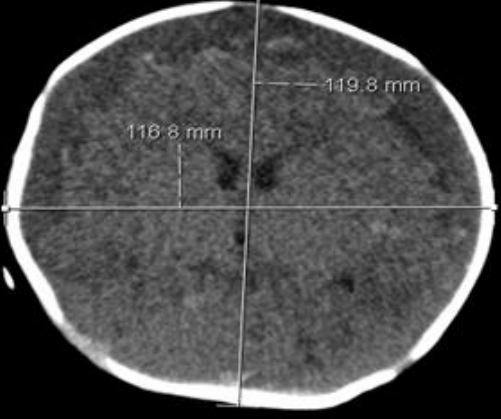
1 ✓  
07:26

**16/11/2016 07:25:32**  
 F: T20f  
 35 mA  
 120 kV  
 Image no: 1

QA, CTIP1 1

C: 45.0, W: 96.0  
 WINDOW1 1/12  
**16/11/2016 07:26:20**

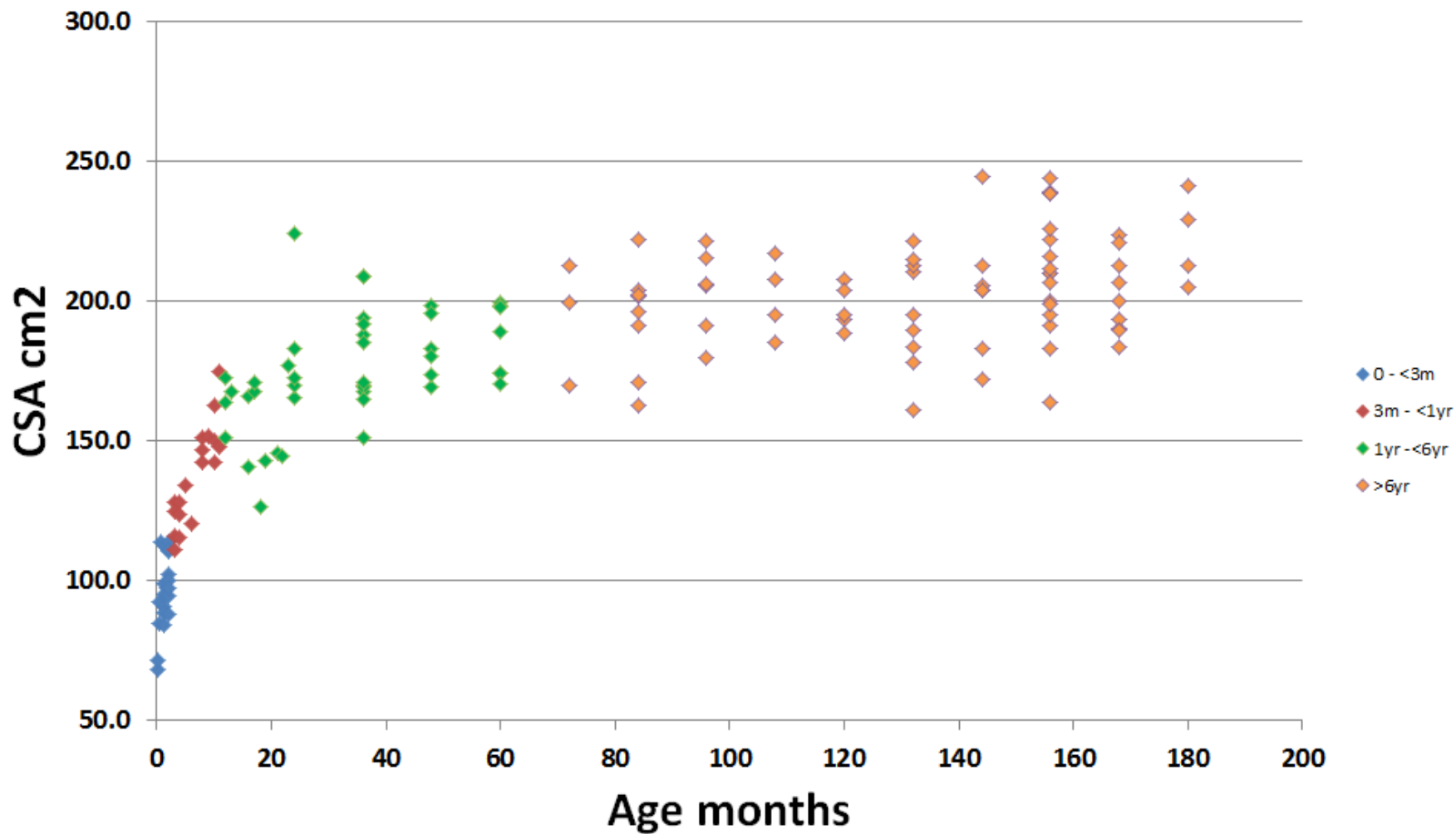
Age at examination: 46 days  
 Gantry: 0°  
 Time: 1000 ms  
 Slice: 3 mm  
 Couch: -205.2  
 Pos: HFS  
 FoV: 157 mm



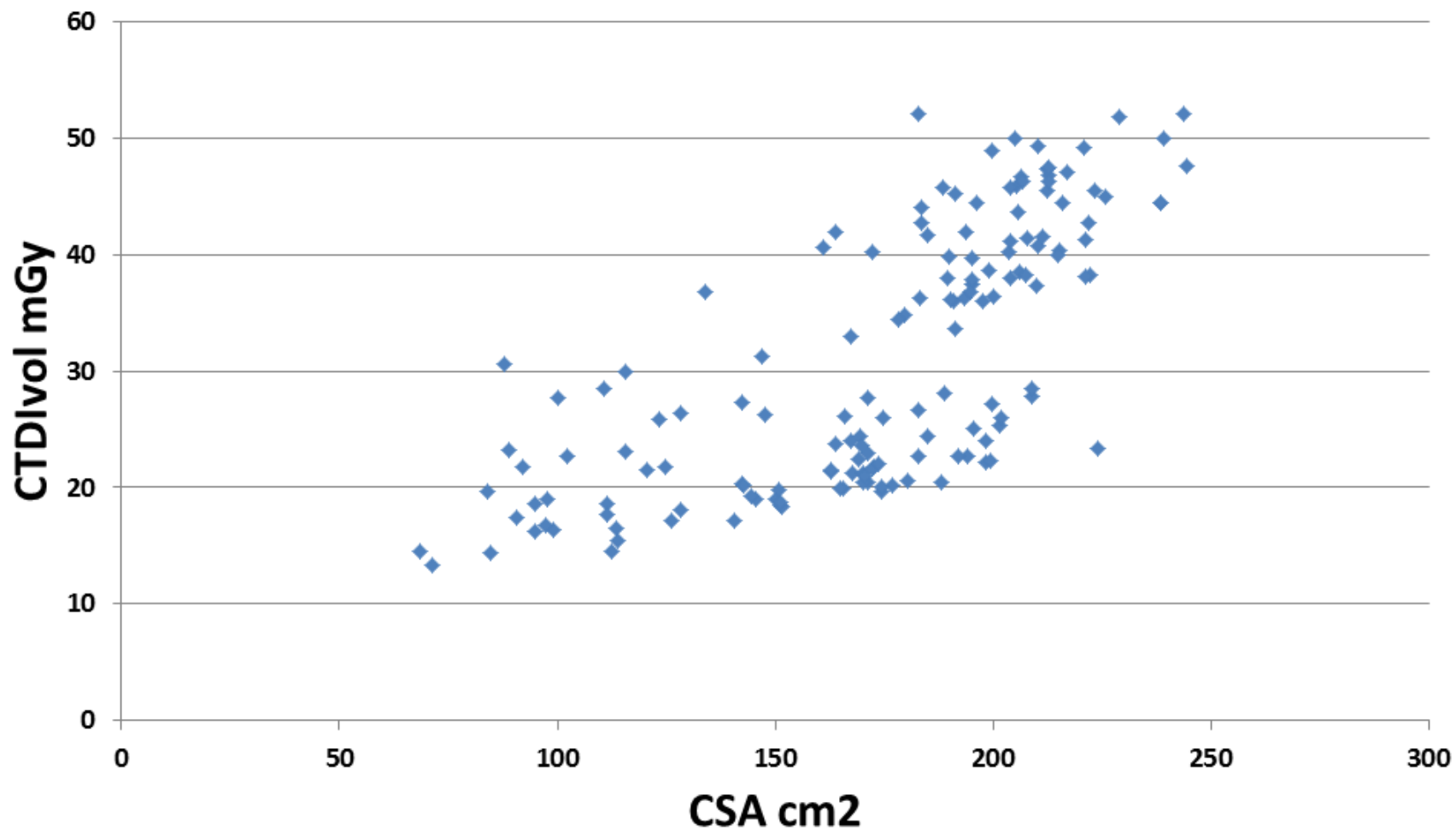
**16/11/2016 07:26:20**  
 F: H41s  
 159 mA  
 100 kV  
 Image no: 17  
 Image 17 of 39

