

## When will I get my results?

At the end of the examination you will be told the results. If there has been a change in the growth of your baby a further scan will be arranged for you, or you will be referred to a specialist within the hospital or your midwife.

## Can I have a photograph to keep?

It may not be possible to provide an image of your baby due to the later stage of the pregnancy.

## Contact us

### By phone

You can call our main ultrasound department on: **01872 255188**. Lines are open 9-5 Monday to Friday. If you have an appointment query, please call our ultrasound appointments team on: **01736 874230** 9-5 Monday to Friday.

### By post

Ultrasound department  
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust  
Truro  
Cornwall TR1 3LJ

### By email

[rch-tr.clinicalimaging@nhs.net](mailto:rch-tr.clinicalimaging@nhs.net)

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690



# Having an obstetric growth scan



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## Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is for pregnant patients who have been referred for an obstetric growth ultrasound scan. It explains what to expect and aims to answer any questions you may have.

## What is an obstetric growth scan?

This examination assesses the growth of your baby. Measurements are taken and the blood flow from your baby is assessed. This is not a detailed anatomy scan, which was performed at your anomaly scan.

The scan is carried out in the same way as your dating scan, with gel on your abdomen (tummy) and the sonographer passing the ultrasound probe backwards and forwards over your skin.

## What is ultrasound?

Ultrasound uses sound waves at a non-harmful high frequency to examine your baby. Your baby is assessed and measured using ultrasound to monitor the growth.

## What are the benefits? Are there any risks?

Ultrasound purely uses sound waves and there are no documented risks or side-effects. Unlike some other imaging examinations, such as CT, it does not use radiation.

## How do I prepare for it?

- Please do not wear any perfumes or moisturisers on the tummy area to be scanned.
- Wear clothing that is easily removed for access. You may need to remove items of clothing if they are restricting access to the required area.
- We ask that you allow plenty of time for your appointment and arrive on time. If you are late, it may be necessary to rebook your scan for another day. We are a very busy department and the nature of our work means we can occasionally experience delays.
- While most appointments are completed within 15 minutes, please allow up to one hour for your appointment.

- Make sure you bring your pregnancy notes with you.
- The use of recording equipment is not permitted in the scan rooms.
- All mobile phones must be turned off while in the department.

Please call our department on 01872 255188 if you are unsure how to prepare for your scan.

## Can I bring someone with me?

This is a medical examination and an important antenatal screening test. For your comfort and safety, only **one adult** may accompany you during the scan.

**Please note that children are not allowed in the scan rooms whilst the scan is taking place, and the Radiology department are unable to care for children during your examination.**

## What does the scan involve?

- During the scan, a clear water based gel and an ultrasound probe will be placed on your tummy.
- The lights will be dimmed to allow the operator to view the imaging screen.
- The probe will move around your tummy – this may involve pressing the probe on your skin to achieve high quality images. The clinician will select images for storage on our imaging archive system.
- The clinician may give you instructions to help obtain the best possible image quality, such as breathing in or rolling onto your side.
- When the scan is finished, the ultrasound gel can be wiped off. The examination will typically take less than 20 minutes.

Although we try to run to appointment times, you may have to wait in the department if emergencies arise.

**If you are waiting for more than 20 minutes past your appointment time, please notify a member of staff.**