



What are the benefits?

An x-ray is a quick and easy way for doctors to view and assess a wide range of abnormalities, which can then be treated.

When will I get my results?

After the examination the images will be reviewed by a radiologist who will report on the findings of the scan. This report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will then discuss the findings with you and decide on treatment required, if any.

We will not be able to discuss your results directly with you. Only your doctor or Consultant can do this.



Alliance Medical Diagnostic Imaging

Alliance Medical is a specialist provider of Diagnostic Imaging services to the public and private sectors throughout Ireland. We believe in providing our patients with easily accessible, high quality clinical care, using appropriate technology, in a timely manner within a caring environment.

Additionally we want to assist our referring physicians with a locally delivered, high quality, professional and efficient diagnostic service which addresses their patients' diagnostic needs with regard to accessibility and quality of care.

Locations

Alliance Medical are located throughout Ireland. To make an appointment at one of our Diagnostic Imaging Centres please log onto our website www.alliancemedical.ie to find your nearest Alliance Medical facility.



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INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

X-RAY



www.alliancemedical.ie

What is X-ray?

An X-ray is a painless medical test that helps doctors diagnose a multitude of medical conditions. An X-ray involves exposing a body part to ionising radiation to produce a 2-dimensional image, based on the absorption of x-rays by different tissues.

What does X-ray equipment look like?

The X-ray room will typically consist of an X-ray tube, a table or couch and a wall stand. There is also an operating panel and screen that the radiographer will stand behind when taking the x-rays.



How does it work?

An x-ray is a very controlled form of radiation which is focussed using an x-ray tube over the area being examined. The tube produces small bursts of radiation which is absorbed to a different degree by different parts of the body producing an image on a special imaging plate. You cannot feel the x-rays. Image processing and viewing is done digitally with modern x-rays however the images can be printed onto special film.

How do I prepare for my X-ray?

X-ray examinations do not require any preparation. If you are pregnant or if there is a possibility that you are pregnant please let us know when we are scheduling your appointment.

Please let us know if you have any disabilities or special requirements when making your appointment so that we can ensure we are able to offer you the highest quality service.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes someone may accompany you on the day of your examination. However this person will not be permitted to stay with you during the X-ray.

What happens when I arrive?

On the day of your examination you should arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time. You will check in at reception. You will be asked to take a seat in the waiting area until collected by a member of staff. The examination will be explained to you and you will be given the opportunity to ask any questions.

You will be asked to remove metal objects from the area to be examined or you might be asked to change into a gown.

What happens during the X-ray?

You will be taken into the X-ray room and will either be asked to lie down on a couch or stand against the wall stand for your x-ray. The radiographer will position you for the x-ray and will use an imaging plate to capture the image. The x-ray tube will be moved over the body part to be x-rayed.

The x-ray normally only takes a few minutes but can take longer depending on the examination.

What are the risks?

The use of ionising radiation is not entirely risk free. However x-rays are very low dose procedures and the risks associated with the examination are outweighed by the potential benefits.

As a guide:

Diagnostic Procedure	Effective Dose (mSv)	Equivalent No. of Chest X-rays
Chest X-rays	0.02	1
Abdomen X-ray	0.7	35

On average in Ireland, we receive 4.1 mSv of natural background radiation each year. This is equivalent to having 200 Chest X-rays per year.

You should make your doctor aware of other X-rays or scans that you have had recently as further X-rays might be unnecessary.