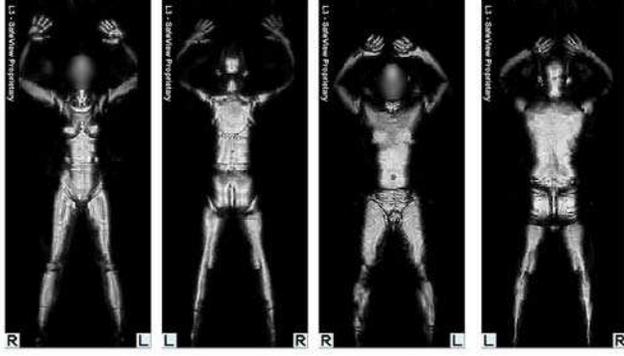


TSA, Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT), and You

# How will your or your child's AIT images look?



A reduced resolution sample from a MMW AIT/WBI machine. Full resolution images have not been released. [Public Domain/TSA]

## Don't like these AIT images?

Opt out for a pat down.  
You have the right.  
Say "I opt out."

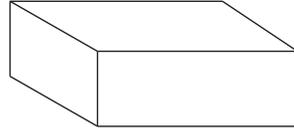
Unlike a pat down (treatment for an inconclusive imaging session), consenting to an Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) / Whole Body Imaging (WBI) session imposes additional risks (e.g., health, privacy, and property) with few benefits.

Please read this brochure to learn more about the TSA, AIT/WBI, and you.

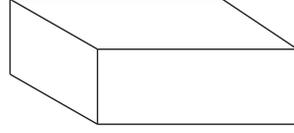
# Don't mistake a body scanner for a metal detector. You have a choice between AIT/WBI and a patdown.

To opt out for a pat down,  
say "I opt out."

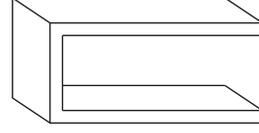
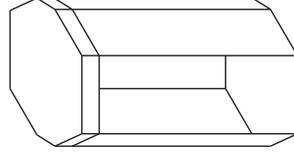
Need reasons? Read this brochure.



Backscatter X-ray



Millimeter wave

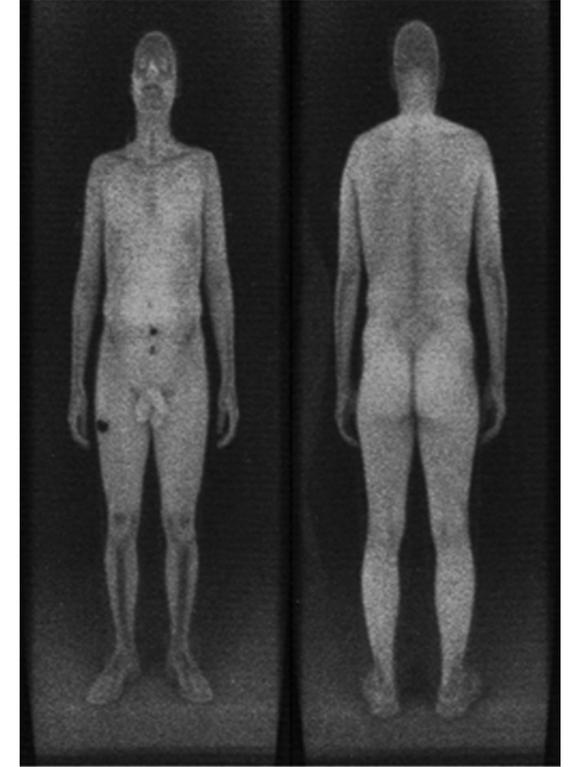


These are AIT/WBI machines.

This is a metal detector.

"Additionally, advanced imaging technology screening is optional to all passengers." <<http://www.tsa.gov/approach/tech/ait/>>

# What the Transportation Security Administration isn't telling you ...



A reduced resolution sample from a backscatter X-ray AIT/WBI machine, dating from 2006. Full resolution images have not been released. [John Wild/johnwild.info]

**Did you give *informed consent* for an AIT session?**

**No? Opt out for a pat down. *You have the right.***

*Say “I opt out.”*

Unlike a pat down (treatment for an inconclusive imaging session), consenting to an Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) session imposes additional risks with few benefits.

