

Medical testing for Possible Injury

Why is this testing done?

Infants and young children may have serious injuries inside the body even if there are no symptoms or bruising. Often these injuries are not noticed by a parent or even by a doctor or nurse during a physical exam. The best way to find injuries inside the body is to do screening tests. These tests can rule out an injury. They can also diagnose a medical condition that may look like an injury. When these kinds of injuries are found, they often need special treatment. The tests are done for the safety and care of your child.

What tests might need to be done?

- **Skeletal survey.** A set of X-rays that look at the major bones in the body. It includes the skull, arms, legs, ribs, spine, pelvis, hands and feet. These x-rays are looking for any problems with your child's bones. The number of x-rays will depend on your child's age. Your child will likely need a second part of the survey in 3 weeks. Central Scheduling staff will help you make this follow up visit.
- **CT scan or MRI.** Scans that look at the brain, stomach (abdomen) and other parts of the body for problems or injury.
- **Blood tests.** Tests that look for bleeding problems or medical conditions that can look like an injury. They can also identify injury to organs or bones that might be causing symptoms.
- **Urine tests.** Most of these tests will look for kidney and bladder injuries.
- **Bone scan.** An imaging test to look for bone disease or injury not able to be seen by x-ray.



Special information

Images (x-rays) may need to be done. Some parents worry about possible harmful side effects from radiation from x-rays. The small risk of radiation is greatly outweighed by the information gained. Special equipment and ways of taking the x-rays makes sure that the radiation exposure is as low as possible. MRI scans do not use radiation.

Other helpful teaching sheets

- CT (Computerized Tomography) Scan - Teaching Sheet #1433
- MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) - Teaching Sheet #1438
- Skeletal Survey - Teaching Sheet #1311

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any concerns or if your child has special health care needs not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.