

What you need to know about...

Radiography of the Pelvis

An x-ray examination of the pelvis is performed when patients report pain in the pelvis or the hip joints. The examination commonly is used to detect arthritis, fractures or other injuries.

Patient Preparation

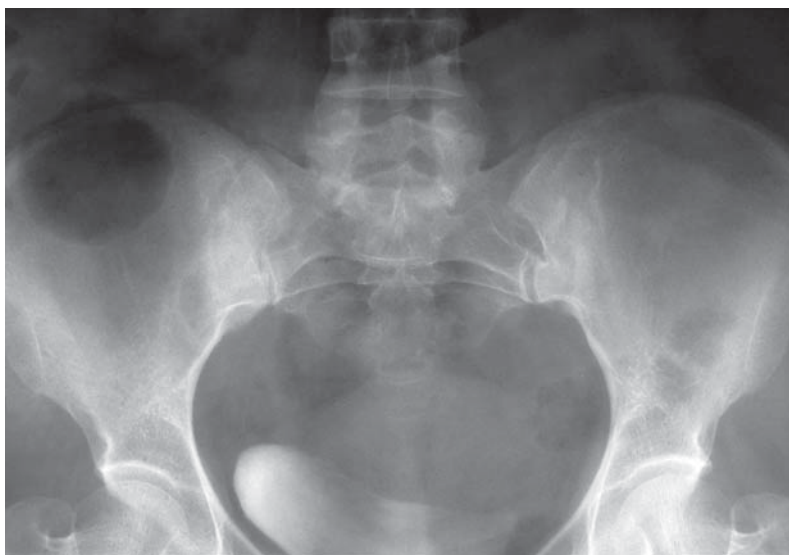
Before your examination, a radiographer will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions you might have. A radiographer, also known as a radiologic technologist, is a skilled medical professional who has received specialized education in the areas of radiation protection, patient care, radiation exposure, radiographic positioning and radiographic procedures. As part of his or her duties, the radiographer will determine the amount of radiation necessary to produce a diagnostically useful image.

The radiographer will ask you to put on a hospital gown. The gown has no metal snaps on it, because metal can interfere with the accuracy of the image.

If you are a woman of childbearing age, the radiographer will ask if there is any possibility you are pregnant. Because this examination exposes the pelvic area to radiation, it is important that you tell the radiographer the date of your last menstrual period and whether there is a chance that you may be pregnant.

During the Examination

In the x-ray room, you will be asked to lie down on an x-ray table. The radiographer will use anatomical landmarks to ensure that you are properly positioned on the table. He or she will touch the top of your pelvic bone, just above the hip, to ensure that you are in the correct position. He or she also will ask you to turn your feet inward so that they are pointing toward each other. Next, you will be asked



to hold your breath while the exposure is made. It is important not to move during the exposure, because any movement will blur the image.

Sometimes, a second radiograph taken in a “frog leg” position is required. For this radiograph, you will be asked to place the soles of your feet together while bending your knees outward, toward the surface of the table. If you are not able to position your body as directed for the examination, let the radiographer know. His or her job is to give you the best care possible.

A lead-equivalent rubberized shield might be used to cover your reproductive organs, unless its use would interfere with the examination. Sometimes the area that needs to be examined would be hidden if a shield were used.

Once the examination is complete, the radiographer will process your images and determine whether they are techni-

cally acceptable. The images then will be given to a radiologist to interpret.

Postexamination Information

After your radiographs have been reviewed by a radiologist, your personal physician will receive a report of the findings. Your physician then will advise you of the results.

The radiation that you are exposed to during this examination, like the radiation produced during any other x-ray procedure, passes through you immediately. ♦

This patient education page provides general information concerning the radiologic sciences. The ASRT suggests that you consult your physician for specific information concerning your imaging exam and medical condition. Health care professionals may reproduce these pages for noncommercial educational purposes. Reproduction for other reasons is subject to ASRT approval.



Copyright © 2000 American Society of Radiologic Technologists. For more information, contact the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, 15000 Central Ave. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123-3909, or visit us online at www.asrt.org. Revised and updated 2009.