

Gammex RMI CT Phantom, 438 (ACR CT Accreditation phantom, 464)

S. Edyvean, Jim Weston

Imaging Performance Assessment of CT Scanners

St. Georges Hospital, London

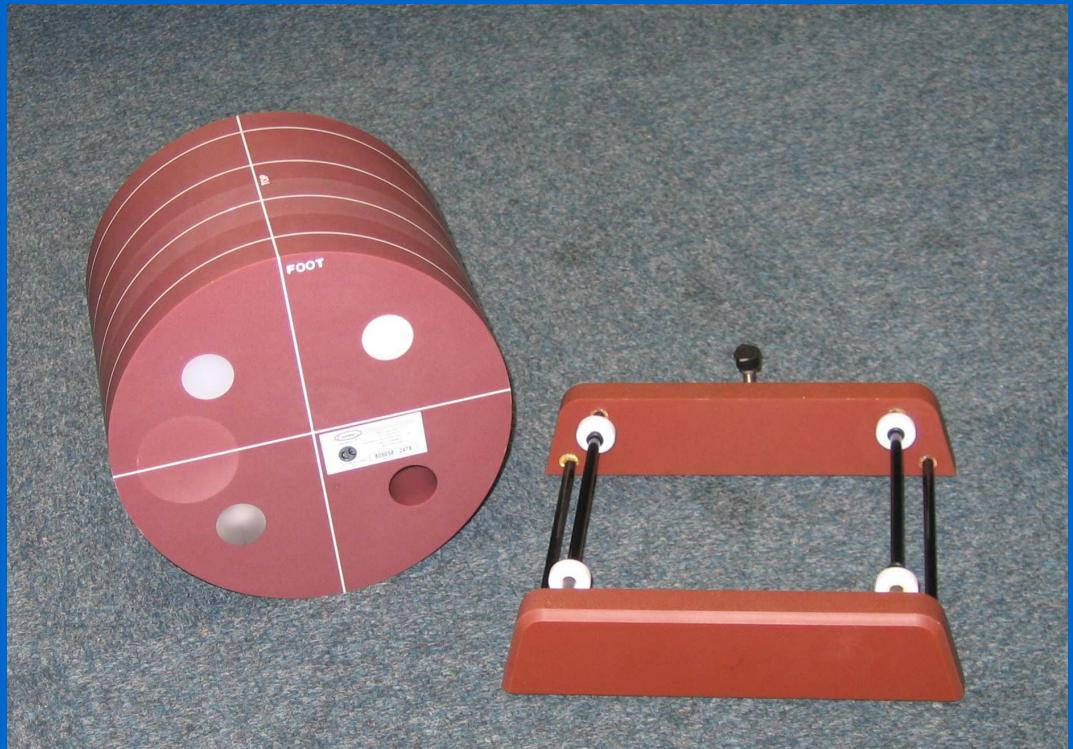
www.impactscan.org

Some images courtesy of Cynthia McCullough
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA

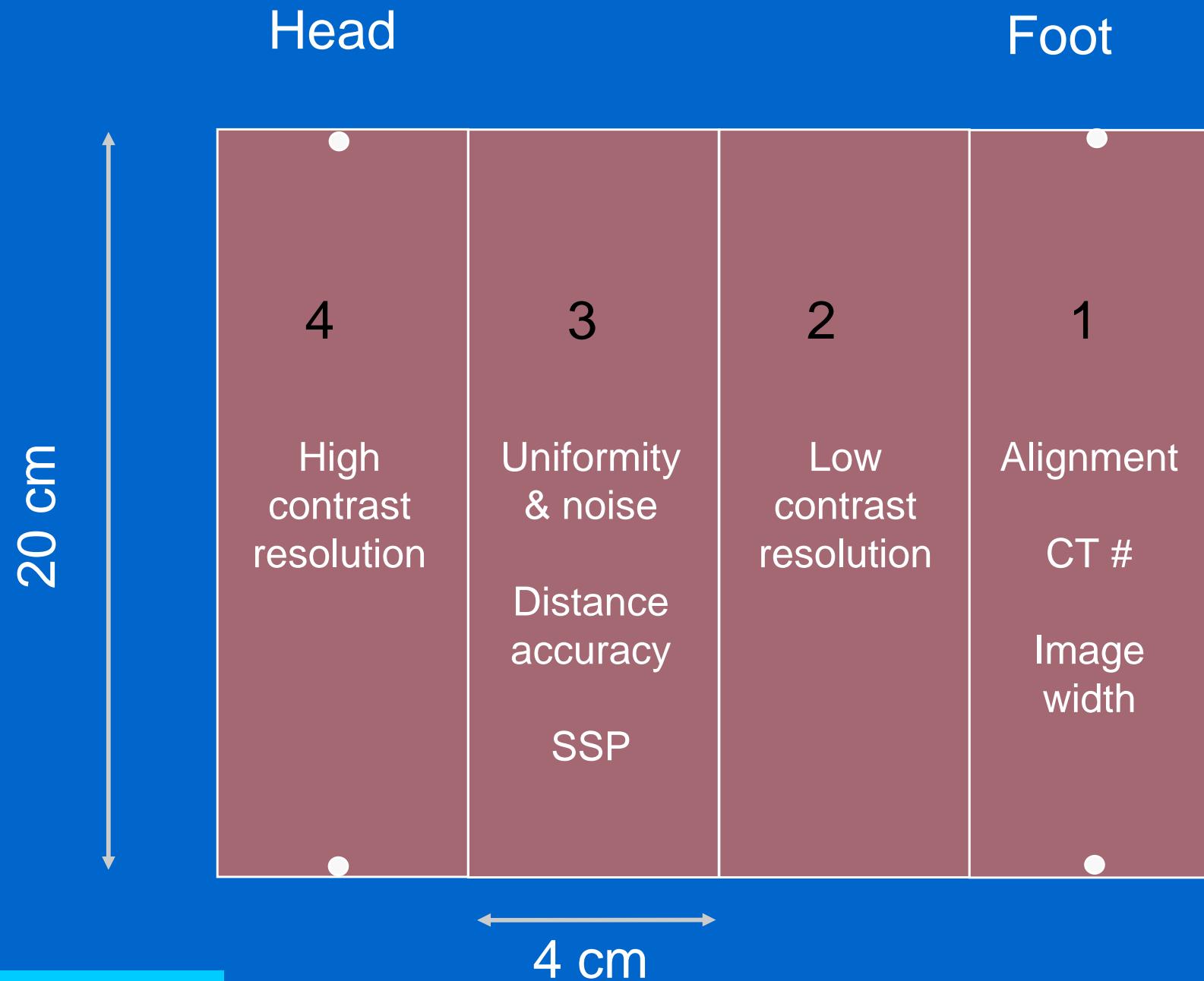


Gammex RMI CT Phantom, 438

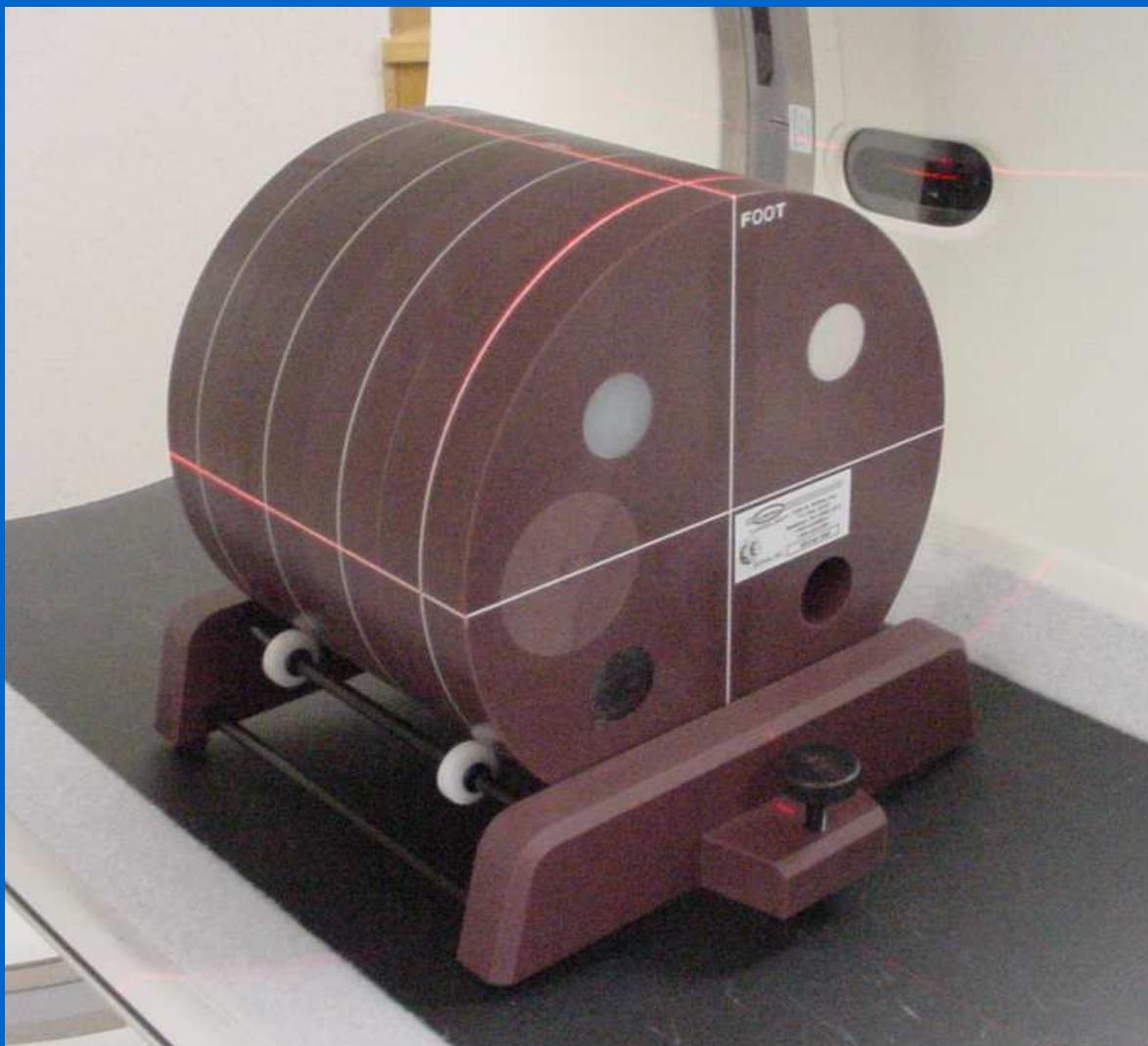
- David Aikman
 - Gammex RMI Ltd., Nottingham



