

Radiology department

Trans-vaginal ultrasound – a guide for patients

Is there any preparation for my ultrasound scan?

You should attend the department with a full bladder. **You will need to drink one litre of fluid and not go to the toilet until after the first part of the scan.** If you are travelling a distance, you can come a little earlier for your appointment and drink a litre of fluid on arrival. There is a water machine in the department.

When you arrive for your scan, we will ask you to wear a hospital gown. You are welcome to bring your own dressing gown to wear over this while you are waiting for your scan. Please do not leave any valuables in the changing cubicle.

What happens during my ultrasound scan?

A member of the ultrasound staff will escort you into the scanning room and introduce you to the radiologist. He or she will explain the procedure to you and answer your questions. The radiologist will ask you to lie on the scanning couch on your back and will then put some cold jelly on the skin on your pelvis. They will then run the ultrasound probe over your skin - this should not hurt. The information from your body is displayed as a picture on the monitor, so the radiologist will be looking at the ultrasound machine while they are carrying out your scan. The room is usually darkened during the examination.

We will then ask you to empty your bladder completely and remove your underwear. A thin probe, similar in size and shape to a tampon will then be inserted into your vagina while you lie on the couch in a similar position to having a smear. The probe will be covered in a condom and some lubricating jelly. The examination feels similar to an internal examination. The probe is connected to the ultrasound machine by a wire so that images of your pelvis can be displayed on the monitor.

During the examination the probe is gently rotated to produce the images that are needed.

What happens after my ultrasound scan?

After your scan, the radiologist will send a report to the consultant who referred you for your ultrasound scan. The report is usually available within one week.

Is the test safe?

Diagnostic ultrasound is an extremely safe test.

What is the benefit of an ultrasound scan?

Ultrasound is often the best way to look at various organs and tissues of the body without using x-rays.



Are there any alternatives to an ultrasound scan?

There are other scans which can be done instead of an ultrasound scan but they may not be as useful for patients with your condition. These include CT (computerised tomography scans using x-rays) and MRI (scans using a powerful magnet).

What happens if I decide not to have an ultrasound scan?

If you decide not to have an ultrasound scan then an alternative scan such as CT or MRI scan may be needed. The decision to use an alternative scan is usually made by the doctors looking after you together with the radiologists.

What happens if I can't keep my ultrasound appointment?

If you can't keep your appointment, please contact the ultrasound department straight away to arrange an alternative date.

If you are admitted to hospital before your appointment, please tell the ward staff that you have an ultrasound appointment booked.

The scan will be carried out in either the Radiology department (department 34) or the Integrated Procedures Unit (IPU) (department 2)

If you have any questions, please phone the radiology department on **0161 446 3322**.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact patient.information@christie.nhs.uk

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.

Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

