

X- Ray Machine

Who

X-rays were discovered in 1895 by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, who was a Professor at Wuerzburg University in Germany.

What

An X-ray is a common imaging test that's been used for decades. It can help your doctor view the inside of your body without having to make an incision. This can help them diagnose, monitor, and treat many medical conditions.

Why

Your doctor may order an X-ray to:

- examine an area where you're experiencing pain or discomfort
- monitor the progression of a diagnosed disease, such as osteoporosis
- check how well a prescribed treatment is working

Conditions that may call for an X-ray include:

- Bone cancer
- breast tumors
- Enlarged heart
- blocked blood vessels
- conditions affecting your lungs
- digestive problems
- fractures
- infections
- Osteoporosis
- Arthritis
- tooth decay
- needing to retrieve swallowed items

How

Once you're fully prepared, your X-ray technician or radiologist will tell you how to position your body to create clear images. They may ask you to lie, sit, or stand in several positions

during the test. They may take images while you stand in front of a specialized plate that contains X-ray film or sensors. In some cases, they may also ask you to lie or sit on a specialized plate and move a large camera connected to a steel arm over your body to capture X-ray images.

Potential Side Effects

X-rays use small amounts of radiation to create images of your body. The level of radiation exposure is considered safe for most adults, but not for a developing baby. If you're pregnant or believe you could be pregnant, tell your doctor before you have an X-ray. They may suggest a different imaging method, such as an MRI.

If you ingest a contrast material before your X-ray, it may cause side effects. These include:

- hives
- itching
- nausea
- lightheadedness
- a metallic taste in your mouth