

Title: Diagnostic Imaging
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Client: Family First ER
Contact: Yousef Defrawi
Due Date: August 23, 2019

Family First ER offers a complete line of diagnostic imaging to visualize bone and soft tissue damage. Imaging services include ultrasound (sonography), CT (CAT) Scans, and digital X-rays.

Our radiology staff is highly experienced in emergency and trauma care. Your diagnostic images are immediately available to your healthcare team so your treatment isn't delayed. Also, with high-quality images, our providers can locate and identify the damage for precision treatment.

Imaging is a painless, non-invasive method of diagnosis that provides rapid results.

Learn more about our emergency radiology services.

Digital X-Rays

What Are Digital X-Rays?

The traditional X-ray has received a technology upgrade. A few years ago, the patient was exposed to X-rays to form an image on photographic film. Developing the film could take 15 or 20 minutes, delaying diagnosis and treatment of injuries. The patient suffered until the healthcare team could view the developed images.

X-ray imaging is the most commonly known and used imaging method.

New technology allows X-rays to be taken digitally, rather like a digital camera. Instead of film, the image is captured with an electronic sensor and stored on a computer or in the cloud. The images are available for viewing from the moment they are captured. Also, digital images can be manipulated through enlargement or adding more contrast to aid in detecting injuries and disease.

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What Are Digital X-Rays Used For?

Digital X-rays are used to diagnose injuries and disease in hard tissues and some organs.

- Viewing bone fractures and dislocated joints.
- Locating foreign objects in the soft tissue around the bone or that have been swallowed.
- Confirming proper alignment and stabilization of bony fragments after treating a fracture.
- Diagnosing kidney, bladder, and gallstones.
- Exposing blockages of the intestine.
- Searching for perforations in the stomach or intestines.
- Viewing the lungs for pneumonia or emphysema.
- Diagnosing heart failure and other cardiovascular issues.
- Diagnosing Hirschsprung Disease in children, which is a blockage of the large intestine.

Ultrasound (Sonogram)

What Is Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is an imaging technique used to visualize the internal organs and soft tissue structures of the body.

High frequency sound waves are emitted from a transducer, a specialized piece of equipment, placed against the skin. The sound waves bounce off the soft tissues as well as bones to produce an image visible on a computer.

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For some women's issues, a vaginal ultrasound can be performed, which is when a specially shaped transducer is placed inside the vagina to visualize the sexual organs.

Ultrasound can be performed in 2D, 3D, or even 4D. It is a safe, non-invasive method of learning about the inside of the body without surgery.

What Is Ultrasound Used For?

While most people associate ultrasound and sonograms with pregnancy, the technology is used for an array of diagnostic work.

- Examining blood vessels, especially those of the leg or the neck, for blockages.
- Visualizing the gall bladder for stones and other issues.
- Diagnosing thyroid gland issues.
- Looking for breast lumps that may be cancerous.
- Diagnosing genital abnormalities.

CT or CAT Scan

What Is a CT Scan?

A CT scan is a highly specialized X-ray imaging technique used to visualize the bone, soft tissue, and blood vessels all at the same time. CT scans produce high-quality, cross-sectional images that are reformatted in multiple planes or three dimensional images.

The CT scanner is a large, tube-like machine. The patient enters the tube and X-rays are focused on the area of interest.

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What Is a CT Scan Used For?

CT scanning is a fast, accurate method of imaging large sections of the patient. Emergency room physicians order them because they produce high-resolution diagnostic images rapidly to speed up treatment. CT scans are often taken of:

- Lungs, liver, spleen, bowel, and heart after trauma.
- The torso to diagnose reasons for breathing difficulties, chest pain, or abdominal pain.
- Peer into the vascular system for signs of disease that could lead to stroke, pulmonary embolism, aortic aneurysm, or kidney failure.
- Hands, feet, and other skeletal structures and musculoskeletal systems for injuries and disorders.

CT scans are commonly used to detect and diagnose cancer.

Family First ER has access to any diagnostic imaging technique needed to diagnose your illness or injury.