

Ultrasound scan with intrauterine contraception

Why have I been referred for a scan?

This service can check that your intrauterine device (IUD or 'coil') is in the right position and still effective for contraception. Unless told otherwise, you should use another method of contraception until your appointment.

What is a pelvic ultrasound examination?

Ultrasound is an imaging technique which uses high frequency sound waves to obtain pictures of the womb without the use of X-rays. We use this examination to try to diagnose problems related to your IUD (coil). We do not use this examination to identify problems related to the ovaries or surrounding areas. If such problems are suspected, they must be addressed by your GP.

What a pelvic ultrasound scan will involve?

This procedure will only be performed with your explicit consent. There are two ways the scan may be done:

- 1. Trans-abdominal (TA) scan:** this requires a full bladder. The scan is done by placing the sensor over your lower belly
- 2. Trans-vaginal (internal) scan:** this scan is often done to get more in-depth images of your womb. This requires gently inserting a thin scan probe inside the vagina and then moving it around gently to locate the coil or womb clearly. This can be slightly uncomfortable, but most people tolerate this very well.

Who will scan me?

We have both female and male doctors who are specially trained in ultrasound techniques. A chaperone will be present.

How long will the scan take?

Your scan can take up to 15 minutes, but this may vary depending on how clear the pictures are. You should allow at least 30 minutes for your appointment.

What happens after the scan?

The details of your scan will be explained to you straight after the examination.

If a procedure, for example, a 'coil re-fit' is needed, you may be given a further appointment at another date. If further investigations are required at another service, this will be arranged and explained to you.

If a direct urgent referral is needed, you may be asked to wait to make this referral.

What are the risks?

Ultrasound examination is safe. It does not use radiation and so carries none of the risks associated with radiation. You may feel slight discomfort as the area is being examined, especially if this area is tender.

Further information

If you want further information regarding your pelvic ultrasound scan, please feel free to telephone the clinic where your appointment has been booked.

Telephone: 0121 237 5700

Address: Whittall Street Clinic, Birmingham B4 6DH

Web: www.umbrellahealth.co.uk

Accessibility

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