

Digital X-Ray

I@OP is proud to be using the latest Philips Digital Diagnostic VM X-Ray unit for all general imaging. Digital X-rays are a very quick, painless and safe procedure that allows for an initial diagnosis before treatment or more complex examinations are performed utilising a much lower radiation dose to the patient than conventional units.

These X-rays are performed with you either, standing, sitting in a chair or lying on the table, depending on the area being imaged. Patients are requested to bring their signed referral form with them and hand it to reception staff before their examination can begin.

Preparation

For plain X-rays there is no special dietary preparation that is required.

Clothing with metal buttons, zippers, belts, braces, pockets with wallets and mobile phones are not permitted in the area of the X-ray beam. These will be removed and a hospital gown will be worn for the examination.

During the examination, the Radiographer will ask questions about your injury and may be required to palpate areas on the body to ensure the correct position is obtained.

You may also be asked to hold your breath while the exposure is taken to ensure no movement occurs, but this will only be for a few seconds.

Advantages of Digital Radiography [DR] over Computed Radiography [CR] and conventional X-rays

- Lower patient dose
- Immediate image reproduction
- Quicker patient exam flow
- Increased room use
- Higher spatial and contrast resolution of images
- No chemicals required to process images compared to conventional imaging.

Pregnancy

Female patients who are or think they may be pregnant must inform the Radiographer of this before their examination begins.

X-rays during pregnancy should be avoided if possible due to the risk to the unborn child. An alternative test may be performed as a substitute, or the procedure cancelled until further discussion with your referring clinician as to the benefits gained by performing the examination.

Procedure

Depending on which examination has been requested by your referring clinician will determine the length of time and exposures required to complete the X-ray test.

Your X-ray will be performed by a qualified Medical Imaging Technologist specialising in Digital Radiography procedures. When the examination is completed you will be asked to wait and take your X-rays with you or, if requested by your clinician we can forward the digital images to their practice.

Hard copy X-rays should be stored in a flat position at home for future reference.

Technology

Your X-rays when completed will be reviewed by a qualified Radiologist and a report generated and forwarded to your referring clinician. Make sure you arrange a follow up appointment with your referring clinician to discuss results and ensure correct treatment is obtained.