

X-Ray Patient Information

What is an X-ray?

An X-Ray (radiograph) is an image that uses radiation to create pictures of bones and other internal organs such as your lungs and bowel.

Different parts of the body absorb the x-rays in varying degrees. Dense bone absorbs much of the radiation while soft tissue such as muscle, fat and organs, allow more of the x-rays to pass through them. As a result, bones appear white on an x-ray, soft tissue appears grey and air appears black.

How do I prepare for my X-ray?

No special preparation is required for an x-ray. You will be asked to remove all metal objects from the x-ray beams, and please advise the technologist if you have any metallic implants, artificial hips or metallic screws or pins in your hips.

What happens during my X-ray?

You will be asked to stand or lie down in different positions that allow the best digital image of the body part of interest.

During the x-ray, you will be asked to hold your breath in order to improve the quality of the images.

An x-ray may also sometimes be taken of an unaffected limb for comparison purposes.

Women should always inform their physician or the x-ray technologist if they are pregnant.

How long will it take?

An x-ray will only take a few minutes for each body part.

When the test is over, it may be necessary to wait a few minutes while the images are reviewed to see if more are needed.