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Infant Hip Ultrasound Information Sheet

Ultrasound uses sound waves to produce images. The sound waves are transmitted into the body from a small hand piece that looks a bit like a microphone (called an Ultrasound Probe). Some of these waves are reflected and are processed by the ultrasound machine to form pictures. This is the same way the navy looks for submarines. These pictures are shown on a TV screen and recorded.

Ultrasound has been around for about 60 years now and studies have shown that it is a safe technique with no harmful side effects.

You and your baby will be shown into the ultrasound room. Your baby will be lying down with nappy removed to expose both hips. A warmed jelly like substance is then placed on your baby's skin overlying the hips. The sound waves don't travel through air so this allows transmission of the sound waves into your body. The probe produces sound waves that will form the images. There should be no discomfort during the examination apart from a little pressure.

Preparation

For infant hip ultrasound scans no preparation is required.

The study is easier to perform with better images produced if the infant is content. A well fed baby is usually content. Bottle feeding during the procedure is permitted and sometimes helpful in settling a baby.

A standard scan takes approximately 10 minutes.

Results

Your scan will be read and reported by the specialist on the day the scan was performed. The report will then be scanned into the patient file and a hard copy of the report will be given to the parent responsible for the infant.