QA, CTIP1 2

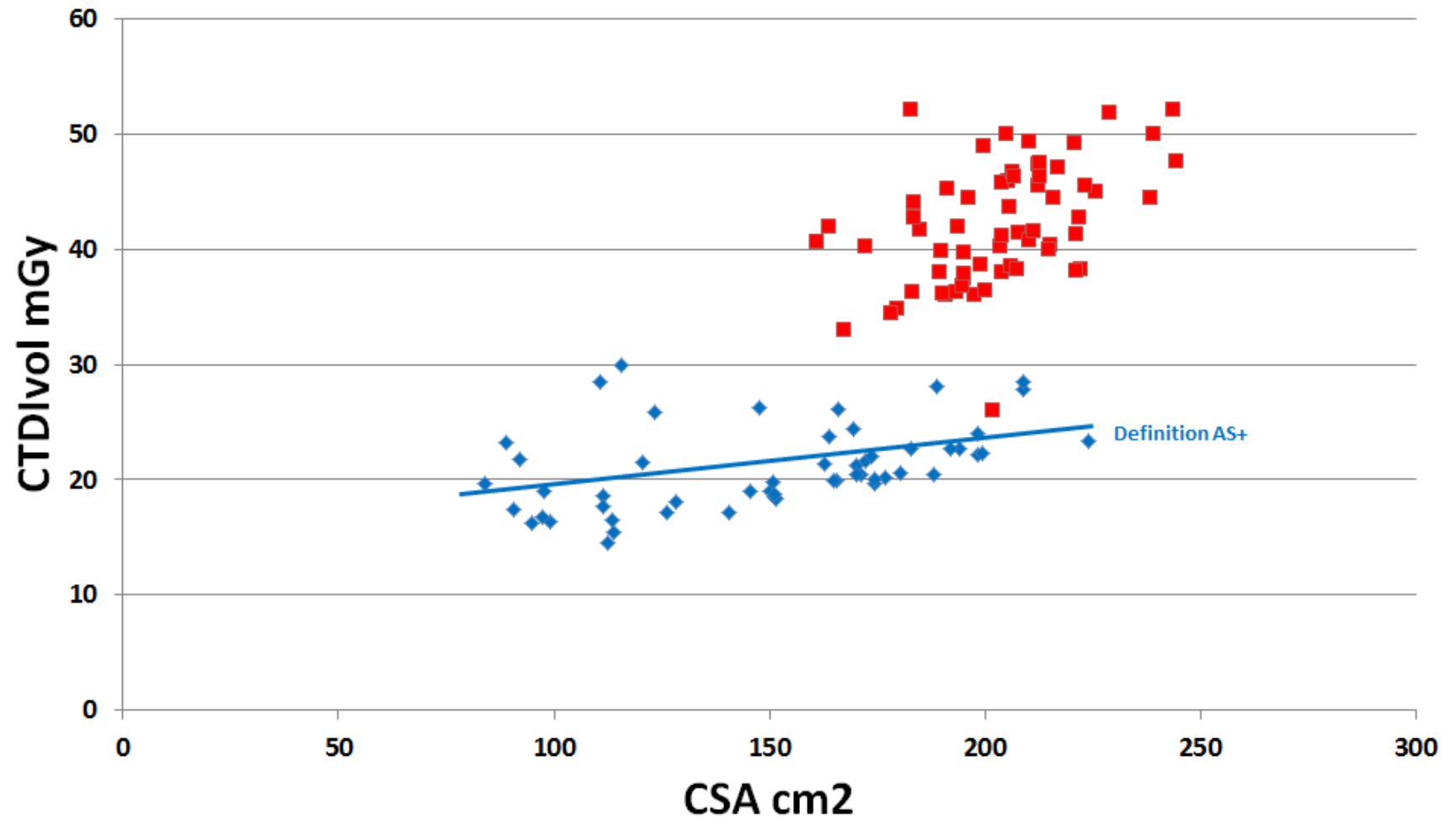
Siemens Definition AS+ CT Heads - CSA vs Age in months  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)



