

Your dentist or doctor has referred you for an Ultrasound Scan. This will take place in the Imaging Department (also known as Radiology or x-ray department).

What is an Ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan is a method of investigating the body and in this case the head and neck tissues using sound waves. An ultrasound can show us images of soft tissues e.g. salivary glands and is particularly affective in examining “lumps and bumps”.

The Imaging Team

The Imaging team is made up of:

- reception staff,
- Healthcare support workers,
- Radiographers who perform the scan
- radiologists who report the scan

Do I need to do any special preparation before the ultrasound scan?

There is no preparation for this scan.

We will ask you to remove all face, ear and neck jewellery before the scan.

Men should be aware that facial hair affects the quality of the images as the sound pulses are disrupted (hair under and around cheeks, chin and neck is of particular importance).

If for religious reasons, you cannot shave we will respect this but it may affect the test.

If I am diabetic, taking tablets or medicine, should I stop them?

No. If you are taking prescription medication you should continue to take this as normal.

Is there anything I need to tell the staff before I have my scan?

No.

What will I wear?

Depending on the part of the body to be examined, we may ask you to remove some clothing and put on an examination gown in a changing cubicle before the scan. We will let you know when you arrive.

If you can wear loose fitting clothes with no metal fastenings like zips, poppers and hooks and eyes. This may save you having to change into a hospital gown.

What does the scan involve?

We will apply some gel to your face and neck and then place an ultrasound probe next to the affected area. We move the ultrasound probe over the skin and take some images. This is painless.

Occasionally if we find a lump or cyst, we may offer you a “one stop” biopsy. A biopsy involves taking a sample of tissue using a small needle. We then send the sample to the laboratory for analysis. We will only do this if you give your consent.

Will I get an injection?

Only if you need a biopsy and only if you give your full consent.

How long will it take?

It typically takes between 10 and 20 minutes.

Although we make every effort to meet our appointment times, delays may occur due to emergency patients. We will let you know if this is the case.

What are the risks?

Unlike X-rays, ultrasound does not use radiation. It is safe to use.

Can I bring someone with me?

You can bring a friend or relative with you but we will not allow them into the examination room. Please note; we may ask them to wait in the main reception area.

If you need to bring your children please make sure there is also an adult with you as we are unable to provide childcare facilities.

After the scan

We will remove the gel from your neck and face and you will be able to leave the department.

When will I know the result?

We will send the results to the person who referred you for the test. Your referrer will make arrangements to tell you the result.

Any other questions?

Please ask a member of the team in the Imaging Department.

Please:

- Do not bring any valuables with you
- Call us if you need advice
- Call us as soon as possible if you can't keep this appointment – we can make you another and give yours to someone else

Contact Centre Telephone Number

Tel: 0141 347 8379

www.nhsgg.org.uk