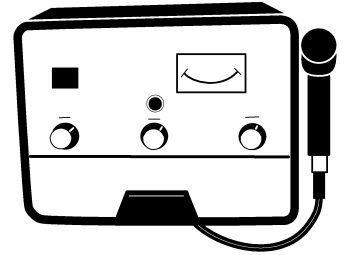


ULTRASOUND IMAGING

Patient Education

What is the purpose of this test?

Ultrasound imaging involves the sending of sound waves through the body. Those sound waves are reflected off internal organs and computer processed to provide an image. No radiation is involved. Ultrasound is a useful way of examining many of the body's internal organs, such as the liver, gallbladder, kidneys, prostate gland, uterus, and ovaries. It is also very beneficial to monitor the development of the fetus, since images can show movement and blood flow. Your physician may order an ultrasound to detect abnormalities in organs or for guidance when doing a biopsy of certain areas.



How should I prepare for this test?

You should wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing for your exam. For some scans, your doctor may instruct you not to eat or drink for as many as 12 hours before your appointment. For exams of the uterus and ovaries, you may be instructed to drink up to 32 ounces of water to fill your bladder.

How will the test affect me?

Ultrasound is a painless procedure, but you may experience some discomfort from the pressure of the transducer on the skin during the procedure. The transducer is a small, handheld wand that directs the sound waves to the appropriate body parts.

How is the test performed?

You will be positioned on an exam table and a small amount of warm gel is placed over the area that is to be scanned. This gives the transducer a smooth contact surface to direct the sound waves to the body. You may be asked to hold your breath or change positions during the procedure to better visualize the particular organ of interest. The technologist will observe the image on a screen much like a computer or television monitor. Ultrasound exams take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

How will I receive results of the test?

Results will be sent to your physician who will discuss the results with you.

CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS