

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.<sup>1</sup>

- **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.<sup>2</sup> 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.

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