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NEWS

CHEST X-RAYS: OVERUSED?

... "Routinely taking chest X-rays of hospital patients, even when they show no symptoms of chest disease, has little medical value and adds as much as \$1.5 billion to the cost of health care nationwide, a new study by physicians at the Long Beach Veterans Admin. Medical Ctr. has concluded. . . . Their report noted that about 52 million chest films are taken annually in the US, making the procedure the most frequently conducted of all X-ray examinations.

About 30 million of them were for purposes that yielded little medical information that could not be gleaned from clinical histories or by other means. . . ."

[(Harry Nelson in *Los Angeles Times* 24 Jan 85, p. 3, Part I). Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 12, March 25, 1985, p. 19, (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]