

Your child's skeletal survey

This leaflet will answer some of your questions about your child's skeletal survey. It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives of the examination, as well as what you can expect when you come to Evelina London Children's Hospital. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.

What is a skeletal survey?

A skeletal survey is an examination of areas of your child's body using X-rays.

Why your child needs a skeletal survey

This test can give us information that will help the doctor to make a diagnosis or decision about your child's treatment.

What are the risks?

All X-ray examinations involve exposure to radiation in different amounts. The length and level of exposure to radiation from X-rays in medical examinations is strictly controlled and kept to the minimum possible. The doses that are used in medical X-rays are very low and thought to be very safe. They are similar in strength to other sources of natural radiation that people are exposed to every day.

The examination takes place in our one of our children's X-ray rooms that are in the Children's Imaging Department. They offer very low-dose imaging.

Are there any alternatives?

This depends on why your child is being X-rayed. There are other types of imaging techniques, such as ultrasound, MRI or CT scans, which can be used instead of, or as well as, X-rays. Different types of scans are useful for answering different types of medical questions. X-rays are best for looking at the bones. Your team will decide which is the right examination. Each request is also checked by the imaging team to make sure that the most appropriate examination is done. If you have any questions please speak to the referring team.

Asking for your consent

We want to involve you in all the decisions about your child's care and treatment. You will be asked if you consent to the procedure when you are called into the X-ray room. If you do consent, this verbally confirms that you agree to your child having the examination and that you understand what it involves.

If you would like more information about our consent process, please speak to a member of staff caring for you.

Before a skeletal survey

As the imaging involves X-rays, legally we have to ask girls over the age of 12 if there is a chance they could be pregnant. To do this we will provide a simple question sheet when you book in at the imaging reception desk. This will be checked by the radiographers doing the examination.

Before going into the X-ray room your child might need to get changed. The radiographers will tell you if this is necessary, and direct you to a changing room and provide guidance on what to wear.

During an X-ray?

The radiographers will explain the examination and then help your child into whichever position is best for the X-rays that are needed. As a parent or carer you might be asked by the radiographers to support or hold your child in a particular position (this depends on their age). If this help is needed you will be asked to wear a lead coat to protect you from the radiation. If there is **any chance** you could be pregnant, please tell the radiographers **before** the examination begins. If you are pregnant, we advise you to bring another family member with you to act as a supporter.

Will your child feel any pain?

A skeletal survey is a series of X-rays and so should not be painful.

After the procedure?

You can leave the department after the skeletal survey. A doctor will look at the X-ray images and write a report. This report will be sent to the doctor that asked for the X-rays.

What to do after you go home

There is nothing that you need to do when you go home.

Follow-up appointments

You might already have a follow-up appointment with the team who referred you. If not, please contact them to arrange one to discuss the results of this test. If this is your GP, your child's results will be available from them in 2 to 3 weeks.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the X-ray, please contact us, **tel:** 020 7188 9218, or you can visit our page, **web:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/radiology

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **web:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, **tel:** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm, **email:** letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Leaflet number: 4095/VER3

Date published: July 2021

Review date: July 2024

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A list of sources is available on request