

Having a bladder scan

This leaflet is for patients attending hospital for a bladder ultrasound scan because of bladder problems or difficulties passing urine.

What is a bladder scan?

A bladder scan shows whether or not you are fully emptying your bladder when you pass urine. This is not an internal examination. It is done by using a small plastic covered sensor, similar to the one used to look at a baby before birth. The sensor slides over the lower part of your tummy with the help of a jelly-like liquid. It is a painless procedure.

In order to perform a bladder scan you will need to drink 1 litre (2.5 pints) about an hour before the scan to ensure your bladder is full.

Currently, bladder scans are done at Townlands Hospital and West Berkshire Community Hospital.

What happens when my bladder is full?

Your MS nurse will ask you to lie on the couch and will slide the sensor over your tummy to find out how much urine is in your bladder. This is a small device that gently vibrates on your tummy when recording the results. You will then be asked to go to the toilet and empty your bladder.

What happens next?

You will be asked to lie down again to repeat the scan; this time to see how much urine is left in your bladder.

How long does this test take?

It will normally take about 10-15 minutes to do the full procedure.

Preparation

We would like you to have a “comfortably full” bladder. If you have a long journey to get to the hospital, or you are travelling by bus, you may wish to have your drinks when you arrive, but it would be helpful if you could have 2-3 cups of tea or other fluids before you leave home.

If you have any difficulties with this, then please contact your MS nurse on 0118 322 5369 or email alison.cini@nhs.net / sarah.wyatt4@nhs.net / diane.frampton@nhs.net

What will happen once my test is completed?

Once the bladder ultrasound (scan) has been completed, your MS nurse specialist will go through the results and discuss with you how best to manage the symptoms that you are experiencing and what treatment options there are.

A letter will be sent to your GP explaining the results and management options discussed.

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

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

Carrie James, Lead CNS neurological long term conditions, Sept 2023. Next review due: Sept 2025

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