

Ultrasound

What is Ultrasound?

Ultrasound or sonography, is a safe diagnostic test used to examine different body tissues. Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves which reflect off of different tissues and form an echo. These echoes form a picture of the body part being examined. Ultrasound provides real-time imaging, which allows visualization of movement and function (blood flow in vessels, and fetal movement in obstetrical scanning).

Who performs your Ultrasound?

A registered medical sonographer.

What parts of your body can be imaged using Ultrasound?

Abdomen – To assess the liver, gallbladder, pancreas, spleen, aorta, and kidneys

Kidneys and Bladder/Pelvis – To assess the appendix, kidneys, bladder, and reproductive organs

Obstetrical – To assess pregnancy

Extremities/Musculoskeletal – to assess tendons and muscles of the shoulder, knee, ankle, hand, wrist, or superficial lumps and bumps

Breast – to assess the breast and axillary tissues

Carotid Doppler – to assess the carotid arteries of the neck

Peripheral Doppler of the Arms or Legs – to assess the veins or arteries in the arm or leg

Scrotum – to assess the scrotum, testes, epididymis, and inguinal canals

Thyroid – to assess the thyroid gland and surrounding neck tissues

Ultrasound Guided Biopsies

What happens during the procedure?

You may be asked to wear a hospital gown, depending on the procedure you are having. During the exam, the sonographer will apply water soluble gel to the skin of the anatomy to be scanned. The sonographer will place the transducer onto the skin and move it over the area to create the images. You may be asked to hold your breath, or move into different positions. There may be minor discomfort caused by the fullness of the bladder during some exams, or by pressure, as it is necessary for the sonographer to push with the transducer to get a better image. The time to complete an ultrasound ranges from 15 to 90 minutes.

Should I expect any after effects as a result of this procedure?

No. There should be no after effects. After your exam is complete, you are free to resume a normal diet.

When and how will I know the results?

Your physician will receive a written report from the radiologist (specialized medical doctor). You should obtain the results from your physician. If there is an urgency, your physician is more than welcome to contact us by phone.