

Your Child's X-Ray

- Things you might like to know

Well-Being

- Your child is having an X-ray so that their doctor or health care practitioner can either make a diagnosis or monitor the progress of their treatment.
- The doctor or health care practitioner can explain how the information gained will help to improve your child's diagnosis or treatment.
- Our overriding concern is to ensure that when anyone has an X-ray, the benefits from making the right diagnosis or providing the correct treatment outweigh the very low risk involved with the X-ray itself. We make sure that this is the case before anyone has an X-ray.

Consent

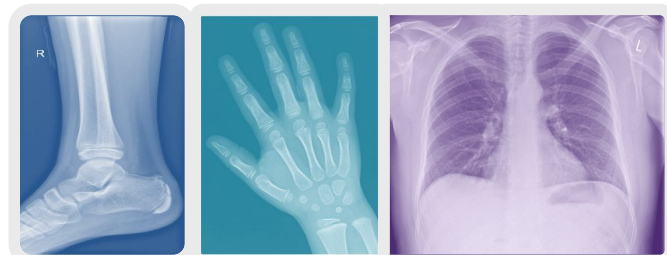
- Please feel free to ask your doctor if you have any further questions. You can refuse to have the X-ray if you do not feel you have sufficient information.

About X-Rays and Radiation

- X-ray machines use radiation to generate the "pictures" we need for your diagnosis and treatment.
- We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. This comes from our environment, the air we breathe, the food we eat and even from outer space (cosmic rays).
- In Scotland, the largest contribution comes from natural radiation in the underlying rocks and building materials (granite). In any one year our exposure will vary according to where we've lived, where we may have flown to, and what we may have eaten.

Our Standards

- Our X-ray equipment is regularly maintained and also subject to regular checks by our Radiographers and Medical Physics teams.
- This ensures that the amount of radiation we use is kept as low as possible to get the pictures we need. If there are any technical problems during the X-ray, we will tell you.



Putting it in Perspective

- Each medical X-ray therefore gives us a small additional dose on top of this natural background radiation. The level of dose varies with the type of examination.
- Common X-ray examinations such as chest, the torso and the limbs, involve amounts of radiation that are equivalent to less than 3 months of natural background radiation.
- The X-ray your child will be having today is one of those and carries a very low risk.

Pregnancy

- Please inform the radiographer if you are pregnant.

Did you know?

X-rays are a type of the electromagnetic wave and so travel through a vacuum at the speed of light. Electromagnetic waves form a spectrum, from short wavelength (high energy) cosmic rays to, through visible light, to long wavelength (low energy) radio waves.

