

Pediatric Radiology

IMAGE GENTLY: REDUCE RADIATION EXPOSURE TO CHILDREN

For more information about Doernbecher's pediatric radiology services, contact one of our pediatric radiologists by calling **503 346-0644** or **888 346-0644**.

Diagnostic tests that use radiation, such as radiographs (X-rays or plain films), computed tomography (CT), fluoroscopy, interventional radiology and nuclear medicine should be administered with care and forethought.

This is especially true for young children. When evaluating a patient, consider tests that supply less radiation, such as ultrasound or MRI.

- **Innovative technology**

CT scanners used for children at OHSU Doernbecher feature a new system of image reconstruction that produces clearer images, allowing us to reduce dosage by 40-60 percent.*

- **Assessing via other methods**

When possible, Doernbecher physicians use diagnostic imaging tests that do not expose children to radiation, such as ultrasound and MRI. Doernbecher trauma and ED physicians have eliminated cervical spine CT scans as an initial mode of imaging diagnosis for pediatric trauma patients. Physicians perform an X-ray, and if a fracture is seen, then patients receive a cervical spine CT. If a pediatric trauma patient presents with neck pain though has no abnormalities on X-ray, then the patient receives an MRI.

- **Special protocols for CT scans in children**

At OHSU Doernbecher, the parameters we use to perform CT scans in children are based on their weight and age, as well as on the circumference of the body part being imaged. This allows us to tailor the examination so each patient receives as little radiation as possible.

- **Radiologists specializing in pediatric care**

Beyond their training in diagnostic radiology, each of our pediatric radiologists has performed at least one year in fellowship training in caring for pediatric radiology including the use of other diagnostic modalities to evaluate the needs and risks in imaging a child.

* Excepting brain CT