

# An X-ray examination procedure

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide the patient with information about an X-ray examination procedure and how to prepare for it.

An X-ray examination procedure is performed only on referral by a physician.

## **How X-rays work**

Ionising radiation is used for an X-ray. This type of radiation is common in our living environment.

An x-ray examination creates digital image which gives necessary information about the patient to the radiologist /physician for further treatment.

## **Contraindications**

There are no contraindications to an X-ray examination procedure. An X-ray examination procedure is also performed during pregnancy for an emergency medical indication. Depending on the part of the body to be examined, a lead apron is used to shield the foetus.

Children are more sensitive to ionising radiation, so a lower-intensity mode is chosen for the X-ray examination procedure of children.

## **Preparing for the X-ray examination procedure**

During the X-ray examination procedure, you may be asked to undress and remove metal objects (chains, rings, hairpins) and glasses, if necessary. It is recommended to come to the X-ray examination procedure without jewellery or other accessories. The radiographer will place you in the required positioning for the x-ray. You may be asked to hold your breath for a moment while taking the image so that the body area does not move and to improve the quality of the image.

## **What is a contrast agent and how it may affect?**

It is sometimes necessary to inject iodine based contrast agent intravenously to obtain clearer view of the organs. A venous cannula is inserted into your forearm. When a contrast agent is being injected you have a feeling of warmth in your stomach and a metallic taste in your mouth. In rare cases, iodine based contrast agents may cause hypersensitivity reactions: skin rash, itching, nausea or dizziness. **If you are hypersensitive to contrast agent, iodine or any other medications, you should inform your treating physician and radiographer before the examination procedure.**

## **Results**

Your physician will inform you about the results. If you wish to have the results of the examination on a data carrier, you need to pay for it separately. The price of the service is included in the price list for paid services of AS East Tallinn Central Hospital.

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