

# X-ray



## About X-rays

X-rays are a quick and painless way of taking pictures to look at your anatomy. They are used for looking at broken bones but can be helpful for investigating a range of conditions. Our X-rays are performed by a trained specialist called a radiographer. Some surgical procedures also use live X-rays which are produced by a machine called an image intensifier. These X-rays are performed either by a radiographer or a consultant who has undergone specialist training.

X-rays are images produced using ionising radiation. Everyone is exposed to background ionising radiation on a daily basis, for example from radioactivity in the air and food. The radiation associated with your X-ray is small and the risk of harm is low. All radiation exposures must be justified by a specialist to make sure a different examination is not more appropriate and the benefit of the exam outweighs the risk.

We perform a range of musculoskeletal and orthopaedic X-rays including specialist leg length and whole spine X-rays.

## What to expect on the day

### Before your X-ray

You do not need to do anything differently before your appointment. You can eat and drink as normal. When you arrive at the clinic you will be directed to the imaging department. Depending on what X-ray you are having, you may need to change into a gown.

### During your X-ray

X-rays are quick and should not take more than 10 minutes. Depending on the area being investigated the radiographers will do multiple pictures from different directions to get the information your consultant needs.

### After your X-ray

Once your X-ray is finished you can collect your belongings and leave the department. The X-rays are available immediately on our picture archiving communications system (PACS) and a report is issued to your referrer or consultant. If you would like a CD or electronic copy of your images, inform the radiographers and they can assist you.

## Reporting and results

We offer a state-of-the-art picture archiving communications system (PACS) which enables radiologists and consultants, both at Fortius and elsewhere, to access your images. A report from your examination will be available on PACS and sent to your referrer or consultant. All patient information is protected and stored using the strictest security measures. If you have left the clinic and would like a copy of your images, please complete a CD request form or an electronic transfer request form available on our website and email it to [pacsadmin@fortiusclinic.com](mailto:pacsadmin@fortiusclinic.com).

If you have any questions about receiving your results or next steps, please speak to our Reception or Appointments teams, your referrer or your consultant's secretary.

## FAQs

### Can I have an X-ray while pregnant?

If you are between 12 and 55 years old, you may be asked if there is a possibility that you could be pregnant. If you are, or think you may be, please let your consultant or referrer and radiographer know. In some circumstances we may have to delay your X-ray depending on the risk versus benefit of the examination.

### What are the risks of X-rays?

X-rays are ionising radiation. There is a potential risk when exposed to ionising radiation.

In line with IRMER (Ionising Radiation Medical Imaging Regulations) 2017 we follow the ALARP (As Low As Reasonably Practicable) principle. All examinations are justified to ensure the benefit of an accurate diagnosis outweighs the small risk of using ionising radiation. We are confident that we use the lowest amount of radiation possible.

There is further information about radiation risk on our website or in our imaging departments. If you have any concerns, please speak to your radiographer, referrer or consultant.

### Can I bring a relative or friend?

A relative or friend can accompany you but they will not be able to come into the X-ray room. Parents and carers may be present in the examination room. For further guidance on this please speak to your radiographer.

## Why do I need an X-ray and who has made the decision?

The consultant or referrer who is looking after you will make this decision based on your symptoms, clinical examinations and various other factors. If you have any questions or concerns about whether you need an X-ray, or are unsure you want to proceed, please speak to your radiographer or whoever sent you for your X-ray.

## Contact information

### Appointments, billing and imaging enquiries

Switchboard

0203 195 2442

[imaging@fortiusclinic.com](mailto:imaging@fortiusclinic.com)

### X-ray queries

Radiology administrator

0203 805 4776

[fclradiographer@fortiusclinic.com](mailto:fclradiographer@fortiusclinic.com)

### Copies of images and electronic transfers

Radiology administrator

0203 805 4776 or 0203 831 3580

[pacsadmin@fortiusclinic.com](mailto:pacsadmin@fortiusclinic.com)

For more information visit our website



If you require urgent medical attention or advice out of clinic hours, please visit your local A&E

**Fortius Clinic London**

66 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2SB

**Fortius Clinic City**

75 King William Street, London EC4N 7BE

**Fortius Clinic Marylebone**

17 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 6EQ

**Fortius Clinic Wimbledon**

22 Worple Road, Wimbledon SW19 4DD

**Clinic opening times**

Monday to Friday 8am-8pm (open later some evenings)

Saturday 8am-1pm (not all sites)