

Referral for SURREY ULTRASOUND SERVICES

Ultrasound Preparation Advice

Ultrasound uses sound waves NOT X-rays to image the areas requested. This is a quick and painless procedure. The Sonographer will apply a warm clear gel and use an ultrasound probe to image the area requested. Tissue will be provided to remove the gel. The Sonographer will report the examination and this will be sent to the requesting GP.

There are several types of ultrasound requests possible. Below is a chart, which lists the types of examinations and what preparation is required.

Please note: We do not scan children – not suitable for patients < 18 years of age or musculoskeletal problems.

Examination requested	Preparation
Abdominal Ultrasound – Liver, gallbladder, kidneys, spleen and pancreas, Aorta	Nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to examination time. If thirsty can have small amount of water. Medication can be taken.
Renal Ultrasound – Kidneys and bladder. Prostates in men	Drink 2 pints of water and finish one hour before appointment time. Do NOT go to the toilet to empty bladder before scan.
Abdominal and Renal Ultrasound – the two above combined	Starve for 6 hours prior to examination time and drink 2 pints of water and finish one hour before appointment time. Do NOT go to the toilet to empty bladder before scan.
Pelvic Ultrasound	Drink 2 pints of water and finish one hour before appointment time. Do NOT go to the toilet to empty bladder
Transvaginal Ultrasound – Small size probe placed into the vagina to look at uterus and ovaries.	No preparation. We can still scan if patient is having a period. Please empty bladder just before the scan. If you wish to decline or are a virgin please follow pelvic ultrasound guidance (above)
Testicular/ Scrotal Ultrasound	No preparation
Aorta	Nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours prior to examination time. If thirsty can have small amount of water. Medication can be taken.