The doctor or sonographer performing your scan may be able to give you some preliminary results at the time of the scan but this is not always possible.

If your GP has sent you for the scan then your results should be available from your GP in 7–10 days. However, please contact your GP surgery to check your results have arrived before you attend that GP appointment.

If a hospital consultant has sent you for a scan then the results will be available at your next clinic appointment. If you have not heard from your hospital consultant by three weeks after your scan date, please contact the consultant's secretary via the hospital Switchboard on **0121 371 2000**.
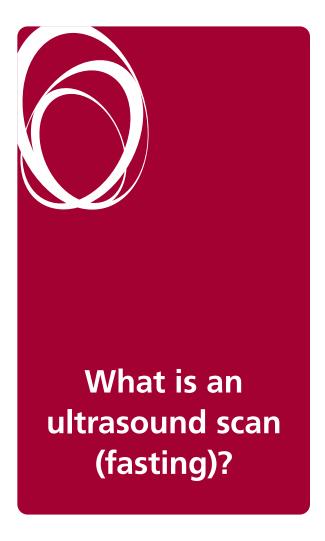
If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email **interpreting.service@uhb.nhs.uk**.

Imaging
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston
Birmingham, B15 2GW
Telephone: 0121 371 2000

NHS
University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust

What is an ultrasound scan (fasting)?

Building healthier lives

UHB is a no smoking Trust

An ultrasound examination is a simple test, which involves taking pictures of the body using sound waves.

What do I need to do before the test?

- Please carefully check your appointment date and time. The ultrasound service mainly offers appointments on weekdays but you may receive an appointment for an evening or weekend. If you cannot keep your appointment or have any questions, please contact us on any of the following numbers:
  0121 371 2362
  0121 371 2254
  0121 371 2364

- Follow the **preparation instructions**

Preparation instructions

You should have nothing to eat or drink, except water, for 6 hours before your examination.

Please contact us for further advice if you:
- are a diabetic
- have any other questions

On any of the following numbers:
- 0121 371 2362
- 0121 371 2254
- 0121 371 2364

Where do I go for the scan?

Please go to the Main Entrance of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston, B15 2GW. Please then follow signs to the Outpatient Imaging Department which is located on Level 0.

Allow yourself enough time to get from the car park which is a 5–10 minute walk.

What should I wear?

The examination will normally be done with you wearing your own clothes. A gel-like substance will be applied to the area being scanned; therefore you may wish to wear separates, a top and bottom or something loose. Paper will be used to protect your clothes from the gel but this cannot always be completely avoided. The gel should not harm your clothes. Alternatively, ask one of our assistants for a gown and you can use the changing facilities provided.

What happens when I arrive?

You will be greeted by reception staff at the front desk and then directed to the ultrasound waiting area.

The examination time for the scan varies but most will last about 10–15 minutes. We do our best to run on time but your scan may be delayed for emergencies.

What happens during the scan?

You will be asked to lie down on a couch whilst the doctor or sonographer performs the scan. Some gel will be placed on the part of your body that needs examining. A small harmless probe is placed on your skin and takes the images. The Doctor or Sonographer will then interpret them. This is usually painless unless the area being examined is tender. This is a training department and you may be asked if a trainee doctor/sonographer can perform your scan under the supervision of a fully qualified member of staff. If you do not wish to be examined by a trainee please let the staff know.

Are there any risks associated with this test?

There are no known harmful effects from ultrasound waves. We use a clean and hypoallergenic gel so there is minimal risk of a skin reaction. If you have a latex allergy, please inform us prior to the examination so that we can ensure we use latex-free products.

What happens afterwards?

You will usually be able to leave straight after the scan. There is no reason you cannot drive home and resume normal activities. You will also be able to eat and drink normally.