

Skeletal survey and CT head scan

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What is a skeletal survey?

A skeletal survey is an examination made up of multiple x-rays. This includes the skull, chest, spine, pelvis, arms, legs, hands and feet.

How to prepare

Although x-rays and CT scans are not painful, your child may become distressed when they are being held in positions for short lengths of time. It may be useful to bring a feed, dummy, toy or anything that you think may help to comfort your child during this time.

Sometimes a child may be given sedation to help them settle, this will be discussed on the ward prior to the examination. If your child is currently receiving pain relief, it also helps to have this before the examination.

Where will the skeletal survey take place?

The survey will take place in the radiology department.

Who will do the survey?

Two senior radiographers will carry out the survey.

What happens during the survey?

You will receive an appointment time on the ward. You and your child will be escorted to x-ray where the radiographers will explain what will happen and guide you on how to hold your child for the x-rays.

The surveys can take anywhere between 45-60 minutes to complete.

Will I be allowed to stay with my child?

Any relative or guardian accompanying the child will be invited into the room during the examination.

What happens after the x-rays?

Once the radiographers have all the images they need, you and your child will be escorted to the CT department.

CT head scan

A CT scan is quick and painless. Your child will be settled on the scanner and encouraged to remain still. You will be able to stay with your child during the scan if you wish.

What happens after the skeletal survey is complete?

After the survey, you and your child will be able to go back to the ward. The results will be sent to the doctor and other members of staff involved in your child's care.

Will there be a follow up appointment?

Yes. An appointment for 14 days time will be made by the radiographers while you are in the x-ray department. Repeat x-rays, around two to four, will need to be undertaken to complete the investigation.

Are there any risks involved?

As with any form of radiation, x-rays and CT scans do carry a small health risk. When doctors request this to be carried out, they believe the benefits of this examination are greater than any small risk that it may carry. We are all exposed to the background radiation in our everyday lives. The level of exposure to radiation is strictly controlled and kept to a minimum at all times. The amount of radiation received for a skeletal survey is roughly the same amount of exposure as approximately four to eight months of background radiation. The amount of radiation for the CT scan is approximately 18 months, but this is a much more detailed examination, therefore any risk is outweighed by the benefits.

When will I receive the results?

We aim to make these available by the next working day.

The report will be shared with social services and any other agencies as necessary. This can be used in court proceedings too.

Any concerns please feel free to contact ward 10: 01493 452010.

Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

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The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

For a large print version of this leaflet, contact PALS 01493 453240