

Will I feel any pain?

You cannot feel Ultrasound waves. However, it is important for the Sonographer/ Radiologist to examine you in the correct position and gently press down the probe to get a good image. For some people, this may feel a little uncomfortable. Please inform the Sonographer/ Radiologist if you feel discomfort and they may be able to adjust to an alternative position.

What happens after the scan?

If you are having the examination as an outpatient, you can leave the department and continue your day as normal after the scan. You may eat, drink and continue normal activities as soon as you wish.

The results of your scan will not be available immediately. The images will be reviewed by a Radiologist and a report will be completed.

If you have been referred by your GP, the results will be sent to the GP within 10 days. If you have been referred by a hospital consultant, you will receive your results at your next outpatient appointment.

If you are an inpatient, the results can be accessed by the Doctors looking after you on the ward.

Further Information

Please check your appointment letter to confirm if your Ultrasound scan is booked for Beaumont Hospital or Omni Outpatient Centre in Santry.

Directions– Beaumont Hospital:

The Ultrasound Department is located on the Lower Ground Floor of Beaumont Hospital. Please check in at the Main X-ray Reception on arrival.

Directions– Omni Outpatient Centre, Santry:

Omni Park Shopping Centre is located on the Swords Road, Santry, Dublin 9, approximately 6 km from the centre of Dublin. Omni Park is convenient to several bus routes and just off the M1. The 1, 41, 41C, 16 and 13 buses run from the centre of Dublin.

The Outpatient Centre is located on the first floor of Omni Park Shopping Centre. Parking for patients and visitors is available at OMNI Shopping Centre. Cars are parked at owner's own risk.

If you have any questions, require further information, have specific requirements, please contact the US Secretaries on: **01-8092792** or email **usreferrals@beaumont.ie**.



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Beaumont Imaging & Interventional Directorate



BEAUMONT
HOSPITAL



RCSI HOSPITALS
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PATIENT INFORMATION

LEAFLET:

ULTRASOUND SCAN



What is an Ultrasound Scan?

An Ultrasound scan, sometimes called a sonogram, is a procedure that uses high frequency sound waves to view internal organs and produce images of the human body. These soundwaves travel at a higher frequency than we can hear.

Ultrasound scans can help diagnose problems in many parts of your body, including:

- Liver
- Gallbladder
- Thyroid gland
- Lymph nodes/ neck
- Ovaries
- Uterus (womb)
- Testes
- Kidneys

Ultrasound scans can also help monitor an existing condition.

As sound waves are used rather than radiation, this procedure is considered very safe. There are no known side effects associated with Ultrasound.

How do I prepare for my Ultrasound scan?

Before having some types of ultrasound scan, you may be asked to follow certain instructions before the procedure, such as:

- Fast for 6 hours before the scan of your abdomen and pelvis to lower the amount of air and gas in your stomach or bowel and enable your gallbladder to be better assessed.
- Start drinking fluids one hour prior to your scan - it is necessary that your bladder be full to 'bursting'. To achieve this the patient must drink at least one and a half pints of water ONLY to reach the feeling of 'bursting'.
- Medications should be continued as normal.

On the day of your scan, you should arrive **15 minutes** before your appointment time. As Beaumont is an acute hospital there may be occasions when other patients may need to be scanned urgently which could mean you experience a delay to your appointed time. Patients should be aware that there may be a number of lists running simultaneously, and therefore, you may not be called in order of arrival in the department.

Ultrasound examinations are performed in a dimly lit room, to allow for images on the screen to be seen more clearly.

During the Examination

You will be asked to remove clothing covering the area for examination and lie on the examination couch.

A small handheld probe will be placed on your skin and moved back and forth over the body part being examined. A cold, water based gel is put onto your skin to allow the probe move smoothly and obtain the image.

You may be asked to take deep breaths, or change position in order to obtain a clearer view of the body part or organ being scanned. The scan takes approximately 15-20 minutes, but may be longer for certain examinations. Occasionally a second opinion is required and this can increase the exam time.

Giving my Consent (Permission):

We want to involve you in decisions about your care and treatment. The Sonographer/ Radiologist will ask you if you are happy to go ahead with your scan. This is called verbal consent. If you do not wish to have the scan or are undecided, please tell the Sonographer/ Radiologist. It is your decision and you can change your mind at any time. If you wish to have a chaperone present during the scan, please alert a healthcare professional before the scan begins. Students/ trainees may be present during the scan, but only with your verbal consent.