



Exam Duration: 30-45 Minutes

IV Required? No

Exam Preparation: Nothing to eat or drink 8 hours prior to appointment
Medications may be taken prior to the exam with a small sip of water

How it Works: Ultrasound utilizes high frequency sound waves which are beyond our range of hearing. These sound waves are emitted from a transducer (camera) which is placed on your skin. The sound waves travel into your body where they are reflected and travel back to the transducer. After the sound waves travel back to the transducer they are converted into an image of the soft tissue structure being examined. These images provide valuable information about a variety of diseases and conditions.

Sonography does have its limitations: ultrasound cannot visualize structures that are filled with or obscured by gas, nor is it an effective tool for bony structures.

Exam Procedure: Upon your arrival, a sonographer will explain the exam in detail and ask questions about your relevant medical history. You will be asked to lie on an exam table and partially raise your shirt to expose your abdomen. A small amount of gel will be placed on your skin—this gel helps to conduct sound waves into your body and is vital to the exam. The transducer will then be moved into various positions over your abdomen depending on the organ to be imaged. You may be asked to roll onto one side or hold your breath during the exam. Most patients experience little to no discomfort during an ultrasound; there are no lasting side effects to be concerned about.

Images will be viewed and interpreted by a radiologist. A copy of the report will be sent to your physician.

'Abdominal Ultrasound' is a general term for scans that include the following areas/organs:

Abdomen Complete

Aorta

Abdomen Limited

Spleen

Gallbladder / Biliary