

X-ray/Fluoroscopy

What are X-ray and Fluoroscopy?

X-ray is the most common form of radiology testing. It can be used to look at many parts of the body, including the lungs, abdomen and bones.

Fluoroscopy is much like an X-ray movie.

Fluoroscopy uses **continuous X-rays** to watch the movement of the body displayed on a monitor in real time during the exam. Many fluoroscopy exams use barium or other contrast agents to fill the stomach, bowel or bladder or to see how a patient eats and swallows.



The X-ray machine (pictured on the right) uses a mobile camera that is placed over or in front of the body. Your child may be asked to lie or sit on a table or stand. An X-ray may take 15–30 minutes.

To obtain the best X-ray and fluoroscopy images, the patient should be calm and not move. These studies do not hurt. Sedation is not necessary.

X-ray pictures help your child's doctor decide how to best care for your child. The X-ray machine does not touch your child's body.

Key things to know about X-ray and fluoroscopy:

- X-rays use radiation to take pictures inside the body. At Phoenix Children's we use "child-size" radiation doses to keep exposure as low as is reasonably achievable (ALARA).
- X-rays are not painful.
- The process to complete an X-ray or fluoroscopy study can take 15–30 minutes.
- The patient must remain calm and still to obtain high-quality images.

Eating and drinking before the exam:

Most X-rays exams do not require any restrictions for eating, unless your child is scheduled for a fluoroscopy exam. Fluoroscopy exams may require a type of contrast called barium. You will be informed if barium will be used for your child's exam, and eating instructions will be provided by the radiology schedulers.

What to expect the day of the X-ray:

- Your child should take his or her usual medicines before the X-rays, unless given additional instructions by your doctor or nurse.
- Your child will need to change into a patient gown before the X-rays. This will be provided by the radiology staff.

If your child has an X-ray of the body:

- Your child's clothes should not have snaps, buckles, zippers, metal buttons, metallic print, sparkles or rhinestones.

After the X-ray:

The radiologist's report will be sent to the ordering physician; this may take two to three business days. Please call your doctor for results. The radiology technologists do not provide any report of the findings.