Abstract

Constant handling of radiopharmaceuticals provides ample opportunity for surfaces to become contaminated in nuclear medicine. The purpose of this study was to investigate the occurrence of radiation contamination on frequently used surfaces of a nuclear medicine Department normally not expected to be contaminated. **Methods:** Ten different surfaces were tested weekly for removable contamination over a period of three weeks. The surfaces included phones, keyboards with mouse, and counter-tops. The minimum detectable activity (dpm) was calculated for contamination detection levels of each test. **Results:** Removable contamination was detected on four surfaces of the imaging room. Areas of contamination included a keyboard (K1), phone (P7), and counter-tops (C8) and (C9). The mean and standard deviation of all wipes was $13.44 \pm 23.27$ dpm. None of the tested surfaces exceeded the hospital’s action level for restricted areas. **Conclusion:** Low levels of removable contamination exist within department work areas away from radiopharmaceutical preparation and/or areas.