Maternity Ultrasound

The mid-pregnancy anomaly scan

Information for parents
You have been given this leaflet to read alongside the green section of the booklet ‘Screening tests for you and your baby’ (produced by the National Screening Committee). You should have received this early in your pregnancy. If not, please contact your community midwife.

A mid-pregnancy anomaly scan forms part of the Antenatal Screening Programme that is offered to all pregnant women. It usually takes place between 18 and 22 weeks of pregnancy. The purpose of this scan is to look for physical abnormalities that your baby might have developed. The scan can only look for some problems and is not able to find everything that might be wrong.

As part of the scan we will also look at the blood flow between you and your baby through the placenta. This can give us information about how well the placenta is working. This part of the scan is called a uterine artery Doppler test.

Sometimes this test may show that you and your baby would benefit from additional scans and monitoring.

**Preparation**

Please bring your blue maternity notes with you. We suggest that you wear something comfortable which can be adjusted so that we can scan the lower part of your tummy.

**Family, friends and children**

It is a good idea for your partner or support person to accompany you for your scan. However, it is best that other people and children do not come in for the scan with you, as they may distract your Sonographer (the person carrying out the scan).

Small children often become bored or frightened when the lights are turned off during the scan. If you do decide to bring your child or children into the scan and they become distressed they will have to leave the room to allow the Sonographer to concentrate. This means that the person accompanying you may then miss out on the scan. We highly recommend that you arrange childcare to cover your appointment.
Scan pictures

If you are having your scan at the John Radcliffe Hospital you can purchase scan picture tickets at the machine in the waiting room. Please give the ticket to the Sonographer in exchange for your pictures. The machines take cash only and no change is given.

If you are having your scan at the Horton General Hospital please tell the Sonographer if you wish to buy scan pictures.

Please note that it can sometimes be difficult to get a good picture if the baby is lying in an awkward position, is moving around a lot or if you are above average weight.

Sex of the baby

If you wish to know the sex of your baby, and the Sonographer can see what it is, they will be happy to tell you.

Results

The majority of scans show that the baby is developing as expected and no problems are found. However; if a problem is found or suspected then the Sonographer may refer you to a specialist for a second opinion. This follow-up appointment will not be on the same day.

Please be aware that if you are overweight it may be more difficult to get clear images during the scan, which may mean we cannot see all of the details of your baby accurately.

After your scan

If you require further scans or appointments this will be discussed and planned with you.

At the Oxford University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust we also offer all women a scan to check baby’s growth at around 36 weeks of pregnancy.
Research

At the John Radcliffe Hospital there is a University of Oxford Research Department (the Oxford Safer Pregnancy Alliance – OSPREA) attached to the Maternity Ultrasound Department. One of the Research Midwives may ask if you would like to take part in one of their studies. For more details please visit www.osprea.ox.ac.uk

Questions and further information

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us on the telephone numbers below, or speak to your midwife.

For further information please visit:

Maternity Ultrasound Department
Level 4, Women’s Centre
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, OX3 9DU
Tel: 01865 221 715

Maternity Ultrasound Department
Antenatal Clinic
Horton Maternity Unit, Banbury, OX16 9AL
Tel: 01295 229 464

For an online copy of the ‘Screening Tests for you and your baby’ booklet in English and in 12 other languages please visit:

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call 01865 221 473 or email PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk

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