



BATH RADIOLOGY

Ultrasound of the Testes

Patient Information Leaflet

Introduction

This leaflet tells you about Ultrasound of the Testes, a test to look at the organs and structures inside your Scrotum. It explains how the test is done, what to expect, and the risks involved. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such a discussion.

What is Ultrasound of the Scrotum?

Ultrasound is a non-invasive way of looking inside your body to help diagnose medical conditions and guide treatment. An ultrasound scanner uses high-frequency sound waves and computers to produce pictures of the organs and other structures inside the body, which can be viewed on a computer monitor. Ultrasound is particularly useful to assess lumps, infections or trauma of the testes or epididymis and identify fluid in the scrotum.

The ultrasound examination is performed by a Radiologist, who is a doctor specially trained to carry out imaging examinations and to interpret the images. Some ultrasound examinations may be performed by a Sonographer, who is a health professional highly trained to carry out these examinations. The Radiologist or Sonographer uses a hand-held device called a transducer, which is moved across the body surface and transmits the sound waves into your body. These sound waves are reflected back to the transducer from the different structures and tissues inside the body. The returning sound waves are converted by a computer into a moving image of the internal structures of the body, and the images are displayed on a computer screen.

Ultrasound scanning does not use ionizing radiation (x-rays) and is considered a very safe test.

What do I have to do before my Ultrasound?

There is no preparation prior to this test. If you are on any medication, continue to take as normal.

Where do I go when I arrive at the hospital?

Please report to the reception desk in the Radiology department with your appointment letter 10 minutes before your appointment time. You will be asked to sit in the waiting area until called by a member of staff. A member of the team will explain the test and answer any questions.

You should wear clothing that allows easy access to the area that is being examined.

Can I bring a relative/friend?

You may bring a relative or friend with you to the appointment and, if you wish, they will usually be able to accompany you in the examination room.

If you need an interpreter or a chaperone, please tell us when you receive your appointment so that we can arrange this.

What happens during the Ultrasound scan?

You will be taken into the Ultrasound Scanning Room and asked to lie down on the examination couch. The lighting in the room is usually dimmed in order to see the pictures more clearly. The area to be examined is exposed while the rest of the body is covered.

The Radiologist / sonographer will apply clear gel to your skin before placing the transducer onto this area using gentle pressure. The transducer is moved across the area and the real-time images are displayed on the computer screen. The Radiologist / sonographer records still pictures from the moving images on the screen.

The examination takes approximately 10-15 minutes to perform.

What happens after the test?

When the examination is finished the gel is wiped off and you will be able to dress and leave immediately.

Are there any risks?

Ultrasound is considered a very safe examination. It is non-invasive and does not use ionizing radiation (X-rays).

Tenderness in the area that has been examined is uncommon and usually resolves within a few hours of the examination.

How do I get my results?

The Radiologist / sonographer who performed the examination will review the images and send a report to your doctor. Your GP or hospital Consultant who referred you for the test will see you to discuss the results.

Any further questions?

We will do our best to make your visit as comfortable and stress free as possible. If you have any further questions, or suggestions for us, please let us know. If you would prefer information and advice in another language, please contact the Radiology department.

Further Information

For general information about Radiology departments, visit The Royal College of Radiologists' website: www.goingfora.com

For health advice or information you can call NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or visit the website: www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

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