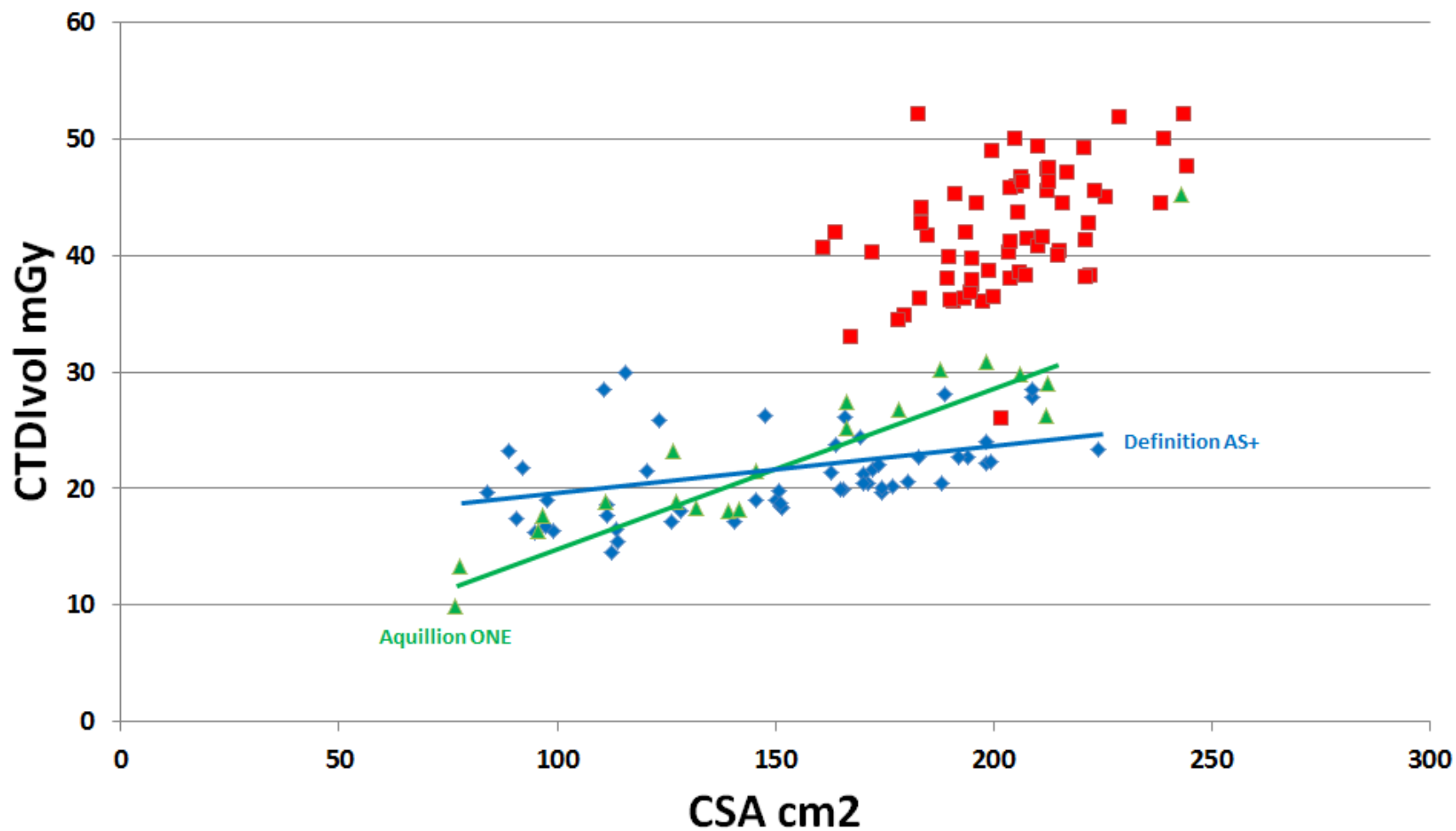
Siemens Definition AS+ CT Heads - CTDIvol vs CSA for all protocols  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)



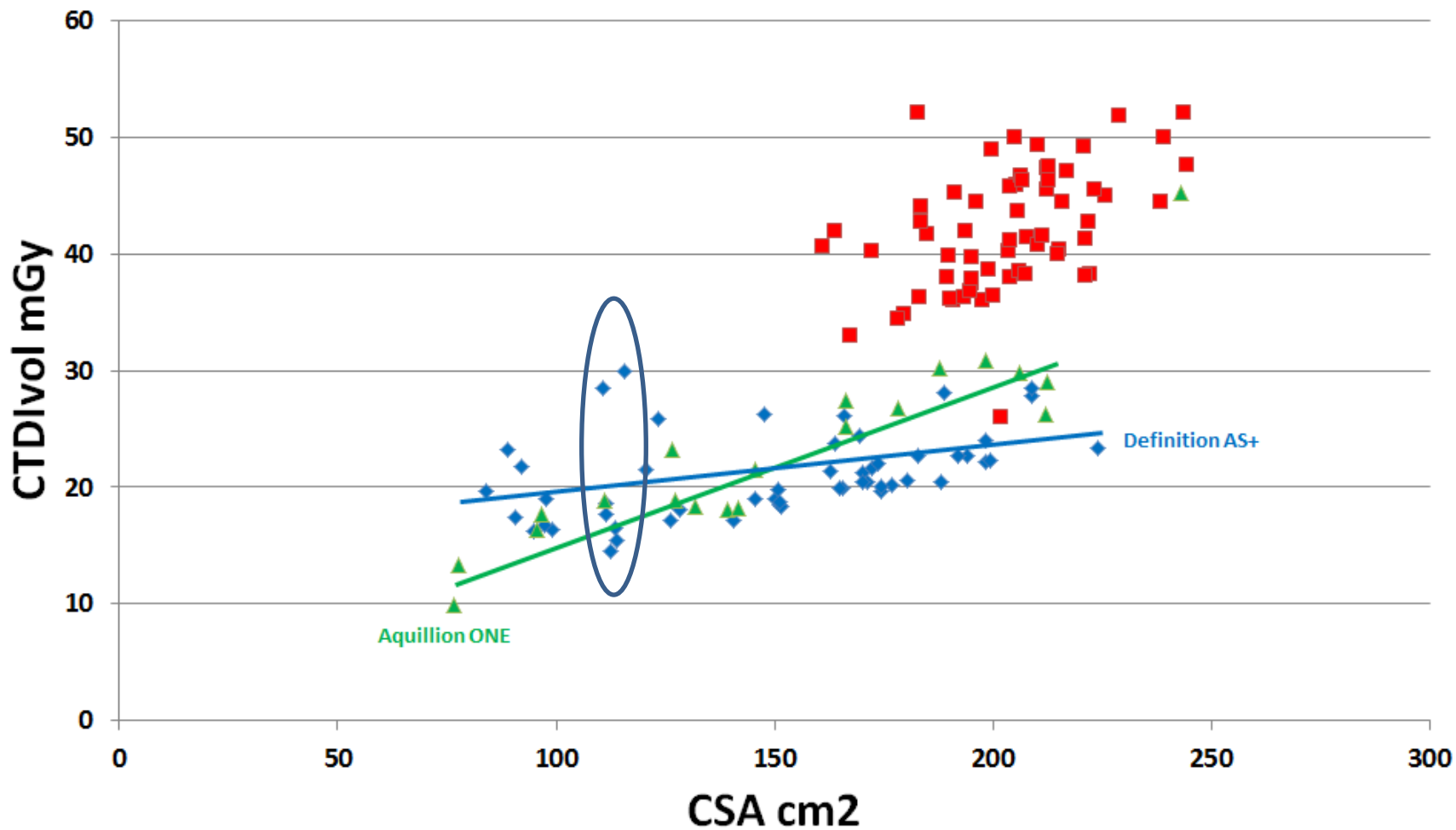
Siemens Definition AS+ CT Heads - CTDIvol vs CSA for two protocols  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)



Siemens Definition AS+ & Aquillion One CT Heads - CTDIvol vs CSA  
(Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)



### Siemens Definition AS+ & Aquillion One CT Heads - CTDIvol vs CSA (Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)





**Odd spread on  
the Siemens?**



# The good

File Edit View Image info Demonstration Tools Window Parked exams Help

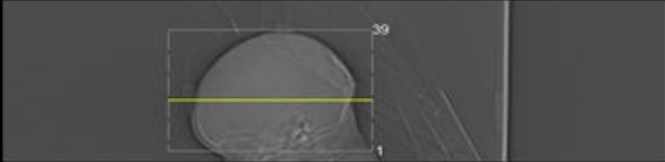
Close Informat... Matrix Thumbn... Layout > Left Right < Monitor Monitor > Multiple Distance Crosshair 2 x 1 CT Head <1yr NC 2M (DP) >

**SECTRA**

C: 50.0, W: 500.0  
WINDOW1 1/12  
16/11/2016 07:25:32

Date	Mod.	Body part	Description
08/03/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest and
07/03/2017	CR	ABDOME	XR Abdomen
06/03/2017	CR	ABDOME	XR Abdomen
06/03/2017	US		US Neonatal
05/03/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
02/03/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
28/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
26/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
22/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
19/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest
18/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest and
13/02/2017	CR	ABDOME	XR Abdomen
13/02/2017	CR	ABDOME	XR Abdomen
09/02/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Chest

