



If you have any comments about this leaflet please contact the Clinical Governance Department on 020 8909 5628.

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Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital

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INFORMATION FOR TEENAGE GIRLS

Why am I being asked if I might be pregnant before having my operation, X-ray, or special scan?

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT TEENAGE PREGNANCY?

Girls under the age of 16 do get pregnant, even though the law in this country says that they should not be having sex.

The government counts how many young girls aged 13-15 become pregnant.

Between 2005 and 2007 this number was nearly 24,000.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KNOW IF I MIGHT BE PREGNANT?

If you are pregnant when you have an operation, X-ray, or special scan, it may harm your unborn baby.

This is especially true at the beginning of a pregnancy, when you might not even realise that you are pregnant.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME IF I MIGHT BE PREGNANT, I'M NOT HAVING SEX?

We understand that many teenage girls are not having sex, so it is not possible for them to be pregnant. We do not know who is and who isn't sexually active, so to ensure we care for you safely, we ask everyone aged 12 and over if it is possible they might be pregnant. By doing this, we hope to prevent the possibility of harming an unborn baby, and the distress this would cause to the baby's mother



WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE PREGNANT WHEN I COME TO THE HOSPITAL?

It is important that you tell a nurse or doctor so that we can decide what to do next. Everything you tell us will be treated confidentially, which means that we will not tell anyone else without your permission.

You may be offered a pregnancy test, which is done by testing a sample of your urine.

Because the pregnancy test is not always reliable very early in a pregnancy, you may still be pregnant even if the result is negative. In this case, a doctor will talk to you about whether you should go ahead with your operation, X-ray, or special scan.



>>> Ask a nurse or doctor to explain anything that you are not clear about, they will be happy to help, and you can ask them to talk in private if you wish.