



Having a urinary / renal tract ultrasound

This leaflet explains what happens during an ultrasound examination in the Radiology (X-ray) Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The examination is conducted by radiologist (specialist X-ray doctor) or a sonographer (specialist in ultrasound).

Before the ultrasound

- **You must drink 1 litre (2 pints) of water one hour before the appointment. Do not empty your bladder.** Continue to take any prescribed medication as normal and eat as normal.
- A radiology department assistant will greet you in the ultrasound area and may be present during your examination.
- No childcare facilities are available while you have your scan, so please make alternative arrangements.
- If you would like a chaperone for the examination, please speak to a member of staff in the ultrasound department.

What is an ultrasound?

An ultrasound scan uses high frequency soundwaves to create an image of your abdomen. Ultrasound uses non ionising radiation and is therefore considered a safe test.

What happens during the renal ultrasound?

Ultrasound gel is placed on an ultrasound probe, which is then moved over the skin of the area to be examined. The lights are dimmed to allow the examiner to see the ultrasound screen more clearly. Most examinations last between 15 to 30 minutes.

After the ultrasound

Following the scan, you can wipe off the gel and leave immediately.

We will send a report of your examination to your referring doctor; if this is a hospital specialist, then the specialist will contact your GP with the report.

Contacting us

Radiology Department Tel 0118 322 7991.

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RAD_0111

Reviewed by S Heaton, RBFT Lead Sonographer: November 2025.

Next review due: November 2027.