



the alex

Paediatric Ultrasound

Department of Paediatric Imaging



Information for patients, carers and family

This booklet is to help explain about your child having an Ultrasound scan.

What is an Ultrasound scan?

Ultrasound uses sound waves to take pictures of your child's body. A jelly is used to help conduct them inside the body.

Your child may need this scan so that their doctors can get detailed pictures of the size and shape of a part of their body.

The information from the scan is then used to plan your child's treatment.

Is there any preparation for the Ultrasound?

This depends on which body part the doctors want us to scan.

Your child may need to be starved for 4 hours (abdominal ultrasounds) or have a full bladder (kidneys and pelvic ultrasounds).

For other ultrasounds there is no preparation.

What will happen on the day of the examination?

You will arrive at Level 4 Department of Paediatric Imaging and Ultrasound at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital.

You will be invited to the ultrasound room by the doctor or an assistant. Your child's clothes will need to be loosened around the area being scanned so that the jelly can be applied directly to their skin.

What will happen during the scan?

You will be able to stay with your child throughout the scan.

Your child will need to lie on the bed with the lights turned down low so that the doctor can see the screen easily.

They will put some jelly on your child's skin over the area being scanned. A small hand held ultrasound probe will then be moved over the area.

This probe transmits the sound waves that pass through your child's body and picks them up again as they are bounced back. This forms a picture which is stored on a computer.

Depending on the part of the body being scanned, your child may have to sit up or roll over so that the radiologist can get the best pictures possible.

When enough pictures have been taken the doctor will wipe off the jelly, your child can get off the bed and the scan is completed.

An ultrasound scan takes between 15 and 30 minutes, depending on the part of the body being scanned.

How do I obtain the results?

The radiologist will write a report that will be available to the doctor that referred your child for the Ultrasound scan.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound scans use sound waves to form pictures. These are harmless.

Your child will need to lie still during the scan. Depending on their age, they may not like being held and may become upset. You may want to bring along a 'comfort' item - such as a favourite soft toy, or other effective distraction that may preoccupy your child during the test.

Special needs and patient preparation

If your child has any special needs or health issues you feel the doctor needs to know about, please call the Department of Paediatric Imaging and Ultrasound at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital before the test.

It may be helpful to let us know in advance about your child's needs or difficulties. It may be possible for a Play Specialist to be present in order to help your child stay calm and/or distract from the procedure.

If you have any questions regarding your child's appointment or the preparation, please contact our Imaging Department on 01273 523152 between 9 am and 4 pm. You may also leave a message outside of these hours.

You are also able to contact us using the following email address:
bsuh.rachpaediatricimaging@nhs.net

© Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust

Disclaimer

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is in no way intended to replace professional clinical advice by a qualified practitioner.

Ref number: 982.1
Publication Date: July 2019
Review Date: July 2021