Age at examination: 46 days  
Gantry: 0°  
Time: 1621 ms  
Couch: -263.5  
Pos: HFS  
FoV: 512 mm

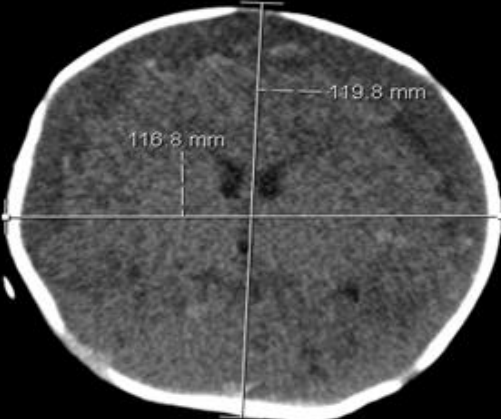


16/11/2016 07:25:32  
F: T20f  
35 mA  
120 kV  
Image no: 1

QA, CTIP1 1

C: 45.0, W: 96.0  
WINDOW1 1/12  
16/11/2016 07:26:20

01/10/2016  
Age at examination: 46 days  
Gantry: 0°  
Time: 1000 ms  
Slice: 3 mm  
Couch: -205.2  
Pos: HFS  
FoV: 157 mm



16/11/2016 07:26:20  
F: H41s  
159 mA  
100 kV  
Image no: 17  
Image 17 of 39

QA, CTIP1 2

Thumbnail size:



# The questionable ?

**SECTRA**

File Edit View Image info Demonstration Tools Window Parked exams Help

Close Informat... Matrix Thumbn... Layout > Left Right < Monitor Monitor > Multiple Distance Crosshair 2x1 CT Head Derived 3 NC 1M (DP)

Date	Mod.	Body part	Description
2017			
06/10/2017	US	US Shoulder Rt	
06/10/2017	CR		XR Skeletal curve
22/09/2017	CT	HEAD	CT Head
22/09/2017	CR	SKULL	XR Skeletal curve

Age at examination: 3 months  
Gantry: 0°  
Time: 1911 ms  
Couch: -299.5  
Pos: HFS  
FoV: 512 mm

C: 50.0, W: 500.0  
WINDOW 1 1/12  
22/09/2017 17:53:08

22/09/2017 CT HEAD CT Head Deriv... X

- 1 Topogram.0 17:53 CT Scout
- 228 COR 17:53 CT Head Ax...
- 195 Head 0.5 Ax 17:53 CT Head Ax...
- 117 Head 1.0 Bo 17:53 CT Head Ax...
- 1 Patient Protc 17:55 CT Dose Re...
- 39 Head 3.0 H4 17:53
- 205 SAG 17:53

16/06/2017  
Age at examination: 3 months  
Gantry: 0°  
Time: 1000 ms  
Slice: 0.6 mm  
Pos: HFS  
FoV: 180 mm

22/09/2017 17:53:35  
F: H41s  
240 mA  
100 kV  
Image no: 96  
Image 96 of 195

QA, CTIP1 1

C: 45.0, W: 96.0  
WINDOW 1 1/12  
22/09/2017 17:53:35

QA, CTIP1 4

Thumbnail size:

# The unacceptable?

File Edit View Image info Demonstration Tools Window Parked exams Help

Close Informat... Matrix Thumbn... Layout > Left Right < Monitor Monitor > Multiple Distance Crosshair 2 x 1 CT Head <1yr NC 2M (DP) > **SECTRA**

Date	Mod	Body part	Description
2017			
03/10/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Skeletal surve
19/09/2017	CT	HEAD	CT Head
19/09/2017	CR	CHEST	XR Skeletal surve

Age at examination: 5 months  
Gantry: 0°  
Time: 1680 ms  
Couch: 1  
Pos: HFS  
FoV: 512 mm

19/09/2017 16:53:06  
F: T20f  
35 mA  
120 kV  
Image no: 1

01/04/2017  
Age at examination: 5 months  
Gantry: 0°  
Time: 1000 ms  
Slice: 3 mm  
Couch: 83  
Pos: HFS  
FoV: 184 mm

19/09/2017 16:57:03  
F: H41s  
576 mA  
100 kV  
Image no: 23  
Image 23 of 36

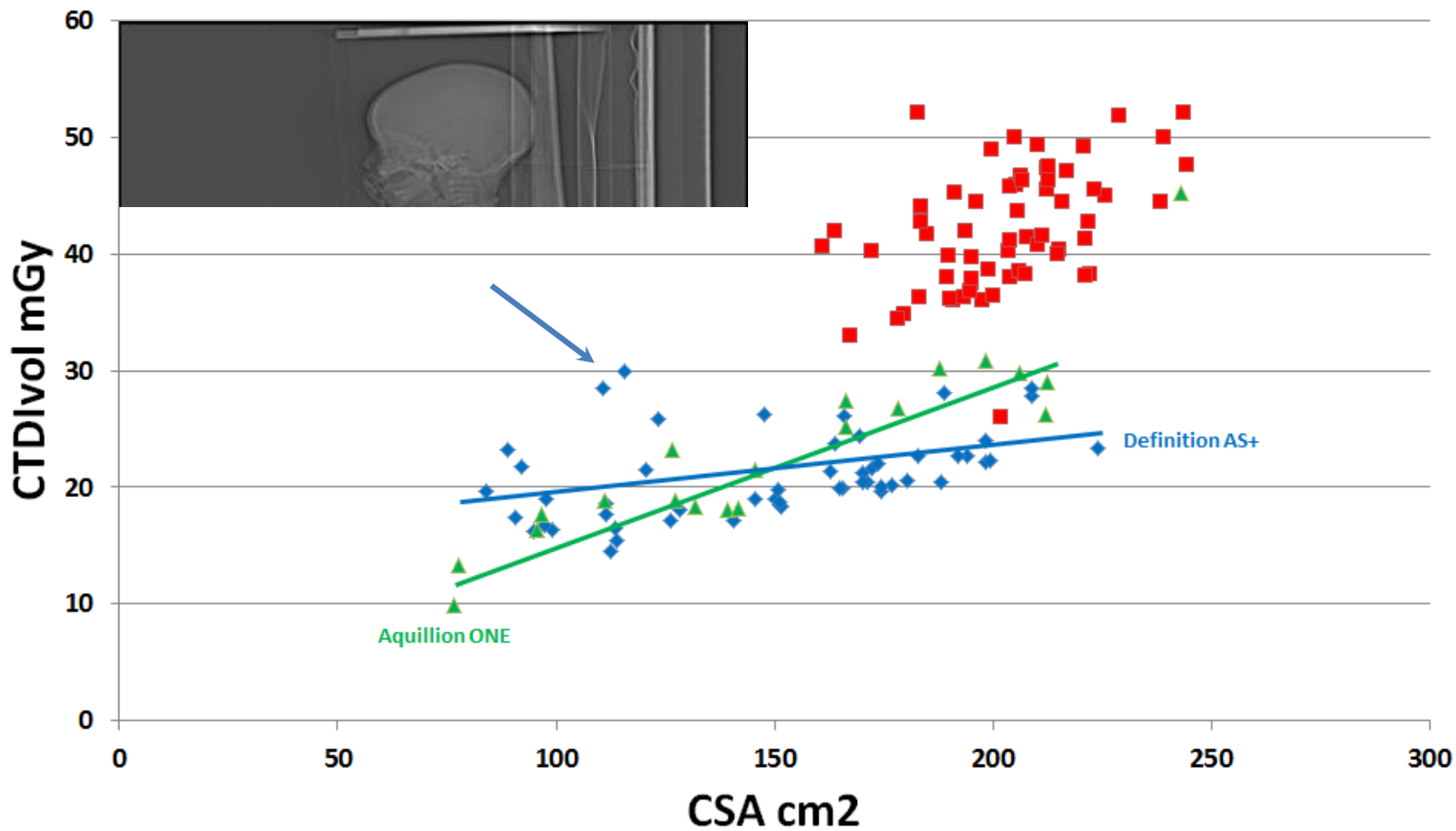
19/09/2017 16:53:58  
F: H41s  
577 mA  
100 kV  
Image no: 22  
Image 22 of 48

