

ULTRASOUND SCAN

WHAT IS AN ULTRASOUND SCAN?

An ultrasound scan is a painless test that uses high frequency sound waves to create real-time images of organs and structures inside your body.

Ultrasound can be used to investigate many different parts of the body including the liver, gallbladder, thyroid and organs in the pelvis. It can also detect abnormalities in blood vessels.

WHO WILL I SEE?

The staff of the Radiology Department will look after you during your visit and a radiologist will perform your ultrasound scan.

There may also be a chaperone in the room with you during your ultrasound, depending on the scan you are having. You may also request a chaperone if it makes you feel more at ease.

IS IT SAFE?

There are no known risks, the procedure is believed to be completely safe.

DO I NEED AN INJECTION?

No injection will be required for this test.

BEFORE YOUR SCAN

For some scans, there is no special preparation required. Please continue with your normal diet and take your medication unless instructed otherwise.

In some cases, you may be asked not to eat or drink for several hours prior to your scan or you may be asked to have a full bladder. You will be given full instructions prior to your appointment.

ON THE DAY OF YOUR SCAN

Please report to the reception desk, after which you will be shown where to wait until collected by a radiographer or another member of staff.

The procedure for your examination will be explained to you.

If you need to undress for your ultrasound, private changing rooms and lockers are provided.

DURING YOUR PROCEDURE?

In the ultrasound room, you will be asked to lie on a couch and the lights will be dimmed so that the images can be seen more clearly on the ultrasound monitor. The radiologist will move a small handheld sensor over the part of your body being examined. The sensor emits sound waves that when they hit an object, bounces back as echoes of varying strengths. A computer converts the reflected ultrasound echoes into an image. A gel will be applied to your skin so that the probe makes good contact with your body. The radiologist will move the sensor around over

the skin surface to obtain views from different angles.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The process of having an ultrasound takes between 15 and 45 minutes, depending on which parts of your body are being examined.

WILL IT BE UNCOMFORTABLE?

You should not experience any discomfort during your ultrasound. If you have pain where the radiologists is moving the probe or have been asked to have a full bladder for your scan, this may feel uncomfortable during the procedure.

AFTER YOUR ULTRASOUND

After your scan you will feel no ill effects. You may drive and return to work.

WHEN WILL I GET THE RESULTS?

The radiologists may discuss the results with you at the time of your scan. A written report on the findings will be sent to your referring doctor normally within 24 hours.

CAN I BRING A RELATIVE OR FRIEND?

Yes you may bring someone with you. If you are bringing children with you, they will not be allowed into the procedure room and you will need to make arrangements for their care.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any further questions, please contact the Radiology Department on 020 7935 7700 and a member of the team will be happy to help you.

Please let us know about any special needs you have (e.g. wheelchair access, if you are hard of hearing or have poor eyesight).