

Can medical diagnostic imaging procedures cause future reproductive problems?



There have been no instances of reproductive problems related to radiation dose from diagnostic exams in future parents. The dose from common diagnostic exams is too small to cause permanent infertility problems or detectable genetic abnormalities in future children.

While sometimes patients who have had a diagnostic imaging exam are advised to wait six to 12 months before becoming pregnant, this recommendation is usually based on an underlying medical issue that might make delaying pregnancy advisable or necessary. For instance, future medical care for the condition diagnosed using the imaging exam might be jeopardized should the patient become pregnant. Or, the physician might want the patient to fully recover from an illness before becoming pregnant. Although the recommendation for delay is based on a medical reason and is not related to radiation, it can lead to unfortunate misunderstandings about the effects of radiation. Patients should discuss these issues with their healthcare providers.

The real determinant for whether a woman should delay trying to become pregnant is her overall medical condition. If there is reason to expect that the health of the woman would improve during a delay period, or that a delay is preferred to make sure future treatment of a condition is not jeopardized by pregnancy, then a recommendation to delay pregnancy would be appropriate.

Disclaimer

This information is copied from the RadiologyInfo Web site (<http://www.radiologyinfo.org>) which is dedicated to providing the highest quality information. To ensure that, each section is reviewed by a physician with expertise in the area presented. All information contained in the Web site is further reviewed by an ACR (American College of Radiology) - RSNA (Radiological Society of North America) committee, comprising physicians with expertise in several radiologic areas.

However, it is not possible to assure that this Web site contains complete, up-to-date information on any particular subject. Therefore, ACR and RSNA make no representations or warranties about the suitability of this information for use for any particular purpose. All information is provided "as is" without express or implied warranty.

Please visit the RadiologyInfo Web site at <http://www.radiologyinfo.org> to view or download the latest information.

Note: Images may be shown for illustrative purposes. Do not attempt to draw conclusions or make diagnoses by comparing these images to other medical images, particularly your own. Only qualified physicians should interpret images; the radiologist is the physician expert trained in medical imaging.

Copyright

This material is copyrighted by either the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), 820 Jorie Boulevard, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2251 or the American College of Radiology (ACR), 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4397. Commercial reproduction or multiple distribution by any traditional or electronically based reproduction/publication method is prohibited.

Copyright © 2018 Radiological Society of North America, Inc.