

Your child's X-ray

This leaflet gives you information about your child's X-ray. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on 020 7188 9218.

This information sheet is to help answer some of the questions you may have about your child having an X-ray. It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives to the procedure, as well as what you can expect when you come to the Evelina London Children's Hospital (ELCH). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to 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 examination. Each request is also checked by the dedicated imaging team to ensure that the most appropriate examination is undertaken. 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 are legally obligated 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 questionnaire at the time you book in at the imaging reception. This will be checked by the radiographer undertaking the examination.

Prior to going into the X-ray room your child may be required to get changed. The radiographer will let you know 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 the Children's Imaging Department. The radiographer will explain what the examination is and then assist your child to move into whichever position 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 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 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 my 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 following 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 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 an 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 14 to 21 days.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about the X-ray, please contact the ELCH Imaging Department, **t:** 020 7188 9218. Alternatively you can visit our website at 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 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 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday **e:** 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
t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** 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

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

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 **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership

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