Maternity Ultrasound

Uterine artery Doppler ultrasound measurement

Information for parents-to-be
What is a uterine artery Doppler ultrasound measurement?

Uterine arteries are the vessels that carry blood to your womb (uterus). A uterine artery Doppler ultrasound measurement is used to check the blood flow between you and your baby. It can be carried out during an ultrasound scan.

The Doppler measurement uses sound waves to check if the blood is flowing easily (low resistance) or whether it is having to work harder to flow (raised resistance).

What do the results mean?

A low resistance measurement means that a good/steady amount of blood is reaching your baby, helping it to continue to grow well. It also reduces the chances of you developing pre-eclampsia (a blood pressure condition).

Sometimes the measurement will show a raised resistance. This suggests that there is more chance of your baby not growing as well as expected, or of you developing pre-eclampsia. It is important to understand that this does not mean that this will happen, only that it is more likely.

If your measurements show a raised resistance we will offer you additional monitoring, scans and hospital or midwife appointments during your pregnancy. This means that if problems do arise they can be picked up as early as possible.
Further questions

We hope you find this information helpful. If you have any further questions, please speak to your midwife or GP.
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