General X-rays

Radiology Service

Information for patients

What is an X-ray?
An x-ray examination is used to produce images of the bones and internal organs. These images and the specialised Radiologist’s report can help your doctor diagnose or monitor a wide range of diseases or injuries.

Any part of the body can be x-rayed

What preparation is required for an X-ray?
- You must have a referral form from a medical practitioner.
- There is no other preparation required for a plain x-ray examination.

What happens during an X-ray?
- Patients are not always called in order of arriving in the x-ray department as the waiting room caters for many different types of procedures.
- Please let the radiographer know if there is any chance you may be pregnant.
- You will be asked to remove jewellery and other metal from the body part we are examining. Depending on the area to be x-rayed you may need to change into a hospital gown.
- The radiographer will ask you to lie or stand in different positions while the images are acquired. They may need to feel for bones or help you move into the required position.
- All x-rays require you to be as still as possible to avoid blurring the image. For some x-rays the radiographer will ask you to hold your breath for a short time.
- A single examination will take an average of 10 minutes, but may take up to one hour for more complex examinations or patients who need multiple body areas x-rayed.

What happens after an X-ray?
- All our x-rays are digital, you do not need to take films with you when you leave.
- The Radiologist’s report is automatically forwarded to your doctor.
- Please return to your doctor to discuss examination results.
Radiation Risk

Most medical imaging tests, except MRI and ultrasound, involve exposure to radiation from X-rays. Your doctor considers that the benefits of the examination you require to be greater than the small risk posed by the radiation exposure.

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References
Inside Radiology: www.insideradiology.com.au

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists®

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