



Fibroscan Information for Parents and Carers

What is a Fibroscan?

A Fibroscan is a non-invasive procedure. It is a type of ultrasound that measures the amount of scarring (known as fibrosis) in your child's liver. It is a simple, painless test that uses high frequency sound waves.

Why does my child need a Fibroscan?

A Fibroscan can help your child's doctor identify if your child has:

- Fibrosis; scarring in their liver
- Liver stiffness; hardness of their liver due to scarring in their liver
- Fatty changes; an abnormal build-up of fat in their liver
- Steatosis; a condition caused by having too much fat in their liver

The result of the fibroscan is available immediately and should be interpreted alongside blood tests, ultrasound and overall health to determine the stage of liver disease and decide the appropriate management and follow up for your child.

Fibroscan cannot fully replace the need for a child to have a liver biopsy but is a useful alternative to biopsy in certain cases.

Where is a Fibroscan carried out

A Fibroscan is a portable bedside test. It can be carried out in the outpatients department in one of our clinic rooms. It is carried out by the Liver Clinical Nurse Specialist or doctor.

How should I prepare my child for their Fibroscan?

Your child can continue to take all their usual medications. Clothing that is loose-fitting is ideal to wear as we will need to be able to access their abdomen, (tummy area) to perform the Fibroscan.

What will happen during the Fibroscan?

The Fibroscan can be done either as part of a clinic visit with your child's doctor or as a nurse led stand-alone examination with the Liver Clinical Nurse Specialist.

We will ask your child to lie on an examination table and place their right arm above their head and cross their right leg over their left leg. We will then gently feel your child's tummy to locate their liver and place a small device called a probe against their skin. When we turn the probe on, your child may feel a gentle flick or tickle.



What will happen after the scan?

There is no restrictions on your child after the scan, they can return to their normal daily activities.

When will we receive the results?

We may be able to give you your child's results on the day as part of your clinic appointment. They will be discussed with you by your child's doctor. If your child's Fibroscan is done as part of a nurse led stand-alone clinic then your results will be discussed at your child's next Liver clinic appointment or sent back to the consultant that referred your child for the scan.

Contact Details

For more information on Fibroscan please contact the Liver Clinical Nurse Specialists in Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin, Dublin.

Phone 014096100 Bleep 453.

Remember: Ask your nurse if you are unsure about anything about your child's care

Author: Laura Feeney

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