

WHY CHOOSE SKG FOR BONE DENSITOMETRY?

SKG Radiology is staffed by highly qualified Radiologists and Radiographers trained in bone density imaging. By working as a co-ordinated team, we will provide you with diagnostic accuracy and a high level of patient care.

Bone Densitometry services are conveniently located at SKG Subiaco (St John of God Hospital), Bunbury, Mandurah, Midland, Morley, Willetton and Hollywood Private Hospital.



WHERE CAN I HAVE A BONE DENSITOMETRY SCAN?

An appointment is required for all Bone Densitometry scans.

BUNBURY

55 Spencer Street, Bunbury
T: 9722 3200 F: 9721 5385

HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

115 Monash Avenue, Nedlands
T: 9449 5800 F: 9389 8112

MANDURAH

160 Pinjarra Road, Mandurah
T: 9582 4500 F: 9534 8502

MIDLAND

164-168 Great Eastern Highway, Midvale 6056
T: 9218 6600 F: 9218 6680

MORLEY

Units 5 & 6, 11-13 Marchant Way, Morley
T: 6278 0400 F: 9375 1148

SUBIACO

St John of God Subiaco Hospital
12 Salvado Road, Subiaco
T: 9286 6400 F: 9286 6481

WILLETTON

Unit 1, 187 High Road, Willetton
T: 9354 0900 F: 9457 4934

YOUR GUIDE TO BONE DENSITOMETRY



WHAT IS BONE DENSITOMETRY?

Bone Densitometry is the examination for assessing osteoporosis. Osteoporosis results from loss of bone mass, leading to bone weakening and increasing the chance of fracture.

SKG Radiology utilises state-of-the-art DEXA (Dual Energy X-ray Absorptiometry) equipment which is capable of the full spectrum of clinically important scanning applications. In measuring the patient's bone density, the machine compares the measurements to a reference population based on age, weight, sex and ethnic background.

Results for Bone Densitometry can vary with the type of machine used. It is recommended that follow-up Bone Densitometry is performed on the same equipment and at the same site, wherever possible.

SKG Radiology uses Norland and Medilink Bone Densitometry scanners. Results are not directly comparable to any results from previous scans that were obtained using a scanner from a different manufacturer.

WHO IS AT RISK OF DEVELOPING OSTEOPOROSIS?

Bone mass increases from infancy until about 20-30 years when a normal young adult achieves peak bone mass. After this time, bone mass gradually decreases with age, and this loss of bone mass is further accelerated in females related to menopause. Once bone mass falls below a certain threshold, the risk of fracture dramatically increases.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Please be sure to bring along any previous x-rays or scans which you may have available. These images can often provide valuable additional information to the attending Radiologist when your scan is reported. All images are your property and will be returned to you.

Also, please bring the referral form from your doctor which instructs us as to why the scan has been requested.



WHAT HAPPENS DURING A BONE DENSITOMETRY EXAMINATION?

Before the scan you will need to fill out a medical history questionnaire which assists in the assessment of your results. We may ask you to change into a gown before your Bone Densitometry examination. You will be required to lie comfortably on your back on the scanner table. You will hear a humming noise when the scanner moves above you collecting the data, but no moving parts will touch you. There will be no discomfort. Most Bone Densitometry studies take 20-30 minutes to perform.

You will benefit from features which include the following:

- No preparation
- No after-effects
- The examination is non-invasive
- The radiation dose is negligible - 1/6 the dose of average daily background radiation

DOES BONE DENSITOMETRY ATTRACT A MEDICARE REBATE?

When certain conditions/risk factors exist, or if you are over 70 years of age, Medicare will pay a rebate on the fee. Your referring doctor is aware of these conditions as they relate to your clinical history. The Medicare rebate covers part of the cost of the Bone Densitometry.

Screening Bone Densitometry does not attract a Medicare rebate.