

holding still or lying on the hard exam table. Your technologist will help you find the most comfortable position possible to obtain the image.

FGS/RAD/102/01E

Who interprets my results and how do I get them?

A radiologist will analyse your results and send a signed report to your primary care or referring physician, who will share the results with you.

In an emergency situation, the results of a chest x-ray can be available almost immediately for review by your physician.

MISSION STATEMENT

To act as a model institution to alleviate the suffering of patients with cancer through the application of modern methods of curative and palliative therapy irrespective of their ability to pay, the education of health care professionals and the public and perform research into the causes and treatment of cancer.

GETTING AN X-RAY OF THE CHEST



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What is an x-ray of the chest?

X-rays are the oldest and most frequently used form of medical imaging. It is a painless medical test that helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions and involves exposing a part of the body to a small and safe dose of radiation to produce pictures of the inside of the body.

An x-ray of the chest produces images of the heart, lungs, airways, blood vessels and the bones of the spine and chest.

Why do I need to have this procedure?

Your physician has probably asked you to have an x-ray of the chest to evaluate the lungs, heart and chest wall. It is used to diagnose symptoms such as shortness of breath, a bad or persistent cough, chest pain or injury, or fever. Doctors often use an x-ray of the chest to monitor and treat conditions such as pneumonia, heart failure or other heart problems, and lung cancer, among others.

How can I prepare for the procedure?

No special preparation is required for this procedure.

You may be asked to remove your clothing and wear a gown during the procedure.

Remove all metal objects such as jewellery, eyeglasses, dentures and hairpins. These objects can affect x-ray images and should be removed prior to your exam.

Women should always let their physician or technologist know if there is a possibility that they are pregnant because the x-rays can harm your baby. If an x-ray is absolutely necessary, precautions will be taken to minimise radiation exposure to the baby.

How is the procedure performed?

Usually, two views of the chest are taken, one from the back and one from the side. You will be asked to stand against an image recording plate. The technologist will position you with your hands on your hips and your chest pressed on the plate for the back view. For the side view, you will be asked to press your side against the plate with your arms raised. If you cannot stand, you may be positioned on a table to capture the x-ray.

Next, you will be asked to stay still and hold your breath for a few seconds until the x-ray image is taken. Your technologist will walk behind a wall or to another room to start the machine.

Once this is completed, your technologist will ask you to wait until they have determined that your images are readable.

The entire process is usually completed within 15 minutes.

What will I experience during and after the procedure?

An x-ray of the chest is a painless procedure.

You may experience some discomfort from