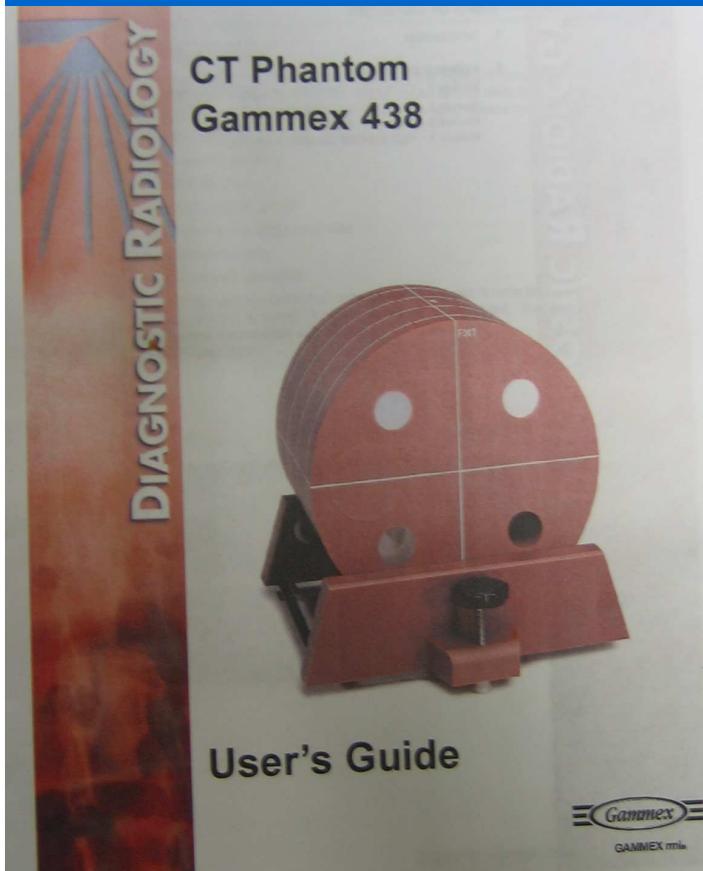
Gammex RMI CT Phantom



Gammex RMI CT Phantom



Documentation



ACR
RADIOPHYSICS

1831 Preston White Drive, Reston VA 20191

Computed Tomography (CT) Accreditation Program
PHANTOM TESTING INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTION MANUAL FOR TESTING THE ACR CT PHANTOM

Please follow these instructions carefully for submission of test materials.

INTRODUCTION

The ACR CT accreditation phantom has been designed to examine a broad range of scanner parameters. These include:

- Positioning accuracy
- CT # accuracy
- Slice width
- Low contrast resolution
- High contrast (spatial) resolution
- CT number uniformity
- Image noise

This document describes the test procedures in sufficient detail to allow a CT technologist or medical physicist to obtain desired images and perform the necessary analysis and calculations. A medical physicist, however, will need to obtain necessary dosimetric data.

THE PHANTOM

The ACR CT accreditation phantom is a solid phantom containing four modules, and is constructed of equivalent material. Each module is 4 cm in depth and 20 cm in diameter. There are external alignment and painted white (to reflect alignment lights) on EACH module to allow centering of the phantom in cranial/caudal, coronal (y-axis), anteroposterior, and sagittal (x-axis, left/right) directions. There are "TOP" markings on the phantom to assist with alignment.

Head **Foot**

20 cm

4 cm

4

3

2

1

High contrast resolution

Uniformity & noise

Distance accuracy & 88P

Low contrast resolution

CT #

Slice width

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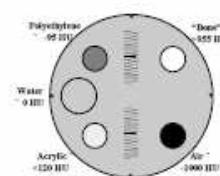
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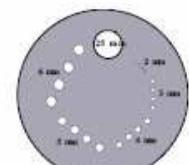
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GAMMEX

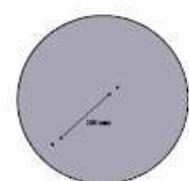
Module 1 is used to assess positioning and alignment, CT number accuracy, and slice thickness. The background material is water equivalent. For positioning, the module has 1-mm diameter steel BBs embedded at the longitudinal (z-axis) center of the module, with the outer surface of the BB at the phantom surface at 3, 6, 9, and 12 o'clock positions within the field of view (19.9 cm center to center). To assess CT number accuracy, there are cylinders of different materials: bone-mimicking material ("Bone"), polyethylene, water equivalent material, acrylic, and air. Each cylinder, except the water cylinder, has a diameter of 25 mm and a depth of 4 cm. The water cylinder has a diameter of 50 mm and a depth of 4 cm. To assess slice thickness, two ramps are included which consist of a series of wires that are visible in 0.5-mm z-axis increments.



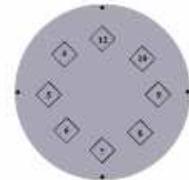
Module 2 is used to assess low contrast resolution. This module consists of a series of cylinders of different diameters, all at 0.6% (5 HU) difference from a background material having a mean CT number of approximately 90 HU. The cylinder-to-background contrast is energy-independent. There are four cylinders for each of the following diameters: 2 mm, 3 mm, 4 mm, 5 mm, and 6 mm. The space between each cylinder is equal to the diameter of the cylinder. A 25-mm cylinder is included to verify the cylinder-to-background contrast level.



Module 3 consists of a uniform, tissue-equivalent material to assess CT number uniformity. Two very small BBs (0.28 mm each) are included for optional use in assessing the accuracy of in-plane distance measurements. They may also be used to assess section sensitivity profiles.



Module 4 is used to assess high contrast (spatial) resolution. It contains eight bar resolution patterns: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 lp/cm, each fitting into a 15-mm x 15-mm square region. The z-axis depth of each bar pattern is 3.8 cm, beginning at the Module 3 interface. The aluminum bar patterns provide very high object contrast relative to the background material. Module 4 also has four 1-mm steel beads, as described for Module 1.



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ACR

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

ACR CT Accreditation Phantom Gammex 464



The optional phantom base (shown at left with the phantom) provides stability, marker alignment master and features built-in leveling device.

The Gammex 464 ACR CT Phantom is designed to be an integral part of the American College of Radiology (ACR) CT Accreditation Program. This voluntary program provides physicians with an opportunity for a comprehensive peer review of their CT facility, personnel qualifications, image quality and quality assurance programs. CT accreditation encourages patient's confidence and demonstrates your commitment to quality health care to payers, regulatory agencies and employers. The ACR CT Accreditation Phantom can be used for initial QA assessment and routine monthly QA testing to help insure your patients are receiving the lowest possible CT dose.

Solid Water[®] construction makes for a convenient, physically stable test device that provides unpredictable results over time. The phantom consists of four modules designed to examine a broad range of scanner parameters. It features white scribbled markings on the axial, coronal and sagittal axis, and HEAD, FOOT and TOP markings to ensure proper alignment.

FOOT **HEAD**



Module layout of the Gammex ACR CT Accreditation Phantom

www.gammex.com



DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

ACR CT Accreditation Phantom Gammex 464

SPECIFICATIONS

Phantom Construction

Module material:	Solid Water: $\text{O} \leq 5.1 \text{ HU}$ or equivalent
Length:	100 mm (3.93 in)
Diameter:	200 mm (7.87 in)
Weight:	5.3 kg (11.75 lbs)

Embedded Test Objects

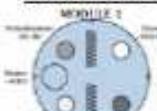
Water equivalent density rod:	$\text{O} \leq 5.1 \text{ HU}$ or equivalent
Low-equivalent density rod:	255 HU (iron-iron equivalent) ironrod
Acrylic density rod:	Cast acrylic
Polyethylene density rod:	Low density polyethylene
Low-density metalic rod:	Clo-Cage CB4 epoxy or equivalent
Low-density resin:	Clo-Cage CB4 epoxy
Low-density adjustment:	Density adjusted to 5148 HU difference or equivalent
Tungsten density blocks:	0.011" diameter grade 25 tungsten carbide blocks
Lead-glass material:	6001 Aluminum and Solid Water: $\text{O} \leq 5.1 \text{ HU}$ or equivalent
Steel beads:	100mm grade 25 chrome steel balls
Iron-molded homogeneity:	The mean ROI values within any module, over objects evaluated, can differ by no more than 2 HU.
Iron-phosphorus homogeneous:	Module 1 and 4
Tin average CT value of a module must meet the requirements of $\text{O} \leq 5 \text{ HU}$.	

Option Phantom Stand Dimensions

Length:	228.6 mm (9 in)
Width:	203.2 mm (8 in)
Height:	47.69 mm (1.87 in)
Weight:	0.5 kg (1.1 lbs)
	Floor-level carrying case

PHANTOM MODULE SCHEMATICS

MODULE 1



Positioning and alignment, CT number accuracy and slice thickness.

MODULE 2



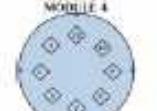
Low contrast resolution. Create a series of cylinders with different diameters, all of a 0.05% (5%) difference from the background material.

MODULE 3



CT number uniformity assessment. Incident and output for testing in-plane slice-to-slice measurement accuracy.

MODULE 4



High contrast spatial resolution. Create eight high contrast resolution patterns of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 mm pairs per cm.

Due to the variability of phantom geometry throughout the phantom, these specifications only define minimum values.

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ACR CT Accreditation Program

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ACR Homepage

Quality Assurance Questionnaire

Electronic Submission Memorandum to Facilities

Clinical Image Quality Guide

Clinical Testing Instructions

Clinical Test Image Data Form

Phantom Order Form

Phantom Testing Instructions

Phantom Testing Criteria

Phantom Site Scanning Data Form

Phantom Dose Calculator Spreadsheet (Air Kerma)

Phantom Dose Calculator Spreadsheet (Exposure)

Detector Configuration Frequently Asked Questions Part I

Detector Configuration Frequently

Home | Accreditation | Computed Tomography | Forms

Testing and QC Forms

Facilities that have applied for the Computed Tomography (CT) Accreditation Program will submit the following documents with their image submission for review. These forms are provided to the facility in hard-copy form once their initial application has been processed at the ACR. For your convenience, additional copies may be printed by clicking on the links below. **Please note that these forms should not be submitted with an initial application for accreditation.**

Computed Tomography Testing and QC Forms

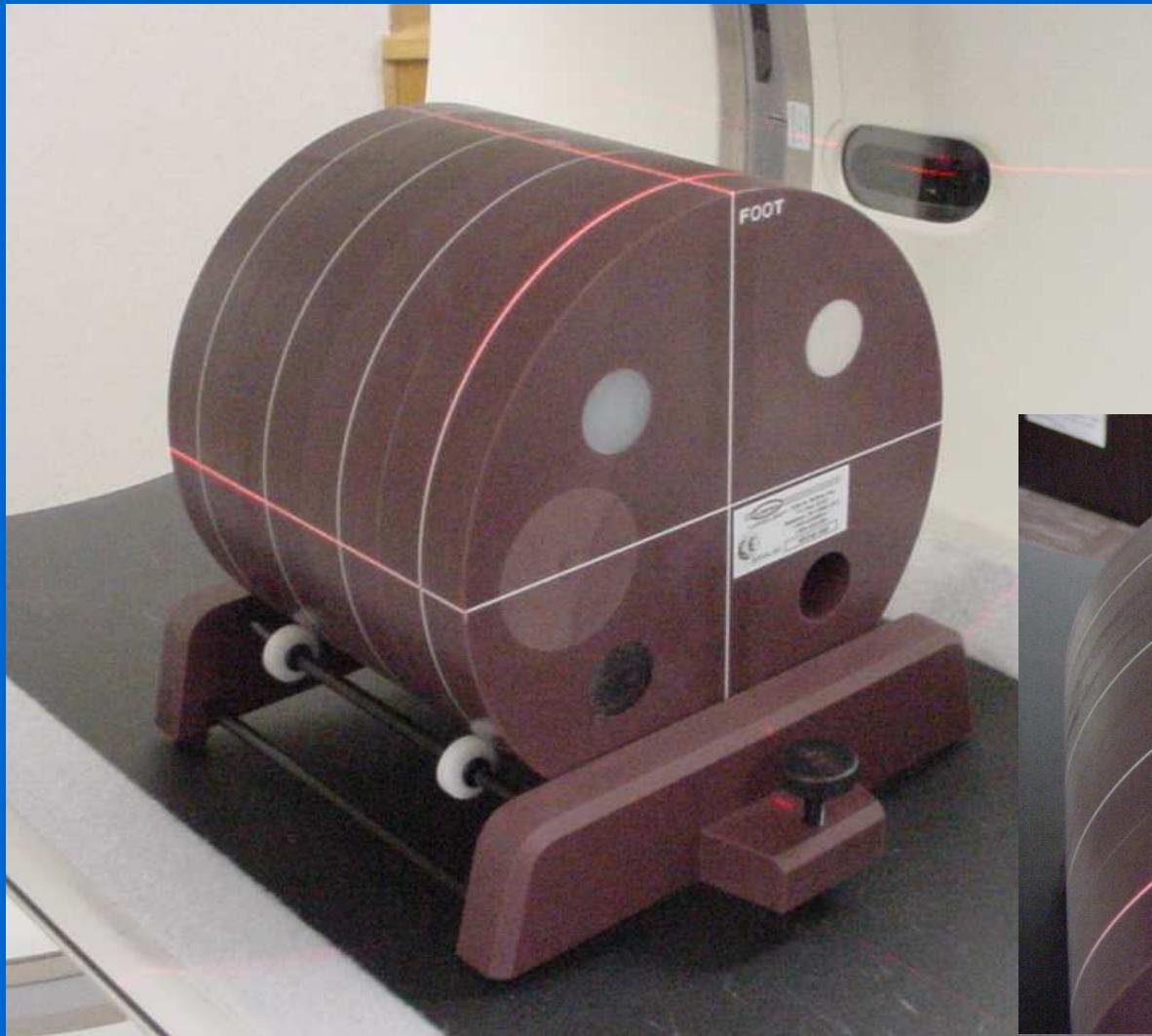
- [Quality Assurance Questionnaire](#)
- [Electronic Submission Memorandum to Facilities](#)
- [Clinical Image Quality Guide](#)
- [Clinical Testing Instructions](#)
- [Clinical Test Image Data Form](#)
- [Phantom Order Form](#)
- [Phantom Testing Instructions](#)
- [Phantom Testing Criteria](#)
- [Phantom Site Scanning Data Form](#)
- [Phantom Dose Calculator Spreadsheet \(Air Kerma\)](#)
- [Phantom Dose Calculator Spreadsheet \(Exposure\)](#)
- [Detector Configuration Frequently Asked Questions Part I](#)
- [Detector Configuration Frequently Asked Questions Part II](#)
- [Checklist](#)

