

SPINE AND NECK X-RAY PATIENT GUIDE

Appointment Information

Date: ____/____/____
mm dd yy

Time: _____

What it is an X-ray

An X-ray is a painless test that produces images of the structures inside your body particularly your bones. The X-rays are a form of radiation, like light or radio waves, that can be focused into a beam, those beams pass through your body, and they are absorbed in different amounts depending on the density of the material they pass through.

Spine and neck X-rays

X-rays of the spine may be performed to evaluate any area of the spinal column made up of 33 vertebrae that are separated by spongy disks and classified into distinct areas: cervical, thoracic, lumbar, sacrum, coccygeal or tailbone.

Why it is done

Spine X-rays may be done to diagnose :

- Fractures or broken bones
- The cause of back or neck pain
- Arthritis
- Degeneration of the disks
- Tumors
- Abnormalities in the curvature of the spine or congenital abnormalities. There may be other reasons for your doctor to recommend an X-ray of the spine.

Types of spine and neck X-rays you can get at Sanitas

- Total spine X-ray
- Cervical spine X-ray
- Coccygeal spine X-ray
- Dorsal spine X-ray
- Dorsolumbar spine X-ray

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How to prepare

- If the monitor has trouble getting a reading, it may re-inflate in a minute or so to try a second time.
- Generally, no prior preparation is needed.
- Tell the radiology tech if you are pregnant or suspect you may be pregnant.
- If the patient is under 5 years of age, he or she needs to come to the appointment with two adults who are not pregnant..
- You may be asked to provide prior test results, if needed.
- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time.

