

Your 20 week ultrasound scan

Women's health & maternity unit



01935 384 856
yeovilhospital.nhs.uk

What is the scan for?

This is a screening test that checks for possible physical problems with your baby.

Your midwife should have given you the booklet 'Screening Tests for you and your baby'.

The information from page 32 will tell you more about this scan, please read it before you attend. If you do not have a copy of this leaflet you can find it online at:

www.screening.nhs.uk/annbpublications and download the pdf file, or contact your midwife for a copy. It is also available in other languages.

Who will perform my scan?

This will be performed by a sonographer - a medical professional who specialises in ultrasound. Please note that these scans are performed by both male and female sonographers.

How long will the scan take?

The scan appointment is 30 minutes but you should be prepared to be in the department for an hour. Sometimes it can take longer to obtain all the information due to the position of the baby or because you are above average weight. This makes looking at your baby more difficult because the images are often not as clear. You may be asked to sit in the waiting room for a while or come back on another day for the examination to be completed.

Can I bring someone with me?

Your partner or a close friend is welcome to accompany you for your scan. Children are generally not encouraged to attend this scan as they may distract you or the person performing the examination. This is a specialist medical examination and the sonographer needs to be able to concentrate on the screen. Occasionally, we may need to discuss a result in depth and this can be difficult if children are present.

Can I get photos of the scan?

We can offer scan photos of your baby taken during the scan. The charge is £5 for four prints and you can pay for them in the coffee shop situated on the ground floor of the Women's Hospital. We suggest that payment is made after your scan has been performed.

Can I take my own pictures?

Please note that filming your NHS scan on mobile phones or other devices is strictly not permitted. We request that mobile phones are switched off during the scan.

A boy or a girl?

It is sometimes possible to see the sex of the baby during the scan. If you have decided that you would like to know the sex please ask the sonographer at the beginning of the scan. However, this is not part of the routine scan and it is not always possible to determine due to the position of the baby. We will not prolong the scan or rebook for this reason alone. Please be aware that we cannot be 100 per cent accurate.

Please note:

Although a normal scan is very reassuring, it is not possible to identify all abnormalities at this stage in pregnancy.

If something is found during the scan that requires further investigation, then a midwife and/or doctor will discuss these concerns and arrange referral to another hospital if necessary.

Further Information

Please talk to your midwife, your doctor or the ultrasound staff if you have any concerns or further questions.

If you are unable to make your appointment please phone 01935 384856 as soon as possible.

If you would like this leaflet in another format or in a different language, please ask a member of staff.

