

ACR Accreditation

ACR accreditation ensures that the physicians supervising and interpreting your medical imaging meet stringent education and training standards. ACR accreditation also signifies that the imaging equipment is surveyed regularly by medical physicists to ensure that it is functioning properly, and that the technologists administering your tests are certified. Encourage the radiologists at your medical imaging care facility to apply for accreditation by the American College of Radiology (ACR) if they haven't already.

Medical imaging procedures performed by unqualified providers may needlessly expose you to radiation or radiation levels that could be unduly hazardous. It may also result in misdiagnosis or problems that are not diagnosed at all.

Radiology in the United States

599 million: Diagnostic radiology procedures performed in a year

34 million: Radiation oncology treatments performed in a year

33,000+: Practicing radiologists

13+: Years of postsecondary training most radiologists complete

Radiology Exams and Imaging Procedures to Know

X-ray uses a form of electromagnetic radiation that is passed through the body to create a 2-D image of a body part or region. X-ray is especially useful in detecting muscle or bone problems. A mammogram is a common example of X-ray technology.

Computed tomography (CT) uses X-rays and sophisticated computer technology to produce a series of 2-D images and/or to generate a 3-D image of a part of the body. CT scans are often used to check for brain injuries or appendicitis and other abdominal indications.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) uses a powerful magnetic field to produce detailed pictures of organs, soft tissue, bones, and other internal body parts. MRI is especially useful in detecting nervous system, musculoskeletal, heart, and cancer-related diseases or injury.

Ultrasound uses high-frequency sound waves and computer technology to generate "real-time" images of the body. Ultrasound, also known as sonography, is often used in obstetric and breast imaging care.

Additional Resources

For more information about medical imaging and radiological procedures, please visit www.radiologyinfo.org or www.acr.org.



My Radiologist

Radiologist — Your physician imaging expert.

www.MyRadiologist.com

Your Radiologist

Your radiologist is a medical doctor who specializes in diagnosing disease and injury by using medical imaging techniques, such as X-rays, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), and ultrasound.

Because some of these imaging techniques involve the use of radiation, adequate training in and understanding of radiation safety and protection are important.

Your Radiologist Has the Right Training, Knowledge, and Experience

Your radiologist graduated from an accredited medical school, passed a state licensing exam, and completed a residency of at least four years of unique postgraduate medical education. That residency included the following (or other) topics:

- Radiation safety/protection
- Radiation effects on the human body
- Appropriate performance and interpretation of medical imaging exams

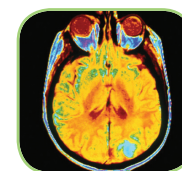
Most radiologists also complete a fellowship — one to two additional years of specialized training in a particular subspecialty of radiology, such as breast imaging, cardiovascular radiology, and nuclear medicine. Finally, your radiologist passed the examination for board certification indicating that he or she is a physician specialist in radiology.

Your Radiologist Plays an Important Role in Your Health By:

- Acting as an expert consultant to your referring physician (the doctor who sent you to the radiology department or clinic for testing) by aiding him or her in choosing the proper examination, interpreting the resulting medical images, and in using test results in your care
- Recommending further scans or treatments when necessary
- Directing radiology technologists (personnel who operate the equipment) in properly performing quality exams

The Future Is Now in Radiology

Medical imaging exams are increasingly replacing more invasive, and often more costly, techniques. Radiologists are at the forefront of imaging technology, spearheading the development and implementation of CT, MRI, PET, and fusion imaging.



What You Should Know About Quality and Safety in Medical Imaging

Radiological procedures such as CT, MRI, and PET are medically prescribed and should only be utilized by appropriately trained and certified physicians under medically necessary circumstances. Radiologists are medical doctors who have received at least four years of unique, specific, postmedical school training in radiation safety, the optimal performance of radiological procedures, and interpretation of medical images.