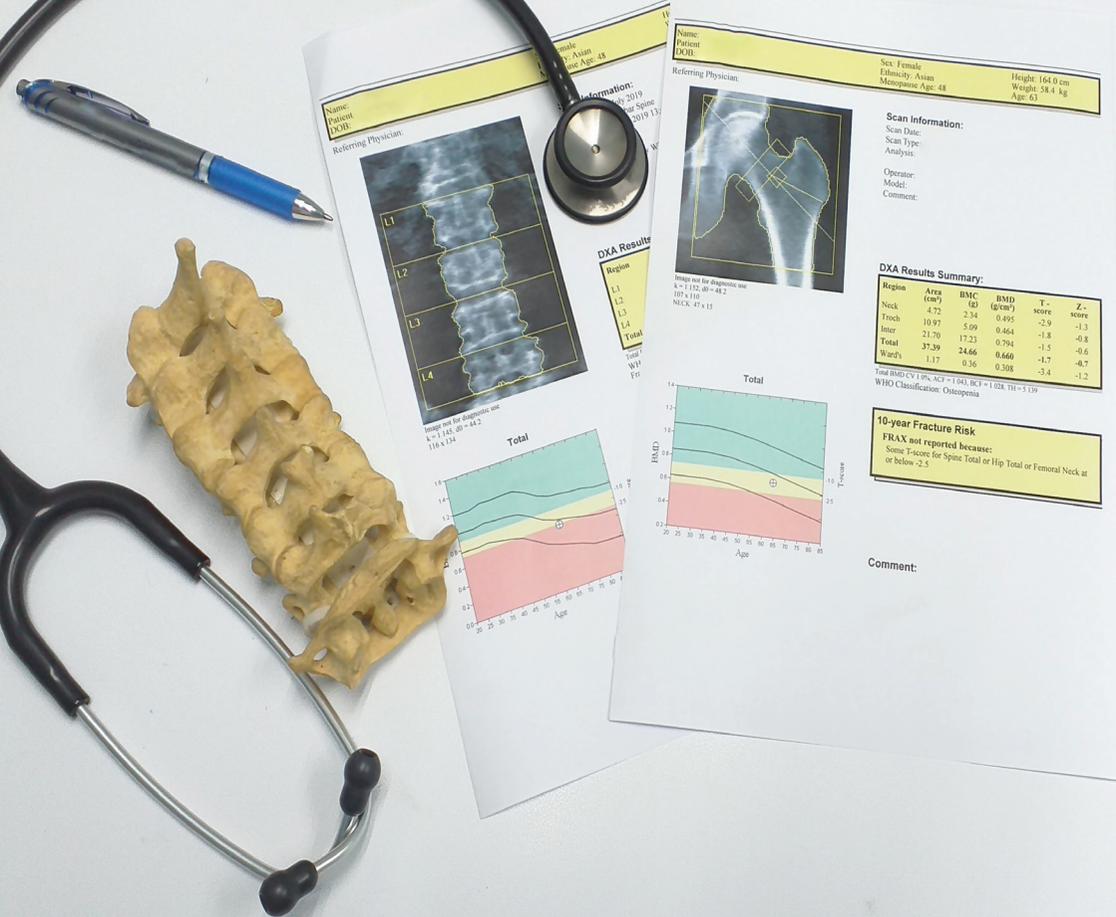




Bone Density Scan



What is a bone density scan?

A bone density scan is the best way to measure bone density, it is the most accurate and reliable test for assessing the strength of your bones and their risk of fracture. You may also hear this test being referred to as a DEXA, or DXA scan.

Are there any risks?

A DEXA scan involves a low dose of X-rays (a form of radiation) passed through the body. Everybody receives a small amount of natural background radiation from the environment every day. A DEXA scan is roughly equivalent to one day's natural background radiation.

Preparing for your test

You can take all your medications as usual and eat and drink as normal. If you would like to bring a chaperone with you, you're welcome to bring a friend or relative. Alternatively, we can provide a chaperone for you upon your request.

Before your DEXA scan

A DEXA scan may not be suitable if you have any of the following conditions:

- severe mobility problems
- you are unable to lie flat for a few minutes
- you are pregnant, or think you may be
- your weight exceeds 120 kg (19 stones)
- recent contrast examination e.g. barium swallow
- you have ever had surgery on your spine or hip (e.g. hip replacement)

Please contact the bookings team on 0800 652 4157 if any of the above applies.

Please bring along to the scan a list of any medication prescribed by your doctor if possible.

When you come for your scan, you should try to wear clothes that have no metal or plastic at the hips or along the spine (e.g. zips, bras, buckles, buttons and studs).

What will happen during the scan?

You will be asked to lie on a firm couch with a small pillow whilst the scanner arm passes over you. You will not be in a tunnel. The scan will take around 15 minutes. The radiographer will be in the room with you during the scan.

Giving your consent for the procedure

This information leaflet is intended to provide you with an overview of the DEXA scan procedure. Prior to any medical examination being carried out, the radiographer will describe the nature of the examination. It is your right to be given sufficient information to be able to make any informed decision as to whether you wish to continue with the examination.

What happens after your DEXA scan?

You can eat and drink normally after your examination. The clinician who performed your scan will review the images and prepare a report from the findings. Your diagnostic report will be sent to your referring GP or specialist within a few days of your scan.

More information can be found on the following NHS link:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/DEXA-scan/Pages/Introduction.aspx>



All enquiries:



0800 652 4157



appointments@healthsharediagnostics.org.uk



healthshare.org.uk

Important Information

This is a general patient information leaflet only.

The information you are given may be different to that provided here. This is because the information given to you is tailor made to your individual treatment.

It is very important that you follow the instructions that are given by your clinician.



ISO27001 / IS571793



ISO9001 / IS541391

