

# Having an ultrasound scan after an abdominal endovascular aneurysm repair

Vascular Studies Unit

Information for Patients

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## Introduction

Your appointment letter will tell you the **date and time** of your appointment. It will also tell you **the hospital you need to go to**. This leaflet tells you about your examination. Please read it carefully as it gives important information and instructions.

You have had an endovascular aneurysm repair (EVAR) using a device called a stent. This is because the main blood vessel in your tummy (abdominal aorta) and artery were swollen. Your consultant has referred you for an ultrasound scan to check for any problems.

## What is a vascular ultrasound scan?

Your body's network of blood vessels are called the vascular system. This includes all of your veins and arteries.

A vascular ultrasound scan uses sound waves that are beyond our normal range of hearing (ultrasound). The ultrasound probe (transducer) is part of the machine that touches your skin during the scan. The transducer makes the sound waves that make pictures of the blood vessels. This will be seen on a screen. This scan is painless.

The machine also uses something called the Doppler effect. This is to measure blood flow through the blood vessels which at times you may hear as a 'whoosh-whoosh' sound. The blood flow is also seen on screen as colour or waveforms.

There are no known side effects from having an ultrasound scan.



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or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## **Why do I need an ultrasound scan after my EVAR procedure?**

An ultrasound scan lets us check blood flow through the stent and if there are any other problems.

## **What happens during the scan?**

We will take you into the room. We will explain the scan to you and you can ask any questions. We will ask you to take off clothing from around your tummy area. We will then ask you to lie down on the couch.

The scan will take place in a slightly darkened room so we can see the pictures clearly on the screen.

We will put a water based gel your tummy. We will use the ultrasound probe with some pressure around the area. The scan is not painful. We need to use some pressure to get a good picture.

## **How do I prepare for the scan?**

You do not need to do anything to prepare for the scan. You can eat and drink as normal.

We recommend you wear loose fitting clothing or clothing that can be removed easily. This will make it easier to scan.

Hearing aids and pacemakers are not affected by the scan.

## **Who will be doing the scan?**

A specialist in vascular ultrasound (clinical vascular scientist) will carry out the scan.

As we are a teaching hospital, students may also be in the room. If you do not want any students to be in the room during your appointment, please let us know.

## **How long will it take?**

This is different for each patient. The scan can take around 10 to 20 minutes.

## **What happens after the scan?**

We will wipe off the gel and you can get dressed. You will need to wait to see the vascular specialist nurse for the result and any follow up care.

You can eat and drink normally after the scan.

## How do I get the results?

We may talk about the result with you during the scan. The results will be reported to the nurse. They will talk with you afterwards in clinic.

## Can I bring a friend or relative with me to my appointment?

You may want to bring a friend or relative with you. They can also be the person taking you home after the appointment. Having this person can be useful if you do not speak or understand English very well. It can be helpful if you have any special needs. But they may not always be allowed into the test room.

## Special requirements

Please call us if you have any special needs like a disability or language and communication need. Call the number on your appointment letter as soon as possible. We will make arrangements to help support you.

## Shops and refreshments

You can get hot or cold drinks and snacks at the hospital. Please ask a member of staff for directions.

## Contact details

**Vascular Studies Unit:** Level 1, Glenfield Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QP

For queries and appointments: 0116 258 5440 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm)

## More information

Visit our website:

<https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/vascular-studies-unit/>

