Diagnostic services offered at Florida Hospital Fish imaging include:

- MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)
- 64 Slice CT (Computed Tomography)
- Digital Mammography
- Ultrasound
- DEXA Bone Densitometry
- General Radiography (X-Ray)

At Florida Hospital Fish imaging, we are proud to offer the latest in diagnostic imaging technology all performed in an atmosphere that is warm and comfortable. We hope you find the following overview helpful in understanding the diagnostic tests you or your loved one will undergo.

1053 Medical Center Drive, Suite 151
Orange City, FL 32763

To schedule your appointment, please call us at (386) 917-7500 (same day appointments are available).

Please be sure to bring your written prescription, insurance card and photo ID with you.

Radiology is the branch of medicine that uses a variety of imaging tools in the diagnosis and treatment of injury and disease. Radiologists play an important role in your overall health by incorporating knowledgeable interpretation with diverse medical imaging tools and treatment techniques.
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Digital Mammography
Digital mammography is one of the most recent advances in x-ray mammography. It has redefined the way healthcare is delivered and provides a new option in breast health. Most medical experts agree that successful treatment of breast cancer often is linked to early diagnosis. Digital mammography plays a central part in early detection as it can show changes in the breast up to two years before a patient can feel them. With Digital mammography the radiation exposure is up to 50% less than a standard mammogram and with the new flex paddles the exam is said to be pain free.

The difference between Digital and standard mammography is sometimes compared to a Digital Camera and a camera using regular film. With a digital camera, you put the images into a computer and are able to lighten, darken or even magnify the images and with a regular camera you have film that is converted into a picture (hard copy), but the ability to adjust the image is difficult. With the ability to manipulate the image of the breast, the radiologist can more clearly see an area in question and give the best diagnosis available. The American Cancer guidelines advise women 40 and older to have a regular annual screening. For women at high risk the guidelines advise discussing with your healthcare provider if additional testing is needed.

Preparing for a Mammogram:
Wear a blouse or shirt that can be easily removed since you will need to undress from the waist up into a gown provided. You should not use any type of powders, deodorant, lotion or perfumes prior to your exam as they can affect the quality of your images.

Before the exam you may be asked to fill out a short medical breast history questionnaire. Apart from the questionnaire, be sure to inform the technologist of any breast implants, scars or moles on or near your breasts, past breast biopsy, surgery or if you are breast feeding.

DEXA (Bone Densitometry)
Bone Densitometry is a low-dose x-ray that checks for mineral loss and bone thinning and is the leading diagnostic tool for Osteoporosis. The area x-rayed is usually the spine or hip but may also be performed on the wrist. A bone density exam is a simple, painless and non-invasive exam which takes approximately 10 minutes. After an initial exam is done, subsequent tests are useful in monitoring your rate of bone loss.

Preparing for a DEXA (bone density scan):
You should not have a barium study, radioisotope injection, oral or intravenous contrast material from a CT scan or MRI within seven days of a DEXA scan. Avoid taking calcium supplements for at least 24 hours prior to your appointment. Wear loose, comfortable clothing without zippers.

General Radiology / X-rays
X-rays are a form of radiant energy, like light or radio waves. X-rays can penetrate the body, allowing a radiologist to produce pictures of internal structures and view them on photographic film or on a computer monitor.

When used with care, X-rays are safe. The amount of radiation used during most exams is very minimal. Radiologists and X-ray technologists are trained to use the least amount of radiation necessary to obtain the needed results.

Preparing for an X-Ray Exam:
You may be asked to change into a gown provided for you if you are wearing any metal on or around the area to be examined. Remove all jewelry. Let your technologist know if you are or might be pregnant.
**CT (Computed Tomography)**
CT often called CAT scanning, uses special X-ray equipment to obtain images from different angles, which are then processed by computer to show a cross-section of body tissues and organs. Fish Imaging uses 64-Slice cutting-edge technology that dramatically increases the amount of data acquired within a single scan, obtaining 64 views in a single rotation around the body. This decreases the time needed to acquire a study and allows for more detailed images, including 3D image processing to assist the physician with diagnosis or evaluation of your condition.

**What is Contrast?**
Some types of CT exams will be ordered with contrast. Contrast is a substance used to highlight the area being studied and may be injected into your bloodstream or taken orally. If you have known allergies to iodine or contrast mediums please inform your technologist prior to your exam.

**Preparing for a CT Scan:**
Preparation for a CT scan varies depending on the type of exam being preformed. Some exams may require you to fast for a short period of time. Specific instructions will be given to you when scheduling your appointment.

**MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)**
MRI uses a non-radiation imaging technique to produce high-quality images of bones, soft tissues and hard tissues primarily of the brain, spine and joints. The exam itself is painless and may take between 30 to 90 minutes. The length of time varies depending on the type of exam to be preformed. Patients may listen to music during the exam with headphones provided. Lying still helps to produce the clearest images.

**Preparing for an MRI:**
If you are wearing clothing with metal zippers, rivets or closures you will be asked to change into a gown provided to you. All metal items will need to be removed from your body prior to the exam including jewelry, watches, keys, coins, credit cards, eyeglasses, hearing aids, hairclips or pins.

There are certain restrictions as to who can have an MRI as metal interferes with the MRI equipment and distorts the images received. Patients cannot have an MRI if they have either of the following:

- Cardiac pacemaker or pacing wires
- TENS-unit

Please inform the technologist if you are or may be pregnant and also if you are a welder or sheet metal worker. You may or may not be able to complete the exam.

**Preparing for an Ultrasound:**
Since preparation requirements vary depending on the area of the body to be examined, your physician will instruct you as to the specific provisions necessary for your particular exam.

**ULTRASOUND**
Ultrasound is a simple, pain-free diagnostic tool that uses sound waves, not radiation, to produce an image. Also called sonography, ultrasound is a method of “seeing” inside the human body using high-frequency sound waves. As the sound passes through the body, echoes are produced that can be used to identify how far away an object is, how large it is, and how uniform it is. Because ultrasound images are captured in real-time, they can show movement of internal tissues and organs, enabling radiologists to diagnose a variety of illnesses within the body.
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