



Clinician performed ultrasound

A clinician performed ultrasound is a non-invasive procedure performed by the bedside doctors (clinicians) caring for your baby.

It can help to optimise the care of your baby, for example an ultrasound of the heart helps us understand how your baby's heart is functioning; an ultrasound of the brain helps us discover if there is any bleeding in the brain.

How is the ultrasound carried out?

Gel is applied to your baby's skin. A transducer which is a small piece of equipment with a smooth surface, is then placed on the gel. This helps to view an image of your baby's body parts such as the brain or heart. It is similar to the ultrasound imaging you had during your pregnancy.

What are the limitations?

A clinician performed ultrasound may not identify some of the defects in the structure of the heart, such as congenital heart diseases. A few defects may still be evolving at the time of examination. An ultrasound is not the same as a formal assessment, for example an echocardiography performed by a heart specialist (cardiologist).

What could happen next?

If your doctor is concerned they will organise an appointment with a specialist as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns, please talk to the doctor looking after your baby.