146.9 mm  
113.9 mm  
146.9 mm

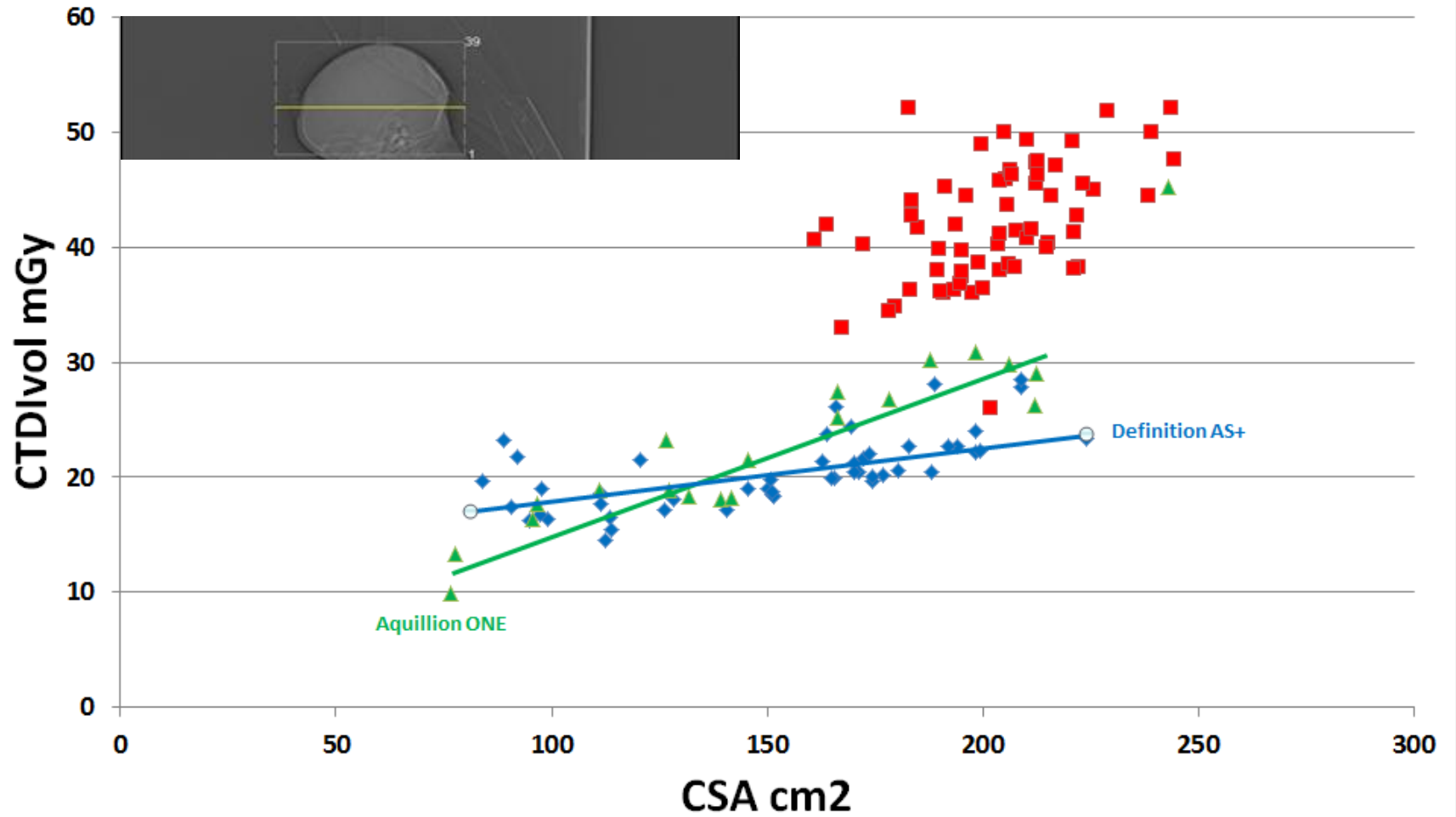
QA, CTIP1 1  
QA, CTIP1 5  
QA, CTIP1 2

Thumbnail size:

### Siemens Definition AS+ & Aquillion One CT Heads - CTDIvol vs CSA (Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)



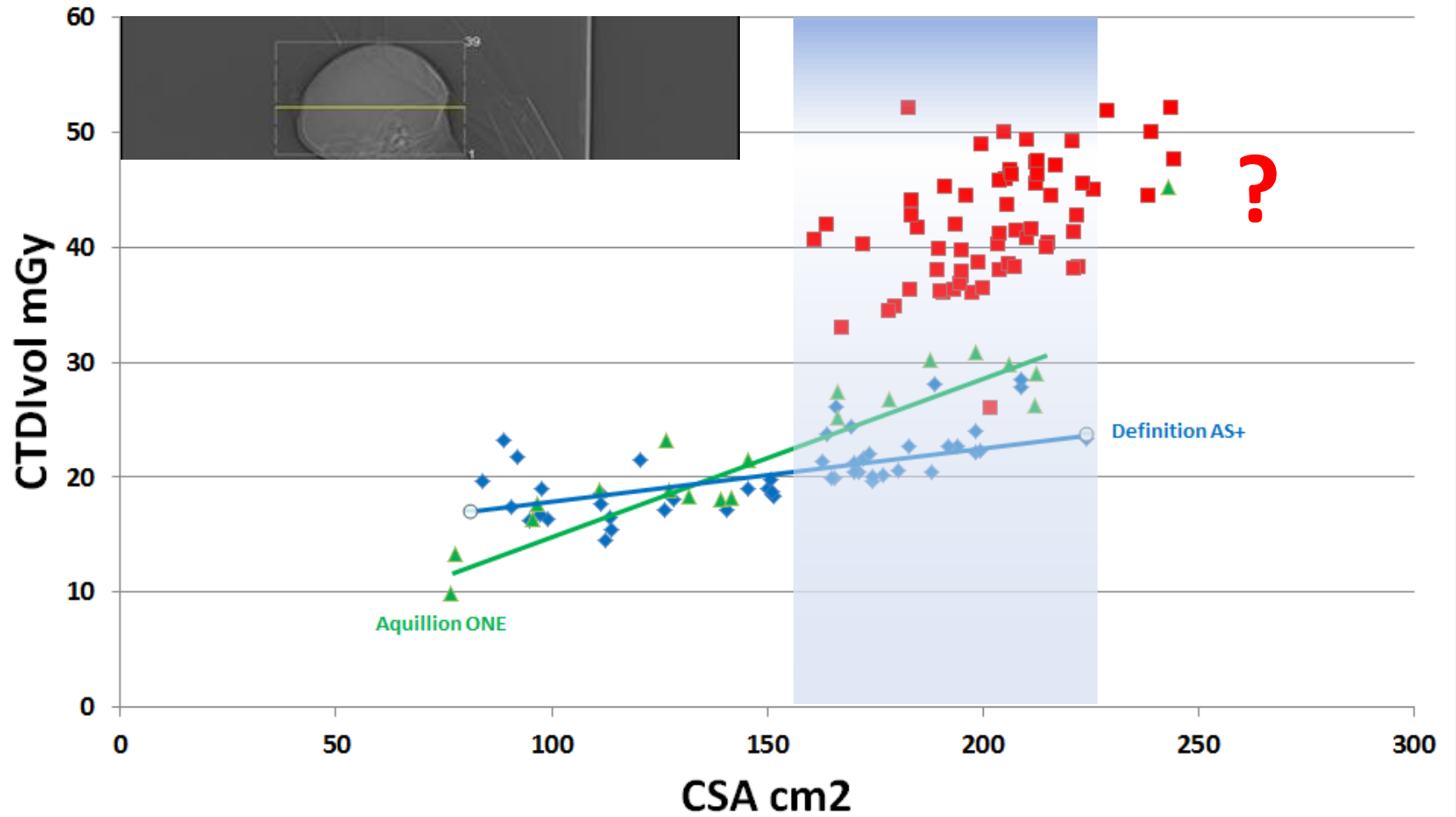
# Siemens Definition AS+ & Aquillion One CT Heads - CTDIvol vs CSA (Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)





