

# Ultrasound Scan

## What Is Ultrasound Scan?

Ultrasound is a safe, non-invasive imaging test that uses high-frequency sound waves to create detailed, real-time images of internal organs without radiation exposure. It is particularly useful for assessing bowel and digestive conditions, helping to detect inflammation, structural abnormalities, and functional issues in the abdominal and pelvic organs. Unlike X-rays or CT scans, ultrasound does not use radiation, making it safe for all patients.

## When Is An Ultrasound Scan Useful?

Ultrasound is commonly used to assess:

- **Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)** – including Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, to check for thickening of the bowel wall, strictures, or abscesses
- **Diverticular disease** – to evaluate diverticula (small pouches in the bowel wall) and signs of infection or inflammation
- **Bowel obstructions** – to detect blockages, adhesions, or abnormal bowel movements
- **Rectal and pelvic floor disorders** – including rectal prolapse, rectocele, and enterocele, to assess muscle function and structural abnormalities
- **Abscesses and fistulas** – particularly in anal and perianal regions, which can occur with Crohn’s disease or infections

## Do You Need Any Preparation?

Preparation depends on the type of ultrasound being performed:

- **Abdominal ultrasound** – Avoid eating for at least 6 hours before the scan but drink plenty of fluids
- **Pelvic ultrasound** – A full bladder may be required for better imaging of the bowel and pelvic structures

- **Rectal and perianal ultrasound** – No special preparation is needed

Your consultant will provide clear instructions before your appointment.

## What Does An Ultrasound Involve?

- You will lie on an examination couch while a small ultrasound probe is gently placed on your abdomen or rectal area
- A clear gel is applied to the skin to help capture high-quality images
- The consultant moves the probe over the area being examined while capturing real-time images of your bowel and pelvic structures
- The scan is painless and takes 15-30 minutes

**Ultrasound can also be used to guide minimally invasive procedures, such as:**

- **Needle biopsies** – taking small tissue samples from the bowel or surrounding tissues
- **Abscess drainage** – safely draining infected fluid collections

## What Happens After Your Ultrasound Scan?

- The images will be analysed by a specialist consultant
- A detailed report will be sent to your consultant
- If necessary, further tests or treatment options will be discussed with you

## Why Choose The Midlands Bowel Clinic?

- **Expertise in bowel ultrasound** – specialised imaging for gastrointestinal conditions

- **Advanced diagnostic technology** – clear, high-quality imaging for accurate diagnosis
- **Comprehensive bowel care** – with access to further investigations and treatments tailored to your condition
- **Patient-focused approach** – ensuring fast and effective diagnosis in a comfortable environment

## Contact Us

If you need an ultrasound scan for a bowel-related condition, Midlands Bowel Clinic offers specialist imaging and expert care.