

Porterbrook Clinic

Sheffield Care Trust

**Andrology Service
(Urology)**

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Investigations

MIDUS Investigation (Ultrasound)

Information for Users of our service

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Introduction

Porterbrook clinic is able to offer a number of investigations to try and help both you and us understand the cause of your problems. Two of these tests involve you wearing a device which is attached by either straps or adhesive patches to the penis. The exact nature and choice of the investigation will be discussed with you by your clinician. The Gold standard test, the Rigiscan, has been in use for many years and the clinic has a decade of experience in using and interpreting the results of the Rigiscan. The Rigiscan measures radial rigidity and helps us to assess how hard and firm an erection can become. The NEVA on the other hand measures changes of volume of blood into the penis during states of arousal and provides us with information on the capacity for inflow to the penis. Ultrasound can help identify and quantify the blood flow velocities into the penis (MIDUS). A fourth test, the DIR, measures rigidity of the tip of penis. A fifth test measures nerve conduction associated with sensations (GSA). All of the information collected by the clinic for patients with any investigations are held in a coded format.

The MIDUS

You have been invited for an ultrasound scan called a MIDUS. This specifically measures blood flow rates within the penis as an aid to diagnosis of problems related to penile erections.

Your appointment letter will give details of what you need to consider ahead in preparation for your MIDUS. Please ask about anything you do not understand or have concerns about; we ask men to sign a consent form before treatment is given.

Men's thoughts about the test:

We are aware that men attend having had different experiences of tests and treatments for their problem and also individual concerns, so please do address issues that concern you by asking questions. For example, men or their partner may have already had ultrasound scan tests for other reasons and realise how straight forward this is in practice from the patients point of view, but have anxiety about having any injection; MIDUS requires administration of a specific injection for it to work. Many men feel uncomfortable with the thought of viewing an erotic video in the presence of the doctors and nurses performing the MIDUS, which is of

course a quite a natural feeling. You are welcome to make contact ahead of the date of your appointment although hopefully most of your questions will be answered by the description on this information sheet.

What happens during the test:

At least two members of staff are directly involved in the MIDUS which involves moving a small probe (called a transducer) over the surface near the base of the penis. Ultra sound waves are directed into the penis, and waves reflected from inside structures get captured by the same probe; except for any touching of the skin by the probe, none of this is felt. The MIDUS computer analysis gives blood flow rates in the form of a graph on the monitor, while special transmission jelly put on the penis is used to enable a good ultra scan signal to be detected.

Initial baseline blood flow on both right and left sides is measured on the flaccid penis and temporary marks that will wash off are made, to enable the doctor to relocate the correct sites at the next measurement.

After these measurements have been recorded and saved, a small injection of a drug to cause vasodilation, called Alprostadil is given into the side of the

penis near the base (see leaflet on penile injections).

While the treatment begins to work you will be left for ten minutes watching an erotic video. Following this, repeat measurements will be made at five minute intervals. We may need to give you a second injection of another drug such as phentolamine. We may also use a vibrator to enhance stimulation. During the whole of the test which lasts about an hour and a half, you are able to call for attention if necessary.

Please do read this in conjunction with the information leaflet on penile injections and your letter of appointment which give specific details of what you need to take into account before attending for a MIDUS investigation.

Important notes

Do bring with you any reading, TV glasses and medication you may require. Would you please avoid sexual activity for 24 hours prior to the investigations and take no drug treatment for erection difficulties for three days. Also, do not drink, smoke (or use nicotine patches or gum) within two hours of the tests. Otherwise, do eat and drink as normal and take any normal medication.

