



What Is Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is an examination technique using high frequency sound waves to make still and live video pictures. Ultrasound is used to assess the condition of soft-tissue structures within the body. Exam sites can include the heart and breast, as well as digestive, reproductive and urinary tracts.

It is important to know that your exam will be performed by technologists who have received national certification by the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (ARDMS). It is equally important to utilize ultrasound departments accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR).

Why Should I Have an Ultrasound?

Some common ultrasound examinations can identify conditions like those listed to the right. In addition, your healthcare provider may want to diagnose or rule out other conditions not listed. Ultrasounds are quick, painless and produce no known side effects.

Preparing for Your Ultrasound Exam

Unless instructed otherwise, most ultrasounds do not require special preparation. However, if the ultrasound test is ordered to examine your abdomen and pelvic region, you may be asked to fast prior to the exam, and/or arrive at your appointment with a full bladder. In the case of a gallbladder exam, recent food ingestion may interfere with scanning. In the case of pelvic ultrasounds, a full bladder maximizes the reflection of sound waves and improves the image.

If You Have Questions/Concerns, Please Call PENRAD Imaging at (719) 785-9001



Ultrasound Exams:

ABDOMEN

- Appendicitis
- Evaluation of pain
- Evaluation of abdominal aorta
- Gallbladder disease
- Kidney disease
- Liver or spleen disorders
- Pancreas or bile duct abnormalities
- Tumors

AORTA

- Aneurysms (balloon-like enlargement)
- Rupture of abdominal aorta

BLADDER

- Abnormal emptying
- Stones
- Tumors

KIDNEY

- Cysts
- Inflammation
- Obstruction
- Stones

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- Tumors

OBSTETRICAL

- Abnormalities of the uterus, placenta, ovaries
- Bleeding during pregnancy
- Fetal abnormalities
- Fetal growth
- Fetal number, age, weight, and position in the uterus

TESTICULAR

- Fluid in the scrotum
- Infection
- Torsion or twisting of the testicle
- Tumor

THYROID

- Cysts
- Inflammation
- Tumors

BREAST

- Adjunct to Mammography
- Cyst vs. solid mass
- Dense breasts
- Evaluation of breast implants

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EXTREMITY VESSELS

- Pain
- Swelling
- Vascular disease

CAROTID ARTERY

- Headache
- High Blood pressure
- Stroke

During the Exam

Our certified sonographer technologist will ask you to lie on the examination table next to the ultrasound equipment and may ask you to wear a gown during your exam. The radiologist or technologist may apply a clear water-soluble gel to the part of the body to be examined. The gel helps the sound waves travel from the ultrasound machine through the skin, down to the tissues that are the target of the study. After applying the gel, the technologist will guide the transducer – a hand-held instrument – slowly across your skin. The images will appear on the ultrasound monitor.

After the Exam

Upon completion, the technologist may ask you to remain in the department while reviewing the ultrasound pictures. The radiologist may also order additional images or a brief exam. A Board Certified Radiologist will interpret your results and provide a formal report to your healthcare provider.

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