

Endo-anal Ultrasound



urogynaecology patient
information

What is an endo-anal ultrasound?

This is a detailed ultrasound of the muscles that help maintain your bowel continence. The muscles tested are the levator sling (the pelvic muscles that you can squeeze voluntarily), the internal anal sphincter (which maintains the basic tone of the rectum and anal canal), and the external anal sphincter (which is the outer most muscle at the opening of the anus).

One third of women suffer from trauma to their external anal sphincter during childbirth and this may result in the involuntary passage of flatus, liquid faeces or in rare cases solid faeces without any control. The endo-anal ultrasound assesses the integrity of these muscles.

What is involved?

The procedure takes about 15 – 30 seconds and involves the insertion of a very small ultrasound probe into the back passage.

What to Expect

The procedure is not painful and no pre-scan preparation is required.

After the Procedure

Your test results will be discussed with you by the doctor and treatment options explained.

Your doctor or nurse will be happy to discuss any concerns that you may have regarding this operation.