

Having an 18-21 week mid-pregnancy scan?

What is the scan for?

- This is a detailed examination that checks for possible physical problems with your baby.
- A scan is offered to all women, but not everyone will choose to have it. Remember, if you decide not to have the scan your choice will be respected.
- The probe sends sound waves through your tummy. The sound waves bounce back off the baby and are translated into an image on the screen.
- During the scan, many sonographers will have the screen in a position that gives them a good view. This helps them concentrate on checking your baby. You will get the chance to see your baby on the screen, either during the scan or when the sonographer has finished the check completely.
- The length of time the scan takes varies, but it is usually about 20 minutes.
- It is a happy experience for most people, but not for everybody.
- The scan does not pick up all problems.
- Scanning is not thought to be harmful to you or your baby.

What will happen when I go in to the scan room?

- You will be introduced to your sonographer (the person who does the scan) when you are called into the scan room.
- If possible, please leave children in the waiting area, supervised by a friend or relative.
- Once in the scan room you will be asked to lie on your back to have the scan with only your tummy uncovered. The lights in the room will be dimmed to give a clear view of the screen.
- Gel is spread on your tummy so that a hand-held probe can be easily passed backwards and forwards over it.

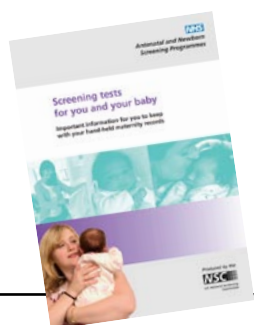
Will I need to come back for another scan?

You may be offered a further scan on another day if the sonographer cannot complete all the checks, perhaps because:-

- Your baby is lying in a position which makes it difficult to see everything clearly.
- It is too early in your pregnancy for the scan to be completed.
- You are above-average weight. This makes looking at your baby more difficult because the images are often not as clear.

What will happen if a problem is found, or suspected during the scan?

- The sonographer may ask for a second opinion, but the exact nature of the problem might not be clear at this stage.
- You may be offered further tests. You will be helped to choose whether you want to have them or not.



More information on ultrasound can be found in *Screening tests for you and your baby* (page 32) available from your midwife.

After your scan...

The ultrasound scan showed that your baby appears to be developing normally.

What this ultrasound scan result means

Your baby does appear to be developing normally. As you know, most babies are born healthy and with no physical problems. However, there is a small chance that your baby may still have a problem that is hard or impossible to see using ultrasound.

The sonographer was not able to complete your scan and you are being offered another appointment.

What this ultrasound scan result means

The sonographer did not get a good view of your baby. This is because:

- your baby was lying in a position which made it more difficult to look at your baby
- it is too early in your pregnancy for the scan to be done
- you are above-average weight and this made looking at your baby more difficult because the images were not as clear

The sonographer will try and complete the scan at one more appointment, but this is not always possible.

More information

You can get more information about ultrasound scans from the "Screening tests for you and your baby" booklet (page 32), from your midwife or your hospital doctor (obstetrician). You can also get more information from the NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening website www.fetalanomaly.screening.nhs.uk



This information is provided by the NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme expanding on text originally conceived by Antenatal Screening Wales.
Reorder information: DoH Publication Orderline 0300 123 1002, reference: ultrasound1
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