

Generally speaking, it is safe to have an X-ray while pregnant when the benefits of an X-ray outweigh the risks. However, there are a few different things to consider when determining the risks, including: the area of the body you are having X-rayed, the amount of radiation. The importance of having the X-ray to your overall health must be considered along with the risk factors.

### **Questions Medical Imaging staff may ask you**

If you are between 10 to 55 years old you will be asked if there is a possibility of pregnancy by a Medical Imaging technologist.

Questions your technologist might include:

- Is there any chance you might be pregnant?
- When was your last period?

We may request a pregnancy test or delay the X-ray exam until we consult a health care provider depending on your responses to the questions above.

### **The area of the body you are having X-ray**

X-ray examinations to the abdomen or spine while pregnant can be among areas of concern. In this case your health care provider or an X-ray doctor (radiologist) will be consulted for direction.

X-ray examinations to areas above and below your abdomen or spine pose very little risk to the baby.

### **Amount of radiation**

If the exam is necessary, there are actions taken to reduce the risk, such as reducing the number of X-rays taken.

### **The importance of having the X-ray**

Your health care provider and/or radiologist has considered the risks associated with the exam and believe it is in your best interest to have the X-ray exam.

### **Your rights**

- It is your right to refuse and or postpone the X-ray exam at any time.
- Your technologist will support any decision you make, and will document your decisions/requests.
- Please feel free to ask your technologist any questions about pregnancy and X-rays.

