



**Birmingham Children's Hospital
NHS Trust**

Abdominal Ultrasound Scan

(for Liver Unit Patient)

Parents Information Leaflet

This information leaflet is available in large print and on computer Disk (it is also available in Braille, other languages and on audio tape on request). Please contact the Child and Family Information Centre on 0121 333 8505

Abdominal Ultrasound Scan

What Is an Abdominal Ultrasound Scan?

This is a test that takes place in the radiology department. It is like the scan women have when pregnant. A gel is put on the abdomen and a small probe is rubbed over the area. This emits harmless ultrasound waves, which are absorbed or reflected by the body's organs. The test is performed by a radiographer. The pictures can be checked later in the day by a radiologist who writes a report on the scan. You can stay with your child through the test which takes about 30 minutes.

Why is the scan needed?

It helps the radiologists to answer questions put to them by your consultant. It examines the liver, gall bladder, spleen and kidneys. It will show the size of the organ and the blood vessels leading to and from them. It will detect any fluid with the abdomen (ascites). This information about the liver and other organs helps in the diagnosis or monitoring of your child's liver problem.

What are the risks of the scan?

There is no risk involved with the scan that we are aware of.

What is the preparation for the scan?

Instructions will be given to you by the radiology department in your appointment letter. This may involve not eating and drinking before the scan. It is important that this is done in order to get good pictures of the liver and other organs.

What happens after the scan?

Your child can eat and drink straight away and return to normal activities.

When will the results of the scan be available?

If the scan is performed while your child is an in-patient, the clinical registrar may inform you of the result during the evening ward round. The implications may need to be discussed with you at a later date by your consultant. If you have the scan before an out patient visit, the clinic doctor may be able to get the result and to discuss it with you, otherwise a letter may be sent to you.

What care will my child need at home?

Normal activities can resume straight away.

If you have any concerns please contact Liver Direct on 0121 333 8989 in office hours. Messages left on voicemail will be answered the same day. Otherwise for urgent queries ring 0121 333 9999 and ask to speak to the Liver Unit Registrar.

Please use this space to write down any notes or questions you may have.