**Same head size,  
different  
protocols?**

# Siemens Definition AS+ & Aquillion One CT Heads - CTDIvol vs CSA (Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)



## **Recommendations / options:**

Attention is given to achieving consistent positioning to prevent table structures or attachments from affecting the topogram determined scan factors.

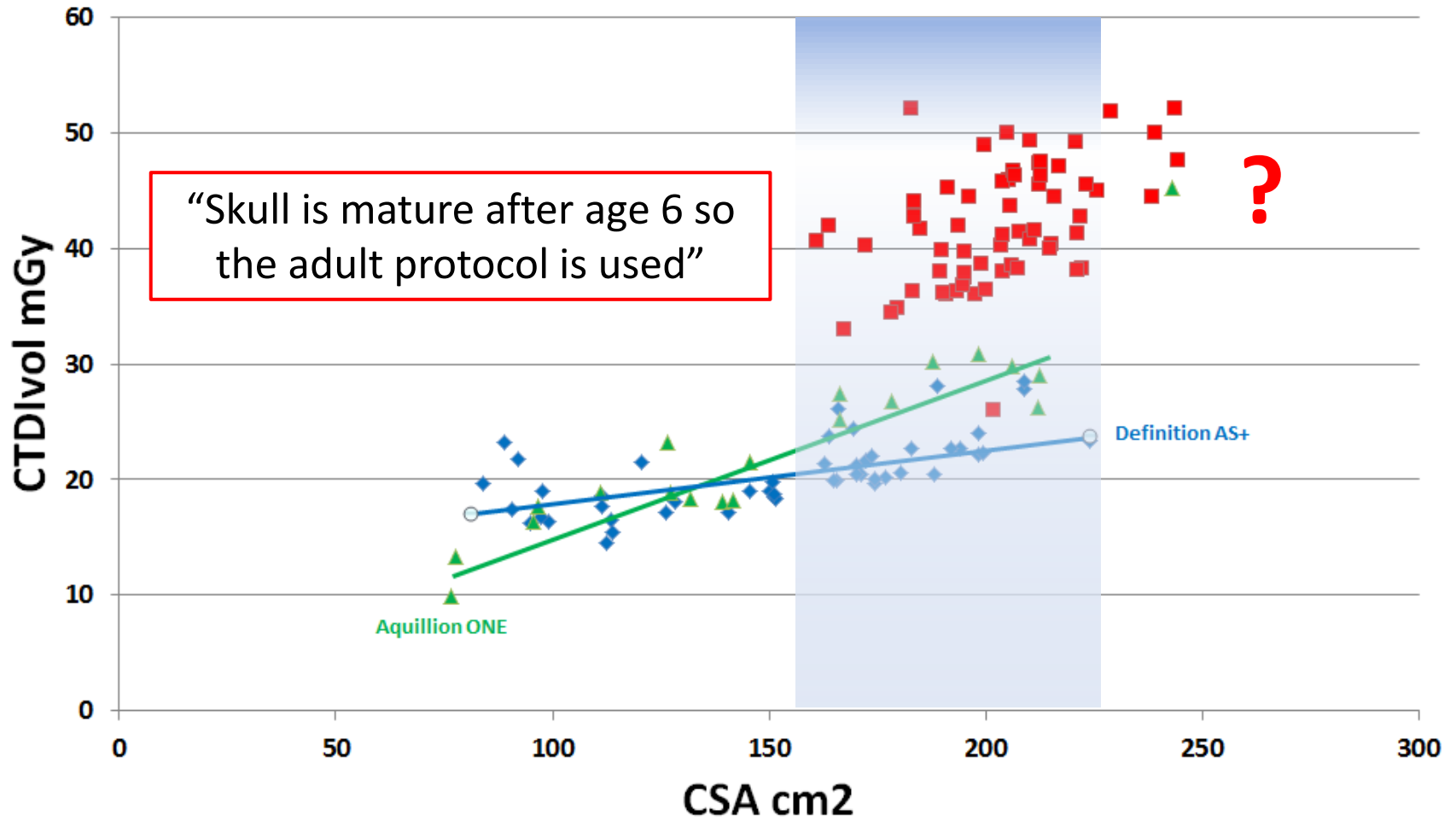
Continued use of the adult 1A\_Spiral Brain protocol is evaluated for all patients below age 14, to use instead the existing 0-6yrs protocol. Image quality should be reviewed to ensure no adverse impact of such a change.

Consideration is given to adjusting the mA adaptation to increase the strength setting to achieve greater reduction in dose for smaller head sizes, alongside an appraisal of impact on image quality.

A newborn to 3 month protocol could be considered with a lower QRef mAs and or lower kV.

Consideration should be given to implement recording of patient weight for all paediatric patients, either in the scanner or on PACS.

# Siemens Definition AS+ & Aquillion One CT Heads - CTDIvol vs CSA (Jan 2016 - Nov 2017)







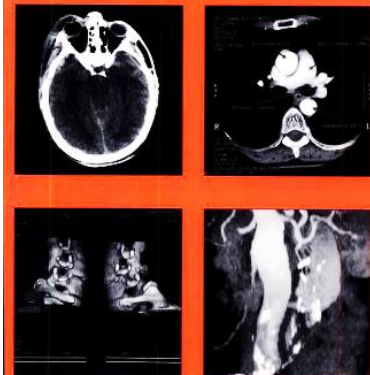
**...the apps  
specialist ?**

Edited by  
Suzanne Henwood

# Clinical CT

## Techniques and Practice

ISBN 1 900 151 56 1



First published 1999

Table 2.1 – Protocol for routine brain scan

<b>Patient position</b>	Supine, head in head rest, scanner gantry parallel to radiographic baseline (RBL). Head in centre of scan field. (Lateral scan projection radiograph may be used if required)
<b>Start position</b>	RBL
<b>Protocol</b>	
<b>Slice thickness</b>	10 mm
<b>Table increment</b>	10 mm
<b>Kilovoltage</b>	120 kV
<b>mAs per slice</b>	300 mAs
<b>Algorithm</b>	Standard
<b>Scan field of view</b>	25 cm
<b>Display field of view</b>	25 cm
<b>Window width (WW)</b>	150/100/80
<b>Window level (WL)</b>	40

### *Adapting technique to the pathology and the patient*

#### THE POSTERIOR FOSSA

When the clinical information clearly indicates a posterior fossa or mid-brain pathology the slice width and table incrementation are adjusted to 5 mm (or in some cases 3 mm) to better demonstrate these areas. It may be necessary to adjust the mAs per slice to 320 mAs to obtain a comparable image quality. For most adults 8–10 sections will be done on average. Begin the scan 1 cm below and parallel to the RBL.

#### PAEDIATRICS

It is necessary to adapt techniques to suit the wide variety of child and infant sizes. Basic protocols for paediatric use are suggested in Tables 2.2–2.4.

After 7 years of age the adult programme can be used, with reduced mAs values until the child's head is approaching adult size. (Note that the skull vault will have achieved adult size before the facial bones have matured to adult proportions.)

Equally, it may be necessary to reduce mAs values for very petite adults.

Table 2.2 – Basic paediatric protocol: neonate

<b>Patient position</b>	Supine, head in head rest, scanner gantry parallel to RBL. Head in centre of scan field.
<b>Start position</b>	RBL
<b>Protocol</b>	
<b>Slice thickness</b>	7 mm
<b>Table increment</b>	7 mm
<b>Kilovoltage</b>	100 kv
<b>mAs per slice</b>	100 mAs
<b>Algorithm</b>	Soft/standard
<b>Scans field of view</b>	25 cm
<b>Display field of view</b>	20 cm
<b>Window width</b>	150/100/80
<b>Window level</b>	40

Table 2.3 – Basic paediatric protocol: 6 months–2 years

<b>Patient position</b>	Supine, head in head rest, scanner gantry parallel to RBL. Head in centre of scan field.
<b>Start position</b>	RBL
<b>Protocol</b>	
<b>Slice thickness</b>	7 mm
<b>Table increment</b>	7 mm
<b>Kilovoltage</b>	100 kv
<b>mAs per slice</b>	150 mAs
<b>Algorithm</b>	Standard
<b>Scan field of view</b>	25 cm
<b>Display field of view</b>	22 cm
<b>Window width</b>	150/100/80
<b>Window level</b>	40

Table 2.4 – Basic paediatric protocol: 2 years–7 years

<b>Patient position</b>	Supine, head in head rest, scanner gantry parallel to RBL. Head in centre of scan field.
<b>Start position</b>	RBL
<b>Protocol</b>	
<b>Slice thickness</b>	10 mm
<b>Table increment</b>	10 mm
<b>Kilovoltage</b>	120 kV
<b>mAs per slice</b>	200 mAs
<b>Algorithm</b>	Standard
<b>Scan field of view</b>	25 cm
<b>Display field of view</b>	22 cm
<b>Window width</b>	150/100/80
<b>Window level</b>	40



2. An adult head is examined at a technique of 140 kVp, 0.5 sec scan time, 400 mA, pitch = 1, and FOV = 25 cm. What is the appropriate technique for a one year old head?

Head Baseline:	kVp= 140	mA= 400	Time= 0.5 sec
	Pitch= 1		
PA Thickness (cm)	Approx Age	mAs Reduction Factor (RF)	Estimated mAs = BL x RF (fill in)
12	newborn	0.74	148
16	1 yr	0.86	172
17	5 yr	0.93	186
19	med adult	Baseline (BL)	200

**TABLE 10 (continued)** Comparison by examination type of values of CTDI<sub>vol</sub> (mGy) from the 2003 and 2011 national CT surveys: third quartile values for distributions of typical practice (mean doses per CT scanner) and recommended national reference doses

## Doses from Computed Tomography (CT) Examinations in the UK – 2011 Review

P C Shrimpton, M C Hillier, S Meeson<sup>1</sup> and S J Golding<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF SURGICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UK

Examination (clinical indication)	Scan region/ technique	Third quartile values for CTDI <sub>vol</sub> per sequence (mGy)			National reference doses for CTDI <sub>vol</sub> per sequence (mGy)		
		2003		2011 <sup>a</sup>	2003		2011
		SSCT	MDCT	MDCT	SSCT	MDCT	MDCT
Chest-abdomen-pelvis <sup>c</sup> (cancer)	Lung	10	12	–	10	12	–
	Abdo/pelvis	12	14	–	12	14	–
	All sequences	12	13	13 (11)	–	–	–
Paediatric head: 0–1 y <sup>b</sup> (trauma)	Post fossa	34 <sup>d</sup>	34 <sup>d</sup>	–	35 <sup>d</sup>	35 <sup>d</sup>	–
	Cerebrum	28 <sup>d</sup>	28 <sup>d</sup>	–	30 <sup>d</sup>	30 <sup>d</sup>	–
	All sequences	28 <sup>d</sup>	28 <sup>d</sup>	26 (17)	–	–	<b>25</b>
Paediatric head: >1–5 y <sup>b</sup> (trauma)	Post fossa	49 <sup>d</sup>	49 <sup>d</sup>	–	50 <sup>d</sup>	50 <sup>d</sup>	–
	Cerebrum	42 <sup>d</sup>	42 <sup>d</sup>	–	45 <sup>d</sup>	45 <sup>d</sup>	–
	All sequences	43 <sup>d</sup>	43 <sup>d</sup>	43 (18)	–	–	<b>40</b>
Paediatric head: >5 y <sup>b</sup> (trauma)	Post fossa	65 <sup>d</sup>	65 <sup>d</sup>	–	65 <sup>d</sup>	65 <sup>d</sup>	–
	Cerebrum	46 <sup>d</sup>	46 <sup>d</sup>	–	50 <sup>d</sup>	50 <sup>d</sup>	–
	All sequences	51 <sup>d</sup>	51 <sup>d</sup>	61 (15)	–	–	<b>60</b>

Correlations between size and dose for individual paediatric patients illustrated in Figures 11 and 12 in relation to CTDI<sub>vol</sub> and total DI relationships (as indicated by the largest correlation coefficients mass (Figures 11c and 12c), although all these trends remain re figures illustrating information concerning age include data (mar in relation to the range of mean values of CTDI<sub>vol</sub> (Figure 11a) a for the samples of adults undergoing head CT at the different CT centres in the survey; the vertical bar indicates the minimum and maximum mean values, together with the mean for this

distribution. It is evident that the dose indicators recorded for many of the children in the survey, even those of younger age, are similar to the values of CTDI<sub>vol</sub> or DLP typically used for examinations on adults. Indeed, subsequent review by some participating centres of their paediatric data submitted to the survey unfortunately identified the local use of protocols that were similar to those used for examinations of the adult head. Such analyses highlight the urgent need for these centres in particular to implement specific protocols that are optimised for imaging paediatric patients of different ages and size.

The optimisation of protection for all patients requires recourse to a range of protocols that have been specifically developed for each disparate patient group (with due account of size) in order to meet the particular imaging tasks for each type of examination (and associated clinical indication) for the lowest possible levels of dose.

