

# **Skeletal Survey**

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## **What is a skeletal survey?**

A skeletal survey is a special test which X-rays all the bones of your baby.

## **Why do we do a skeletal survey?**

This is to find out if there are any problems with the bones or any breaks that we don't know about.

## **How long does it take and will it hurt?**

It will take about 1-1.5 hours to carry this out. The x-rays are not sore but babies can be upset having to be held still at times. This is done as quickly and as professionally as possible.

## **Can I be with my baby for the test?**

Yes as long as you wear a special apron and are not pregnant

## **How much is the dose of X-ray to my baby?**

The dose of X-ray is 0.7mSv, which is the same as 5 months of background radiation. We only do this test if it is really needed which is the case for your baby.

## **When will I know the results of the skeletal survey and what then?**

The skeletal survey needs to be looked at by a specialist consultant radiologist (Doctor) very carefully, so the result may not be available until the day after the test. One of the senior doctors involved in your baby's care will go over the result with you.

## **Are there any other parts to a skeletal survey?**

Yes – it is likely your baby will need to have a further chest X-ray 2 weeks after the first skeletal survey. This is because sometimes bone problems or breaks do not show up until later when healing has started

**If you have any further questions, please ask the specialist radiographers who are doing the test for your baby.**

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