

Ultrasound of baby hips

What is an Ultrasound Scan?

It is a very simple examination which uses sound waves to create an image of the inside of your body; it is the same as the scans we do during pregnancy to check your unborn baby.

Why does my baby need a scan when they appear fine?

When your baby was born the Doctor will have examined your baby and may have suspected a problem with one or both of your baby's hips.

Sometimes there is a family history of DDH (Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip) or if your baby was in the breech position after 36 weeks of pregnancy there is an increased chance of your baby having a hip problem.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound has been in regular use for many years and is considered safe. However, as a medical examination, it will only be performed with good medical reason and by staff with the appropriate qualifications and experience.

What if I decide not to bring my baby for the scan?

This is not recommended. DDH can be corrected in a relatively simple way (dependant on the degree of abnormality) if the problem is detected early. This is why we ask you to bring your baby when they are so small. If DDH goes undetected, it is much more difficult to correct when your baby is older, also there are more likely to be long term complications.

How long will it take?

The examination usually takes between 10-15 minutes to complete.

During the scan.

You will be taken into the ultrasound room and introduced to the Sonographer performing the scan. You will be asked to partly undress your baby. You will be able to stay with your baby throughout the scan.

Your baby will be placed on their side in a special cradle whilst the pictures are being taken.

Some warm gel will be placed on each hip in turn. The transducer is placed on the skin and gently moved around to obtain the best picture of the hip joint below.

After the scan the gel can be wiped off the skin.

The scan is painless. Some babies may become restless during the scan. We have found that giving the baby a feed just before the scan may help them feel more relaxed. (You may wish to arrive a little earlier for your appointment in order to do this).

When will I know the result?

The Sonographer will discuss the scan findings with you at the end of the examination. Sometimes follow up scans or clinical appointments are needed. If this is the case, we will let you know at the time.

We aim to report examinations, as soon as possible.

Personal choices

As a teaching hospital, we often have Radiographers and medical staff undergoing training. If a student is to be present or perform your baby's scan we will ask your permission. You have the right to refuse. This will not affect your baby's care in any way.

Cancelling your appointment

If you are unable to attend your appointment, we would be grateful if you could contact us on **01392 402336, selecting option one**, as soon as possible. We can then offer your original appointment to another patient. A further date and time will then be arranged for you.

Please note: If you or your child have had D&V (diarrhoea and vomiting) you will need to contact us to rebook your appointment unless you have been clear for the past 48 hours.

Finally

If you found reading your leaflet difficult, you do not understand what it means for you or your baby, if you have any queries or concerns you can contact us on: **01392 402336** and we can talk it through or alternatively you can email us rduh.radiologyappointments@nhs.net

How to get to your appointment

Please refer to the enclosed "Welcome to the Medical Imaging Department" leaflet or use the Trusts website for the latest information:

www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/our-sites/royal-devon-and-exeter-hospital-wonford/

For more information on the Medical Imaging Department, please visit our website:

www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/services/medical-imaging-radiology-x-ray/medical-imaging-eastern-services

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Designed by Graphics (Print & Design), RD&E (Heavitree)