

Yes, you generally **can** get a standard diagnostic X-ray (such as a chest X-ray, dental X-ray, or broken bone X-ray) with a Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) device.

However, there are a few important safety steps you should follow to ensure the process goes smoothly and does not interfere with your device.

1. Tell the Technician Immediately

Before the procedure begins, inform the radiologist or technician that you have an implanted DBS device.

- **Why:** The device (battery pack and wires) will show up clearly on the X-ray image. If the technician knows it is there, they can ensure they don't mistake it for something else or position the equipment in a way that puts unnecessary pressure on the implant site.

2. Turn the Device OFF (Usually Recommended)

While standard X-rays generally do not carry enough energy to damage the device, the radiation *can* sometimes cause the device to behave unpredictably or cause you to feel unpleasant stimulation.¹

- **Standard protocol:** Most manufacturers (like Medtronic, Boston Scientific, and Abbott) recommend turning your stimulation **OFF** just before the X-ray is taken and turning it back **ON** immediately after.
- **Check your remote:** Bring your patient programmer/remote with you so you can easily switch it off and on.

3. Bring Your ID Card

Always carry your DBS Patient Identification Card. This card lists the specific model of your device and the manufacturer's contact information.² If the medical staff has any doubts, they can call the number on the card for immediate verification.

Summary of Risks by Scan Type

Scan Type	Safety Status	Precaution
Standard X-Ray	Safe	Turn device OFF during scan.
Dental X-Ray	Safe	Turn device OFF during scan.

CT Scan	Generally Safe	Turn device OFF. (CT is more powerful than X-ray; some patients report momentary "shocks" if left on).
MRI	Restricted / Conditional	STOP. Only specific machines and settings are safe. Consult your neurologist first.
Diathermy	UNSAFE	NEVER allow therapeutic diathermy (deep heat treatment).

Next Step

Do you have your **patient programmer** (remote) with you, or do you need me to help you look up the specific "X-ray mode" instructions for your brand of device (Medtronic, Abbott, or Boston Scientific)?