

Patient Information

Radiology

Follow-up X-rays of your child's bones (skeletal survey examination)

Information for parents/guardians

This examination should be carried out 11 to 14 days after the first skeletal survey examination.

This information explains what this involves. If you have any further questions or concerns, please ask your doctor or a member of the Radiology team.

Referral and consent

Your doctor should have talked to you about why your child needs this examination and explained the procedure to you. You will not need to sign another consent form as the original consent form you signed covers this procedure too.

If you do not want to have the procedure, your doctor will talk to you about the risks and benefits again. You can decide against it, but your doctor will need to discuss your decision not to consent with Social Care.

Sometimes, we may use a court order so that the follow up skeletal survey can go ahead.

If you need a translator before and during the examination, please let staff know before so that this does not cause any delays.



What is a follow-up skeletal survey?

This is an X-ray examination of some of the bones in the body. This includes X-rays of your child's chest, arms and legs. It is mainly used to look for broken bones, and may find problems that were not seen on the previous X-rays.

The examination is performed by two trained X-Ray specialists (Radiographers). It may take up to one hour to complete, depending on the age and mobility of your child.

Risks/benefits of the procedure

X-rays are a type of radiation. We are all exposed to natural background radiation in our everyday lives. This comes from the sun, the food we eat, and the ground. Exposure to X-rays carries a small risk, but it is felt that this risk is outweighed by the benefits of having the test. We will take all the appropriate measures to minimise the amount of X-rays that your child receives.

Having an X-ray carries a very small risk of cancer occurring many years or decades after the exposure. This risk depends upon the dose of radiation received.

By supporting a patient during their X-ray, you may receive a small dose of radiation. You will be provided with a lead apron to wear to make sure that this dose is much lower than the patient. This ensures that the risk to you is minimal.

If you are, or think you may be pregnant, you should not stay in the room during the procedure.

Preparation

- If your child is having medicines to make them sleepy (being sedated) for the examination, you will need to go to the ward first. A trained nurse will take you and your child to the department and will stay with them throughout the procedure.

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- If you are coming from home, you need to book in at the X-ray reception when you arrive - staff will then tell you where to go
- An adult will need to be in the room during the examination to hold your child still; this can be a parent, grandparent or any other appropriate adult. We recommend that unless your child is being sedated, 2 adults attend to help hold the child as there will not normally be a nurse or staff member available to help hold them. Anyone present during the procedure must fully understand the extent and nature of the examination. If there is a chance that the adult could be pregnant, they will not be allowed in the room.
- If your child is very young, it is often a good idea to feed them just before the examination.
- If they have a favourite toy or soother, it is a good idea to bring this along for your child.
- We will need to confirm your child's identity before the examination, so please make sure whoever comes with your child knows their details and can confirm their name, date of birth and address.
- Please do not bring siblings or other children with you.

If you do bring other children, you must also bring another responsible adult to look after them, as they will not be allowed into the room during the examination.

During the examination

Clothing, nappies, jewellery, and any other items will be removed as these may show up on the X-rays. We will only expose the parts of the body that are being imaged at that time, and we will try to make sure your child is warm and covered where possible during the examination.

Your child will need to be held still when the X-rays are taken, otherwise the images will be blurred. This will involve the ward nurse and/or parent/guardian holding your child gently but firmly. Sometimes we use soft sponge pads or sandbags to help. Keeping your child still for the procedure is important - we will let you know if we need to do this. We may also try to distract your child.

After the examination

Your child will need to stay in the department while the images are looked at by a consultant radiologist (X-ray specialist doctor). This will only take a few minutes. This is done to make sure that all of the images are of good quality and to see if any more images are needed at that time. You and your child will then go either back to the ward or you will be allowed home.

There may be times when your child becomes so distressed that the examination cannot continue. In these cases, the radiographers will contact the referring doctor to discuss the options of postponing or cancelling the examination. Sometimes medication can be used to make your child sleepy (sedation). If this is the case the doctor will talk to you and you will have to give consent before the medicine can be given.

Results

The consultant radiologist will provide a written report on the hospital computer system. This will form part of the child's medical record. The doctor who referred the child for the initial examination will discuss the results with you.

More X-rays or scans may be needed after a full review.

If you have any further questions or queries

Please contact us and we will be happy to help.

Radiology Department:

024 7696 3000 or 024 7696 7114

(Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5pm)

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact us on 024 7696 7114 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

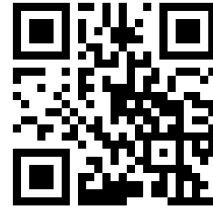
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