

DXA Bone Densitometry Scan

Patient Information

Leongatha Memorial Hospital Medical Imaging

What is Bone Densitometry?

Bone Mineral Densitometry (BMD) or dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) uses a narrow x-ray beam to assess the amount of calcium that is in your bones. It also used to measure changes in bone density over time. The x-ray dose is extremely low.

What are the benefits of Bone Densitometry?

Bone Densitometry is primarily used to diagnose osteoporosis and to assess the response to treatment for osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis is a common condition, especially in postmenopausal women, but may also be found in men.

It results in a reduction in the strength of your bones, which in turn increases the risk of fractures, particularly of the spine, hip and wrist.

Your doctor will be able to discuss your results with you and determine if you have Bone Densitometry osteoporosis or are at increased risk of developing osteoporosis.

There are medications available that can increase your bone density and reduce your risk of fracture.



What will happen during the examination?

During the examination, you will be resting comfortably on your back.

An x-ray generator will be below you and a narrow detector arm will pass above your body.

This usually focuses on the spine and hip regions. The procedure is painless. You may hear the machine make a slight buzzing noise as the x-rays are taken.

It is important you keep as still as possible during the procedure.

A radiographer will be sitting next to you checking the images, as they appear on a computer monitor.

Are there any risks?

You will receive a minimal dose of x-ray radiation.

The benefits of detecting disease are believed to outweigh any potential risks from receiving such a small dose.



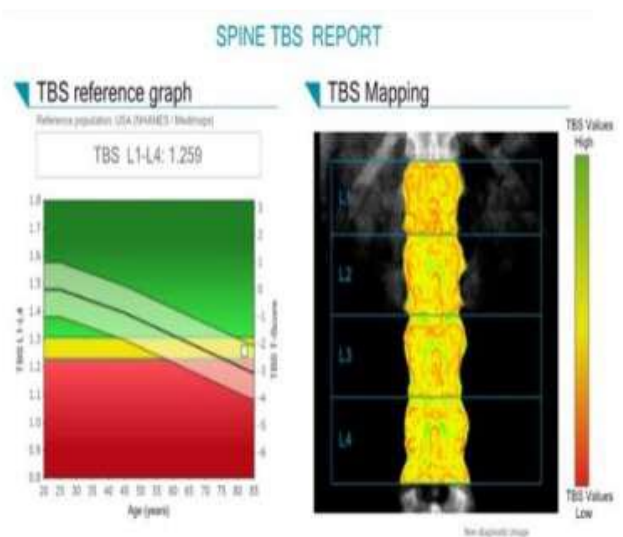
We recommend you wear comfortable clothing, which does not have zips, belts or metal buttons.

After the examination

Our radiologist (specialist medical imaging doctor) will review and report on your imaging.

This can take up to 90 minutes.

For your convenience we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day.



Any questions please contact us:

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