

# **PATIENT INFORMATION**

## **Uterine Artery Doppler**

### **Ultrasound Measurement (UtAD)**



# **Uterine Artery Doppler Ultrasound Measurement (UtAD)**

An information guidance

## **What is a Uterine Artery Doppler Ultrasound (UtAD)?**

Uterine arteries are the vessels that carry blood to your womb (uterus).

A uterine artery doppler measurement is used to check the blood flow of the uterine arteries. The flow of blood on the vessels can inform us as to whether your baby will grow to its full potential and the likelihood of developing pre-eclampsia (a blood pressure condition in pregnancy).

It can be carried out during an ultrasound scan around 20 - 24 weeks.

You will be offered a UtAD scan if you are more at risk of having a small baby or developing pre-eclampsia.

The doppler measurement uses sound waves to check if the blood is flowing easily (low resistance) or whether it is having to work harder (raised resistance).

## **What do the results mean?**

- A low resistance measurement means that the blood flow to your baby is normal. A normal result also indicates that you are less likely to develop pre-eclampsia. You will be then offered growth scans every 3 weeks later in your pregnancy to monitor your baby's growth.
- A raised UtAD suggests there is more chance of your baby not growing as well as expected, or an increased risk of you developing pre-eclampsia. It is important to understand that this does not mean that this will happen, only that you are at increased risk. If the measurement shows a raised resistance or positive screen, then you will be offered additional monitoring, scans, hospital appointments and midwife appointments during your pregnancy. That means that if problems do arise they can be picked up as early as possible.

## **Further questions**

We hope you have found this information helpful. If you have any further questions, please speak to your midwife or obstetrician.

**During your contact with us, it is important that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward/department Sister/Charge Nurse if you have questions or concerns.**

## **MATRON**

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward/department staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward/department to deal with any concerns you may have.

## **INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST**

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patients' care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS**

### **ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION**

- Your own GP

### **OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:**

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) – 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) – 0800 328 6297



**Please call 01704 704714 if you need  
this leaflet in an alternative format**

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**FOR APPOINTMENTS**

Telephone (01695) 656680  
Email [soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net](mailto:soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net)

We would welcome your feedback about your experience  
at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.  
Please access the Friends and Family Test at the following  
link:

[https://www.southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/patients-and-  
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**Thank you**

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