



What happens after the scan?

When the scan is finished the gel will be wiped off and you will be allowed to dress and retrieve your items.

Are there any side effects?

No. There are no restrictions on normal activity - you can eat and drink normally, drive and return to work immediately after the scan.

When will I get my results?

After the scan the images will be reviewed by a Radiologist who will report on the findings of the scan. This report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will then discuss the findings with you and decide on treatment required, if any.

For ethical and professional reasons we cannot discuss results directly with you. Only your doctor or Consultant can do this.



Alliance Medical Diagnostic Imaging

Alliance Medical is a specialist provider of Diagnostic Imaging services to the public and private sectors throughout Ireland. We believe in providing our patients with easily accessible, high quality clinical care, using appropriate technology, in a timely manner within a caring environment.

Additionally we want to assist our referring physicians with a locally delivered, high quality, professional and efficient diagnostic service which addresses their patients' diagnostic needs with regard to accessibility and quality of care.

Locations

Alliance Medical are located throughout Ireland. To make an appointment at one of our Diagnostic Imaging Centres please log onto our website www.alliancemedical.ie to find your nearest Alliance Medical facility.



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What is Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is a diagnostic imaging procedure that uses high frequency sound waves to view internal organs and produce images of the human body. The human ear cannot hear the sound waves used in ultrasound.

Ultrasound is a quick and painless way of imaging most organs and soft tissue areas of the body.

How does Ultrasound work?

Ultrasound imaging is based on the principles of sonar (used by dolphins, submarines and ships at sea). Sound is emitted from a transducer source. When this sound interacts with tissues and organs, echoes are created. The echoes can be used to identify how far away the tissue or organ is, how large it is, its shape and its internal consistency (fluid, solid or mixed). It can also tell how uniform it is.



The Transducer

In Ultrasound sound waves are created and detected by a handheld 'transducer'. It is placed in contact with the skin and emits the sound waves and detects returning echoes when it is placed over the body part being examined. These echoes cannot be felt or heard.

The transducer can be moved over the skin to view the organ from different angles. The echoes are transformed into images and displayed on the monitor in 'real time'. Ultrasound is a particularly useful technique as organs can be imaged as they work.

What is Ultrasound used for?

Most people are aware of ultrasound being used to view the uterus and foetus during pregnancy, but it can be used to image almost every part of the body including:

- Internal organs such as: appendix, liver, pancreas, kidneys, bladder, thyroid gland, breasts, testes, ovaries, spleen, and even your eyes!
- Musculoskeletal imaging e.g. Shoulder
- Blood flow imaging known as Doppler scans

How do I prepare for my Ultrasound scan?

Some preparation may be required for certain Ultrasound scans. For example you might be required to fill your bladder before the examination by drinking water. For other examinations you might be required to fast. Staff will advise you of the necessary preparations required for your scan when scheduling your appointment.

Please let us know if you have any disabilities or special requirements when making your appointment so that we can ensure we are able to offer you the highest quality service.

Can I bring a relative or friend?

Yes someone may accompany you on the day of your scan. However this person might not be permitted to stay with you during the scan.

What happens when I arrive?

On the day of your scan you should arrive 15 minutes before your appointment time. You will check in at reception and you might be asked by the reception staff to complete some forms.

You will be asked to take a seat in the waiting area until collected by a member of staff. The examination will be explained to you and you will be given the opportunity to ask any questions. You may be asked to change into a gown for your scan.

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into the scan room and will be asked to lie down on a couch. The room will be dimmed so that pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly. A gel is applied to the skin. This gel is used to achieve good contact with the skin. The transducer is moved back and forth to gain the image.

You may be asked to take deep breaths and to hold them for a few moments. You may be also asked to change position to get a clearer view of the body part or organ being scanned. Records of images will be made so that they can be viewed later. The scan takes approximately 15 - 20 minutes but may be longer for certain examinations.