

## Obstetrics and Gynaecology

# Uterine Artery Doppler Ultrasound

### What is a Uterine Artery?

Uterine arteries are the blood vessels that carry blood to your womb (uterus). These arteries supply the womb and the placenta. Good blood flow in these arteries increases the chances of normal placental development which further helps and aids the growth of your baby.

### What is a Uterine Artery Doppler (UAD) Ultrasound Measurement?

A uterine artery doppler (UAD) measurement records the blood flow in the uterine arteries. It is a simple procedure which can be carried out during an ultrasound scan around 20 - 24 weeks of pregnancy. This measurement can inform us as about your baby's growth during your pregnancy and the likelihood of you developing pre-eclampsia (a blood pressure condition in pregnancy). You will be offered a UAD scan if you are more at risk of having a small baby or developing pre-eclampsia.

### What do the results mean?

The results from a UAD scan will either be low resistance flow or a raised resistance.

A low resistance flow is a reassuring sign that a good/steady amount of blood is reaching your baby, helping it to continue to grow well. It also suggests a reduced chance of you developing pre-eclampsia. If your UAD scan measurement shows low resistance flow you will continue to have growth scans from 32 weeks of pregnancy to ensure your baby is still growing well.

A raised resistance result suggests that there is more chance of your baby not growing as well as expected, or of you developing pre-eclampsia. It is important to understand that this does not mean that this will happen but that it is more likely.

If your measurements show a raised resistance we will offer you additional monitoring, scans, and appointments during your pregnancy. This is to ensure that if problems do arise they can be picked up as early as possible.

### Is there anything I can do to help my baby to grow well?

If you smoke it is extremely important that you stop. Smoking can seriously affect the function of the placenta and baby's growth. Please ask your midwife to refer you to a smoking cessation service. Monitoring your baby's movements is a good way for you to check their wellbeing.

## Who can I speak with if I need further information?

Receiving the news of having extra tests may cause anxiety but please be assured that most babies will grow normally and be a healthy weight at birth. You are welcome to contact one of the antenatal clinics to speak to the midwives if you have any queries or concerns on 01422 224130 or screening team 01422 22123.

## If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Antenatal Clinic Reception  
Telephone: 01422 224130

Screening Midwives  
Telephone: 01422 222123

[www.cht.nhs.uk](http://www.cht.nhs.uk)

## If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

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ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

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برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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