

## Patient Information – Ultrasound Scan (US)

### Department of Radiology

#### 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 handheld 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.

#### What does the 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 the couch. The ultrasound room will be darkened to give good viewing conditions. Water based gel will be applied to your skin over the area to be examined. The handheld 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. There are no side effects.

#### 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 person performing the scan). 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 this.

## Can I bring a friend/relative to my appointment?

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

## When will I get the results?

The results will be sent to your referring doctor. Staff will not be able to give you any results immediately after the examination.

## Feedback

When you attend your hospital appointment you should be offered the Friends and Family Test survey asking you the question, **“How likely are you to recommend our service to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?”**. We welcome your comments about what was good about your visit and what would have made your experience better. Your feedback is anonymous and is used to help improve the services we provide to all our patients.

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