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however imaging tests are not the same as one another learn the differences between a ct scan mri and x ray so you can have an informed discussion with your doctor about which type of imaging is right for you each modality is unique in terms of the images it gathers equipment it uses and conditions it helps radiologists diagnose learn more about our five most common modalities for our various types of imaging tests x ray ct mri ultrasound and pet text only version doctors use imaging tests to make pictures images of the inside of your body imaging tests can be used in many ways including to look for cancer to find out how far it has spread and to help determine if cancer treatment is working doctors use imaging tests to take pictures of the inside of your body imaging tests can be used to look for cancer find out how far it has spread and to help see if cancer treatment is working an x ray is a guick painless test that captures images of the structures inside the body particularly the bones x ray beams pass through the body these beams are absorbed in different amounts depending on the density of the material they pass through mri is the most frequently used imaging test of the brain and spinal cord it s often performed to help diagnose aneurysms of cerebral vessels conditions of the eye and inner ear multiple sclerosis spinal cord conditions stroke tumors brain injury from trauma a spect scan is a type of imaging test that uses a radioactive substance and a special camera to create 3d pictures this test is also known as single photon emission computerized tomography while many imaging tests show what the internal organs look like a spect scan can show how well the organs are working imaging tests provide a picture of the body s interior of the whole body or part of it imaging helps doctors diagnose a disorder determine how severe the disorder is and monitor people after the disorder is diagnosed x rays use low doses of radiation to create pictures of the inside of your body credit istock if you have a symptom or a screening test result that suggests cancer your doctor will find out whether it is due to cancer or some other cause there is no single test that can diagnose cancer diagnostic imaging lets doctors look inside your body for clues about a medical

condition a variety of machines and techniques can create pictures of the structures and activities inside your body the type of imaging your doctor uses depends on your symptoms and the part of your body being examined they include imaging tests are common tools used by health care providers to screen for medical problems diagnose diseases and conditions monitor existing conditions and assess whether treatments are effective an mri magnetic resonance imaging scan is a test that creates clear images of the structures inside your body using a large magnet radio waves and a computer healthcare providers use mris to evaluate diagnose and monitor several different medical conditions ultrasound also called sonography or ultrasonography is a noninvasive imaging test an ultrasound picture is called a sonogram ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to create real time pictures or video of internal organs or other soft tissues such as blood vessels here s more to diagnostic imaging than just x rays learn about 7 types of tests and how they work heart imaging tests provide a picture of the heart blood vessels and surrounding tissue to help diagnose and monitor conditions that affect this organ a doctor can use the pet scans use a radioactive tracer to show how an organ is functioning in real time pet scan images can detect cellular changes in organs and tissues earlier than ct and mri scans your healthcare provider may perform a pet scan and ct scan at the same time pet ct this combination test produces 3d images that allow for a more accurate key takeaways full body mris are comprehensive imaging exams for the entire body priced as high as 2 500 some celebrities and influencers use these tests as preventive screening measures imaging tests create a picture of the inside of your body these tests may be used to look for melanoma that has spread to lymph nodes or distant parts of the body the term for this is metastasis imaging tests may be needed to determine melanoma stage and best course of treatment a positron emission tomography pet scan is an imaging test that can help reveal the metabolic or biochemical function of your tissues and organs the pet scan uses a radioactive drug called a tracer to show both typical and atypical metabolic activity performance evaluation or quality assurance ga of ultrasound us equipment is necessary as for any other medical imaging equipment for ensuring the safety of the patient and operator for maintaining the image quality as specified by the manufacturer s recommendations and for complying with the requirements by

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imaging tests are common tools used by health care providers to screen for medical problems diagnose diseases and conditions monitor existing conditions and assess whether treatments are effective

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