PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY

NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED
1. What is an Ultrasound?
Ultrasound scans look at internal organs including arteries and veins. Scans help to diagnose a variety of conditions.
An Ultrasound machine is made up of a console containing a computer, a display screen and a probe (transducer). The probe is a small hand-held device that resembles a microphone.
Ultrasound pictures are produced by passing ultrasonic (high frequency) soundwaves into the area being scanned.
Ultrasound does not use x-rays.

2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?
An Ultrasound is a painless procedure.
No anaesthetic is required.
If scanning is performed over an area of tenderness, you/your child may feel pressure or minor pain from the probe.

3. Preparation for the procedure
There are different preparations required depending on the area of the body being scanned.
The medical imaging department will give instructions on how to prepare for the procedure.
For Parent/Guardian/Adult
To prepare your child for the procedure and to ease their fears, tell them what they can expect to happen during the procedure. The information sheets will assist you with this.
We welcome your help and support during the procedure.
  • At the discretion of the medical imaging staff, a parent/guardian/adult may be invited into the procedure room to support your child.
  • Other children are not allowed into the procedure room. These children must be supervised at all times by another parent/guardian/adult.

4. During the procedure
The lights in the room will be dimmed so that the pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly.
A gel will be applied to the patient’s skin over the area to be scanned. The gel allows the probe to slide easily over the skin and helps to produce clearer pictures.
The probe will be moved back and forth slowly over the area of interest.
You/your child may be asked to hold their breath or roll into different positions during the scan.
Once the scan is complete, the gel will be wiped off the skin.
The Ultrasound will take between 15 and 60 minutes.
This is dependant on what body part is being scanned and the type of investigation required.

5. What are the risks of this specific procedure?
There are no known risks from an ultrasound and it is considered to be very safe.

Notes to talk to the doctor/health practitioner about: