

Having an ultrasound scan of your thyroid gland

Cancer Services

Produced: Nov 2021

Review: Nov 2024

Information for patients referred via "Two Week Wait"

Leaflet number: 539 Version: 3

Why have I been sent this appointment?

Your General Practitioner (GP) has found a swelling in your neck within the thyroid gland. Your GP wants us to investigate this lump and exclude the very small possibility that this may be a cancer. The best way of looking at the thyroid gland is by using ultrasound.

What is an ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan uses high-frequency sound waves to create a picture of part of the inside of the body. A small hand-held probe is pressed carefully against the skin surface to produce an image that will be displayed on a monitor. The probe can be moved over the skin to view the thyroid from different angles. The images can be recorded so that your medical team can see them at a later date.

What is the thyroid gland?

The thyroid gland lies at the front of the neck, in front of the windpipe. It releases a chemical substance (hormone) called thyroxine, which passes into the bloodstream and controls the speed at which the body's chemical processes work. Below is a picture taken from an ultrasound scan of the thyroid gland.



**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

Where will the ultrasound take place?

The scan will be carried out in an ultrasound room within the Radiology (X-ray) Department at either Leicester Royal Infirmary or Glenfield Hospital. There are a number of appointment slots (Monday to Friday) that are available for this test. A member of staff from the Radiology Department will contact you and to arrange a suitable time for your scan.

Who will perform the ultrasound scan?

The scan will be performed by a doctor or a sonographer. Sonographers are radiographers who have undertaken additional training to specialise in ultrasound scanning. They carry out a great number of these examinations and may also provide a report of their findings to your GP.

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into a room where you will be asked to lie down on a couch; the room may be dimmed so that the pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly. Gel will be applied to the skin of your neck over the area to be scanned. The gel allows the probe to slide easily over the skin and helps to produce clearer pictures.

The doctor/sonographer will slowly move the probe over your skin while viewing the images on the screen. Records of selected images will be made so that they can be viewed later. The person performing the test may decide to perform a needle aspiration biopsy during the scan and this will be explained to you before it takes place.

When the scan has been completed, the gel will be wiped off and you will be free to get dressed. The whole procedure normally lasts less than fifteen minutes.

How will I find out the results of the scan?

You and your GP will receive a letter with the results of the ultrasound test (and needle aspiration biopsy if you have had one).

The most likely result is that that **no cancer** will be found and this will be made clear in the letter to you. In that situation, no further appointment will be made for you at the hospital. All of the results will be communicated in writing to your GP who will also receive guidance on any further monitoring that may be required.

If cancer **cannot be excluded** by the scan results, you will be contacted by telephone and in writing, inviting you to an appointment with a doctor in the Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) Department. The doctor will ask you questions about your neck lump and examine you. The doctor will then discuss the findings with you. This does **not** necessarily mean that you have cancer, but that further investigation is needed.

As part of the pathway that your GP has used to refer you for your tests and investigations, we aim to ensure that the process runs smoothly and promptly.

Contact details

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact the Radiology Department on

Telephone number **0116 258 8765** (option 4)

(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk