



Obstetric (Early pregnancy) Ultrasound Scan Patient Information Leaflet

What is an Ultrasound Scan?

Ultrasound is a soundwave, which travels at a higher frequency than we can hear producing pictures that are interpreted by a practitioner, usually a Sonographer or Doctor, who is highly trained in this speciality. Ultrasound scans can be used to confirm an early pregnancy and examine the surrounding pelvic organs (ovaries and adnexa).

There are two ways of performing a pelvic scan:

Transabdominal Ultrasound Scan (TAS)

The ultrasound probe is placed on the skin on the lower part of your tummy. This type of scan may be enough to gain all the information required, however sometimes a transvaginal scan will be offered if we need to gain more detailed information.

Transvaginal Ultrasound Scan (TVUS)

For this type of scan, you must be over 16 years of age, and consent to have a TVUS performed. You will be asked to empty your bladder. You will be asked to remove your underwear for the examination and you will be covered by a sheet to maintain dignity and privacy. A special slim probe is placed into the vagina by the Sonographer/ Doctor. The vaginal probe is cleaned before use, covered with a protective sheath, and lubricated with sterile jelly to make its insertion into the vagina easier and more comfortable.

Giving my consent;

We want to ensure you are fully involved in decisions about your care and treatment. Before the scan, you will be asked to provide written consent if a transvaginal scan is deemed necessary.

If you do not wish to have the scan or are undecided, please tell the Sonographer/Doctor. It is your decision and you can change your mind at any time. Students/trainees or healthcare assistant may be present during the examination. Please alert a healthcare professional before the scan begins if you do not wish them to be present. However, a trained chaperone may be requested for the examination to support your wellbeing.

Please remember that you can ask the Sonographer/Doctor any questions you have at any time before, during or after your scan.



Are there any risks?

The procedure is considered to be very safe.

Please inform the staff prior to the procedure if you have a latex allergy.

Will I feel any pain?

You cannot feel ultrasound waves, however, it is important for the Sonographer/Doctor to examine you in the correct position and to gently press down on the probe or across your abdomen to get a good view. For some people this may be minimally uncomfortable. If you do feel discomfort please inform the Sonographer/Doctor, so that suitable adjustments can be made or the examination can be ceased.

What happens after the scan?

If you are having the ultrasound scan as an outpatient you will be able to return home immediately, providing that no other tests are required. You may eat, drink and resume normal activities as soon as you wish. The results will be discussed with you following the scan.