

X-rays

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**X-rays** are a form of electromagnetic radiation, as are radio waves, infrared radiation, visible light, ultraviolet radiation and microwaves. One of the most common and beneficial uses of X-rays is for medical reasons. X-rays are also used in treating cancer and in exploring the cosmos.



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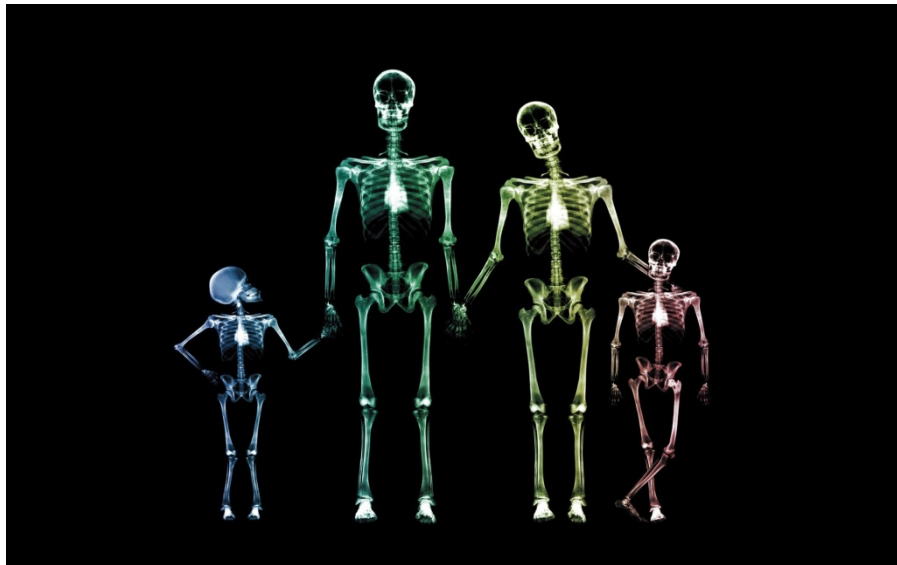
X-rays were discovered in 1895 by Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, a professor at Würzburg University in Germany.



According to the Nondestructive Resource Center's "History of Radiography" Web page, Röntgen noticed crystals near a high-voltage cathode-ray tube which had a fluorescent glow, even when he shielded them with dark paper.

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Radiation therapy uses high-energy radiation to kill cancer cells by damaging their DNA. However, the treatment can damage normal cells as well as cancer cells.



Therefore, the National Cancer Institute recommends that treatment must be carefully done so not to have side effects.



End

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