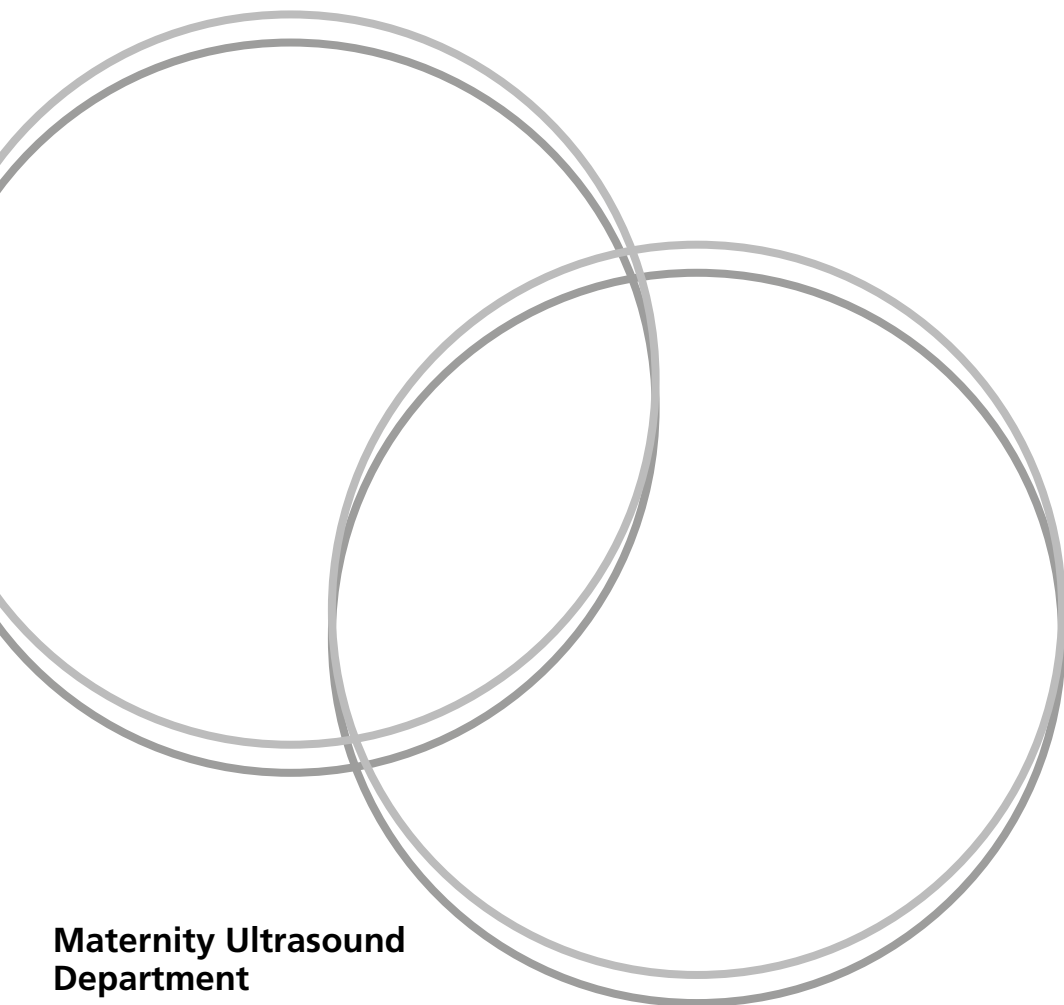




Oxford University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Maternity Growth Scan

Information for parents-to-be



Maternity Ultrasound  
Department



## **What is a growth scan?**

A growth scan is an ultrasound scan that checks how well your baby is growing. Within the Oxford University Hospitals we offer routine growth scans to all women at around 36 weeks of pregnancy.

You may be offered additional growth scans if you or your baby need extra monitoring.

## **What do I need to bring to the scan?**

Please bring your blue notes with you.

## **Who can come with me for my growth scan?**

It is a good idea for your partner or support person to accompany you for your scan. We do not allow children to attend the growth scan with you.

Please refer to the OUH website for the most up to date information on appointments and scans.

## What happens during the scan?

During the scan we will:

- measure your baby's head, waist and thigh bone
- assess the amount of amniotic fluid around your baby
- observe your baby's movements
- record the position of your baby and the placenta
- measure the blood flow in the cord and in some vessels in your baby's head.

These measurements will help us assess your baby's wellbeing and growth. It will also allow us to predict an estimated fetal weight (approximately how much your baby weighs) at the time of the scan.

We plot all the measurements on a chart. This enables us to compare your baby's growth to the average growth of babies at the same stage. We can also compare the rate at which your baby is growing using information from your previous scans.

Please note that if you have a higher body mass index (BMI) the scan measurements may be less accurate.

## Scan findings

The majority of scans will show that the baby is growing and developing as expected.

Sometimes, the growth scan measurements will show that a baby is smaller than expected. This is also known as small for gestational age (SGA). Your baby may also be found to be larger than average.

### **If the growth scan measurements of your baby are much smaller than average**

If your baby measures much smaller than average, we will closely monitor your pregnancy and your baby's wellbeing. This may mean that we ask you to see a hospital doctor, have your baby's heartrate monitored, or have further scans performed. Very occasionally, it might be necessary for you to give birth to your baby earlier than expected. If this happens, an obstetrician (hospital doctor) will discuss a birth plan with you.

### **If the measurements of your baby are much larger than average**

In general there is no reason to be concerned if your baby is larger than average. It will not necessarily change your birth plan and we do not routinely offer caesarean sections for the birth of larger babies.

One test we offer is for gestational diabetes, as this can be a cause for a baby to grow larger than expected. Your doctor or midwife will discuss this with you.

## Scan pictures

We are not able to provide you with pictures after 28 weeks gestation, as your baby will have outgrown the picture size. Please do not purchase a scan token for pictures from 28 weeks of pregnancy onwards.

## Further advice

If you have any further questions please contact your midwife or hospital doctor.

For appointment queries please contact:

### **Maternity Ultrasound Department (John Radcliffe Hospital)**

Tel: **01865 221 715**

(Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.00pm)

Email: **maternity.ultrasound@ouh.nhs.uk**

### **Maternity Ultrasound Department (Horton General Hospital)**

Tel: **01295 229 464**

(Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.00pm)



## Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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[www.ouh.nhs.uk/information](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/information)



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