ACR documentation

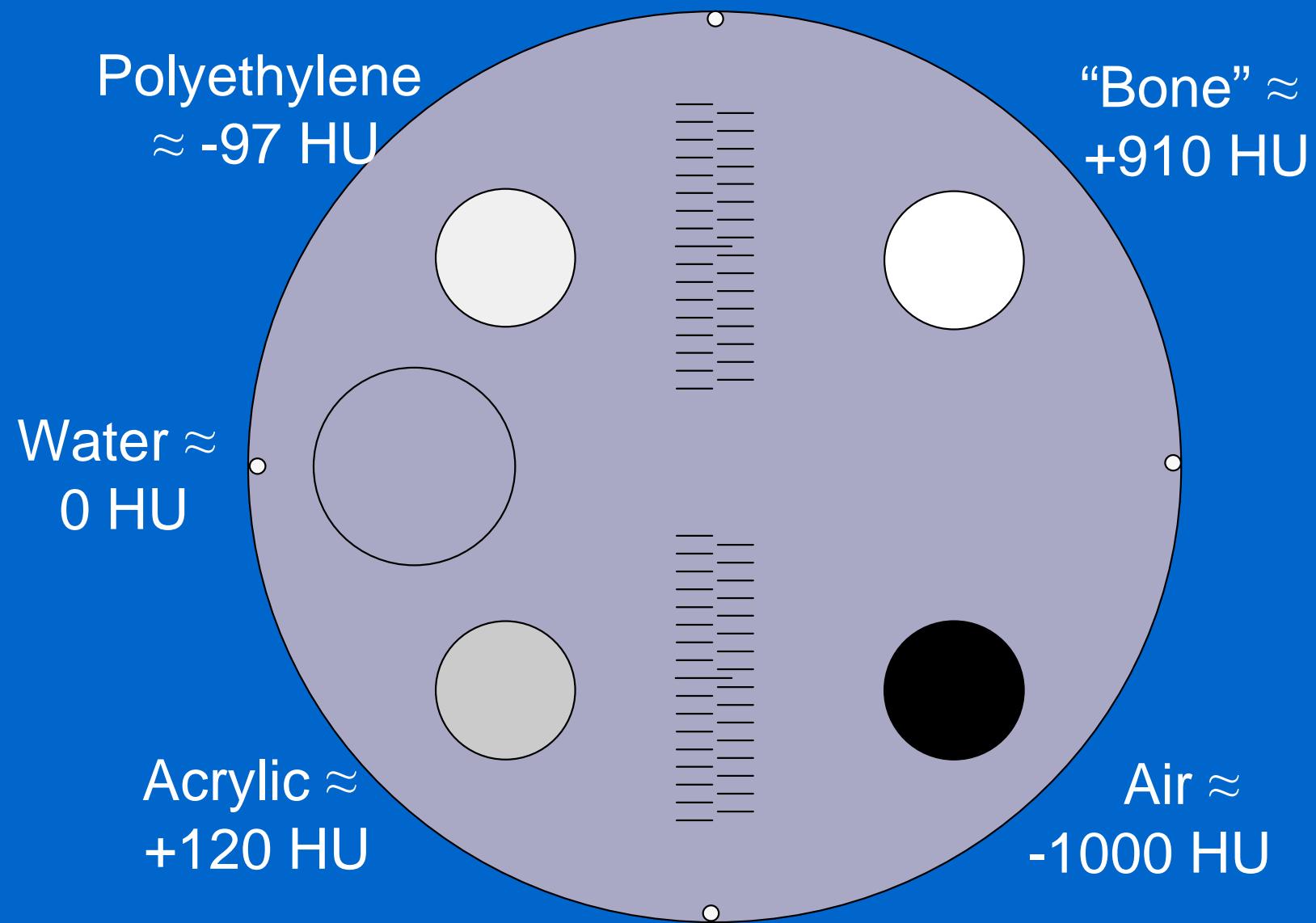
Table 1: Typical Image Acquisition Technical Parameters

	Adult Head (cerebellum portion)	High Resolution Chest	Adult Abdomen	Pediatric Abdomen (5 y.o.)
kVp				
mA				
Time per rotation (s)				
Scan FOV (cm or name)				
Display FOV (cm)				
Reconstruction Algorithm				
Axial (A) or Helical (H)				
Z-axis collimation (T, in mm) ¹				
# data channels <i>used</i> ¹ (N)				
A: Table Increment (mm) or H: Table Speed (mm/rot) (l) ¹				
Pitch ²				
Reconstructed Scan Width (mm)				
Reconstructed Scan Interval (mm)				
Dose Reduction Technique(s) ³				

Setting up



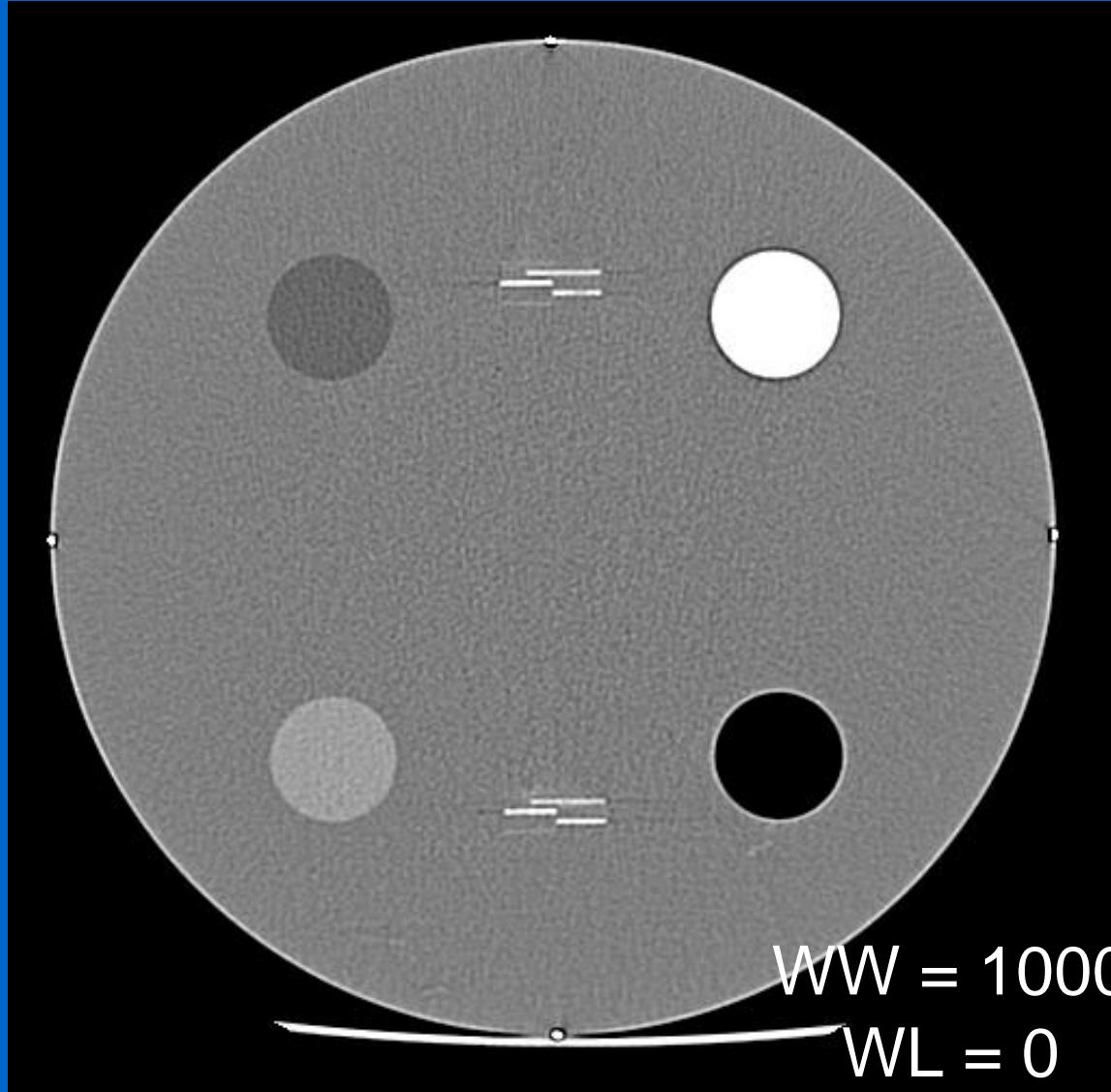
Module 1: alignment, image thickness, CT number



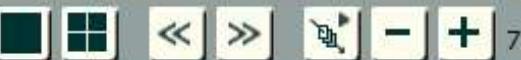
Module 1: alignment, image thickness, CT number

Must see all four BBs
(in Modules 1 & 4)

Longer wire must
have same number of
lines above and
below (± 1)



Browse



7 fps

Propagate

<no presentation state

Annotations: 

- 2
- 1
- 2
- TEST
- 999
- 2
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 3
- 1
- 2
- 4
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

TEST, ACR PHANTOM
4

[A]

TEST

[R]

[L]

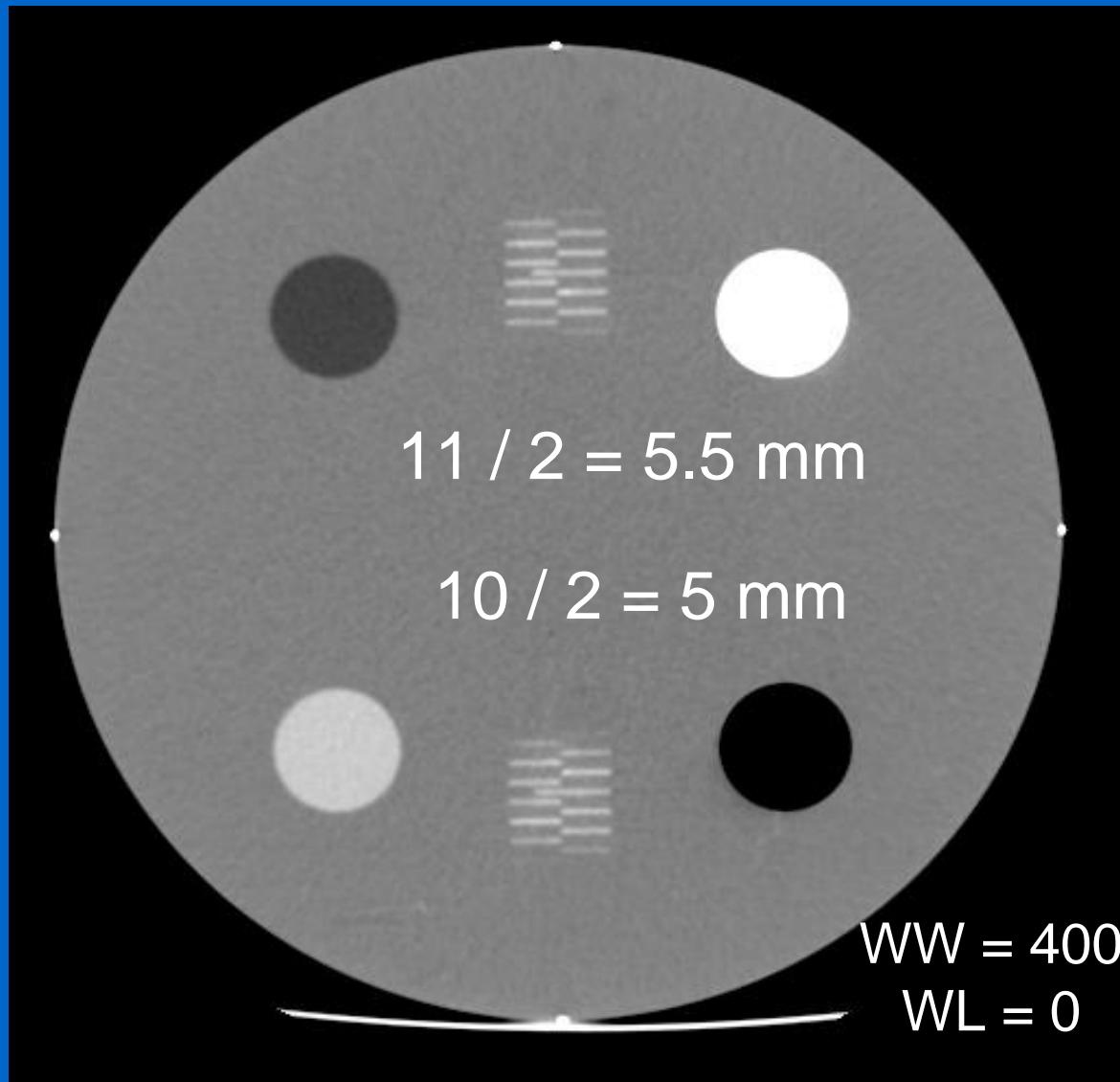
[P]

GE MEDICAL SYSTEMS

SP: 0.3mm
ST: 1.3mm
C40
W500
Not for diagnostic use

Module 1: alignment, image thickness, CT number

Wires are 0.5 mm apart in z-direction

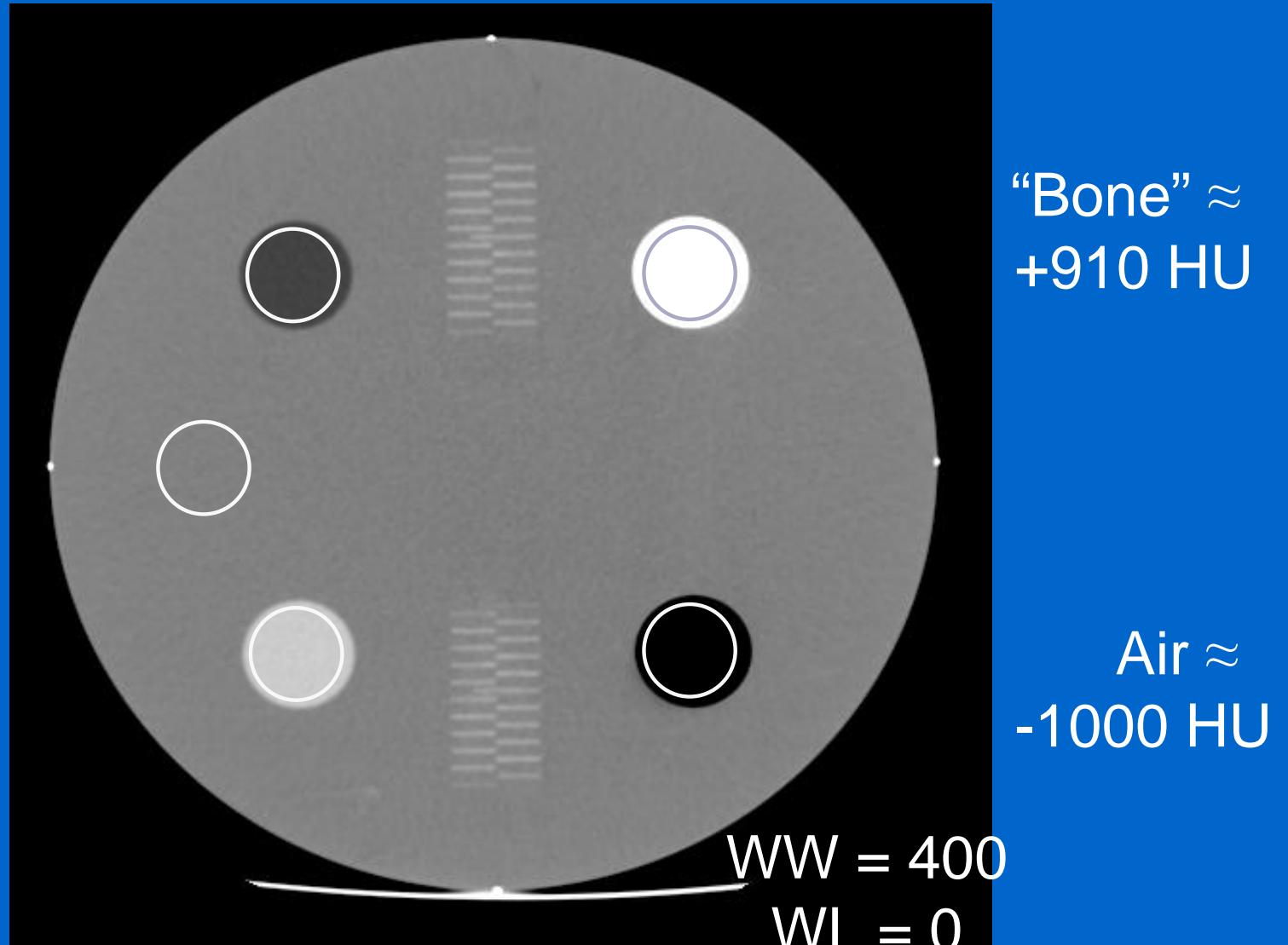


Module 1: alignment, image thickness, CT number

Polyethylene
 ≈ -97 HU

Water \approx
0 HU

Acrylic \approx
+120 HU



ACR documentation: module 1



Section 5 – Module 1: CT Number Calibration and Slice Thickness

Adult Abdomen technique

Parameter	Measured	Film Page: Box
Location of center of Module 1	_____ mm	

CT number calibration and scan width accuracy for adult abdomen slice width

Polyethylene	Mean CT # = _____ HU	Top	Bottom	1:4
Water	Mean CT # = _____ HU	_____ mm	_____ mm	
Acrylic	Mean CT # = _____ HU			
Bone	Mean CT # = _____ HU			
Air	Mean CT # = _____ HU			

