



Having an 18⁺⁰ to 20⁺⁶ weeks screening ultrasound scan?

What is the scan for?

This is a screening test that checks for possible physical problems with your baby. The test is offered to all women, but not everyone will choose to have it. Remember, if you decide not to have the scan your choice will be respected. It is a positive experience for most people, but not for everybody.

The test does not pick up all problems. Scanning is not thought to be harmful to you or your baby.

The probe sends sound waves through your tummy. The sound waves bounce back off the baby and are translated into an image on the screen. During the scan, many ultrasound practitioners will have the screen in a position that gives them a good view. This helps them concentrate on checking your baby. The length of time the scan takes varies, but it is usually about 30 minutes.

Will I need to come back for another scan?

You may be offered a further scan on another day if the ultrasound practitioner cannot complete all the checks, perhaps because:

- your baby is lying in a position which makes it difficult to see everything clearly
- it is too early in your pregnancy for the scan to be completed
- you are above-average weight. This makes looking at your baby more difficult because the images are often not as clear

What will happen when I go into the scan room?

You will be greeted by your ultrasound practitioner (the person who does the scan) when you are called into the scan room. As this scan is a screening test, it is not recommended to bring children into the scan room. However, your own hospital will tell you about their policy on this. Once in the scan room you will be asked to lie on your back to have the scan with only your tummy uncovered. The lights in the room will be dimmed to give a clear view of the screen. Gel is spread on your tummy so that a hand-held probe can be easily passed backwards and forwards over it.

What will happen if a problem is found, or suspected during the scan?

The ultrasound practitioner will explain this to you. They may ask for a second opinion, but the exact nature of the problem might not be clear at this stage. You may be offered further tests. You will be helped to choose whether you want to have them or not.



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- The ultrasound scan showed that your baby appears to be developing normally

What this ultrasound scan result means

Your baby does appear to be developing normally. As you know, most babies are born healthy and with no physical problems. However, there is a small chance that your baby may still have a problem that is hard or impossible to see using ultrasound.

- The ultrasound practitioner was not able to complete your scan and you are being offered another appointment

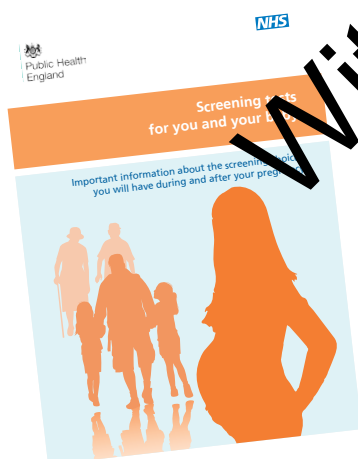
What this ultrasound scan result means

The ultrasound practitioner did not get a good view of your baby. This is because:

- your baby was lying in a position which made it more difficult to look at your baby
- it is too early in your pregnancy for the scan to be done
- you are above-average weight and this made looking at your baby more difficult because the images were not as clear

The ultrasound practitioner will try and complete the scan at one more appointment but this is not always possible.

Find out how Public Health England and the NHS use and protect your screening information at www.gov.uk/phe/screening-data.



More information

You can get more information from:

- the 'Screening tests for you and your baby' leaflet
- your midwife or hospital doctor
- Antenatal Results and Choices, a registered charity, who give non-directive support and information to expectant parents making choices on screening in pregnancy. Helpline: 0845 077 2290 or 0207 713 7486 from a mobile phone or www.arc-uk.org

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Order this resource: www.gov.uk/phe/screening-leaflets