

Rectal ultrasound

What does the test involve?

A rectal ultrasound is an internal ultrasound performed rectally. The doctor will explain the test, answer any questions you may have and take written consent. A finger sized probe is inserted into your back passage and gently moved in and out so that we can take scans (pictures) at different positions in your back passage. The procedure can be a little bit uncomfortable, but not painful. No anaesthetic or sedation is required.

The result of the tests will be sent to the referring consultant who will make a decision about the need for further treatment. This will be communicated to you either by letter, telephone appointment or clinic appointment.

What preparation is required?

The results will be much clearer if your rectum is empty. Please use a micolette enema rectally on the morning of the test to enable you to empty your bowel as much as possible. Micolette enemas can be purchased from any chemist.

The whole test should take about 30 minutes. You will be fit to drive afterwards. Please bring a list of your current medication with you.

Where is the test carried out?

Please report to the Louise Ryan Unit on the lower ground floor of the Royal Free Hospital at the date and time specified in your appointment letter. We aim to see patients on time and therefore if you are more than 15 minutes late we may not be able to proceed with your test.

Attendance policy

If you are unable to attend, please contact us as soon as possible on 020 7830 2923. If you fail to attend without giving advance notice, a further appointment may not be issued and your doctor will be informed of your non-attendance.

Hospital transport

If you need transport for medical reasons, please ring 020 7510 4228 and you will be assessed for suitability.

Further information

If you would like to speak to someone personally, please contact us on 020 7830 2923 and the staff in the unit will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to bring a friend or family member with you who may accompany you during the test if you so wish.