



Ultrasound Aspiration

Information for Patients

What does it involve?

You may need to change into a gown or arrange your clothing to give access to the area of interest.

Your consultant will have discussed with you the area that will be aspirated, but the procedure will be explained to you again and you will be able to ask any questions that you may have.

The skin over the aspiration site will be cleaned and then ultrasound scanning will be used to guide the positioning of a small needle. This will be used to take samples of fluid (aspiration) for analysis. A local anaesthetic will be used.

Will it hurt?

Most aspirations do not hurt at all as the local anaesthetic is very effective. The injection of the anaesthetic will sting at first before the area becomes numb.

How does ultrasound work?

Ultrasound travels freely through fluid and soft tissues. When it meets a more solid surface, some waves are reflected as an echo. The strength of the echoes depends on how dense the body tissue that reflected them was. The echoes are used to create pictures of the area being scanned.

The ultrasound waves are sent and received by a small hand-held device, known as a 'probe'. The probe is attached to an ultrasound machine that looks like a large computer on wheels, with a screen and a built-in keyboard.

Who will be there?

The consultant radiologist who carries out the examination will be with you in the

room. You may also meet one of our imaging assistants and members of our nursing staff.

How long will it take?

Typically 15 to 30 minutes.

What happens afterwards?

You will be allowed home either on the same day or the following morning. This will have been discussed with you when your appointment was booked.

Results

The result will be sent to your consultant who will arrange to give you your results. This will take about a week.

Wound dressing

A small dressing will be used at the site of the aspiration. Please keep this dry for 24 hours. It can then be removed.

Further information

If you need to cancel, change your appointment or have any concerns/queries about your examination, please contact the Ultrasound department on: 01737 768511 x1611 or x6023 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm).

Directions, parking and travel information for East Surrey Hospital and Crawley Hospital is available on our website at www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk/finding-us/

Contact Us

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
Diagnostic Imaging Department
East Surrey Hospital
Redhill Surrey RH1 5RH
Tel: 01737 768511
www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Telephone: 01737 231 958

Email: pals@sash.nhs.uk

Write to: PALS, East Surrey Hospital
Redhill, Surrey RH1 5RH

You can also ask a member of staff to contact PALS on your behalf.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats, including in larger text. Contact: 01737 231 958 for help.

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