

Patient Information

Bone Densitometry (DEXA) Scan

A DEXA scan measures bone mineral content and bone mineral density. Fat and lean body mass can be determined from total body scans.

Procedure

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire about your child's medical history.

The patient is required to change into a gown, remove metal and lie on a scanning table. The body is scanned using low level X-Rays. The procedure is painless. Your child will need to keep still for 5 minutes at a time.

Patient Preparation

No preparation is required for a DEXA scan.

Allow 1/2 hour for this scan.

If your child takes time to settle, the scan time will be longer.

Other children can't be allowed into the procedure room. Please make alternative arrangements for their care during the procedure. Children up to 10 years old may be cared for in the WCH crèche.

Patient Identification:

Patient identification is an important step to ensure patients always receive the correct care. You will be asked your child's name and date of birth. If there is a possibility that the patient could be pregnant please alert the staff as DEXA should not be performed on pregnant women.

Scan Preparation:

Recent X-ray and Nuclear Medicine procedures may interfere with DEXA scans. If you have had other procedures done within the last week, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department.

Please bring any previous DEXA results if you have them.

Results:

The scan results will be sent to your referring doctor.

Cost:

Please note that if you are not eligible for a Medicare rebate there will be a nominal charge for the scan. (approx. \$40)

If your child is unwell, or unable to attend your appointment please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department on 8161 6020.