



WHAT IS AN X-RAY?

An x-ray is a quick procedure that is commonly used as a means of looking at the human body. Some x-rays are performed in the standing position and others are taken lying down. Whilst x-rays themselves are painless, in some instances, you may experience slight discomfort caused by the position you are required to be placed in during the examination.

HOW DOES X-RAY WORK?

X-rays are a type of invisible electromagnetic radiation. To produce an x-ray of the human body, the patient is placed between the x-ray and the x-ray plate. The Radiographer then exposes the x-ray plate by turning on the x-ray tube for a tiny fraction of a second. X-ray plates work electronically and are connected to a computer to develop the images.

WHO DOES MY X-RAY AND REPORT?

The person who operates the equipment is a Radiographer. They are university trained and accredited with the Australian Institute of Radiography (AIR). The person who views and interprets the films is a doctor specialising in Radiology, known as a Radiologist. The Radiologist prepares a report for your Health Care Professional.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WHEN I HAVE MY X-RAY?

To allow for the best digital image of the area of clinical interest you will be asked to stand or lie down in different positions. During the x-ray you will be asked to remain as still as possible or hold your breath in order to improve image quality. Similar to a normal photograph, anything moving will appear blurry and may result in the x-ray needing to be repeated. Some x-ray procedures take a short amount of time and others may take longer depending on the complexity of the examination and the number of x-rays required. X-rays may be taken from several different angles so that the doctor can gain extensive information.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS OR SIDE EFFECTS FROM HAVING MY X-RAY?

The skill of the operator and the design of the machine ensure you receive the lowest radiation dose possible. The risk of harm from a diagnostic x-ray scan in an adult is very small and is balanced against the risk of not performing the scan. The information gained from an x-ray, such as an early diagnosis and treatment may have significant health benefits. It is very important that patients who are **pregnant** or think that they may be pregnant, must advise the radiographer before the examination. If there is any doubt, a different test that doesn't use x-rays may be performed. If no substitute test is appropriate, then the test may be cancelled pending confirmation of pregnancy as x-rays may be harmful to the unborn child.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR MY X-RAY?

You are not required to undertake any advance preparation for an x-ray. At the clinic, you may be asked to wear an examination gown if appropriate. All metal objects such as keys, clips, buttons, coins and mobile phones must be removed from the path of the x-ray beam. Some body parts which are sensitive to radiation may be protected with a lead shield.

Things to bring along to your appointment:

- Previous films for area of clinical interest.
- Referral (this is a legal requirement)
- Medicare or Department of Veteran Affairs card (as we Bulk Bill most eligible Medicare services).
- Workcover claim number (if you have a current claim or intend lodging a claim with Workcover)

FEES

Exact Radiology Clinics bulk bill most Medicare eligible services, however some examination incur a fee. Our booking staff will advise you when you phone to make your appointment. If a fee applies, payment is requested on the day of the examination.