

Having a penile Doppler ultrasound scan

This leaflet aims to answer your questions about having a penile Doppler ultrasound examination and includes a consent form. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact a doctor or nurse caring for you.

Why do I need a penile Doppler examination?

A penile Doppler is a means of assessing erectile dysfunction (ED). ED can have many causes, including not enough blood flowing into the penis (inflow ED) or blood becoming trapped in the penis (outflow ED). Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to help create images of the internal body, and penile Doppler ultrasound specifically images and measures the blood flow into the penis.

What to expect from a penile Doppler examination

The procedure will be fully explained to you by the radiologist (a doctor specialised in the use of diagnostic imaging). You will be asked to undress from the waist down and lie back on the examination couch. A very small needle will be used to inject a 'vasodilator' drug into the side of your penis. This drug widens the blood vessels and so increases the blood flow to the penis, and you may develop an erection (of varying degree) following the injection.

The radiologist will then perform the scan by placing an ultrasound probe onto the penis. Gel is applied to the probe beforehand, which aids in the production of soundwaves penetrating the body. You may hear some swishing sounds coming from the ultrasound machine, this will be the sound of blood flow within the penis.

Your scan appointment is usually booked for 30 minutes, however the time taken may vary depending on how clear the images are. Although every attempt is made to scan patients on time, delays may occur due to unforeseen circumstances. Please allow up to an hour for your radiology appointment.

What happens after the scan?

The radiologist will report on the examination and send your results to the urologist who referred you for the scan. You will need to make an appointment (if one is not already in place) to obtain your results.

What are the benefits of having this type of scan?

The ultrasound will help the urologist decide how to plan the treatment of your ED.

Is there any alternative?

No, there isn't a less invasive method of investigation.

Are there any risks?

You may still have an erection but this should subside within 1 to 2 hours. There is a small (1 to 2%) risk of a persistent painful erection (priapism) which is potentially serious. If you still have a rigid or painful erection two hours after the injection, please return to the radiology or urology department where you will be seen.

Consent - asking for your consent

We want to involve you in decisions about your care and treatment. The sonographer/radiologist will ask you if you are happy for the scan to go ahead - this is called consent. If you decide to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. This states that you agree to have the treatment and you understand what it involves. If you do not wish to have the scan or are undecided, please tell the sonographer/radiologist.

It is your decision and you can change your mind at any time. Please bear in mind that not having the scan may delay your diagnosis. Consent can be withdrawn at any time.

A chaperone will be present for all intimate scans. You are welcome to bring a friend or family member to be present throughout the scan if you wish.

Students/trainees may be present during the examination but only with your verbal consent. Please remember that you can ask the sonographer/radiologist any questions you may have at any time before, during or after your scan.

If you would like more information about our consent process, please speak to a member of staff caring for you.

Useful sources of information

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your ultrasound scan appointment, please contact radiology reception, **t:** 020 7188 5490 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm):

- Choose Opt 1 to cancel and not rebook an appointment
- Choose Opt 2 to reschedule or book a new appointment
- Choose Opt 3 for test results
- Choose Opt 4 for patient transport
- Choose Opt 5 for general enquiries

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

t: 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk
t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

t: 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, please get in touch.

t: 0800 731 0319 **e:** members@gstt.nhs.uk **w:** www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership



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A list of sources is available on request

**Please fill in the form below and bring it to your appointment.
By signing this document you are giving your consent to having
this procedure.**

**Remember it is your decision and you can change your mind at any time. Your wishes
will be respected at all times. If you would like to read our consent policy, please ask a
member of staff.**

I would prefer a chaperone I decline to have a chaperone present

I hereby give consent to undergoing this penile Doppler examination:

Name:.....

Hospital number:.....

Signature:.....

Date:.....