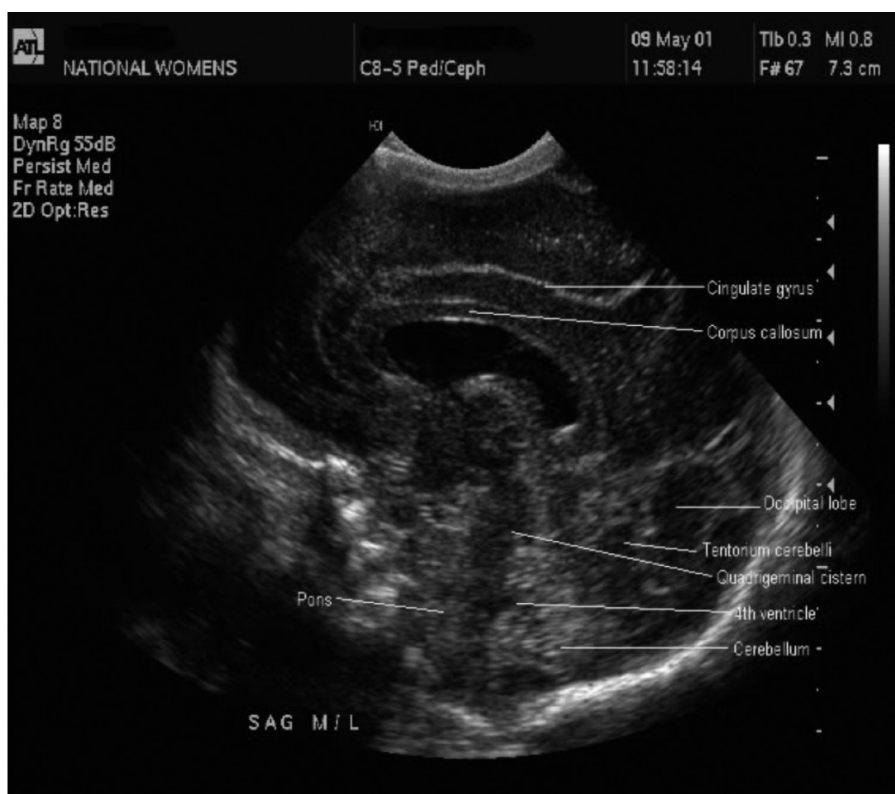


# Head (Cranial) Ultrasound Scan

Neonatal Unit

You have been given this information leaflet because your baby may need to have an ultrasound head scan. This will help you understand what a head scan is for and the reasons why your baby needs this.

Head scan - a picture of the baby by ultrasound scan.



## Why is my baby having an ultrasound head scan?

Ultrasound is a simple, safe test used to monitor your baby's brain. The scan will check for bleeding into the brain, structural brain problems, infection, and unusual increase in head size.

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## Does this test hurt my baby, and are there any risks?

Ultrasound is painless. There are no known risks to your baby having this test. Your baby may require more than one scan. This is done to monitor your baby's condition.

## When will the scan be done?

The scan will be taken as soon as possible. A Sonographer (a person who performs the scan) routinely visits our Neonatal Unit on a Tuesday and Friday. However, your baby's consultant may request one to be taken sooner.

## How is the ultrasound scan done?

A qualified sonographer will perform the scan on your baby.

Your baby does not need to be unduly disturbed. Ultrasound gel is placed on the probe and this is moved across the soft spot (fontanelle) on the top of baby's head. The sound waves which are reflected (similar to an antenatal scan of baby whilst you were pregnant) are shown as a picture of baby's brain on the video screen. A photograph of the brain and inner fluid chambers (ventricles) through which the cerebrospinal fluid flows will be taken.

## How will I get the results?

The pictures are recorded, printed and a report written and filed in your baby's medical notes. The medical team will inform you about the results of your baby's head scan. They will also inform you whether further head scans will be required and when these will be performed.

## What are we looking for when we scan your baby's head?

The most common problem seen on the head scan of premature babies is an intraventricular haemorrhage (IVH).

This is bleeding into the fluid filled chambers (ventricles) inside the brain. The degree of bleeding is variable. It will be monitored through routine head scans.

## Is there any treatment for IVH?

There is no specific treatment that has been found to help babies who have an IVH. Monitoring of the IVH is necessary, as an IVH can cause swelling of the fluid filled chambers (ventricles) within the brain. This is called hydrocephalus.

The swollen fluid chambers within the brain may need draining to reduce the risk of possible brain damage.

## Can any other problems be seen on a head scan?

PVL stands for peri ventricular leucomalacia. This is damage to the brain tissue itself. This is due to a reduction in blood and / or oxygen supply to the brain. This can occur before, during, or after the birth of your baby. It may take several weeks before the damage can be seen fully on the ultrasound scan.

PVL and IVH increase the risk of your baby developing a range of problems from very mild learning difficulties to cerebral palsy.

## What will be the outcome if my baby does not have a head scan?

If you do not wish your baby to have a head scan we recommend you discuss it further with the medical team. If your baby does not have a head scan we would be unable to inform you if your baby had any problems with the brain or brain structure.

## What follow up will there be?

Your baby will be seen in the paediatric clinic following discharge from the Neonatal Unit. You will be able to talk to nursing and medical staff about your baby's condition and development. For further advice, please don't hesitate to ask the doctor or nurse caring for your baby.

## Glossary

**Cerebral Palsy** - A disorder usually caused by brain damage occurring at or before birth and marked by muscular impairment. Often accompanied by poor coordination, it sometimes involves speech and learning difficulties.

**Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)** - The clear fluid that fills the cavities of the brain and covers the surfaces of the brain and spinal cord. It lubricates the tissues and cushions them from shock and injury.

**Cranial** - Relating to the skull

**Soft Spot** - This is known as the fontanelle. A gap between the bones of a baby's skull covered with skin and body tissues.

**Sonographer** - A person that is trained to use a machine that creates an image of the brain and any abnormalities.

**Ventricles** - Any fluid-filled cavities in the brain. The ventricles are filled with cerebrospinal fluid.

## Contact details

Unit manager or your consultant

### **Neonatal Unit**

Maternity Building

New Cross Hospital

WV10 0QP

Tel: 01902 694032

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。