

What is a Follicular Tracking ultrasound scan?

A Follicular tracking ultrasound scan looks at the ovaries and uterus internally using a sterile (clean) transducer paying particular attention to the follicles within the ovaries.

A follicle is a fluid area in which the eggs grows. The follicle increases in size as the egg grows. Follicular tracking involves scanning the ovaries regularly during your menstrual cycle and observing the follicles as they increase in size.

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves, which pass through the skin and are reflected by the internal organs to create a picture on a screen with the help of a computer. These pictures are then interpreted by the Radiologist/ Radiographer.

How do I prepare for this examination?

Your GP or another doctor will have referred you to us. As soon as your period starts/or the first working day afterwards ring 01 4085577 to make your initial ultrasound appointment. If you have a prescription for clomiphene citrate (clomid) given to you by your referring doctor, take the tablets as instructed by your doctor. Timing of any further visits will be advised after each scan but are typically every other day until you have ovulated.

For hygiene reasons please have a bath or shower before you come in for your scan. You will also be asked to empty your bladder before going for your scan.

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into a slightly darkened examination room. You will be asked to undress from the waist down and you will be covered with a sheet. You will be asked to lie on your back on a special bed with your knees bent. Most women find the examination less uncomfortable than having a smear performed.

Once you are in a comfortable position, a sterile lubricated covered electronic device called a transducer will be gently inserted into your vagina. The transducer is a little bigger than the size of a finger or tampon. Only the tip of the transducer (about 2-3 inches) is put in the vagina to look at the uterus and ovaries.

How long does it take?

Depending on how relaxed you are, the examination generally takes about 15 minutes.

Is it safe?

Ultrasound has been around for the last 30 years and there are no known side effects. It does not involve the use of x-rays and it is a simple, painless procedure. This scan does not have any effect on fertility.

How will I learn the results?

The results will be sent to your doctor who will discuss the results with you.

Can I drive home?

Yes, there are no known side-effects from this procedure.

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