

Imaging Services

The Imaging Services Department at Valley County Health System provides a comprehensive range of diagnostic services to both inpatients and outpatients. Radiology is vital in diagnosing and treating many diseases and ailments.

Through advancements in technology, X-rays can now be imaged by a computer system. This new advancement is called computed radiography or CR.

Images are captured digitally instead of on film similar to the way digital cameras capture images. These images are stored on a computer. Physicians with internet access can view your images no matter where they are located.

Valley County Health System offers the following imaging tests that detect abnormalities in bone, tissue and other internal body parts.

X-ray

An x-ray is one of the most common radiology techniques. An x-ray creates an image of internal structures of the body by passing a small amount of radiation through the body to strike an imaging plate.

X-rays are used to determine the presence of disease, bone fractures, joint misalignments, arthritis and other painful conditions.

CT Scan

A state-of-the-art six-slice CT Scanner is available to patients around the clock. Computed Tomography (CT) uses X-rays to make detailed pictures of structures inside the human body.

A CT scan can be used to study any organ of the body including the liver, pancreas, intestines, kidneys, adrenal glands, lungs and heart. It can also study blood vessels, bones and the spinal cord.

MRI

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) provides physicians a method of viewing your internal body structures without using radiation. This technology enables physicians to detect developing diseases or abnormalities earlier than ever before.

Basically, MRI involves a powerful, but harmless, magnetic field and radio waves similar to those that transmit your favorite FM radio music. The combination of radio waves and magnetic field produces very clear images of body structures such as the brain, spine and other vital organs.

Nuclear Medicine

Nuclear medicine procedures, commonly called "scans," provide information about both the anatomy of the body and the function of an organ. Nuclear scans can detect diseased tissue before it can be found with routine X-rays. Earlier diagnosis means earlier and more effective treatment.

During nuclear medicine procedures, the patient is given a very small dose of a radioactive substance. Images are made when that substance emits energy. The amount of radiation the patient is exposed to is similar to that of a routine X-ray.

Ultrasound/Echo

Ultrasound (US), also called sonography, is a method of dynamically imaging the human body through the use of high-frequency sound waves.

A microphone-like instrument (transducer) is scanned over the skin. Gel is placed on the skin to improve the contact of the transducer to the area being examined. The sound waves are recorded and displayed as a real-time visual image.

Ultrasound can be used to examine many parts of the body including the abdomen, thyroid, breast, scrotum, pelvis, blood vessels, and heart as well as the fetus dur-

ing pregnancy. Because no ionizing radiation (x-ray) is involved, ultrasound is an extremely safe imaging modality.

DEXA

This study is commonly used as a screening tool for osteoporosis.

Bone density scanning, also called dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DXA or DEXA) or bone densitometry, is an enhanced form of X-ray technology that is used to measure bone loss. DEXA is today's established standard for measuring bone mineral density (BMD).

DEXA is most often performed on the lower spine and hips.

Mammography

Performed in conjunction with monthly self-breast examinations and an annual physical breast exam from your medical provider, getting a mammogram can help detect breast cancer in its early, more treatable stages.

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancers that are detected because they can be felt tend to be larger and are more likely to have spread beyond the breast. In contrast, breast cancers found during screening mammography are more likely to be small and still confined to the breast.

The ACS also recommends that women age 40 and older should have a screening mammogram every year and should continue to do so for as long as they are in good health.

You do not need a referral to schedule a screening mammogram. Call 308-728-4249 for an appointment.

Talk to your doctor.

If you feel you might benefit from one of the procedures above, talk to your doctor.

Imaging Services



at **VALLEY COUNTY
HEALTH SYSTEM**

We get the picture.

We know how important
your photos are.
They capture smiles,
moments, memories.

Our pictures are
important as well.

Our Imaging Services
Department provides a
full range of diagnostic
testing services
utilizing state-of-the-art
equipment.

We capture images
that lead to diagnosis
of diseases and ailments.
That means earlier
and more effective
treatment.

When it comes to images
of the human body,
we get the picture.



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