



Having a testicular ultrasound

This leaflet tells you about the procedure called a testicular ultrasound (also called a testicular sonogram or scrotal ultrasound) – a test to look at the testes and scrotum.

What is an ultrasound?

An ultrasound is a test that uses high frequency soundwaves (so high, you can't hear them) to create an image of the inside of your body. Ultrasound scans are very safe and do not use x-rays to generate an image. When you have an ultrasound scan, the healthcare professional will apply a gel to your skin for use with a probe. The gel creates a seal between your skin and the probe, giving better images, as the soundwaves aren't very good at traveling through air.

What is a testicular ultrasound?

A testicular ultrasound scan is a non-invasive test that uses ultrasound waves to obtain images of the testicles and the surrounding tissue in the scrotum.

Preparation for the scan

The procedure will be performed by a sonographer or a radiologist. Please be aware that the healthcare professional performing your scan may be of a different gender to yourself. A chaperone will be present throughout your examination. Before we start your examination, we will discuss your individual requirements with you.

The Royal Berkshire Hospital is a teaching hospital so you may be asked if you are happy for supervised trainees to be present during your scan. You can say no if you wish.

When you come in for your appointment, wear loose-fitting clothing over the area being scanned. **Please note that children are not allowed in the scan rooms.** If a child needs to come with you to your ultrasound, please organise for a responsible adult to supervise them in the waiting area.

During the scan.

You will be welcomed into an ultrasound room and asked to confirm your details. The rooms are dimly lit to help us see your images clearly on the screen.

You will be asked to lie on a couch and lower your clothes to expose your testicles and move your penis out of the way. Ultrasound gel will be applied to the testicles (the gel will feel cold). The ultrasound probe is moved over the surface of your testicles – both are scanned for comparison purposes.

The scan normally takes between 5 and 15 minutes. During the scan, the healthcare professional will take images and record measurements. They may ask you about your symptoms and past medical history.

If you feel any discomfort during the scan, please let the healthcare professional know.

The scan should not hurt but can be tender when the probe is pressing against your skin.

After the scan has been completed, you will be given some paper towel to wipe the gel off your skin before getting dressed.

Results

The healthcare professional will review your images after the scan. A report will be sent to the clinician who referred you for the scan. Most reports are available 24 hours after your scan.

Contacting us

If you have any questions or concerns before your appointment, please telephone the Radiology Department on 0118 322 7991. This line is open Monday to Friday 8am – 4pm.

If you have come directly from a clinic and have any questions or concerns, please speak to your healthcare professional when you are called for your scan.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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Andrea Adamson, Clinical Specialist Sonographer, July 2024.

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