

# Your child's skeletal survey

**This leaflet will answer some of the questions you may have about your child having a skeletal survey. It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives of the examination, as well as what you can expect when you come to the Evelina London Children's Hospital. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to a doctor or nurse caring for your child.**

## What is a skeletal survey?

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

## Why should my child have a skeletal survey?

This test can provide 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 varying amounts. The duration 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 are 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 children's x-ray rooms that are designed specifically for children and young people, and offers 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 assess which is the most appropriate 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.

## What happens before a skeletal survey?

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

Prior to going into the x-ray room your child may be required to get changed. The radiographers will tell you if this is necessary, direct you to a changing room and provide guidance on what to wear.

## What happens during an x-ray?

The examination takes place in our one of our children's x-ray rooms that are located in the Children's Imaging Department. The radiographers will explain the examination and then assist your child into which ever position is best for the x-rays that need to be taken. As a parent or carer you may be asked by the radiographers to support or hold your child in a particular position (this depends on their age). If this assistance is required 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 notify 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 my child feel any pain?

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

## What happens after the procedure?

You will be able to leave the department following the skeletal survey. A doctor will look at the x-ray images and write a report. This report will be sent to the referring doctor that requested the x-rays.

## What do I need to do after I go home?

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

## Will I have a follow-up appointment?

You may 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 two to three weeks.

### Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the x-ray, please contact the Evelina London Imaging Department, **t:** 020 7188 9218, or you can visit our website at [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk) or [www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk)

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

**t:** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

**e:** [letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk)

### **Your comments and concerns**

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

**t:** 020 7188 8801 (PALS)      **e:** [pals@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk)  
**t:** 020 7188 3514 (complaints)      **e:** [complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk)

### **Language and accessible support services**

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

**t:** 020 7188 8815      **e:** [languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk)

### **NHS 111**

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

**t:** 111

### **NHS Choices**

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

**w:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### **Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust**

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, please get in touch.

**t:** 0800 731 0319      **e:** [members@gstt.nhs.uk](mailto:members@gstt.nhs.uk)      **w:** [www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership](http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership)

**Leaflet number: 4095/VER2**

Date published: June 2018

Review date: June 2021

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A list of sources is available on request