

## Bone X-ray



A bone X-ray is a way to take pictures of bones. It may also be called bone radiography. In this test, a low dose of radiation is passed through the body, producing digital images of the bones or images on a piece of film.



### Why might I need a bone X-ray?

X-rays of bones may be taken to:

- Find breaks or chips (fractures) in the bones
- Make sure that a fracture has been properly set for healing, or make sure that a fracture has healed properly
- Plan surgery on the spine and joints, or check the results of this surgery
- Guide surgery, such as a spinal repair or fusion, joint replacement, and fracture reduction
- Find foreign objects in soft tissues around or in the bones
- Monitor the progress of arthritis and other bone or joint diseases
- Detect and diagnose bone cancer

### How do I get ready for a bone X-ray?

- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown (depending on the area of your body being examined)

- Tell the technologist if there is any chance that you are pregnant.
- Remove hair clips, jewelry, dentures, and other metal items that could show up on the X-ray.

## **What happens during a bone X-ray?**

You will lie, sit, or stand so that the part of your body being examined is underneath the X-ray equipment. The technologist will position you.

- Certain parts of your body, such as your reproductive organs, may be shielded to protect them from radiation.
- You will need to remain still while the X-rays are being taken. Pillows and foam pads may be used to help you stay in position.
- You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds at a time.
- You may need to hold several positions so that more than one view may be taken.

## **What are the risks of a bone X-ray?**

Your healthcare provider can discuss the risks of X-rays with you. In most cases, the benefits of bone X-ray far outweigh the risks.

## **What happens after a bone X-ray?**

The whole procedure usually takes less than 15 minutes.

- You'll be asked to wait until the technologist has looked at the images to see if more need to be done.
- A doctor called a radiologist will look at the X-ray results and send a report to your healthcare provider.
- Your healthcare provider will discuss the results with you when the images are ready.

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