

Your child's X-ray

This leaflet will answer some of the questions you have about your child's X-ray. It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives, as well as what you can expect when you come to the hospital. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a doctor, radiographer or nurse caring for your child.

What is an X-ray?

We use X-rays to create images of specific areas of your child's body.

What are the benefits of having an X-ray?

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

What are the risks?

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 that is 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 one of our children's X-ray rooms that are specifically designed for children and young people, and offer very low-dose imaging.

Are there any alternatives?

This depends on what your child is being tested for. 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 test for your child. Each request is also checked by the dedicated imaging team to make sure that the right test 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 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 your child.

What happens before an X-ray?

As the imaging involves the use of X-rays we legally have to ask girls over the age of 12 if there is any chance they could be pregnant. To do this we will provide a simple questionnaire at the time you book in at the imaging reception. This will be checked by the radiographer doing the examination.

Before going into the X-ray room your child may need to get changed. The radiographer will let you know if this is necessary, direct you to a changing room and give guidance on what to wear.

What happens during an X-ray?

The examination takes place in the Children's Imaging Department. The radiographer will explain what the examination is and then help your child to move into the position that is best for the X-rays that need to be taken. As a parent or carer, you may be asked by the radiographer to support or hold your child in a particular position (this depends on their age). If this happens you will be asked to wear a lead coat to protect you from the radiation. **If there is any chance you could be pregnant you must notify the radiographer 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?

The X-ray examination should not be painful.

What happens after the procedure?

You will be able to leave the department after the X-ray. 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-ray.

What you need to do after you go home

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

Will your child have a follow-up appointment?

You may already have an appointment with the team who referred you. If you don't, 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 14-21 days.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the X-ray, please contact the Imaging Department, **tel:** 020 7188 9218. Alternatively you can visit, **web:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk or www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk

For more information leaflets 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-5pm, **email:** letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

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