

Information for Patients

Ultrasound of your baby's hips

This leaflet explains why your baby has been given an appointment for an ultrasound.

Why has my baby been offered a scan?

The midwife/doctor who examined your baby after they were born may have suspected a problem with one or both of your baby's hips.

If there is a family history of DDH (Developmental Dysplasia of the Hip), or if your baby was in the breech position after 36 weeks of pregnancy, there is an increased chance that your baby may have a hip problem.

Babies with clubfoot (fixed talipes) are also offered hip scan.

What if I decide not to bring my baby for the scan?

This is not recommended. DDH can usually be corrected in a relatively simple way if the problem is detected early. This is why we ask you to bring your baby when they are so young. If DDH goes undetected, it is much more difficult to correct when your baby is older and they are more likely to have long term complications.

Where will the procedure take place?

Your appointment will be in the X-ray Department at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

How long will the examination take?

The examination will take approximately 20 minutes, although your overall waiting time in the department may be longer if there are emergencies.

What happens during the ultrasound scan?

The scan is a painless procedure. Some babies become restless during the procedure but you will be able to stay with your baby throughout.

Some gel will be placed on each hip in turn. The ultrasound probe is placed on the skin and gently moved around to obtain the best picture of the hip joint.



Baby having a hip ultrasound at
Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

What will happen after the scan?

If the scan result is normal, your child does not need further investigations. You will be sent the scan results and no follow up appointment is required.

If the scan results suggest an abnormality your baby will be referred to the Orthopaedics doctor who specialises in children's hip problems at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

A follow up appointment will be sent to your home address.

If you have any queries about your appointment please contact the neonatal secretaries on (0161) 276 6690.

Useful links

www.steps-charity.org.uk/Downloads/ – select Baby Hip Health A Guide to Hip Development