

Patient Information

Vascular Investigations Unit

Ultrasound scan of your bypass graft (Graft surveillance)

This information will help you prepare for your visit to the Vascular Investigations Unit.

Please read all the information enclosed about your appointment.

Important

Please contact the Department as soon as possible if:

- **you have special needs**
- **you are given an appointment on a day that you have dialysis**
- **you will be using ambulance transport to attend your appointment**

Telephone: 024 7696 8212

Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm



What is a graft surveillance ultrasound scan?

If you've previously had a bypass graft operation in your arm or leg, your doctor may ask you to have the bypass checked up in the Vascular Investigations Unit.

We will check the blood flow in your arm or leg bypass graft by applying gel to the arm or leg where your graft is and resting a tool called an ultrasound probe on your skin. The probe will send sound waves through the gel and into the body. This is a painless procedure.

We will perform these scans regularly to check up on the health of your graft. We scan each graft at least once per year, and we may ask you to come in more regularly after any procedure involving the graft.

Preparation

You can eat and drink as usual for the test. Take all your medicines as usual.

Hearing aids and pacemakers are not affected by the scan.

What will happen when I come for my scan?

You will be seated in our reception area (shared with Nuclear Medicine). A member of the Vascular Investigations Unit will call you in for your appointment.

As a teaching hospital, students or trainees may be present during your examination. If you wish, you can request they not be present.

We will ask you to confirm your name, date of birth, and home address. Then we'll explain the procedure, and sometimes ask you questions about your health. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions about the scan.

Patient Information

Depending on the location of your graft, you will be asked to expose either your leg from your groin to the foot or the full length of your arm. You will need to remove some clothing to do this. We can provide you with a hospital gown.

Occasionally, for leg grafts, the blood flow in the main arteries in the tummy area (abdomen) may also need to be assessed. You will need to expose your area for this scan.

Your scan will be performed with you laid on an examination couch, either flat or semi-reclined, depending on the location of your graft. If you cannot lie in position (due to back problems, breathing problems, etc.), we can adjust your position to make sure you're comfortable.

You may need to roll onto your side at some points during the scan. This is so we can get the best possible images of the arteries.

During the scan the operator will need to apply moderate pressure with the ultrasound probe over the area being examined. This may be uncomfortable but should not be painful.

We will apply some ultrasound gel to the length of your leg or arm, and your abdomen if needed. The gel applied to the skin is water-based and non-irritating.

The procedure shouldn't take longer than 30 minutes, but this can vary from patient to patient.

If you have additional scans booked, these will be done during the same visit. So your appointment might take longer than usual.

Patient Information

What happens after the scan?

You will be advised roughly when to expect your next appointment.

You will **not** be given any results on the day. We are not permitted to discuss these with you.

After the scan, a formal report will be given to the referring consultant to review. They will usually follow up with you within 14 days.

Directions

The Department is a short walk from the main entrance on the ground floor. To find the Vascular Investigations Unit:

- Enter the hospital through the main entrance and turn left onto the west wing.
- Follow the signs for X-ray along the corridor. X-ray is on the left, just past Fracture Clinic.
- Enter the X-ray reception and continue ahead, following signs for Nuclear Medicine.
- The Vascular Investigations Unit is found through the double doors. You will enter into the main reception area of the Department.

Car parking

Hospital car parking is available to all hospital patients and visitors. Spaces are limited, so please allow plenty of time to find a car parking space. You will have to pay for parking.

More information on directions, parking charges, and site maps is available on the Trust website (www.uhcw.nhs.uk).

Bringing someone with you

You may wish to bring a friend or family member with you for your scan. They may be useful if you do not speak English well or have any special needs. Please do not bring children or pregnant women with you.

Patient Information

Facilities available in the hospital

- Chilled water dispenser in the Department
- Costa Coffee, M&S Food Court and WHSmith shop in the main reception foyer
- Three hospital restaurants

More information

We would like to make your visit as pleasant as possible. If you have any concerns, please talk to the person looking after you or contact us on 024 7696 8212.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us on 024 7696 8212 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us to make further improvements and to recognise members of staff who provide a good service.



Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:
www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback

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