Patient Information
R05

NHS Golden Jubilee

Ultrasound scan

Reviewed: August 2026
Next review: August 2027
Version 9

About this leaflet

The purpose of this booklet is to explain what happens before, during and after the ultrasound procedure.

What is an ultrasound scan?

This is a method of using ultrasound waves to create images of the organs or structures within the body.

There are no known risks or side effects.

Before the scan

Please report to the main reception desk in the radiology department. You will be shown to the ultrasound waiting area. You may be asked to partially undress for your examination. You will be able to keep your personal items and clothing with you at all times.

You will be examined by either a doctor or sonographer, specially trained in ultrasound or a student training in ultrasound who will be supervised at all times.

Special preparations

Some preparation may be required depending on the type of examination being performed. This will be explained in the accompanying appointment letter.

During the scan

You will be asked to lie on an examination couch. A small amount of gel will be applied to the skin over the area being examined. An ultrasound probe is moved over the skin and images of your internal organs produced. Sometimes it may be necessary to apply pressure in order to improve the images. The room will usually be darkened. Some examinations may require you to lie on your side and hold your breath for short periods of time. This procedure will vary depending on the area to be scanned, and should take no longer than 30 minutes. Please note that you may be in the department for up to one hour from the time of your appointment.

For those applicable

It may be decided that an internal vaginal scan is required. This is not necessary for everyone. If you agree, the procedure will be fully explained to you at the time.

After the scan

It is advised that patients wash the area examined. The results will be sent to your GP or referring hospital.

Important information

- It is important that you arrive on time for your appointment and follow all instructions. Failure to do so will result in your appointment being cancelled.
- If you are unable to attend, please contact the Radiology Booking Office.
- If you are diabetic or are taking medication that requires to be taken with food, please contact the Radiology Booking Office.
- We have no childcare facilities and would encourage that alternative childcare arrangements are made.

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reviewed for plain English

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