

Ultrasound Scan

Your doctor has referred you for an Ultrasound Scan. This will take place in the Imaging Department (also known as Radiology or x-ray department)

What is an Ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan uses sound waves to look at structures in the body. A sonographer or radiologist will perform and report the scan.

Do I need to do any special preparation before the Ultrasound scan

Some people may need to fast (i.e. no food or drink) before their scan, or some may need to fill their bladder. For others, there will be no preparation. We will include any preparation instructions in your appointment letter. Please read these instructions.

If I am taking tablets or medicine, should I stop them?

If we have asked you to fast, it is better if you do not take any medicines before your scan. If you are diabetic, we should offer you an appointment early in the morning. Please contact the booking office if you need an early appointment.

Is there anything I need to tell the staff before I have my scan?

Please tell us if you think you may be pregnant. It is also helpful if you tell us if you have had any previous surgery that has involved removing any organs e.g. spleen or kidney.

What will I wear?

If you can wear loose fitting clothes, this often avoids you having to change into a hospital gown. Depending on the part of the body to be examined, we may ask you to remove some clothing and put on a hospital gown in a changing cubicle before the scan. We will let you know when you arrive.

What does the scan involve?

You will have a clear gel put onto the skin over the part of the body being examined. The sonographer will then use a special camera, called a probe or transducer to take some images which we store on the computer.

How long will it take?

This depends on which part of your body is being scanned but it typically takes between 10 and 20 minutes.

Although we make every effort to meet our appointment times, delays may occur due to emergency patients. We will let you know if this is the case.

What are the risks?

There are no significant risks associated with an Ultrasound scan.

Can I bring someone with me?

You can bring a friend or relative with you but we will not allow them into the examination room. Please note; we may ask them to wait in the main reception area.

If you need to bring your children please make sure there is also an adult with you as we are unable to provide childcare facilities.

After the scan

In most cases, as soon as the scan is finished you can go home. You can eat and drink as normal and start your usual activities straight after the scan.

When will I know the result?

We will send the results to the person who referred you for the test. Your referrer will make arrangements to tell you the result.

Any other questions?

Please ask a member of the team in the Imaging Department.

Please

- Bring this leaflet with you
- Do not bring any valuables with you
- Call us if you need any advice
- Call us as soon as possible if you can't keep this appointment – we can make you another and give yours to someone else.

Contact Centre Telephone Number

0141 347 8379