



We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.

You can use Text Relay to turn telephone communications into text.
Use the Relay UK app on your phone, tablet or PC.
You can also use Relay UK via Minicom or Uniphone.

اگر نیاز به ترجمہ دارید، لطفاً با شماره 01932 723553 تماس بگیرید.

ने उगाहूँ उक्तमे ची लेंच वै उं विरथा वरवे इस नंघर उे बेन वरवे: 01932 723553

اگر آپ اس کا اردو زبان میں ترجمہ چاہتے ہیں، تو براہ کرم اس فون نمبر 01932 723553 پر رابطہ کریں

Se precisa de uma tradução por favor contacte: 01932 723553

আপনার অনুবাদের দরকার হলে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন : 01932 723553

यदि आपको अनुवाद की ज़रूरत है तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 01932 723553

Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

Ashford Hospital
London Road
Ashford, Middlesex
TW15 3AA
Tel: **01784 884488**

St. Peter's Hospital
Guildford Road
Chertsey, Surrey
KT16 0PZ.
Tel: **01932 872000**

Website: www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk

VASCULAR ULTRASOUND

Imaging Department



Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net. If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

Author: Dr Allan Irvine, Gurjit Rai-Tidbury

Version: 6

Published: Mar 2024

Department: Imaging

Review: Mar 2026

What is ultrasound?

Ultrasound is very high frequency sound, inaudible to the human ear, which can be emitted and detected using an ultrasound machine.

The following information relates to the use of ultrasound for diagnosis.

Ultrasound can also be used by Physiotherapists for the treatment of soft tissue injuries but will not be described here.

How does it work?

Ultrasound is painless and harmless. It travels from a probe through the skin into the body and is reflected back when it reaches fluid, organs or bones inside. The echoes are detected by the same machine and a picture is generated which is immediately visible on a screen.

Is there any special preparation?

There is no special preparation.

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown prior to the scan.

What does the scan entail?

Ultrasound is carried out by a Consultant Radiologist or specialist trained Radiographer (Ultrasonographer) skilled in the technique and interpretation.

You will usually lie on a couch in a darkened room and the doctor will place a handheld probe, the size of a small camera, on the skin over the area to be examined. Warm lubricating jelly is used so that the probe can be moved easily and to allow good contact with the skin.

Vascular ultrasound is performed to:

- help monitor the blood flow to organs and tissues throughout the body.
- locate and identify blockages (stenosis) and abnormalities like plaque or emboli and help plan for their effective treatment.
- detect blood clots (deep venous thrombosis (DVT) in the major veins of the legs or arms.
- determine whether a patient is a good candidate for a procedure such as angioplasty.
- evaluate the success of procedures that graft or bypass blood vessels.
- determine if there is an enlarged artery (aneurysm).

Vascular ultrasound gives us unique information and is the best test to find out about the blood flow in your arteries and veins. You may also be offered other tests such as magnetic resonance angiography and x-ray angiography or venography to help with diagnosis.

How long will it take?

The actual scan takes 15 - 20 minutes.

Are there any side effects?

Ultrasound does not use X-rays or radiation. It is painless and safe and has not been known to cause any problems or complications.