

## Useful information

We hope you find this information helpful.

If you have any further questions, please speak to your midwife.

The midwifery reception office is open between 9am and 5pm  
Monday to Friday.

Telephone number: 0151 495 5079

Visit our website for information about you and your baby:

[www.bridgewater.nhs.uk/haltonsthelens/midwiferyservices](http://www.bridgewater.nhs.uk/haltonsthelens/midwiferyservices)

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haltonmidwives

**Local Community Pharmacy** - Your local community pharmacies offer a wide range of services including information and general advice on symptom relief medicines as well as a prescription collection and delivery service.

For impartial and confidential advice or information on the services provided by Bridgewater or to receive this leaflet in an alternative format call our Patient Services team on 0800 587 0562.

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## Bridgewater Midwifery Services

### Uterine artery Doppler ultrasound measurement



## What is a uterine artery Doppler ultrasound measurement?

A uterine artery Doppler ultrasound measurement is used to check the blood flow between you and your baby. It can be carried out during an ultrasound scan.

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

## What are uterine arteries?

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

## Who will be offered a Doppler ultrasound measurement?

Your midwife will complete a risk assessment at your booking appointment and when you are 16 weeks pregnant.

The risk assessment will be used to see if you need a uterine artery Doppler ultrasound measurement.

Your midwife will ask you questions during the risk assessment, such as:

- Your medical history
- Your current pregnancy
- Any previous pregnancies.

## When will the Doppler ultrasound measurement be taken?

If your midwife has assessed you as requiring a uterine artery Doppler ultrasound measurement, it will be taken when you are between 20 and 24 weeks pregnant.

You will be sent an appointment from the ultrasound scan department where you are booked to have your baby.

## What do the results mean?

A low resistance measurement means that a good amount of blood is reaching your baby, helping it to continue to grow well.

It also reduces the chances of you developing pre-eclampsia (a blood pressure condition of pregnancy).

Sometimes the measurement will show a raised resistance. This suggests 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 it will happen, only that it is more likely.

## Will I be offered extra monitoring?

If your measurement shows a raised resistance you will be offered extra monitoring, scans and midwife appointments during your pregnancy.

This means that if any problems do arise, they can be picked up as early as possible.