

This leaflet contains important information about your Transvaginal Ultrasound Scan (TVS) appointment.

Should you have any queries after reading it please contact the Radiology Nurses on 655657 at Torbay Hospital.

What is an ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound examination obtains images of the body without the use of xrays. It is therefore of great use in pregnancy and for those who require frequent scans. An ultrasound scan is usually painless.

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves which pass through the skin and are reflected by the body organs. With the aid of a computer these echoes are converted into a grey and white picture on a TV monitor.

What is the benefit of having a Transvaginal scan?

- The examination will help the sonographer assess you more fully, gain more accurate measurements and plan future treatment which may be necessary.
- The scan can be performed if you are having a period.
- The scan is more accurate at determining a fetal heart beat in early pregnancy.
- The scan is more accurate at determining any changes within an ovarian cyst or within the lining of the womb.

Are there any risks associated with having an ultrasound?

No, ultrasound is completely safe and has no known side effects. There is a strict cleaning regime for all internal instruments in place using the latest disinfectant.

We consider latex allergy for all patients by using latex free gloves. We can also provide latex free probe covers if required.

How long will it take?

The examination takes about 15 minutes. We will make every effort to keep to your appointment time but if an emergency arises you may be delayed.

Do I have to do anything before I come?

It would be beneficial to bathe or shower before you come for your scan. You **do not** need a full bladder for this scan.

Who does my scan?

The scan is carried out by an advanced practitioner in ultrasound or ultrasonographer. Occasionally a doctor, radiologist or obstetrician may perform your scan.

What happens during my scan?

- You will be taken to the scanning room and asked to remove your lower garments and given a towel to cover your pelvis.
- You will be positioned on a couch in a flat position. Sometimes a cushion is used to raise your pelvis into a good scanning position.
- In order to perform the scan the tip of a narrow ultrasound probe covered with a rubber or latex free sheath will be inserted into your vagina. This is a simple and painless procedure and the probe is no bigger than a finger or tampon.
- The examination is not usually performed if you have not had an internal examination before or if you are a virgin.
- The examination can be performed at any time during a woman's life, such as in pregnancy, during a period or after the menopause (change of life).
- The examination should not be painful or distressing.

If you are at all worried about the procedure please feel free to discuss this with the ultrasound staff before the examination.

When will I know the results?

- If you are in a one stop clinic, (early pregnancy emergency clinic or post menopausal bleed clinic) the result is forwarded straight away and you will have treatment decided from the scan result.
- The scan pictures are carefully examined and the ultrasonographer will inform you when the results are released to the doctor who requested the TVS.

Please note - waiting area is limited so please help us by bringing only one friend or relative with you. Young children cannot be taken into the scanning room.

If you cannot keep your appointment for any reason please let us know as soon as possible. This helps us arrange another scan for you with minimum delay and helps keep our waiting lists as short as possible.

The telephone number for the Ultrasound Department is shown on your appointment letter.



PATIENT INFORMATION

Transvaginal Ultrasound Scan – TVS