

BENEFITS & RISKS



BENEFITS

- X-ray is a good method of viewing many parts of the body, especially hands, feet, spine, joints, chest, sinuses, abdomen, etc.
- It is an excellent diagnostic imaging test because it can provide a fast report that will either immediately diagnose a condition or provide enough information to determine the next best course of action for the patient.
- It is particularly useful in emergency diagnosis and treatment.

RISKS

- As with all x-ray procedures, you will be exposed to a small amount of radiation. There is a low risk associated with this exposure. We are continually striving to ensure that precautions are taken to minimize the radiation used to complete required examinations.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Please advise your doctor and the technologist performing the procedure of the following:

- If there is a possibility that you could be pregnant
- If you have any food allergies
- If you have had allergic reactions to anesthetic or x-ray contrast dyes
- If you have a history of asthma, heart, or kidney problems
- Any medications you are taking

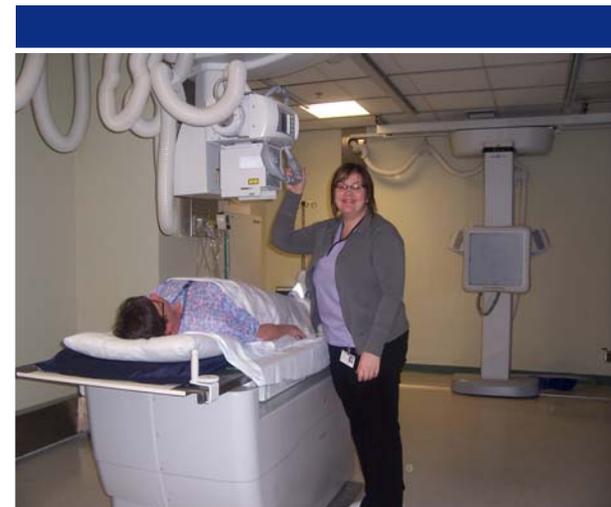
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on specific radiography examinations and procedures please visit:

www.easternhealth.ca

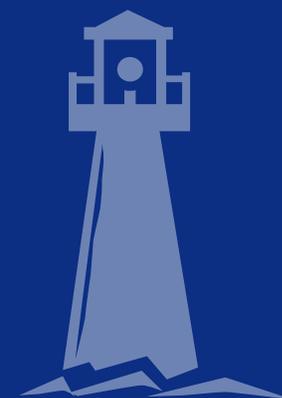
Go to the "Our Services" tab,
Select "Diagnostic Imaging"

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GENERAL RADIOGRAPHY (X-RAY)

www.easternhealth.ca



X-RAY

X-ray examinations are performed by Medical Radiation Technologists who complete a 3-year program to become qualified to perform a variety of x-ray imaging procedures.

X-ray is the most frequently used imaging method for seeing the inside of the body. X-rays are still used in the majority of cases as the most cost-effective way to diagnose such conditions as chest diseases or broken bones.

FLUOROSCOPY

This test is performed by a radiologist and allows images to be seen in real time. Radiologists can use fluoroscopy to see blood vessels and internal organs as they work. Fluoroscopy is used to perform barium enemas, upper GI series or to guide procedures such as angioplasty, lung biopsy, etc.

CONTRAST STUDIES (DYE TESTS)

Contrast studies use contrast (dye) such as barium, water, iodine and air to see certain parts of the body. Barium, water and air are used to see the colon or bowels and the stomach. Iodine is used to see organs such as the kidneys, and to see blood vessels. Dye tests can be performed in X-ray, CT, MRI, Angiography, Interventional, etc.

PREPARATION

There is no preparation required for a routine x-ray examination. You may be asked to change into a gown and will be required to remove any jewelry or other metal objects as they will appear in the x-ray.

Instructions for preparation are specific to the examination you are booked for and will be included in the letter you receive to advise you of your appointment date and time. The doctor who ordered your examination may also give you information about the required preparation.

PROCEDURE

The Technologist will ask patients to sit, stand or lie flat on an x-ray table and to remain still. Several x-rays may be taken from different angles. X-ray procedures are generally painless and usually take less than 30 minutes.

If patients have broken bones, some discomfort may be experienced while the technologist positions the body to obtain the pictures required for diagnoses.

SOME EXAMPLES OF RADIOLOGY TESTS INCLUDE:

- bone x-rays - hands, feet, etc.
- chest x-rays
- abdomen x-rays
- barium enema (bowel x-rays)
- GI series (stomach x-rays)
- spine x-rays (back or neck)

WHO REPORTS THE TEST?

Results are reported by radiologists - doctors who are specialized in reading x-ray images. Your doctor should receive a signed report within 10 business days. You should follow-up with your doctor to discuss the results of your test.

X-ray images are now stored on computerized systems which allows diagnostic reports and referral images to be seen at other hospitals across the province.



Abdomen X-ray