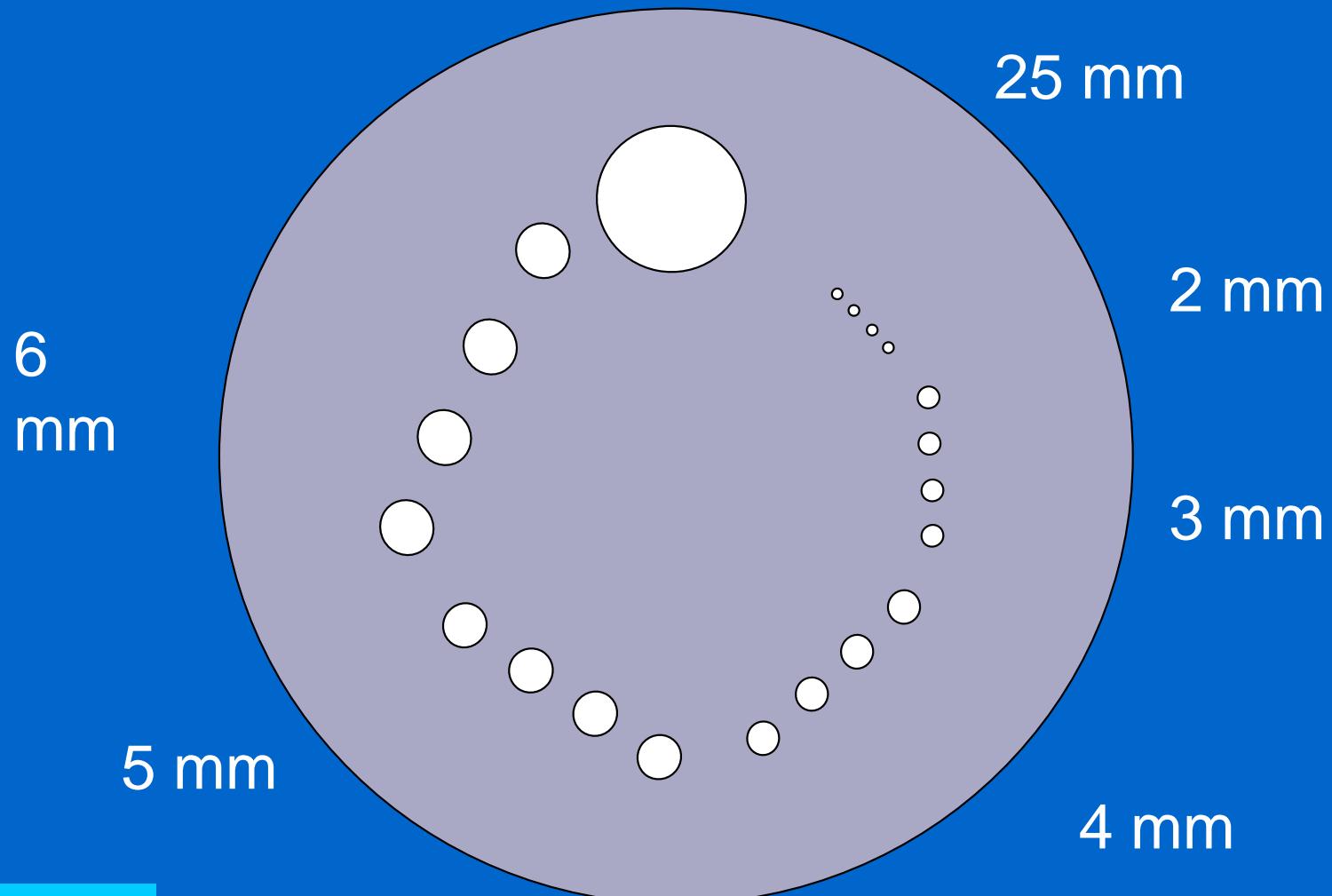
Dependency of CT Number of water on scan width and kVp, and scan width accuracy

	CT number of water	Top	Bottom	
Hi Res Chest = _____ mm	Mean CT # = _____ HU	_____ mm	_____ mm	1:5
≈ 3 mm = _____ mm	Mean CT # = _____ HU	_____ mm	_____ mm	1:6

Unknown Zone

Module 2: Low contrast detectability

- Low contrast = $6 \text{ HU} \pm 0.5 \text{ HU}$
 - (cf Catphan 10, 5, 3 HU single object of each size)



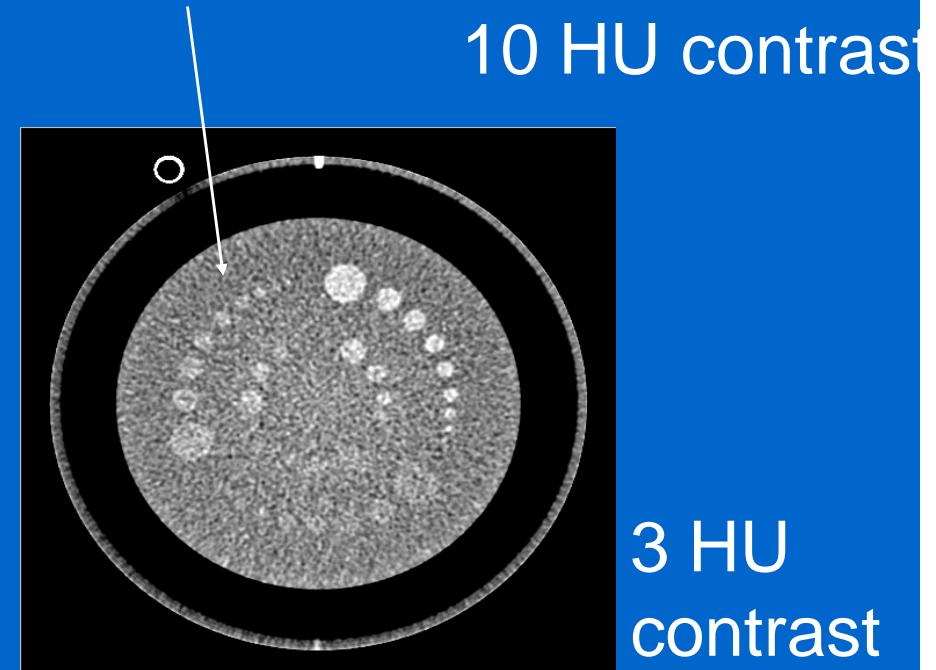
Phantoms for low contrast detectability (LCD)

- Catphan 500



2-15 mm diameter

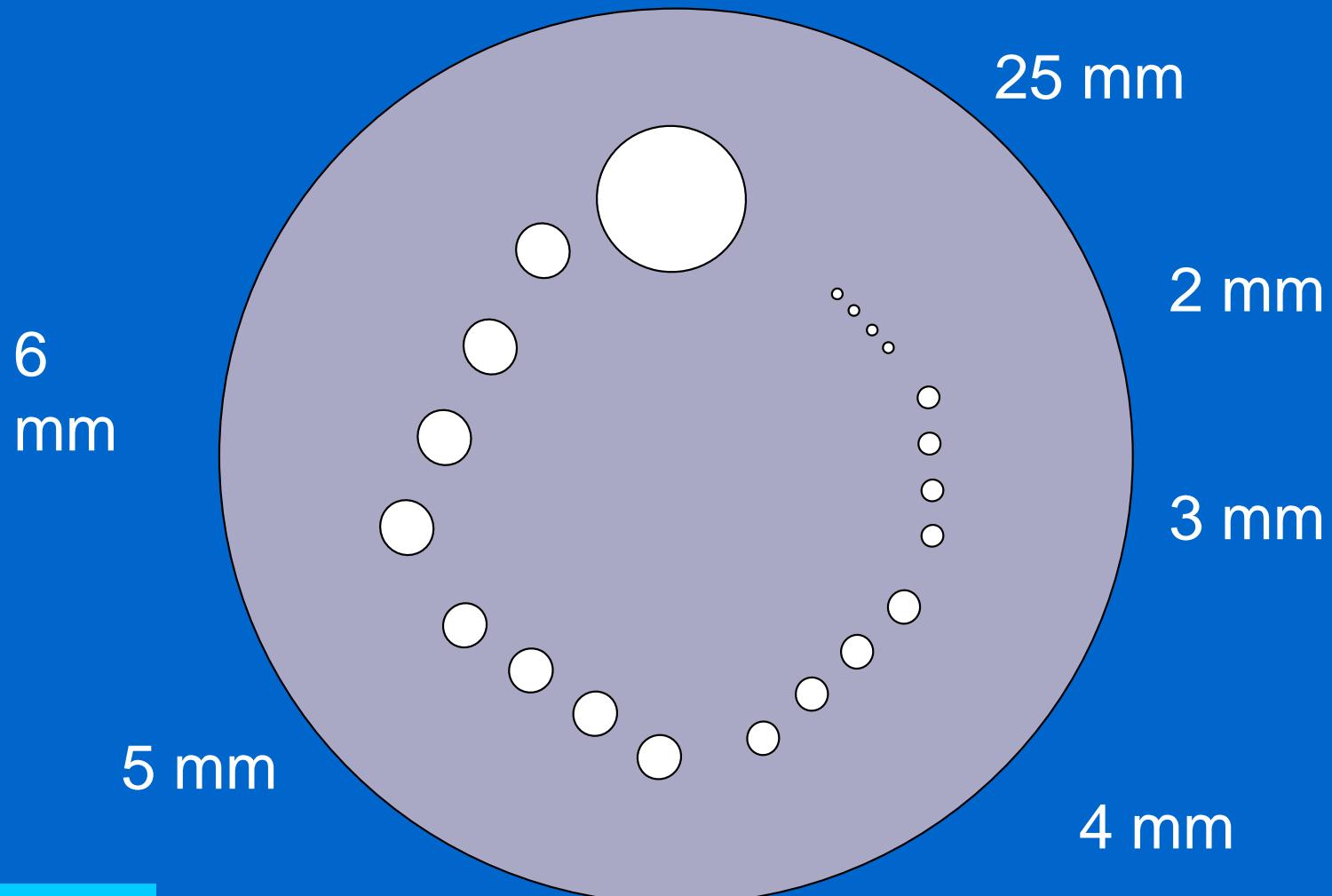
5 HU
contrast



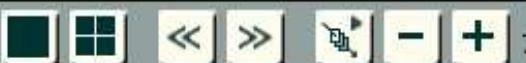
- Catphan is closest to a 'standard' phantom

