

# Uterine Artery Doppler

Important information for patients

## Contact numbers

Should you require any additional information or help,  
please contact:

Antenatal Clinic Midwives on 01270 612171

This leaflet is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages.  
To request a copy, please ask a member of staff.



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

Uterine arteries are the vessels that carry blood to your womb (uterus).

A UtAD measurement is used to check the blood flow of the uterine arteries. The flow of blood within the vessels may give us an indication of whether your baby will continue to grow well and the likelihood of developing pre-eclampsia (a blood pressure condition in pregnancy).

It can be carried out during an ultrasound scan around 21 – 23 weeks. Photographs of your baby will not be available at this appointment.

The doppler measurement uses sound waves to check if the blood is flowing easily (low resistance) or whether it is having to work harder (raised resistance).

## **Why have I been offered a UtAD?**

Your Midwife or Obstetrician has completed an assessment taking into consideration your medical history, previous pregnancy history and factors in your current pregnancy which has shown that you may be at increased risk of having a small or growth restricted baby or developing pre-eclampsia.

## **What do the results mean?**

- A low resistance measurement means that the blood flow to your baby is normal, helping it to continue to grow well. A normal result also indicates that you are less likely to develop pre-eclampsia. You will be then offered growth scans every 3 -4 weeks from 32 weeks gestation to monitor your baby's growth.
- A raised UtAD suggests there is more chance of your baby not growing as well as expected, or an increased risk of you developing pre-eclampsia. It is important to understand that this does not mean that this will happen, only that you are at increased risk. If the measurement shows a raised resistance or positive screen, then you will be offered additional monitoring, scans, hospital appointments and midwife appointments during your pregnancy. That means that if problems do arise they can be picked up as early as possible.

## **Further questions**

We hope you have found this information helpful.

If you have any further questions, please speak to your Midwife or Obstetrician