



Your Ultrasound Guided Ascites Tap

Scanning Department Radiology

Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns please contact the department on

01793 60 50 49

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm



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What is an Ultrasound scan?

For this scan we use high frequency sound waves. Humans are unable to hear them, but the scanning machine uses them to produce scan images.

Are there any risks involved?

Complications are rare. However, infection or bleeding could be experienced in exceptional circumstances. Our strict guidelines in performing this procedure ensure that this risk is reduced to a minimum.

Do I have to have this scan?

The doctor has requested this scan and aspiration in order to relieve your symptoms due to build up of fluid in the abdomen.

What do I have to do before I come?

If you take **Warfarin** tablets you should notify us as soon as you receive this letter.

- Do not eat or drink anything for 1 hour before your appointment time

What does it involve?

- The procedure is very quick and easy – it will take approximately 30 minutes
- You will have an injection of local anaesthetic to freeze the skin, and then a needle is inserted so that the fluid can be removed.



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What happens after the Scan?

- Be prepared to stay in our recovery bay for 2 hours afterwards so that we can make sure you are well enough to go home.
- Be aware that on very rare occasions it may be necessary for you to stay in hospital overnight.
- You should not drive yourself home.
- A friend or relative should accompany you to the hospital and on returning home.
- A report of the procedure will be sent to your doctor.

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

Document Control

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