

FibroScan for assessing liver fibrosis and cirrhosis outside secondary and specialist care

Information for the public

Published: 7 June 2023

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NICE has said that FibroScan can be offered outside secondary and specialist care. FibroScan is a test that can be offered to people to find out whether they have liver fibrosis (when scar tissue collects in the liver) or cirrhosis (severe scarring of the liver).

The test was previously only available in secondary and specialist care (for example, hospitals). Making FibroScan available outside of these care settings (for example, in community diagnostic hubs) may make it easier for people to have testing. This means that liver disease may be found earlier. Finding out if people have liver fibrosis or cirrhosis early is important because people can make lifestyle changes to stop the condition getting worse.

Is this treatment right for me?

Your healthcare professionals should give you clear information, talk with you about your options and listen carefully to your views and concerns. Your family can be involved too, if you wish. Read more about [making decisions about your care](#).

Questions to think about

- How well does it work compared with other tests?
- What are the risks or side effects? How likely are they?
- What happens if I do not want to have the test?
- Can I choose where to have this test? Can I have this test at my local clinic or hospital?
- How long will the test take?
- Will I need, or be offered, sedation or anaesthesia? If so, will I have a choice?
- Will I be able to drive to and from the appointment?
- How do I get my test results? Will there be a follow-up appointment?

Information and support

The [NHS webpages on liver disease](#) and [cirrhosis](#) may be a good place to find out more.

You can also get support from your local [Healthwatch](#).

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-7453-5