Module 2: Low contrast detectability

- Low contrast = $6 \text{ HU} \pm 0.5 \text{ HU}$
 - (cf Catphan 10, 5, 3 HU single object of each size)



Browse



7 fps

Propagate

<no presentation state

Annotations:



TEST, ACR PHANTOM
19

[A]

TEST



[R]

[L]

SP:135.0mm

ST: 5.0mm

C101

W102

Not for diagnostic use

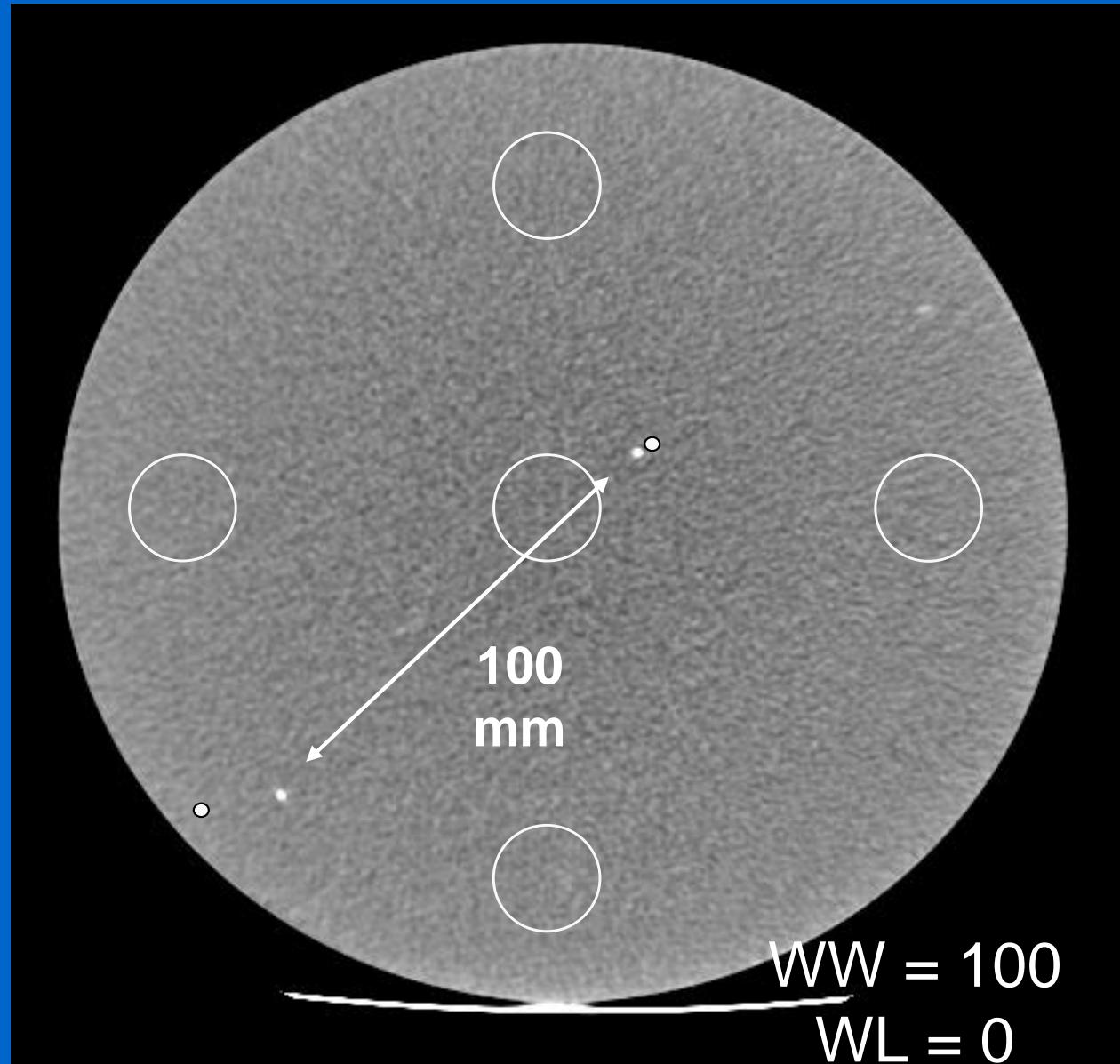
[P]

