

X is for X-ray
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Have you ever asked someone to try out a new recipe you made or smell the milk to see if it's still good? On November 8, 1895, Wilhelm Roentgen went a little further and asked his wife to help him with his scientific research. As his "guinea pig", Bertha allowed him to radiate her hand and thus the first x-ray was taken.

But why do we call them "X-rays?" This particular form of radiation is part of the electromagnetic spectrum on which microwaves, radio waves, sunlight and nuclear energy also reside. At the time, Roentgen didn't know what kind of rays these were and used the mathematical symbol for unknown variables-the letter X-to label them.

Over the last century, we have increasingly seen X-rays used in various ways such as military surveillance, art authentication, security measures, astrological studies and, most commonly, as treatment and diagnostic tools in healthcare for humans as well as animals.

In the last two decades, medical imaging has made some of its most significant advancements due to computers and technology related discoveries. While remaining a scientific field, acquiring and producing an image have transitioned from precisely mixing chemicals in a film processor to reformatting digital images to create a 3D model of the anatomy radiographed. These innovations now allow physicians to more accurately diagnose patients' diseases and study the body's reaction to various forms of drug and radiation therapies.

At HVCH, we are fortunate to have transitioned from computed radiography (CR) to digital radiography (DR) within the past year. We currently have four pieces of digital equipment that are used within various departments of the hospital. Benefits of this change include decreasing exam times and radiation dose for our patients and staff. DR also produces greater image quality which provides the radiologist with more information to interpret exams efficiently and accurately.

Our Radiologic Technologists are trained to perform various tests in several modalities including CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine, Ultrasound and Mammography. The radiology department is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information or to schedule testing, please call (740) 380-8204. We look forward to serving you.