

# ULTRASOUND OF A FOREIGN BODY

## Ultrasound of a Foreign Body

**Objective** To ensure that all staff follow correct procedure for the evaluation and identification of a foreign body in soft tissues.

**Responsibility** All sonographers, trainee sonographers, registrars and radiologists performing paediatric ultrasound examinations.

**Frequency** This examination may be a single study. However, following the removal of a foreign body a subsequent ultrasound examination may be required to determine if its removal has been complete.

**Procedure** The following table describes the process to be followed for the evaluation and identification of a foreign body, using ultrasound.

Step	Action
1	Review radiographs if available.
2	Ask the patient/guardian, what the foreign body is likely to be.
3	Identify the entrance wound.
4	Use sterile gel if possible to minimise the risk of infection.
5	Scan over the wound with a high frequency linear transducer. If the foreign body penetrates deep a slightly lower frequency linear transducer may also be used.
6	If the foreign body is very superficial, use additional gel or a stand-off pad.
7	Identify the entire length of the foreign body.
8	Measure the length and width of the foreign body. Measure the depth of the foreign body from the skin surface. Save images of the foreign body with and without measurements. Also use the availability of a body marker on the images to demonstrate the location of the foreign body.
9	Mark the site of the foreign body on the skin using a permanent marker pen. If the foreign body has a length to it, draw a line on the skin showing the lie of the foreign body and mark the more superficial end with an X.
10	It is important to identify and document adjacent structures including arteries and veins.
11	Ultrasound should be done prior to exploration of the wound since introduced air causes artefact which may obscure the area.