Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Having an Obstetric Ultrasound

Patient information leaflet

If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس‌پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formacie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أُخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

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Ultrasound in Pregnancy

An ultrasound scan is offered to you in pregnancy. Scans may routinely be performed early in the pregnancy and repeated at 20-21 weeks. Some individuals may require more than these two scans.

A great deal of information can be given to your doctor from a scan e.g.

- That you are indeed pregnant.
- Whether you are expecting one or more babies.
- How far advanced your pregnancy is.
- What position your baby is lying in.
- Where the placenta (afterbirth) is situated.
- The growth of the baby is satisfactory between scans.

Ultrasound may also be used to look for certain abnormalities such as spina bifida. It is also used for guidance in procedures such as amniocentesis when a sample of fluid which surrounds the baby is removed for testing. Most pregnancies are uncomplicated but sometimes there are problems which can be detected by ultrasound. If you really do not wish to know if the baby has an abnormality, it may be best not having the 20–21-week scan. If you do decide to have the scan, we will assume that you wish to know about anything we find.

The examination

The ultrasound examination is safe and painless using sound waves to produce a picture on a TV screen. You will lie on a couch, adjust your clothes and some gel will be put on your tummy. A small handheld machine, which emits sound waves, will be moved over your skin to produce images. The gel will be wiped off after the examination.

The sonographer will concentrate on the TV screen during the examination which normally takes 15-30 mins depending upon the type of examination requested. One person may be invited to watch the scan with you if the pregnancy is at a suitable stage for viewing. Unaccompanied children may also be admitted.

If it is possible a picture of the baby will be captured on the ultrasound machine. This image may be purchased as a thermal print. Images are £3 each and all payment is required to be made by contactless method only.

Please inform the sonographer before leaving the examination room as to the number of thermal prints you wish to purchase.

Please leave all jewellery and valuables at home as you may be asked to remove these for your examination.

The equipment has limitations in respect of body height, weight and shape. This could prevent us from performing the examination and this may only be determined on the day of your scan. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

All patients have the right, if they wish, for a chaperone to be present during the examination. If you would like a chaperone, please speak to a member of staff.

By attending for your appointment, you will be giving consent for the examination. If we require formal written consent we will ask you to sign at the time of your examination.



Finally

The pictures taken during the examination are studied carefully and a detailed report is produced. The results will be sent to the person who referred you for the test. They will discuss the results with you and any treatment you may need.

You may already have an appointment with the team who referred you. If not, please contact them to arrange one to discuss the results of this test. Occasionally you may require further examinations once your doctor has seen your images. Please do not be concerned if this happens.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call the Radiology Department via the number given on your appointment letter.

As this is a teaching hospital there may be students and observers present during your examination as part of their ongoing training. Please let the staff know if you do not wish any students to be present during your attendance.

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