

Medical Technology Vocabulary

Radiology is the science of high-energy radiation such as x-rays and radioactive substances in the diagnosis and treatment of disease

Sonography is the use of sound waves to see internal organs. It is commonly called ultrasound because it uses high frequency sound waves that cannot be heard by the human ear.

Modern technology has made medical operations simpler and it is possible to have an operation and return home the same day. When this is done it is called outpatient surgery.

MRI is the use of magnetic fields to penetrate the body to see soft tissue as well as bones. This is the best way to diagnose muscle and ligament damage in the body.

Pathology is the science of pathogens or microorganisms in the blood or body fluids. These are often the cause of disease and contamination.

Endoscopy comes from the Greek word to enter in and to see. An endoscope is used to see into the body. Modern medicine has advanced endoscopic surgery to perform complex operations with only small incisions into the blood vessels or abdominal cavity.

A CT (Computerized Tomography) scans are x-rays sent into the body and then analyzed on a computer to see in a 3-dimensional pattern. This is called computer tomography from the Greek word section, such as a cross section of a body part.

A PET (Positron Emission Tomography) scan is when radioactive substances are inserted into the blood stream and then a computer generates a picture of the inner path of the blood by measuring the atomic decay of the radioactive radiation. With a PET scan the process of thought can be seen in the brain.