Claims

1. An X-ray shield for a horizontal X-ray procedure table, the X-ray shield comprising a horizontal support bar comprising at least one substantially vertically aligned slot, in combination with an X-ray opaque top shield comprising at least one downwardly projecting pin, the at least one pin being arranged so as to be disposable within the at least one slot from above in order to engage the top shield with the horizontal support bar, the X-ray shield further comprising a latch means engagable to prevent the separation of the top shield from the support bar when the top shield is engaged with the support bar, and wherein the latch means can be unengaged to permit the removal of the top shield from the support bar by withdrawing the at least one pin from the at least one slot.

2. The X-ray shield according to claim 1, wherein the top shield is semi-flexible and is a planar shield projecting substantially upwards from the horizontal support bar.

3. The X-ray shield according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the top shield has two pins and the support bar has two corresponding slots for the pins to engage.

4. The X-ray shield according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the latch means is arranged so that it does not prevent the engagement of the top shield with the support bar, but once the top shield is engaged to the support bar, the latch acts to prevent their disengagement.

5. The X-ray shield according to claim 4, wherein the latch means depends from the top shield and is bevelled so that is pushed aside as the top shield engages with the support bar, and once the top shield is fully engaged with the support bar, the latch can then lock into place by the action of gravity.

6. The X-ray shield according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the horizontal support bar is made up of a first horizontal support bar for attachment to a first depending X-ray opaque curtain and a second horizontal support bar, the second support bar being moveably attached to the first horizontal support bar.

7. The X-ray shield according to claim 6, wherein the top shield is engagable with the second support bar.

8. The X-ray shield according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the second support bar is movably attached to the first support bar to enable movement of the second support bar in both horizontal and vertical directions.

9. The X-ray shield according to any one of the preceding claims, which is adapted for attachment to a horizontal accessory rail of the procedure table.

10. The X-ray shield according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the horizontal support bar is horizontally moveable.

11. The X-ray shield according to claim 10 wherein the horizontal support bar further comprises two rigid horizontal portions horizontally hinged together.

12. The X-ray shield according to any one of claims 6 to 11, wherein the second support bar is hingedly attached to the first horizontal support bar.

13. The X-ray shield according to any one of claims 6 to 12, wherein the second support bar is biased to return to a horizontal orientation under gravity.

14. The X-ray shield according to any one of the claims which is adapted so that it can be fitted to either side of the X-ray procedure table.