

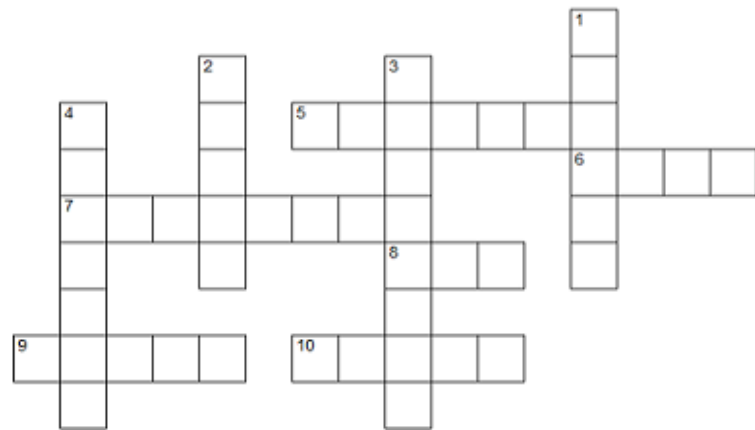
11+ Radiology Factsheet

What to expect

An x-ray is made by a machine using light waves that produce an image of the inside of your body onto a special plate. A person called a *radiographer* will take your x-ray. It is best to avoid wearing clothes that have zips and buttons as these will appear on your images. Don't worry if you do not have alternative clothing as you can change into a hospital gown. The radiographer will position you exactly for each picture, you must remain very still. Having an x-ray is completely painless, the best images are from patients who are relaxed, calm and do not move.

Your x-ray images are then viewed on a computer by a specialist doctor, known as a *Radiologist*. The Radiologist writes to your doctor to say what they can see on your x-ray. Your doctor will then discuss your results with you at your next appointment.

An adult will be able to stay with you until your x-ray is being taken, when the x-ray machine takes your image they will need to stand behind a special screen. The radiographer may need to ask you some questions in private – this is normal for every patient of your age.



ACROSS

- 5 This is set around your broken limb to help it heal
- 6 These bones surround and protect your upper inner organs
- 7 What maintains the shape of our body
- 8 Where the smallest bones can be found
- 9 The strongest and longest bone in the human body
- 10 this structure maintains our posture

DOWN

- 1 The inner core of bones are known as
- 2 The bone surrounding your brain is called this
- 3 The 'M' in MRI stands for
- 4 These are connected to your bones, when they contract your body moves

Ultrasound - This test is done to show the size and shape of many parts inside your body. The doctor will put some jelly onto the area they are going to look at and will then use a special instrument called a probe to smear it on. It may be cold. The pictures created by the probe will appear on the TV screen.

Parent points - This test takes about 10 minutes. It makes pictures using sound waves and doesn't involve any radiation at all. If your child is still a baby, it is a good idea to bring a full bottle and dummy or be ready to breast feed just before the test starts. Bring a clean nappy too.

Nuclear Medicine - This test is done to find out how different parts inside your body are functioning; the most common scan is to look at the kidneys. You will need to lie very still for your test. Before having this test you will most likely need to visit a nurse on the children's ward.

Parent points - this test is sometimes called a DTPA or DMSA. The liquid injected into your child's vein contains a tiny amount of a radio-active substance, but it gives a smaller radiation dose than most x-ray tests. When it reaches the organ the doctor needs to examine, the special isotope camera 'sees' the radioactivity and shows the doctor how well the organ is working, not what it looks like. As the test can take between one and three hours, it is a good idea to bring something to occupy your child.

CT SCAN - A CT scanner is a special x-ray machine, the pictures it takes look different from ordinary x-rays. It takes lots of pictures of your body, a bit like slices of bread. The test is done to show up your soft body parts, especially the ones in your head, using x-rays and a computer. You must lie very still.

Parent points: This test takes about 30 minutes and shows much more details than ordinary x-rays. Your child will need to lie very still so the doctors on the children's ward may give them something to make them sleepy. They may also need an injection of a liquid, called contrast, or a contrast drink that tastes like liquorice, both of these are used to better highlight the anatomy. Depending on their age, it may be possible to wear a lead apron and sit with your child during the scan.

MRI SCAN - An MRI machine uses a large magnet and a sophisticated computer to take accurate pictures of the inside of your body. The machine is quite noisy but you can wear headphones and listen to music. You must remain still for the whole of the scan.

Parent points - In an MRI scan uses magnetic energy, not x-rays. Your child will need to lie very still. They may also need an injection of a liquid, called contrast that is used to better highlight the anatomy. Depending on their age, you may be able to go into the scanner room with your child for reassurance. There is a strict safety questionnaire to be completed by all persons entering the scanner room.

Anyone fitted with a pacemaker must not enter the MRI department.

Parent points

X-rays and CT's are made by giving your child a very small dose of x-rays. The pictures help the doctors diagnose your child's problem to give the right treatment.

The radiographer will position your child exactly for each picture. It is very important that they do not move before the film is taken. Otherwise the picture may be blurred or crooked.

The best way you can help is to be relaxed and calm, to talk to your child and make them aware of what will happen.

It is a good idea to let him bring something to amuse them to keep them as content as possible.



Across: 5) plaster, 6) ribs, 7) skeleton, 8) ear, 9) femur, 10) spine.
Down: 1) marrow, 2) skull, 3) magnetic, 4) muscles.