

Having X-rays of some of the bones in your body (skeletal survey)

Department of Radiology

Information for Patients

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Introduction

If you are an outpatient please read your appointment letter carefully to check which hospital your appointment is at. This leaflet tells you about your examination. Please read it carefully as it contains important information and instructions.

What is an X-ray?

An X-ray is an examination that uses a small amount of radiation to take pictures of the inside of your body.

What is a skeletal survey?

In a skeletal survey examination X-rays are taken of various bones in the body including the skull, chest, spine, pelvis and sometimes arms and legs. You may not need to have an X-ray taken of all parts of your body.

The survey is used to examine the bones and to see if there is any damage that may need treatment.

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To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

How do I prepare for the procedure?

You do not need to do anything special. You can eat and drink normally before and after the procedure.

It may be helpful to wear loose clothes without too many clips or zips. You may need to remove your jewellery if it is located in a part of your body which is due to be examined.

If there is any possibility that you may be pregnant, please contact the Radiology Department as soon as possible. If you are an inpatient staying in hospital please ask your nurse to contact the Radiology Department.

Who will be doing the examination?

The examination will be done by a radiographer or assistant practitioner. As we are a teaching hospital a student may also be present. If you wish, you can ask that students are not present during your examination.

How long will it take?

It takes about 30 minutes but this can vary for each patient.

What happens during the examination?

On arrival at the Radiology Department you will be sent to the relevant waiting area. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown and remove any jewellery, depending on which parts of your body are being examined.

You will be taken into the X-ray room and you can ask any questions that you may have.

The radiographer will tell you whether you need to sit, stand or lie down, depending on which area of your body is being X-rayed.

You will need to stay still and may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds. The radiographer will be able to see and hear you at all times.

What happens after the examination?

If you have no other appointments in the hospital, you can get dressed and go home.

If you are an inpatient you will be taken back to your ward.

How do I get the results?

The results will not be given to you on the day. The X-ray pictures will be examined by a doctor or radiographer who specialise in X-ray imaging. The results will be sent to the doctor who referred you for this examination.

A member of the specialist team where you were referred from will discuss the results with you at your next appointment.

What are the risks from the radiation from X-rays?

The main risk from having X-rays is an increase in the risk of getting a cancer in the future. This risk is thought to be very small. We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from the sun, food we eat, and the ground. Each X-ray examination gives a dose on top of this natural background radiation. The risks of radiation are slightly higher for an unborn child so we must ask some patients aged 10 to 55 years about their last menstrual period and possibility of being pregnant.

The radiation from the X-rays during this examination will be about the same as getting between a few days to a few weeks worth of natural background radiation, for each X-ray taken. The amount will depend on which bones are being x-rayed.

The benefits of this examination are likely to outweigh any potential risk, and the risk from not having the examination could be greater. We will take all safeguards to minimise the amount of X-rays you receive.

What if I need to talk to someone?

If you have any questions or concerns or cannot make your appointment, please call the Radiology Department on

0116 258 8765 (select option 5),

Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm.



اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

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