

# Endoanal Ultrasound

## Patient Information

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## Introduction

If this information does not answer your questions, please contact the X-ray Department where your call can be directed to a Sonographer or Radiographer who will be pleased to help you:

### Department of Radiology at:

#### **Royal Albert Edward Infirmary**

Wigan Lane

Wigan

WN1 2NN

Telephone 01942 8222409

Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm

#### **Leigh Infirmary**

The Avenue

Leigh

WN7 1HS

Telephone 01942 264217

#### **Thomas Linacre Centre**

Parsons Walk

Wigan

WN1 1RU

Telephone 01942 774608

#### **Wrightington Hospital**

Hall Lane

Appley Bridge

Wrightington

WN6 9EP

Telephone 01257 256331

## What is an ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan is a non-painful procedure, which uses high frequency sound waves: it is used to help diagnose disease. These scans are performed in by a Radiologist (specialist x-ray doctor).

## How does it work?

An ultrasound scan is a way of producing detailed pictures of the body using sound waves. The sound waves are at a pitch that is too high to be heard by the human ear. A computer converts the information into a moving picture that is displayed on a monitor. An endoanal ultrasound scan involves taking ultrasound pictures of the rectum and anus.

## **Is it safe?**

Ultrasound is considered to be a harmless method of investigating the body. There are no known side-effects from diagnostic ultrasound scanning.

These are quick and simple examinations. They are painless and do not require any sedation or anaesthetic. You do not need to take any laxatives before these scans.

## **What are the benefits of having ultrasound?**

This examination will help us make the correct diagnosis so you will be able to be given the correct treatment.

## **How long will the scan take?**

The time taken to perform the procedure is approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

## **Why an endoanal scan?**

The endoanal scan provides a way to look at conditions affecting the back passage particularly muscle damage or thinning.

## **What should I expect?**

No special preparation is necessary.

You will be asked to take off your underwear and put on a hospital gown. You will be given privacy to do this.

The examination room is usually slightly darkened and the scanning machine and screen on which the images will appear will be beside the bed. The machine makes a slight humming noise.

Usually only one person performs the test.

## **During the test**

You will be asked to lie on an examination couch on your left side with your knees bent. The ultrasound probe is about the same size as a finger and is inserted into the anus.

The probe is disinfected before use, covered with a protective sheath and lubricated with a gel to make its insertion into the back passage easy. The probe is inserted very gently into the anal canal – it will feel similar to having an internal rectal examination in clinic. Whilst the probe is moved, you may experience some minor discomfort but it is not a painful procedure.

## After the test

If you are having the ultrasound examination as an outpatient, you will be able to return home immediately providing that no other tests are required. You may eat, drink and resume normal activities as soon as you wish.

## What if I have other questions?

If you have any questions, doubts or worries, just ask. The ultrasound staff want to make you feel as relaxed as possible. This makes the scan easier for you and means that we get better pictures to aid your diagnosis.

We sometimes have junior medical staff and trainees in our department. Trainees and junior staff may be present at the time of your examination. If you are uncomfortable with this arrangement, please inform the ultrasound staff at the time of your appointment. This will not affect your care or treatment in any way.

## When will I get the results?

A full report will be sent to the doctor who requested the test.

After your examination, the Radiologist or Sonographer who performed the scan will study the pictures taken during your examination. A report is then prepared and sent to your doctor who asked for the examination. The report is normally sent out the day following the examination.

Normally you can expect to receive the complete results of your scan when you next see the doctor who sent you for the examination.

## What to do if you need ambulance transport

If you need an ambulance/ transport, you should ask your GP Surgery to arrange it. You will need to give them three working days notice. Please note that hospital transport is provided on medical need only.

**If you cannot attend your appointment, please contact the Ultrasound Department at the Hospital where you have been given an appointment so that we can offer your appointment to somebody else.**

Please use this space to write notes/reminders.

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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust  
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Wigan Lane  
Wigan WN1 2NN

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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



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## How We Use Your Personal Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your personal information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website:

[www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient\\_information/Leaflets/default.aspx](http://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient_information/Leaflets/default.aspx)

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This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, braille and other languages upon request.

For more information please ask in department/ward.

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