

Having a Trans-Vaginal (Internal) Scan

Introduction

You have been booked to attend for a transvaginal (internal scan) to help assess the health of your pregnancy. This leaflet will explain what this involves. It may not answer all your questions, so if you have any queries, please ask the staff who will be performing the scan, who will be happy to help and advise you.

What Is a Transvaginal Ultrasound Examination?

An ultrasound picture is formed by sound waves, which are passed through the body and reflected as an image. Under 12 weeks gestation the Ultrasound examination is performed with a transvaginal scan (internally) as this provides clearer pictures of the womb, ovaries, and surrounding structures.

Why Have I Been Booked for A Trans-Vaginal Scan?

The aim of the scan is to assess the health of your pregnancy. You may have experienced bleeding, spotting, or pain or you may require a reassurance scan due to a history of recurrent miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy.

Trans vaginal ultrasound is a safe and generally painless procedure. There is no evidence that having a trans-vaginal scan can cause miscarriage or harm a pregnancy.

Sometimes there might be a concern that the pregnancy is in the wrong place, this is called an ectopic pregnancy. In this situation, we would advise a trans-vaginal scan, as ectopic pregnancies may not be visible on a trans-abdominal scan which can delay the clinical diagnosis .

Waiting for your scan

If you are experiencing severe pain or bleeding please attend the Gynaecology Department in person for assessment, do not wait for your appointment.

What Will Happen During the Scan?

You will need to empty your bladder just before the scan and undress from the waist down. The practitioner uses a specially designed ultrasound probe to perform the vaginal scan, this is covered with a protective sheath and lubricating gel. This is gently inserted into the vagina and is then moved into various positions to see the womb and ovaries clearly.

What Happens After the Scan?

If the scan shows a healthy pregnancy, you will be discharged by the Practitioner and advised to continue with routine antenatal care with your doctor or midwife. If the scan shows any abnormalities, such as a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy, then you will be referred to the Gynaecology Emergency Department for further management, here you will be reviewed by one of the doctors or Advanced Nurse Practitioners. They will discuss the findings and management options with you.

Further information

If you require any further information about your scan, please contact the **Early Pregnancy Assessment Service** on **0151 702 4469** opening hours 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday

Change of appointment – (if booked to attend the Imaging Department) contact the **Access Centre** on **0151 702 4328**

This leaflet can be made available in different formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at pals@lwh.nhs.uk

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Tel: 0151 708 9988

Issue Date: 01/05/2018

Reference: Gyn/2026/123-v3

Review Date: 20/01/2029

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