

Ultrasound of Baby Hips

What is an Ultrasound Scan?

This is a simple examination, which uses sound waves to build up a picture of your body on a television screen. It is the same as the scans that were performed during your pregnancy.

Why does my baby need a scan when he/she appears fine?

Either the Doctor who examined your baby after he/she was born may have suspected a problem with one or both of your baby's hips.

Or 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 and therefore there is an increased chance that your baby may have 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 his/her 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.

Children

In an attempt to prevent the spread of infection, the trust requests that only necessary members of the public visit the hospital. For this reason we ask you not to bring siblings if at all possible.

We appreciate that at times this may be difficult. Therefore, you may wish to bring another adult with you to supervise them in the waiting area whilst your baby's examination is performed and the results are discussed.

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 scan we will ask your permission. You have the right to refuse. This will not affect your care in any way.

We employ both male and female staff. If you have a preference we will do our best to comply with your wishes.

How to get to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital at Wonford

Please refer to the enclosed "Welcome to the Medical Imaging Department" leaflet or use the Trusts website for the latest information: **www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where**

For more information on the Medical Imaging Department, please visit our website: **www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/services/medical-imaging**

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