

WHAT IS AN X-RAY?

X-RAYS are invisible beams of ionizing radiation that pass through the body and are altered by different types of tissue. This results in two-dimensional pictures of bones, lungs, and other organs. These exams are not painful but will require your child to stay still while the pictures are taken. In some cases parents may be invited to stay in the room to help keep the child comfortable. Depending on the area being x-rayed, a lead shield may be used to decrease radiation exposure to other areas of the body.

COMMON USES

The most common use of routine x-ray imaging is to help diagnose problems with the heart and lungs, as well as bone injury and disease, such as fractures, bone infections, and osteoarthritis.

SAFETY

As with other medical procedures, x-rays are safe when used with care. Our radiologists and x-ray technologists have been trained to use the minimum amount of radiation necessary to obtain diagnostic results. The amount of radiation used in most examinations is very small and the benefits greatly outweigh the risks. X-rays are produced only for a brief moment while the exposure is made. For more information about radiation safety during x-ray procedures please refer to www.Imagegently.com.

If you think your daughter may be pregnant, it is important to inform the technologist.

PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR AN X-RAY EXAM

There is no special preparation for a routine x-ray exam. Children should wear comfortable clothing and leave valuables at home. Your child may be asked to change into a hospital gown. After the images are taken, the technologist will inform you when it is ok to leave.



X-RAY EXAM RESULTS

The x-ray images will be reviewed by a pediatric radiologist. A report will be sent to your doctor, who will discuss and explain the results with you. Results are generally available from your child's doctor within 12 to 24 hours. If the exam was done on an emergency basis, the results can be made available more quickly. In most cases, results cannot be given directly to the patient or family at the time of the test. If there are serious or unexpected findings, your child's doctor will be notified immediately.

For more information about the Primary Children's Imaging Department please visit www.primarychildrens.org/imaging



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