

Abdominal ultrasound (upper abdomen)

X-ray Department
Tel: 01271 370217

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at ndht.pals@nhs.net.

What is an ultrasound scan?

Ultrasound uses sound to produce images of your body. A special gel is applied to the skin to make contact between the ultrasound probe and your skin. The probe is moved over the area of your body being examined. This produces an image on a screen.

What does it involve?

You will be taken into a scan room and asked to uncover the area to be examined. The sonographer will apply warm gel to make contact with your skin. They will systematically examine the area requested by your doctor. This requires a very high level of concentration so we ask that only parents of young patients or essential carers accompany the patient into the scan room. The scan findings are analysed after the scan and a report is sent to the requesting doctor.

What preparations are needed?

Please do not have anything to eat or drink for **5 hours before** your appointment. You may take any required tablets with a small amount of water. If you take tablets or have injections for diabetes, please telephone the Diabetic Liaison Nurse for advice on 01271 322726, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

What about my general health?

There are no medical conditions that prevent us performing an ultrasound. If you have a medical condition that makes the preparation for the scan difficult for you, please contact your GP for advice.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound is one of the safest ways we have of examining the body. It does not use X-rays or require injections of dye. Ultrasound has not been shown to have any harmful side effects in medical use.

Results

Once the ultrasound scan is done, the results will be analysed by the sonographer and sent back to the referring clinician – usually your GP or hospital doctor. The sonographer will not be able to tell you the results directly.

Further information

For further information please contact the X-Ray/Scans Department on 01271 370217, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple
Devon EX31 4JB
Tel. 01271 322577
www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk

© Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
This leaflet was designed by the Communications Department.
Tel: 01271 313970 / email: ndht.contactus@nhs.net