



X-RAY

What to expect from your x-ray

What is an x-ray?

An x-ray is a simple and painless test that takes detailed pictures of the inside of your body. X-rays are a form of radiation energy able to pass through human tissue. The x-ray machine uses a tube to produce an x-ray beam which is carefully aimed on the part of the body being examined.

Are x-rays safe?

Yes. The dose of radiation from a standard x-ray is the same amount of radiation that the average person receives from 10 days of naturally occurring background radiation. Your doctor has referred you for an x-ray having fully considered the benefits and risks. You will not feel any pain from our x-ray machine.

What are the limitations of x-rays?

Standard x-rays do not always show the full extent of diseases; especially those of the soft tissues. Your referring doctor may recommend that you have a more detailed scan (for example, an MRI or CT scan). Please visit our website or ask one of our team members for further information about MRI and CT scans: www.harleystreet-medicalcentre.com.

How do I prepare for my x-ray?

You don't need to do anything special to prepare. On the day of your appointment you will need to arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time.

What can I expect on the day of my x-ray?

We will ask you to complete an x-ray safety and consent form. Once we have reviewed your form we will decide whether to go ahead with your x-ray.

You may be provided with a gown to change into, which helps to ensure clear scanning images. We will ask you to remove any loose metal objects; including keys and jewellery. You will have access to a locker for storing your belongings during the x-ray.

What can I expect during my scan?

Depending on the type of x-ray you are having, we may ask you to lie on a table, sit or stand.

Once you are in position, the radiographer will stand behind a screen. It is important that you stay completely still during the scan. The radiographer may even ask you to hold your breath at certain points. This is because the movement of the lungs during regular breathing can blur the images, making the scan less accurate. The radiographer may ask you to change position to allow images to be taken from different viewpoints.

After the x-rays have been taken, the radiographer will look at them to make sure no further images are needed. If you are wearing a gown you will be able to change back into your clothes.

How long will it take?

The x-ray will typically take no longer than 5 to 10 minutes.

What happens after my x-ray?

You may eat and drink as usual and return to your normal daily routine straightaway.

How do I receive my results?

After your scan, if you are a private patient the radiographer will provide you with a CD of your images to take away. (We do not usually issue CDs for non-private patients, unless the doctor or consultant who referred you has asked us to).

A radiologist will write a report and send it to the doctor or consultant who referred you, usually within 48 hours. Your report will contain a summary of the radiologist's findings and their recommendations for further follow-up.

You will need to arrange an appointment to discuss your report with the doctor or consultant who referred you for the x-ray.

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Our chaperone service

All patients are entitled to have a chaperone present for any consultation, examination or procedure if they feel it is necessary. This chaperone may be a family member or friend.

Sometimes it may be necessary for a formal chaperone (for example, a trained member of staff) to be present.

Please let us know before your appointment if you would like a chaperone.

Further questions

If you have any further questions or worries please do not hesitate to reach out to a member of our team. Your comfort and safety is of utmost importance to us.

For further information, including contact details and directions on how to find us, please visit our website: www.harleystreet-medicalcentre.com.

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We are committed to providing clean, safe premises for our clients in line with the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Infections and related guidance (December 2010) and all other Department of Health guidance.