

How Else Does SVPH help to protect you?

- A radiation license for all equipment issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- An appointed Radiation Safety Committee overseeing the governance of all ionising Radiation within the Radiology Department
- A dedicated quality assurance programme consisting of a team of Physicists, Radiographers and Radiation Protection Officer.
- A radiation clinical audit program
- On-going Quality Improvements to optimise patient doses.

How to get to us:

By bus

7,7A or 4 from the City Centre

By dart

Stops at Sydney Parade and short walk from there..
Pedestrian access via Herbert Avenue.

By car

Entrance is via Merrion Road entrance to St. Vincent's Private Hospital. There is no vehicular access via Herbert Avenue..

Hospital parking

Underground parking is provided at the hospital.
Charges apply after 20 minutes.

Surface parking is also available for bicycles

Contact Details

Radiology department

Appointments and cancellations

Tel: (01) 263 8030

Email: Radiology@svph.ie

SVHG document control
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**ST. VINCENT'S
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**
Elm Park

Department of Radiology

X-Ray and Radiation Dose

Information for Patients

Welcome to St. Vincent's Private Hospital

St. Vincent's Private Hospital is the single, biggest acute private hospital in Dublin. We offer the highest number of consultants and the widest range of specialist care in Ireland's only integrated multi-hospital campus.

Exposure to Radiation

Day to day we are all naturally exposed to radiation from the environment e.g. cosmic radiation (outer space) and gases like Radon in the atmosphere. The World Health Organisation (WHO) have highlighted that background radiation contributes to 88% of the annual dose to the population. Typically we are exposed to roughly 0.01 mSv background radiation per day. Medical procedures contribute to the remaining 12% of radiation doses. Medical examinations that use ionising radiation in SVPH include X-Rays, Mammograms, CT scans, DEXA and Fluoroscopic guided procedures including Interventional and Cath Lab procedures. Some Theatre procedures can require X-Ray guidance. MRI and Ultrasound DO NOT use ionising radiation.



What are X-Rays?

X-rays, which contain radiation have enough energy to pass through your body. As the radiation passes through your body, it passes through bones, tissues and organs differently. While some radiation passes through the body, some of it is absorbed. The radiation that is not absorbed is used to create a diagnostic image. The radiation that is absorbed by the patient, contributes to the patient's radiation dose. The scientific unit for measuring whole body radiation dose 'effective dose' is the millisievert (mSv).

Benefit Versus Risk

The risk associated with a diagnostic imaging examination refers to the long-term or short term effects. The only known effect on the patient is a very slight increase in the chance of cancer occurring many years or decades after the exposure. While the radiation dose associated with X-rays is many thousand times too low to produce immediate harmful effects, SVPH ensures that any dose of ionising radiation delivered to a patient is kept as low as reasonably achievable 'ALARA'. This means we will endeavor to make every effort to decrease the radiation risk.

There are many benefits associated with diagnostic imaging. The overarching concern of your doctor and our Radiology department are that the benefits of an accurate diagnosis exceed the very small risk involved.

Radiation Doses of typical examinations in SVPH

| Procedure | Approximate Effective Dose | Comparable Background Radiation |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| X-Ray Chest | 0.1mSv | 10 days |
| X-Ray Extremity | 0.001 mSv | 2.4 Hours |
| CT Abdomen Pelvis | 7.7 mSv | 2.6 years |
| CT Brain | 1.67mSV | 5.5 months |
| CT Cardiac | 8.7 mSv | 2.4 years |
| Mammogram (3D) | 0.27 mSv | 27 days |
| DEXA | 0.001mSv | 2.4 Hours |

Pregnancy

Female patients of childbearing age will be asked to comply with the SVPH pregnancy policy to limit radiation effects to an unexpected pregnancy. Please inform a Radiographer if you are unable to out-rule pregnancy.