

# Parkside Breast Imaging

## Breast Ultrasound Scan

### Introduction

This leaflet provides information about having an ultrasound scan of the breast. It explains the benefits and risks of the procedure as well as what you expect when you come to hospital.

### What is an ultrasound scan of the breast?

An ultrasound scan uses high frequency sound waves to produce pictures of your internal organs.

A small hand held probe is pressed against the skin surface and generates sound waves as well as detects sound echoes which are used to display images of breast tissue on a monitor.

An ultrasound scan will usually be done in addition to mammograms, regardless of your age. They are often used together because they provide different information.

### What happens during the procedure?

The procedure shouldn't last longer than 15 minutes, however please allow extra time in case of delays on the day of your appointment.

The Radiologist will first discuss your breast problems with you.

You will be asked to remove all clothing from the waist up and to lie on the examination couch. Your breast may be examined to check the position of any lumps. A water-based clear gel will then be applied to the skin of your breast. This allows the ultrasound probe to slide easily over the skin and helps to produce clear pictures.

The Radiologist will slowly move the probe over the skin, whilst viewing the images produced on the monitor. The lights in the room will be dimmed, so that the pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly. Records of selected images will be made so that they can be viewed later.

Once the examination is over, the gel will be wiped off and you will be free to get dressed.



# Parkside Breast Imaging

## Breast Ultrasound Scan

### What are the benefits? Why should I have this procedure?

Ultrasound scans are able to detect changes within your breast, some of which you may be aware of (such as a breast lump).

An ultrasound scan may also be able to detect changes that cannot be felt during a physical examination. This includes lesions located deep within your breast which may require further investigation.

### How do I prepare for an ultrasound scan?

There are no special preparations for this procedure. You can eat and drink as normal before and after.

On the day of your appointment, we advise that you wear clothes that can be easily removed from the waist upwards.

Please do not wear deodorant, powder, lotion or perfume on your breast and underarm areas as ultrasound gel will be applied to this area during examination.

### Results

These will be sent to your referring Doctor. Please make an appointment at reception or call the Consultant's secretary for a results consultation.

This page is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.

