

DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

Ultrasound (US)

The Radiology Department

The Radiology Department carries out radiological examinations of patients using a range of X-ray equipment including CT, MRI and Ultrasound Scanners and a Nuclear Medicine Gamma Camera. There is a multidisciplinary team of Radiologists (doctors who have been specially trained in Radiology), Radiographers, Sonographers, Nurses, Assistant Practitioners, Radiology Department Assistants and Clerical Staff working in the Radiology department.

What is ultrasound?

Ultrasound uses high frequency waves to build up images of the various organs or structures inside the body. The sound waves are produced by a hand held probe, which is placed on the skin. The waves are reflected back from the parts of the body and a computer inside the ultrasound machine converts the sound waves into a moving image on the screen.

Who will perform the scan?

The scan will be undertaken by a Sonographer or Radiologist.

What does an ultrasound scan involve?

Depending on which part of the body is to be examined, you may be asked to undress and put on a hospital gown. You will be asked to sit or lie on an ultrasound couch.

The ultrasound room will be darkened to give good viewing conditions.

Water based gel will be applied to the skin / part under examination. The hand held probe will be moved over the skin to view the relevant organs from different angles. You may be asked to hold your breath to prevent blurring when images are recorded.

The scan is painless, although you may feel some pressure when the probe is applied.

Pelvic / bladder scans

You will be required to drink at least 1-2 pints of fluid an hour before your scan.

This should fill your bladder which pushes the small intestine out of the way and enables us to view the pelvic organs and bladder wall.

Please **do not empty your bladder** before the scan.

If your bladder is not full at the time of your scan you may be asked to return for a repeat examination.

Transvaginal (TV) Ultrasound Scans

To view the uterus and ovaries more clearly it is often necessary to do an additional internal scan where a specially designed probe is inserted into the vagina.

This scan can be performed even if you are bleeding however we may not be able to perform this scan if you have never had sexual intercourse or an internal examination.

After gaining your consent to perform a TV scan you will be asked to go to the toilet and empty your bladder.

On your return you will need to undress below the waist and lie on the couch in a position where the probe can be inserted by the Sonographer.

The room will be completely private.

The probe is disinfected before use, covered with a protective sheath and lubricated with jelly for ease of insertion into the vagina.

The Sonographer will move the probe gently around within the vagina and may press with their hand on the lower abdomen to enable the pelvic structures to be seen more easily on the screen. There may be some minor discomfort but it is not a painful procedure.

Chaperoning

Both male and female Sonographers perform TV scans. Male Sonographers are **always** chaperoned but please ask for a female Sonographer if you would prefer.

Can I bring someone with me to the scan?

Yes, however it may not be appropriate for them to be in the scan room at the time of the examination.

Are there any side-effects or complications from ultrasound?

There are no medical conditions that prevent us performing an ultrasound. Ultrasound has not been shown to have any harmful side effects in medical use. Unlike X-rays and other imaging tests, ultrasound does not use Radiation.

How long does it take?

An ultrasound can take between 10 and 30 minutes depending on the area being examined.

When will I receive my results?

The Radiologist /Sonographer will study the images and send the results to your referring doctor. You will be able to discuss these results at the next appointment with your doctor. Staff will not be able to give you any results immediately after the examination.

Public Transport

Please visit www.intalink.org.uk or phone 0300 123 4050 for details of bus and train routes, timetables and fares.

Health Shuttle

Door to door journeys to Lister can be booked on the Health Shuttle from certain areas. Please phone 01438 726219 for fares and details.

Feedback

The Radiology Department welcomes feedback on our service and our information leaflets. Alternatively you may wish to contact the Patients Advice & Liaison Service.

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

Tel no: 01438 284779 (Lister)
01707 229045 (QEII & HCH Hospitals)