



Skeletal Surveys

Patient information Leaflet

January 2019

Introduction

This leaflet aims to provide parents and carers with general information about an examination called a skeletal survey. We hope you find the information useful but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

What is a skeletal survey?

A skeletal survey is when x-rays are taken of the skull, chest, spine, pelvis, arms legs, hands and feet. It is similar to having photographs taken and will not cause any pain. An x-ray machine directs x-rays through parts of the body being examined onto an imaging plate. Images are produced of the structure in the body. The survey is used to examine the bones and to see if there is any bone damage. It may need to be repeated (in whole or part) in 2 weeks time to look for any healing injuries

Where will the skeletal survey take place?

The examination will take place in the Radiology Department

Who will be doing the skeletal survey?

The skeletal survey will be performed by a Radiographer with support from a member of the paediatric team. The procedure will be explained and you can ask any questions that you have.

How long will it take?

This varies for each child but should take 60-90 minutes. A break can be taken if required.

The results.

After the examination a Consultant Radiologist (specialised x-ray doctor) at Alder Hey Children's hospital will examine the images and produce a report. The report is sent to the doctor who asked for the skeletal survey. The results are normally available within 72 hours of the survey.

How to prepare for a skeletal survey x-ray.

A child does not need any special preparation but it may help if they wear clothes that are loose fitting and easy to remove. Parents may be asked to remove some of the child's clothing and any jewellery or metal, for example poppers on vests.

Though the examination is not painful, younger children may get distressed as they will need to be held still for the x-rays. Sometimes it is necessary to arrange for a child to be sedated so that they are settled during the survey.

If a child is on pain relief for any reason it is better if this is working at its best during the examination.

Interpreters

If parents need an interpreter, or prefer to be communicated in a particular way they should inform staff when they are given the appointment for the skeletal survey.

If you have any questions you want to ask, you can use this space below to remind you

If you have a visual impairment this leaflet can be made available in bigger print or on audiotape. If you require either of these options please contact the Patient Information Centre on 0161 922 5332

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