GE MEDICAL SYSTEMS



Module 3: uniformity, noise, distance, mtf & ssp

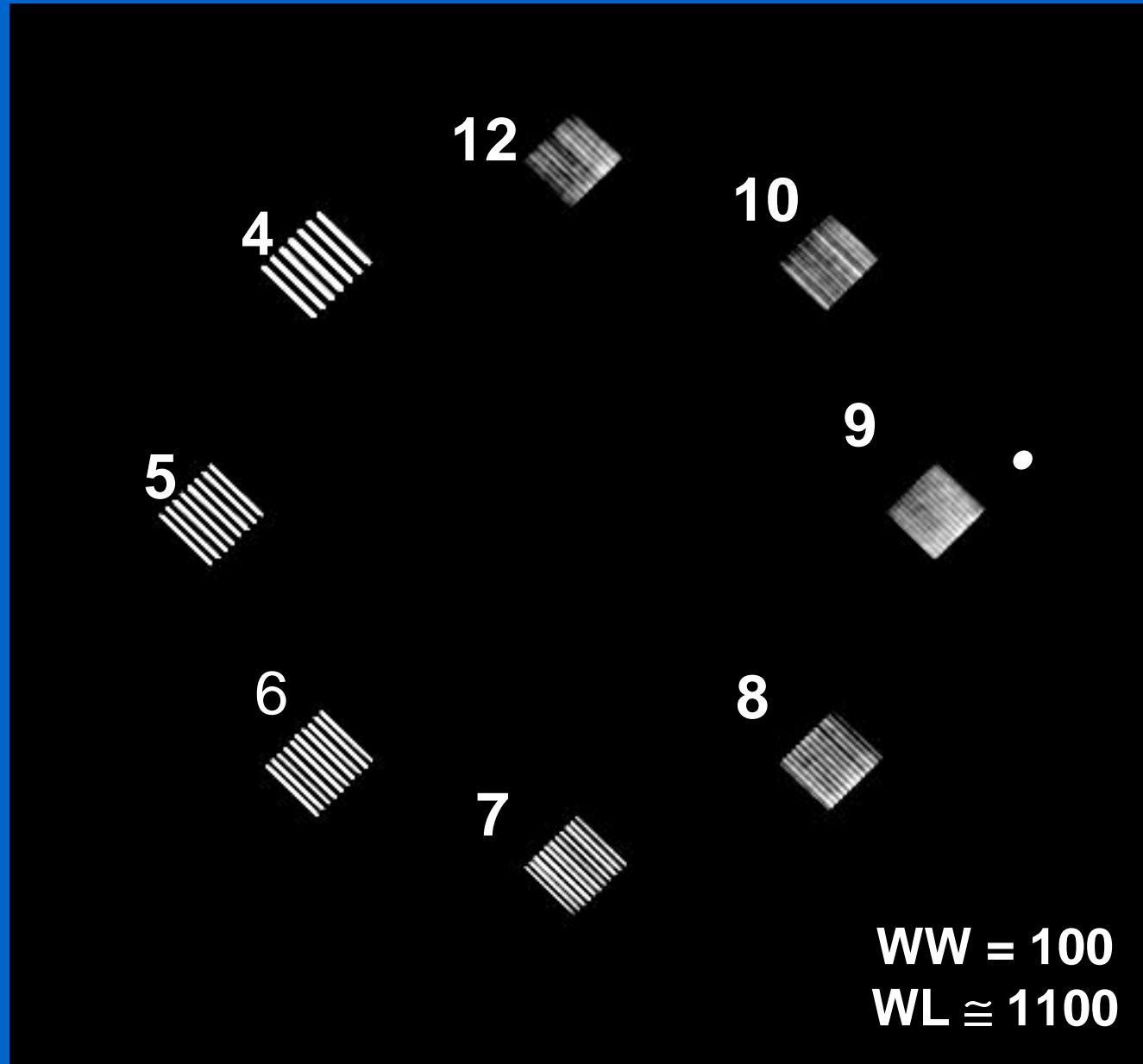
0.3 mm
tungsten
carbide beads



Module 4: high contrast spatial resolution

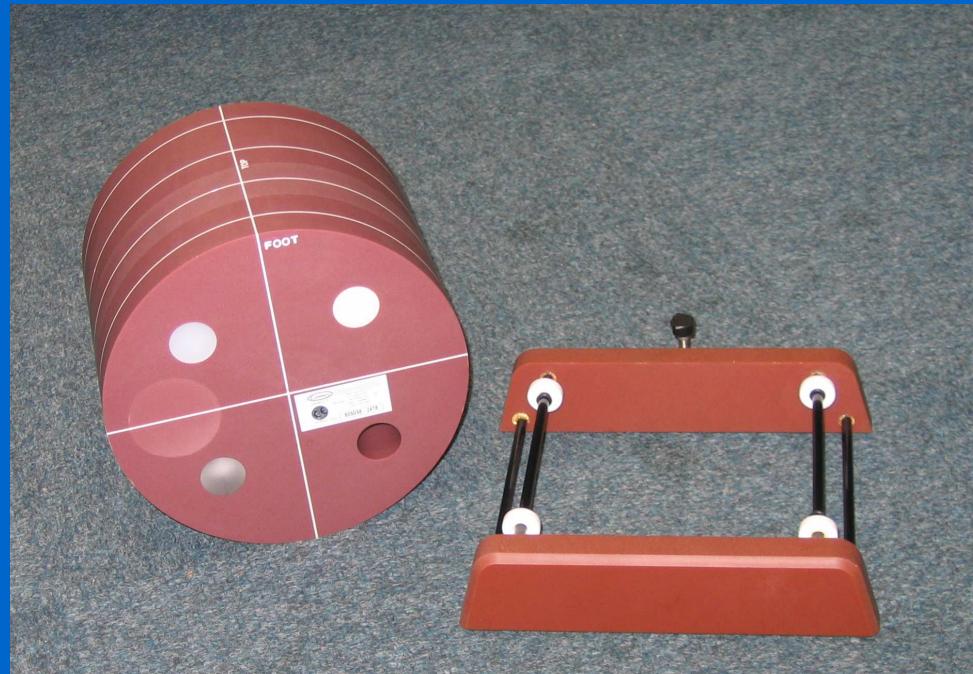
Bar patterns:
lp/cm

Aluminium in
solid water



Gammex RMI CT Phantom

- Nicely designed phantom
- Excellent phantom stand
- Good additional documentation from ACR
- Slightly limited for axial MSCT? (40 mm modules)
- Bar pattern doesn't go to maximum resolution
- LCD of 6HU different from manufacturers spec. (use 3HU from Catphan)



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CT Phantom

438

Solid Water® construction makes for a convenient, physically stable test device that provides reproducible results over time. The phantom features white scribed markings on the axial, coronal and sagittal axis, and HEAD, FOOT and TOP markings to ensure proper alignment. The CT Phantom consists of four modules designed to examine a broad range of scan parameters. Module 1 is designed to be used for Positioning and alignment and to provide CT number and information on slice thickness. Module 2 is used for detecting Low contrast resolution. It features a series of cylinders with different diameters, all at 0.6% (6 HU) difference from the background material. Module 3 is used for assessing CT number uniformity. It includes 2 small targets for testing in-plane distance measurement accuracy. Module 4 is used to monitor High contrast (spatial) resolution. It contains 8 high contrast resolution patterns of 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 lines per cm.

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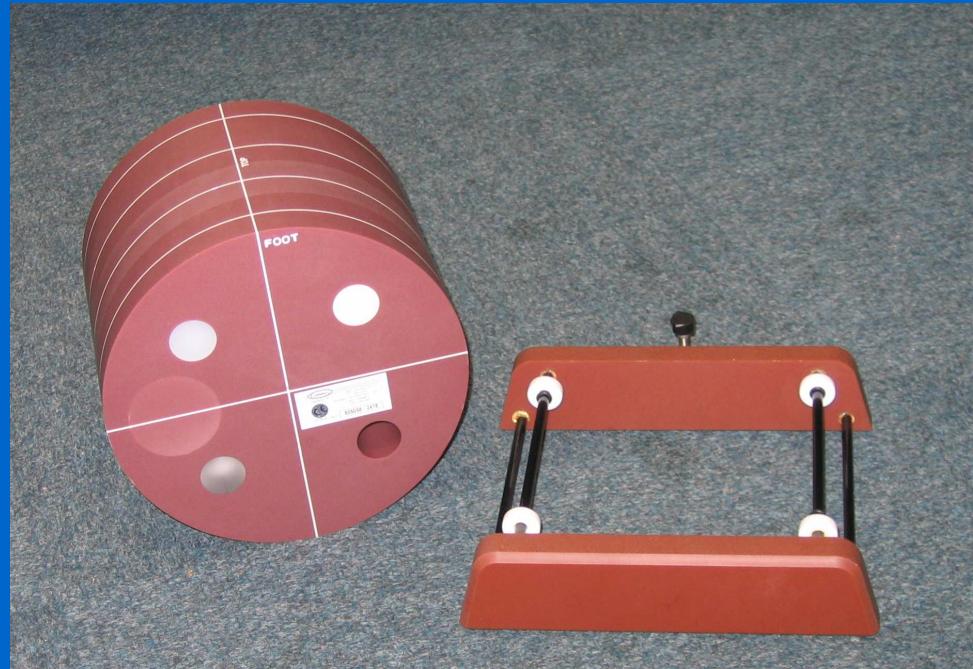
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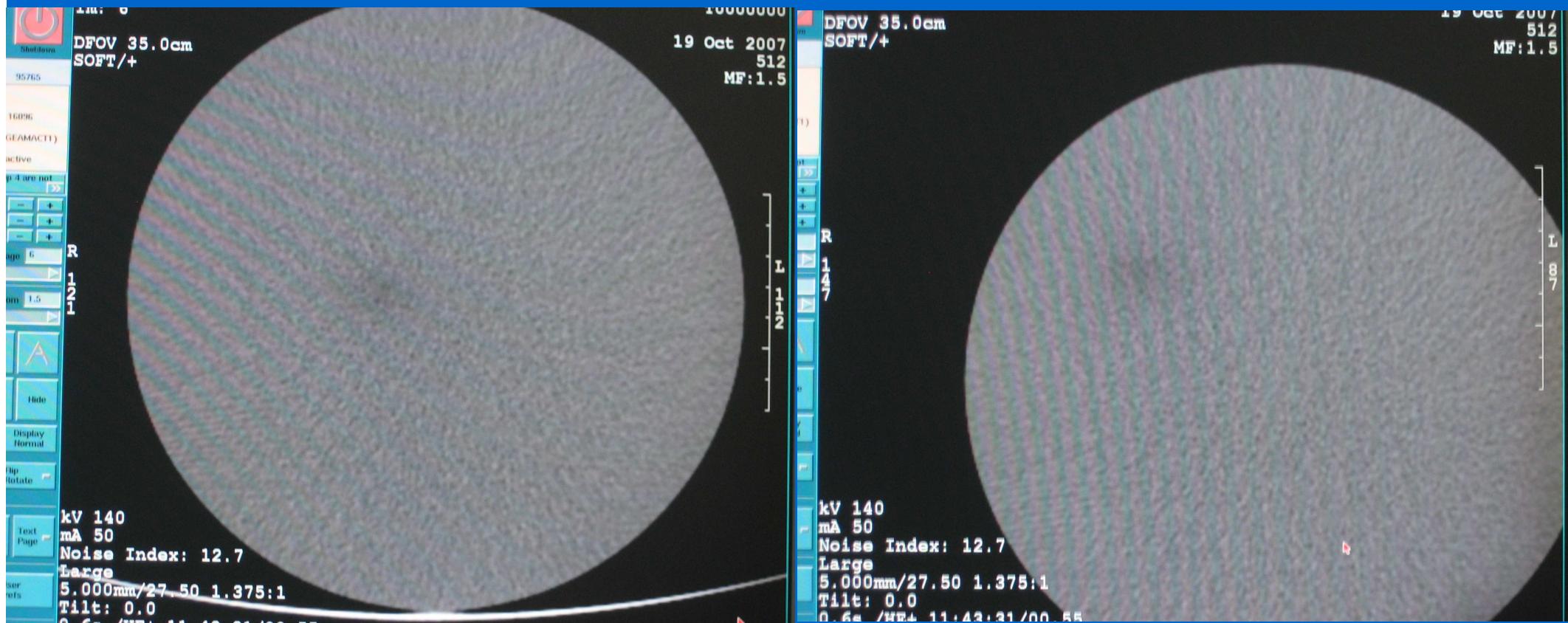
Reviews

Gammex RMI CT Phantom

- David Aikman
 - Gammex RMI Ltd., Nottingham
 - 01159850808, daa@gammex.com
- Cost
 - List price £5589 (not including stand),
 - Discount for early sales ~10%



Incidental Findings



Incidental Findings



Incidental Findings



Gammex RMI CT Phantom, 438 (ACR CT Accreditation phantom, 464)

S. Edyvean, Jim Weston

Imaging Performance Assessment of CT Scanners

St. Georges Hospital, London

www.impactscan.org

Some images courtesy of Cynthia McCullough
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA

