

Baby hip ultrasound scan

Information for parents and guardians

We've written this factsheet to explain what will happen at your baby's hip ultrasound scan. We hope it will help to answer some of your questions.

Why has my baby been referred to the clinic?

Your baby has been referred to have an ultrasound scan to check that their hips are developing normally.

The hip is a ball and socket joint. In some babies the hip joint does not develop properly. The ball of the hip joint may sit out of the joint, or the socket may not be deep enough for the ball to sit in properly.

This is called developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH). The severity of the condition is different for each baby.

A hip ultrasound scan is important for your baby if:

- they have been found to have an abnormal hip on examination after they were born.
In this case, your baby will have a scan within two weeks of age.

- they have risk factors for DDH.

For example:

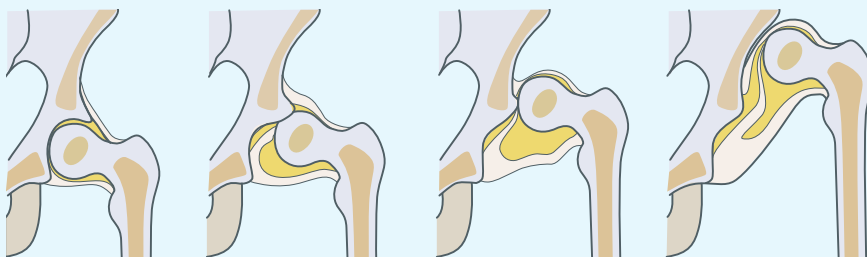
- a parent or sibling was treated for hip dysplasia as a child.
- they were breech (bottom down) after 36 weeks of gestation.
- they are a twin baby and one of them was in the breech position.
- they have other problems with their legs or neck that can be linked to DDH

In this case your baby will have a scan within six weeks of age if their hip examination results are normal.

At your baby's first newborn examination, we will tell you whether your baby needs a two week scan or a six week scan.

The ultrasound scan will help us to see problems early and to start treatment. When hip dysplasia is found early it is easy to treat, but if found later your child may need an operation to prevent problems in the future.

Severity of developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH)



Normal

Subluxation

Low Dislocation

High Dislocation

Why does my baby need a scan?

Some babies are more likely to have problems with their hips.

What will happen in the clinic?

An appointment will be sent to you for either a two week scan or a six week scan.

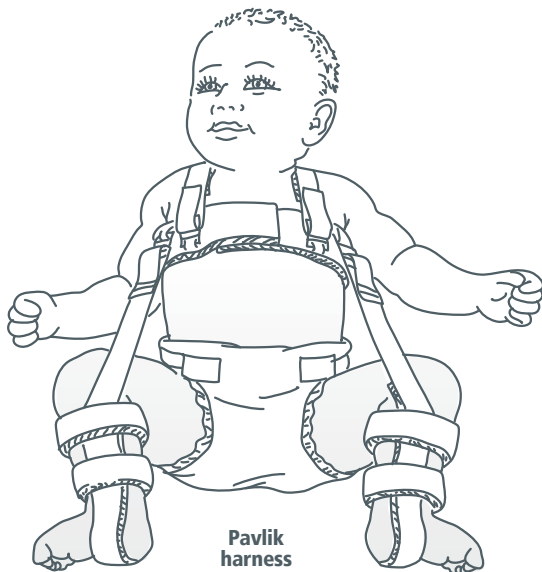
This will happen in the children's orthopaedic outpatients department in the main Southampton General Hospital building.

At the appointment the specialist team will ask some questions about your baby and examine them. The ultrasound scan is quick and painless.

Please be aware that this is a very busy clinic. We will do our best to see you and your baby as quickly as possible on the day.

After the ultrasound scan the doctors will be able to see whether:

- the scan was normal
- the scan needs to be repeated two weeks later
- the scan shows a problem and your baby needs to be treated. This normally involves wearing a special soft material splint called a Pavlik harness.



What can I do to help my baby?

You do not need to treat your baby any differently.

For two week scans

If you do not receive a letter with an appointment by the time your baby is ten days of age, please call patient services on telephone: **023 8120 4477** to confirm an appointment has been made.

For six week scans

If you do not receive a letter with an appointment by the time your baby is four weeks of age, please call patient services on telephone: **023 8120 4477** to confirm an appointment has been made.

Where can I find more information?

www.hipdysplasia.org

www.steps-charity.org.uk

www.nct.org.uk/parenting/hipdysplasia-babies

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audiotape, please telephone **023 8120 4688** for help.

www.uhs.nhs.uk/childrenshospital

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