

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Ultrasound

What:

A scan to assess the main artery from the heart (The Aorta) that supplies your abdomen and lower limbs (the abdominal aorta and associated vessels). This test should take 30 minutes.

Why:

The Aorta may become dilated and enlarged (an aneurysm) due to a weakening of the walls. This scan assesses the size of this artery and also any areas of plaque or narrowing.

There are a large number of reasons for this test to be performed, please discuss specific reasons with your referring doctor.

Involves:

- Fasting preparation (please see our patient preparation information section).
- The scan is performed in a private ultrasound room where a sonographer will explain the scan and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be asked to remove any clothing covering the abdomen, generally the top layers pulled up to the level of the chest and asked to lie down on an examination bed.
- An ultrasound probe and some gel will be placed on the abdomen.
- The sound of a pulse will be heard from the ultrasound machine, this is when blood flow is being assessed.

The results will be sent to the referring Doctor who will discuss and explain the outcome to you.