

What is an Ultrasound Scan (Fast & Full Bladder)?

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:
0121 371 2362 / 0121 371 2254 / 0121 371 2364
- Follow the preparation instructions below

Preparation:

- You should have nothing to eat or drink, except water, for six hours before your examination
- You will also need to have a full bladder at the time of your examination. Please drink two pints of water approximately one hour prior before your scan time. Do not empty your bladder until after the scan
- If you are worried about travelling to the hospital with a full bladder, please attend 30 minutes prior to your appointment and tell the receptionist or assistant that you need to fill your bladder so that they can give you some water to drink
- Please contact us on 0121 371 2362 / 0121 371 2254 / 0121 371 2364 for further advice if you:
 - Are diabetic
 - Have a catheter in your bladder
 - Have any other questions

Where do I go for the scan?

Please follow signs to the Outpatient Imaging Department on Level 0 of Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston, B15 2GW. Allow yourself enough time to get from the car park which is a five to ten minute walk.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

If you need to be accompanied by a carer or advocate, please limit to one person (but not a child).

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. However, if you wish to change into a hospital gown, please ask a member of staff.

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 then placed on your skin and takes the images. This is usually painless unless the area being examined is tender.

This is a teaching department and you may be asked if a trainee sonographer/doctor can perform your examination under supervision of a fully qualified member of staff. However, if you do not want 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.

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.

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 seven to ten days. However please check with your GP surgery that your results have arrived before attending.

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 switch board on 0121 371 2000.

Please use the space below to write down any questions you may have and bring this with you to your next appointment.

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Imaging

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

Accessibility

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How did we do? 😊 😐 😞

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