

# Fluoroscopy (child patients)

## Information for patients, parents and carers

This sheet aims to provide you and the child you are caring for with information about their fluoroscopy examination. If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to the team caring for them.

### **Confirming the child's identity**

Before they have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you the child's name and date of birth and check their ID band. If they do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm their address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring their safety is our primary concern.



## Why do I need an X-ray?

Hello. I am Dr X. Ray.

I would like you to have an X-ray so I can see inside your body and discover how to make you better. Lots of problems can be seen from outside the body, but not bones or organs. Fluoroscopy (fluo-ro-sco-py) uses X-rays to make a live video of the inside of the body.

## What are X-rays?

X-rays are a type of radiation (ra-di-a-tion). This means waves of energy that move, just like sunrays. Because they have more energy, X-rays can pass through things that sunlight cannot – like our bodies.

Different parts of the body stop different amounts of X-rays. The darker an area on the X-ray picture is, the more X-rays have reached it. Bones are able to stop lots of X-rays so they show up white. The different shades help to make a picture of the inside of your body.



## Natural radiation?

X-rays give your body a small dose of radiation. We get a small dose of radiation every day from nature – this is called 'background radiation'. Here are some of the ways we are naturally exposed to radiation:

- Cosmic rays come from space. Most are absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere (at-mos-phere). You get a bit more radiation from cosmic rays when you fly because the atmosphere is thinner. A flight to America is similar to having 6 chest X-rays.
- Many parts of the Earth are naturally radioactive (ra-di-o-ac-tive), which means they produce radiation. Some rocks contain a radioactive material called uranium (u-ra-nium). Some places, like Cornwall, have more rocks like this so people who live there get more background radiation.
- Bananas contain a material called potassium (po-tass-ium), which can give a tiny dose of radiation. However, potassium is also an important part of a balanced diet.

## Radiation risks

X-ray radiation slightly increases the risk of developing cancer many years later in life. Cancer is when the body's instructions for building new cells go wrong and cause bad cells to grow and spread. A child's growing body is more sensitive to radiation than an adult's, and because they have more life ahead of them, there is more time for cancer to develop.

The amount of radiation used for fluoroscopy procedures depends on the type of procedure. The risks associated are generally low.

X-rays are only ever used when the benefit to health has been judged to be more important than the risk of harm. The smallest possible amount of radiation is used to produce a good picture or video.

## What will happen during my fluoroscopy exam?

You might be asked to wear a hospital gown. Normal clothes may have metal parts, like zips or buttons that will show up white on your picture. This is because they can stop a lot of X-rays. So we don't want them to get in the way.

When you go into the fluoroscopy room you will meet the radiographer (ra-di-o-gra-pher), a radiologist (ra-di-olo-gist), and a nurse. They will look after you during your X-ray. They will explain what the exam is for and what they will do.

A special dye may be given to you that will help make your insides easier to see in the video.

You will then be asked to stand or sit somewhere, or lie on the bed so they can look at the right part of your body using the X-rays.

Once you are in position and it's time to start the video, you will be asked to stay as still as you can. This is so the video is not blurry.

They will then use the video to look at your insides. It shouldn't take very long.

They may record the video, or take photos for a doctor to look at later. The doctor will then tell you what to do next.

## Word search

We hope you have learnt a bit more about the exam you will be having. See if you can find the X-ray words below.

T	C	P	R	A	D	I	O	L	O	G	I	S	T
U	R	C	O	S	M	I	C	R	A	Y	Y	R	P
T	I	S	S	U	E	S	I	D	N	O	P	A	E
S	T	A	D	O	S	E	O	O	R	A	O	D	C
R	A	D	I	O	A	C	T	I	V	E	C	I	A
A	R	E	A	I	E	S	E	U	C	O	S	A	O
S	R	I	V	G	A	N	S	A	G	R	O	T	C
R	O	N	S	D	E	M	N	A	G	U	R	I	S
I	T	S	D	R	T	O	A	T	N	E	O	O	G
L	C	I	G	T	S	D	G	D	R	R	U	N	X
U	E	Y	N	C	R	N	R	I	N	I	L	E	R
S	T	O	Y	E	O	D	O	O	N	R	F	G	A
R	E	B	A	C	K	G	R	O	U	N	D	E	Y
C	D	I	R	B	A	R	I	U	M	O	S	B	I

Background
Barium
Cosmic ray
Detector
Dose
Energy
Fluoroscopy
Organs
Radiation
Radioactive
Radiologist
Tissues
X-ray

## For more information, please visit

- [Patient dose information: guidance \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [X-ray \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- [General imaging \(kch.nhs.uk\)](http://kch.nhs.uk)
- [Medical radiation: uses, dose measurements and safety advice \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## Before the fluoroscopy procedure

If the child has had a previous reaction to X-ray contrast injections, please let the radiographer know.

## Useful contacts

If you have any further questions please ask a member of staff:

Radiology main reception (telephone):	020 3299 3111
Fluoroscopy screening department (telephone):	020 3299 5213
Fluoroscopy screening department (email):	kch-tr.fl_reception_dh@nhs.net

## MyChart

Our MyChart app and website lets you securely access parts of your health record with us, giving you more control over your care. To sign up or for help, call us on 020 3299 4618 or email [kings.mychart@nhs.net](mailto:kings.mychart@nhs.net). Visit [www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart](http://www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart) to find out more.

## Sharing your information

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has partnered with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust through the King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas' hospitals. King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trusts share an electronic patient record system, which means information about your health record can be accessed safely and securely by health and care staff at both Trusts. For more information visit [www.kch.nhs.uk](http://www.kch.nhs.uk).

## Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our students get practical experience by imaging patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your imaging will not be affected by your decision.

## PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

Tel: 020 3299 4618  
Email: [kings.pals@nhs.net](mailto:kings.pals@nhs.net)

**If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email [kings.access@nhs.net](mailto:kings.access@nhs.net)**

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