



Steinberg Diagnostic Medical Imaging Centers

"Where Imaging Revolves Around You"™

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ROUTINE X-RAY

Patient information guide :

Thank you for choosing **Steinberg Diagnostic Medical Imaging Centers** to perform your **Routine X-Ray** examination. We realize you may have questions regarding your upcoming exam and hope this information will help explain the procedure to you. If you have further questions, feel free to call our office At (702) 732 - 6000.

What is a Routine X-Ray?

The X-ray has been called one of the most significant advances in all of medical history. It is used in many different ways in medical diagnosis. An x-ray image is produced when a small amount of radiation passes through the body and strikes a sheet of sensitive film placed on the other side of the body. The ability of x-rays to penetrate tissues and bones varies according to the tissue's composition and mass. Bone, which contains calcium, does not let much radiation through and results in white images on the x-ray film. The lungs, which are filled with air, allow nearly all x-rays to strike the film resulting in a black film image.

Common uses of this procedure.

Probably the most common use of bone radiographs is to assist the physician in identifying and treating fractures. X-ray images of the skull, spine, joints, and extremities are performed every minute of every day in hospital emergency rooms, sports medicine centers, orthopedic clinics, and physician offices. Images of the injury can show even very fine hairline fractures or chips, while images produced after treatment ensure that a fracture has been properly aligned and stabilized for healing. Bone x-rays are an essential tool in orthopedic surgery, such as spinal repair, joint replacements, or fracture reductions.

X-ray images can be used to diagnose and monitor the progression of degenerative diseases such as arthritis. They also play an important role in the detection and diagnosis of cancer, although usually computed tomography (CT) or MRI is better at defining the extent and the nature of a suspected cancer. On regular x-rays severe osteoporosis is visible, but bone density determination detects early loss of bone density. Bone density determination is usually done on special equipment

How does it work?

Routine X-Rays involve exposing a part of the body to a small dose of radiation to produce an image of the internal organs. When x-rays penetrate the body, they are absorbed in varying amounts by different parts of the anatomy. Ribs, for example, will absorb much of the radiation and, therefore, appear white or light gray on the image. Lung tissue absorbs little radiation and appears dark on the image. Usually, all chest organs will appear normal, and the radiographs will be filed away. The exposed film is either placed in a developing machine, producing images much like the negatives from a 35-mm camera, or are digitally stored on computer. After a few months or years, the images may be used to compare with later radiographic views of the chest if illness develops

Benefits VS risks of Routine X-Ray?

BENEFITS	RISKS
X-ray imaging is useful to diagnose bone injury and disease, such as fractures, bone infections, arthritis, and cancer.	X-rays are a type of invisible electromagnetic radiation and create no sensation when they pass through the body. Modern x-ray techniques use only a fraction of the x-ray dose required in the early days of radiology.
Because x-ray imaging is so fast and easy, it is particularly useful in emergency diagnosis and treatment.	Special care is taken during x-ray examinations to ensure maximum safety for the patient by shielding the abdomen and pelvis with a lead apron, with the exception of those examinations in which the abdomen and pelvis are being imaged. Women should always inform their doctor or x-ray technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.
X-ray equipment is relatively inexpensive and widely available in physician offices, ambulatory care centers, nursing homes, and other locations. So examinations are usually convenient for both patients and physicians.	During a procedure, a patient is exposed to approximately 20 milliroentgens of radiation. This compares with the 100 milliroentgens of radiation we are all exposed to each year from sources such as the ultraviolet rays of the sun and the traces of uranium found in the soil.

Patient Comfort.

You will not feel any discomfort during the procedure.

Preparation required.

General x-rays require no preparation

After the test.

The patient may leave immediately following the exam because the X-rays has no side effects

Results of the test

At SDMI, we have a radiologist on site at all times so the test will be interpreted promptly. The results will be phoned, faxed or mailed to the referring physician. He/she will share the results with the patient.

I am ready to schedule an appointment (requirements for appointment)

To schedule a Routine X-Ray with SDMI, please call 732 – 6000