How long will the ultrasound scan take?

This depends on which part of your body is being scanned and the information your referrer needs.

Scans can take between 10 - 30 minutes. Occasionally, a second opinion is required which can increase the time. You should allow at least one hour in the Ultrasound Department.

We try to avoid delays, however, please allow extra time in case of delays on the day of your appointment.

Results

The results of your examination will be sent to the referrer, who requested your examination within 28 days. If you have not received your results within this time, you should contact the person/clinic that sent you for your examination

You may already have an appointment with the doctor or clinic that referred you. If not please contact them to arrange a time to talk about the results and any treatment you may need.

Find us at:

Ulster Hospital
Upper Newtownards Road
Dundonald
BT16 1RH

Lagan Valley Hospital
39 Hillsborough Road
Lisburn
BT28 1JP

Downe Hospital
2 Struell Wells Road
Downpatrick
BT30 6RL

We would be grateful if you could attend on time and please bring this letter with you. We recommend that you allow sufficient time for parking.

For further information go to:

https://setrust.hscni.net/

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about coming for your ultrasound scan please contact:

Ultrasound Reception
Monday to Friday
9.00am to 5.00pm

(028) 9055 0411

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Ultrasound

Patient Information

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What is an Ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan uses high-frequency sound waves to create an image of the area of examination. A small handheld device a transducer is placed onto your skin and moved over the part of the body being examined. Lubricating gel is put onto your skin to allow the transducer to move smoothly. This is a widely used diagnostic test to examine the organs and soft tissues of the body.

The ultrasound is carried out by either a sonographer or radiologist, both are trained professionals in this type of scan.

Is it Safe?

Ultrasound is a very safe procedure for all patients undergoing a diagnostic test. The operator will scan for as long as is necessary to provide the required information within all technical limits. This type of scan will not have any side effects.

Why should I have an ultrasound?

An ultrasound scan can give information that leads to, or helps make a diagnosis about your medical condition.

An ultrasound can also be used to monitor an existing condition. It will be your doctor or other health professional who decides that you might benefit from having an ultrasound scan.

Giving my consent

We want to involve you in decisions about your care and treatment. The sonographer/radiologist will ask you if you are happy for the scan to go ahead. This is called verbal consent. If you do not wish to have the scan or are undecided, please tell the sonographer/radiologist.

It is your decision and you can change your mind at any time. Please bear in mind that not having the scan may delay your diagnosis. If you wish to have a chaperone present during your scan, please alert a health care professional before the scan begins.

Students/trainees may be present during the examination but only with your verbal consent.

Please remember that you can ask the sonographer/radiologist any questions you have at any time before, during or after your scan.

If you would like more information about our consent process, please speak to a member of staff caring for you.

How can I prepare for an ultrasound scan

If any preparation is required, this information will be provided at the time of booking your appointment or in your appointment letter.

This may include a brief period of fasting, drinking some water or having a full bladder. Any medication can still be taken with water prior to your scan.

During your scan

Wear comfortable easily adjustable clothing as you will be asked to remove your clothes covering the area for examination and to lie on the examination couch. Here, you will have water based clear gel applied to the skin in the area of examination. The sonographer/radiologist will slowly move the probe over the area while viewing the images produced on the monitor. The lights in the room will be dimmed so that the pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly and records of selected images will be made so that they can be viewed later.

Once the examination is over, the gel will be wiped off and you will be free to dress.

Will I feel any pain?

You cannot feel ultrasound, however, it is important for the sonographer/radiologist to examine you in the correct position and to gently press down on the probe to get a good view. For some people this may be uncomfortable.

If you do feel uncomfortable please inform the sonographer/radiologist, so that suitable adjustments can be made.