

Fibroscan: a liver scan

Hepatology Service

Information for patients and carers

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What is a fibroscan?

A fibroscan is a type of ultrasound scan.

This scan:

- checks how much scarring is in your liver
- is a simple and painless test
- uses sound waves to look at your liver
- does not break the skin or go inside your body
- is quick and gives results straight away

Why do I need this test?

This test helps us understand:

- the condition of your liver
- how much scarring there may be

Most people can have this test.

How does the scan work?

- The probe (a small hand-held device) sends sound waves into your liver.
- The waves bounce back and are then measured by the scanner.
- The scanner then gives an average result. This shows how stiff your liver is.

The scan will be done at least 10 times. This is to make sure the results are correct.

Are there other choices?

One choice is a liver biopsy. This is when a doctor takes a very small piece of your liver using a needle.

Compared with this scan, a liver biopsy:

- takes more time
- means you need to stay in hospital for a few hours
- has some risks because a needle goes into your body

Your doctor will talk to you about this.

What do I need to know?

- Do not eat or drink for 3 hours before your appointment.
- You can take small sips of water if needed.
- Keep taking your usual medicines.

Please wear clothes that are loose or can be taken off easily.

What happens during the scan?

We will ask you to:

- lie on a couch
- lift your right arm above your head

The nurse or healthcare assistant will:

- gently feel your stomach area
- place a small probe on your skin

You may feel a light tapping or flick on your skin. This should not hurt.

If you have limited movement, please let us know. We may need to change your position during the scan.

What happens after the scan?

- You can go home or return to work straight away.
- We will send the results to your doctor.
- Your doctor will talk to you about the results.

Contact us

If you have any questions, please call us on:

01925 275287

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