

Preparing for your DXA Scan

You have been referred for a Bone Density Scan (DXA). This guide will tell you about the procedure

What is a DXA scan?

A DXA (Dual Energy X ray absorptiometry or DEXA) is a painless procedure. Generally, the higher the density of your bones the less likely your bones are to break. The lower the density, the greater the risk of fracture and this is described as Osteopenia or Osteoporosis, depending on the severity.

A DXA scan is a quick, sensitive and accurate test that will specifically measure the density of your bones.

It is endorsed by the National Osteoporosis Society as the Gold standard for diagnosing Osteoporosis (www.nos.org.uk).

Who should be scanned?

Bone density assessments should ideally take place in those at risk of osteoporosis to identify early bone loss, take action to improve this and prevent fractures. Your GP will have assessed you as being at risk from osteoporosis.

Are there any side effects?

A DXA scan involves a low dose of X-rays (a form of radiation) passed across the body. Everybody receives a small amount of background radiation from the environment every day. The radiation received from your scan is very small, and would be less than the amount you would be exposed to flying from San Francisco to New York.

Are there any reasons I cannot have a DXA scan?

- Recent contrast X-ray e.g. Barium meal or swallow.
- If you are unable to remain motionless for the duration of the measurement.

It is very important that you inform the radiographer if you are, or suspect that you may be pregnant.

Before your appointment

You will have received a medical questionnaire with this leaflet and your appointment time and date. Please complete and bring with you to the appointment. If you cannot complete all the questions the radiographer at the unit will be able to help you.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE DEXA SCANNERS AT BOTH ASHFORD AND ST PETER'S HOSPITAL. PLEASE ENSURE YOU COME TO THE CORRECT SITE FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT.

If you have limited mobility and may have difficulty getting up onto our couch please telephone 01932 722482 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for you.

Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time; if you are late we may not be able to carry out your test. Please try to avoid bringing children to your appointment.

The examination

The procedure will be explained to you and we will answer any further questions you may have. Please try to avoid wearing clothing/underwear with metal attachments otherwise you may be required to undress for the examination. The procedure will take between 20 minutes for a basic scan, slightly longer for more detailed procedures. The machine has a special detecting arm that moves over your body, this does not involve passing into a tunnel (like an MRI).

When will I get the results?

The results will either be given to you on the day of your scan (to take with you to your GP) or will be posted to your GP or Consultant. Please ensure that you have a follow up appointment to receive your results.

Giving your consent for the procedure

The information contained within this leaflet is intended to provide you with an overview of the examination that you are to receive. Prior to any medical procedure being carried out, the healthcare professional conducting the procedure will describe the nature of the examination you are to receive. It is your right to be given sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision as to whether you wish to continue with the examination or to refuse to undergo the procedure. Please ask any questions you may have.

We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.



اگر نیاز بہ ترجمہ دارید، لطفاً با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیرید.

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553

ने उदात्त उरुनमे दी लेंड वै उं किरुपा करके इस नंबर से फोन करें: 01932 723553

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553

اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براؤزر اس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

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