



# Your child's X-rays of some of the bones in their body (skeletal survey)

## Radiology Department

Information for Patients

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### Introduction

We have been asked to X-ray your child. It is important that you know what to expect when they come for the test so that it can be completed quickly and easily.

### Important information for parents and carers

#### Before the appointment:

- **If you need an interpreter, or if you have any special requirements**, please contact the Radiology Department for more information. The number to call is at the end of this leaflet. It is also on the appointment letter.
- **Medicines should be taken as usual** unless you have been given different instructions by the doctor.
- **Getting to the hospital:** Transport has not been arranged for this appointment. If transport is needed please call either your GP or the Radiology Department.

#### At the appointment:

- Other children will not be allowed in the X-ray room whilst this test is being done. If you have any other children please make other child care arrangements for the appointment and do not bring them into hospital if possible.
- Pregnant mothers will not be allowed to hold their child for an X-ray.
- Your child might also have a CT scan of their head on the same day as the skeletal survey. We will talk to you about it on the day if your child needs a CT scan.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.uhleicester.nhs.uk](http://www.uhleicester.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net](mailto:uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net)

## What is a skeletal survey?

A skeletal survey is an X-ray test. We take X-ray pictures of some of the bones in the body. This includes the skull, chest, tummy (abdomen), pelvis, arms, legs, hands and feet.

The X-ray test takes place over 2 appointments, about 2 weeks apart.

- **1st appointment** your child will have about 30 X-ray pictures. The number will vary for each child. The whole test will take between 30 minutes to 1 hour.
- **2nd appointment** will be arranged for your child in 11 to 14 days. At this appointment we will take more X-rays of the chest, ribs, arms and legs. This is because some problems or injuries do not show up straight away. Your child will have about 11 X-ray pictures at the second appointment. This will take about 30 minutes.

## Why is a skeletal survey needed?

The reason for the X-ray test should be explained to you before your appointment by the doctor who asked for the test to be done.

X-rays and scans can help identify broken bones, injuries or other problems.

## How should my child get ready for a skeletal survey?

- Before the appointment, the person who does the X-rays (a radiographer) will talk to the nurse and doctor looking after your child on the ward. They will talk about any special requirements your child might need. This could be a play specialist to keep to help keep your child entertained for the skeletal survey, or sedation to make them relaxed or sleepy during the X-ray test.
- We may give your child some sedation to make them feel sleepy for the X-ray test. This may help keep your child still during the X-ray test so we can get the X-ray pictures we need the first time. This reduces the need for a repeat X-ray. Doctors will talk about if sedation is needed for your child's X-ray test. We will tell you if your child will be given sedation.
- The child's parent or carer will need to give permission (consent) for the X-ray test and possible sedation.
- If your child is on pain relief for any reason, it is better if this is working at its best during the X-ray test. We will talk to the nurse and doctor about the best time to do the test.
- Your child will get changed into a hospital gown on the ward.
- It is best to feed small babies right before the X-ray test so that they are settled during the test. But, they should not feed right before the test if they are having sedation.

## When and where will the skeletal survey be done?

Skeletal surveys are done in an X-ray room in the Children's X-ray department at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

These X-rays are done between 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

This is when the specialist X-ray doctor (Radiologist) is in.

If your child needs a CT scan of their head, this will be done before the skeletal survey. We will take your child to the CT scanner room.

## What happens in the X-ray room?

- You may go into the X-ray room with your child when the test takes place unless you are or have any reason to suspect you might be pregnant. If you think you may be pregnant you will have to leave the room when the X-rays begin.
- In the X-ray room the radiographer will tell you what will happen. They may ask you to help keep your child as still as possible during the X-ray test. The radiographer will explain how to hold your child in position for each X-ray.
- The X-ray test is not painful. Younger children may get distressed as they will need to be held still for a short time while each X-ray picture is taken. It may help to bring a dummy, toy or anything else that may help to comfort your child during the X-ray test

## What happens after the skeletal survey?

When the X-rays and scan have been taken, you will be able to go back to the ward.

## How do I get the results?

You will not get the results straight away.

The results will be sent to hospital doctor who wanted your child to have this test.

## What are the risks from exposure to radiation in this procedure?

The risk of having X-rays is very small. We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from the sun, the food we eat, and the ground. Each X-ray gives a dose on top of this natural background radiation.

The radiation from the X-rays during this test is equivalent to about a few months of natural background radiation.

Any questions or concerns about the use of X-rays can be answered at the time of the appointment. We try to keep your child's exposure to X-rays as low as we can.



## What if I need to talk to someone?



### If you have any questions or concerns, or cannot make the appointment:

Please call the X-ray department on **0116 258 8765** and select **option 1**. Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, but not on bank holidays.

If you have any questions when you are at the appointment you can talk to the nurse or doctor on the ward.

If you have any questions in the X-ray room, you can talk to the person doing your X-rays (the radiographer).

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ 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।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net](mailto:uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net)