

DEXA Standard Guideline



Patient Prep:

- 1) Every patient must have a fully completed DXA questionnaire.
- 2) Know your DXA machines maximum weight capacity at your site and do not exceed it.
- 3) Each patient shall disrobe fully and be placed into a gown prior to scanning.
- 4) Remove all artifacts, if possible, prior to scanning (i.e. naval rings, bra clips, coins, buttons/snaps, etc)
- 5) Each patient shall have their weight and height taken by the technologist/nurse prior to scanning and entered into the DXA unit.
- 6) Make certain that the patient's age, sex, ethnicity and historical data are accurate and entered as appropriate into the DXA system.

Procedure:

Routine Screening:

1. Spine
2. Bilateral Hips

If cannot obtain spine because of surgery or other artifact:

1. Non-dominant forearm
2. Bilateral Hips

If cannot obtain one of the hips due to surgery or artifact:

1. Spine
2. Other hip

If cannot obtain either hip due to surgery or artifact:

1. Spine
2. Non-dominant forearm

If neither spine nor hips can be done:

1. Both forearms
2. Change order to appendicular of axial

NOTE: Two sites to be done at all times if possible