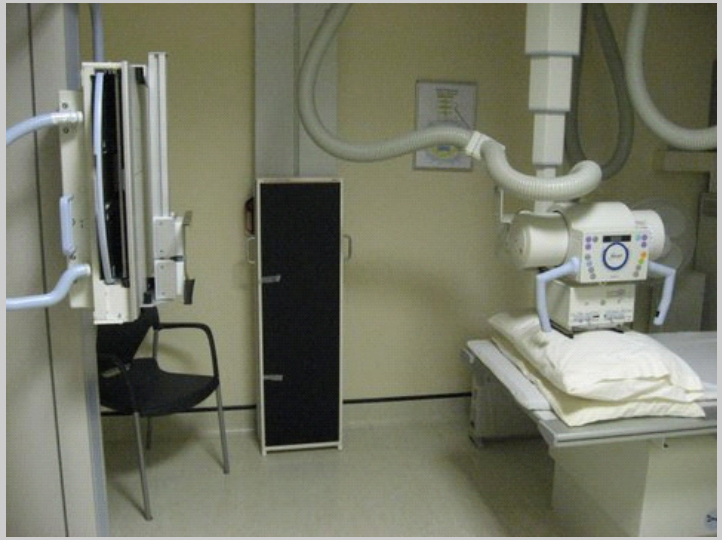
Global Diagnostics

Having an X-Ray



at
One of our clinics

What are X-rays?

An X-ray examination is a quick painless way for clinicians to diagnose and monitor many health conditions. X-rays use a form of radiation to produce images of bones and certain tissues within the body.

How do X-rays work?

An X-ray machine projects a beam through parts of the body. Some of the X-rays get absorbed by denser parts of the body such as bone, and will appear white on the radiograph (the X-ray image). An X-ray sensitive detector, (X-ray cassette) contains an imaging plate that is placed under the part of the body being examined and captures X-rays that have been allowed to pass through structures of the body. The final X-ray image will contain shades of grey which define how many X-rays have been allowed to pass through the body.

What can X-rays show?

Bones

They can demonstrate fractures and other abnormalities

Joints

Demonstrate joint spaces and abnormalities such as Arthritis

Soft Tissue

Changes in the density of some softer tissue can be shown as a 'shadow', an example is an air filled lung or breast tissue

Are X-rays harmful?

There are some small risks involved with X-rays, but a plain X-ray produces only a small amount of radiation, equivalent to that which we all receive from the atmosphere over a period of two or three days.

Radiographers who perform the examination are trained to ensure that the radiation dose associated with the production of X-ray images is always kept to a minimum and that X-ray examinations are not performed unnecessarily.

However, X-rays can be harmful to a developing foetus so female patients who are, or might be pregnant, must inform the radiographer before the examination.

Do I need any special preparation before an X-ray examination?

Usually there is no preparation required.

What can I expect when I arrive?

Depending on the area being examined, you may be asked to change into a gown. This is to avoid metal or plastic clothing items showing on the X-ray as this can obscure the picture seen by the clinician.

What will the procedure involve?

You will be taken to the X-ray room by the Radiographer; this is the person who has had specialist training in taking X-ray images and has the required qualifications to practise Radiography. Your personal details will be checked and the examination will be explained to you. All women between the ages of 12 and 55 will be asked if there is any possibility of them being pregnant before any examination can be performed.

You may be asked to stand, sit on a chair or lie on a bed, depending on the area being imaged. The Radiographer will position the X-ray camera over the area to be examined and you will be asked to remain still during the procedure, as movement can affect the quality of the image and result in the process having to be repeated. For some examinations you may be asked to hold your breath whilst the X-ray is taken.

The Radiographer will move behind a screen to take the image at a control panel, but will be able to see and hear you at all times. Often the Radiographer will need to take two or more X-rays of the same area but from different angles to ensure maximum information is obtained for each examination.

Once the X-ray is completed it will be viewed on a computer monitor and stored digitally.

How long will my X-ray take?

The examination will normally take 5-15 minutes depending on the area of the body being imaged and the views required.

What happens after my X-ray?

You may be asked to wait while the X-rays are reviewed to ensure they meet with the requirements of your doctor/consultant. If no further images are required, you will be free to leave the clinic.

What happens to my results?

A Consultant Radiologist, who specialises in interpreting X-rays will assess your images and write a report on the findings. The report will be returned to the medical professional that referred you for X-ray.

All Enquiries

Norwich Please call 01603 812266
Northampton Please call 01604 885002

Or visit our website www.globaldiagnostics.co.uk

Important Information

This is a general patient information leaflet only.

The information you are given may be different to that provided here. This is because the information given to you is tailor made to your individual treatment.

It is very important that you follow the instructions that are given by your clinician.

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