



X-Ray

When do I need an X-ray of my spine?

X-rays are not usually recommended to diagnose a back or neck condition when you first experience symptoms. But X-rays do have a role in a spine surgeon's practice. Where appropriate, your surgeon will use X-rays to assess the alignment of your spine and the range of motion of your spine, as well as to detect the presence of instabilities in your spinal column. X-rays do not show soft tissues particularly well, but they are useful for the assessment of bony structures.

Your surgeon at Gold Coast Spine may require you to undergo a number of different types of X-rays during the investigation of your condition, during any stay in hospital for surgery, and after spine surgery to assess your outcome.

How do I prepare for my X-ray?

In most cases, there is no special preparation for an X-ray of your spine. Generally you will be able to eat and drink normally on the day of the scan and you can continue to take any prescribed medication. It is important that you bring your referral letter or request form with you to the appointment.

How is an X-ray done?

Before the X-ray is taken, you will be asked to either lie on a flat bed or stand against a flat surface. This is done so that the part of your body to be X-rayed is positioned between the x-ray machine and the photographic plate.

The X-ray is performed by a radiographer who will position your body and ask you to remain still. The part of your body being examined will be exposed to x-rays for a fraction of a second.



What are risks are associated with X-rays?

X-rays involve very brief exposures to radiation. An increased lifetime cancer risk is a rare risk due to the exposure to X-rays. In view of this exposure this test should also be avoided in female patients who are, or may be, pregnant.

Delivery of Results

After your X-ray, the images will be reviewed for clarity and accuracy by the radiographer. Images obtained from your X-ray are digitally recorded and stored. A radiologist interprets the images and provides a detailed report for your surgeon within 24 hours.

Your surgeon will review the X-ray with you at your next appointment.

If the X-ray was performed by [Qscan \(www.qscan.com.au\)](http://www.qscan.com.au), patients are able to access their X-ray report and images electronically via the Qscan patient online app and web portal.

Location

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Social  

How much will it cost?

Some investigations are bulk billed while others have out-of-pocket costs associated. This can depend on the investigation and the radiology clinic performing the investigation.

If Gold Coast Spine staff book an investigation for you, we will advise you of any costs.

A radiology referral can be taken to any Australian radiology company and the investigation performed. However, our surgeons have very specific requirements in relation to most of their investigations and it is important these are met each time an investigation is performed.

Should you wish to take your referral to another radiology company, please check with one of our staff first to ensure that the correct imaging is taken.