

## Patient information factsheet

# Endorectal ultrasound

We have given you this factsheet to explain what will happen at your endorectal ultrasound scan. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact our team using the details at the end of this factsheet.

### What is an endorectal ultrasound scan?

An endorectal ultrasound scan is a procedure to examine the rectum (back passage) and surrounding area. The scan involves taking images via an ultrasound probe that is placed through the anus.

### Why do I need to have an endorectal ultrasound scan?

There are a range of different reasons for having this scan. For example, we may need to:

- assess a polyp or tumour in your rectum to help us diagnose any problems and plan the best treatment for you
- monitor you after treatment

You may also have been sent for other tests alongside your endorectal ultrasound scan.

### What will happen before the scan?

The doctor carrying out your scan will visit you beforehand to explain the procedure and answer any questions you may have. If you're happy to go ahead with the scan, they will ask you to sign a consent form.

On the day of your scan, you will need to have an enema (liquid passed into your back passage). We may have sent you an enema pack by post for you to administer yourself at home before you come in for your scan. If not, you will need to have the enema in hospital before your scan. A nurse or healthcare assistant will administer the enema and you will have easy access to a toilet.

### What will happen during the scan?

During the scan, a plastic tube will be inserted into your back passage. An ultrasound probe will then be inserted through the plastic tube. A small balloon will then be slowly filled with water inside your back passage to improve the quality of the ultrasound images.

You may feel an urge to open your bowels during the procedure. This is normal but if you find it too uncomfortable, please tell the doctor and they will stop the procedure.

### What will happen after the scan?

You will be able to go home and carry on with your normal routine after the scan.

The results of the scan are not usually available immediately. We will arrange a further appointment for you once you have had all your tests.

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## What are the risks?

- You may feel some discomfort during the procedure and you will experience an urge sensation as if you need to open your bowels.
- You may notice some blood when you open your bowels.
- In very rare cases (less than 1 in 3,000 scans), there may be bowel perforation (when a hole develops in your bowel), which may need additional treatment as directed by your doctor.

## What are the alternatives?

Many people will need to have a CT scan and an MRI scan as well as the endorectal ultrasound scan. The results of all the tests will help us to plan the best treatment for you. If you decide not to have the endorectal ultrasound scan, it may be more difficult to decide which treatment option is likely to be best for you.

## Contact us

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us.

Colorectal surgery

Telephone: **023 8120 6606**

## Useful links

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/ultrasound-scan](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/ultrasound-scan)

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