ABOUT INLAND IMAGING

Fast, accurate answers to questions about your health are important. When facing a serious illness or condition, the proper treatment at the right time can make all the difference. At Inland Imaging, our specialty trained radiologists, nurses, and technologists make sure that accurate and detailed answers are delivered quickly so your physician can best guide your treatment. When it comes to your health, better answers can lead to better outcomes.

SCHEDULING

509.455.4455

INLAND IMAGING LOCATIONS

With imaging centers throughout the Spokane area and an advanced integrated electronic network, there is less hassle for you and your physician. For a list of our Inland Imaging locations and maps, please refer to: www.inlandimaging.com/locations.

MUSCULOSKELETAL IMAGING

Imaging the Bones, Joints & Muscles

An Overview of Musculoskeletal Imaging

The likelihood of injury or pain increases with repetitive activity, athletic competition, or exercise. With an injury such as a visible dislocation or a broken bone, it’s likely to be obvious that you need medical attention. Other injuries, however, may be less clear and will require more investigation to evaluate and confirm a diagnosis. In both cases, medical imaging can be a powerful tool for your healthcare provider to determine treatment options.

The musculoskeletal system, which includes bones, joints and muscles, can be imaged with a variety of different radiological techniques. Many of the modalities provide similar information, yet for each particular patient condition there is often one imaging modality which will provide the most useful information.

This brochure deals specifically with the uses of MRI, CT, X-ray, nuclear medicine, ultrasound and arthrography in the imaging of the musculoskeletal system. Inland Imaging physicians and staff are dedicated to providing the highest quality imaging for musculoskeletal disease. Our board-certified musculoskeletal radiologists frequently consult directly with other clinical specialists to provide the most accurate diagnosis possible. They are also available to help your physician decide which modality is best for imaging your particular concern.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) plays an integral role in the diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders without radiation. Even after a thorough physical examination by an expert, it is often difficult to precisely diagnose a soft tissue or joint injury. MRI accurately depicts soft tissue injuries such as muscle, ligament and meniscal tears, as well as cartilage and bone injuries. This preoperative knowledge allows physicians to formulate the best treatment plan for each patient. In many cases, MRI documents non-surgical injuries, such as rotator cuff tendonitis and bone bruises, sparing the patient surgery and ensuring they receive the appropriate treatment faster and more cost effectively. Because MRI detects subtle bone marrow edema and architectural disturbances of the soft tissues, it is also the imaging modality of choice in the diagnosis of many other joint and bone disorders, such as bone and soft tissue tumors, infection, and avascular necrosis of bone.

MRI is the imaging modality of choice in the diagnosis of joint and bone disorders.
Computed Tomography

Computed Tomography (CT) is also very useful in the diagnosis and follow-up of many musculoskeletal disorders, particularly those pertaining to bone, such as fractures that cannot be seen on X-ray, healing fractures, and bone tumors. With both MRI and CT, the patient lies on a table while a scanner takes images of the affected body part. State-of-the-art multi-slice computed tomography (MSCT) allows reconstruction of images in multiple planes as well as 3-D imaging.

X-ray Imaging

X-ray imaging is perhaps the most familiar type of musculoskeletal imaging. Its most common use is in evaluating possible fractures, but it is also used for evaluation of arthritis or bone tumors.

Nuclear Imaging

Nuclear imaging is often used in patients with musculoskeletal pain and non-specific X-ray images to determine whether a bony abnormality is the source of the patient’s pain. Also, this study is used often to diagnose the spread of cancer. The patient is given an injection and then returns to the imaging center three hours later and lies on the scanner table for about 20 minutes while images of the affected area are acquired.

Ultrasound

Ultrasound is useful in evaluating soft tissue abnormalities, such as masses, tendon or muscle injuries, and the hips of infants suspected of having congenital hip dysplasia. It is most commonly used in the evaluation of rotator cuff injuries. Ultrasound images are obtained using a wand which is guided across the skin surface over the affected area.

Treatments

There are also a variety of needle procedures performed by radiologists to diagnose and treat musculoskeletal disorders. These include therapeutic as well as diagnostic joint aspirations and injections, bone and soft tissue biopsies, facet and epidural steroid injections, and discograms.

Ask Your Doctor

Diagnostic imaging plays a very important role in providing you and your physician with the information you will need to make key decisions about your health. Inland Imaging is continually investing in the latest musculoskeletal imaging technology to provide patients with access to the highest quality services. We encourage you to talk to your doctor about which modality may be best for you.