

Ultrasound scan

Ultrasounds are scans most commonly known for monitoring pregnancy but are also used to diagnose a number of conditions by using sound waves to create a picture of the inside of your body. Your Consultant may recommend an ultrasound scan to monitor organs such as the liver or heart, examine the renal system or as part of a prostate gland examination. Increasingly, ultrasound is used as a guide for treatment. For example, ultrasound is used to guide pain relieving injections directly into joints. Using ultrasound ensures that the injection is delivered to the precise area for maximum effect.

Real-time scan results to assist a quick diagnosis

Ultrasonic sound waves travel freely through fluid and soft tissues but, as they hit a more solid surface, such as a heart valve, the waves echo back in varying strengths to create a real-time picture. This real-time image can also display movement and structure, such as the opening and closing of your heart valves, or to monitor the blood flowing in your deep veins.

Sometimes it is necessary for your doctor to carry out an internal ultrasound, such as if you are having a prostate gland examination or your doctor needs to examine your ovaries or certain parts of the womb. Your Consultant will advise you ahead of a scan so you know what to expect.

Prices & payment

We offer a guide price of:

Ultrasound scan
£250

The guide price is based on the usual clinical needs of patients. For more information, please see our [terms and conditions](#).

Ultrasound scan FAQs

What does an ultrasound involve?

Firstly, you will be asked to lie down for the procedure and a gel will be put onto your skin to ensure the ultrasound probe makes good contact with your body. The ultrasound probe is controlled by the Consultant Radiologist who will move the probe around to take in depth images.

Do I need to do anything before the ultrasound scan?

Your Consultant will advise whether you need to do anything in preparation for your scan, although this is generally only for patients having their bladder, womb or prostate scanned.

Patients having their ovaries or womb scanned may be asked to come to the hospital with a full bladder, ensuring that the womb is pushed into a position that is easier to scan. This is also common for patients having an ultrasound to monitor their bladder.

If you are having your prostate gland examined, you will need to make sure you have had a bowel movement to ensure your rectum is empty before your scan.

Will it hurt?

Ultrasound imaging is a simple and painless procedure, so you should not experience any pain. However, for patients requiring an internal ultrasound, you may experience some slight discomfort, but this shouldn't last for long.

Where ultrasound is used as a guide for pain relieving injections, you may experience some slight discomfort as the drug is administered, but this is for a short amount of time and passes within minutes.

When do I receive my results?

You may receive some results during your procedure with a clinician, but a record of the results will be made as still pictures, which will be analysed and sent to the referring doctor as a report. You will then be able to discuss these in a consultation to determine whether any further scans or treatment is needed.