

Dual Energy X-ray Absorption (DEXA) bone densitometry is the preferred method used to measure the density of bone in diagnosing and assessing osteoporosis.

X-Ray · Ultrasound · MRI · Biopsy · Angiography · CT
Mammography · Bone Mineral Densitometry · Dental X-Rays
Consultations · Interventional Radiology · Nuclear Medicine

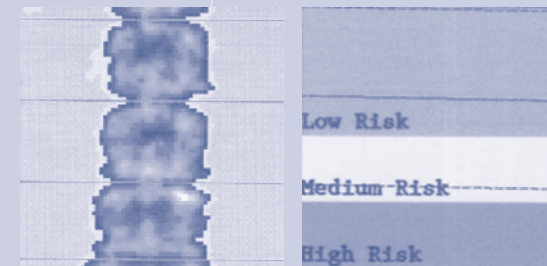
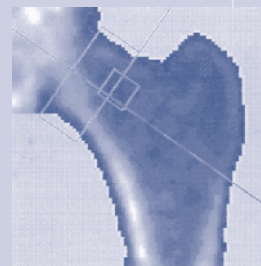
Belconnen Lakeview Square
Bruce Calvary Clinic
Deakin Calvary John James Hospital
Erindale Valley Diagnostic Centre
Garran Brindabella Specialist Centre
Goulburn X-Ray Bourke Street
Queanbeyan Morisset House
Turner Construction House

Patient Booking Service 1300 788 508
Administration Enquiries 6203 2222

Canberra Imaging Group
Executive Office
77 Denison Street, Deakin ACT 2600
PO Box 55 Deakin West, ACT 2600
Email info@cig.com.au
Web www.canberraimaging.com.au

DEXA Examination

DEXA Examination



A DEXA scan is a simple procedure. Two scans are performed, one of the hip and the other of the lower spine. These two areas are most commonly used as they are the first areas to be affected by osteoporosis as well as being the areas most at risk from a fracture. If osteoporosis can be detected and treated early then the risk of a fracture as a result of osteoporosis is decreased significantly. The age of diagnosis is of no matter, patients in the 70's can still gain benefit from a diagnosis.

Preparation

There is no preparation for this procedure. It is recommended that you wear clothing without metal zippers or clips as these can interfere with the image. If you have a hip replacement you should inform the technician, as that hip cannot be used for scanning purposes.

Please bring any relevant films and your referral to your appointment.

Are you pregnant?

Even though the radiation levels are extremely low, a DEXA study still uses ionising radiation and so is not recommended for women who are or could be pregnant.

To ensure that we are providing you with the best service, at any stage of the examination if you have any questions or concerns, please ask our staff.

We also welcome any feedback.

When you come for the test

You will be placed on a bed – underneath is an x-ray source that produces very low energy x-rays. The scanning arm, which houses the x-ray detectors, gradually passes over you as the scan is performed.

The detectors read the energy level of the x-ray beam after it has passed through your body and thus can calculate the density of the bone.

The technician then manipulates this information with a specialised computer program to produce a representative image of the area with calculations of bone density and fracture risk.

This is reported by a specialist and may take a further 2-3 hours so you may prefer to return later for your results. This report should then be taken to your own doctor.

Canberra Imaging Group strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your radiology report with you.