

Having a transvaginal ultrasound

i Information for patients
Radiology



In hospital and in the community

proud to make a difference

We have made you an appointment to come to the Ultrasound department for a scan on:

Date

Time

You will be given the results of your scan:

- ? At a clinic appointment on the same day
- ? At a clinic appointment on a different day
- ? By letter to your home address

Please remember to let us know if you cannot come for your scan. If you cancel your scan and have a clinic appointment the same day you will need to cancel that too. Both appointments will need to be re-booked.

To find out more about your scan please read this leaflet. If after reading it you would like more information, or are unclear about anything it contains, then please feel free to call us on:

- **0114 226 8238**

What is an ultrasound?

An ultrasound is a way of getting pictures of the inside of your body without having to use X-rays. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves. These sound waves bounce off the internal organs and are then picked up and shown as a picture on a television screen.

How is the scan done?

An ultrasound scan can be done in two ways:

- Abdominal
- Transvaginal

This leaflet looks at transvaginal scanning.

What is transvaginal scanning?

During a transvaginal scan the sonographer (a specially-trained technician) uses a small ultrasound probe which is similar to a regular sized tampon. The probe is covered with a probe cover for hygiene reasons. This is gently inserted into your vagina. By gently moving the probe we can get a clear picture of the womb and ovaries.

The probe used in transvaginal scanning is closer to the pelvic organs than the scanner used in abdominal scans. Because of this, it can get a detailed view of the uterus, lining of the womb and ovaries. It is also useful to help monitor very early pregnancy when an abdominal ultrasound wouldn't be adequate.

Where will I have my ultrasound scan?

People can have their scans in the:

- Ultrasound department
- On the ward
- In their clinic

Who will do my scan?

If you have your scan in the ultrasound department, then a sonographer will do your scan. Sometimes people have their scans in clinic or on the wards and, in this case, a doctor or nurse usually does them.

Can I choose whether the person doing my scan is male or female?

We do have both male and female sonographers and scanning staff. As some women may find this kind of examination a little embarrassing, we always make sure that there is a female staff member present in the room. However, if you wish to make sure that the person carrying out the test is female then please telephone us on:

- **0114 226 8238**

If you do request this, you will find that it takes longer for you to get an appointment date as arranging for a particular member of staff to be available takes longer.

Do I need to do anything to prepare for my scan?

It is a good idea to have emptied your bladder before this type of scan as the gentle pressure of the probe can sometimes make you pass urine from a fuller bladder.

Will I need to undress for my scan?

You will have to remove your lower garments as it makes it easier for us to do the scan. However, to allow you some dignity, we do provide a small sheet to put over you whilst you have your scan.

Will it hurt?

No, having a transvaginal scan should not hurt. It is like having an internal examination. You are likely to feel pressure but no discomfort.

How long does this scan take?

This is a very quick procedure and usually only takes a few minutes to do. However, please remember that we are a very busy department and you may have to wait before you have your scan.

When will I get the results from my scan?

Your scan may be performed by a sonographer, doctor, nurse or midwife depending on which area/clinic you attend. If you are scanned by a sonographer then you may have to wait to see a doctor, nurse or midwife to get your results. In some cases a letter will be sent to your home.

Is there anything I should look out for when I go home?

There are no known risks associated with this procedure and no complications after the scan have been reported. However, if you do begin to feel unwell you should seek advice from your GP.



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