

Ultrasound – Paediatric Cranial Contents Scan

Information for the Parents/Guardians of Children Having a Cranial Contents Ultrasound Scan

This leaflet gives you information about your child's cranial contents (head) ultrasound scan. It explains what is involved and what your child may need to do before the scan. If you have any questions about the procedure please ask the doctor who referred you for the scan or the ultrasound department where the scan will be performed.

What is an ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan uses high frequency sound waves to view the organs of the body.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound is considered a safe examination as it **does not** involve exposure to radiation.

Does my child need to do anything before the scan?

There is no preparation involved.

Where is the ultrasound department?

The ultrasound department is located on the ground floor of the hospital and is clearly sign-posted.

When you arrive

Please go to the reception desk in the ultrasound department. You will then be asked to sit in the waiting room until you are called through to an examination room.

Who will carry out the examination?

The examination will be performed by a consultant radiologist, a doctor who specialises in paediatric (children) ultrasound or a sonographer.

What happens during the ultrasound scan?

You and your child will be called into the examination room and the radiologist or sonographer will introduce themselves and ask you to confirm your child's name, address and date of birth. If your child is old enough then the radiologist or sonographer will ask your child to confirm these details.

You will be asked to lay your child on the examination couch, or your lap. Ultrasound gel is applied to the transducer (ultrasound probe) which is then placed on the child's head.

A picture will appear on the monitor of the ultrasound machine and a sequence of pictures will be taken.

How long does it take?

The ultrasound procedure usually takes between 10-15 minutes.

What happens after the examination?

Once the examination is over you and your child are free to leave the department.

How will you get your results?

The results of your scan will be sent to the consultant, GP or clinic that requested your scan.

Contact information

If you need any further information then please contact the Ultrasound Department, Arrowe Park Hospital on 0151 604 7165.