

What is a DEXA Scan?

Bone Densitometry or Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) is used to measure bone loss and is used to diagnose osteoporosis. Osteoporosis results from loss of bone mass, leading to bone weakening and increasing the chance of a fracture.

What should I expect?

A DEXA scan is a painless scan that uses minimal radiation, upon arrival you may be asked by the radiographer to change into a gown before your examination. You may also be asked to remove jewellery, eyeglasses, or any metal objects that may obscure the images. You will then be asked to lie on the scanner table for the scanner to move above you and take the required images.

How long does a DEXA scan take?

Once you are in the room the examination will take approximately 25 minutes, sometimes longer depending on the area that needs to be examined.

Who conducts my DEXA scan?

A trained radiographer who is accredited with the Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia (MRBPA) will conduct your scan.

What if I'm on medication?

Please inform staff and the radiographer of any recent imaging appointments involving barium, the injection of contrast material for a CT/MRI scan or a radioisotope injection.

What if I'm pregnant?

If you are pregnant, or it is possible that you may be pregnant, then a DEXA scan is usually not performed unless it is an absolute medical necessity to do so. Please inform our clinic if this situation applies to you.

When do I get the results?

The results of your DEXA scan can take up to 1 day to be finalised. You will be advised when to pick up your images and report for your follow up with your doctor.

What documents do I need?

Please bring with you your referral and any prior scans and reports as this will assist the radiologist in assessing your condition.

How do I make an appointment?

You can call our clinic directly on 02 4722 4700 to book in an appointment.

