

Having an Ultrasound Scan, Radiology Department Information for Children



Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust



What is an ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan uses sound waves to show us pictures of the inside of your body. The person who will do your scan is called a Sonographer or Radiologist.

This is a picture of our ultrasound machine; we have four specially decorated rooms! Which room do you think you will be scanned in?



Why do I need an ultrasound scan?

Ultrasound scans are used to help Doctors understand what is happening inside your body.

Directions to the Ultrasound Department.

Ultrasound is in the Radiology Department. Enter through the main entrance. Walk up the corridor past the café and shops; Radiology is at the end of the corridor facing you on the left. Let the people at the reception desk know that you have arrived.

Please tell us before your appointment if you need any other support, for example, you need a hoist to get on the bed or an Interpreter. We will do our best to help.

Do I need to do anything before the scan appointment?

This depends on which part of your body we are scanning. Your appointment letter will tell you if you need to do anything before the scan so please check. If we are scanning some areas such as your neck, leg or arm you don't need to do anything before the scan.

Abdominal (Tummy) Scan:

If you are having an abdominal (tummy) scan, it is very important that you do not eat and drink before the test. The amount of time depends on how old you are so please check your appointment letter. If you have food and drink in your tummy, the ultrasound pictures are not as clear.

Renal (Kidney) scan:

If you are having a renal (kidney) ultrasound, you need to drink plenty of fluid before the scan so you feel like you need to do a wee; this means your bladder is full. It is really important that you have a full bladder because we usually need to take pictures of your bladder when it is full and when it is empty. If you really need to go to the toilet when you are in the waiting room, please tell the receptionist or sonographer. There is a toilet in the ultrasound room/waiting area so you can empty your bladder after the scan.

Does it hurt?

No. Having an ultrasound scan does not hurt.

What do I have to do?

Your parent /carer can stay with you in the room. During the scan, you will need to lie on a bed and keep still. The lights in the room will be turned low; this is so we can see the picture on our screen. The Sonographer/Radiologist will need to see your tummy so you will need to lift your top up. We put a little bit of special ultrasound jelly on the area we are looking at, so if it is a tummy scan, we will put jelly on your tummy.

Is the jelly cold?

No! The jelly is warm!



What happens next?

- A special camera is rubbed over the jelly, this may tickle.
- You will see a picture of the inside of your body on the screen.
- You can watch television on a screen above the bed, read a book, watch your own tablet or hold a favourite toy. We have special lights on our ceiling you can look at.

After the scan

- Once the scan is finished the jelly is wiped off and you can get up.
- You can choose a special sticker
- WELL DONE - you can go home and eat and drink as normal

How will you get the results of the scan?

- Your results are sent to the Doctor who sent you for the scan. So if this was your GP you need to make an appointment to go back to your GP.
- If the Doctor at the hospital arranged the scan you may receive a letter to come back and see the Doctor in clinic to get the results
- If you are an inpatient, we send the results to the Doctors looking after you on the ward.

What do I do if I cannot keep my appointment?

- Please call Radiology Appointments on 0121 333 9722 or 9723 as soon as you know you cannot make the appointment and it can be rescheduled.

Colouring Competition:

- While you are waiting for your scan why don't you enter our monthly colouring competition? The reception staff will give you a picture to colour or some paper for you to draw your own picture. Hand it in and you could win a prize! See the poster at reception.

Looking after and sharing information about you:
We have a duty to help children, young people and families understand about how information about them is kept and shared and we include the following information in all our patient leaflets:
Information is collected about your condition, treatment and care. We store it in written patient records and electronically on a computer. As part of your care we may share some of your information with other people and organisations who are either responsible or directly involved in your care.
As we are a Centre of Excellence we may use anonymised ultrasound images for research or teaching purposes. If you do not wish for your images to be used please speak to the Doctor or Sonographer.
If you have any questions and/or do not want us to share that information with others please talk to the Sonographer or contact Consultant Sonographer on 0121 333 9728



By your side