

Your child's ultrasound

This leaflet will answer some of your questions about your child's ultrasound scan. It explains the benefits, risks and alternatives to the procedure, and what you can expect when you come to the hospital. If you have any questions, please speak to a healthcare professional caring for your child.

What is an ultrasound?

We use high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound waves) to create moving and still images of specific areas of your child's body.

Benefits of having an ultrasound

This test can provide information that will help the doctor to make a correct diagnosis or decision about your child's treatment.

Risks of an ultrasound scan

Ultrasound scans are non-invasive and involve the use of non-ionising radiation. This means that there is no risk of harmful radiation exposure for your child. The ultrasound cameras will come into contact with your child's skin and we use aseptic techniques to keep them clean.

Other options

There are other types of imaging scans, such as X-rays, MRI or CT scans, which can be used instead of, or as well as ultrasound. Different types of scans are useful for providing different information for the doctors, so it depends on what they need to know. The medical team decide which scan is best for your child, and this is confirmed by the imaging team.

Asking for your permission (consent)

We want to involve you in all the decisions about your child's care and treatment. You will be invited into the ultrasound room and the procedure will be explained. If you are happy to proceed, this verbally confirms that you agree to your child having the examination and that you understand what it involves.

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

Before an ultrasound

Depending on the type of ultrasound scan that your child is having, they might need to stop eating and drinking (fasting) for a few hours before the scan. This helps us to get more detailed images.

Your child might be asked to drink water before the scan, to fill their bladder. The booking staff will give you instructions when the scan appointment is made.

During an ultrasound scan

The scan takes place in the Children's Imaging Department. A radiologist or sonographer (specialists in using ultrasonic imaging devices) will explain what the scan involves and then help your child to move into the position that is best for the scan. This is usually lying down on the bed, but might involve sitting or both positions.

As a parent or carer, you might be asked to support or hold your child in a particular position (depending on their age). The ultrasound camera is directly applied to the part of the body being examined, so your child will be asked to expose that part of their body (such tummy). You might need to help your child undress. The radiologist or sonographer will then apply some gel which helps the soundwaves to pass into your child's body.

Will my child feel any pain?

The ultrasound examination should not be painful. However, if your child is very unwell, they might be uncomfortable in certain positions. Please talk to the radiologist or sonographer if you are concerned.

After the ultrasound scan

You and your child can leave the department after the scan. We will review the images and write a report that will be sent to the doctor that requested the scan.

After you leave hospital

There is nothing that you or your child need to do when you leave the hospital.

Follow-up appointments

Your child might already have an appointment with the team who referred you. If you don't, please contact them to arrange one to discuss the results of the test. If this is your GP, your child's results will be available from them in 7 to 10 days.

Contact us

If you have any questions about your child's ultrasound, please contact the imaging department, **phone** 020 7188 9218. Alternatively you can visit our **websites** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk or www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk.

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit, **web** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, **phone** 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm **email** letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch, **phone** 020 7188 8815 **email** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

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