

# Let's Talk About...

## Skeletal Survey

Your doctor has ordered a skeletal survey for your child. A skeletal survey is a complete set of x-rays used to check a person's bones. It consists of about 21 x-rays and includes the skull, the entire spine, the ribs and chest, the pelvis, both hands, both feet, arms, and legs.

### How will the skeletal survey be done?

Your child will have several x-rays. Most of the x-rays will be taken while your child lies on a table. They will start with x-rays of the feet, and then move to the legs, pelvis, chest, skull, hands, arms, and finally the spine.

The x-rays will be taken as quickly and efficiently as possible. Usually, there are two or three radiology technologists to help. One works at a computer. The other will position and comfort your child during the x-rays.

Because of the detail involved and the quality needed, your child will have to be motionless and in a specific position for each x-ray. Just like a photograph, if your child moves, the x-rays are blurry and may need to be taken again. The technologist will use sponges and towels to help your child hold each body part still. If your child moves a lot, the technologist will hold them so the x-rays are acceptable. The procedure is easier if your child can cooperate during the examination. Your child may have red skin on different areas of the body. Sometimes this is from the technologist holding your child to get quality x-rays. This is a normal reaction, and the redness should go away quickly.

This may be a stressful experience for both you and your child. We want to provide you and your child with the best possible results from this procedure. It is very important that the x-rays are of the highest quality. We also want you and your child to be comfortable.

### How can I help my child during a skeletal survey?

It is best if you are not with your child during this exam, because they may become distracted. This may make the procedure last longer. Your child may not understand why we are holding them and may reach for you. If your child moves at all, the procedure lasts longer. It is helpful for you to wait for your child in the waiting room. If you decide to stay with your child during the procedure and it is becoming difficult, the technologist may ask you to wait outside the exam room.

### What happens after the skeletal survey?

Once all the x-rays are taken, a radiologist (x-ray doctor) will look at them. If your child does not need any other x-rays, they will return to you and the exam is finished. The radiologist looks at the x-rays very carefully and sends a report about them to the doctor who ordered the x-rays. Call your doctor to find out the results.

### What if I have more questions?

If you have any other questions, ask your doctor or the radiology technologist.

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