**PEDIATRIC HEAD – ROUTINE (SPIRAL) (selected SIEMENS scanners)**

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**TOPOGRAM:** Lateral, 120 kVp, 40 mA, from base of skull through vertex, angle to Reid's baseline to avoid orbits

**GENERAL:** Scans are provided within a maximum scan field of 300 mm with respect to the iso-center. No recon job with a field of view exceeding those limits will be possible.  
Gantry tilt is available for sequence scanning, not for spiral scanning. Gantry tilt is not available for dual source scanners. Use Kernel C30s for reconstructing Neonate scans.

**Note:** Users may select a manual approach or an AEC approach, according to their site's preference.

- Manual – scaling factors according to [1] are applied to an equivalent adult protocol. Tube voltage setting is kept constant.
- AEC – manufacturer recommended setting, where the exposure (mAs-as well as kV-value, if available) is automatically adjusted to patient attenuation

SIEMENS	Perspective 128	Definition AS+/ Edge (128-slice)	Definition Flash (Dual source 128-slice)	Somatom Force (Dual source 192-slice)
Rotation time (s)	1.0*	1.0*	1.0*	1.0*
Detector Configuration (mm)	32 x 0.6	*128 x 0.6 (64 x 0.6 = 38.4)	*128 x 0.6 (64 x 0.6 = 38.4)	*192 x 0.6 (96 x 0.6 = 57.6)
Pitch	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
<b>Manual Approach</b>				
Manual kV approach	110	100	100	100
Manual mAs approach	0-1yr: 1-2yrs: 2-6yrs: 206 6-16yrs: 16+yr:413	0-1yr: 1-2yrs: 2-6yrs: 291 6-16yrs: 16+yr: 582	0-1yr: 1-2yrs: 2-6yrs: 291 6-16yrs: 16+yr: 582	0-1yr: 1-2yrs: 2-6yrs: 248 6-16yrs: 16+yr: 495 <sup>d</sup>
CTDIvol (mGy)	0-1yr: 1-2yrs: 2-6yrs: 35 6-16yrs: 16+yr: 69	0-1yr: 1-2yrs: 2-6yrs: 25 6-16yrs: 16+yr: 50	0-1yr: 1-2yrs: 2-6yrs: 25 6-16yrs: 16+yr: 56	0-1yr: 1-2yrs: 2-6yrs: 22 6-16yrs: 16+yr: 44
<b>AEC Approach</b>				
CARE Dose4D	On	On	On	On
Quality ref. mAs	413	582	582	495 <sup>d</sup>
CARE kV	N/A (use kV from manual approach)	°ON	°ON	°ON
CTDI vol (mGy)	35 (with 206 mAs)*	25 (with 291 mAs)*	25 (with 291 mAs)*	22 (with 248 mAs)*

**RECON 1**

	Kemel H31 J30(2) <sup>d</sup>	H31 J30(2) <sup>d</sup>	H31 J30(2) <sup>d</sup>	Hr40(3) <sup>d</sup>
Kemel	H31 J30(2) <sup>d</sup>	H31 J30(2) <sup>d</sup>	H31 J30(2) <sup>d</sup>	Hr40(3) <sup>d</sup>
Slice (mm)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Position increment (mm)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

**RECON 2**

	Kemel H60 J70(2) <sup>d</sup>	H60 J70(2) <sup>d</sup>	H60 J70(2) <sup>d</sup>	Hr59(3) <sup>d</sup>
Kemel	H60 J70(2) <sup>d</sup>	H60 J70(2) <sup>d</sup>	H60 J70(2) <sup>d</sup>	Hr59(3) <sup>d</sup>
Slice (mm)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Position increment (mm)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0

\* Shorter rotation times should be considered if the required tube current-time product (mAs) can be reached.

<sup>a</sup> indicates that a z-axis "flying focal spot" technique is used to obtain twice as many projections per rotation as detector rows

<sup>b</sup> with IVR (Interleaved Volume Reconstruction) to improve spatial resolution

<sup>c</sup> if scanner is equipped with automatic kV selection (CARE kV), this should be activated by selecting "On". For head exams, a

<sup>d</sup> Dose saving optimized for slider position of 3 is recommended

<sup>e</sup> with ADMIRE, SAFIRE or IRIS

<sup>f</sup> CTDIvol will be generated upon aquisition of the topogram. CAREdose4D will adjust the mAs/eff. mAs to the patient based on the topogram. CTDIvol values for any given patient should be comparable or lower than the values associated with the manual mAs and kV approach. The value in brackets is the value for a 20 kg/5years old child.

**PEDIATRIC HEAD – ROUTINE (HELICAL) (selected TOSHIBA scanners)**

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**SCANOGRAM:** Lateral, 120 kVp, 40 mA, from base of skull through vertex, angle to Reid's baseline to avoid orbits

TOSHIBA	Aq ONE/ ONE Vision	Aq ONE/ ONE Vision
Scan Type	Helical	Helical
*Rotation Time (s)	0.75*	0.75*
Detector Configuration	32 x 0.5	0.5
CT Pitch Factor	Detail (0.656)	N/A
Speed (mm/rot)	10.5	N/A
kV	100 (0-2yrs) 120 (2+yrs)	100 (0-2yrs) 120 (2+yrs)
Manual mAs	0-1yr: 230 >1-2yrs: 285	0-1yr: 115 >1-2yrs: 145
Manual mAs	>2-6yrs: 125 >6-16yrs: 160 >16+yr: 200	>2-6yrs: 125 >6-16yrs: 160 >16+yr: 200
Exposure approach	Not recommended	Not recommended
AIDR 3D	AIDR 3D	AIDR 3D
Scan FOV	240mm (S)	240mm (S)
CTDI-vol (mGy)	0-1yr: 22.1 1-2yrs: 27.4 2-6yrs: 36.2 6-16yrs: 46.3 16+yr: 57.9	0-1yr: 21.7 1-2yrs: 27.3 2-6yrs: 36.3 6-16yrs: 46.5 16+yr: 58.1

**VOLUME RECON - BRAIN**

Type	Volume	Volume
Image Thickness (mm)	0.5	0.5
Reconstruction Interval (mm)	0.3	0.3

**VOLUME RECON - BONE**

Type	Volume	Volume
Image Thickness (mm)	0.5	0.5
Reconstruction Interval (mm)	0.3	0.3

**REFORMATS:** The following reformat table applies to all of the Toshiba volume reconstructions above.

	REFORMAT 1	REFORMAT 2	REFORMAT 3
Type	Axial	Coronal	Sagittal
Start	Base of skull	Anterior	Left
End	Vertex	Posterior	Right
Thickness (mm)	5	5	5
Interval (mm)	5	5	5

\* Shorter rotation times should be considered if the required tube current-time product (mAs) can be reached.

\*\*The SURE IQ setting determines the reconstruction FC as well as other post-processing and reconstruction options, such as ADR. The SURE IQ settings listed here refer to the manufacturer default settings.

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## Actions taken:

Head holder from earlier scanner withdrawn from use

Radiographer education sessions on positioning and immobilization

Protocol changes & additions

Weight recording commenced



Neonate 0 to 6 yrs reduced Qref mAs 320 (previously 513)

New Spiral Brain 6-10 years same as existing 0-6 spiral (513 mAs)

New age 10-16 Spiral 1A in the adult folder Qref 350 mAs and CARE kVp on. (previous 410 mAs)



