



Dexascan (Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry)

A Dexascan is a method of Bone Mineral Density (BMD) testing that measures the strength, or mineral density, of a patient's bones using dual energy X-rays. This procedure is most commonly used to determine osteoporosis. Loss of bone mass occurs as part of the natural process of aging. When calcium is used faster than it is added, the bones become lighter, less dense, and more porous, therefore increasing their risk of fracture.

A Dexascan is non-invasive, painless, and only one-tenth the radiation exposure of a regular X-ray. The scanner passes over one area of the patient's skeleton, such as the lower spine, wrist, or hip. The technology measures the amount of x-rays that are absorbed by the bones in the body. The radiologist produces a report based on the bone density measurements and the patient's medical history.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Diagnostic Imaging Department at 715-939-1594.



Bone Densitometry Frequently Asked Questions

What will I experience during the exam?

All you have to do is lie still on a padded table and breathe normally. The x-ray dosage is extremely low and only takes a few minutes.

I have a low "T-score." What does that mean?

The lower your T-score, the lower your bone mass. For example, if your T-score is -1.0, then your bone mass is 10% below normal. If your T-score is -2.0, your bone mass is 20% below normal, which is indicative of osteoporosis.