**WARNING:**

Pat downs are no longer the simple search like those in the past. In some instances, as part of an “enhanced patdown,” the TSA screener may use the front of their hands to touch your genitals. Should you feel that you or your child were inappropriately touched, call for a law enforcement officer.

If presented with the option to leave the checkpoint for a private screening, consider politely declining with a “No, thank you,” as you will likely be asked to remove your clothing. Pat downs can be performed in public view.

**Benefits**

A false sense of security. At best, the machines can confirm that the imaged areas, which do not include fat folds or body cavities, appear to be normal. Unlike existing metal detectors or explosives detection machines, AIT machines do not detect metal or explosives.

**Risks**

*Health risks*

Backscatter X-ray machines use ionizing radiation, a cumulative, known health hazard, for imaging. Children, pregnant women, and those with defective DNA repair mutations are considered to be especially susceptible to DNA damage.

Several University of California, San Francisco faculty members, in a letter of concern, state “there is good reason to believe that these scanners will increase the risk of cancer to children and other vulnerable populations,” and recommend the re-evaluation of the “potential health issues [they] have raised before there are irrevocable long-term consequences to the health of our country.”<sup>1</sup> The scientists and physicians have also noted that the comparison of backscatter X-ray machine dosage to “cosmic ray exposure inherent to airplane travel or that of a chest X-ray,” is “very misleading,” while “real independent safety data do not exist.”<sup>1</sup>

1. [npr.org/assets/news/2010/05/17/concern.pdf](http://npr.org/assets/news/2010/05/17/concern.pdf)

Millimeter wave machines use active millimeter waves for imaging and their health risks have not been characterized.

*The New York Times* wrote, “the devices haven’t been thoroughly tested,” finding the TSA’s claim of evaluation by the FDA’s Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Commerce Department’s NIST, and JHU’s Applied Physics Laboratory to be resulting from “test[ing] only one thing — whether the amount of radiation emitted,” meets ANSI guidelines.<sup>2</sup>

The TSA is also delaying Freedom of Information Act requests for test information regarding “body scanners and radiation emission or exposure.”<sup>3</sup>

*Privacy risks*

AIT machines provide operators with an image of your body, exposing attributes such as deformities and genitalia size while revealing what is beneath your clothing. Detected medical devices may prompt a full body search along with questions about medical history.

The *San Diego Entertainer* notes, “the scans are detailed enough to identify a person’s gender ... to identify a passenger’s surgery scars, or to discern whether a woman is on her menstrual cycle or not.”<sup>4</sup>

Rolando Negrin, a TSA screener, was ridiculed by other screeners for having a small penis after being imaged by an AIT device.

Images from AIT devices may also be stored by the TSA or by a third party (with or without TSA’s knowledge). These images may be the Ivy League nude posture images of our generation.

*Property risks*

When confined in an AIT machine, you can no longer maintain a clear line of sight to your property as your items enter and exit the X-ray scanner.

Under these conditions, your property is susceptible to theft by fellow travelers and screening staff. Be especially mindful of your wallet, jewelry, and items in your pockets, as these items must be removed before entering an AIT scanner.

2. *The New York Times*, September 7, 2010, “Are Scanners Worth the Risk?”

3. [epic.org/privacy/body\\_scanners/Body\\_Scan\\_Rad\\_Appeal.pdf](http://epic.org/privacy/body_scanners/Body_Scan_Rad_Appeal.pdf)

4. *San Diego Entertainer*, August 31, 2010; [sdentertainer.com/news/tsa-installs-body-scanners-san-diego-international-airport/](http://sdentertainer.com/news/tsa-installs-body-scanners-san-diego-international-airport/)

TSA, Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT), and You

# Did you find this document helpful?

**Pass it on.  
Educate others.**

**Give this brochure to a friend or fellow stranger.**

Remember, you have the *right to opt out* for a pat down.

*Say “I opt out.”*

**More information is available on the Internet:**

- [dontscan.us](http://dontscan.us)
- [nudeoscope.org](http://nudeoscope.org)
- [thousandsstandingaround.org](http://thousandsstandingaround.org)

**Should you wish to file a complaint, consider:**

- **TSA:** Request a complaint form at the checkpoint from a supervisor
- **ACLU:** [https://secure.aclu.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=watchlist\\_survey](https://secure.aclu.org/site/SPageServer?pagename=watchlist_survey)
- **EPIC:** [https://epic.org/bodyscanner/incident\\_report](https://epic.org/bodyscanner/incident_report)