

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).



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ULTRASOUND

abdomen, aorta, bladder, kidney, obstetrical, testicular, thyroid, breast, extremity vessels, carotid artery, abdomen, aorta, bladder, kidney, obstetrical, testicular, thyroid, breast, extremity vessels, carotid artery, abdomen, aorta, bladder, kidney, obstetrical, testicular, thyroid, breast, extremity vessels, carotid artery, abdomen, aorta, bladder, kidney, obstetrical, testicular, thyroid, breast, extremity vessels, carotid artery, abdomen, aorta, bladder, kidney, obstetrical, testicular, thyroid, breast, extremity vessels, carotid artery

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 to 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.

“Ultrasound is a quick and painless way to accurately diagnose abnormalities in many areas of the body.”

Keith Limbird, MD
Director of Ultrasound

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
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
Tumors
- ▶ **THYROID**
Cysts
Inflammation
Tumors
- ▶ **BREAST**
Adjunct to Mammography
Cyst vs. solid mass
Dense breasts
Evaluation of breast implants
- ▶ **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. Feel free to call our facility or check with your healthcare provider for additional information.

